

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

January 17, 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; Wendy Weedon, Brazos Transit District; and Dan Rudge, BCSMPO. A list of persons who attended is attached.

**1. Welcome and open meeting**

Paul Kaspar called to order the regular meeting of the MPO Technical Advisory Committee at 8:31 a.m. on January 17, 2019, in the Brazos Transit District Conference Room, 1759 North Earl Rudder Freeway, Bryan, TX.

**2. Election of Technical Advisory Committee Officers for FY 2019 – FY 2020 Term**

MPO Bylaws require that an election of officers for the Technical Advisory Committee be held in November or December of odd numbered years. The election of officers was not on the November agenda and there was not a TAC meeting in December which is why the elections are being conducted at this meeting. Both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson serve two-year terms and there is no limit to the number of consecutive terms a committee member may serve as an officer. Wendy Weedon made the motion to nominate Paul Kaspar as Chair and Tim Lomax as Vice Chair for another term. The motion was seconded by Jason Schubert. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**3. Minutes from November 15, 2018, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

Minutes from the November 15, 2018, 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 Paul Kaspar. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**4. FY 2018 – FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Two**

Due to the relocation of the MPO offices, additional funding was needed for FY 2019. Under Subtask 1.1 the wording in the UPWP was modified to add the words “office relocation in FY 2019” and \$8,505 was added to the funding tables for Task 1. The Budget Summaries on page 22 and page 23 were also adjusted to show the additional \$8,505. Jason made the motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board, the changes made in the FY 2018 – FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Two. The motion was seconded by Wendy Weedon. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**5. Amendment III to the FY 2019 – FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program**

The Texas Department of Transportation has secured Category Eight Safety Funds for the FM 2818 project of approximately \$1.1 million. The project was originally scheduled to let in September; however, it has been tentatively moved to June 2020 which is a different fiscal year from a federal standpoint. TxDOT also received \$102 million of Category 12 Discretionary Funds for the State Highway 6 project. Brazos Transit District received a BUILD grant for \$14 million to replace approximately 30 buses. These are the three projects that have been added as Amendment III to the FY 2019 – FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Project. The Jones Butler bridge addition was not added because it has not been officially adopted, and it cannot be currently added to the UTP, so that will come back on a future TIP amendment. Paul Kaspar made the motion to approve, and recommend for approval to the Policy Board, Amendment III to the FY 2019 – FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded by Doug Marino. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **6. Revised I-14 Policy Board Resolution**

At the last TAC meeting in November, there was discussion regarding revising the Policy Board resolution on I-14 to make it less specific, but still directed. Mr. Rudge presented a draft of the new resolution for the TAC's consideration.

The following additional revisions were requested:

1. Change Mumford Yard to the Union Pacific name Brazos Yard
2. Change the word connection to connectivity in Section One
3. Add a Whereas stating the proposed US 190/State Highway routing does not satisfy our selection criteria

Jason Schubert made the motion to approve, and recommend approval to the Policy Board, the revised I-14 Resolution with the above listed changes. The motion was seconded by Paul Kaspar. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## **7. Jones Butler Bridge (FM 2818 project) and Funding**

At the last TAC meeting, Doug Marino presented multiple alternatives explored by TxDOT to address the Jones Butler connection on the FM 2818 project. It was the general consensus at that meeting that the ideas, analysis, and final selection TxDOT was the right one. Given that the Jones Butler bridge will increase the amount of Category Two funding utilized on the project, it could have an impact on funding for other projects. At the request of Lance Simmons, TxDOT would like to have a more formal decision from the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy Board before they begin to expend funds for design work which will be about 10% of the project cost or approximately \$550,000. Because of the request at the last meeting, Mr. Marino put together a spreadsheet showing funding, both programmed and unprogrammed, for projects utilizing Category Two, Category Four, Category 8, and Category 12 funding from FY 2019 through FY 2028. Mr. Marino explained each of the different funding categories as well as how the programmed amounts were plugged into the spreadsheet. Currently, there is \$10.4 million of unprogrammed Category Two funding that can be used for new on-system projects or to further refine the amounts for projects that are already programmed. It is important to note, that some projects may use multiple funds if

they meet the criteria and are approved. Mr. Marino explained that he would make this spreadsheet available and keep it updated with changes as cost analysis changes on projects or as better estimates can be made.

