

EASTERN SHORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY BOARD MEETING
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA
JANUARY 27, 2021
10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE/INVOCATION.

- Vice Chairperson Councilmember Jack Burrell called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.
- Invocation was said by Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood.
- Pledge was led by Commissioner Joe Davis.

ROLL CALL

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

- **Members present:** Mayor Sherry Sullivan, City of Fairhope; Councilmember Jack Burrell, City of Fairhope; Mayor Robin LeJeune, City of Daphne; Councilmember Ron Scott, City of Daphne; Mayor Mike McMillan, City of Spanish Fort; Mayor Richard Teal, Town of Loxley; Commissioner Joe Davis, Baldwin County; Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, Baldwin County; Mr. Matt Ericksen, ALDOT
- **Members absent:** None
- **Others present:** Mrs. Sarah Sislak, MPO Coordinator; Mrs. Katrina Taylor, ESMPO Technician; Mr. Scott Mosley (Virtual); Mr. Rod Wilburn (Virtual); Mr. John Gardner (Virtual); Mr. Edwin Callicut (Virtual); Mr. Richard Johnson (Virtual); Mr. Wade Bonzon (Virtual); Mr. Rob Schiffer (Virtual); Mr. Edwin Perry; Mr. Troy Strunk; Mr. Guy Busby; Mr. Brandon Bias; Mr. Jim Zeigler; Dr. Lou Campomenosi; Mr. John Sharpe; Mr. Blake Brown; Mr. Chuck Brevik; Mr. Cliff McCollum; Mr. James Gordon; and Mr. James Watkins

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NOMINATION: By Councilmember Ron Scott to nominate Councilmember Jack Burrell as Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Joe Davis.

MOTION: By Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joe Davis.

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

NOMINATION: By Mayor Sherry Sullivan to nominate Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood as Vice Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Mayor Mike McMillan.

MOTION: By Councilmember Ron Scott. The motion was seconded by Mayor Richard Teal.

- Discussion: None
- Abstain: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Commissioner Joe Davis to approve the July 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor McMillan.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Action – Adopting 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (All)

Mrs. Sislak stated that J.R. Wilburn & Associates completed the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). She gave a presentation on the process of developing the LRTP and briefly went over data used and project lists. The LRTP was published for public comment from December 15, 2020 – January 5, 2021. MPO staff also held two public meetings regarding the 2045 LRTP. All comments received were formally addressed and included in the Appendix of the document.

MOTION: By Commissioner Davis to adopt the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Underwood.

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

2. Action – Adopting Statewide Performance Measures and Targets (All)

Mrs. Sislak stated that the Fixing Americas Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) requires that MPO Transportation Plans, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) include Performance Management Measures and Targets for urbanized areas. MPO staff had the option to develop their own targets, or adopt the statewide targets determined by ALDOT. MPO staff recommends the Policy Board adopt the statewide system performance measures and targets.

MOTION: By Mayor Sullivan to adopt the Statewide Performance Measures and Targets. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Scott.

- 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: 100072628 (TR) Federal aid number: PDFTA98 TR21; County: Baldwin; Project Description: Section 5307 Transit Cares Act Apportionment for Operating FY 2021; Target Start Date: 11/1/2020; Engineers Estimate: \$165,433.00
- Project: 100055816 (CN) Federal aid number: NH 1010; County: Baldwin; Project Description: Widening on I-10 from East End of Bayway to 0.5 Mile East of SR-181; Target Start Date: 7/28/2023; Engineers Estimate: \$17,877,979.67

MOTION: By Councilmember Scott to adopt the state amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program. The motion was seconded by Mayor McMillan.

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

4. Action – Amending FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (All)

Mrs. Sislak stated that the UPWP is the planning and administrative budget of the MPO and details the federally funded transportation planning activities to be undertaken in the Eastern Shore Urbanized Area in FY 2021 by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the Eastern Shore MPO. The Eastern Shore MPO Policy Board approved Resolution 2019-30 on September 25, 2019, which authorized the use of MPO Planning Funds for the development of Traffic Calming Guidelines by the City of Daphne. The study is still on-going and should be included in the FY21 UPWP. The UPWP was published for public comment from September 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020; no comments were received.

