

# MEETING MINUTES

## Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization

### Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)

Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 10:30-1:00

GRPC Conference Room: 1635-G Poppo Ferry Rd, Biloxi MS



#### I. Call to Order

Organization	Name	Organization	Name
Long Beach	Mayor Billy Skellie	Biloxi	Christy LeBatard
Pass Christian	Jennifer Burke	Sen. Cockran	Win Ellington
Jackson Co	Brian Fulton	Sen. Wicker	Camille Peno
Diamondhead	Mayor Tommy Schafer	FHWA	Randy Jansen
Diamondhead	City Manager Clovis Reed	MDOT	David Seyfarth
Pascagoula	City Manager Joe Huffman	MDOT	Perry Brown
Gautier	Chandra Nicholson	MDOT	Jeff Ely
Gulfport	Mayor Billy Hewes	MDOT	Jeff Altman
Gulfport	Wayne Miller	MDOT	Necole Baker
Ocean Springs	Wade Morgan	MDOT	Sedrick Durr
CTA	Kevin Coggin	MDOT	Chuck Starita
Southern Rail Comm	Knox Ross	MDOT	Kelly Castleberry
Southern Rail Comm	Kay Kell	MDOT	David Taylor
Gulf Cst Design Studio	Tracy Wyman	MDOT	Kenneth Yarrow
Harrison Co	Jody Spires	GRPC	Stephanie Planchich
Harrison Co	Patrick Bonck	GRPC	Elaine Wilkinson
D'Iberville	Jeff taylor	GRPC	Jeff Loftus
Bay St Louis	Mayor Les Fillingame	GRPC	Ken Holland
Bay St Louis	Paula Fairconnetue	Guest: BKI	Paul Waidhas
Biloxi	Christy LeBatard		

#### II. Introductions - none

#### III. Public Comment - none

#### IV. Approval of Minutes from December 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting **MOTION made by Christy LeBatard. Second by Vic Johnson. No Comments. Passed.**

#### V. Restoration of Passenger Rail - Knox Ross provided the MPO an update on progress from the Southern Rail Commission. Progress and support has been steadily moving the proposal for Gulf Coast passenger rail forward. There are some challenges across the region, but the membership of the SRC have been working well together and are working to overcome obstacles as they arise. He made a point to thank the local communities for their efforts to make the project a reality and acknowledge the diligent and determined efforts of our leadership in Washington DC.

He noted that the next milestone for the project is September 4<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, the SRC members are working to collect support letters and resolutions from their constituency for submission with the project.

Elaine Wilkinson, thanked Know Ross and the other members of the Commission for their continued work toward reestablishing regional rail travel services. She recognized that several MPO members have already signed and submitted resolutions of support. She provided a blank template for those who have not to take for their own use and asked the MP itself to consider signing a resolution of support itself. **MOTION to submit a resolution in support of reestablishing passenger rail services across the Gulf Coast was made by Joe Huffman. Second by Tommy Schafer. No further discussion. Passed and was signed by TPC Chairman Mayor Skellie.**

#### **VI. Transportation Improvement Program –**

David Taylor started the TIP discussion by providing an overview of the amendment process recently completed for the FY2015-2019 TIP. Due to time constraints, a poll vote was conducted of the TPC membership, the proposed amendments passed by majority vote and a copy of the poll vote letter was provided for review at this meeting. We received a majority vote in favor of adopting the recommended changes, so the current FY2015-2019 TIP has been amended to reflect them.

He also reviewed a handout detailing other proposed actions impacting the current TIP and the development of the FY2017-2020 TIP. These changes include adding funds to 3 projects, removal of 2 projects and adding 9 new projects to the TIP. He provided a project by project review of the proposed new projects for discussion. A draft copy of the TIP summary page, showing each project in its expected obligation year, was provided and used during the discussion.

Scheduling Notices: David pointed out the TIP development schedule included on the agenda. He announced that the TIP update requires a 45 day public review period that will run from July 5-August 19. He pointed out the open-house event dates planned for public review.

**MOTION to approve the FY2015-2019 amendments as presented and send the Draft FY2017-2020 TIP for public review was made by Tommy Schafer. Second by Joe Huffman. No comment. Passed.**

#### **VII. Get To B Safety Program Update – (David Taylor)**

1. Progress on 1st round of improvement projects – Harrison County projects are just about completed, Hancock County bids are done and Jackson County has accepted a bid, so all first round projects are getting underway. Not quite as “Quickly Implementable” as expected, but we have learned to work around some of the hurdles and develop alternative strategies for the next rounds of improvement projects.
2. Progress on 2<sup>nd</sup> round of improvement projects – Second round project locations have been identified and David and Kenneth have completed site inspections to further narrow the list of potential project sites. Expect the second round of locations to be finalized and contracts to complete PS&E done in FY2016.

3. Safety Series Event Updates:

Access Management Workshop was conducted last month and was successful in sparking discussion for several local projects.

The Bike Walk Summit is August 9-11. Fliers for the Law Enforcement and Elected Official sessions were provided. All MPO members were encouraged to attend. Free ticket giveaway for those who like the MPO Facebook page. Continuing Ed credits available for all.

