

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022
REGULAR MEETING, TDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
423 W. FERGUSON, TYLER, TEXAS**



Members Present:

Michael Howell, Kyle Kingma, Burren Reed, Jimmy Toler, Paul Schneider, Adrienne Leach, Shane Cunningham, and Leroy Sparrow.

Others Present:

Shelia Henderson, City of Tyler; Gaylord Hughey

Michael Howell called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Leroy Sparrow moved, seconded by Kyle Kingma, to approve the minutes from July 7, 2022. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

1. Consider recommending the Policy Committee adopt an amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to redistribute funds related to Task 5 – Special Studies

Mr. Howell presented the item stating that the amendment was to balance funds allocated between the two projects outlined in Task 5 Special Studies. He said that the scope of the Traffic Demand Model project was reduce in final development because the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) had taken more duties in house which resulted in \$50,000 in savings. Conversely, the scope of the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study grew to encompass the boundaries of downtown and not just the core. The expanded area raised the cost by \$45,000. Mr. Howell said the amendment would reallocate the savings from the Traffic Demand Model to cover the additional costs on the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study.

Mr. Kingma asked if the additional cost for the Downtown Tyler Traffic Study was in response to bids coming in higher than anticipated. Mr. Howell said no and clarified that bids were not submitted by the consultants. Mr. Howell said that the scope of work that the consultant could perform for the original amount did not encompass all of work that the MPO wanted to be included. Given the saving from the Traffic Demand Model, the decision was made to expand the budget rather than reducing the scope of work.

Jimmy Toler moved, seconded by Shane Cunningham, to approve the amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Presentation Items:

1. Statewide Safety Task Force recommendations from NCTCOG

Mr. Howell reminded the Committee that the Texas Transportation Commission had adopted Vision Zero which was a goal of eliminating deaths on highways by 2050. To help accomplish the goal, the Commission formed a Statewide Safety Taskforce. Mr. Howell said that the MPO Directors received a presentation from a Michael Morris with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and member of the taskforce who briefed the directors on the Taskforce's upcoming proposal to request the Commission allocate \$50,000 to each MPO every year to be dedicate to safety improvements.

Mr. Howell noted that two of the allowed uses for this funding were local match for street safety improvements and capital costs. These expenses are not permitted expenses using the MPO's transportation planning (PL) funds. Mr. Howell said the purpose of the presentation was to inform the Committee about the potential funding so that staff would know how to use the funds if the Commission approves the proposal as presented. He also noted that the proposal required specific annual documentation reporting to the Commission on how it was used and its impact.

Shane Cunningham stated that the funding sounded similar to the funds TxDOT receives for safety and mentioned that TxDOT was required to prepare a similar annual safety report which could serve as a basis for the MPO's report. Mr. Cunningham said that either he or Juanita Daniels-West would be good contacts to help.

Mr. Howell asked if the TAC wanted to determine the use for the money or if it was preferred to form a subcommittee first to make a proposal about how to spend the money first. The general consensus was to form the subcommittee and present the recommendations for approval.

Staff Updates:

1. MPO Director's Report

Mr. Howell informed the TAC that there was currently enough unprogrammed funds in fiscal year 2023 budget to fund another Special Study. He said that the staff had been working with City of Tyler Engineering staff to develop a scope and budget for a Railroad Inventory and Analysis. He mentioned that the staff's goal was to not program all funds because of the possibility of two additional MPOs being designated which would reduce the MPO's annual revenue.

Mr. Howell provided notice that the Federal Highway Administration has published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making that will require States and MPOs to set performance targets for greenhouse gas emissions for vehicles. The rule specifies that 2021 would be baseline for emissions and the agencies would be required to adopt declining targets for every subsequent target. Mr. Howell noted concerns about the wording of the NPRM and discussed comments that he was having with the other MPO Directors. He said that comments would be submitted prior the October 13th deadline.

Lastly, Mr. Howell provided a status update on the Travel Demand Model Update and Downtown Tyler Traffic Study. He said an expert Delphi panel would be convened to begin forecasting future growth patterns up to 2050 for the Travel Demand Model. He also provided notice that traffic counts were going to be taken at 15 intersections as part of the Traffic Study which would be going out around October.

2. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Mr. Howell provided notice of the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting on September 22, 2022 and the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting scheduled on November 3, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.