PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

Written Comments:
None submitted

Environmental Mitigation Outreach:

Communication was established with environmental interests that include:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ecological Services Field Office
- U.S. Army – Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas General Land Office
- Texas A&M Kingsville - Department of Environmental Engineering
- Texas A&M Corpus Christi – Pollution Prevention Partnership

Given that this was an initial outreach initiative - guidance was sought from each of the agencies on identifying a specific contact initially by electronic communication. Each of the agencies responded with an individual to utilize as a contact and were interested in opening a line of communication. These individuals will be used to solicit input on project priorities and asked for ideas on potential mitigation. Discussions with Pat Clements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ecological Services Field Office included using their office as a liaison on future communication with other environmental agencies on our planning process. Since they act as the point of contact on TxDOT related issues they are familiar with FHWA and FTA regulations and agreed to be available to the MPO. We had further discussion on the long-range projects on Mustang Island, the extension of SH 286 and the Southside Mobility Corridor. A dialog was established which will explore potential environmental mitigation efforts and identification of environmentally sensitive areas that may be impacted by proposed projects. The MPO and the TAMUK Dept. of Environmental Engineering have entered into a partnership to quantify the impact of congestion on air quality and with the Pollution Prevention Partnership to evaluate the impact on air quality of major regional projects that are in development or being planned in the two county study area.

Tribal:

Communication was established with tribal leaders that include:

- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Kiow Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Tonkawa Tribe of Indians
- BIA – Anadarko

Given that this was an initial outreach initiative - guidance was sought from each of the agencies on identifying a specific contact initially by electronic communication and then in written form. None of the agencies responded with an individual to utilize as a contact or with expressions of interest.

Local Governments:

Ongoing dialog about the planning process has been occurring as part of the public participation effort with the following agencies and their respective committees or individual participation on the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Committee:

- Nueces County
- San Patricio County
- City of Corpus Christi
    - City Planning Commission
    - Air Quality Committee
    - Shared Access Working Group
    - Mayors Committee on the Disabled
    - Transportation Advisory Committee
    - Town Hall Meetings
- City of Portland
- City of Gregory
- Port of Corpus Christi
- Regional Transportation Authority
    - RTA Advisory Committee

Community Outreach:

The MPO seeks opportunities to provide presentations to civic and community organizations to familiarize them with the planning process and to seek their input on project needs and priorities. These opportunities have included presentations to the:

- Port Industries of Corpus Christi
- Sunrise Rotary
- Southside Rotary
- Southside Kiwanis
- Padre Island Business Association
- Friday Morning Group
- Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce – Infrastructure Committee
- Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce – Transportation Committee
- Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber – Embajadores
- Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation

Publicly Posted Meetings and Public Input:

Of particular concern to the MPO was the input of those under-served by the transportation network particularly the economically disadvantaged, minorities, elderly and low-income individuals. The MPO distributed and made publicly available the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan to multiple public locations in the study area for public review. The MPO advertised scheduled informal Public Input Opportunities at four Senior Centers to improve the quality and quantity of public interaction. This process increased the number of contacts and provided an opportunity for one on one discussion about transportation needs.

General Summary of Questionnaire Responses:

The outreach effort has included the distribution of questionnaires and the creation of a web based questionnaire to increase input. The website based questionnaire produced three time the responses as questionnaires that were distributed at Community Outreach activities. The general findings include:

- Most people have access to automobile based transportation.
- The majority responded that they do not have travel problems.
- Congestion was considered the regions most important transportation issue.
- The lack of transportation choices (e.g. public transit or walking) was cited as the next most important issue.
- The worst intersection was Everhart and SPID followed by Staples and SPID.
- The most important method of improving traffic conditions was the use of traffic management techniques.
- The next most important method was to maintain and improve existing streets.
- The vast majority indicated that they would always prefer to drive their own car than to use public transportation.

The findings were related to the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Committee and in part influence them to identify as a priority in project selection those projects that would reduce congestion and use traffic management techniques.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will seek public input and comments on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at the 8:30 a.m. Board of Directors meeting of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) at their Administrative Offices located at 5658 Bear Lane and the March 15, 2007 meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the MPO at the same location.

The RTA Board and the TAC will discuss and possibly take action to request an amendment to the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of the MPO. The RTA has requested that a project to renovate the current maintenance facility be brought into the FY 2007 and 2008 elements of the TIP from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan's (MTP) long-range project list as well as several amendments to line items currently in the TIP.

