

# MEETING MINUTES

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



Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 10:30am  
Gulf Regional Planning Commission  
1635-G Popp's Ferry Road ~ Biloxi MS 39532



### I. Call to order:

#### **ATTENDEES:**

##### Long Beach

Mayor Skellie (TPC Chair)

##### Waveland

##### Diamondhead

Mayor Schafer  
Richard Sullivan

##### Bay St. Louis

Buz Olsen

##### Pass Christian

##### Gulfport

Kris Riemann

##### Biloxi

Ed Shambra

##### D'Iberville

Leslie Robertson

##### Ocean Springs

##### Gautier

##### Moss Point

Sue Wright

##### Pascagoula

Joe Huffman

#### **GUESTS:**

Ron Magee

##### Hancock County

Vic Johnson

##### Harrison County

Joseph Spires

Kelvin Jackson

Robyn Ladner

##### Jackson County

Brian Fulton

John McKay

##### Coast Transit Authority

##### Port of Gulfport

Carlos Bell

##### GRPC Board of Commissioners

Jaclyn Turner

##### Federal Highway Administration

##### MS Dept. of Transportation

Mike Merry

Perry Brown

Kelly Castleberry

Necole Baker

#### **MPO STAFF:**

Elaine Wilkinson

David Taylor

Kenneth Yarrow

Stephanie Plancich

Jeff Loftus

### II. Introductions:

Vic Johnson – MPO representative from Hancock County

### III. Public comment: None

IV. **Introductions:** None

V. **Public comment:** None

VI. **Approval of Minutes from June 2014**

*Motion to adopt the March 27, 2014 minutes.*

*Motion made by Elaine Wilkinson. Second by Kelvin Jackson. No Comments, **Passed***

VII. **Transportation Improvement Program** (David Taylor)

David provided an end of year report on TIP project progress. With great effort, the Gulf Coast MPO accomplished its goal to obligated 100% of its FY14 projects and is receiving accolades at the state and federal level. This success is largely due to cooperative relationships with both MDOT and the local project teams. Now we need to keep the momentum up as we start FY2015.

Kelly Castleberry and David Taylor explained the concept of Advance Construction to the group. In short, Advance Construction is a funding strategy that authorizes partial project funds in one year and the remaining funds in another. This is not typically spread over more than a three year period. (Ex. Popp's Ferry Phase IV is set to receive funds in 2014 and 2016).

This is how MDOT has conducted business with Federal Highway for years. It is, in fact how the MPO conducts its regular business as well. We plan for funds that are anticipated in future years, but are not guaranteed. The four year TIP and two year UPWP are examples. The only change in practice is that MDOT is asking the jurisdictions, who are responsible for a project being funded through the advance construction strategy, sign an MOA with them. This MOA demonstrated an understanding that, should the transportation trust fund ever go bankrupt, risk is slim to none; the jurisdiction would be responsible for completing the project.

The TIP has been modified to reflect the projects expected to use Advance Construction. David used the large wall graphic to show all TIP projects and how the Advance Construction will fit into the larger picture.



VIII. **Transportation Alternatives Program** (Jeff Loftus)

Jeff shared an overview of the local TAP funding program. He explained that the project application packet is expected to be completed this calendar year, and that project funding requests can be submitted through January 30<sup>th</sup>. (Application packets will be emailed and if the due date changes, the MPO members will be notified via email.)

TAP funds are very limited, about \$300,000 per year for our region, however, these funds are not as restricted as other federal funding sources. With TAP funds off road, alternate pathways and other facilities are eligible.

Jeff provided print copies of the draft TAP guidance for review and comment. Anyone with questions or feedback should email him directly at [jol@grpc.com](mailto:jol@grpc.com) or call the office at 228-864-1167.

