

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
CAPITAL REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
TUESDAY, 04.30.2024 | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | CRPC CONFERENCE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Skip Paul called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Technical Advisory Committee Members Present: (19)

Skip Paul, Chris Daigle, Kevin Durbin, **Randy Delatte**, Jamie Etheridge, Mary Gourdon, Kyle Grace, Detra Ingram, Gerard Landry, Sarah Moss, Codi Neyland, Sooraz Patro, Blaine Rabalais, Theodore Richards, Cheri Soileau, Kathy Sites, Jonathan (JT) Taylor, David Touns, Darnell Waites.

The meeting was also attended by: (5)

Connie Fabre (GBRIA), Jim Gilbert (Councilman-DS), Vance Baldwin (EBR Plan), Chad Bacas (F&T), Skyler Watson (APG).

CRPC Staff: (10)

Vinny Braud, Maryann Ettinger, Carlinton Jones, Bria Lee-Hicks, Mishuk Majumder, Woodrow Muhammad, Kenyatta Roberson, Chris Shalohm, Tiffany Sweeney, Dana Weidman.

1. INTRODUCTION/QUORUM

Skip Paul-TAC Chairman

All made introductions. Roll was recorded and a quorum was established. Mr. Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Mr. Paul asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the January 30, 2024, meeting. Hearing none, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by David Touns and seconded by Gerard Landry. Without objection so moved.

3. ACTION ITEMS

A) TIP FY (2023-2026) Amendments – Highway Projects

- *None*

B) TIP FY (2023-2026) Amendments – Transit Projects

- *None*

4. NON-ACTION ITEMS

A) TIP FY 2023-2026 Administrative Modifications – Highway Projects

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Project #	Modifications
H.015126	Baker Blvd Improvements: LA 19 to McHugh Rd. Change Project Name from Baker Blvd Improvements: LA 19 to McHugh Rd to <i>Baker Blvd and Bentley Dr. Improvements.</i>
H.005121	LA1/LA 415 Connector– (ROW) moved from FY 23 to FY 25
H.013793	Germany Rd Widening (US 61 – LA 44) – (ROW) moved from FY 23 to FY 24; (Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
H.013850	Duplessis Rd Widening (US 61 – LA 73) – (ROW) moved from FY 23 to FY 24; (Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
H.014171	LA 30 (Nicholson Dr) Cleaning & Grubbing – (Const.) moved from FY 23 to FY 25)
H.014407	LA 621 at Roddy Rd – (Util) moved from FY 23 to FY 25; ; (Const.) moved from FY 24 to FY 26
H.014409	LA 933 at Joe Sevario Rd – (Util.) moved from FY 23 to FY 25; (Const.) moved from FY 24 to FY 26
H.014422	LA 931 at Roddy Rd & Joe Sevario Rd. – (Const.) moved from FY 23 to FY 25
H.014918	LA 73 Rbt @ Bluff Rd Connector – (Util. + ROW + Const.) moved from FY 23 to FY 25
H.015163	Aydell Ln Bridge Replacement - (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 23 to FY 24
H.015102	Centerville St NW Improvements – (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 23 to FY 24

Project #	Modifications
H.015106	Lafiton Ln Pavement Preservation – (Const.) moved from FY 23 to FY 25; (Engr.) moved from FY 24 to FY 25
H.002829	LA 30 /Nicholson Dr: Brightside to Gourrier – (Const.) moved from FY 23 to FY 25
*	Rosedale Ln @ LA 415 – (Envi.) moved from FY 23 to FY 25; (Util.) moved from FY 24 to FY 25; (Const.) moved from FY 24 to FY 26
H.015661	Bass Pro Blvd Improvements – (ROW.) moved from FY 24 to FY 25; (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
*	Commercial Dr (Install Guardrails) – (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 24 to FY 25
H.015104	Greenwell Springs Rd @ Morgan Rd Rbt – (ROW) moved from FY 24 to FY 25; (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
*	LA 1 Pavement Preservation – (Const.) moved from FY 24 to FY 25
*	LA 447 Access Management – (ROW) moved from FY 24 to FY 25
H.015107	Intersection Improvement @ LA73/LA74 Rbt. – (ROW) moved from FY 24 to FY 26; (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
H.015097	US 61 Superstreet (Lowe's Ave to LA 44) – (Const.) moved from FY 24 to FY 26
H.011843	S. Sherwood Forest Blvd Superstreet Mod. – (Const.) moved from FY 24 to FY 26

