



**2015 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization**

*Joint meeting of the:*  
*Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) & Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)*

Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 10:30am  
Biloxi Visitor Center (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

1. Call to Order

Mayor Skellie	Long Beach (TPC Chair)	Brent Ross	Gulfport	Tammy Bridenbeck	Guest
Kris Riemann	Gulfport (TCC Chair)	Russel Weatherly	Harrison Co.	Camille Peno	Sen. Wicker
Mayor Moran	Ocean Springs	Jody Spires	Harrison Co.	Win Ellington	Sen. Cochran
Mayor Gilich	Biloxi	Tim Smith	Harrison Co.	Randy Jansen	FHWA
Ed Shambra	Biloxi	Kelvin Jackson	Harrison Co.	Sedrick Durr	MDOT
Robert Smith	Biloxi	Patrick Bonk	Harrison Co.	Sammy Holcomb	MDOT
Mayor Schaefer	Diamondhead	Danny Boudreaux	Harrison Co.	Jeff Ely	MDOT
Clovis Reed	Diamondhead	Brian Fulton	Jackson Co.	Perry Brown	MDOT
Mayor McDermott	Pass Christian	Buz Olsen	GRPC Board	Mike Merry	MDOT
Jennifer Burke	Pass Christian	Carlos Bell	MS State Port Auth.	Trung Trinh	MDOT
Mayor Fillingame	Bay St Louis	Michael Smith	Jackson Co. Port	Jeff Altman	MDOT
Paula Faircontennue	Bay St Louis	Cindy Lamb	Pickering Firm	Nicole Baker	MDOT
Sue Wright	Moss Point	Robert Walker	Neel-Schaffer	Elaine Wilkinson	GRPC
Kathy Keeton	Moss Point	Jim Wilkinson	Neel-Schaffer	David Taylor	GRPC
Russel Davis	Moss Point	Craig High	Neel-Schaffer	Kenneth Yarrow	GRPC
Joe Huffman	Pascagoula	Paul Waidhas	BKI	Stephanie Plancich	GRPC
Jaci Turner	Pascagoula	Ed Elam	BKI	Ken Holland	GRPC
Jeff Taylor	D'Iberville	Geneva Dummer	Heritage Trails	Jeff Loftus	GRPC
Leslie Robertson	D'Iberville	Kim Cox-Rasmussen	USM	Jason Zimmer	GRPC
Samantha Abell	Gautier	Shannon Campbell	USM		

2. **Introductions** – Entire Room introduced themselves

3. **Public Comment** - None

4. **Approval of Minutes** – Copies provided in agenda packets

- TCC Minutes from August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting

**MOTION made to adopt the minutes by Jaci Turner. Second by Kris Riemann. No Comments. PASSED.**

- TPC Minutes from September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting

**MOTION made to adopt the minutes by Mayor McDermott. Second by Brian Fulton. No Comments. PASSED.**

5. **Closing out 2015/Kicking off 2016** – David Taylor gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted MPO accomplishments in FY2015 and then laid out some of the expected activities for FY2016. ( copy of presentation in Files)

6. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan** –

Robert Walker of Neel-Schafer provided an overview of the long-range plan development process. Sammy Holcomb then gave a presentation on the various elements of the Statewide Plan.

Kenneth Yarrow and GRPC's long-range plan consultant, Jim Wilkinson from Neel-Schaffer, presented on the elements of our region's 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan asking for approval to adopt. Jim discussed modeling components of the plan and Kenneth discussed the some of the project and program highlights as well as how it was developed.

Mayor Moran asked about the plans for implementing the separated paths projects proposed in the plan. Kenneth clarified that it is a goal to continue developing the network and the MPO Complete Street Policy will support that effort.

**MOTION made to adopt the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan was made by Mayor Gilich. Second by Mayor Moran. No Comments. PASSED.**

7. **Freight Planning Overview** - Trung Trinh gave a presentation on MDOT's freight study specifically discussing proposed roadway alterations to support forecasted freight needs.

8. **Fiber Optic Cable Discussion** (Mayor Gilich)

Mayor Gilich presented the idea of installing an ultra-fast broadband ring as an economic driver for the Gulf Coast region. He obtained interested from members of the MPO and agreed to schedule a separate meeting at a later date to talk more about the installation and maintenance processes.

9. **Reinstating Passenger Rail** (Mayor Moran)

Mayor Moran discussed the initiative of reinstating passenger rail on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She and other members of the Southern Rail Commission are actively discussing the option with Amtrak and other interested parties from across the southern states.

10. **Old/New Business (Stephanie Planchich)**

In response to several requests from MPO members, Stephanie drafted member orientation information and has made it available on the agency website, [www.grpc.com/MPOPlanning](http://www.grpc.com/MPOPlanning). In addition to MS Gulf Coast MPO specific information, there are also several presentations made by other entities that will help new and existing members understand what the MPO does and their individual role in the decision-making process.

The MPO is required to self-certify that we are operating the MPO in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. The requirement to complete the Annual Self-Certification is a part of our TMA reporting process. The sheet is signed by Mayor Skellie as the Policy Committee Chairman and Jeff Ely for MDOT's Planning Department. A copy of the form was included in the agenda packet for each attendee to review.

Meeting Schedule: Also included with the agenda was a copy of the 2016-2017 MPO meeting schedule. TPC will meet the last Thursday in March, June and September, the TCC will meet the last Thursday in February, May and August. The next annual meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2016.

11. **Motion to Adjourn made by Jeff Taylor. Second by Samantha Able. No Comments. Passed.**