

Meeting Minutes

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



Thursday, July 24, 2013 at 10:30
Biloxi Development Commission Auditorium
676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd



I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

There were 47 meeting attendees, including three guests from the Gulf Coast Accessible Transportation Advisory council: Amelia Puffer (Disability Rights of MS), Cindy Singletary (LIFE of MS) provided an overview presentation highlighting the need and steadily growing ridership of the para transit PLUS program and discussed current of future funding challenges for the CTA managed program. Amelia will be providing specific funding shortages with the individual jurisdictions. Those meetings will be scheduled in Sept/Oct.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 2013

Recommendation to adopt March 28, 2013 drafted minutes.

Motion made by Kelvin Jackson. Seconded by Jeff Taylor. No Comments, Passed

V. GUEST SPEAKER: Bert Kuyrkendall, City of Hattiesburg – Director of Engineering

VI. MDOT TIP AMENDMENT

Copies of the requested Amendment descriptions, existing TIP project listing, and project area maps were made available to the TPC members.

David Taylor clarified that none of the requested TIP Amendments impact local improvement funds. These are all MDOT amendments. Question was asked if these funds are new dollars being brought to the coast. MDOT replied that these are not new funds but instead are reallocated funds from other projects and funding sources that are no longer viable or moving forward.

#1: 105281/302000 - I-110 Popp's Ferry Rd and Boney Avenue:

302000 detail being added, FY 2013, CON, \$12,700,000 split 85/15

This phase of the I-110 project for Boney Avenue is being added to the STIP, the phase must be included in the STIP before Federal Highway will authorize it. It is scheduled to be LET in August.

- ❖ *Motion that the TIP be updated with the amendment titled 105281/302000 - I-110 Popp's Ferry Rd and Boney Ave. Motion made by Jeff Taylor seconded by Kim Savant, No Comments, Passed*

#2: 101204/303000 - I-10 from Harrison County Line to Exit 5:

Combining the prior 2014 CON phase which was for \$8,000,000, split 80/20, into the 2015 CON phase, making just one CON phase, and increasing the total slightly to \$30,000,000, split 80/20

This change was made to reduce advance construction costs and to pull future years of advance construction which was outside of the current STIP years of 2012-2015, into the current STIP year of 2015

Motion that the TIP be updated with the amendment titled 101204/303000 - I-10 from Harrison Co. to Exit 5

❖ **Motion made by Kim Savant, seconded by Jaci Turner, No Comments, Passed**

#3a: 103060/203000 - SR 57 from I-10 to Vancleave: Add a 203000 ROW phase, no change reflected in the funding. This phase is being added for the purpose of the relocation of utilities during the ROW work

#3b: 103060/204000 - SR 57 from I-10 to Vancleave: Add a 204000 ROW phase, FY 2013, total cost of \$18,100,000, split 80/20. This phase is being added to reflect additional funds needed to complete all ROW work

#3c: 103060/301000 - SR 57 from I-10 to Vancleave: Changes made to the 301000 CON phase, increasing total amount from \$26,500,000 all in federal funds, to \$87,200,000 split 80/20. This change was made to reduce advance construction costs, and to pull future years of advance construction which was outside of the current STIP years of 2012-2015, into the current STIP year of 2015.

Motion that the TIP be updated with the amendments titled 101204/303000 - 103060/203000, 103060/204000, 103060/301000 - SR 57 from I-10 to Vancleave;

❖ **Motion made by Brian Fulton, seconded by Kim Savant, No Comments, Passed**

VII. TIP UPDATE: (KENNETH YARROW)

MPO members were reminded that project applications are due by end of day on Friday August 2nd. Mr. David Taylor and Mr. Kenneth Yarrow are available to meet and assist with the process as needed.

Mr. Yarrow explains that after the submission phases closes, MPO staff will conduct an initial review process and follow up with jurisdictions as needed. Then a public review period will begin during which the TIP Sub-committee will meet to conduct an initial project prioritization. NOTE: the sub-committee is made up of representatives from jurisdictions that have projects listed on the current TIP and those who are requesting addition to the program.

City of Diamondhead representative, Mr. Richard Rose, asks the MPO where their new city stands in being eligible to apply for STP funds. He states that the city has a couple of projects they feel could be eligible if allowed to apply. Mr. David Taylor responds by explaining that although Diamondhead is now a city within the three coastal counties, they are not yet included in the smoothed urbanized planning area, and are not considered MPO eligible. Mr. Rose requests consideration for the City's inclusion and would like to revisit the eligibility question at the next MPO meeting. MPO staff will add this question to the TIP sub-committee agenda for discussion and it will be added to the next MPO meeting agenda.

Mr. Savant was asked to update the MPO on progress for the Biloxi bridge project. He responded by stating that the project is slowly but steadily moving forward. The ROW process is nearing completion. There is some expectation that a push for the construction phase to begin and progress quickly will

occur in mid to late august from Harrison County School District, since they will feel the extra costs caused by having to travel at least 10 miles out of the normal way, some public energy toward the project may also be expected due to the route changes.

VIII. ROW REIMBURSEMENT DISCUSSION (DAVID TAYLOR)

Mr. David Taylor summarized the TCC discussion on the topic of ROW reimbursement using Special match funds for the MPO members. Questions surfaced regarding impacts should this reimbursement option be adopted. A few concerns were voiced including:

1. Having less projects listed on the TIP
2. Greater costs per project
3. Opens door for projects of greater size and length to sit on TIP
4. Potential slower use of allocated funds when we are being pushed to spend faster

Mr. Kris Riemann adds to the conversation that there are positives as well as some negative outcomes. By allowing greater ROW reimbursement greatly reduces the match burden on local jurisdictions.

The MPO determined to send the issue to the TIP sub-committee for further review and discussion and would like to revisit the topic on the agenda of the next MPO meeting. The Sub-committee is asked to evaluate and report on the expected impact of using special match reimbursement options. Would like to see available options/variations that may work for our region. A full impact assessment of this type of process and policy change should be presented at the next MPO meeting.

Mr. David Taylor reminds everyone that we only get about \$5 million annually which is shared among 14 current jurisdictions and would be come 15 if/when Diamondhead becomes an MPO member. This amount lends itself to the completion of smaller but impactful improvement projects. We are not in a position to build new roads.

The MPO staff were asked if a cost-benefit analysis is submitted with each project application to be used as part of the selection process. Staff respond by stating that there are numerous factors involved in the project prioritization process but an impact analysis is not one of them. MPO suggests this also be discussed by the TIP sub-committee as a possible additional project consideration criteria; would be supporting documentation included with application materials.

IX. MPO UPDATE

Mr. Kenneth Yarrow reports that the regional sustainability component of the Plan for Opportunity has been completed. This report will be used as a tool in long range planning. He invites everyone to review it at www.gulfcoastplan.org.

X. TRANSIT UPDATE

XI. MDOT UPDATE

Reminder that every LPA must have at least one project manager certified in order to conduct their projects. MDOT is conducting additional LPA training courses. The next is scheduled in Jackson, MS. Details will be mailed to the MPO as soon as available.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

❖ Motion made by Brian Fulton, seconded by Jeff Taylor, No Comments, Passed