**IX. Unified Planning Work Program (Kenneth Yarrow)**

Kenneth explained that the UPWP is the guidance followed by the MPO staff. It encompasses all of the activities that will be taken over a two year period to ensure the MPO meets its goals, obligations and other requirements. Print copies of the UPWP were made available to attendees and copies of the table of contents listing each program activity were included in the agenda packet.

*Motion to adopt the FY15-16 UPWP as drafted.*

*Motion made by Buz Olsen. Second by Jaci Turner. No Comments, **Passed***

**X. MTP – Long-Range Planning Update (Kenneth Yarrow)**

The long-range planning process kicked off this month. MDOT is leading the statewide effort to update the five year plan, but we will be responsible for ensuring that the development of our region's plan meets the needs of our unique communities.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) represents the transportation development goals of our region for the next 25 year period. Everything we accomplish as an MPO must be supported in the MTP. For example, each TIP project must work to accomplish one or more goals outlined in the long-range plan.

We will be developing five MPO subcommittees to advise the process on core priorities for the coast. These include safety, sustainability, walking/biking, transit and freight movement. In the next couple of months, these stakeholder groups will be better and recruitment will begin. We hope the MPO members will join one or more of the groups.

MTP public meetings are scheduled for February and August and the final plan is expected to be published in December 2015.

**XI. MPO Prospectus Update (Stephanie Plancich)**

Stephanie provided an overview presentation of the recommended changes to the prospectus. The slide show was printed and included in the agenda packets. Recommendations included changing procedural statements to more accurately reflect agency practices, adding Diamondhead as a new voting member, changing outdated information using more current data sets, and adjusting voting and non-voting classifications for both the TCC and TPC committees.

*Motion to adopt the updated prospectus with all recommended changes.*

*Motion made by Ed Shambra. Second by Kris Riemann. Comments: Clarification that the general assembly was not aware that they had two votes under the previous prospectus so have no issue with the reduction to one vote per entity. **Passed***

**XII. MPO Activity Update**

1. Kicked-off the Beachview Sidewalk Study at public meeting coordinated by Supervisor McKay
  - i. Supervisor McKay thanked GRPC staff for participating at the public meeting with BKI. There were almost 150 attendees from the immediate community and feedback was very positive. He is looking forward to next steps in the study/planning process.
2. Consultants have been selected and in September brand development for Get To B (MS Gulf Coast MPO transportation Safety) program began. Expect full roll out this fall.
3. Get To B Professional Development Series – Registration is open for Intersection Safety event
  - i. Registration forms are included in agenda packet – noted locals are under represented in the registration thus far. Encouraged to register today.

4. Get To B Project Update – Safety projects are moving forward for each of the three counties. The field review reports have been completed and meeting set from 10am-4pm. Hancock County, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, Jackson County Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, Harrison County, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. GRPC will ensure the included city councils of Boards of Supervisors are aware of these events with invitations to attend. Ground breaking for project construction is expected in the early Spring 2015.

Question: Can additional projects be added at this time?

Answer: Not for this initial project roster. Funds are limited and projects were identified based on the MPO top priority to reduce run off the road incidents.

Question: When can projects be applied for?

Answer: The Get To B projects are largely identified and developed by the MPO staff. This being the case, there is not a deadline set for safety applications at this time. However, jurisdiction safety concerns are a top priority of the MPO so if you have a location you'd like to have considered for Get To B program inclusion, contact David and Kenneth directly. David notes that the FY2015 emphasis is to improve intersection safety. This does not exclude all of project types but will be the focus of the staff in identifying new projects.

5. Hancock County Hazardous Waste Day set for October 4<sup>th</sup>

**XIII. MDOT update** (Kelly Castleberry)

Status of projects across the Gulf Coast region – printed overview is included in the agenda packets

**XIV. Old/new business**

Kick off Public Participation Plan and Civil Rights Program public review on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment** – *Motion to adjourn.*

*Motion made by Buz Olsen. Second by Ed Shambra. No comments. **Passed***

Next MPO meeting is a joint event on **December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**