

MEETING MINUTES

Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)



Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 10:30-1:00
Gulf Regional Planning Commission
1635-G Popp's Ferry Road ~ Biloxi MS 39532



I. Call to Order

Hancock Co.		D'Iberville		Bus. Council	
	Vic Johnson		Jeff Taylor		None
Harrison Co.				Other Parties	
	Kelvin Jackson	Ocean Springs		Ethan Wise	Neel-Schaffer
	Jody Spires		None	Jim Wilkinson	Neel-Schaffer
	Robyn Ladner	Gautier			
Jackson Co.			None		
	Joe O'Neal			FTA	
		Pascagoula			None
			Jaci Turner	FHWA	
Waveland					Randy Jansen
		Moss Point		Rep. Cochran	
Bay St Louis			Sue Wright		None
	Buz Olsen			Rep. Wicker	
Diamondhead		Coast Transit			None
	Clovis Reed		None		
		Intern'l Airport		Rep. Palazzo	
Pass Christian			None		None
	None	MS State Port			
			None	MDOT staff	
Long Beach		Port Pascagoula			Jeff Altman
	None		None		Jeff Curtis
					Necole Baker
Gulfport		Port Bienville			David Seyfarth
	Kris Riemann		None		Perry Brown
		NASA/Stennis			Mike Merry
			None	GRPC staff	
Biloxi		Keesler & NCBC			David Taylor
	Damon Torricelli		None		Kenneth Yarrow
	Ed Shambra				Stephanie Plancich
	Dan Guillet	CSX, KCS, Amtrak			
			None		

II. Introductions

Jim Wilkinson of Neel-Schafer is a guest speaker at this quarter's meeting. He works with Neel-Schafer and is coordinating much of the development of our regional long-range plan.

III. Public Comment- none

IV. Approval of Minutes from March 26th Joint TCC/TPC meeting

Motion made by Mr. Damon Torricelli. Second by Mrs. Jaci Turner. No Comments. **PASSED**

V. Transportation Improvement Program (David Taylor & Kenneth Yarrow)

1. Obligation Authority Update

David Taylor reiterated that we have an annual obligation authority of about \$6.5million. Last year we were able to get extra obligation from other areas that did not use all of theirs. With the support of FHWA and MDOT we were able to obligate over \$17million in 2014. Now we are working on ensuring our TIP projects slated for 2015 stay on track.

There is no guarantee, but there is some likelihood that extra authority may be available this year as well. If you have new or existing projects that are moving forward faster than originally planned, you are encouraged to push them for obligation this year.

Jeff Altman of MDOT states that MDOT cares about getting projects done equally as much as they want to spend the state's full obligation each year. If a project is ready, everyone wants them to go forward as soon as possible. Within bounds, MDOT will support projects through the process and to get them let as soon as they are ready.

David restated; if you get your projects ready, there's a high likelihood that they'll be funded in this fiscal year. This is good for you, but also good for other jurisdictions wanting to move their projects up and/or to add new projects to the TIP. By moving your project up,

2. FY15-19 TIP Amendments

Remove from TIP

- Gulfport – Ship Island Terminal Project \$560,301 STP
- Pass Christian – Cedar Ave/ Railroad to US 90 \$163,570 STP

Motion to remove the Ship Island Terminal and Cedar Ave projects from the FY2015-2019 TIP made by Mr. Kris Riemann. Second by Mr. Kelvin Jackson. No Comments. **PASSED**

Add to TIP

- Waveland - Waveland Avenue Sidewalk Project \$1,052,800 STP
- Gulfport - Landon Road Widening Project (PH I) \$1,000,000 STP
- Gulfport - Airport Road Improvements \$550,000 STP
- Pass Christian - North Street Sidewalks \$566,000 STP

Motion to add 4 projects: Waveland Ave., Landon Road, Airport Road, and North Street projects to the FY2015-2019 TIP made by Mr. Kris Riemann. Second by Mr. Jodi Spires. No Comments. **PASSED**

VI. Long-Range Plan Update (Kenneth Yarrow & Jim Wilkinson)

Mr. Wilkinson updated the TCC members on our progress toward developing our 2040 long-range metropolitan transportation plan. He spent some time explaining how deficiencies are determined then showed maps, by county, with highlighted corridors that the model had identified as likely to be deficient in the future. Hancock Co. had no deficiencies to discuss. Harrison and Jackson counties had several roadways highlighted, but it was commented that most of those roadways already have projects listed on the TIP to address the concerns. Only a couple of additional projects may be needed.

Jim explained that we have 787 traffic analysis zones (TAZ) in our region and 16 additional external travel stations included in the study. The model's base data reflects 2010 population information and 2013 traffic conditions.

TCC members are asked to talk with Kenneth about developing projects in deficiency areas. We need to note all projects being constructed, planned, etc. Even non-MPO projects should be reported so they can be reflected in our long-range plan.

VII. MPO Complete Streets Policy – (Kenneth Yarrow)

Kenneth provided an overview of a draft complete street policy for the MPO planning process. He highlighted a couple of points including that complete street policies and selected strategies are specific to each project. The draft is not recommending a blanket approach to future roadway projects, but instead requires that for every MPO funded project, complete street initiatives are considered and that the appropriate design elements are selected for inclusion. He did note that not all projects require complete street measures and that certain exemptions will be developed. He hopes to have a more finalized draft ready for adoption by the end of this fiscal year. He encourages all members to review the draft policy and provide feedback, ask questions and make suggestions so that the program works for our needs on the coast. Once a policy is adopted the TIP project application will be updated to include a section for requesting a policy exemption or explaining how you plan to comply with the policy for that particular project.

Mr. Yarrow pointed out a design guide/matrix pulled together from multiple resources. It shows what bicycle facilities should be added based on road characteristic like speed and traffic count.

Mr. Riemann asked that he add a single multiuse pathway on only one side of the roadway as an option in limited ROW situations.

Mr. Altman noted that functional classification of a road determines the required lane widths so a road diet may not always be an option. However, MDOT has a 2' paved shoulder requirement already on their books. By better enforcing that policy it will support these complete street planning efforts.

Mr. Jeff Taylor complimented the matrix as an easy tool to share with others in his city and to use when determining what bike/ped facilities are best suited for individual roadways.

VIII. Get To B Safety Program Update – (David Taylor)

1. Safety projects update
2. Next Training Events: Online registration coming later this summer
 - Not Another Shoulder to Cry On: Engineering Crash Forgiveness (July 28&29)
 - Safe Access is Good for Business: Access Management Strategies (Oct TBD)

IX. CTA Update

X. MDOT Update

Mr. Seyfarth provided a summary report of all MDOT project occurring on the coast. The highlight news is the groundbreaking ceremony on the diverging diamond on June 2, after which the interchange (the first of its kind in our state) will be open and fully functional for our community.

XI. FHWA Update

XII. Old/New Business

Mr. Harold "Buz" Olsen announced his retirement from the City of Bay St Louis the end of June. A long standing member of the MPO, current TCC chair and respected community leader, he will be missed. He spearheaded the selection of new TCC officers as his last action as chair.

Mr. Damon Torricelli was voted as the new Chair and Mr. Kris Riemann was selected as the new TCC Vice-Chair. Congratulations to Buz and we wish him well in all of his future endeavors and hope that he knows that he will be missed.

XIII. Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Ed Shambra. Second by Mr. Jodi Spires. No Comments. **PASSED**

NOTE: Policy Committee meets June 25th at the Innovation Center (10:30-1:00)