For additional information, or a copy of the amendments, contact the MPO at (361) 884-0687 or view the amendments at www.corpuschristi-mpo.org and at the RTA and MPO offices. Possible action to adopt the amendments will be placed on the April 5, 2007 meeting of the MPO – Transportation Policy Committee that meets at 1:30 p.m. in the Corpus Christi City Hall – Council Chambers at 1201 Leopard St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will seek public input and comments on Thursday, April 5, 2007 at the 1:30 p.m. meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) of the MPO held in the Corpus Christi City Hall - Council Chambers at 1201 Leopard St.

The TPC will discuss and possibly take action to amend the FY 2007–2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and release the Draft FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of the MPO. The Technical Advisory Committee has made recommendations to the TPC to modify project description wording in the MTP and to schedule projects in the 2008-2011 TIP which includes:

- Construction of a median and congestion management improvements on SH 357 Saratoga Blvd. from Staples St to Rodd Field Road. at an estimated cost of $2,010,000;
- Construction of a median and congestion management improvements on SH 2444 Staples St. from Saratoga Blvd. to Oso Creek at an estimated cost of $2,250,000;
- Construction of additional travel lanes and congestion management improvements on Holly Rd. from the SH 286 Crosstown Freeway to Greenwood Dr. at an estimated cost of $3,999,000;
- Reconstruction and construction of turn lanes and improved access to the strategic military port on Port Ave. from IH – 37 to North of the Harbor Bridge US 181 at an estimated cost of $8,017,000;
- Funding for Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedoms projects;
- Subsequent fiscal year funding for a project to renovate the current Regional Transportation Authority maintenance facility; and
- Redefining Regional Transportation Authority project descriptions and dates of selected public transit projects.

For additional information, or a copy of the MTP or the Draft TIP, contact the MPO at (361) 884-0687 or view the documents at www.corpuschristi-mpo.org and at the RTA and MPO offices.

Final action to adopt the amendments will be placed on the May 3, 2007 agenda of the MPO – Transportation Policy Committee that meets at 1:30 p.m. in the Corpus Christi City Hall – Council Chambers at 1201 Leopard St.

CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 7, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION:

Meeting called to order by Mr. Bonilla at 1:05 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Barrera, Mayor Garrett, Mr. Bonilla, Judge Simpson, Mayor Krebs were present. Mayor Garrett arrived at 1:15 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITING AGENCY OFFICIALS:

Mr. Bonilla said that in behalf and in honor of this being Pearl Harbor day and for all those fighting men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice during World War II and all the Veterans who have followed thereafter, including the engagement in Iraq it would be proper for the Committee to observe a moment of silence in their honor.

The Committee welcomed all Technical Advisory Committee Members and City Staff.

Mr. Niskala introduced Mr. Kirk Fauver, Federal Highway Administration, and Mr. Sam Woods, Director of the Lubbock MPO, as well as a number of individuals with Parsons and Brinckerhoff.

Mr. Niskala advised the Committee that a Conference was held here in Corpus Christi that was sponsored by the National Association of Regional Councils. Mr. Clark and a number of his staff and some of the MPO's Staff were able to attend. Mr. Woods and Mr. Fauver were here for that conference as well and they decided that they would like to see our Committee in action today. We had some good discussions on the planning process. We had a chance to reflect on the long-range plan and he thanked them both for the input that they provided.

Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa stopped by to greet the Committee and is looking forward to working with the Policy Committee and TxDOT in making sure that we take care of the transportation needs of the Corpus Christi area.

3. APPROVAL OF THE November 2, 2006 TPC MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Judge Simpson to approve the November 2, 2006 meeting minutes as printed and distributed, seconded by Mayor Krebs. Motion passed.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Discussion and possible action to approve the long-range 2007-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). (The Draft plan is posted on the MPO web page www.corpuschristi-mpo.org and is available at the public libraries and governmental offices).

Mr. Niskala advised the Committee that one of the requirements for the Metropolitan Planning Organization is the development of a long-range plan every five years. The plan is basically a twenty-year window on how the funds that we are projecting to come

to this region will be used for transportation projects of a variety of modes. With the adoption of the new Federal Highway Legislation SAFETEA-LU, there was a requirement that those long-range plans also conformed to some of the new planning requirements by July 1st of 2007. We had a long-range plan, but we use this as an opportunity to update and look at our priorities and to incorporate the planning provisions that are required in SAFETEA-LU.

