

# **Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization**

## **Special Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

*February 16, 2023*

### ***Certification of Quorum***

The following voting TAC Members participated: Paul Kaspar, Chair, City of Bryan; Jason Schubert, Vice Chair, City of College Station; Debbie Albert, Texas A&M Transportation Institute; Doug Marino, TxDOT-Bryan District; Prarthana Banerji, Brazos County; and Jo Marlow, Brazos Transit District. The following MPO staff participated: Dan Rudge, Bart Benthul, and Lisa Lyon who took the minutes. Additional meeting participants included Jayson Barfknecht, Lauren Blackman, Carol Cotter, and Chuck Martinez.

### ***Welcome and Open Meeting***

Paul Kaspar called to order the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at 9:00 a.m. on February 16, 2023. The meeting was held in-person at the Brazos Transit District Marvin Tate Administration Building Conference Room, 2117 Nuches Lane, Bryan, Texas.

### ***Approval of Minutes from the November 17, 2022 TAC Meeting***

Minutes from the November 17, 2022, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting were considered for adoption. **A motion to approve the minutes was made by Debbie Albert. The motion was seconded by Jason Schubert. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

### ***Limited English Proficiency Plan***

Due to the fact that the Limited English Proficiency Plan was not available for the TAC's review, this item was tabled until a future meeting.

### ***Agency Reports***

TxDOT by June Quiroz and Doug Marino – The Texas Avenue project was split into two projects. Currently, Phase Two which is median construction only, has started on the south side of the project near University Drive working north. There are fifteen segments of the project and the contractor cannot work two consecutive segments at a time. The contractor is starting on segments fifteen and thirteen, so basically two segments at a time but not consecutive. Phase One is at Texas Avenue and State Highway 21 and is nearing completion in the next few months at which time they will move over and install the Waco Street signal. Phase 2B for the pedestrian elements such as sidewalks, shared use paths, etc. will not let for approximately two years. The schematic on TxDOT's website shows a lot of driveway closures and conversations with those affected that have not been finished. Because of the construction starting now, many have assumed the closures will happen with current construction so TxDOT staff are reaching out to them. Because those conversations have not been completed, there

could still be tweaks before construction begins on Phase 2B. There was some concern from the City of Bryan and Brazos Transit District regarding traffic control and the length of segments. Mr. Marino will address these concerns with the appropriate TxDOT staff.

FM 2154 widening project, TxDOT is working with the City of College Station's consultant to finish out the schematic. Because of some letters that were sent out regarding continuing survey work with adjacent land owners, City of College Station/Wellborn District meeting discussion was overtaken by roadway project discussion. TxDOT and City of College Station staff will meet with those concerned in Wellborn because the project is getting close. The project is currently at or almost at 90% schematic. Obviously, until they reach 100%, it is still open for discussion. The project is to increase the existing three lanes to five lanes with the middle lane being raised medians and turn lanes.

A key part of the George Bush project is the construction schedule. The tentative schedule was worked up about a year ago; however, TxDOT's consultant sent over a more finalized version last week. TxDOT staff will review the schedule as soon as possible and make comments. After that, TxDOT will work with Texas A&M and the City of College Station to make sure the construction schedule is agreeable to everyone. The other focus is to get utilities and railroad work finished and they are actively working to move that forward.

Projects in construction include raised medians on State Highway 30 Harvey Road which is ahead of schedule.

FM 1179 raised medians through Bryan, they have received some feedback and are working to readjust a few things. TxDOT will reach out to those who are minimally affected when construction is ready to begin. They have had a contractor on board for a while and are hoping to begin construction at the end of March.

FM 2154 at Holleman is essentially complete and they are finishing out the punch list.

Work began on FM 158 in November and it is moving slowly. There is still outstanding utility relocations and a few minor right-of-way acquisitions that they are still working around before the contractor can move forward. TxDOT is trying to get those utility adjustments wrapped up.

Texas A&M/TTI by Debbie Albert – Baseball season is kicking off this Friday and one of the big changes is weekday games have been moved up to 6 pm which puts more of a strain on roadways with overlapping traffic. Next Tuesday night, there is an overlap between baseball at 5 pm and the last home basketball game at 6 pm. Since there will be a lot of traffic, if you do not have a reason to be in the area, you should avoid if possible. March 25<sup>th</sup> is the Big Event and students will be out in the community. They are expecting more traffic around the Wellborn and Kimbrough intersection. Family Weekend is April 15<sup>th</sup> which is also the day of the spring football game. A date has not been set for a retirement party for Tim Lomax.

City of College Station by Jason Schubert – There a number of projects that are underway including Greens Prairie, Rock Prairie Road West, and the Cain/Deacon Railroad Crossing project. The city is finalizing negotiations for a design contract for the George Bush separated bike lanes which is a project for the TASA grant awarded to the city. The contract should go before the city council in one of the next few meetings with design started and completed in 2023.

Brazos County by Prarthana Banerji – Projects currently under construction include Old Jones Road. Peach Creek Cut Off is behind schedule because it has been too wet to work on the ditches which is the last thing before the surface course. They are going to try and finish those two items as quickly as possible. Jack Manning bridge is also running behind schedule because of weather and supply of construction materials. They are pouring the bridge deck yesterday and today and are trying to catch up on that project.

Upcoming construction projects include Old Reliance Road Phase One from Wallis to the City of Bryan is going to let soon. On IGN Road, they are clearing portions of the project right now with in-house staff, but that's another project that we are planning to let later on this year. White Ridge Road construction will begin in the summer as well. Design projects include Old Reliance remaining phases. The bridge scour projects will also begin once Jack Manning bridge is wrapped up.

Brazos Transit District by Jo Marlow – They are currently working with the City of Bryan on a RAISE grant and are also looking at a LoNo grant as well. They are continuing work on bus stop locations and are going to start ramping that up in the near future.

City of Bryan by Paul Kaspar – Old Hearne Road is still in construction and they are finally out of most of the utility areas and are ready to lay some additional pavement on the project. South College, the first phase from Villa Maria to Carson, is out to bid and the city will be opening bids soon. This project is expected to start construction probably before the summer. The city is ramping up signal construction on 29<sup>th</sup> Street at Broadmoor and Carter Creek and should be down to final pavement removals and replacements for sidewalk ramps around the signal locations. In addition to the RAISE grants the city is working on with Brazos Transit District, they are looking to submit one for Downtown Bryan for the northern infrastructure requirements that are on Bryan Avenue.

## ***Staff Report/Upcoming Events***

The next MPO Policy Board meeting will be in either March or April. The next meeting will most likely be in April since there aren't any action items for a March meeting.

In today's workshop, one of the topics will be the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant. The grant request was for \$210,000 with both cities and the county each contributing \$20,000 as local match. Since the grant was awarded, Mr. Rudge will explain what that means. Mr. Rudge will also be revisiting each locality to explain what is needed from them.

In December, the Department of Transportation put out their list of new qualifying urbanized areas. Bryan/College Station had a population of 206,000 which means redesignation to a Transportation Management Area or TMA. In the workshop, information will be presented as to what that means for the MPO and for Brazos Transit District.

## ***Adjourn***

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

*W. Paul Kasper*

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

*3/16/2023*

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Date

ATTEST:

*Dan Rudge*

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Dan Rudge - BCSMPO