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Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday, April 04, 2025 (9:00 AM)

Government Chambers at Government Plaza
505 Travis St., Shreveport, LA 71101

Members' Present

Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport
Mr. Alan Clarke – MPC City of Shreveport
Dr. Ken Ward – Bossier Parish
Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish
Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City
Mr. Michael Norton – DeSoto Parish
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran

Members Absent

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Mrs. Savannah Williams – NLCOG
Mrs. Heidi Stewart - NLCOG
Dr. Shelly Barrett – NLCOG
Mr. Adam Driskill - NLCOG
Mr. Josh Chevallier – NLCOG Legal Council

Call to Order

Mrs. Bryant called the meeting to order. She stated that we generally have the invocation, roll call and a pledge at the beginning of the meeting. Mrs. Bryant said that she was going to ask Mr. Norton to lead us in prayer and Mr. Washington to lead us on the pledge. She asked if those that cared to join them to please stand. Mr. Norton led us in prayer followed by Mr. Washington leading us in the pledge. Mrs. Bryant asked Mr. Rogers to begin roll call. Mr. Rogers called roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Rogers stated they hadn't received any comments.

Business

1. Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes for the February 21, 2025, meeting. Mayor Arceneaux motioned, and Mr. England seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Mrs. Bryant called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Amendments and Modifications

Mr. Rogers stated that they had one Administrative Modification, which is to update the engineering phase for the US 80: BRIDGES NEAR MINDEN.

They had one Amendment for Introduction for Public Comment. That is for Adding the Right-of-Way Phase for the US371: KCS RR OVERPASSES project.

Transit Programming had an Amendment for Adoption, the 5307 Program for Mr. Washington. Mr. Rogers said that this is putting in the actual numbers for the grant based on the former estimated numbers.

Mr. Rogers stated that this was all under the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendments and Modifications.

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to Approve the Adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications and Amendments. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mayor Chandler seconded. Mrs. Bryant called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

3. Metropolitan Plan Update - RFQ and Advertisement

Mr. Rogers said that in their packets they'll see the basics of the requests for NLCOG. This is for the Long-Range Plan Transportation Update, and obviously the Scope, he believes it was two meetings ago that it was approved by DOTD and everyone. Mr. Rogers said this is for the advertisement. On the backside of the page, they can see some basics of the evaluation criteria and timeline that they're looking for. They will get it out on the website and email on Monday, April 7, 2025. The ad for the paper will run no later than Friday, April 11, 2025. Respondents are due by Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Staff and Technical will go through those responses no later than Friday, May 9, 2025, then send them a short list and hopefully have a couple of presentations by the short list members on Friday, May 16, 2025. Mr. Rogers said it's a quick timeframe to get it out and get it back, then get it to them. Other than that, it would be shifting a couple of months, which is why they try to push it fast.

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to Approve the Advertisement for Request for Qualifications for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mr. Clarke seconded. Mrs. Bryant called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

Dr. Ward asked Mr. Rogers what paper they put the advertisement in.

Mr. Rogers said they put it in the Shreveport Times. That's technically their official paper of record.

Dr. Ward asked if it ran two or three times.

Mr. Rogers said they'll run it a minimum of two times. Right now, it's scheduled to run possibly Wednesday. They have to have it in, he believes, three days in advance. Depending on the time of day it gets in, and the number of people that are ahead of them, because they've been told they only run so many at a time. Mr. Rogers said so possibly Wednesday, but no later than Friday. Typically, they try to have it the Sunday paper since it's the bigger one.

4. Project Updates

I-49 ICC - Mr. Rogers said that other than the sheet they received prior to the previously scheduled meeting, they've had a couple of meetings with DOTD, FHWA and Secretary Donahue going through the draft Alternatives chapter and draft EIS. They're making sure it falls in line with some of the new regulations. One of the things, with the new administration, they were asked to scrub all EJ (Environmental Justice) and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) from the formal document. Mr. Rogers said they've instructed them to keep it to the side because the likely hood is that it'll be asked for later. They're in the process of getting that done as soon as the Division Office from FHWA is good, DOTD is good, it will be sent off, as they've been told lately, USDOT Legal Sufficiency Office versus previously when it was going to FHWA Legal Sufficiency Office. This will be the first big project coming out of the State of Louisiana that's going through that legal sufficiency office versus FHWA.

I-69 Service Road- Mr. Rogers said that the PORT is coordinating with FHWA on the BUILD grant that was received. They're working to make those arrangements. He knows there were some changeovers of personnel in the Division Office so they're going to be a little slow down there.

I-69 Full Route – Mr. Rogers stated that he's putting together a packet of all the data and information that he received from his trip up there to provide to them the full corridor details. The Coalition of that group is looking to do something big. Not necessarily a cost benefit analysis, but kind of a quick run through of how much each state would spend over the next five to ten years, realistically, on the Full Corridor project and possibly making sure that amount is included somehow in the new Reauthorization Bill.

I-20 Rehab Project - Mr. Rogers said that it's going great. He didn't think there was anything new from what was in there for the previous meeting. They're about seventy-five percent complete.

Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511) - Mr. Rogers said it's moving along great as well.

Youree Drive (LA 1) - Mr. Rogers said he's noticed new pavement and it's nice.

Upcoming Projects of Interest – Mr. Rogers said there's a series of upcoming projects that will be coming up soon.

Mr. Norton wanted to ask Mr. Rogers, "On the I-69 Service Road, has the right-of-way been bought on that already"?

Mr. England stated, "No, they're out there surveying right now".

Mr. Norton asked, "Once the survey is done, right when the design starts, the right-of-way will begin"?

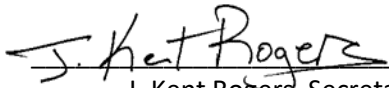
Mr. England said, "You got it".

Announcements

Mr. Rogers said he had one last announcement to make. He had put a sheet of paper with their packets for the SS4A. They did release a NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) for the next round of funding for Safe Streets for All projects. Now that they have an adopted plan and there's projects in there, they're ready to go for the next round. Mr. Rogers said they'll probably take a look to see if there's anything from the MPO's standpoint of applying for some of that and may look at some of those quick build, non-infrastructure type things that were recommended down there and see what they can do. He encourages them to get their staff to look at those plans and see if there's anything they could work through with their agencies this round. The sheets they provided that had detailed information on each of the projects should be pretty easy and ready to go. Mr. Rogers said that the next regular scheduled MPO meeting is on Friday, April 25, 2025, in the Government Chambers at 9:00 am.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. England motioned, and Mr. Clarke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.


J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