A couple of things we want to do is to talk about some of the priorities that we have been discussing over the last couple of months and ask for an adoption of a Resolution to adopt the long-range plan for the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Mr. Niskala expressed his appreciation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Staff. He said that they really took the lead at reaching out to some of the other State and Federal agencies and acted as our liaison in contacting those individuals.

In addition, we took the plan out to the public and we had an opportunity to meet with a number of public agencies and did some outreach with specific targeted groups, particularly the low income and the elderly population by doing a round of outreach efforts we had at the Senior Centers. They may not have the concerns about congestion, but they did have transportation concerns. We worked with TxDOT at answering a couple of specific questions as part of their medical transportation program which was very productive.

We made sure that we placed the draft of the plan on the website and have tried to enhance our capabilities at providing visual representations of what our plan is all about. In the future, we will provide video clips of where some of these projects will be located that will display a before and after look on specific projects.

Mr. Bonilla asked if there were any public comments on the 2007-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan prior to possible action. There were no comments.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that there is a clear understanding by the community that these are alternative methods of financing these projects that the MPO will be looking at in the future.

TxDOT Staff has been working on developing the scope of work for the South Loop Study and should be in RFP form early next year.

In the Technical Committee discussions, based upon the direction of the Policy Committee to look at congestion issues, we have accelerated two new projects. One is the construction of a median that is Project #14 and Project #15, a median on Saratoga and a median on Staples to help control access prior to those sections of Saratoga going into intense of development. The City Staff has been very gracious about including the MPO in the review of some zoning change requests.

As a result, we need to elevate this issue of access management in the minds of the community in general and we are taking an opportunity to do that next week. Mr. Bill Frawley with the Texas Transportation Institute will be here in town and will be making a presentation to the City's Access Working Group that has been put together as a result of them rewriting their development policies with the Unified Development Code.

We will be discussing these with the Technical Advisory Committee in terms of priorities and in terms of the funds and their availability specific to the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Niskala advised the Committee that he would answer any questions regarding the projects listed on the map, to provide an opportunity for any public comment, and to seek the Committee's approval of a Resolution on adopting the long-range plan.

Judge Simpson asked if there was a way to make readjustments given possible development in San Patricio.

Mr. Niskala said that it is a living document. We do have a project for 181 on the long-range unfunded portion which would respond to La Quinta and TxDOT has some other considerations that they are looking at. It would be part of our intent to work with all of the agencies to find out where we might have to reprioritize.

Mr. Bonilla had a question about the Harbor Bridge. He said that it has elevated to number four on the mobility fund category. He asked what that meant in terms of a time table.

Mr. Niskala said that he would have a better answer after our March meeting since we will have the Consultant that is doing the Harbor Bridge Study scheduled to come in and make presentations to the Technical Advisory Committee in February and they will be making that report to the Policy Committee in March.

Mr. Clark said that they are in the process of working towards completing the environmental impact statement. This is a process that can change significantly. We will have to adjust our time frame and try to come up with the estimates for the funds required.

Mr. Bonilla advised the public that there is a Resolution to adopt the 2007-2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan which calls upon the adoption of the priorities that have been discussed, and any technical corrections of the documentation and making it readily available to the public.

Mr. Bonilla asked if there were any public input or comment on any item discussion. There were no comments.

A motion was made by Mayor Garrett and was seconded by Judge Simpson. Motion passed.

B. Discussion about the DRAFT 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that the Technical Advisory Committee has discussed a number of options and are looking at the concerns over increased congestion and problems along Saratoga and Staples and looking at the possibility of a median project. We originally assumed that we were going to have a draft TIP for submittal to TxDOT, but we have learned that it is not a requirement at this time and would like to use the January and February Technical Advisory Committee meetings to refine some of the issues. We will bring you the recommendations for the TIP in March or April. It has to be submitted by May. There is no need for action at this time.

C. Discuss the selection of the Regional Transportation Authority as the Designated Recipient for Federal Transit Administration 5316 and 5317 grants in the urbanized area (The proposed resolution of support is posted on the MPO web page www.corpuschristi-mpo.org).

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that this is the selection of the Regional Transportation Authority as the designated recipient for the Federal Transit Administration funds for 5316 and 5317 grant programs. Those are the job access and reverse commute programs and the new freedoms programs. TxDOT has requested that a new process be in place where there be a designated recipient for those funds.

