

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Heather Nick, Michael Howell, Kyle Kingma, Cameron Williams, Stephanie Franklin, Paul Schneider, Brooke Droptini, Jeffrey Harmon, Leroy Sparrow, and Brent Nelson

Others Present:

Ashley Schultz, Toole Design; Andrea “Ostrodka”, Toole Design; Dr. Matthew Vechione, UT Tyler; Alex Pearson, student; Soheli Paudel, student; and Chase Crawford, student.

Michael Howell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Michael Howell moved, seconded by Kyle Kingma, to approve the minutes from March 5, 2020. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Presentation Items:

1. Update on work performed on the Transit Route Study

Andrea Ostrodka presented the item stating they were working on improving the efficiency and effectiveness for old and new routes, and to connect them with key employment. Ms. Ostrodka noted they had an open house in September and most of the feedback was wanting longer transit hours, more frequent headways, and having maps that would be easier to read. Ms. Ostrodka stated there would be two more virtual open houses, one on November 12 at 12:00 p.m. and the other on November 14 at 2 p.m..

Brooke Droptini asked if the meetings will be recorded. Ms. Ostrodka clarified that the meetings are recorded but would have to check with Michael Howell to see if they could be published on the MPO's website.

Stephanie Franklin stated that the press release provides additional options for public feedback.

Action Items:

1. Consider recommending the Policy Committee amend the 2020 and 2022 System Performance Targets established by TxDOT

Mr. Howell discussed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act mandates States adopt statewide system reliability performance targets. Mr. Howell stated the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) has analyzed the targets and found the Tyler Area MPO is performing better than originally estimated and the TTI is recommending the MPO increase its targets. Mr. Howell stated staff recommends the Technical Advisory Committee support the amendment of the 2020 and 2022 system reliability performance targets as recommended by TTI.

Jeffrey Harmon moved, seconded by Kyle Kingma, to recommend approval to amend the 2020 and 2022 System Performance Targets established by TxDOT. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

2. Consider recommending the Policy Committee amend the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Howell discussed the item stating the purpose of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is to list the transportation projects that are scheduled to be implemented within the next four fiscal years. Mr. Howell stated Federal Law requires that projects in the TIP be fiscally constrained, and COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the economy which has forced a change in the revenue forecast through 2024. Mr. Howell noted that the recession caused by the corona virus pandemic has made it necessary to delay the expected let dates for construction projects nationwide. Mr. Howell discussed the projects that are proposed to be delayed: FM 16 beginning at US 69 and ending at County Road 481, FM 2493 beginning in Flint and ending at the Cherokee County Line, FM 756 beginning at Jeff Davis and ending at FM 346, FM 2493 beginning at Loop 323 and ending at FM 2813, and the Lindale Sidewalk Project. Mr. Howell noted that the widening project of Old Jacksonville Highway is being delayed to 2026 and as such will be removed from the list of active projects in the 2021-2024 TIP. Mr. Howell stated staff recommended approval of the amendments to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.

Jeffrey Harmon stated that TxDOT had shifted projects because of their 10-Year Funding Plan, and they would rather spend more money over the 10-year period rather than most of it within the first four years. Mr. Howell noted that the projects could shift again, depending on how the economy does in the future.

Kyle Kingma moved, seconded by Kyle Kingma, to recommend approval to amend the 2021-2024 Transportation Program (TIP). The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

3. Consider recommending the Policy Committee amend the FY2020-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Howell discussed the Texas Administrative Code requires MPOs to document planning activities in a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completing it, and all products that will be produced. Mr. Howell stated as a result of COVID-19 the kickoffs of the Master Street Plan and new Transit Route Study were being delayed from late spring of 2020 to the middle of summer 2020. Mr. Howell stated the UPWP needs to reflect the changes to the funding to reflect most of the money for these projects will now be spent from FY21. Mr. Howell stated staff recommends approval of the amendment to the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program.

Kyle Kingma moved, seconded by Leroy Sparrow, to recommend approval to amend the FY2020-21 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Staff Updates:

1. MPO Executive Director's Report

Mr. Howell presented the item stating Walter P Moore and Associates had been working on the Master Street Plan and are planning on having a draft for review in January. Mr. Howell noted that Toole Design would be holding a virtual meeting once the TAC meeting was finished this afternoon on zoom.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on November 19, 2020 and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on January 7, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.