There was also some questions regarding how the off system connection would be made from the Jones Butler bridge to Holleman. This would be the City of College Station's design and funding; however, they have approximately three and a half years before it could be constructed. Mr. Kaspar also commented that it is his hope that the TAC and Policy Board will continue their cooperative efforts to do projects that have already been planned, and that as a more detailed scope of projects is completed and a better estimate of cost is determined, that funding would be moved around as discussed earlier to accommodate those projects.

Doug Marino made the motion to recommend approval to move forward with the design of the Jones Butler bridge addition to the FM 2818 project in anticipation that the construction would be funded with Category Two funds at some time in the future. Jason Schubert seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

## 8. Staff Report

**Congestion Survey Results** – A sheet with the most recent survey results was passed out. Currently, the survey is just short of 5,000 participants. An article was just published in Insight Magazine which brought in additional votes. Mr. Rudge will also promote the survey at the Economic Development Conference next week. The survey will also be given out at the Regional Mobility Symposium. The goal was to get 10,000 participants. The survey is currently scheduled to close at the end of February.

**Texas Transportation Forum** – The State Demographer showed a chart where the 95% of the growth in Texas is within the Texas Triangle, with the exception of some growth around the Rio Grande Valley. For the remainder of the state, there is no population growth or it is declining. Since our region is in the middle of the triangle, we can continue to expect growth. DJ Gribbin, formerly President Trump's Special Assistant for Infrastructure Policy, showed all of the federal processes that transportation funding has to go through before construction can begin. There are actually 35 federal programs that have to do something with it before it can actually become a project. During the second session, the moderator started the session by introducing us to seven people that had died the day before on a Texas roadway. Every day since November 7, 2000, at least one person has died on a Texas roadway. There was a legislative panel that seemed to have two different opinions: one legislator said, "if locals wanted to do something, the legislature would allow it"; the other legislator said, "we (The legislature) need to talk about it." Mr. Rudge's take away was that this legislature is probably not going to do anything with regard to transportation and will focus more on property tax reform and schools. The state revenue forecasts were published during the forum and although there is not as much growth as was predicted, the don't expect any decrease. There was another group that is in the business of personal air vehicles from drones to small helicopters for individual use. There was discussion regarding reinforcing roofs on new construction to handle helicopter landings. Uber is now in the truck business and is looking at self-driving trucks in rural areas that would switch to an actual driver in urbanized areas as their model.

**Statewide USDOT Automated Driving Systems Pilot Project** – The state is looking at a USDOT Automated Driving System Pilot Project grant through the Texas Innovation Alliance. Mr. Rudge has expressed interest on behalf of Bryan/College Station that we have an existing project in Downtown Bryan and two projects that we are working on through TTI to use on-street in College Station. Unfortunately, the people Mr. Rudge has been working on with TTI for this grant are at the Transportation Research Board in Washington, D.C. and there hasn't been any follow-up discussion due to the government shutdown. They did like the suggestion of doing a statewide grant as opposed to individual grants, with the idea that there would be both a freight piece and a passenger piece, and have controlled systems and on-street systems as part of the grant process. That is moving forward through the Texas Innovation Alliance and Mr. Rudge will update on the progress.

**RMA Petition** – The RMA Petition has been submitted and we are now at month three of what was estimated as a six-month process. Lance Simmons has been shepherding this through TxDOT, and he said there haven't been any questions so far and we are not sure if anyone has even looked at it. The MPO is optimistic that at some time in the March/April time frame we will be holding the public hearing so the Commission can take formal action sometime in May. Commissioner Berry informed us that Representative Raney is going to submit a Bill for the \$10 registration fee to support the RMA, but it has not been filed yet.

**Call for MTP Projects** – Next week, Mr. Rudge will send out a call for MTP projects. It will be sent to everyone on the TAC. Mr. Rudge is also trying to make it a media event so that the general public knows they can suggest projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan that would actually be considered as part of our process. He is trying to get more public participation in what the MPO is doing as well as get the MPO a little bit more visibility in the public.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan Activities** – There is a workshop after today's TAC meeting to discuss Decision Lens and the Regional Mobility Symposium. There are a couple of chapters left to finish, but everything is on schedule.

**National Highway System Discussion** – Doug Marino, Mr. Rudge, and some other people from TxDOT are setting up a discussion meeting for changes to the National Highway System, particularly in Bryan/College Station to add or subtract NHS routes. Once a date is set up, Mr. Rudge will send out a notification and if the TAC members have an interest, they can attend. The meeting will be held at the new MPO offices.