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*	LA 427/Perkins Rd @ LA 928 Rbt. – (ROW) moved from FY 24 to FY 26; (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
*	Hubbs Rd Improvements – (Util.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
H.015101	US 61 Superstreet (Lowes Ave @ LA 44 Rbt.) – (Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
*	Bridgtside Rd Pavement Preservation – (Const.) moved from FY 25 to FY 26
H.013555	Pendarvis Ln Improvements Ph II – (Util. + Const.) moved from FY 26 to FY 25

Authorized Projects within current TIP FY 23 – FY 26

H.012232	LA 3064 to LA 1248 Ph II (Const.) \$14.41M
H.014171	LA 30 Nicholson Dr Clearing & Grubbing (ROW) \$12.56M
H.014371	Plaquemine Riverfront Rec Trail Ph 3 & 4 (Const.) \$1.14M
H.015142	Planchet Rd Improvements (Util. + Const.) \$647K
H.014642	PR 929 Overlay: US 61 – LA 42 (Const.) \$1.18M
H.014419	E. Railroad Ave Improvements (Const.) \$219K

Net Sum Authorized: \$30.18M

There followed general discussion regarding funding for state highways within a parish. Are parishes required to use funds available through DOTD? If so, how are they requested. It was suggested that the TAC develop a Task Group to include Parish and DOTD representatives to identify potential projects and how parishes should go about requesting funds. A motion to put together a Task Force consisting of 4-5 representatives made up of the TAC Chairman and parish representatives to address these issues was made by Darnell Waites and seconded Mary Gourdon. Without objection, so moved.

The following members were assigned to the Task Force:

- Skip Paul, TAC Chairman
- Gerard Landry, Mayor of Denham Springs
- J.T. Taylor, Mayor of Livingston
- David Toups, Mayor of Addis
- Chris Daigle, Iberville Parish President

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B) Transportation Improvement Program (2023-2026) Modifications – Transit Projects

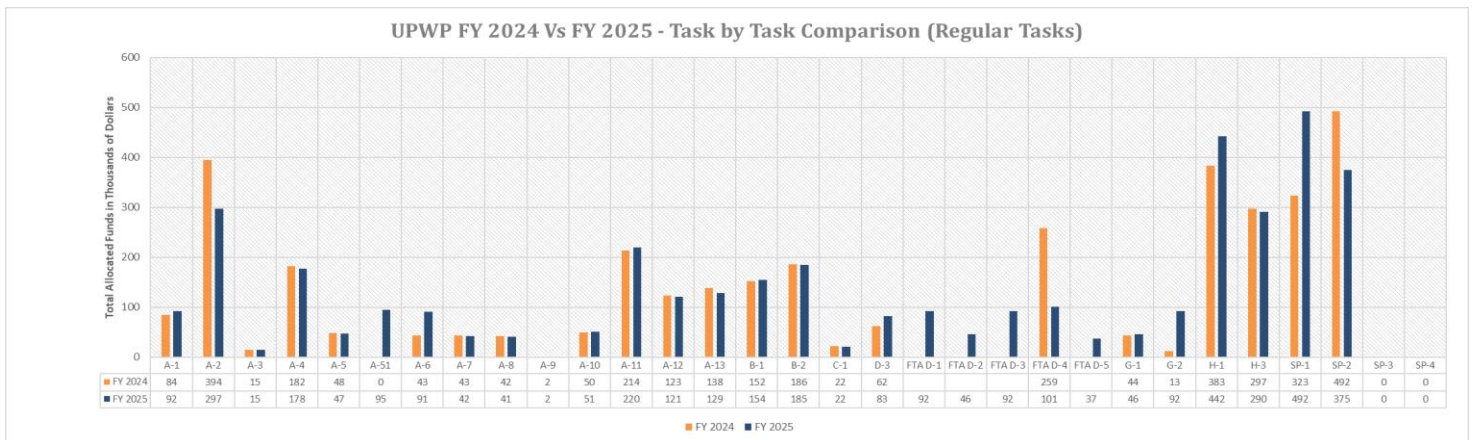
Modification for FY 2022 (STP>200K)

