

***Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization***  
***MPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes***

April 18, 2019

**Certification of Quorum:**

The following TAC Members were present: Paul Kaspar, Chair, City of Bryan; Jason Schubert, City of College Station; Doug Marino, TxDOT; Peter Lange, TTI-TAMU; and Wendy Weedon, Brazos Transit. The following MPO Staff were present: Dan Rudge, Bart Benthul, Lisa Lyon. A full list of persons who attended is included in the minutes.

**1. Welcome and open meeting**

Paul Kaspar called to order the regular meeting of the MPO Technical Advisory Committee at 8:30 a.m. on April 18, 2019, in the Brazos Transit District Conference Room, 1759 North Earl Rudder Freeway, Bryan, TX.

**2. Minutes from February 21, 2019, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

Minutes from the February 21, 2019, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting were considered for adoption. No changes were requested. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jason Schubert. The motion was seconded by Wendy Weedon. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**3. FY 2020 – FY 2021 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Every two years the MPO is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program to outline the activities of the MPO. The biggest change for this UPWP is the requirement to show FHWA and FTA funding separately as typically these funds were consolidated. Task one and Task Two are basically unchanged. There was a significant increase in Task Three funding to allow for better coordination with Brazos Transit District and to assist with route analysis, fine tuning of routes, or anything else they may need help with. For Task Four, although the Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be finalized in December, it needs to be shown in the UPWP. Under Task Five, at the request of Lance Simmons, additional staff time was added so MPO staff could assist with the University Drive study and the potential I-14 alignment study. Mr. Rudge will also take the lead to develop a State Highway 6 Freight Concept in coordination with Houston, Waco and Dallas MPOs. Other work included in this task include the development and implementation of the Congestion Management Plan and the transition to a TMA which includes preparing for the census and other things.

Mr. Rudge received the benefit amounts information from Brazos County yesterday, so some amounts may change a little to accommodate changes in benefit costs. Dr. Lomax has also submitted some grammatical changes that will be made before the UPWP is submitted to the Policy Board.

Jason Schubert made the motion to forward the UPWP to the Policy Board for draft approval pending any grammatical changes or minor funding changes for benefits. Wendy Weedon seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

#### 4. Amendment IV to the FY 2019 – FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program

The requested amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program includes the following changes: 1) Reprogramming \$2,173,659 FTA 5307 from FY 2018 apportionment for additional operating assistance in FY 2019; 2) Reprogramming \$348,310 FTA 5339 from FY 2017 apportionment to FY 2019 for \$248,487 for construction of admin building (BTD Coordination Complex Center) matched with \$49,698 in requested TDC's and \$99, 823 for support maintenance vehicles matched with TDC's \$19,965; and 3) administrative change – MPO project reference numbers assigned to all transit projects.

Wendy Weedon made to motion to recommend the outlined changes to the FY 2019 – FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program to the Policy Board. The motion was seconded by Jason Schubert. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

#### 5. Staff Report by Dan Rudge

**Transportation Planning Excellence Award Nomination** – Halff Associates filled out a very lengthy award nomination for the University Drive project and submitted it to FHWA/FTA. One of the requirements of the award is it must be a project that was funded by either FHWA or FTA planning dollars. Approximately 2,000 nominations are submitted. Even if the MPO does not receive the award, the project will be brought to the attention of FHWA and FTA at the national level.

**RMA Petition Progress** – The public hearing has been scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the TxDOT offices. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. It is unknown what size crowd to anticipate or how many people may come to speak about their opposition to the RMA. They are trying to get the proper balance of people in attendance for support, but not so many that the hearing lasts several hours.

**RMA Funding Bill Progress** – The RMA Funding Bill passed through Transportation Committee and was placed on the House Local and Consent Agenda. On the House side, anyone can pull it off the Consent Agenda. If that would happen, the Bill would just be in limbo. As a result, Representative Raney pulled it from the consent agenda and moved it the House Calendar where it will receive a full vote on the House floor. Representative Raney is confident that it will get out of the House, and Senator Schwertner has led us to believe that once it gets to the Senate, he will pick it up and carry it on the Senate side. Commissioner's Berry and Aldrich are trying to get a telephone call directly with Senator Schwertner to verify that he really does plan to do that. At this point, it's probably looking as good as it could look.

