

**MINUTES
OF THE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BATON ROUGE URBANIZED AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Tuesday, January 11, 2011 ~ 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
BREC Commission Chambers ~ 6201 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA**

Technical Advisory Committee Members present:

Hon. Melvin "Kip" Holden (TPC Chairman, Mayor- City of Baton Rouge), Hon. Jimmy Durbin (Mayor- City of Denham Springs), Hon. Derek A. Lewis (Mayor- City of Port Allen), Hon. Riley Berthelot (Vice-Chairman, Parish President- West Baton Rouge Parish), Hon. Tommy Martinez (Parish President- Ascension Parish), Hon. Harold Rideau (Mayor- City of Baker), Hon. Mike Grimmer (Parish President- Livingston Parish), Hon. Mac Watts (Mayor- City of Central), Brian Marshall (CATS), Hon. Joey Normand (Mayor- Town of Brusly)

The meeting was also attended by:

Jose Alvarez (DPW), Ara Armizy (GEC, Inc), Wilfred Barry (SJB Group), Jackie Baumann (Gonzales), Barry Brewer (Port Allen), Stacy Cook (CRPC), Carol Cranshaw (CATS), Cenceria Dalcourt (Port Allen), Dr. Olin Dart, P.E. (Chair for TAC), Huey Dugas (CRPC), Aaron Dupont (JCG), Kevin Durbin (West Baton Rouge), Greg Garland (The Advocate), R.J. Goebel (CRPC), Rannah Gray (Marmillion/Gray Media), Will Jonis (Reliant), Ben Laurie (Ascension Parish Engineering), Lenise Lyons (CPPC), Courtney Maciasz (CRPC), Todd Mance, Sr. (CATS), John Medica (LA Federal Property), Philip Meyers (GEC), Gary Owens (CATS), Ken Perret (LA GRTA), Ravi Ponnareddy (CRPC), Raju Porandla (CRPC), Don Redman (AAA), Clay Stafford (Gonzales), Jason Taylor (CRPC), Chris Tullier (CRPC), Kiran Vemuri (CATS), V. Winston (CATS)

3. MPO Activity Update

Huey P. Dugas, CRPC

- Completed the development of a new CRPC website: www.crpc-la.org. CRPC conducted the modeling of eight proposed road improvement projects in the region, attended meetings on the LA 64 project in Zachary, prepared computer toll analysis on the LA 1 Connector,
- The US 2010 Census shows Louisiana losing one congressional seat. The 2010 Census shows a 1.4 increase, while Louisiana Tech's numbers show a half of percent. The numbers currently available are for the state, and parish numbers will be released between March-June. Brusly Mayor Joey Normand requested someone from CRPC contact the Dallas office of the Census Bureau to determine when the municipalities would receive individual numbers from the 2010 census.
- Mr. Dugas noted that no action needed to be taken on any of the items mentioned.

4. MPO Bike/Pedestrian Safety Project

Rannah Gray, Marmillion/Gray Media

- CRPC received a \$400,000 grant from LADOTD to promote a Bicycle and Pedestrian Public Safety Education Campaign for the five Capital Region Parishes- Ascension, Livingston, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, and West Baton Rouge. Marmillion/Gray Media was awarded the contract to handle a year-long advertising campaign. The slogan is "Don't Be a Road Hog" and will focus on the Rules of the Road.

5. MPO Construction Projects Update

A.) Aaron Dupont, James Construction Group

- Mr. Dupont provided an update on the I-10 widening between I-10/I-12 Split and Siegan Lane. The project is around 5 miles long and the start date was in January 2009 and is anticipated to be completed later this year. Austin Bridge and Road is the contractor. The project consists of widening Interstate 10 and the overpass structures over Essen Lane, replace the bridge of Ward Creek, and widen the overpass bridges on Siegan Lane and Bluebonnet Boulevard. Some sound walls will be constructed from Essen Lane to Bluebonnet Boulevard from the westbound side.
- The anticipated completion date for the widening of Siegan to Highland is the first half of 2012. James Construction Group is part of this team. The project was a design-build job awarded early last year to Boh Brothers. Maintenance of traffic has been completed with some shoulder work. A small amount of work on the Highland Road ramp has started.
- I-12 widening project from O'Neal Lane- Thus far, the shoulders have been strengthened, and the first phase of the new Amite River Bridge has been built. Westbound traffic has been diverted onto the old Eastbound roadway. The Eastbound traffic has been diverted on to the eastbound first phase of the new bridge. Work is currently being done on the new Westbound lanes and removal of existing bridges and roadway. Barriers have been placed on the inside shoulder of 4-H Club Road to Pete's Highway. Completion of 6 lanes to Juban Road is expected sometime in 2012.

B.) Green Light Plan Projects Update

Jose Alvarez, Public Works Department- Baton Rouge, LA

- Completed projects in 2008- two projects worth \$10.1 million
- Completed projects in 2009- six projects worth \$32.4 million
- Completed projects in 2010- five projects worth \$32.7 million

6. CATS Proposed 2011 Plan

Brian Marshall, CATS CEO, Gary Owens, CFO, CATS, Todd Mance, Sr, Director of Operations, and Kiran Vemuri

- Mr. Owens said CATS has a \$1.2 million shortfall in its budget for 2011. CATS is experiencing the loss of federal funds in grants due to reaching the limit of the grant monies. The first grant is \$660,000, which was only available for 2010 and is not recurring for 2011. Last year, this money was used in operations as opposed to where it was originally designated for capital expenditures because of a loss of state money CATS experienced. The second item affecting the budget is related to ADA para-transit services. Since Hurricane Katrina, CATS has been receiving federal grant money to help pay for the increase in population and the use of the CATS On-Demand door-to-door paratransit service. In 2011, CATS will receive \$340,000 less than in the previous years. This was money extended by the Defense Department to help alleviate the problems caused by Hurricane Katrina. Since the hurricane, the number of door-to-door has doubled from 30,000/year to 60,000/year. Each door-to-door trip costs CATS \$29, and CATS only charges a

fare of a \$1.75. Each of the 60,000 trips costs CATS out of pocket \$27.25. Maintenance and higher fuel costs also contribute to the budget woes.

- CATS attempted to pass a dedicated tax in October 2010, but was unsuccessful. Options being considered by CATS to address short term issues include: restructuring routes, increasing fares, cutting service routes, and cutting service routes/increasing fares.
- Mr. Marshall explained the following items would be recommended to the Metro Council: eliminate the Goodwood Boulevard route in its entirety, take the Baker and Zachary leg to the Harding route and eliminate it as well; by eliminating these routes, \$285,000 is freed up; eliminate Saturday and Sunday service (not as high performing as Monday through Friday) and eliminate holidays. Through these measures, 70 percent of a solution is found. Lastly, fare increases from a \$1.75 to \$2.

7. Other Business

John Medica spoke about the Louisiana Federal Property program.

8. Adjournment

- Hon. Melvin “Kip” Holden adjourned.
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