CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 4, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION:

Judge Simpson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mr. Lenz, Ms. Lyons, Mayor Adame, Judge Simpson, Mayor Krebs, Judge Neal, and Mr. Carrell were present.

2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITING AGENCY OFFICIALS:

The Committee welcomed all the Technical Advisory Committee Members, TxDOT and City Staff.

3. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2009 TPC MEETING MINUTES:

Judge Simpson called for approval of the minutes of the regular Transportation Policy Committee meeting of December 3, 2009. A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes as presented.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Election of Officers.

The by-laws require that the Transportation Policy Committee elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among its voting members and that the election shall take place on the first meeting of the calendar year.

A motion was made by Mayor Krebs to nominate Judge Simpson as Chairperson and a motion was made by Judge Neal to nominate Ms. Lyons as Vice-Chairperson Motions were seconded and passed.

B. Update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) applications and discussion of alternate projects.

One of the projects that was funded with the stimulus money was in the Port area on Joe Fulton that is under contract. The other two projects were the median projects, one on Saratoga from Staples out to Rodd Field Road and on Staples from Saratoga out to Oso Parkway. Those two projects are scheduled to go to contract in May.

The TIGER applications will be selected by the end of January, no later than February 16th.

A brief presentation was made by Mr. Lenz regarding the Jobs for Main Street Act. The program is focused on job creation and retention. The House passed a bill on December, 2009.

C. Discussion on state and federal funding levels, legislative activities, Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) and Interim Senate Committee Charges.

The stimulus funds are being looked at as a legislative action that would be out of the Federal Government. At the state level, we have been waiting for the ten year projections of funding for the individual localities. We are hoping that the Commission will adopt the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) at the February Commission meeting which will be a document that guides our planning process.

The CDA with Zachary and TxDOT that has not been approved.

A meeting of the Interstate 69 (I-69) Alliance was held in January at the TxDOT Forum that was held in Austin. The I-69 segment advisory committees will be meeting on February 23rd and hopefully a CDA will be executed by March.

D. Update on the Harbor Bridge.

Bids were received on the Harbor Bridge rehabilitation, cleaning, and painting project in January. The project was awarded for approximately $23 million. A work authorization should be sent out within ten working days. A comprehensive inspection plan will be implemented as well as a traffic control plan.

The Harbor Bridge replacement project is moving forward.

The concepts for potentially lighting the Harbor Bridge will take time. A brief presentation of possible lighting concepts was presented by Mr. Lenz.

E. Discussion on a downtown "livability" project.

This is a project that was started as part of our planning program and it involves access management issues in the downtown area. It is an opportunity to show what the purpose of the MPO is and to provide coordinated and comprehensive planning services for our area.

5. STAFF REPORT:

A. County Road 52 City/County agreement.

The development of a joint project between the City and the County has been executed and staffs are working on moving the project forward.

B. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The EPA has the authority to set national ambient air quality standards and there is a proposal to reduce the current eight-hour standard level. We are working with the Air Quality Committee and Ms. Gretchen Arnold is doing a very good job at moving that issue forward.

C. The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) meeting will be held on March 4, 2010.

The UTP and target goals will be discussed in order to start the revision process for the MTP and we will also adopt a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which will be for years 2010-2013.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Committee recognized Russell Lenz's daughter who has joined the Texas A & M soccer team in College Station.

7. ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

The TPC welcomed and looks forward to working with Mr. Mike Carrell, who is the Representative for the Port Authority of Corpus Christi.

A work order for signal poles to be placed at the intersection of Buddy Ganem in Portland, Texas has been issued and the signal poles should be up within six weeks.

A comment was made about Mr. Niskala's presentation to the Regional Transportation Authority regarding the Guide to Transportation Decision-making.

8. ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Judge Simpson adjourned the TPC meeting at 2:29 p.m.