## 9. Agency Reports

**Brazos Transit District** – They have been awarded the BUILD grant. There is some type of vetting that must be done with DOT, but they have no idea what it includes and because of the government shutdown, they are currently not able to inquire. Ms. Weedon has been in contact with another transit agency who received a TIGER grant last time which is similar. Ms. Weedon will meet with her next week to find out the steps they went through. TxDOT has warned that it is a big task to complete before you can begin planning. They have already met with Texas A&M and are trying to get things ready to go once it is official they can move forward.

**TTI/TAMU** – There is continued construction on campus. They are in the second phase of the MSC streets project that is rehabilitating West Lamar on the north side of the MSC. That project will

continue around the corner in front of the Student Services Building up towards YMCA. VeoRide, the ofo replacement, is on campus. They are placing approximately 800 bikes this week which is about one-third of the total. The shipping containers are being held up in port due to the government shut down. Over the Christmas break, two new pedestrian crossings were finished on Raymond Stotzer Parkway, one at Veterinary Way and one at Discovery Drive. There are new pedestrian signal heads and new crosswalks in place in conjunction with the City of College Station and TxDOT. It was approximately a three-year process, but it is finished and there are really nice new crossings. Construction for the next parking garage at Polo Road east of the Engineering Technologies Building is scheduled to break ground on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The garage will have 1,700 spaces, an associated office for Transportation Services, a satellite rec center, and a five-concept dining facility. They have also begun to look at a quiet zone on campus with a lot of conversation with the City of Bryan. Mr. Kaspar, as well as County officials, have given preliminary information about what it would take to establish quiet zones on campus. They will be starting that process and hope to be finished with the analytic phase in the next few months. The bulk of the yellow ofo bicycles are in surplus. If anyone is interested in obtaining surplus bicycles, please contact Ron Steedley. If there are still bicycles that need to be picked up, you can email [bikeshare@tamu.edu](mailto:bikeshare@tamu.edu) to make that request.

**City of College Station** – In the Spring, several projects will be completed, mainly the University Drive Ped project, and Holleman South and Lakeway project on the east side. The next series of projects are mostly railroad related. The city has finished design for a traffic signal on Texas Avenue at Brothers Boulevard as part of the median project. At a recent City Council meeting, the design contract for the widening of Greens Prairie Road by the Castlegate area was approved to increase to a four-lane divided roadway.

**TxDOT** – Update on current construction projects:

For the DDI project, they are working on some design and utility issues that have caused delay. There have also been delays due to weather. There haven't been any significant issues since opening to the new DDI configuration. There are cones still in place where there will be medians. They are continuing construction on the islands, pavers, rails, painting and stone work, as well as electrical items such as the luminaires and permanent signals. They are also adding a permanent signal for the northbound westbound ramp and working with the city to pull some fiber line. The current schedule shows completion estimated for May 2019.

For the Texas Avenue mill and inlay from Highway 21 to George Bush project, the preconstruction meeting is next week. Construction will begin possibly the last week in January or early February. There will be night work from 7pm to 6am that will require extensive lane closures; however, there will be at least one lane open in each direction at all times. There may be delays in the overall project schedule this time of year due to weather. The project should not affect the traveling public outside of those peak hours since lanes will be brought back to grade before leaving and opening each morning. The city reps and law enforcement have been invited to the preconstruction meeting.

For the Texas Avenue raised medians project, the contractor is mostly finished with the new Wal-Mart driveway. They will now be starting widenings on the outside shoulders of Texas Avenue followed by the medians beginning mid-February.

The subcontractor is currently working at night to complete the bridge joint replacement at Southwest Parkway on Highway 6 and should be finished next week.

The contractor is working on sidewalk ramps at FM 158 west of State Highway 6.

Overlay on State Highway 40 will begin next week and there is about five weeks of hot mix work on SH 40.

#### Update on current planning projects:

On FM 2818 from 60 to FM 2154, they have had numerous stakeholder meetings. The right-of-way survey is underway; however, the weather has hindered getting in some of those areas and setting the monumentation. They also are working on amending the environmental assessment to account for the Jones Butler crossing. After these things are finished, a public hearing can be scheduled.

State Highway 6 and Boonville to Old Reliance and Coulter Drive are in the design phases.

FM 158 from Texas Avenue to State Highway 6 which is the raised median bicycle and pedestrian improvements, the public meeting being held on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The right-of-way is currently being surveyed.

State Highway 6 from SH 21 to SH 40, the six-lane project, the consultant is working on alternatives and hopefully in the coming months there will be something to show.

