

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM  
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



**Members Present:**

Michael Howell, Jimmy Toler, Leroy Sparrow, Paul Schneider, Brooke Droptini, Jeffrey Harmon, Barham Fulmer, and Tom Mullins.

**Others Present:**

Bill Hicks, Halff Associates, Chris Miller, NETRMA

**Michael Howell called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Leroy Sparrow moved, seconded by Barham Fulmer, to approve the minutes from July 11, 2019. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Action Items:**

**1. Consider recommending the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) be adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee**

Mr. Howell discussed the steps taken to create a draft document for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. Howell explained that once this draft was created there was a 30 day public comment period beginning on October 10, which consisted of an open house and a social media campaign. Mr. Howell noted that the major concerns brought up from the public comment period were regarding a need for improvement in traffic signalization, the installation and expansion of public bicycle infrastructure, and expansion of public transit systems. Mr. Howell mentioned that the MPO is planning to start the transit route study at the beginning of 2020.

Staff recommended the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan with an effective date of December 4, 2019.

Tom Mullins moved, seconded by Leroy Sparrow, to recommend approval of the draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**Presentation Items:**

**1. Updates on work performed to support the 2020 Census**

Mr. Howell presented the item stating the importance of the Census for the MPO, most notably the Census defining the MPO's urban area (UZA). Mr. Howell noted the UZA mandates the area that the MPO must cover, and the population within that urban area decides if the MPO is a small or large MPO. Mr. Howell clarified that the population in the urban area needs to be larger than 200,000 to be classified as a Transportation Management Association (TMA). Mr. Howell mentioned that the census data allows the MPO to analyze their transit needs and environmental justice zones.

Tom Mullins wanted to know how exactly the urban area was defined. Mr. Howell clarified that the census blocks determine the urban area, and that it is smaller than Smith County.

Barham Fulmer wanted to know what the disadvantages and advantages were to being classified a TMA. Mr. Howell explained that the classification would provide for new funding opportunities and programs. Mr. Howell also noted that the designation would also require the MPO adopt and regularly update a Congestion Management Plan and update the MTP more frequently.

Tom Mullins mentioned that Tyler was undercounted in the 2010 census and asked what steps were being taken to get a better count in 2020. Mr. Howell stated that Sam Brady with the Graphical Information System (GIS) department had worked with the Census Bureau to update information on their records of addresses in Tyler. In reviewing the Bureau's data, Mr. Brady submitted over 1,000 edits which were accepted. He said that Mr. Brady also supplied the Bureau with a list of residences currently under construction which are expected to be occupied when the census count begins on April 1, 2020. Mr. Howell then discussed the work being performed by the local Complete Count Committee to encourage people to respond to the census.

## **2. Updates on Safety Performance Targets**

Mr. Howell presented the item discussing the safety performance measures. Mr. Howell discussed that the current transportation bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires states and MPOs to adopt targets to benchmark and measure success. Mr. Howell noted that Texas adopted state wide safety targets, and the Tyler MPO adopted these as well. Mr. Howell noted that the 2018 targets showed the percentage for the rate of fatalities and crashes has been decreasing, however the total number of fatalities is increasing due to the growing population.

He informed the Committee that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) held a webinar to provide updates about the 2018 Safety Targets and discuss the consequences for not meeting the targets. He said if Texas does not meet or make significant progress toward satisfying the targets, it will be obligated to dedicate additional funds to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and submit an implementation plan to FHWA for review. He noted that the requirement would not directly impact the MPO, but acknowledged a possibility that it could ultimately affect the revenue forecasting in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan because Texas would have to adjust funding to implement the revisions to the HSIP.

## **Staff Updates:**

### **1. MPO Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Howell notified the Committee that performance targets for safety and transit asset management for 2020 would be brought for approval in January.

Mr. Howell stated that the FAST Act is set to expire on September 30, 2020, and Congress is currently working on a replacement bill which is currently called America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA). He noted that as it is currently written ATIA would distribute funding to states based on their 2000 census population.

Chris Miller asked why ATIA would use the 2000 Census. Mr. Howell replied that he did not know because the bill was drafted by members of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Howell concluded his presentation with an update on getting the MPO website working again after it was taken offline due to cyberattacks. He mentioned that work to hire consultants to update the Master Street Plan and Transit Route Study would be delayed until the website was functional.

**2. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on November 21, 2019 and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on January 9, 2020.

Chris Miller shared that the final report for Toll 49 Segment 6 Feasibility Study would be released November 8, 2019.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.**