Regional Transportation Planning Committee

August 29, 2016
10:00 a.m.

Board Room
Center for Regional Services
3991 East 29th Street
Bryan, Texas

Minutes

Attendees
- Michael Parks – BVCOG
- Travis Halm – BVCOG
- Billy Lighty – Robertson County
- Dan Rudge-Bryan/ College Station MPO
- Wendy Weedon- Brazos Transit District
- Sarah Santoy-Brazos Transit District
- Jackie Pacha- BVCIL
- Don Werth-Washington County
- Shirly Nutall Heads- MHMR
- Margaret Quinn-Robertson County
- Bart Benthul- Bryan/College Station MPO
- Byron Ryder- Leon County
- Paul Kaspar- City of Bryan
- Ronnie Gipson- BVAAA
- Lori Lakatos- City of Brenham
- Greg Blake- Grimes County

1. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
Judge Byron Ryder began the meeting at 10:05am with the pledge. Travis Halm led the invocation

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Discussion and Action on meeting minutes from May 26, 2016
Ms. Wendy Weedon moved to approve minutes
Ms. Jackie Pacha seconded
Motion approved unanimously.

- Speaker: Daniel Rudge, Bryan-College Station MPO

Mr. Daniel Rudge, BCSMPO, presented the MPO’s 2050 plan concept and public involvement plan. Mr. Rudge stated that there will be 10 public involvement meetings throughout Brazos
County regarding this plan. Mr. Rudge added that the outer east loop could likely facilitate I-14 through Bryan/College Station.

Mr. Michael Parks, BVI COG, added that additional bridges into Grimes and Burleson County are noted in the plan.

Ms. Margaret Quinn, Robertson County, inquired if there was a phasing plan included in this thoroughfare concept.

Mr. Rudge replied that there was no phasing and that this is an initial concept map.

Mr. Paul Kaspar, City of Bryan and MPO Technical Committee member, added that the emphasis of the concept plan is to promote connectivity. Bringing this plan to the RPO/COG is to encourage connectivity to areas outside of the MPO.

Mr. Rudge also added that a dotted line on the map means that it would likely be located within a mile of where it is located, but is far from permanent or exact.

Mr. Travis Halm, BV COG, asked Mr. Rudge to clarify some of the logic behind road concept lines outside of Brazos County.

Mr. Rudge answered that all are based on standard highway guidelines set by the federal government, and standard distances between each type of road.

Mr. Kaspar added that existing infrastructure played a major role in the design of the concept map.

Mr. Kaspar also added that this thoroughfare concept could also inspire a COG-wide thoroughfare plan to ensure continuity in the region with Bryan-College Station, along with neighboring regions that have significance to Bryan-College Station.

Mr. Rudge added that he is here to encourage feedback, and encourages future collaboration with a COG-wide thoroughfare plan.

5. Presentation, Discussion & Potential Action: Fort Worth to Houston Corridor Expressway Concept
   • Speaker: Daniel Rudge, Bryan-College Station MPO

Mr. Daniel Rudge, BCS MPO, presented to the COG a proposed concept of an expressway corridor from the western Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to Houston, via Waco and Bryan/College Station.

Mr. Rudge added that the corridor idea was brought to his attention by other MPO directors because of increased interest in another corridor by trucking companies located in Houston and the DFW area. Many trucking companies follow “Just-in-time” (JIT) logistics for goods, and average delays on I-45 and/or SH6 add 2-3 hours of delay per delivery, making JIT delivery difficult and nearly impossible.

Mr. Billy Lighty, Robertson County, inquired of the impact upon the Mumford railyard.
Mr. Rudge added that their freight movement has been included in initial planning thoughts regarding this conceptual plan.

Mr. Rudge added that BVCOG will be needed to be an equal partner in this process since the project would require going through areas that are only covered by BVCOG and no other MPO. He added that HOTCOG, which surrounds the Waco area, will also need to be included in additional planning efforts for the concept to be studied further.

Ms. Margaret Quinn, Robertson County, added that the COG’s Homeland Security Program should also be included.

Mr. Rudge added that that would be a valuable asset, but maybe not yet at this juncture.

Mr. Michael Parks, BVCOG, stated that BVCOG has taken a significant stand in planning efforts to think ahead instead of reactive. Other projects that BVCOG has participated in planning efforts include I-14, I-69, SH 249 and Highway 36A.

Ms. Jackie Pacha, BVCIL, asked the likelihood of success for the project without TxDOT.

Mr. Rudge said that this project likely would not reach very far without TxDOT, but this initial push by local governments could help aid TxDOT to assist.

**MOTION: Allow BVCOG to work with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization, Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Heart of Texas Council of Governments in future planning efforts regarding the Houston to Ft. Worth Expressway Concept.**

Ms. Wendy Weedon, Brazos Transit District motioned.

Ms. Margaret Quinn, Robertson County seconded.

Motion was approved unanimously.

6. **Presentation and Discussion: Health and Human Service Transportation Plan Update**  
   - **Travis Halm, Brazos Valley Council of Governments**

Mr. Travis Halm presented a final presentation of Phase II of the Health and Human Service Plan Update. Mr. Halm presented the gaps and needs identified through the planning process, which included visits to all seven counties and numerous agencies within Bryan/College Station.

Ms. Wendy Weedon, Brazos Transit District, requested clarification of the transportation plan, in regards to being Health and Human Service Transportation only.

Mr. Travis Halm responded by saying the Project Grant Agreement (contract) through TxDOT states a series of populations (Persons with disabilities, elderly persons, at-risk children.. etc.) are the main focus of the plan, and that copies of the PGA are available for anyone who requests that information regarding the scope of work under this TxDOT planning grant.
7. Announcements from member agencies/ municipalities
Mr. Byron Ryder, Leon County, stated that a CBS article claimed Leon County, TX was one of the ten most dangerous counties for highways in America.

Mr. Travis Halm showed the article on the screen.

8. Next meetings:
   - RTPC: November 16 (Tentative)
   - Workgroup: September 19, 1:30pm, Brazos Room A

9. Adjournment