



MEETING MINUTES

Mississippi Gulf Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)



Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 10:30am

I. Call to Order

Hancock Co.		D'Iberville		Bus. Council	
	Vic Johnson		Jeff Taylor		None
Harrison Co.				Other Parties	
	Patrick Bonck	Ocean Springs		Geneva Dummer	Jim Wilkinson
	Jody Spires		none		Doug Rackley
		Gautier			
Jackson Co.			Chandra Nicholson		
	Joe O'Neal			FTA	
	Butch Loper	Pascagoula			None
	Wendy Barnes		Jaci Turner	FHWA	
Waveland				Don Davis	Randy Jansen
	none	Moss Point		Rep. Cochran	
Bay St Louis		Sue Wright	Jackie Davis		None
	Paula Fairconnetue		Russel Davis	Rep. Wicker	
Diamondhead		Coast Transit			None
	Clovis Reed		None		
		GP/Bill Airport		Rep. Palazzo	
Pass Christian			None		None
	Jennifer Burke	MS State Port			
			None	MDOT staff	
Long Beach		Port Pascagoula		Kelly Castleberry	Jeff Ely
	None		None	Rhea Vincent	David Seyfarth
				Chuck Starita	Perry Brown
Gulfport		Port Bienville		Sedrick Durr	
	Kris Riemann		None		
		NASA/Stennis			
			None	GRPC staff	
Biloxi		Keesler & NCBC		David Taylor	Ken Holland
	Christy Lebatard		None	Kenneth Yarrow	Elaine Wilkinson
	Robert Smith			Stephanie Planchich	Jeff Loftus
		CSX, KCS, Amtrak			
			None		

I. **Introductions** – several new faces including Christy Lebatard, Biloxi, Wendy Barnes, now with Jackson County, Geneva Dummer with Heritage Trails, Paula with Bay St Louis and Jennifer Burke of Pass Christian. We also recognized Don Davis and Randy Jansen from Federal Highway.

II. **Public Comment** – none

III. **Approval of Minutes** from May 2015 meeting

MOTION made to adopt the May 28, 2015 minutes by Butch Loper. Second by Jeff Taylor. No Comments. PASSED.

IV. **Selection of Officers** - David Taylor reminded the TCC that Damon Torricelli was no longer working with the City of Biloxi and in his new role, is not eligible to be the TCC Chair. He asked for nominations for new TCC leadership.

- **Motion to name Kris Riemann of Gulfport (the current Vice-Chair) to the position of TCC chair made by Jodi Spires. Second by Jacki Turner. No Comments. PASSED**
 - **Motion to name Brian Fulton of Jackson County to the position of TCC Vice- Chair made by Jodi Spires. Second by Jeff Taylor. Discussion: Title would be official upon his formal acceptance of the role to the GRPC staff. He was unable to attend the meeting due to budget hearings. PASSED**
- Follow-up note: Brian Fulton arrived near the end of the TCC meeting and formally accepted his nomination.**

V. **MPO Complete Streets Policy** (Kenneth Yarrow)

A copy of the drafted complete street policy was emailed to the TCC members prior to the meeting and a hard copy was provided during the meeting. Kenneth discussed with the membership that this policy would apply to all functionally classified roadways being federally funded. The policy is flexible and scalable to individual projects, but requires consideration of bicyclist and pedestrian accommodations for all MPO projects. He let the general membership know that a sub-committee of the TCC met to review and discuss the policy. A few edits were made resulting in this final draft.

Q – there was a question about requirements for multiuse pathways. It was determined that a minimum of 8' is needed, but a 10' width is preferred.

Q – is there a map or some other document showing what areas are a priority for implementation of the policy? Kenneth replied no. The policy applies to all functionally classified roadways. By ensuring all roads get adequate facilities we will be building a regional network instead of just focusing on a single mode or route.

MOTION to recommend adoption of the MS Gulf Coast Complete Street Policy to the TPC made by Jeff Taylor. Second By Patrick Bonk. Jackson County is opposed (Butch Loper and Joe O'Neal). No further comment. Majority carries the recommendation.

VI. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan** – (Kenneth Yarrow & Jim Wilkinson)

Jim provided an overview of the long-range planning process, specifically the modeling process to the TCC. He explained that the modeling process is based on the most realistic projection of our community make-up 25 years into the future. The model is congestion focused and the corridors identified as potential hazards in the future were highlighted on the map he provided the group.

He provided several handouts and discussed them with the TC members.