**Call for MTP Projects** – The MPO has received projects from the City of Bryan and the City of College Station, as well as a few from the general public. Mr. Rudge reminded everyone to get their projects submitted by the end of April. Costs should be included if possible. Mr. Benthul found a cost estimation sheet from Virginia DOT that can be used; however, if you have a cost when submitted the project, that would be preferred. Any projects that were in the previous MTP will be brought forward to be considered.

**I-214 Language for Federal Legislation** – Mr. Rudge and Dr. Christiansen have been working together to develop I-214 language to be incorporated into federal legislation. As they were getting ready to meet with Representative Flores, he put out a brand new I-14 Bill. They did meet with Representative Flores, and he agreed to try and amend the language in the Bill that he just submitted to include the outer loop around Bryan/College Station in federal legislation. Currently on the I-14 website, there is a Congressionally designated alignment and about 25 yellow lines that show additions to the alignment. Now, there will be a 26<sup>th</sup> yellow line that shows a road around Bryan/College Station. For clarification, I-14 is the northeast route around B/CS, and I-214 would be the southwest loop, with the goal being that I-14 does not go down Highway 6. There is still the possibility that the alignment would be different once the alignment study is completed.

**TAC Meetings/Workshops** – There will not be a need for TAC meetings in the coming months other than to approve the final version of the UPWP and any TIP amendments. Any meetings in the foreseeable future will be workshops to finish up the MTP.

## 6. Agency Reports

**Brazos Transit by Wendy Weedon** – An RFQ was issued for an architect to build the coordination complex in the back. It was awarded to Leon Williamson and he is partnering with another company. Hopefully construction will start by November at the latest, with construction being finished by January 2021. BTD finally received the PGA from USDOT for the BUILD Grant which they have completed, sent back, and are now waiting for them to fully execute. Once it is fully executed, they will be able to order the heavy duty buses off the open contract they currently have that was approved by FTA. The electric buses will be ordered off of the Georgia State Contract. They will put out an RFP for the remainder of the heavy duty buses with the A&M specs no later than June.

**TTI/TAMU by Peter Lange** – In addition to the buses being ordered through BTD, TAMU is going to add six additional buses they will pay for, which will give them a total of 30 new buses (24 through BTD and the six they are buying outright). They are hoping to purchase Gillig buses again. For the electric buses, the timeline is much longer so it will probably be January 2021 before they are received. The diesel buses manufacturer has opened a second factory so they are hoping to get the diesel buses by June/July 2020. They are continuing work on the quiet zone process for the intersections around campus. The 24-hour traffic counts were done last week. The first football game of the season is Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lomax and Ms. Metsker-Galarza are continuing this year to make presentations to student and community organizations regarding Football Thursday, Parents Weekend, Ring Day, and moving the football game from Saturday to Friday evening, along with baseball, volleyball, track, softball and tennis, created gridlock on Wellborn Road. The City of College Station is beginning an overlay on F&B starting in a couple of weeks. Texas A&M has contracted with the same firm so that they could do the entirety of the west side of F&B from 2818 to Turkey Creek. It's an overlay with edge work to create a nice surface that will buy them a few years so they can begin a more formal process to reenvisioning what the road will look like over time. Polo Garage is the next garage on campus and is under construction. It is a 1,700 space garage across from the Bonfire Memorial and next to the Emerging Technologies Building. The garage will be a two-story building with approximately 70,000 gross square feet which will house Transportation Services, The Rec, and a five-concept dining facility. They should be parking cars in the garage by the Fall of 2020. The remainder of the building space would be populated in phases during the fall with dining moving in last to be operating by the spring semester of 2021.

**College Station by Jason Schubert** – The DDI’s permanent signals are being put into operation today. The lanes are open on the Holleman Drive project; however, there is still some intersection and sidewalk work going on for the next month or two. The University Drive Pedestrian Project is still on-going and they anticipate a June completion with still some work over the Summer to coordinate signals and other things. Tauber will open today and Nagle will close on Monday. Last month, City Council awarded a contract for a signal at Brothers and Texas Avenue. Lakeway is not open yet; however, there was an opening event for the Midtown project on Tuesday that was accommodated but the project is not finished.

**TxDOT by Doug Marino and Allison Kurwitz** – On the raised median project on Texas Avenue near Wal-Mart they have completed the shoulder widening and have a permanent lane closure to construct the median part which should be done by the end of the month. After much discussion and many changes, it was decided that temporary lane closures would not be a safe option. The Brothers signal is delayed because they are waiting on a pole. There has been a pole shortage due to the company that made 70% of the poles closing. It used to be a four-month lead time, and now can be six to eight months.