The designated recipient will actually have a call for projects, once the funds are made available through TxDOT. The MPO will act as the reviewer of those projects and make recommendations through our Technical Advisory Committee, but it would be the RTA that administers the 5316 and 5317 programs. We have had discussions at the Staff level and at the Technical Advisory Committee level, and there has been support of that. We would request adoption of the resolution and the designation of the RTA as a designated recipient.

A motion was made by Mr. Roland Barrera to accept the resolution, seconded by Mayor Garrett. Motion passed.

5. STAFF REPORT:

A. Discuss RTA Maintenance Facility project.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that the RTA Maintenance Facility Project is moving forward. We are looking at about a $7.5 million project. We will make sure that it is incorporated into the planning documents on an ongoing basis if those numbers get revised so we will be working with the RTA to make sure that critical project moves forward. The RTA has received a notification that funding that has been originally planned to be used for some of the trolley system work can be used for its long range plan.

Mr. Barrera thanked Chairman Bonilla and the Committee for voting on this project last month. He said that they will be meeting with their lobbyists with regard of how they are going to target this with their Commissioners.

B. Update on the Access Management Study.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that the MPO Staff will be completing the counts within the next two weeks on the critical intersections. In addition, they are also looking at some of the concerns over Cross-town, Horne, and Port.

TxDOT has scheduled a special saturation count around the S.P.I.D. Crosstown Interchange that will be useful information for us as well. We are going to supplement that by some work that Carter and Burgess is going to do in 2007.

Mayor Garrett said that TxDOT did a great job with the Interchange, but now there is a problem with Weber and Chapman Ranch Road.

Mr. Niskala said that TxDOT has some work going on looking at the possible addition of some lanes both at that Intersection, as well as Ennis Joslin and Ocean Drive and we appreciate their response to those issues as well.

C. Update on the Travel Time and Delay Study.

Mr. Niskala advised the Committee that the Travel Time and Delay Study is moving forward.

D. Update on fiscal year close-out and 2006-2007 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) progress.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that originally when the Unified Planning Work Program was adopted, it was adopted for 2006 and 2007. We had a two year program. We do have a year end fiscal report that is being put together. It will be made available to the Policy Committee. We are well within budget. All the anticipated expenditures, including a cost of living adjustment for Staff are within budget. We do have the consulting contracts ongoing and they will be completed within the next fiscal year. The status of the budget is complete, but we are required to put a year end report into TxDOT. We received that information from the County and we will be finalizing it and it will be made available to the Policy Committee.

6. ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that he has copies of the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan that was put together in cooperation with the Council of Governments and a number of Stakeholders. Copies are available. He thanked the Council of Governments for their support.

We used the Texas A & M-Corpus Christi for the preparation and conduct of a survey that summarized in the report. We were very pleased with the product and have had positive comments back from the public.

The Technical Advisory Committee scheduled for December 21st has been cancelled as well as the Transportation Policy Committee meeting that was scheduled for January 4, 2007.

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be held on January 18, 2007 and the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be held on February 1, 2007.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that we will have a new County Judge, Judge Neal, at the next meeting in February.

Mayor Krebs said that he was proud to announce that they should be moving in their new City Hall on the 6th and 7th of January. He offered to have the next Policy meeting at the new City Hall for the February meeting.

Mr. Niskala said that the arrangements would be made to hold the Policy meeting at the New Portland City Hall.
Judge Simpson invited everyone to the Sinton Courthouse on January 1, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. He said that he and Commissioner Nardini are going to get sworn in for another four years along with some other officials.

7. ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 1, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION:

Meeting called to order by Mr. Bonilla at 1:30 p.m. at the Portland City Hall Council Chambers.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Barrera, Mayor Garrett, Mr. Bonilla, Judge Simpson, Mayor Krebs, and Commissioner Longoria were present.

2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITING AGENCY OFFICIALS:

The Committee welcomed all Technical Advisory Committee Members and City Staff.

Mayor Krebs welcomed everyone to the new Portland City Hall facility.

Judge Simpson welcomed Mr. Seaman and was glad to see him attending the meeting.

Mr. Niskala introduced Mr. Bill Reitman, Area Engineer with TxDOT.

Mr. Reitman gave a brief presentation about the US 181 Railroad Overpass Project which began in late 2004 is a $21 million project. The State Highway 89 relief route is currently under construction. This project began in May, 2006 and it is a $44 million project. The next extension of that project will extend the divided Highway section north of Sinton all the way up to Skidmore and is a $35 million project.

3. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2006 TPC MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Barrera to approve the December 7, 2006 meeting minutes as printed and distributed, seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion passed.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Annual election of Officers on the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC).

A motion was made by Judge Simpson to keep the same officers that are currently serving in the positions that they are serving in, seconded by Mayor Garrett. Motion passed.

B. Discuss projects to be included in Draft Fiscal Year 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Niskala thanked Mr. Reitman for his comments. Most of the projects that he mentioned are reflected in our Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan even though they are not in the Metropolitan Area Boundary.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee about the funding issues that this area is going to be facing.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that one of the things that we are in the process of discussing at the Technical Advisory Committee is the development of projects for the next transportation improvement program. This is the improvement program projects that will go to construction in a time frame of 2008 to 2011.

It is apparent that the funding that we had identified is not going to be adequate to make many of the long-range projects a reality. As a result, we need to have some discussions as to whether we want to dedicate additional mobility management funds into a project and explore where other sources of revenue might be developed. If the Chairman of the Board agrees, we would like to have a discussion on the March Agenda about the Harbor Bridge and request TxDOT to do a presentation about the issues at hand. There is a meeting in Austin on March 8th at which some decisions are going to be made in terms of future Category 2 funding which is the urban mobility funds that come through TxDOT.

C. Discuss RTA Maintenance Facility project, required amendment to the Fiscal Year 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Action to approve is recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The proposed amendment is on the MPO website www.corpuschristi-mpo.org.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that this is a series of amendments to handle some changes that had to be made in the Transit Projects that are represented in the Transportation Improvement Program. The number of amendments that we had and the addition of the maintenance garage has caused some concern about our public participation process. We have had an opportunity to have public comment both at the RTA Board Meetings and at the previous Technical and Policy Committee meetings, but we have not done a formal advertisement that there is going to be a major amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program. We feel we need to follow that process. It will be placed on the March RTA Board Meeting Agenda and provide an opportunity for public comment that has been advertised in the newspaper and that way we will comply with our public participation policy. We could bring it to the first meeting in April for final approval and submit it to TxDOT in April which meets their May 1st deadline.

There is no action required at this time.

Judge Simpson asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

D. Discuss Pollution Prevention Partnership (PPP) regional transportation project.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee about a project that the Pollution Prevention Partnership has underway at the University. For their work program for this year, they have identified the need to try and create one comprehensive master list of transportation projects in the San Patricio and Nueces County area somewhat similar to what we do in our TMMP process, but getting down to an electronic memo that will be kept current that talks about the status of the various projects and who the various sponsoring agencies are and it is something that all of our agencies will be able to use as a resource tool.

Ms. Arnold will be contacting each of the agencies to make sure that she knows the status of the respected projects. She has been working with our staff on the graphics.

E. Discuss Transportation Planning Director Performance Review and possible action on the Employment Agreement.

Judge Simpson announced that the Committee would be going into a closed session to discuss the Transportation Planning Director's Performance Review and possible action on the Employment Agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Barrera to extend the contract for Mr. Niskala with an increase of 7%, seconded by Mayor Garrett. Motion passed.

5. STAFF REPORT:

A. Update on the Modeling Process.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that a presentation was made to the Technical Advisory Committee about the modeling process. A number of actions have been taken and the network has been reviewed and updated and the traffic analysis zones have been reviewed.

We are in the very early stages of working on our population projections and have reached out to a number of your agencies and respected people in your agencies to work with us on looking at the current population figures in these traffic analysis zones so that we can reflect the best consensus of where growth is headed. The first meeting is scheduled for February 8th and our goal is to have this completed by June.

B. Presentation by TxDOT on the SH 361 Study.

Mr. Niskala introduced Mr. Mike Walsh with TxDOT.

Mr. Walsh gave a brief presentation about the study on State Highway 361 which is the road on the Island from Park Road 22 down to Port Aransas.

Mr. Niskala said that the demand for funds is far exceeding the supply. This is clearly something that we have had on the radar screen for our long-range plan, but it is in the unfunded category. The demand for right of way is getting greater.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Judge Simpson asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

7. ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that the next Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be held at the Corpus Christi City Hall Council Chambers.

8. ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 1, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION:

Meeting called to order by Mr. Bonilla at 1:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Barrera, Mr. Bonilla, Judge Simpson, Mayor Krebs, and Judge Neal, were present.