- Reprogram, “from”: FY 2022 STP>200K Rolling Stock, 35’ Electric Buses (BRT); Total Funding \$1.7m, Federal Funding: \$1.36m, Local Funding: \$340K @80/20 match; “to” FY 2022 STP>200K Plank Road BRT, North Transfer Center, Total Funding: \$1.7m, Federal Funding: \$1.36m, Local Funding: \$340K @80/20 match.

Modification for FY 2023 (FTA 5307)

- Reprogram, “from”: FY 2023 5307 Transit center/Hub Improvements, Transit Center/Hub Improvements (North Transit Center), Total Funding \$1.817m, Federal Funding: \$1.454m, Local Funding: \$363K @80/20 match; “to” FY 2023 FTA 5307 Rolling Stock, 35’ Electric Buses (BRT), Total Funding: \$1.817m, Federal Funding: \$1.454m, Local Funding: \$363K @80/20 match.

C) Unified Planning Work Program FY 2025 (Draft)



- FHWA PL funds allocation for BRMPO **increased** by 4%.
- FTA PL funds allocation for BR MPO **increased** by 66% owing to advent of new funding allocation.
- Sub-task funding allocation **increased** for PL A-1 (Citizen Participation/Public Outreach); PL A-51 (Complete Streets Planning Activities); PL A-6 (Air Quality/Environment Planning); PL G-1 (Highway Administration); PL D-3 (Technical Assistance); TDM H-3 (Travel Demand Management); and FTA (Transit Planning)
- Sub-task funding allocation **decreased** for: PL A-2 (Congestion Management); PL A-5 (Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning); PL A-9 (Model Enhancement); PL A-11 (Transportation Plans & Programs); PL A-12 (Multi-modal Freight Transportation); PL A-13 (Database Management); and SP-2 (SS4A Action Plan)
- Overall UPWP Budget **increased** by 10%.

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Task Code	Task Name	Total Funds	FHWA PL	SPR	CATS PL	FTA 5303, 5310, 5311	Other Federal Funds	DEMO STIC	HISPPEN	STP>200K	Local Match
Task A-1	Citizen Participation and Public Outreach	92,337	73,870								18,467
Task A-2	Congestion Management (Hwy)	297,013	237,610								59,403
Task A-4	Performance Based Planning and Programming	177,753	142,202								35,551
Task A-5	Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning	46,913	37,530								9,383
Task A-51	Complete Streets Planning Activities (@100%)	94,661	94,661								0
Task A-6	Air Quality / Environmental Planning	90,815	72,652								18,163
Task A-7	Regional ITS Architecture	41,930	33,544								8,386
Task A-8	Title VI Planning	40,683	32,547								8,137
Task A-9	Model Enhancement	1,500	1,200								300
Task A-10	Safety and Security Planning	51,488	41,190								10,298
Task A-11	Transportation Plans & Programs	219,814	175,851								43,963
Task A-12	Multi-Modal Freight Transportation	121,338	97,071								24,268
Task A-13	Data Base Mapping	128,570	102,856								25,714
Task B-1	Land Use and S-E-E	154,467	123,574								30,893
Task B-2	Inventory and Performance Monitoring	185,089	148,071								37,018
Task C-1	Plan Reappraisal (Hwy)	21,582	17,266								4,316
Task D-3	Technical Assistance (Hwy)	82,792	66,233								16,558
Task G-1	Administration (Hwy)	45,672	36,537								9,134
Planning Total		1,894,416	1,534,465	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	359,951
Task A-3	Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan	15,000				15,000	0				0
FTA D-1	General Development and Comprehensive Planning (Transit)	92,039				73,631					18,408
FTA D-2	Long Range Transportation Planning (System/Project level)	46,020				36,816					9,204
FTA D-3	Transportation Improvement Plan (Transit)	92,039				73,631					18,408
Task D-4	Short Range Transportation Planning (Transit)	101,243			0	80,995					20,249
FTA D-5	Other Activities (Transit)	36,816				29,453					7,363
Task G-2	Program Support and Administration (Transit)	92,039				73,631					18,408
Transit Total		475,196	0	0	0	383,157	0	0	0	0	92,040
Task H-1	Travel Demand Management/Rideshare	442,000									442,000
Task H-3	Regional Strategic Highway Safety Plan Implementation	290,483							290,483		0
Task SP-1	Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG - Year 2)	492,000					492,000				0
Task SP-2	Safe Streets and Roads For All Action Plan (SS4A)	375,000					300,000			0	75,000
Other Total		1,599,484	0	0	0	0	792,000	0	290,483	0	517,000
Grand Total		3,969,096	1,534,465	0	0	383,157	792,000	0	290,483	0	968,991