As mentioned before, a change order was done to the x-ramp contract that will start next week to change the exit ramp that exits before Woodville Road to an entrance ramp. The exit ramp is rarely used and there is another x-ramp just north of there. This will help TxDOT get loaded vehicles and/or transport trucks out quickly. Currently they cannot fit under the Woodville bridge. Making this change will also reduce the traffic in front of the duplexes and reduce the impact to those residents.

On SH 40, they are working with the contractor to resolve an issue with the hot mix where the contractor was using material that was not what TxDOT intended. They are hoping to get it resolved quickly so they can get back to paving soon.

On FM 158 that goes through downtown, the raised median work being done for the quiet zone is almost complete. The overlay will pick up after all the median work is complete.

On State Highway 105 which has a small piece in Brazos County at the south end, there’s bridge replacement project that’s been sitting idle for close to two years. TxDOT now has a resolution with the contractor and they are starting work again.

The Texas Avenue Mill and Inlay project is complete other than they are going to add some additional work at the Villa Maria intersection which was skipped over.

There was poor internal communication on some work being done on Sunday afternoon during Family Weekend. The contractor was trying to get the work done and the time change decision was made due to temperature variations and the inability to put the hot mix down if it was too cold. Probably any normal Sunday afternoon wouldn’t have been a problem; however, they did receive some complaints and will more carefully evaluate schedule changes in the future.

On the DDI, as long as there are no weather issues, they will be turning on the permanent traffic signals today and will remove the temporary signal trailers. There was a ramp signal added so they are going to have to wait for a pole on that one. They plan to pave the final surface on the FM 2818 portion next week. They are currently looking at a couple of days between graduation and the start of summer classes to do a full shut down and complete the final surface on FM 60.

On the South College shared use path, they held a kick-off meeting with all the partners. The current plan is to work the sketch up to 90% and then bring it back for comments. They are currently working through a right-of-way issue because they need to come outside the right-of-way for about 300 feet close to University Drive. TxDOT will check on the letting date and update it in the system. Currently it is set for 2020; however, they need to determine the month.

On FM 2818 from 60 to 2154, they held a public hearing and are currently revising the right-of-way documents. There are about four or five parcels to coordinate and need to get on the agenda for A&M. Then they will be coordinating utilities and continuing with the PS&E.

On State Highway 6 TASA from FM 158/Boonville Road to Reliance Road, they are trying to accelerate to August and are at 100% plans. They are currently working on environmental and utility clearance.

On Coulter Drive TASA, they are at 60% plans.

On FM 158 from Texas Avenue to State Highway 6 raised medians bicycle and pedestrian project, they had the final public meeting. The schematic was sent for peer review on TxDOT's side.

On the State Highway 6 from 21 to State Highway 40, the consultant is working on alternatives and TxDOT has received some drawings for review. The consultant has finished their data collection and is working through some traffic analysis. TxDOT is hoping to have something to show members of the MPO in the summer, with a public meeting in the fall. In talking about alternatives, no "big picture" stuff is being eliminated. TxDOT is trying to clean it up and there will be plenty of opportunity to make changes from there. A lot of analysis currently being done is to figure out collector/distributor locations, bridge clearances, and that type of thing. Once that is finished, there will be a stakeholder meeting where everyone can show up to review it and give their input.

On State Highway 6 from 21 to Hearne, there is a feasibility study that gets out of our area but includes some of the area; the part that was pulled out of the Highway 6 study. From Highway 21 north, it will be included and they will continue to study Highway 6 all the way to potentially include a relief route around Hearne. They are hoping to have a work authorization executed soon.

On Texas Avenue from 21 to University Drive raised medians, the City of Bryan will soon post the RFQ.

On Highway 21 from Texas Avenue to Highway 6 to put in raised medians, curb and gutter, and sidewalk, they are going back and forth with the work authorization documents. They are hoping to have that executed soon and to hold a kick-off meeting.

On FM 60/University Drive feasibility study off of the concepts that came from the MPO study, the work authorization documents are partially executed. They are trying to do traffic counts first ahead of graduation; however, they aren't sure if the work authorization will be executed in time to get those counts. There were some issues with a company being bought out that has delayed the process. The consultant may have to work on it without that type of traffic data so they may wait until fall. Currently it is set up to go from Texas Avenue to Wellborn not including the improvements at the intersection of Texas Avenue, but all the items will be in the work authorization if anything needs to change.