2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITING AGENCY OFFICIALS:

The Committee welcomed all Technical Advisory Committee Members and City Staff.

*** Mr. Bonilla asked if there were any public comments. There were none.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2007 TPC MEETING MINUTES.

A motion was made by Judge Simpson to approve the February 1, 2007 meeting minutes as printed and distributed, seconded by Mayor Krebs. Motion passed.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. Discuss projects to be included in Draft 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – with update on Port Avenue Project.

B. Discuss long-range funding and implications to project selection.

Items 4 A & B are combined discussions

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that when we did some of the original scenarios for Category 2 funds that used Proposition 14 Bonds, the payout of those bonds overtime assumed monies coming in at about $12 million a year. TxDOT has informed the District and ourselves that the new projections are going to be closer to $6 million instead of $12 million as a result, the payout has doubled. We are now looking at bond payout over 50 to 60 years and that means no other Category 2 funds available for any other projects. By locking up all the Category 2 funds, we are saying that we not going to be doing much other than replacing the Harbor Bridge for a long period of time. If Harbor Bridge were to be delayed, some of those Category 2 funds could go into projects of equal significance to the region. There are other projects that have needs that are not going to be accommodated. Do we look at ways of trying to make some compromises in terms of what would be achievable by this community or do we look at changing the time frame of the bridge so that other projects may move forward that are equally as important to this area. Do we begin to pledge Category 7 money to the Harbor Bridge, which means no mobility projects in lieu of Category 7 dollars going into the funding of the Bridge itself. The new tools are something that are beneficial to our area, but they are limited in scope. There are only so many Proposition 14 bonds and when they are all consumed by other districts, they may not available to us.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that as we get closer to looking at the bridge and its location, we continue to price it but the cost continues to escalate. The money that we have is fixed and diminishing. On the Federal side, we are now on our forth rescission of funds out of the SAFETEA-LU. FHWA has notified us of reductions and how much money can be expected out of the highway bill for the coming years of the life of the bill. The bill itself should completely deplete the reserve funds that are there in the highway trust fund. By the end of this bill, it was predicted that there would be nothing left in the highway trust fund and all future highway bills would have to live on the revenues as they come in.

Mr. Clark said that we would have to find a local source of revenue that we could bond and put into play to try to convince the Highway Commission to leverage strategic funds to repay the debt that we would incur to finance the additional cost of the bridge. The other thing that we could do is pursue toll equity on a tolling application of the bridge. We have looked at the bridge and if we go from six existing lanes to an eight lane bridge facility, the two additional lanes would be managed lanes and would then be a toll function, but the amount of toll generated on that is not all that much money. Being able to get a significant amount in toll equity from the strategic fund is limited.

Judge Simpson said that if we toll the whole bridge, there would be sufficient funds to pay for the deal and probably could get a private individual to look at building the bridge and managing it.

Mr. Clark said that in order to do a conversion, the rules would require that you have a referendum vote of the impacted population.

Mr. Bonilla suggested that it might be helpful if we had somewhat of a report with the options that have been discussed that could be provided to the Policy Members so that we can begin the process of educating the public.

Mr. Niskala said that we will put a fact sheet together. One of the issues out there is the metropolitan mobility money. We are always looking at short-term projects that will bring about some type of relief to congestion. An amendment to the current Transportation Improvement Program to accommodate some of the RTA projects will be brought back to the Policy Committee as well as the approval of the draft of the 2008 to 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. We will have some further discussion on these four projects. We will bring back the 2008-2011 TIP to approve in its final form at the May meeting.

C. Amend action taken at the February 1, 2007 meeting regarding the Transportation Planning Director's Employment Agreement.

A motion was made by Judge Simpson to amend the action item taken at the February 1st meeting which was to extend the employment agreement with an increase in compensation, but without the retroactive action that was taken. Motion was seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion passed.

5. STAFF REPORT:

A. 2007 Border to Border Transportation Conference April 17-19, 2007.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee about the 2007 Border to Border Transportation Conference that will be held in McAllen, TX on April 17th-19th. There will be a number of international speakers and it is about border trade and activities in transportation.

Mr. Bonilla asked about cross Border trucking that has been approved by the administration regarding our relationship with Mexico in coordination with NAFTA particularly road safety as well as more extensive use of Texas Highways.

