

# MEETING MINUTES

## Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization

*Joint meeting of the TCC and TPC*

Thursday, August 25, 2016 at 10:30-1:00

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



### I. Call to Order

### II. Introductions

### III. Public Comment

### IV. Approval of Minutes

1. **TCC Minutes** from May 26<sup>th</sup> **MOTION made by Jodi Spires. Second by Wade Morgan. No Comments. Passed.**
2. **TPC Minutes** from June 30<sup>th</sup> **MOTION made by Mayor Shafer. Second by Joe Huffman. No Comments. Passed.**

### V. Restoration of Passenger Rail

Summary of Progress: There was a pre-meeting with elected officials, state leadership and other stakeholders at 10am today discussing the next steps in the process to reinstate passenger rail across the Coast. The core service being sought would expand the Sunset Limited train currently ending in New Orleans all the way to Orlando. A possible secondary service would be a more local train staying in the immediate region. It would offer more frequent train service to commuters and could include more local stops including in cities where the Sunset Limited will not be stopping. For example, people riding the Sunset could get off at a main station in Gulfport, but then take the local train into Long Beach. Everything is still under review and study, but these are the goals of the working group.

The FRA working group met in Jacksonville, FL to discuss CSX impact analysis for adding passenger rail service to their freight line. In short, everyone needs to rally and show their support for the service between now and September 4<sup>th</sup> when the FRA working group, Southern Rail Commission and Amtrak will be presenting a feasibility summary report to Congress. Shortly thereafter, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, a detailed implementation plan will be completed. In the meantime, we will continue to work to advance the program, in particular, asking local officials, tourism industry representatives and others from the private sector to show their support.

### VI. Transportation Improvement Program (David Taylor)

1. Conclusion of 45 day Public Review Period: The 45 day public review period concluded on August 19<sup>th</sup> after 5 public meetings were held across the Coast. We received three comments, none of which impacted the drafted TIP or involved TIP projects. Appendix A of the final TIP will include copies of public notices, the comments, received and a summary of outreach activities. The final TIP will be sent to MDOT for inclusion in the statewide improvement program and will be posted for download on the GRPC website under MPO planning/TIP.
2. FY2017-2020 Draft TIP Review & Finalization With a slideshow presentation, David reviewed each proposed project, the money allocated to it and the proposed obligation year. **MOTION to adopt the Draft FY2017-2020 TIP was made by Clovis Reed. Second by Joe Huffman. No Comments. Passed.** Once passed, each project holder was reminded that they are responsible for developing a project schedule and beginning to submit monthly progress reports to GRPC, [splancich@grpc.com](mailto:splancich@grpc.com) and MDOT, [dseyfarth@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:dseyfarth@mdot.ms.gov).

We reviewed the project matrix tool that jurisdictions can use to build a project schedule and reminded everyone that they need to have a complete schedule with all estimated dates to "Authority to Advertise" filled in on the backside of the monthly tracker.

\*Stephanie will email all project holders a copy of the matrix, the monthly report and a calendar invite for the next two project update meetings; Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am and Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.

- I. **Unified Planning Work Program** David then discussed the draft UPWP, the document that guides the GRPC/MPO staff activities. It includes short term/one time projects and priorities as well as the on-going administrative and programmatic efforts of the agency for the MPO. A list of the chapter headings was provided as a handout and David highlighted major activities and programs under each category. One note was that the 2016 Apartment Survey draft is completed and the Final should be available by the first of September. Another

note was the addition of a line item requiring the MPO to set, track and report on new performance measures required by the FAST Act. Setting those goals will be present in MPO meetings for the next couple of years. **MOTION to adopt the UPWP as presented was made by Connie Moran. Second by Brian Fulton. No Comments. Passed.**

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

Progress update for improvement projects: All of the first round safety projects are through the bid phases and are in or are set to start construction. Identification and field reviews of second round potential projects have begun and recommendations for improvements is underway with the specific project jurisdictions.

Bike Walk Summit Summary Report: Very successful event, over 135 people attended the three-day conference. Overwhelming support and encouragement to have it on the Coast again in the future. Speakers were well versed and shared useful knowledge. Highlight session was the law enforcement discussion that was an honest conversation about why Mississippi highway patrol and local police departments have yet to write a single citation for violating the 3' bicycle safety law. It was enlightening and will likely lead to more discussions to engage more officers and legal staff in the conversation. Other highlights were the School Safety session which will support our MPO's planned effort to improve school zone safety, access and connectivity as a new UPWP line item. FAST Act and Funding strategies for projects were also popular breakouts.

For now, we will start thinking about workshops to host in the next fiscal year, and encourage MPO members to let us know what safety challenges are going on in your community and help us select speakers and topics that will make getting your projects designed the best way possible.

- VII. **MDOT Update** Kelly Castleberry reported that only one large project is still happening on the Coast. The I-10 widening from exit 50-57, despite all of the recent rail, is still on track to complete on time. The Widening should be done by July 2017, with total project completion by December 2017. Studies still being worked on include Hwy 57 in VanCleave and Hwy 90 through Ocean Springs. The Hwy 90 project will be announcing a public input meeting sometime in September 2016.

VIII. **Old/New Business**

**NEW:** Jessica Rich, a road Diet expert with FHWA who was a speaker at the Bike Walk Summit, visited Market Street in Pascagoula and made some recommendations for developing a model to assist with public awareness, understanding and project planning. The MPO was asked to try and figure out a mechanism to hire, preferably, the current project consultant, to develop the models. David posed the question and MDOT may have some ideas to explore. They will follow up with David with more details.

**OLD:** Mayor Connie Moran of Ocean Springs informed the MPO that their Porter Avenue project, previously removed from the TIP due to lack of match funds, has been revived by the city and they'd like it to be known they will be reapplying for inclusion in the TIP when funds become available and an application process is conducted.

IX. **Next Meetings:**

- **September 8<sup>th</sup>** - All TIP project holders for 2016 and the new 2017-2020 TIP project holders will meet for a progress meeting at GRPC on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. If city staff can't make it, your consultant make attend to talk about your project for you. Bring a copy of your most recent monthly report with you for discussion with FHWA and MODT.
- **December 8<sup>th</sup>** - Our 2016 Annual meeting is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a joint meeting so TCC and TPC members should plan to attend. We will close out FY 2016 and kick-off FY2017 activities. We will also check up on project progress on the new TIP and make change recommendations as needed.

- X. **Adjournment** – **MOTION to adjourn by Joe Huffman. Second by Clovis Reed. No Comments. Passed.**