D) CRPC Activity Update

- **Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant (SS4A): Local Match Agreements + Next Steps**

- On February 1, 2023, CRPC was awarded \$480,000 for developing A Regional Safety Action Plan. The Local Match is \$120,000 (split among the 5-Parishes based on population. Total funds for Action Plan is \$600,000
- Staff have relayed Local Match Agreements to all five Parishes to avail the local match. (WBR has signed, while rest four Parishes, agreement is awaiting approval)
- CRPC worked with FHWA-LA Division in finalizing the SS4A agreement. (Agreement signed on June 2023) Staff anticipates developing the Action Plan in consultation with all local entities by June 30, 2024.
- The Action Plan will help leverage all entities within the 5-Parish region to apply for Implementation grants for projects identified within the Action Plan.
- Staff developed Scope of Work and issued RFP on June 9, 2023, and received two proposals at the end of deadline (June 30, 2023)
- CSAP Selection Committee reviewed and scored the two proposals and issued the contract to Neel Schaffer Inc. on August 1, 2023.
- CRPC Staff completed the first round of public engagement in the month of December 2023. The second round of public engagement was completed in February 2024.

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- Currently, staff and consultants are conducting Stakeholder Interviews with local jurisdictions. We have completed interviews with: City of Central, Livingston Parish, City of Baker, Downtown Development District, CATS etc. We anticipate conducting interviews with EBR next.
- **Pavement and Asset Data Collection (PADC) (IBR Parish Fugro Analytics)**
 - Staff has developed initial analytics from the Fugro pavement and asset data for IBR Parish. The next steps include holding a Parish leadership meeting to showcase the analysis.
 - Staff have contracted with Fugro to provide cloud services for the data/video logs for member entity access. (Approval from LADOTD -Planning Division)
- **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant**
 - Staff applied for CPRG for the Baton Rouge MSA on May 31, 2023.
 - Staff received a request for additional information from EPA Region VI on July 19, 2023. Staff responded on July 27, 2023.
 - Staff received further documentation and information from EPA Region VI on August 15, 2023, and responded on August 21, 2023.
 - CPRG Grant Timeline: Augst 1, 2023 through July 31, 2027. (4 years) for total grant amount of \$1M.
 - Key grant deliverables:
 - Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) – Due March 2, 2024
 - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) – due 2 years from grant award (summer-fall 2025)
 - Status Report – due 4 years from award (summer 2027)
 - Staff issued an RFP for CPRG Action Plan on December 18, 2023 and received two proposals. The CPRG RFP Selection Committee reviewed and selected Sustainability Solutions Group USA Inc. & Co as the preferred consultant on January 19, 2023. A kickoff meeting was held with SSG on Tuesday January 23, 2024.
 - Staff sent formal email notification to finalize CPRG Action Plan Review Committee on January 24, 2024.
 - Staff submitted Baton Rouge MSA’s CPRG QAPP on January 26, 2024 and submitted PCAP on March 1, 2024. We received confirmation that both the QAPP and PCAP were approved by EPA.
 - Logo/branding is complete (April 2024).
 - Next Steps: Initiate work on CCAP. Conduct Pre-engagement interviews with identified stakeholders and finalize engagement interviews from selected list.

