

# MPO SPECIAL MEETING

**MAY 5, 2009**

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jim Wyatt, Vice Chairman  
Lonnie Gregorcyk  
Randy Bena  
Charles Windwehen  
Tom Halepaska  
Don Pozzi  
Lynn Short

## **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Wayne Dierlam, Chairman  
Larry Blackwell

## **STAFF PRESENT:**

Ray Miller, Deputy Director

### **1) Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the regular meeting March 10, 2009 were approved as corrected. The March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, page 3 was corrected to change a sentence from , “there are layoffs going on” to “there was reduction in staff due to attrition.”

### **2) Citizen Communication**

Mr. B.J. Davis, 410 Iron Gate, expressed his concern about the situation at Hwy. 87 and the new schools. He was concerned about the congestion at Nursery Drive. Mr. Windwehen asked what traffic problem he was speaking of on Nursery Drive. Mr. Davis noted that his concern was with Tropical Drive. Mr. Gregorcyk reported that as far as the Planning issues he would need to speak with Mr. Miller, but that there was stimulus money for highway projects that came to this MPO. He noted that one of the projects that was earmarked was Tropical Drive and it would entail a signal and also some widening of the intersection as well as the main lanes.

Mr. Bena stated that there has been some discussion about closing an intersection of Nursery Drive and the frontage road by the store and also about closing another part of Nursery Drive. Mr. Bena then asked Mr. Davis what it was that he wanted to do. Mr. Davis suggested instead of closing Railwood and cutting people off of Woodway, to maybe leaving it open and leaving the other entrance into Woodway open, but killing the street between that and the two houses on Tropical Drive. He stated but when the Fire Department would have to get to Tropical Drive, they would have to get on the highway and come around. Mr. Davis stated another suggestion he had was to go to Ball Airport Road and put in the crossover at the railroad track so that people coming down Nursery Drive can turn and get on the highway before they get to the light and eliminate some of that traffic.

Mr. Bena stated that the opening of the school would change the intersection of Tropical Drive and Nursery Drive and Tropical Drive and Hwy. 87 and the crossing of the railroad track. It will attract people to use that intersection that are not using it today. Mr. Bena noted that is a concern. Mr. Miller noted that the staff needed to take a look a that area based on the

Railwood Closure. Mr. Wyatt stated to Mr. Davis that Mr. Miller would be his contact person.

**3) Consider Approving a Resolution of Support for Joint submittal of an application for the 2009 Pass-Through Financing Program by the City of Victoria, Victoria County, TxDOT's Yoakum District and the Victoria MPO for the construction of overpasses along Zac Lentz Parkway at Salem Road and Mockingbird Lane.**

Mr. Miller noted that this item is the reason there was a special meeting on this date. He reported that this item is to consider approval of a resolution supporting the submittal of a Pass-Through Financing Proposal to the TxDOT for overpasses along Zac Lentz Parkway at Salem Road and Mockingbird Lane and pledging a financial commitment. Mr. Miller stated that they needed to submit a proposal to the 2009 Call for Projects for the TxDOT Pass-Through Financing Program. The proposal would be for the construction of grade separations along Zac Lentz Parkway at the intersections of Salem Road and Mockingbird Lane. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$27.7 million. Mr. Miller reported that the City of Victoria would issue Debt for the total construction cost of the project and seek reimbursement from TxDOT over a 10-year period for the general construction cost of the project. He stated that the City and County of Victoria would share the financing and interest charges for the issuance of debt. The estimated financing charges for the \$27.7 would be \$7.3 million over the 10 years of the payback schedule.

Mr. Miller noted that the reason for this proposal is safety. It would allow the region to move much needed projects forward. There would be an overall cost savings of constructing both overpasses together of \$5-6 million.

Mr. Pozzi made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for Joint submittal of an application for the 2009 Pass-Through Financing Program by the City of Victoria, Victoria County, TxDOT's Yoakum District and the Victoria MPO. Mr. Halepaska seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**4) Transportation Program Reports**

Mr. Miller reported that he would give a report on Transit at the next MPO meeting.

**5) Items from MPO members.**

Mr. Short stated he wanted to discuss the \$3.1 million project which is lane changes on US 87 at Tropical and the signal at Tropical Drive and the signal at Nursery and US 87 and also the signal at Mockingbird and Loop 463. He stated that since that last discussion they had a meeting with City staff, and TxDOT. He noted a railroad preemption has come up that also needs to be installed at US 87 and Nursery intersection. He stated it was not in the original scope of work and could possibly delay the project if it is made a part of that project. Mr. Bena stated the project for the three signals and the paving work that needs to be done is scheduled to let in October. He reported that the railroad preemption would take longer than October. He stated what they were proposing to do is to go ahead and put the project together to do all of the rest of the work and leave the railroad preemption at Nursery Drive. The railroad preemption would be done when the agreement is finalized.

This MPO meeting was Mr. Wyatt's last meeting. Mr. Pozzi thanked him for his outstanding service on the MPO committee as well as the other boards he has served on.

**6) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Jim Wyatt, Vice Chairman  
Victoria Metropolitan Planning Organization**