

EASTERN SHORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
POLICY BOARD SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
DAPHNE, ALABAMA  
June 9, 2021  
10:00 AM

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CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE/INVOCATION.

- 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 Mayor Sherry Sullivan.

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; Mr. Troy Strunk (Proxy for Councilmember Ron Scott) City of Daphne; Mayor Richard Teal, Town of Loxley; Commissioner Joe Davis III, Baldwin County; Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, Baldwin County; Mr. Matt Ericksen, ALDOT
- **Members absent:** Mayor Mike McMillan, City of Spanish Fort
- **Others present:** Mrs. Sarah Sislak, MPO Coordinator; Mr. Edwin Callicutt; Mr. Joe Womack; Mr. Edwin Perry; Mr. Guy Busby; Dr. Lou Campomenosi; Mr. Blake Brown; Mr. James Gordon; Mr. Wiley Blankenship; Mr. Mike Lee; Ms. Missi Shumer; Mr. Brooks Miller; Ms. Carol Wilson; Mr. Shane Perry; Mr. Tom Darman; Mr. Jay Broughton; Mr. Francis Ripp; Mr. Kevin Spriggs; Mr. Brent Rawson; Mr. Mark Colson; Mr. John Peterson; Ms. Paulette Fedor; Ms. Anne Brooks;

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Action** – Amending 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (**All**)  
Policy Board Chairman Jack Burrell explained that MPO staff, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation, had prepared an amendment to the 2045 LRTP to include the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway phased approach. Phase 1 to be included on the Financially Constrained List and Phase 3 to be included on the Visionary List. Mr. Chairman referenced the Resolution to be adopted that would amend the 2045 LRTP as stated. The group waived the reading of the Resolution.  
**MOTION:** By Mayor Sherry Sullivan to amend the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Joe Davis III.
  - Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that although the Policy Board is slated to amend the document to approve the project, there are many aspects of the project as presented that raises concerns for Board members. Consensus is that this is a starting point and the MPO and other entities reserve the right to make modifications and that the proposed scope is not set in stone, rather a starting point.
  - Abstain: None

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

**2. Action – Amending the FY20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (All)**

**MOTION:** By Mayor Sullivan to amend the FY20-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was seconded by Mayor Robin LeJeune.

- Discussion: Mr. Chairman opened the floor to Board comments. Mayor Sullivan shared concerns over approving Phase 1 only. She explained that she would like to pursue the total project. Mr. Matthew Ericksen with ALDOT Southwest Region explained that due to funding limitations, Phase 1 is the only portion that has funding identified, thus the only phase eligible to be added to the FY20-23 TIP. ALDOT will complete a toll revenue study with different toll scenarios with the parameters that were defined in the Amendment to determine if Phase 2 could potentially be added to the TIP. Mayor LeJeune discussed the opportunity to pursue additional funding through future transportation bills and explained that those opportunities cannot be pursued if the project is not on the TIP. The project needs to be added to the TIP to receive any federal funding. Mayor LeJeune also mentioned that the scope as proposed is not set in stone and the MPO has the prerogative to remove the project from the TIP at any time. Commissioner Davis referenced the August 2019 meeting where the board removed the original proposal for the project. He stated the scope is flexible and will allow us to pursue additional funds. He stated that the toll should be fair and equitable. Chairman Burrell clarified that existing/legacy routes will remain free and the toll would be optional. He echoed Mayor Sullivan's comments regarding the desire to build the project as one versus the phased approach. Mr. Chairman opened the floor to members of the public. The following members of the public addressed the Policy Board:

- Mrs. Casey Gay Williams
- Mr. Kevin Spriggs
- Dr. Lou Campomenosi
- Ms. Anne Brooks
- Mr. Kevin Harrison
- Mr. Mark Colson
- Mr. Mike Lee
- Ms. Paulette Fedor
- Mr. Charles Norflet
- Major Joe Womack

Commissioner Joe Davis discussed the opportunity to pursue federal funds and explained the project is an investment in our coastal community and it should be viewed as such. Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood echoed the sentiments of the need to pursue federal funds for this project but adding the project to the TIP is step one and is a required step. Commissioner Underwood stated that the MPO cannot be an obstacle and we need to help move the project forward in order to seek additional funding.

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

**NEXT MPO MEETINGS (All)**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM (All)**

- **Members of the Public:** No comments
- **Members of the Press:** No comments
- **Board/Committee Members:** No comments

**ADJOURNMENT (All)**

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Robin LeJeune. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.

  
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Billie Jo Underwood, Vice Chairperson

08/02/2021  
Date