

EASTERN SHORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
DAPHNE, ALABAMA
JANUARY 15, 2020
10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE/INVOCATION.

- Chairperson Mr. Richard Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.
- Invocation was said by Mr. Johnson.
- Pledge was led by Mr. Vince Beebe.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Sarah Sislak, MPO Coordinator, called the roll.

- **Members present** Mr. Richard Johnson, City of Fairhope; Mr. Jeremy Sasser, City of Daphne; Mrs. Adrienne Jones, City of Daphne; Mr. Hunter Simmons, City of Fairhope; Mr. Robert Davis, Town of Loxley; Ms. Weezie Jeffords, Baldwin County (Proxy for Joey Nunally); Mr. Casey Raines, City of Spanish Fort; Mr. Bill Harbour, Baldwin County Board of Education; Mr. Edwin Perry, ALDOT; Mrs. Casey Gay Williams, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce.
- **Members absent:** Mr. Matthew Brown, Baldwin Regional Area Transit System; Mr. Patrick Northcutt, Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Don Lagarde, City of Fairhope Airport Authority; Mr. Greg Smith, City of Robertsedale; Mr. Clint Andrews, Federal Highway Administration; Mr. Michael Hora, ALDOT.
- **Others present:** Mrs. Sarah Sislak, MPO Coordinator; Mrs. Katrina Taylor, ESMPO Technician; Mr. Vince Bebee, Mr. James “Rod” Wilburn, Mr. Robert Cummins

Mr. James “Rod” Wilburn and Mrs. Sarah Sislak gave a presentation regarding the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Mrs. Adrienne Jones to approve the September 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeremy Sasser.

- Discussion: None
- Abstain: None
- In favor: All
- Opposed: None
- Result: Passed

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Action** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Members (**All**)
Mrs. Sislak stated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) has two vacant positions and MPO staff received two applications for these vacancies. Ms.

Meredith Montgomery to represent the City of Fairhope and Mrs. Valery Smith to represent Baldwin County.

MOTION: No action was required by the Advisory Committee.

2. Action – Statewide Highway Safety Improvement Program Targets (PM1) (All)

Mrs. Sislak explained that Fixing Americas Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) requires that MPO Transportation Plans, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) include Performance Management Measures and Targets for urbanized areas. These are the FY 2020 Statewide Highway Safety Improvement Program Targets (PM1) and MPO staff recommends the Policy Board adopt the Statewide Highway Safety Program Targets.

MOTION: By Mr. Bill Harbour to recommend the Policy Board approve the Statewide Highway Safety Improvement Program Targets. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jones.

- Discussion: None
- Abstain: None
- In favor: All
- Opposed: None
- Result: Passed

3. Action – State Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (All)

Mrs. Sislak stated the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) requests the following changes be made to the FY20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

- Project: 100065560 (CN) Federal aid number: TAPAA TA16 (934) County: BALDWIN.
Project Description: SR-225 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SPANISH FORT. Old Target Start Date: 9/15/2019; New Target Start Date: 10/15/2019

This project was on the FY16-19 TIP but the change in the start date carried it into FY20.

MOTION: By Mr. Sasser to recommend the Policy Board approve the State Amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was seconded by Mr. Harbour.

- Discussion: None
- Abstain: None
- In favor: All
- Opposed: None
- Result: Passed

4. Action – Obligorating Transportation Surface Funds to the City of Spanish Fort (All)

Mrs. Sislak stated that the City of Spanish Fort submitted a project for the use of transportation surface funds. The Jimmy Faulkner Boulevard Multi-Use Trail project was a FY 2017 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant award. The City is requesting MPO funds to cover overruns in the amount of \$120,000 (\$96,000 MPO, \$24,000 Spanish Fort).

MOTION: By Mr. Casey Raines to recommend the Policy Board obligate Transportation Surface Funds to the City of Spanish Fort. Motion not seconded; motion failed.