Mr. Niskala said that there was a report that was released by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics that talked about cross border movements from Mexico into Texas increasing five percent over the same month last year. There is also a border working group that meets at TxDOT on a periodic basis and one of the Port staff has agreed to represent us at those meetings. It is sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that when we adopted the Metropolitan Transportation Plan in December, there were some technical adjustments to the transit elements that had to be completed and with your approval, we are submitting the final version to FHWA as our approved long-range plan. It does comply with the new SAFETEA-LU requirements, so pending their review and their approval, we will be in the position to where we can amend both the TIP and the long-range plan in the future. Copies are available as well as being on the website.

6. ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST:

A. The April 5th, Transportation Policy Committee meeting will be at the Corpus Christi City Hall.

Mr. Bonilla asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Judge Neal had a question about the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He said that in the recent certificate of obligations issued by Nueces County, there was some money tentatively identified for the county matching portion for County Road 52. He said that County Road 52 has been moved down to number 37 with a projected cost in the 5 million range. He asked if there were any plans to look at that before the year 2027.

Mr. Niskala said that it is always an item that is subject to review and with some of the recent discussion about developments out there, it is something that would probably be taken to the Technical Advisory Committee for discussion. We do not have a good number on projected construction costs. This has been one of the impediments. With the work of TxDOT and the City, we may be able to come up with a better estimate.

Judge Neal said that in order for the County to begin planning for the use of that money, they need to know if it is going to move at all anytime in the next few years. They would like to know so that they can reallocate the funds to be able to get things done. A report on County Road 52 and Up River Road was requested. Mr. Niskala indicated it would be provided prior to the next meeting.

7. ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 5, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION:

Meeting called to order by Mr. Bonilla at 1:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mr. Barrera, Mayor Garrett, Mr. Bonilla, Judge Simpson, Mayor Krebs, Judge Neal and Commissioner Longoria were present.

2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITING AGENCY OFFICIALS:

The Committee welcomed Mr. Kirk Fauver, FHWA, Mr. Bill Hennings, Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and all Technical Advisory Committee Members and City Staff.

Opportunity for Public Comment on Transportation Issues.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 1, 2007 TPC MEETING MINUTES.

A motion was made by Judge Simpson to approve the March 1, 2007 meeting minutes as printed and distributed, seconded by Mayor Krebs. Motion passed.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. Discuss projects to be included in Draft 2008-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – with update on Port Avenue Project.

B. Discuss long-range funding and implications to project selection.

Items 4 A & B are combined discussions

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee that when we did some of the original scenarios for Category 2 funds that used Proposition 14 Bonds, the payout of those bonds overtime assumed monies coming in at about $12 million a year. TxDOT has informed the District and ourselves that the new projections are going to be closer to $6 million instead of $12 million as a result, the payout has doubled. We are now looking at bond payout over 50 to 60 years and that means no other Category 2 funds available for any other projects. By locking up all the Category 2 funds, we are saying that we not going to be doing much other than replacing the Harbor Bridge for a long period of time. If Harbor Bridge were to be delayed, some of those Category 2 funds could go into projects of equal significance to the region. There are other projects that have needs that are not going to be accommodated. Do we look at ways of trying to make some compromises in terms of what would be achievable by this community or do we look at changing the time frame of the bridge so that other projects may move forward that are equally as important to this area. Do we begin to pledge Category 7 money to the Harbor Bridge, which means no mobility projects in lieu of Category 7 dollars going into the funding of the Bridge itself. The new tools are something that are beneficial to our area, but they are limited in scope. There are only so many Proposition 14 bonds and when they are all consumed by other districts, they may not available to us.

Mr. Clark informed the Committee that as we get closer to looking at the bridge and its location, we continue to price it but the cost continues to escalate. The money that we have is fixed and diminishing. On the Federal side, we are now on our forth rescission of funds out of the SAFETEA-LU. FHWA has notified us of reductions and how much money can be expected out of the highway bill for the coming years of the life of the bill. The bill itself should completely deplete the reserve funds that are there in the highway trust fund. By the end of this bill, it was predicted that there would be nothing left in the highway trust fund and all future highway bills would have to live on the revenues as they come in.

Mr. Clark said that we would have to find a local source of revenue that we could bond and put into play to try to convince the Highway Commission to leverage strategic funds to repay the debt that we would incur to finance the additional cost of the bridge. The other thing that we could do is pursue toll equity on a tolling application of the bridge. We have looked at the bridge and if we go from six existing lanes to an eight lane bridge facility, the two additional lanes would be managed lanes and would then be a toll function, but the amount of toll generated on that is not all that much money. Being able to get a significant amount in toll equity from the strategic fund is limited.

