

MPO MEETING

MARCH 10, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Wyatt, Vice Chairman
Lonnie Gregorecyk
Larry Blackwell
Randy Bena
Lynn Short
Tom Halepaska

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Wayne Dierlam, Chairman
Don Pozzi
Charles Windwehen

STAFF PRESENT:

Ray Miller, Deputy Director

1) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 9, 2008 meeting were approved as delivered.

2) Citizens Communication – None.

3) Consider Approval of the FY 2008 Project Listings

Mr. Miller noted that these are the projects that are ongoing in the Victoria MPO area the last fiscal year. The projects are: The finishing up of the expansion project in the east of Loop 463; Bridge reconstruction project on the western part of FM 237; Overlay maintenance project on SH 185; and Victoria Transits yearly operations.

Mr. Halepaska made a motion to approve the FY 2008 Listings. Mr. Short seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4) Consider Approval of Staff Recommendations for Victoria MPO's Economic Stimulus Dollars.

Mr. Miller noted that there was a letter submitted to TxDOT on January 22, 2009 for consideration of the proposed Economic Stimulus Package. The projects already had to be in the MPO plans; already have the environmental approval; and almost 90% completed and be ready to go to letting within 120 days.

Mr. Miller stated the first project listed was Loop 463 at Salem Road (FM 1315)-construct Grade Separation and completion of frontage roads. The estimated cost of the project is \$16.5 million. The second project was US 59 Business from Guadalupe River Bridge to Sam Houston/Delmar, which was pavement resurfacing project. The estimated cost of the project is \$6.5 million. The third project was Loop 463 (Zac Lentz Parkway) at Mockingbird Lane, construct Grade Separation and frontage roads. The estimated cost of the project is \$15.0 million. Mr. Miller noted that the fourth project is US 77 (Zac Lentz Parkway) from US 87 west to FM 1685, construct two additional lanes and additional river crossing. The estimated cost of the project is \$22 million.

Mr. Miller noted that the Victoria MPO will be receiving \$2.9 million dollars based on this package.

Mr. Miller noted that with the funding of Salem Road overpass looking grim TxDOT Yoakum Staff and Victoria MPO staff met on Friday, February 27, 2009 to discuss other possible projects to which the \$2.9 million could be applied. He stated that they looked at what would be “Visible projects”, projects that needed to improve safety, projects that offer a good return on the investment and that would not require amendments to the MPO plans. Mr. Miller stated a good note is that the funding does not have to be “let” for one year. He stated that the following projects were developed: 1) Signal and Intersection Improvements to US 87 and Tropical Drive. 2) Signal and pavement markings for Zac Lentz Parkway and Mockingbird Lane. 3) US 87/Main Street overlay from Rio Grande to Zac Lentz Parkway 4)US 87 & Conti Lane/Nursery Road, install new traffic signal and 5) Navarro Overlay Project.

Mr. Miller noted that these were the ideas that the staff and TxDOT developed and we wanted an action taken so we would be able to move forward. Mr. Gregorcyk noted that they had \$13 billion worth of projects for the state that could meet this timeline. He stated that we need to put the money that is coming directly to our MPO in the best spots. He noted that something needs to be done at the new schools regardless; we cannot open those schools without putting the proper turn lanes. This money gives us an avenue to accomplish this. Mr. Gregorcyk stated if the first two items on the list use all of the \$2.9 million, he wants to have an avenue to have another funding mechanism so that we use the stimulus money up.

Mr. Gregorcyk noted that the action the MPO Policy Committee should make a decision on how to allocate the \$2.9 million and asked to leave the Salem Road overpass in with 100% discretionary being the cost to the commission if they chose.

Mr. Wyatt asked how they should do the motion. Mr. Gregorcyk stated that they should commit the money that would be coming to the MPO to safety upgrades at the entrances to the schools, which would include signals, some pavement widening, and signage and then include another project which should include Conti Lane which would be part of that also. He noted then there should be another follow-up project to do pavement repair and resurfacing on Main Street. Mr. Wyatt asked if that was in the form of a motion. Mr. Gregorcyk stated yes.

Mr. Halepaska approved the motion. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5) Transportation Program Reports

a) Victoria Transit

Mr. Miller noted that the Fixed Route is staying consistent. It has dropped to 16,000 per month. He noted that is tied to the cost of fuel. He stated that the evening service is about 7,000 per month. Mr. Miller reported that transit also received stimulus money which will be used for bus replacement.

b) Victoria Regional Airport

Mr. Blackwell reported that they are going to do repairs to crack ceiling, joint ceiling, and pavement repair for the taxiways beginning the middle of April which should take about 90 days.

Mr. Blackwell noted that for air service the Texas Department of Transportation is going to put out an RFP in April or maybe the first part of May. He stated those are two year contracts with a carrier to provide service. Mr. Blackwell stated by the end of June they will know who will be flying the route. He also noted that the Air Show would be April 4 and 5th. He stated that they would be having booths and activities for all ages. The Admission is \$5.00.

c) TxDOT Projects

Mr. Bena noted there are no projects right now.

6) Items from MPO members.

Mr. Wyatt stated that the Councilmen appreciate the relationship that they have had with TxDOT over the years and noted they are easy to work and they appreciate that. Mr. Bena noted that they feel the same way. Mr. Wyatt stated to Mr. Bena that it is a blessing to have them here to work with us.

Mr. Gregorcyk noted that Mr. Miller made several trips to Austin and this has been fast and furious with our economy and at TxDOT there ~~are layoffs going on~~ was **reduction in staff due to attrition**. He stated that the President and Congressman were adamant that they get these jobs done. He stated with the MPO and the other MPO's across the state there was great effort and coordination.

7) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Approved: _____
Jim Wyatt, Vice-Chairman
Victoria Metropolitan Planning Organization