

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

August 18, 2022

Certification of Quorum

The following voting TAC Members participated: Paul Kaspar, Chair, City of Bryan; Tim Lomax, Vice Chair; Texas A&M-Texas A&M Transportation Institute; Jason Schubert, City of College Station; Doug Marino, TxDOT-Bryan District; Prarthana Banerjee, Brazos County; and Taslima Khandaker, Brazos Transit District. The following MPO staff participated: Dan Rudge, Bart Benthul, and Lisa Lyon who took the minutes. Additional meeting participants included Debbie Albert, Katherine Beaman-Jamael, Lauren Blackman, Zachary Kennard, Peter Lange, Jo Marlow, and Juan Quiroz.

Welcome and Open Meeting

Paul Kaspar called to order the MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at 9:00 a.m. on August 18, 2022. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes from the June 16, 2022 TAC Meeting

Minutes from the June 16, 2022, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting were considered for adoption. **A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tim Lomax. The motion was seconded by Jason Schubert. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

FY 2022 – FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment One

Typically, an amendment is required at the first of the year due to cost-of-living adjustments and/or change in benefits amounts. Mr. Rudge presented a copy of the UPWP amendment with changes highlighted. The only other change other than salary/benefit amounts is in Task Four. In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, MPOs are required to set aside a minimum of 2.5% of their total budget to work on Complete Streets Planning Activities. This addition was included under the Metropolitan Transportation Plan portion since it is now a requirement and 3% of the total budget was set-aside for these activities.

Complete Streets requires the following:

- Compile and share data and information on active transportation – which is done through the Active Transportation Advisory Panel.
- Evaluate active transportation systems to understand their performance and needs to identify regional activities and priorities – There was a separate scoring factor for that in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Work with other interested parties to advance and improve the program – Texas Avenue would fall into this particular category.

- Look for innovative ways to optimize funding for active transportation projects – The TAC has always had the provision that a certain percentage of Category Two funds is set aside for active transportation programs. In the last MTP it was 10% even though the requirement that the MPO adopted was 5%.
- Statewide and regional active transportation strategies – The MPO has aligned pretty well with the regional requirement as the MPO is the one that put together the Regional Active Transportation Strategies. The MPO also works with TxDOT TP&P on some of the statewide active transportation strategies and actions that they are looking at. MPO localities go after TASA funding/TAP funding when available.

Jason Schubert made the motion to recommend approval of FY 2022 – FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment One to the Policy Board, open the 15-day public comment period, and forward to the Policy Board for action. The motion was seconded by Taslima Khandaker. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application Resolution

All localities and Brazos Transit District are moving forward with adopting a very similar resolution to the one presented by Mr. Rudge. As the lead agency for a multi-jurisdictional Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan grant, the MPO Policy Board must adopt a resolution stating their commitment to transportation safety for all network users. The resolution is almost identical to the draft resolutions each jurisdiction was provided by MPO staff. The deadline for the grant application is September 15th. Once TAC recommends approval, the Policy Board Chair has instructed Mr. Rudge to move forward with inputting the application with the help of the Brazos County Auditor’s Office.

Paul Kaspar made the motion to recommend approval of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application resolution to the Policy Board and forward to the Policy Board for action. The motion was seconded by Jason Schubert. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Cost Sharing Agreement Between the MPO and the Regional Mobility Authority

Each year the MPO and RMA enter into a cost sharing agreement for staff time, office supplies, and other miscellaneous items. The terms are the same as last year with most shared items based on the same percentage of use or actual cost.

Jason Schubert made the motion to recommend approval of the cost sharing agreement to the Policy Board and forward to the Policy Board for action. The motion was seconded by Prarthana Banerji. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Agency Reports

City of College Station by Jason Schubert – Venessa Garza has accepted a position with the City of San Antonio as a project implementation manager in their relatively newly formed transportation department. Katherine Beaman-Jamael was hired earlier this year as a grad engineer. Last night, the College Station City Council authorized moving forward to hold a bond election in November. On the transportation side of the bond there is a proposition for Rock Prairie Road widening on the east side of town from the Midtown Development at Town Lake Drive out to William D Fitch to a four-lane roadway. The City was considering other buckets of money for transportation related items and bike/ped improvements, etc. but has decided to do those separately from a General Obligation (GO) bond election. If a GO bond election item fails, the jurisdiction cannot use debt money to fund anything included in the bond for three years. Because of this, the bond will not have specifics but will have language for general improvements. The last time the City did a GO bond was in 2008. At last week's council meeting, a new setup for consultants using the IDIQ or Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity, was approved. This basically prequalifies firms in 30+ different categories. It will be used only for projects that are single delivery or single source service and will help move small projects forward more quickly. Also approved at last week's council meeting, Mr. Rudge gave a presentation on the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. The council gave direction to move forward and next Thursday, August 25th, they will approve the resolution for that program. The City received two Transportation Alternative Set Aside grants or funding related projects. The Advanced Funding Agreements have been executed for those grants and the City is in the process of routing the initial payment for those two different projects. The first project is separated bike lanes on George Bush Drive by campus that adds a vertical element in the buffered bike lane area. The other project is a shared use path on FM 2818 Harvey Mitchell between the library and the Jones Crossing development where HEB is at. Mr. Benthul requested the City of College Station to issue a letter appointing Ms. Garza's replacement on the ATAP.

Texas A&M/TTI by Debbie Albert – There are three football games starting September 3rd for three weekends in a row at 11 am, 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm. There are a couple of changes to the traffic control plans that they will be working through, namely at Bizzell in the front of campus trying to reduce the amount of campus cut-through traffic. They will be restricting northbound movements from George Bush at Bizzell and on FM 2818 in anticipation of the traffic shift from the FM 2818 project. They have been working closely with College Station on updating the traffic control plans. There is a change at Luther Street to allow more movements than in the past as a result of having the west leg of Holleman and Wellborn still closed for that construction project.

