

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Martin Heines, Chair; Ed Broussard; Gary Halbrooks; Glen Green; Carolyn Caldwell; Jeff Warr; and Nathaniel Moran.

**Staff Present:**

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, Sam Brady, Ryan Clark, and Zach Clark.

**Others Present:**

Kyle Kingma, City of Tyler; Stephanie Franklin, City of Tyler; Jimmy Toler, City of Tyler; Leroy Sparrow, Tyler Transit; Paul Schneider, TxDOT; Brooke Droptini, TxDOT; Jeffrey Harmon, TxDOT; Tom Mullins, TEDC; Barham Fulmer, NET RMA; Ben Magallon, ATG, Yolanda Prince.

**Martin Heines called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.**

**Action Items:**

**1. Consider accepting the draft constrained program of projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update**

Mr. Howell presented the item beginning with a recap of the project development process. He mentioned that the Committee had directed the staff to update the scoring process to incorporate project readiness during the July 25, 2019 meeting. He stated that Jeffrey Harmon and Brooke Droptini with TxDOT provided information on the status of all projects in the MPO boundary that were at any stage of development. Mr. Howell said that the project status information was translated into a score that was incorporated into project rankings. Next, he introduced the MTP project manager from ATG, Ben Magallon, to discuss the scoring and fiscal constraint.

Mr. Magallon explained how the citizen input was combined with the performance improvement expectation scores assigned by the Technical Advisory Committee to develop the final project rankings. Mr. Magallon said the next step was to review the scores in the context of applying fiscal constraint. He said that the Policy Committee was charged with determining the best order to prioritize projects based on the final ranking, project development timeline, and revenue the MPO is expected to receive to construct the project. Mr. Magallon concluded his presentation by providing a draft programming list developed by ATG and asked the Committee how they wanted to program the projects.

Martin Heines began the discussion by asking Glenn Green to provide comments on behalf of TxDOT. Mr. Green thanked the MPO and consultant staff for their work performed. He said that one additional dimension of prioritization that TxDOT was using to program projects outside of the MPO was to consider a logical progression of projects. Mr. Green then provided the Committee with TxDOT's recommended order for programming the projects.

Mr. Magallon noted that the draft list developed by ATG matched the TxDOT list for the first ten years of the programming period. The discussion then focused on how to program the projects between years ten and twenty-five. Mr. Green stated the projects that programmed sooner on the TxDOT list already had significant expenditures made toward their ultimate development. He noted that TxDOT was receptive to adjusting the prioritization of projects without any expenditures made to date. Jeff Warr commented that he wanted to ensure that the programming list did not adjust the regional priorities to an extent that would negate the value of previous planning and programming efforts.

Jeffrey Harmon stated that he was concerned that the difference between the ranking and the programming could appear to be an inconsistency and asked how it would be shown in the final document. Mr. Magallon replied that plan would provide the final prioritized list without the individual project rankings to avoid confusion. Mr. Harmon asked if all of the projects would be listed in the document. Mr. Howell replied that they would all be included in the plan but separated into a funded or unfunded list.

Mr. Heines suggested adopting the TxDOT programming list for all projects currently in development and then programming the remaining projects in the order they were ranked through the MTP development process.

Nathanial Moran motioned to adopt the project list as suggested by Mr. Heines. Mr. Harmon mentioned that improvements to Interstate 20 and Toll 49 were listed in the unfunded category but were regionally significant and asked that the narrative reflect their importance. Gary Halbrooks noted a typo in the project description for FM 2493 between Loop 323 and Gresham which should say, “widen from 4 to 6 lanes”. Mr. Heines asked if Mr. Moran wanted to add the additions to his motion. Mr. Moran said yes. The motion was seconded by Jeff Warr and carried with a unanimous vote.

## **Staff Updates:**

### **1. Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Nick notified the Committee that, due to having the Special Called meeting, there would not be a need for the regular scheduled MPO meetings in September. Ms. Nick provided updates on progress made toward hiring consultants for the Transit Route Study and Master Street Plan update. She mentioned that the Census Bureau had established an Area Census Office at the corner of Front Street and Beckham Avenue. Lastly, she mentioned that former TxDOT Tyler District Engineer and current Director of District Operations, Randy Hopmann, was retiring. Mr. Heines mentioned that Joe Carlyle had also termed out of his position on the Policy Committee.

### **2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Ms. Nick provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on November 7, 2019 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on November 21, 2019.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.**