

MEETING MINUTES

Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)



Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 10:30
Gulf Regional Planning Commission
1635-G Popp's Ferry Road ~ Biloxi MS 39532



I. Call to order

ATTENDEES:

Long Beach

Mayor Skellie (TPC)

Chair)

Hancock County

Harrison County

Patrick Bonk

Russel Weatherly

Jackson County

Mr. Brian Fulton

Waveland

Brent Anderson

Mickey Lagasse

Diamondhead

Richard Rose

Michael Sullivan

Bay St. Louis

Pass Christian

Mayor McDermott

Gulfport

Kris Riemann

Biloxi

Damon Torricelli

Ed Shambra

D'Iberville

Jeff Taylor

Leslie Robertson

Ocean Springs

Mayor Moran

Tammy Wisco

Gautier

Samantha Abell

Moss Point

Pascagoula

Jaclyn Turner (GRPC Chair)

Coast Transit Authority

Kevin Coggin

Jackson County Port Authority

Michael Smith

Federal Highway Administration

Randy Jansen

MS Dept. of Transportation

Mike merry

Perry Brown

David Seyfarth

Heritage Trails Partnership

Jim Foster

NASA, Stennis Space Center

Ron Magee

Congressman Pallazo's Office

TJ Moran

Senator Wicker's Office

Brad Fergusson

Senator Cochran's Office

Win Ellington

GUESTS:

Guest Presenter:

Johnathan Smith (Fairhope)

Burk-Kleinpeter Inc.

Paul Waidhas

Ed Elam

Compton Engineering

David Compton

MPO STAFF:

David Taylor

Kenneth Yarrow

Jeff Loftus

Stephanie Plancich

II. Introductions - None

III. Public comment - None

None

IV. Approval of minutes from October 24, 2013– **MOTION**

Motion to adopt the October 24, 2013 minutes.

Motion made by Mayor McDermott. Second by Jeff Taylor. No Comments, Passed

V. TIP update (David Taylor)

- a. **TIP Amendment:** Port of Pascagoula, Bayou Cassotte Terminal rail access improvements. Total cost \$18,700,000 (Tiger grant \$14,000,000; Local funds \$4,700,000) construction to begin in December 2014.

Discussion: There is an emphasis on rail crossing safety for this project. 22 crossing will be deactivated and 8 will be substantially improved with safety enhancements.

Question: Is the Port and/or cities impacted by this project going to incorporate rails to trails concepts for new bicycle and pedestrian facilities? Has this been considered on deactivated and new activated lines?

Answer: There are no current plans to add trails in conjunction with the new active lines, as far as the port reps are aware. However, there has been discussion at the city level about how to best utilize the abandoned lines through down town areas. The rails to Trails program may be great for them to consider.

Motion to amend the 2014-2018 TIP to include the Port of Pascagoula Bayou Cassotte terminal rail access project. Motion made by Jaci Turner. Second by Patrick Bonk. Passed

- b. **Transportation Alternatives Program:**

Discussion: Over the summer, the MPO staff will draft an application process in order for jurisdictions to apply to use any future TAP fund allocations. Until this process is put in place, it is suggested that the MPO use its 2013 TAP fund allocation to supplement already approved Safe Route to School projects. They are listed below.

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Long Beach | SRTS supplement | \$ 24,300 |
| Ocean Springs | SRTS supplement | \$ 12,800 |
| Biloxi | Reynoir and Jackson Street | \$ 74,400 |
| Gautier | SRTS supplement | \$ 106,000 |
| Bay St Louis | SRTS supplement | \$ 100,000 |
| Pascagoula | SRTS supplement | \$ 100,000 |

Move to allow the use of 2013 TAP funds to supplement existing projects and for the staff to move forward developing a TAP fund application process.

Motion made by Ed Shambra. Second by Jaci Turner. No Comments, Passed

VI. Guest Presentation (Jeff Loftus)

Mr. Johnathan Smith, City of Fairhope Planning and Zoning Director

A discussion of the city's experiences with incorporating complete streets policies into their design practices with open discussion regarding public participation and feedback, benefits realized and next steps.

Mr. Smith gave a good presentation and was able to sit with several jurisdictions at the close of the meetings to provide more information about the City of Fairhope's designs, planning processes and their work with Dan Burden as a consultant.

VII. MPO membership for the City of Diamondhead. (David Taylor)

Move that the City of Diamondhead be added as a new MPO member-

Motion made by Patrick Bonk. Second by Ed Shambra. No Comments, Passed

Richard Rose thanked the MPO and expressed in appreciation on behalf of their city.

VIII. MPO Urbanized Area “smoothing”.

David Taylor showed and discussed the proposed new boundaries with the attendees. A large wall map showed the existing urbanized area and proposed new boundaries in relation to jurisdiction city limits.

The most notable increases in planning coverage are seen around The I-10/Hwy 57 interchange in Gautier, In north Biloxi up Hwy 67 to encompass areas above the D’Iberville shopping areas, Harrison County and North Gulfport, Southern Ocean Springs, Hancock County to encompass Diamondhead and a slight increase around the Long Beach Pass Christian I-10 interchanges.