Judge Simpson said that if we toll the whole bridge, there would be sufficient funds to pay for the deal and probably could get a private individual to look at building the bridge and managing it.

Mr. Clark said that in order to do a conversion, the rules would require that you have a referendum vote of the impacted population.

Mr. Bonilla suggested that it might be helpful if we had somewhat of a report with the options that have been discussed that could be provided to the Policy Members so that we can begin the process of educating the public.

Mr. Niskala said that we will put a fact sheet together. One of the issues out there is the metropolitan mobility money. We are always looking at short-term projects that will bring about some type of relief to congestion. An amendment to the current Transportation Improvement Program to accommodate some of the RTA projects will be brought back to the Policy Committee as well as the approval of the draft of the 2008 to 2011 Transportation Improvement Program. We will have some further discussion on these four projects. We will bring back the 2008-2011 TIP to approve in its final form at the May meeting.

C. Amend action taken at the February 1, 2007 meeting regarding the Transportation Planning Director's Employment Agreement.

A motion was made by Judge Simpson to amend the action item taken at the February 1st meeting which was to extend the employment agreement with an increase in compensation, but without the retroactive action that was taken. Motion was seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion passed.

5. STAFF REPORT:

A. 2007 Border to Border Transportation Conference April 17-19, 2007.

Mr. Niskala informed the Committee about the 2007 Border to Border Transportation Conference that will be held in McAllen, TX on April 17th-19th. There will be a number of international speakers and it is about border trade and activities in transportation.

Mr. Bonilla asked about cross Border trucking that has been approved by the administration regarding our relationship with Mexico in coordination with NAFTA particularly road safety as well as more extensive use of Texas Highways.

Mr. Niskala said that there was a report that was released by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics that talked about cross border movements from Mexico into Texas increasing five percent over the same month last year. There is also a border working group that meets at TxDOT on a periodic basis and one of the Port staff has agreed to represent us at those meetings. It is sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration.

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Judge Neal said that in order for the County to begin planning for the use of that money, they need to know if it is going to move at all anytime in the next few years. They would like to know so that they can reallocate the funds to be able to get things done. A report on County Road 52 and Up River Road was requested. Mr. Niskala indicated it would be provided prior to the next meeting.

7. ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

1201 Leopard
City Council Chambers
Monday, April 23, 2007
2:30 p.m.

Members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting, or as otherwise specified by the Chairperson of the Transportation Advisory Committee as particular matters are being acted upon or discussed in which public comment is necessary or requested. A recording is made of the proceedings; therefore, it is requested that presentations be limited to five minutes, and that members of the audience identify themselves, give their address, and state their point as briefly as possible when addressing the Committee.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the City Traffic Engineering Office (826-3547) 48 hours in advance of the meeting time so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- ☐ **Bill Green, Chairperson**
- ☐ **Robbie Foster, Vice-Chairperson**
- ☐ **Richard Bailey, Sr.**
- ☐ **Vacancy**
- ☐ **Chief Misty Galang, NAS**
- ☐ **Daniel Carrizales**
- ☐ **David Seiler**
- ☐ **Curtis A. Rock**
- ☐ **Karen Beard**

STAFF:

- ☐ **Ángel Escobor, Director of Engineering Services**
- ☐ **Ricardo Guzman, Traffic Manager**
- ☐ **Capt. J.J. Vesley, CCPD**
- ☐ **Sgt. Mike Pena, CCPD**
- ☐ **Veronica Ocanas, Asst. City Attorney**
- ☐ **Nan Bailey, Recording Secretary**

AGENDA

I. Call meeting to order - Chairperson
II. Approval of "minutes" for meeting of April 9, 2007
III. Monthly Traffic Fatality Reports - Attachment "A"
IV. Presentation:
   1. **CCMPO - TIP 2008-2011- Tom Niskala, MPO Director**
   2. **Amendment to the Transportation Plan - Bob Payne**
V. Staff Recommendations requiring Committee Review/Recommendations - None
VI. Recognition of Audience/Public Concerns on Matters not scheduled on Agenda
VII. Discussion Items
VIII. City Traffic Engineer's Report
IX. Issues for next scheduled Transportation Advisory Meeting
X. Previous/New Concerns
XI. Adjournment