

TSAC Minutes April 12, 2017

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Mike Caruso
Mr. Ja' Cory Clark
Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith
Mr. Ralph Davila
Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Susan Edmisson
Mr. David Glockzin
Dr. Eleanor Green (Ms. Heather Quiram)
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Clint Magill
Mr. Chris Nygren

Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Mr. Landon Woods
Ms. Deborah Wright

Guests:

Dr. Tim Lomax
Ms. Madison Metsker-Galarza
Mr. Christian Trevino

Absent:

Dr. Zachary Grasley
Dr. Rajesh Miranda
Dr. CJ Woods

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:50 am, and asked for a review of the minutes from the March 1, 2017 meeting. Dr. Angie Price moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Mike Caruso seconded; minutes approved.
2. Dr. Tim Lomax gave a presentation on the Bush/Wellborn Crossing project. See presentation at: <https://www.bwx-bcs.org/>. TxDOT contracted with Texas A&M TTI to review construction options, make additional recommendations, and to develop and implement additional public and agency engagement efforts. Dr. Lomax spent time discussing the project goals, development, and design.
 - 2.1. Mr. Caruso asked how close the design would be to the indoor track, and if it would affect the sidewalk. Dr. Lomax answered that the sidewalk would remain and would be enhanced in the bicycle/pedestrian level.
 - 2.2. Mr. Chris Nygren asked if there was any reason pedestrian walks were not on both sides. Dr. Lomax said it was difficult to accommodate at roadway level, and furthermore, no way to make such walks ADA accessible.
 - 2.3. Dr. Price commented that having people U-turn at Olsen would cause traffic problems there. Similarly, Mr. Landon Woods thought traffic would back up at The Callaway House. Dr. Lomax agreed, and commented that the proposal doesn't solve all congestion problems. The design is not freeway-to-freeway intersection, but the intent is to free up Wellborn congestion.
 - 2.4. There was some general Q&A about turning and merging lanes.
 - 2.5. Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith asked about drainage after heavy rainfall. Dr. Lomax said there was a system of redundant pumps. They initially looked at a gravity drain, but they would have to run the drains too far to make it work.
 - 2.6. Mr. Nygren asked if there would be staircases, and Dr. Lomax said they were being worked into the plan. Dr. Price suggested that they re-look positioning of staircases overall.

- 2.7. There was some general discussion about how businesses would be affected. Dr. Lomax said those issues were part of the right-of-way negotiations.
- 2.8. Dr. Lomax mentioned that Texas A&M leadership and College Station leadership were in discussion about the timeline, impact, and dollars available. Ultimately, the monies available for the project will drive the timeline and scope of the project.
- 2.9. Dr. Lomax discussed the upcoming “Diverging Diamond Interchange” plans to reduce congestion at FM 60 (Raymond Stotzer Parkway) and FM 2818 (Harvey Mitchell Parkway). See: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/bryan/fm60.html>. He said they will work the timing so traffic is not affected by both projects simultaneously.
- 2.10. Mr. Christian Trevino wanted to know when the Union Pacific Railroad planned to expand and how it would affect the project. Dr. Lomax said the railroad wanted the expansion worked into the plan even though they don’t have expansion plans or a timeline yet.
- 2.11. Dr. Price asked if there were alternate routes for emergency vehicles. Dr. Lomax responded that those routes would run through neighborhoods.
- 2.12. Mr. Caruso asked about a timeline for the final design. Dr. Lomax said the final design would be submitted in the Summer/Fall 2018. He said the best case scenario for starting the project would be 2022.
- 2.13. Mr. Nygren mentioned that it would be a good idea to have detailed plans out to the community well ahead of time, and to make sure signage was out, communications plan, etc. Dr. Lomax said they were in the process of conducting community meetings across a broad spectrum, and the presentation and a questionnaire for the public could be found at: <https://www.bwx-bcs.org/>.
- 2.14. Mr. Landon asked if there was any hope of including the Olsen intersection in the project to alleviate the potential problems mentioned. Dr. Lomax said they are working computer models to make sure they address such problems and do their best to solve them.

6. Mr. Lange concluded the meeting at 12:55 pm.

Next TSAC Meeting: Wednesday, May 3, 2017, 11:30 am, Rudder Tower 301