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- **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)**

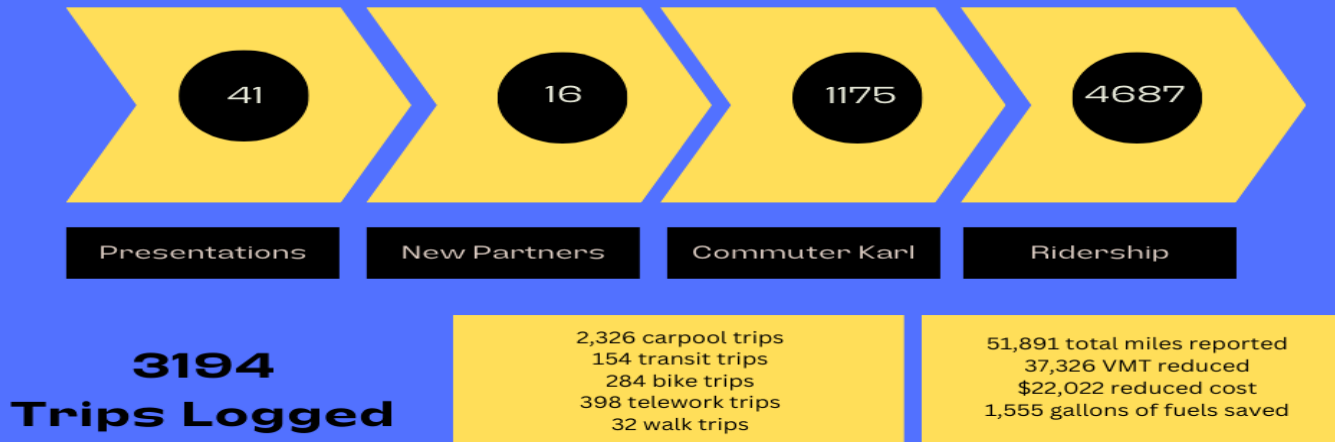
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established CRP to provide funds for projects designed to reduce transportation emissions (COx) from on-road highway sources.
- BR MPO will receive ~\$1.9M apportionment every year starting FY 2022. Currently, CRPC has \$3.91M immediately available for funding projects.
- Eligible Projects:
 - a project described in 23 U.S.C. 149(b)(4) to establish or operate a traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program, including advanced truck stop electrification systems.
 - a public transportation project eligible under 23 U.S.C. 142.
 - a transportation alternative (as defined under the Moving Ahead for Progress under the 21st Century Act [23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29), as in effect on July 5, 2012]), including, but not limited to, the construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation.
 - a project described in 23 U.S.C. 503(c)(4)(E) for advanced transportation and congestion management technologies.
 - deployment of infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems capital improvements and the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communications equipment.
 - a project to replace street lighting and traffic control devices with energy-efficient alternatives.
 - development of a carbon reduction strategy developed by a State per requirements in 23 U.S.C. 175(d).
 - a project or strategy designed to support congestion pricing, shifting transportation demand to nonpeak hours or other transportation modes, increasing vehicle occupancy rates, or otherwise reducing demand for roads, including electronic toll collection, and travel demand management strategies and programs.
 - efforts to reduce the environmental and community impacts of freight movement.
 - a project that supports deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, including–
 - acquisition, installation, or operation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure or hydrogen, natural gas, or propane vehicle fueling infrastructure; and
 - purchase or lease of zero-emission construction equipment and vehicles, including the acquisition, construction, or leasing of required supporting facilities.
 - a project described in 23 U.S.C. 149(b)(8) for a diesel engine retrofit.
 - certain types of projects to improve traffic flow that are eligible under the CMAQ program, and that do not involve construction of new capacity; [§ 11403; 23 U.S.C. 149(b)(5); and 175(c)(1)(L)]
 - a project that reduces transportation emissions at port facilities, including through the advancement of port electrification; and
 - any other STBG-eligible project, if the Secretary certifies that the State has demonstrated a reduction in transportation emissions, as estimated on a per capita and per unit of economic

