



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GULF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Policy Committee

Chairman:

Mayor George Schloegel
City of Gulfport

Vice Chairman:

Mayor Billy Skellie
City of Long Beach

Technical Coordinating Committee

Chairman:

Harold "Buz" Olsen
City of Bay Saint Louis

Vice Chairman:

Dayton Robinson
City of Pass Christian

TPC Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, May 27, 2010 • 11:00 am
GRPC Annex • 1224-A Pass Road • Gulfport • MS

MINUTES

- I. Mayor George Schloegel called the meeting to order and proceeded with introductions.

- II. Introductions

Voting Members Present

City of Bay St. Louis, Harold "Buz" Olsen
City of D'Iberville, Jeff Taylor
City of Gulfport, Mayor George Schloegel
City of Gulfport, Kris Riemann
City of Long Beach, Mayor Billy Skellie
City of Moss Point, Daphne Viverette
City of Pass Christian, Dayton Robinson
City of Pass Christian, Renee Brooks
Gulf Regional Planning Commission, Elaine Wilkinson
Harrison County, Joseph Spires
Harrison County, Patrick Bonck
MDOT, Al Brantley
MDOT, Mike Merry
MDOT, David Seyfarth
MDOT, Steve Twedt

Non Voting Members/GRPC Staff/Guests

GRPC, Mitzi Crystal
GRPC, Beth Laninga
GRPC, Jeff Loftus
GRPC, Jason Zimmer
Senator Roger Wicker's Office, Jennifer Schmidt

III. Public Comment

There was no public present to comment.

IV. Approval of minutes from February 25, 2010 meeting

Motion was made by Elaine Wilkinson. Motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Skellie. **Motion passed unanimously.**

V. Update from ARRA Subcommittee

Buz Olsen reported all of the money has been obligated to projects and each city has benefitted from the funds. He also thanked David Seyfarth for his hard work and keeping all of the projects on track.

VI. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mitzi Crystal reported the STP funding has been restored. However, the MPO does not know how much will be restored for non urban areas for FY 2010. Mitzi requested on behalf of the MPO, MDOT provide the amount of non urban funds that will be restored. With the restoration of STP funds, the TIP project application process will be opened up July. Applications will be due at the end of July, with final approval of the list in August by the TCC and TPC. Mitzi asked that each jurisdiction review the existing projects on the list and ensure the projects will be done in a timely fashion. The MPO does not want to be in a position where the funds are lapsing and have the potential for being rescinded. Al Brantley agreed with Mitzi and also reminded the group to obligate the funds as funds are not as plentiful.

The TIP handbook has been revised. Changes made to the document include clarification overall and to the air quality requirements. GRPC requires a resolution from the jurisdiction with the matching funds available for all submitted projects. According to the revised MDOT's Project Development Manual (PDM) GRPC no longer needs to receive the application. GRPC requests the LPAs still continue to submit the project to the MPO for review of the scope and so GRPC can track the projects. The MPO will not issue a letter to MDOT stating funds are available until the project has been reviewed by GRPC. Mitzi requested MDOT change the PDM to require the LPA to submit the project to GRPC. Buz Olsen made a motion to adopt the revised TIP Project Selection Handbook. Motion was seconded by Jody Spires and passed unanimously.

Buz Olsen made a motion to amend the FY 2010-2013 TIP to include the additional STP funds of \$1,360,000 as requested by the City of D'Iberville towards the Sangani Boulevard improvement project. The motion was seconded by Jeff Taylor and passed unanimously.

Jeff Taylor made a motion to amend the FY 2010-2013 TIP to include the additional funds of \$15,000,000 for the right of way phase of the MS Highway 57 improvement project. The motion was seconded by Mayor Billy Skellie. Steve Twedt said the ROW was inadvertently left out and MDOT will begin buying ROW for the project this fall. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Beth Laninga updated the group on the public and stakeholder meetings held in April. A handout was distributed with the survey results from each of the four meetings. Beth also demonstrated the link on GRPC's website, showing the map with comments that were made by attendees to the public and stakeholder meetings.

Martha Faures explained to the group the methodology used in attaining the population and employment forecasts for the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. A motion was made by Elaine Wilkinson to accept the methodology used for the population and employment forecasts. Motion was seconded by Buz Olsen. Motion passed unanimously.

Mitzi Crystal reviewed with the group the revised Goals and Objectives for the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. A motion was made by Elaine Wilkinson to accept the revised Goals and Objectives. The motion was seconded by Buz Olsen and passed unanimously.

VIII. Air Quality Update

Elaine Wilkinson gave the group an update on air quality. EPA will release the final standard in August 2010, with designations being made August 2011. GRPC is working diligently with the jurisdictions, business leaders and Coast Transit Authority (CTA) to put together a plan of action to educate local governments and residents on ways to reduce ozone levels. It will not get the counties out of being designated nonattainment however it may reduce the severity to marginal instead of moderate. CTA has committed to offering free rides to passengers on Ozone Action Days. Elaine said the air quality issue is tied to economic development and tourism on the coast. Pat Bonck asked if the oil spill has or will impact the air quality. Elaine noted that MDEQ will flag the readings and classify them as a special event. With a formal request they will study those days and evaluate the impact of the oil spill. Elaine welcomed the group to participate in the Ozone Action Group meeting coming up on Thursday, June 24. More details about the meeting will be sent out in the coming weeks.

IX. Old/New Business

Mitzi Crystal notified the group the second round of TIGER grants is starting. Information about the TIGER grants is included in the handout. Jennifer Schmidt added that projects need to be very large, regional projects. The amount available is less than the first round.

Jeff Loftus told the group about the City of Pascagoula's recent adoption of the Complete Streets Policy. This policy will insure cyclists, pedestrians and motorists needs are considered when building a new roadway. Harry Schmidt with the City of Pascagoula modeled the resolution after the cities of Tupelo and Hernando, which were recently recognized by FHWA. The cities of Biloxi and Gulfport also promote the ideas of a Complete Streets Policy in their comprehensive plans.

Buz Olsen recognized Steve Twedt from MDOT. He thanked him for his years of service in the public sector and wished him the best going to his position in the private sector.

Buz Olsen also recognized Mitzi Crystal from GRPC. He thanked her for her hard work for the agency, especially for her diligence in the ARRA projects and appreciated her support and work of the tasks of the MPO. He wished her the best in moving back to Virginia.

Pat Bonck asked if the two projects on Seaway Road included bike lanes. Mayor George Schloegel referred his question to Kris Reimann. Kris replied yes. Elaine Wilkinson said GRPC could discuss the details of the projects further following the meeting.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Billy Skellie and seconded by Elaine Wilkinson. **Motion passed unanimously.**