



Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, December 3, 2009 • 11:00 AM

GRPC ANNEX • 1224-A PASS ROAD • GULFPORT • MS

MINUTES

I. Call to order

Buz Olsen called the meeting to order.

Roll call

Voting Members

City of Bay St. Louis - Buz Olsen
City of Biloxi - Damon Torricelli
City of Biloxi – Ed Shambra
City of D'Iberville – Jeff Taylor
City of D'Iberville – Amelia Dye (Seymour Engineering)
City of Gautier – Sidney Runnels
City of Gulfport – Benny Wolfe
City of Gulfport – Wayne Miller
City of Moss Point – Chan Burns
City of Ocean Springs – Kyle Smith
City of Pascagoula – Brian Nelson
City of Pass Christian - Dayton Robinson
City of Waveland – Bruce Newton (Digital Engineering)
Coast Transit Authority – Kevin Coggin
GRPC – David Taylor
Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport – Don Shepley
Hancock County – Jenell Tompkins
Harrison County – Bobby Weaver
Harrison County – Joseph Spires
MDOT – Al Brantley

MPO Staff /Guests/Non-Voting Members

GRPC – Mitzi Crystal
GRPC – Jeff Loftus
GRPC – Beth Laninga
NASA – Ron Magee
MDOT – Mike Merry
MDOT – David Seyfarth

- II. Approval of minutes from August 13, 2009 meeting
Motion was made by Brian Nelson to approve the August 13 minutes. Motion was seconded by Sidney Runnels. **Motion was approved unanimously.**
- III. Nondiscrimination Plan
Consideration: To adopt the Nondiscrimination Plan which covers Title VI requirements set forth in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscriminatory requirements.
Beth Laninga asked the TCC to adopt the current Nondiscrimination Plan which was sent to them for review. The Nondiscrimination Plan is compliant with Title VI and Environmental Justice requirements set forth by FHWA.
Motion was made by Benny Wolfe to adopt the Nondiscrimination Plan. Motion was seconded by Jeff Taylor. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- IV. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Mitzi Crystal explained the handout with the list of projects to be funded by the TIP. This list was decided on with the ARRA/TIP Subcommittee. This was in response to the funds that had been rescinded, leaving the funding available for FY '10 at \$11.8 million. David Taylor also explained that the jurisdictions should continue to move forward with the projects, even if the project is not on the list. Per MDOT, they currently have more contract authority. Jeff Taylor noted the Central Ave project for the City of D'Iberville should be listed as a priority one project. There was further discussion about the ranking of the projects for the City of D'Iberville.
David Taylor reminded the jurisdictions to work with their city or county to adopt a resolution regarding the rescission of funds. Jenell Tompkins asked the resolutions get sent out as soon as possible, so she may include the resolution for an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting. Al Brantley also reminded the group to say diligent with their progress of implementing local projects, MDOT is in support and will help.
- V. Update from ARRA Subcommittee (Buz Olsen)
David Seyfarth updated the group on the status of the projects. Six of the projects were given the Authority to Advertise. Comments have been received from FHWA on the projects and those corrections are being made. David acknowledged the City of Bay St Louis on being the first to open bids on the coast for the ARRA projects. He commended them for staying on course and pushing to get the projects pushed through. As well, the City of Gautier was a close second for getting their project pushed through. Buz Olsen thanked David Seyfarth as well for assisting in the process and helping them get the projects moving. Buz also recognized the other cities and counties for their projects, overcoming obstacles in the process but keeping the projects moving forward.
- VI. Long Range Transportation Plan Update (David Taylor & Mitzi Crystal)
Mitzi Crystal said the contract is almost approved to work with Wilbur Smith and Associates and Neel-Schaffer to update the Long Range Transportation Plan. This is an interim update, with a draft due in August or September and a final Plan completed by December 2010. GRPC is working to schedule a Kick Off Meeting in January. These will be public meetings held in each of the 3 counties. GRPC will be scheduling a time to meet with each jurisdiction to update the Functional Class Maps. The last update was in the early 90's. David Taylor stressed the importance of having the correct roads designated on the map. Buz Olsen encouraged the group to participate in the upcoming public meetings for the Long Range Plan, be involved and understand what the projects are and the direction the coast is heading in the area of transportation.

VII. New Surface Transportation Bill (SAFETEA-LU replacement)

Mitzi Crystal informed the group of the work currently underway by congress to approve a jobs bill, which if approved, would concentrate a portion of those jobs towards infrastructure. There is money potentially apportioned for Transit as well as Transportation. It is possible the bill could be done by December or early 2010. If the bill passes with the current provisions, it will be similar to the ARRA projects, shovel-ready, very little environmental and/or ROW. Mitzi asked the jurisdictions to be thinking about potential projects.

The SAFETEA-LU extension is expiring December 18th. Most likely it will be extended for an additional six months. However congress may decide to revise the bill instead of extending the current bill. Mitzi highlighted a couple areas that will be of concern for the MPO. As it stands now there will likely be a focus on performance measures, accountability, and reporting at MPO and state DOT levels. Safety, livability and reduction in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are also included in the next bill.

VIII. Old/New Business

I. Election of Officers for Technical Coordinating Committee

Damon Torricelli and Buz Olsen were nominated for chairperson. Damon declined the nomination, noting Buz had done a good job so far. Dayton Robinson asked for a motion nominating Buz Olsen to Chairman. **Motion** was made by Jenell Tompkins and seconded by Damon Torricelli. **Motion passed unanimously.**

There was discussion about the Vice Chairman nominations. **Motion** was made by Sidney Runnels to cease the nomination process. The motion was seconded by Damon Torricelli. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion was made by Sidney Runnels to nominate Dayton Robinson to Vice Chairman of the TCC. Motion was seconded by Brian Nelson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Census 2010 (Martha Faures)

Martha Faures explained the upcoming Census 2010 Workshop on January 6 at USM. The workshop is meant for those who work with data products from the Census. The workshop will be put on by the Census Bureau. There are 30 seats available, and seats may be reserved by contacting Martha Faures.

IX. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Sidney Runnels and seconded by Jenell Tompkins. **Motion passed unanimously.**