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output basis. (Note: FHWA will issue guidance on how the Secretary will make such certifications.) [§ 11403; 23 U.S.C. 133(b) and 175(c)(2)]

- Staff issued a Call for Projects for CRP on December 13, 2023, and a reminder email was sent on January 24, 2024.
- We received one application from City of Gonzales and anticipate fresh applications from City of Central, BREC/EBR combine etc.
- Key Dates:
 - **December 13:** First Notification for Call for Projects (CRP)
 - **January 30:** Deadline to Request Assistance for Required Emissions Analysis
 - **February 10:** Deadline to Request Technical Assistance from BR MPO Staff
 - **February 29:** Deadline for Application Submission including requisite supporting materials/documents
 - **March 8:** Review by CRP Selection Committee
 - **March 20:** Final CRP applications approval by TPC
- **Status of Current TIP Projects (Highway)**
 - Staff received H#'s for the following TIP projects:
 - None
 - Staff submitted Stage-0 documentation for the following TIP projects:
 - None
- **Micro-transit and Vanpool Feasibility Study**
 - During the last quarter of the year (2023) the Commuter Krewe team participated in community events to conduct surveys. Each parish identified in the data analysis (Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston and West Baton Rouge) were included.
 - To assist in promoting the survey, we also gained permission from DOTD planning to boost the survey posts on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn).
 - The result of the entire 3-month effort was 2415 responses. The internal team has reviewed the data and has begun drafting a version of the feasibility study. We are incorporating discussions with CATS into our efforts.
 - By the end of February 2024, the draft should be complete, and the team will provide our stakeholders with a one-week comment period and the public with a one-week comment period.
 - All feedback will be considered as the goal will be to have the study completed in the 4th quarter.
 - Draft Micro-transit/Vanpool Study is complete.
 - Final approval will be decided upon by the TAC/TPC (June 19, 2024) and implementation of projects to follow.

Commuter Krewe January 2024 - Current



5. OTHER BUSINES

- **TAC: Technical Representation**

TAC members were made aware of the recently conducted audit by the FHWA. One of their comments pertained the fact that the TAC members are mostly mayors and parish presidents while they should be technical representatives from each parish and municipality in the MPO. As CRPC noted in the audit process, mayors and parish presidents sometimes are the Technical Representative. And when they are not, they are still the final decision maker.

- **MPO White Board Meeting – Tentative 03/2024**

TAC members were advised of the MPO White Board meeting tentatively scheduled for March. Every four (4) years the statewide TIP is reviewed with each MPO in the state. Representatives from the MPO area will be advised when the meeting is scheduled.

- **Safety: Bria**

- Seatbelts
- LHSC
- Promoting
- Click it or ticket – May 30th
- Car seats
- Law Enforcement meeting May 29th – 11:00am - 1:00pm

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- **Miscellaneous**

- **Motorist Assistance Patrol (MAP):** members were advised that the current MAP contract is up for renewal. Cost projections indicate a possibly forty per-cent (40%) increase.

There followed general discussion regarding the boundaries established for MAP. They currently end in Walker and pick up again in Hammond. There is a need for the inclusion of the area from Walker to Hammond due to the heavy commuter traffic in that area. Members requested that CRPC obtain the data for incidents, times and congestion for the last five (5) years. It was further requested that CRPC write a letter to DOTD requesting them to reconsider providing coverage for the area from Walker to Hammond and request maps, data and the costs involved to provide coverage in this area.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM. A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Durbin and seconded by David Toups.