\*Will be talking more with the MPO committee members to select future workshop topics

**VIII. CTA Update** -Kevin Coggin provided two presentations. The first discussed the development of downtown Gulfport and how the CTA activities are being closely coordinated to support the city's mobility goals, especially surrounding the new aquarium being built across from Jones Park. The presentation showed rendering of the site, new mobility center, pedestrian and trolley cross over bridge, the aquarium itself and there was some mention that the Markham is expected to be return to viability as well.

Next he discussed the East-West Multimodal Corridor project with the members. This is a comprehensive project that will eventually span from bridge to bridge. It's currently in study phase, so more details on cost and expected initial termini will be coming soon. It will offer another east-west travel option for community members, will have bike and walk facilities, bus rapid transit is being researched and it is along the rail line so if/when that comes back to life, it will be another mobility option. In both projects, significant economic development is expected to sprout all along and near the project locations.

Kenneth Yarrow then explained that the MPO staff work closely with CTA to accomplish many of their agency goals and regulatory requirements. One of the most current activities is updating CTA's designation to receive FTA funds in support of program they offer Coastal residents. The final designation is completed by the Governor at the recommendation of the MPO.

Q – Who gets the funds now?

A – CTA currently gets the funds, this is just a re-designation.

Q – Does the MPO contribute any funds to the programs?

A – No, these are funds dispersed through FTA to designated recipients.

**MOTION to submit a resolution of support for CTA being designated as the designated recipient of FTA funds made by Jeff Taylor. Second by Brian Fulton. No Comments. Passed.**

**IX. MDOT Update** - Kelly Castleberry listed several projects. Here are most of them.

- a. I-10 widening from 50-57 is underway. Bridge contractors on site now. Expect to complete July 2017.
- b. I-10 paving through Gulfport and on/off ramps is continuing at night
- c. 5 bridges are set for replacement up Hwy 49. Expect delays over next year+
- d. Hwy 90 study in Ocean Springs is kicking off
- e. Utilities are currently being moved on Hwy 57 from I-10 to Vancleave
- f. ROW and Utilities are just about done O'Neal Road to School Road

- g. New MDOT office is nearing completion. Launch event to show tech center soon
- h. Safety project coming on Hwy 67 near traditions
- i. Roundabout project will be constructed at Lamey Bridge and Hwy 15

Q - What's progress on 57 north of I-10?

A – Multi-use pathway – study and report to be done by end of year

Q – What's going on with Texas Flat and Hwy 603?

A – Hoping to get some MDA money – 4 intersections are planned for improvement in the area including kiln-Delisle and Hwy 49 turn lanes

Q – Any plans for Hwy 53 and Hwy 49 safety improvements?

A – Will be updated as part of the Hwy 49 (O'Neal-School Rd) project

Q – Rumor has it Woolmarket is getting roundabouts?

A – There are plans to install small roundabouts for the on/off ramp intersections to reduce crash likelihood.

\*Note: Diverging Diamond interchange has not had a single crash to date.

- X. FHWA Update** -Randy Jansen gave an update on the new proposed rule-making for planning. As it stand now, there will not be much impact to our MPO, but they are keeping a watch so we'll have plenty of notice if that changes. On the other hand, several performance measure guidance's are finalized and will need to be considered as we move forward with plan development and other MPO activities. MDOT will review and make state determinations over next 6 months to a year, then the MPO's will have some time to align their programs with overall objectives. We will be required to set and track new goals which in turn includes new reporting requirements to meet. Safety, bridges and pavement guidance is already finalized. Freight, congestion, etc. are expected over next few months.

Q – Who decides on the timeframes, rules, deadlines, etc?

A – Congress – they have the final say so on implementing the new FAST Act requirements.

Randy then thanked everyone for participating in the regular TIP progress meetings. He complimented our MPO for meeting our obligation goals and spending down our authority. He let the new project holders know they'd be invited once the new Tip is finalized. He and David reiterated the importance of submitting the monthly progress reports and David Seyfarth offered one-on-one support to everyone, but especially those who are going into the LPA process for the first time.

**XI. Old/New Business**

- **NEW:** Healthy Communities Initiative Presentation  
Tracy Wyman of the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio provided a presentation introducing the Community Exchange information website to the MPO membership. This is

a new tool available to everyone. In short, it is a clearing house of data that tells the story of MS Gulf Coast health and health factors. A steering committee has been developed to bolster the site, but you'll be amazed at the amount of information already available to us. Need school attendance facts, transportation history, eco-tourism maps, census data, etc. it's all at your fingertips. She invites everyone to take a look at the site, and handed out cards and fliers, (copies are still available at GRPC). She is also asking people to submit additional data to her for inclusion on the site. Raw data tables, zoning and traffic maps, health indicator information, etc.

**XII. Next Meetings:**

- JOINT TCC/TPC meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup> (10:30am-1:00pm)
- Our 2016 Annual meeting is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**XIII. Adjournment – MOTION made by Brian Fulton. Second by Pat Bonck. No Comments. Passed.**