1. Proposed Project Selection Process for the MTP
2. A map showing a project area in D'Iberville. It showed traffic counts before the new I-110 overpass is built and shows the projected traffic patterns once the new facilities open. It clearly showed, how one project can mitigate or exasperate the need for others.
3. He showed an Existing plus Committed (E+C) statistics worksheet which compared driving conditions in 2013 (our base year) with those projected in 2040.
4. He provided a list of planned projects included in the E+C evaluation. These mainly include MDOT STIP projects, our TIP projects.
5. With the map discussed, we also received a list version of the identified road deficiencies expected across the region. This can be used to identify and plan future improvement projects.

Kenneth then provided a brief overview of his work updating our congestion management plan and Stephanie outlined the rest of the planning schedule.

Over the next month additional pieces will be finalized for review. The TPC will review the component materials at their meeting Sept. 24th. A final draft will be completed near the end of October and a 45 day public review period will begin October 25th. The updated MTP (Long-range plan) is set to be discussed and adopted at our annual meeting (joint TCC and TPC) on Dec. 10th. Please mark your calendars now.

VII. **MDOT Update** (Kelly Castleberry)

MDOT is preparing to complete several projects in and around the coast. For example, the HWY 49 bridge project is done, the I-10 interchanges are done and the I-110 Poppo Ferry Interchange is opening with a ribbon cutting on Sept. 3rd. Hwy 611 project in Jackson County should wrap up in next 4 months or so. Hwy 90 capacity project in Ocean Springs and Gautier is entering the design phase. The I-10 project in Hancock County is underway and is a night project unassociated with DOTD's project in LA. In November work with widen I-10 from Exit 50 to 57 will begin. The Hwy 43 project is in environmental phase and Hwy 53 project is also running on schedule. The only project identified as a deficiency that is not currently being addressed is capacity needs on Hwy 49 south of O'Neal Road. All other needs are on the books, planned and/or underway.

Jeff Ely informed the group of an effort being undertaken by MODT that they need some help on. They are required to submit an annual report. A component of it is used to develop the funding formula used to distribute our allocations. They are missing some local data needed to ensure that they are accurate. The data needed is mainly about the composition of our local roadways. For example; year constructed or overlaid, pavement type, thickness of overlay, base material, etc. Jeff will be contacting the TCC members via email with more information and a request to help them collect this information.

VIII. **Old/New Business**

GRPC NDRC Application for Improvement Funds (Ken Holland) – On Friday the 21st, GRPC submitted, along with several local jurisdictions, an application for funding to address unmet needs. This grant opportunity applies only in specific, HUD approved communities. These are areas impacted by Hurricane Issac that are vulnerable to future climate change and storm events and need a resiliency plan.

Ken explained that from the entire nation, we have been selected as one of 40 regions eligible to split a \$1 Billion dollar funding pool. GRPC got involved in the process in earnest a few months ago, and met with the eligible communities to discuss developing applications. What was quickly realized, was that every area had significant issues but each could be connected in some way to flooded roadways.

With this information, GRPC decided to submit its own application. If we receive an award, we intend to conduct a two part mitigation program. 1) Create a flood monitoring network to identify vulnerable roadways, flood conditions, recovery rates, populations impacted, a process for developing and prioritizing improvement projects, etc. 2) we would develop infrastructure improvement projects, based upon recommendations for each flood site, and would see construction completed on top priority locations. We would work with a stakeholder group to determine what our top priorities are and to make project recommendations. All of this information would be developed into a tool kit that can be used and replicated in other communities and on other roadways. Ken explained we have passed Phase 1 and are in Phase 2. Phase 3 starts in November.

MOTION to support GRPC's efforts to secure grant funding through HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition to address flooded roadways in vulnerable communities made by Butch Loper. Second by Jacki Turner. Comment: Please forward a copy of the application to all MPO members for review. PASSED.

IX. **Next MPO Meetings**

- a. TIP Progress Meeting starts at 12:30. Covering all 2015-2019 projects
 - i. The TIP progress meeting was led by Randy Jansen. We reviewed each project with its planning and design staff and evaluated whether it should remain on the TIP in its current year or if it could be moved up on should be moved further out or cancelled all together.
 - ii. Several modifications were recommended. Randy gave a couple of jurisdictions 1 week to decide the status of a project. Once all information is received, the revised TIP will be shared with all MPO members. If needed, a public review period will be scheduled.
- b. Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) September 24th, 10:30am at GRPC
 - i. For those of you serving on both committees, the TPC will meet in one month.
- c. MS Gulf Coast MPO Annual Meeting – December 10th, 10:30am location TBA
 - i. This is a joint TCC/TPC meeting. Please mark you calendars to participate. As soon as we have more details we will let the members know.

X. **Adjournment** – **MOTION to adjourn made by Jeff Taylor. Second by Christy LeBatard. No comments PASSED.**