David noted that the boundary lines follow census tract edges and/or other boundary lines like rivers, roadways, etc. He stated, that these changes will not significantly impact planning but in a few instances new or expanded portions of some functionally classified roads will now be eligible for federal funding.

Move to adopt the proposed smoothed UZA.

Motion made by Mayor Connie Moran. Second by Ed Shambra. No Comments, Passed

IX. STP funding eligibility

Discussion: Members discussed that the purpose of this motion is to make ROW reimbursement with STP/Special Match funds an eligible expense under our MPO practices. Although MAP-21 allows for this, current MPO procedures do not allow for this expense.

It was also clarified that this eligibility applies only to projects not already on the TIP, and/or projects that will begin in 2019 or later.

MPO staff assured the membership that they will be drafting eligibility parameters and an application process as part of the TIP Handbook update being completed over the next several months.

MPO members will be actively involved in the development, review and final adoption process.

Move that reimbursements for ROW expenses be made an eligible STP expenditure on future projects and that the MPO staff will provide modifications to the MPO’s project selection process and develop guidelines concerning eligibility for reimbursement.

Motion made by Samantha Abell. Second by Jeff Taylor. No Comments. Passed.

X. MPO update (Kenneth Yarrow)

- a. TIP has been modified – we can print and provide a copy of the most up to date TIP, or it has been placed on the GRPC website and is available for review and download.
- b. 6 Month TIP Review Period – the application period starts April 1st until May 1st. Kenneth Yarrow supplied each attendee with a half sheet flier with details and instruction for how to request changes to existing projects, request the addition or removal of project from the TIP. Any requests and recommendations collected will be brought to the June TPC meeting for discussion and a vote for adoption.
- c. Safety program update – Kenneth reminded everyone that our MPO elected to hold 10% of our STP allocation aside for safety improvement projects. Part of the project development process will be for GRPC staff to identify project locations and act as the LPA throughout the design phases. The appropriate county government will then assume the project through its completion. This type of relationship and coordination has never been done, so both the FHWA, MDOT and GRPC staff are working closely to define the process, execute necessary agreements and get the project development process off the ground. We are making steady process and hope to see the first projects break ground later in the year.
- d. L RTP kicks off this summer – The MPO is responsible for the development and management of the region’s Long-range transportation plan. As projects are placed on the TIP, they are assumed into the L RTP. The L RTP covers a 25 year period and is updated every five years. If you have large scale projects, projections or desires in your communities please let us know so we can discuss incorporating them into this planning process. We are set to kick-off the RTP process in July.
- e. MDOT/GRPC agreement – The GRPC board has executed the agreement with MDOT that designates us as the MPO for our region. Copies are available if anyone would like a copy.

- f. MPO self-certification – (A copy of the self-certification was copied onto the meeting’s agenda.) The self-certification is a part of the FHWA/FTA TMA audit process. It is the MPO’s assurance that we are conducting our programs, services and activities in accordance with applicable laws, rules and regulations. The MPO signs and submits the form to MDOT for three years, and on the fourth year we undergo an in-house assessment by both FHWA and FTA. The in-house was completed in 2013.

XI. Transit update (Kevin Coggin)

- a. FTA Designation Endorsement – Kevin explained that these are new funds being allocated to urbanized areas to support transportation program for the elderly and disabled. The Pascagoula-Moss Point area is also eligible for funds but they must apply directly through MDOT. By designating CTA, they will be able to receive funds directly from FTA and skip the MDOT step. Citizens in all three coastal counties will benefit from this program which brings in about \$200,000 in addition funds.

Motion for the MPO to endorse CTA being named as the Designated Recipient of FTA/MAP-21 Section 5310 funds allocated for the Gulfport-Biloxi UZA from this point forward.

Motion made by Ed Shambra. Second by Jeff Taylor. No Comments. **Passed.**

XII. MDOT update

- a. David Seyfarth recited a list of projects under construction and planned for the rest of the fiscal year. He met with MPO staff and will begin providing through the MDOT District 6 office, copies of their project press releases which will be posted on the GRPC webpage for broader public awareness.

XIII. Old/new business (Stephanie Plancich)

- a. The April 7th Road Safety Audit training has been moved to April 8th and will be held at the Pascagoula Senior Center to be more convenient for the registered attendees.
- b. April 9th – Civil rights awareness workshop is on track. Jurisdictions have been scheduled for their one-on-one ADA Transition Plan reviews and we have about 60 RSVPs for the simulation. Stephanie asked that they continue to share the event flier with consultants, community leaders, and other staff.
- c. LPA Training – September 16th , 9am-4pm at the MS Ag Museum in Jackson

XIV. Adjournment – Next Meeting is June 26th

Move to adjourn made by Jaci Turner. Second by Damon Torricelli. No Comments. **Passed.**