Brazos Transit District by Taslima Khandaker – No updates.

Brazos County by Prarthana Banerji – The annual seal coat program is on-going and was extended past the date originally anticipated. It appears that all of the roads may be finished by the end of August. The county is also working on reconstruction of several roads including the entire Los Lobos subdivision, Higgs Drive, Peach Creek Cutoff, J C Long Drive, McAllister Road, Favor Road, and Forsthoff Road. On Della Love Road and Harbert Lane, they are doing ditch work and replacing roadway culverts around the subdivision.

City of Bryan by Paul Kaspar – A few agreements with Union Pacific have been received for the Downtown Quiet Zone and taken to Council. There are additional agreements that are still needed. The

City will possibly be able to begin more of the median work in upcoming months, but there is not currently a schedule to share. The Old Hearne Road phase from Texas Avenue at Old Hearne Road to where the City left off at Wilhelm Street close to Bonham Elementary construction is starting. Most of the current work is utility and clearing and grading. The City is working closely to coordinate with the TxDOT Texas Avenue Phase One project as a place is needed to drain the project. There will need to be some improvements there before making the connection to the storm sewer. There is a new project on the CIP currently in consultant selection to extend Old Hearne Road from its current terminus to the State Highway 6 frontage road next door to the TxDOT District Office. Both Palasota Phase One and the Coulter project have both reached the substantial completion milestone.

TxDOT by Doug Marino and Juan Quiroz – Rakhshanda Mahar, the Bryan District Design Engineer, accepted a position with TxDOT in Fort Worth. Jeff Miles formerly from the traffic office as well as the advanced planning department is her replacement and that was announced today. Keith Kouba transferred over to the bridge office and has not been replaced yet.

Although TxDOT has not heard any final decision on Commission's approval of the UTP update, it will be voted on at their August meeting and Mr. Marino will give an update at the next TAC meeting regarding what was approved. Mr. Rudge requested to meet with Mr. Marino, Ms. Blackman, and Mr. Benthul as soon as there was an approval to discuss MTP and TIP updates.

Mr. Marino gave an update on construction projects:

Texas Avenue/State Highway 21 signal and raised median – the work is on-going, but it has/will be resequenced multiple times due to supply chain issues slowing down material availability.

Highway 6 Cable Barrier – On the north side of Bryan and Brazos County they have been adding foundations in the median of Highway 6 in preparation for the cable barrier installation. This project should be complete in October.

University Drive/Nimitz Signal installation – The project is complete and they are working on punch list items to close it out.

FM 2154 at Holleman project – Wellborn Road was reopened on June 17th. They are working on a plan to reopen Holleman East in the next week. Signal activation is delayed. The opening date for Holleman West is undetermined at this time as they are waiting on the UP track construction crew.

FM 1179 raised median project from Kent Street to South College – Change orders are complete and work is expected to begin soon (if it hasn't started already). There was some discussion regarding whether this project would be daytime or nighttime work. Mr. Marino will check on this for Mr. Kaspar.

FM 158 project – Tentative date to start of work is October 4th; however, once they begin talking to the contractor with more detail, that can change.

Mr. Quiroz gave updates on planning projects:

Texas Avenue Phase One is the raised medians project at the intersection of State Highway 21 and Texas Avenue. Texas Avenue Phase 2A is the raised medians along the remaining corridor. The Phase 2A project was awarded to Brazos Paving and let approximately two weeks ago. Construction will start in

January and last approximately nine months. They are currently developing the detailed construction plan for Texas Avenue Phase 2B.

The FM 1179 project from FM 158 to FM 2038, TxDOT is continuing to perform layout configuration refinements. They have recently been looking at the curve and intersection at FM 158 and trying to optimize that layout. They anticipate reaching out to our local stakeholders in the fall for input and feedback so they can continue refining the design before going to the public.

Staff Report/Upcoming Events

The next MPO Policy Board meeting is September 7th. Debbie Albert will give a presentation on the INRIX data that is available and how that is used for specific projects at TTL.

The right-of-way shared use agreements for bus stop and bus shelter programs have been sent out. Please contact Mr. Rudge or Ms. Khandaker if help is needed to move these along and have them approved at each locality.

Mr. Rudge has given presentations regarding the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant to the Commissioner's Court, and the City of Bryan and City of College Station City Councils. The City of Bryan has already passed their resolution. The City of College Station should approve theirs next week. The resolution is on the Commissioner's Court docket for August 23rd.

FHWA is expecting MPOs to be more proactive in updating their MTPs and TIPs once the Texas Transportation Commission takes action. The TIP amendments will be on the agenda for the November Policy Board; however, the MTP amendment will be on the December Policy Board agenda because it requires a longer public comment period. There is a possibility that the TIP will be on the December Policy Board agenda to do them both together.

In 2023, the MPO will be revising the Public Participation Procedures and developing the Limited English Proficiency Plan. Mr. Rudge requested volunteers to assist in the revision/development of these documents.

There was discussion regarding whether the TAC would prefer to continue with Zoom meetings or return to in-person meetings. After everyone had a chance to give their thoughts, it was decided that for regular agendas, the TAC would continue to meet via Zoom at 8:30. For workshop type agendas requiring much discussion, the meetings would be in-person at 9:00 in the Brazos Transit District Conference Room. There is currently an 8:30 am calendar block for TAC meetings. When the calendar invite is amended to include the agenda and attachments one week before the meeting, it will be denoted in the subject or location section if the meeting is in-person and the actual start time.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

W. Paul Kasper

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

10/20/2022

Date

ATTEST:

Dan Rudge

Dan Rudge - BCSMPO