

Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 20, 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 Madeline Dillard and Tim Lomax.

Welcome and Open Meeting

Paul Kaspar called to order the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at 9:05 a.m. on April 20, 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 March 16, 2023 TAC Meeting

Minutes from the March 16, 2023, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting were considered for adoption. **A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jason Schubert. The motion was seconded by Debbie Albert. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

Pavement Condition Performance Targets

In 2018 and 2021, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) developed two performance targets for pavement condition, the percentage of National Highway System (NHS) pavement in good condition and the percentage of NHS pavement in poor condition. In both instances, the TAC recommended that the Policy Board adopt the state targets. In February of 2023, TxDOT adopted new targets for pavement conditions on the NHS. As required by federal law, MPOs must update their targets by either developing their own targets or adopting the new state targets. Staff is recommending the TAC advise the Policy Board to adopt the state targets. **A motion was made by Jason Schubert to advise the Policy Board to adopt the state targets. The motion was seconded by Debbie Albert. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Bridge Deck Condition Performance Targets

In 2018 and 2021, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) developed two performance targets for bridge deck condition, the percentage of bridge decks in good condition and the percentage of bridge decks in poor condition. The TAC recommended that the Policy Board adopt the state target for percentage of bridge decks in poor condition and developed a more stringent target for bridge decks in

good condition. In 2021, TxDOT adopted a new target for bridge decks in poor condition but not for bridge decks in good condition so only the new target was adopted. In February of 2023, TxDOT adopted new targets for bridge decks in good condition and in poor condition. As required by federal law, MPOs must update their targets and either adopt their own targets or adopt the new state target. Staff is recommending the TAC advise the Policy Board to adopt the state targets for bridge decks in good condition and poor condition. **A motion was made by Debbie Albert to advise the Policy Board to adopt the state targets. The motion was seconded by Jason Schubert. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Non-Interstate Travel Time Reliability Performance Target

In 2018 and 2021, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) developed a performance target for non-interstate national highway system travel time reliability. In 2018, the TAC recommended that the Policy Board adopt a more stringent target than the state target. In 2021, TxDOT adopted a new target for non-interstate travel time reliability that was significantly better than the previous target but not as stringent as the MPOs target. The MPO kept its more stringent target. In February of 2023, TxDOT established new targets for non-interstate travel time reliability. As required by federal law, MPOs must update their target and either readopt their own target or adopt the new state target. Since TxDOT thinks the new targets and data bases were impacted by COVID-19, the state target is considered conservative as TxDOT awaits more data. Staff is recommending the TAC advise the Policy Board to adopt the state target. **A motion was made by Paul Kaspar to advise the Policy Board to adopt the state targets. The motion was seconded by Jason Schubert. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.**

Agency Reports

City of College Station by Jason Schubert – College Station has a few events coming up. The Texas MS 150 is April 29-30 and the finish line is on the Texas A&M campus. May is National Bike Month and the College Station City Council is hosting their annual Cycle with Council bike ride on Saturday, May 6th at 8 a.m. Residents are invited to ride with one or more council members on a casual 4.5 mile bike ride through bike lanes, off street paths, and parks. This event helps to promote biking in the community. They are continuing to work on getting a thoroughfare cross sections map completed and hope to have a joint meeting with the Bicycle, Pedestrian & Greenways Board along with our Council Transportation Committee in May to discuss some concepts and to get more separation between vehicles and bikes/peds. With the TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant Program this year, the city is pursuing a planning document to do a complete streets plan near campus to assess that core area of the city where there is the most need, but have less facilities. The grant application is currently being developed and part two is due on June 5th. TxDOT also has a couple of other projects as previously mentioned which include additional funding for Highway 6 and a shared use path along 2818 to extend what was funded previously.

Brazos County by Prarthana Banerji – They are working on Wingfall Street in south College Station in front of the fire department. They requested a small piece of road in front of their facility be paved to assist them with their vehicle traffic needs. Old Jones Road, Peach Creek Cut Off, and White Switch Road are all currently under construction. They are also working on the bridge scour project at Ferrill Creek Ranch on

Ferrill Creek Road. Gulf Coast has been hired for Old Reliance Road Phase One and staff will meet with them soon to finalize a schedule and plans to start on that project. Projects they plan to bid out soon are Harpers Ferry Road in south College Station and IG&N Road from Greens Prairie Trail to Saddle Creek. At this time, they are assessing funding for possible construction on Macey Road.

Texas A&M/TTI by Debbie Albert – There is a 25th anniversary event this Saturday at the George Bush Library which will include free admission to the library, free entertainment, and concluding with a fireworks show. They have been working closely with the City of College Station and event coordinators to formulate a plan to keep people from parking along FM 2818 as much as possible. Muster is Friday night and as previously mentioned the following weekend is the Texas MS 150. On May 11-13, are A&M graduations. May 20 is the Texas Troubadour bar-b-que and music festival at Aggie Park (which may be an annual event). May 26 & 27 are high school graduations. Because of all of the activities on May weekends and the traffic generated by the events, it is best to avoid the area if possible.

TxDOT by June Quiroz and Doug Marino – On the Texas Avenue median project at State Highway 21, they are working on the third of four corners to improve. Utility conflicts are being addressed and currently expect to complete the project in August. There is also a potential issue getting traffic poles for Waco Street.

