

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION:

Judge Simpson called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Adame, Mr. Carrell, Mr. Valls, Judge Simpson, Judge Neal, and Mr. Hennings were present.

2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITING AGENCY OFFICIALS:

The Committee welcomed Mr. Russell Lenz, Former District Engineer, Mr. Scott Young, Rabba Kisner, Mr. Glen Mora, HDR, Mr. Craig Morgan, BNSF Railroad, the Technical Advisory Committee Members, TxDOT and City Staff.

3. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2011 TPC MEETING MINUTES:

Judge Simpson called for approval of the minutes of the regular TPC meeting of December 1, 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Carrell and seconded by Mr. Valls. Motion was passed to approve the minutes as presented.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. Election of officers for 2012.

Judge Simpson asked if there were any nominations.

Mayor Adame nominated Judge Neal for Vice Chairperson.

Judge Simpson asked if there were any other nominations.

The motion to nominate Judge Neal as Vice Chairperson and Judge Simpson as Chairperson passed unanimously.

B. Discussion about amending the 2010-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and adopting the FY 2013 – 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The MPOs and TxDOT Districts are preparing the next two years for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A memorandum was provided to the Board that shows the 2011-2014 TIP as it is currently approved with an attached summary sheet with projects that are scheduled for 2013 and 2014. The Board talked about congestion relief, improving safety, economic development and encouraged the MPO to emphasize projects that supported economic development, improve safety, and reduce congestion.

Judge Simpson asked if there were any comments.

There was a question regarding the 2011 projects and whether additional approval was needed.

An explanation of the 2011 projects was provided to the Board. That is why we are having deliberations. There are not enough funds to cover all of those projects. For example, Yorktown was a city bond project from Staples to Cimarron. There has been some talk about cost under runs providing bond funds to Rodd Field, but that has not been committed on the part of the City.

There was a question about a way to tell if a project is a study for construction, such as Buddy Ganem and if the amount shown on the handout was to begin construction.

The TIP sheet has full information. The summary sheet will be revised.

There was a question regarding the Prop 12 project on Staples from Yorktown to Oso Creek. It is a very narrow road and there are a lot of people jogging and riding bikes out there and there is no bike lane and nowhere to jog.

Prop 12 is funding that was provided by the Commission. It has to be under construction by July, 2013. There had been some preliminary work done on looking at Staples from Oso to County Road 41 which is where the last subdivision entrance is and improving that area so that a left turn would be provided and a little additional capacity because it is high speed traffic and people are turning into and out of these subdivisions on to some high speed lanes.

TxDOT held a public hearing on FM 43 to get public input and they will do the same thing on 2444.

Judge Simpson asked if there were any other questions.

There were none.

Mr. Niskala said that if the Board has any considerations to discuss at the Technical Advisory Committee on February 23rd, please let him know.

Judge Simpson asked if there were any other discussions.

There were none.

C. Presentation on the Port of Corpus Christi – Port Master Rail Plan.

Mr. Greg Brubeck, Director of Engineering Services, and Mr. Dave Michaelsen, Chief Engineer, provided an overview of the conceptual plan for railroad improvements needed to serve growing rail traffic at cargo terminals and Port industries.

There was a question about the issue on the Odem rail relocation and interchange yard. The discussions were on-going with the railroads and the San Patricio Rail District. There was some discussion about seeking funds from the various sources after the prioritization. Is there any money source or is this cost being allocated back to the railroads. Rural rail districts have taxing authority and in order to use it, there as to be a revenue source.

The Port's Executive was in Washington talking to some of the Federal Railroad Administration about loans and grants and the Tiger Grant project.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items.

Judge Simpson asked if there any comments.

There were none.

6. STAFF REPORT: (Update on recent MPO activities)

A. Current project status update.

The Senate has begun discussions on moving ahead for progress in the 21st Century which they are calling Map 21 and the House is now under discussions on the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Acts of 2012. We have been sending some of the bill synopsis information to our Technical Advisory Committee members.

An Update on the Regional Parkway project was provided to the Board with the project summary and map on the back and a breakdown of the viable alternatives that are being explored. The Technical Advisory Committee meeting was moved to the February 23rd and following that meeting, a meeting of the Parkway Stakeholders that are participating in this program hope to narrow it down to two corridors.

B. US 77 environmental review meetings.

US 77 environmental review meetings have started with the first meeting in Rivera. There will be a briefing of public officials and everybody along the corridor has been invited. All public officials are invited to the Ortiz Center on February 3rd.

Judge Simpson urged everyone to mail in their comments if they are unable to attend the public meetings.

C. TxDOT 7th Annual – Texas Transportation Forum.

TxDOT will be holding the 7th Annual Texas Transportation Forum from February 15th–17th. It was going to conflict with the regularly scheduled meeting date of the TAC and that is why it was moved to the 23rd. Everyone is invited to attend the Forum.

D. TPC meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012.

7. ADJORN:

There being no further business, Judge Simpson adjourned the TPC meeting at 2:45 p.m.