

Complete Streets Advisory Council

June 9, 2022

10:00-12:00

VIA Zoom and In-Person DOTD-HQ 113D

Council Members Present

Alan Krouse
Rebecca Bian
Chris FaKouri
Cheri Soileau
Tara Tolford

Lynn Maloney-Mujica
Louis Haywood*
Mark Martin
Jamie Gaines*

Others Present

Jessica Deville / DOTD
Laura Phillips* / FHWA
Chad Winchester / DOTD
Laura Riggs* / DOTD

John Brommelsiek, FHWA
Betsey Tramonte, FHWA
Patrick Duffy, HNTB

* Joined by phone

Call to Order

Alan Krouse called the meeting to order, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approve Previous Minutes

A motion was made by Chris FaKouri, seconded by Alan Krouse to approve March 3, 2022, minutes as presented. On vote the motion unanimously passed.

Complete Streets EDSM and Guidelines from Sub-Committee

Chad Winchester commented on the EDSM Sub-Committee Updates and CS Design Guidelines. He reviewed what was submitted by the sub-committee. The intent of the EDSM is to change the normal processes. The more ingrained in existing policy the changes become, the more outdated the EDSM becomes. The elimination of outdated EDSMs as they are incorporated into the workflow applies to all of them. If the perception is that the EDSM is still needed in order to reassure the public and stakeholder that the CS policy is being implemented, then it may still be needed, but it is the opinion of LADOTD that the EDSM may not be needed, because the policy does require implementation of CS policies.

Committee concerns raised by the elimination of the CS EDSM and its explicit requirements were discussed. Namely, the concern that CS elements will not be included because the

engineers do not perceive these as needed. Tara Tolford, Lynn Maloney, and Mark Martin agree that the EDSM (with suggested changes) is still necessary because planners and designers are still looking for guidance. Until CS project developers understand that addressing the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and other vulnerable users within the roadway system, the Committee suggests keeping the EDSM available for them.

FHWA noted that the CS issues start with planning. In response to the question about whether anyone from LADOTD Planning Section has attended the CSAC, it was noted that their attendance is particularly important because the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is scheduled for an update and the update should take into consideration that FHWA is putting more emphasis on Complete Streets implementation. It may not require identification of specific projects but the LRTP should at least recognize the policy.

Methods for Evaluating Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities for Grant Applications

This item put on the agenda by Jessica Stroope to address barriers to the successful submittal and awards for rural grant applications. It was noted that the current administration is including addressing disadvantaged and vulnerable users communities as criteria for awards in some of the discretionary grant programs.

Complete Streets Grant Project in Ruston

Patrick Duffy presented details about a grant application submitted for the City of Ruston. The project focus is completing a series of roundabouts at the gateway to Louisiana Tech and bridge replacements but used the opportunity to include CS elements connecting to the Ruston Rock Island off-road greenway and downtown bike-ped enhancement project. See attached.

Research Updates for Complete Streets Evaluation Project and Mobility Data Project

Tara Tolford presented the updates of the research projects being undertaken by UNOTI and LSU including bike/ped data model. The goal was to fill the data problem; that is continuous data (annual) that can be used to calibrate short-term project-specific data. Rebecca Bian then presented her mobility data project results. See Attachment 2.

The next phase is a combined continuous and phone-based counts into a model that could also incorporate other data. Cheri Soileau noted that CATS could provide data on the number of riders who mount their bikes on the front of the busses or bring them onboard, when space permits.

Rebecca Bian reported on the CS policy evaluation project that has been ongoing for about a year and a half. The work is almost complete.

Tara Tolford presented the CS survey results that was then turned into a series of recommendations to LADOTD and CSAC. A discussion about getting the CS policy information out to the public noted that the CSAC does not have a social media presence and does not

actively broadcast this information. This is one example of the kind of tasks the study has identified that the CSAC could and should address. See Attachment 2, pages 18-22.

Recommended steps could be translated into projects and tasks funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (aka IIJA) grants programs. Also, incorporating NACTO into the guidance along with AASHTO because the bike-ped “green book” still has not been issued.

Rebecca Bian was awarded only one of five National Academies of Science Early-Career Research Fellows in Human Health and Community Resilience. See Attachment 3. It was agreed that this award would be included in the 2022 Legislative Report as something to celebrate and demonstrate the success of CS in Louisiana.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.