MOTION: By Commissioner Underwood to adopt the Amended FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. The motion was seconded by Mayor LeJeune.

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

5. Action – Appointing Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) (All)

Mrs. Sislak stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has vacant positions and MPO staff had received one application for the vacancies. Mrs. Coley Boone submitted an application to represent the City of Fairhope.

MOTION: By Mayor Sullivan to appoint Mrs. Coley Boone to the Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Mayor McMillan.

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

6. Discussion – Twin Beech Road and Boothe Road Intersection Improvements (All)

Mrs. Sislak explained that the City of Fairhope has requested the MPO discuss possible intersection improvements at the intersection of Twin Beech Road and Boothe Road.

- Discussion: The Board supported the use of MPO Planning funds to complete a study on the intersection.

7. Informational - MPO Coordinator's Report (All)

- ALDOT Project Update

Mr. Matt Ericksen provided ALDOT's project update:

- SR 181 Widening – northbound roadway work continuing with placing rock and earthwork south of SR-104, the traffic shift is anticipated in March/April, and the utility relocation is still underway. The project is expected to be complete end of 2021.
- US 31 – concrete items and subgrade work is ongoing. Anticipate having 4-lanes complete and open to traffic around middle of 2021. The current anticipated completion is August 2021.
- SR 181 and I-10, Diverging Diamond –operating since July 1. Continuing project items are placing permanent striping and RPM's, and inlet work at overpass, items should be completed in March 2021.
- Intersection Alignment at US 90/SR 59 – let to construction on 5/29/20. Utility relocations are ongoing and procuring signal poles expected late April. Anticipated intersection work will begin in March 2021.

- MPO Project Update:

- CR34 Signal – project is up and running on temporary poles, waiting for permanent poles to be installed.
- Fairhope Transit Project – MPO and City staff have been working with ALDOT and FTA to satisfy requirements before moving forward.
- Loxley Transit Project – MPO and City staff have been working with ALDOT and FTA on environmental and cultural document submissions. FTA has approved Loxley's NEPA and cultural analysis.

- Advisory Committee Vacancies
- Monthly Member "Spotlight"
- MPO Logo
- Planning and Development Update

Mrs. Katrina Taylor gave an update for 2020. The 2020 data presented by Mrs. Taylor is available on our website (easternshorempo.org) under Other Planning Documents.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Chairperson Jack Burrell discussed the need to meet with the Mobile MPO and jointly send a letter to Governor Ivey regarding the Mobile River Bridge project.

MOTION: By Councilmember Ron Scott to authorize Chairman Burrell to send letter. The motion was seconded by Mayor Sullivan.

- Discussion: Commissioner Davis strongly supported the existing Exit 35 and it was confirmed that this would be included in the projects scope. The Board supported the need of the project and the urgency to get the project moving forward again.
- Abstain: None
- In favor: All
- Opposed: None
- Result: Passed

NEXT MPO MEETINGS (All)

- **Policy Board Work Session:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021; 10:00 AM; Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse (Fairhope)
- **BPAC Meeting:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021; 9:00 AM; Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse (Fairhope)
- **CAC Meeting:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021; 1:00 PM; Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse (Fairhope)
- **TAC Meeting:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021; 10:00 AM; Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse (Fairhope)
- **Policy Board Meeting:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021; 10:00 AM; Baldwin County Satellite Courthouse (Fairhope)

PUBLIC FORUM (All)

- **Members of the Public:** Dr. Lou Campomenosi addressed the Board regarding the scope and funding of the Mobile River Bridge project. ALDOT did confirm that Exit 35 was included in the original project scope.
- **Members of the Press:** No comments
- **Board/Committee Members:** Mayor McMillan stated that the Board does need to open the correspondence with the state to move the Mobile River Bridge project forward. Councilmember Scott congratulated the new elected officers. Mayor LeJeune thanked MPO staff for their work for the City of Daphne's transit and planning support. Commissioner Davis congratulated the new elected officers. Chairman Burrell thanked the Board for the nomination and also the public and press for being in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT (All)

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.

 Date: 5/10/21
Jack Burrell, Chairperson