On the George Bush/Wellborn Interchange, TTI is going on the second phase of public involvement. They will probably get the consultants to reengage soon on the design changes that came out of this public involvement and then updating the PS&E and incorporating those changes into it.

All TASA projects (or TA projects) should have been submitted for preliminary evaluation and we'll get started with that soon. Both College Station and Bryan submitted projects. In the past, several have been selected that Bryan submitted and are hoping that it continues with the trend that our area continues to get TASA funds for bicycle pedestrian facilities.

**City of Bryan by Paul Kaspar** – The city is at 100% design on the shared use path on Highway 6. They have an onsite meeting with a property owner (who they had difficulty in contacting) regarding access in Wheeler Estate this week. This should be the last item that needs to be addressed. TxDOT reported they have permission to move the project to August funding. On Coulter Drive, the consultant is waiting for us to give them a direction on the drainage aspect. We reviewed all the information they had in their study looking for a way to improve the ponding that occurs on the road. This could mean bigger pipes which would move the water to the creek downstream more quickly which could possibly impact people. The city is waiting to hear how far the increase goes downstream if they pipe the water down there with no retention. The option was evaluated and it is not feasible to build it into the road which is really the only option available there. They hope to have that answer in the next week or so to have it figured out. Once that's done, it should be about 90% design. The Palasota Street project runs from Groesbeck which becomes Leonard Road heading out and it goes past Beck Street and past Jones and Milam schools. The city will be welcoming three new roundabouts on that particular corridor as part of the project. They conducted a study which evaluated installing roundabouts versus signals and stop control, had a public meeting, and are now going forward with three roundabouts. The city is submitted the Public Authority Application for the Downtown Quiet Zone the first of May. There is a Quiet Zone Committee meeting scheduled for the last week in April to finalize. The Groesbeck crossing is currently under design and they are in the survey data collection phase and reaching out to property owners to get access to some tracts of land to tie everything in with survey. The city is beginning development of some in-house plans for the other medians throughout downtown to put out a contract later this year and probably start constructing those medians as early as this fall or early 2020. They are still on schedule with a target goal of 2021 to ask for the Quiet Zone to go into effect. For Texas Avenue, the city has an RFQ out for consideration. They are currently answering questions that are coming in and the due date for them to submit is early May. By the time they go through the evaluation process, possible interviews, and selection of a consultant, it will most likely be on a July City Council Meeting for a contract award for a schematic design. It will be the same concept design as William Joel Bryan which was a schematic design followed by a final PS&E plan design. On William Joel Bryan, they are currently evaluating the consultants PS&E design contract proposal and trying to whittle it down some to get it back into budget. Mostly likely it will be a June City Council Meeting to award the contract for that design.

**B/CS Chamber by John Nichols** – There is a Chamber meeting next Wednesday. Tim Lomax and Madison Metsker-Galarza will be presenting about Football Thursday. May will be the last meeting for the summer, with no meetings in June and July, and resuming in August. Mr. Nichols would be interested in having updates from both cities and the MPO regarding upcoming projects.

## **7. Future Activities**

On Monday, BTD will be celebrating Earth Day with free transportation for anybody. At 9:30 a.m., at the transfer point on Texas Avenue, they are having a photo op. Ms. Weedon invited the TAC to come and participate.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>, the MPO has a series of public meetings to gather citizen input for the MTP. Currently, the news media has not released any information on these meetings. Monday is from 5-7 pm at the City of College Station Training Center, Tuesday is from 5-7 at the Brazos Center, and Wednesday is at the Mounce Library from Noon-1 pm. Details will be discussed at the workshop following the meeting.

The next Policy Board meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup> and Dr. Lomax will be presenting about Football Thursday traffic operations.

The public hearing on the RMA is May 7<sup>th</sup>.

TTI is hosting a transportation technology conference from April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

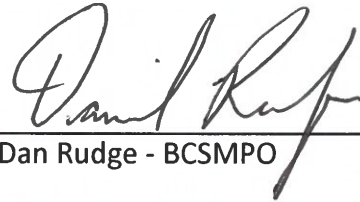




**ATTEST:**



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Technical Advisory Committee Chair/Vice-Chair  
Bryan-College Station  
Metropolitan Planning Organization



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Dan Rudge - BCSMPO

6/27/19

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Date