State Highway 6 from SH 21 to OSR, they are still negotiating the scope for that project.

State Highway 21 from Texas Avenue to State Highway 6 that will include raised medians, curb and gutter, and sidewalk, they've been assigned a consultant. They are working on trying to get the work authorization executed. There will be discussion about whether to widen or not as far as the cost of the project.

For the FM 60 University Drive, the feasibility study of the concepts, they are continuing to refine the scope. There are some things that need to be done in the contract before it can be finalized.

The Area Engineer for the Bryan Area office, which handles Brazos County construction and day to day issues, TxDOT has hired Ashley Hill. She has been with TxDOT for several years as the Assistant Area Engineer in the Brenham office, and for the past year, the Area Engineer for the Huntsville area office. She will try to attend a TAC meeting soon to meet everyone and will be available to join us when she can.

**City of Bryan** – The final chance to come out and give input and see the schematic design for the William Joel Bryan project is January 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is from 4pm-7pm. The plan is that shortly after that meeting, they will be able to finalize the design contract with Binkley and Barfield to take back to the Council to finalize PS&E plan development. They are on schedule to get the schematic to TxDOT so TxDOT has information for right-of-way acquisitions, easement, etc. The Earl Rudder shared use path between Old Reliance and Boonville is a TASA project, they are trying to accelerate to April of this year. The Coulter Drive project will stay on the original schedule. The city has received the survey results for the Downtown Trolley. They are currently working with Texas A&M

to evaluate their next steps. They want to expand the route and go further north in Downtown while avoiding Martin Luther King. Recently in the news, there was a story about Mayor Nelson riding a Bird scooter around. They were originally planning to launch the scooter share program with the Bird scooters at the beginning of this year. Bird is not ready to launch yet and they do not know what the new time frame will be, but probably sometime in the Spring. The city put an ordinance framework in place. It is not as extensive as College Station's ordinance in terms of rules in terms of parking them, where they operate, and those types of things. The ordinance says they will be operated on interim agreements for now so if other entities such as VeoRide comes to the city, they can just do another interim agreement with them. Inside the agreement, they will have all the rules. Once they determine what works and what doesn't, they can revisit the ordinance and make amendments as needed. There are currently five or six Birds in the Municipal Building which is considered a nest where they charge over night. If you are familiar with North Bryan and Texas Avenue between 21 and where it comes back together with Texas Avenue and meets Highway 6, there is no connectivity over the railroad tracks. The railroad won't give a new crossing very easily. Part of Mr. Kaspar's discussion with them is what is it going to take to make that happen? As discussions progress and he has more information, Mr. Kaspar will update the TAC. Looking at their Transportation Plan, the desire is to extend Woodville Road and have it cross Texas Avenue and cross the railroad tracks to Mumford Road and make a connection there. It is positioned well geographically and the topographic area would work well for an at-grade crossing. Union Pacific wants a grade separated crossing; however, Mr. Kaspar informed them that couldn't physically happen because Texas Avenue and the railroad are too close together and couldn't get under or over that easily without laying a lot of new track. This will be a good thing for that part of Bryan for regional mobility. It will also access the little donut hole (if you're familiar with looking at the City of Bryan city limits there is kind of a donut hole around Mumford Road that's not in the city limits). Much of that will start changing over the next few years as large tracts are being purchased and looked at for residential in that area so that donut hole will start to shrink along Mumford Road in the next few years. This may support that.

## **10. Future Activities**

The next Policy Board meeting is on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Paul will give the William Joel Bryan presentation. The MPO office relocation is January 25-31. The MPO will officially open in the new office space on February 1<sup>st</sup>. TxDOT may be ready to begin stakeholder meetings on the State Highway 6 project sometime in March. The RMA public hearing may be late March or early April.

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.



BRYAN / COLLEGE STATION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization

3833 S. Texas Ave, Suite 290 Bryan, Texas 77802

Phone: 979.260.5298 Fax: 979.260.5225 Website: www.bcsmpo.org

Meeting: Technical Advisory Committee

Date: 1/17/2019

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Doug Marino	TxDOT
Paul Krupar	COB
JASON SCHUBERT	COCS
NANCY BERRY	BRAZOS COUNTY
Allison Kurwitz	TxDOT
Peter Lange	TAMU - TS
John Nichols	Chamber of Commerce
Wendy Weedon	BTD

ATTEST:



*W Paul Kasper*

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

*2/21/2019*

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Date

*Dan Rudge*

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Dan Rudge - BCSMPO