Construction has not started on the FM 1179 raised medians project. They have been working with business owners and making some changes. Construction should start in the next couple of weeks.

For the State Highway 30 raised medians project, some pavement repairs started this week. Resurfacing will begin this week as well and they expect to be completed around the end of May.

On the Texas Avenue Phase 2A raised medians, they've been working with concerns brought by citizens and Bryan elected officials and staff and making changes to design. Medians are constructed through to Post Office Street and construction is moving at a fast pace.

On the Wellborn Road project, due to renewed citizen interest in the project, TxDOT is working with the City of College Station to schedule additional community meetings. One of the meetings was termed Infrastructure Night and TxDOT staff joined City of College Station staff at a Wellborn Community meeting to give information on the project and address citizen concerns. Tweaks to the design schematic will be made before going into right-of-way acquisition and PS&E development.

Once construction was funded on the George Bush/Wellborn project, an engineer was put on the project and they are currently getting PS&E updated and doing all the coordination that needs to happen with utilities and railroad. During the railroad coordination, they were informed by Union Pacific to prepare the bridge foundations to support three tracks instead of the two originally stated. This should not have a large effect on the project; however, they will have to make a tweak to the location of one pedestrian crossing to give adequate railroad right-of-way. They are navigating these challenges and are still on track with the project.

Brazos Transit District by Jo Marlow – Brazos Transit District (BTD) just submitted the Low-No grant request and are working with City of Bryan staff regarding the midtown terminal. BTD is getting ready to issue all the RFPs for bus stops and shelter locations. Earth Day is on Saturday, and BTD will celebrate on Friday by giving free rides for all of their fixed route and ADA paratransit rides.

City of Bryan by Paul Kaspar – South College construction from Villa Maria to Carson will start sometime in May. There are already some construction activities in the area with storm water detention ponds associated with the project closer up to Carson Street.

In Midtown Park, Legends Event Center is hosting Brazos County A&M Club Muster events on Friday night so the area may be a little congested.

Old Hearne Road is still under construction and will be for just a little bit longer. They are trying to finish that project by the end of the year.

At a City Council retreat yesterday, the council reviewed the entire capital improvement program. The discussed what projects to slate in 2028, the fifth year of the capital program. Mr. Kaspar will most likely be going back in future workshop sessions through the summer months (first one in June) to have more discussion on zeroing in on project slates for those and if they want to modify any projects in the 2024 or 2026 project years. In September, the city will have a known set of projects they will pursue from 2024-2028.

Staff Report/Upcoming Events

The next Policy Board meeting would be on May 3; however, it was decided to forego the May Policy Board meeting. The next Policy Board meeting will be on June 7, 2023.

Federal Highway Administration has sent out a Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant template and it explains exactly what they are going to require in the grant. Individual meetings will be held to go over the grant process. Once that meeting is held, the next step is to sign it and send it back to them. They will return it to us either signed or with amendments. If it is signed, we have one year to complete the grant.

The Public Participation Procedures will be brought back to the TAC for review and approval. There were a few minor modifications made. Ms. Albert added content regarding virtual public involvement. FHWA is getting more aggressive in their review of TIPs in relationship to the STIP and the MTPs. Currently, there is not an amendment process for the MTP in the public participation procedures because the MTP is not typically amended once it is adopted unless there are big changes. A section will be added in the public participation procedures to cover the procedure for modifying a project on the fiscally constrained list to change the project description and what kind of public comment period is required. In looking at what other MPOs have done, it is the same process as amending the TIP. There is a 15-day public comment period beginning with press releases being sent out to inform the public that we are making the modification.

Staff of the Texas Innovation Alliance would like to come to the next TAC meeting and talk about where the Innovation Alliance is headed, what it means for the Bryan/College Station team, and what me might do as part of projects related to the Texas Innovation Alliance. The Alliance is asking each one of the teams to identify an innovation zone. Because we're smaller than a lot of the other areas, the suggestion was made that our innovation zone be Bryan/College Station. After the zone is identified, there would be two main objectives. First, is what is going on in terms of innovation at the RELLIS Campus. The other objective would be to look at what the Bryan/College Station area could do in terms of one of the four pillars of the Innovation Alliance. Because BTD and Texas A&M are doing a lot of LoNo Grants and trying to electrify their transit fleets as much as possible, Mr. Rudge had the idea to use that as an innovation

zone project. First do an inventory and map locations of all of the electric charging stations in Bryan/College Station, and then focus on the transit electrification piece for the alliance project.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming MTP that is due at the end of 2024. Mr. Rudge explained that as far as he knew, all MPOs in the state were using consultants to complete the MTP as opposed to preparing it in-house. It was suggested that we handle project selection in-house and the written document be prepared by a consultant.

Regional Thoroughfare Plan update. Is that something to talk about in May or put on docket to start pulling it together. The last time we talked about this we said we wanted to start making it align with when we do the MTP update. So that would be December of 2024 and we would talk about it prior to December 2024 and make it part of the MTP.

Mr. Kaspar explained that the city has had 10-20 changes to the Major Thoroughfare Plan since it's adoption. Mr. Rudge said it would be updated in conjunction with the MTP update.

Mr. Rudge has a list of people he has been able to recruit for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan committee. He also requested that the TAC members let him know when he can be scheduled to update their respective councils or boards and request their promised funds.


Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.



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

5/18/2023
Date

ATTEST:


Dan Rudge - BCSMPO