

**MINUTES
MPO TECHNICAL STAFF
JACKSON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
CITY HALL – FIRST FLOOR BEN LANGFORD MEETING ROOM – 111 EAST MAIN STREET
MARCH 9, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.**

Staff/Others Present:

**Stan Pilant, Planning Director
Shelton Merrell, SWTDD
Ashley Owens, TDOT OCT
Thiera Taylor, TDOT OCT
Meghan Wilson, TDOT Local Programs**

**Cody Roberts, TDOT
Bart Walls, County Highway Department
Hannah Mathis, Planning Department
Austin Brown, Planning Department
Elizabeth McAlexander, Planning Department**

Stan Pilant, Chairman of the MPO Technical Staff, called the meeting to order upon making a determination of a quorum of members present. Mr. Pilant welcomed the public and officials in attendance and opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. There was no one present wishing to make a public comment. The minutes of November 17, 2022 were unanimously approved, contingent on correcting an error, on motion of Shelton Merrell and seconded by Bart Walls. Afterwards, Mr. Pilant began reviewing the agenda business items.

Adoption of PM2 and PM3 Safety Targets – Mr. Pilant presented the PM2 and PM3 Safety Targets to the Technical Staff. Annually, the MPO is required to create their own safety targets or adopt TDOT's safety targets. The MPO has chosen to adopt TDOT's safety targets to maintain consistency.

Afterwards, a motion was made by Shelton Merrell, seconded by Austin Brown to recommend approval of the PM2 and PM3 Safety Targets to the MPO Executive Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) – Mr. Pilant presented the amendment to the Technical Staff and stated that there is an overlapping year, 2023, that exists to cover the period of approving the new Transportation Improvement Plan. Currently, the state has approved two transportation projects, Airways Phase I and Airways Phase II. Covid relief funds that were received by the state will go towards funding the N/PED portion of the two projects, estimating around \$400,000. As a result, two amendments to the current 2020-2023 (TIP) are needed to obligate the funds by the end of September 2023.

Afterwards, a motion was made by Shelton Merrell, seconded by Bart Walls to recommend approval of the amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to the MPO Executive Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Updates – Cody Roberts, TDOT, was present to give an update on the following current projects:

1. Phase 3 of I-40 is almost complete.
2. The Hollywood overpass bridge is still being worked on and is projected to be completed by the end of May 2024.
3. There will be an upcoming resurfacing project on Highway 412 near the Country Club within the next year or two.

Bart Walls, County Highway Department, gave an update on the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) application that was submitted last September 2022. The federal government still hasn't announced the status of the application. Meetings have been held with TDEC to make adjustments to an application that was submitted in November 2022 for TDEC park funds. Also, another application was submitted for the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) to replace two more bridges on Allen Road and Britton Lane.

Afterwards, Mr. Pilant added that there have been efforts to fund a comprehensive stormwater study to address the excess stormwater. In addition, Mr. Pilant questioned if there would be enough funds for the study.

Bart stated that the question was presented to Nina Jones at a training held by TDEC and was noted that it would be taken into consideration.

Ashley Owens, TDOT, stated that Commissioner Eley will be speaking on the Build With Us Initiative at the upcoming MPO Executive Board meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023. The Transportation Planning grant should be released within the next six to twelve days. Also, TDOT has finalized the timeline for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (TEVI) funding.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.