

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Martin Heines, Chair; Ed Broussard; Lisa Crossman; Gary Halbrooks; Vernon Webb; Jenifer Lusk; Riley Harris; Frank Davis and Jeff Warr.

Members Absent:

Carolyn Caldwell and Nathaniel Moran.

Staff Present:

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, and Zach Clark.

Others Present:

Jeffrey Harmon, TxDOT.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Frank Davis, to approve the minutes from July 25, 2019 and August 26, 2019. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

1. Consider adopting the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Mr. Howell presented the item beginning with a recap of the project development process. He mentioned that, in accordance with the Public Participation Plan, a draft of the MTP was made available to the public for 30 days that began with an open house and social media campaign kickoff on October 10, 2019. Common topics that were mentioned during the outreach regarded the need to improve the traffic signalization, install and enhance pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and for expansion of the transit system to reduce wait times and to increase hours of operation. He noted that the City of Tyler was working on a program to improve traffic signalization, six grant applications had been made to install additional bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and the MPO was preparing to kick off a Transit Route Study. He said that the feedback indicated that the current schedule of work items is consistent with the public's priorities.

Mr. Howell stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this item during their meeting on November 7, 2019, no comments were made about the proposal, and the TAC unanimously recommended approval of the MTP with an effective date of December 4, 2019.

Ed Broussard moved, seconded by Jeff Warr, to adopt the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as recommended. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Presentation Items:

1. Updates on work performed to support the 2020 Census

Mr. Howell gave a brief overview of how the MPO uses census data and notified the Committee of what steps the staff had performed to support an accurate count. He mentioned that a local Complete Count Committee of local leaders had been formed to champion community response.

2. Updates on Safety Performance Targets

Mr. Howell provided a summary of a recent webinar held by the Federal Highway Administration regarding the repercussions if a state did not meet its safety targets adopted in 2018. He shared that the ultimate determination would be made in March and Texas would be required to obligated to dedicate additional funds to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and submit an implementation plan to FHWA for review if the targets were not satisfied.

Staff Updates:

1. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Nick notified the Committee that safety and transit asset management performance targets for 2020 would be brought for adoption in January.

She gave an update about the expiration of the current transportation funding bill (FAST) and the current status of its replacement called America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA). She noted that ATIA will distribute funding to states based on the 2000 census population meaning that Texas may see a further disconnect between its needs and funding available to address those needs.

She concluded with an update about the MPO webpage development. The new website was not expected to be ready until mid-December which would delay posting the requests for proposals for the Transit Route Study and Master Street Plan updates until January.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Ms. Nick provided notice of the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee meeting on January 9, 2020 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting scheduled on January 23, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.