- Discussion: The Advisory Committee was concerned with the reason of the change order and did not support using MPO funds to cover the overrun costs. The Funding Agreement should state that the City is responsible for the overrun costs and this sets a bad precedent for planning. The Advisory Committee recommended establishing a policy to address overrun costs for future projects.
- Abstain: None
- In favor: All
- Opposed: None
- Result: Failed

5. Action – Amending 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (All)

Mrs. Sislak explained that in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration, the Eastern Shore Policy Board adopted Resolution 2019-09 amending the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan to include specific funding and project details regarding the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening project. Section 3.6 of the 2040 LRTP contains details regarding the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project that are inconsistent with the action taken by the Eastern Shore MPO Policy Board on August 28, 2019. This action would nullify Resolution 2019-09, rescind associated amendment to the 2040 LRTP, and update section 3.6 of the LRTP with the following: The I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project is a proposal to increase capacity along the I-10 corridor and bayway to meet existing and projected future traffic volumes. Funding for the bridge has not yet been determined. However, the project is a priority for the State of Alabama and the Eastern Shore MPO.

MOTION: By Mr. Sasser to recommend the Policy Board amend the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The motion was seconded by Mr. Harbour.

- Discussion: None
- Abstain: None
- In favor: All
- Opposed: None
- Result: Passed

6. Discussion – Traffic Counts (All)

Mrs. Sislak explained that there was discussion at previous Work Sessions regarding traffic counts, their locations, and frequency of counts. MPO staff created a map of existing traffic counts. Mrs. Sislak explained ALDOT conducts traffic counts on local roads and there are tools online on ALDOT's website that contain historical count data.

7. Informational – MPO Coordinator’s Report (All)

- **Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Sislak informed the Advisory Committee that the Baldwin County Commission no longer has a contract with the previous court reporter. MPO staff will complete the minutes in summary form versus verbatim.

- **ALDOT Project Update**

Mr. Beebe provided ALDOT’s project update:

- SR 181 Widening – roadway grading and draining work is occurring just north of SR 104, utility relocation is still underway. The project is expected to be complete mid-year 2021.
- US 31 – new curb and gutters are being installed on the widened section of the roadway. The project is anticipated to be complete in 2021.
- SR 181 and I-10, Diverging Diamond – lane closures on SR 181 are occurring while draining on US 90- widening of the north bound lanes will start in the next week or so. ALDOT has a FB page ‘Eastern Shore Diverging Diamond Interchange’ to inform drivers of work occurring. The project is expected to be complete in the summer of 2020.
- Intersection Alignment at US 90/SR 59 – right-of-way acquisition is 90% complete, letting of the project is anticipated for the spring of this year to begin construction.

- **Loxley Municipal Park Transit Project**

Mrs. Sislak informed the Board that the Town of Loxley is planning a transit project at the Municipal Park that will be brought to the April Agenda after their conceptual design and cost estimate is complete.

- **Planning and Development Update**

Mrs. Katrina Taylor gave an update for the 2019 calendar year.

OTHER DISCUSSION: None

NEXT MPO MEETINGS (All)

- **Policy Board Work Session: Wednesday, April 8, 2020; 10:00 AM; Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse (Fairhope)**
- **BPAC Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2020; 9:00 AM; City of Fairhope Council Chambers**
- **CAC Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2020; 1:00 PM; City of Fairhope Council Chambers**
- **TAC Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2020; 10:00 AM; City of Fairhope Council Chambers**
- **Policy Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2020; 10:00 AM; City of Fairhope Council Chambers**

PUBLIC FORUM (All)

- **Members of the Public:** No comments were made by members of the public.
- **Members of the Press:** There were no members of the press present.
- **Board/Committee Members:** Mr. Harbour updated the Advisory Committee that the Belforest Elementary School is on schedule to open in 2020. Mrs. Casey Gay Williams informed the board that the Alabama 1st congressional district forum is on January 23, 2020,

hosted by the Baldwin County Association of Realtors and all members of the public are encouraged to attend.

ADJOURNMENT (AII)

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.