

**MINUTES
OF THE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
BATON ROUGE URBANIZED AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Tuesday, August 17, 2010 ~ 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Bluebonnet Regional Library ~ Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA**

Technical Advisory Committee Members present:

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

The meeting was also attended by:

Dan Broussard (LADOTD), Mike Bruce (ABMB), Robert Canfield (Hartman Engineering), Don Couvillon (SIGMA), Dr. Olin Dart, P.E. (Chair for TAC), Kalilah H. Davis (CRPC), Juba Diez (Volkert), Huey Dugas (CRPC), Brandon Ellzey (Livingston Parish), John Fu (LA DOTD), R.J. Goebel (CRPC), Robert Graves (Town of Walker), Jess Henderson, Charla Hunt (CRPC), Chris LaRue (URS), Yashasvi Maheswarapu (CRPC), Jared Monceaux (Hartman Engineering), Dr. H.A. Pentas (S&B), Ken Perret (LA GRTA), Ravi Ponnappureddy (CRPC), Raju Porandla (CRPC), Stephen Spohrer (LTM/GEC), Jason Taylor (CRPC), Jerry Trumps (Neel-Schaffer), Chris Tullier (CRPC), Don Yuratovac (URS)

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- Hon. Melvin "Kip" Holden- TPC Chairman
 - The meeting was called to order and everyone was asked to identify themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- Hon. Melvin "Kip" Holden,- TPC Chairman
 - Mayor Holden asked the committee if there were any corrections or additions that needed to be made to the minutes of the previous joint TAC meeting, which was held on 06-29-10. There was no opposition.

Motion was made by Hon. Jimmy Durbin and Seconded by Hon. Derek Lewis to approve the minutes of the previous TPC meeting; which was held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010. (Unanimous in favor)

ACTION ITEMS

3. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- A. Project #254-02-0052 in EBR LA 37 Sullivan Rd-LA64 Mill and Overlay is amended**

to reflect a lower cost of \$1,987,000

- This project was \$2.5 million, but it has been reduced by \$1.9 million, which is greater than a 20 percent difference or \$600,000.

B. 2011-2014 TIP

- TIP: The projects that were in fiscal year 2010 that have been 'let' have all been moved to Appendix A projects. The DOTD 'letting' schedule with the letting date of 2014 or earlier that were not in the MPO TIP were added as new projects. New project requests from local governments are included in the new TIP. There were 25 requests from municipalities and parishes in the MPO area. Twenty-four were new, and one was for a change in funding source.
- Ten projects have been reviewed by CRPC, submitted and discussed for Stage Zero studies, along with the checklists with DOTD.
- The right-of-way and utility phases for the existing LA 64 project in the City of Zachary will now be funded through STP greater than \$200,000. In the City of Walker, a new US 190 at LA 1029 in intersection improvement is complete.

Motion was made by Hon. Riley Berthelot and Seconded by Mike Grimmer.

4. MPO ACTIVITY UPDATE

Huey P. Dugas, CRPC

- CRPC did transmit the recently adopted CMP (Congestion Management Process) document and the UPWP to both the Federal Highways and DOTD. The documents are available on www.crpc-la.org for review.
- The Bike and Pedestrian grant awarded to CRPC allowed for a pre-bid meeting on July 26, 2010. Eight public relations firms attended. Five meetings of the Bike and Pedestrian Safety Committee convened.
- Commute patterns for BRACS were researched and the following are the results:
A.) East Baton Rouge has 322,000 work trips a day; 2) Livingston has over 49,000 that commute to EBR a day, with 32,000 work trips just within the parish; 3) Ascension Parish has 25,000 work trips to East Baton Rouge a day, with 35,000 within the parish; 4) West Baton Rouge Parish has over 15,000 work trips to EBR, and 12,000 within the parish; and 5) Iberville Parish has over 5,000 to EBR
- A meeting was held with Mayor Holden, his staff, consulting engineers and the DOTD staff regarding LA 64.
- STP funds were transferred to CATS. An official letter from DOTD was received so that CATS will now have access to the \$800,000 approved.

5. AUDUBON BRIDGE UPDATE

Stephen Spohrer, P.E. - G.E.C.

- The bridge is a full-lane bridge, 2 ½ miles long. The lanes are almost interstate size.
- There is 12 miles of roadway from the East of Hospital Road in New Roads that ties into U.S. 61. In addition, there will be four new intersections at LA. 1, LA. 10, River

- Road on the Westbank, and US 61 on the Eastbank.
- The main span of the bridge will be the longest cable stayed bridge in North America for at least two years after its completion.
 - The towers of the bridge are completed as well as the lower cross beams. In addition, one upper cross beam is complete with another near completion.
 - Fourteen of the 53 bridge segments are erected with 10 stay cables in place.

6. CATS MARKET RESEARCH SURVEY

Tim Crobons, Connetics Transportation Group

- The CATS Research Survey is a 3 part study that is comprised of the following: 1) comprehensive information analysis; 2) Market Research Analysis; and 3) alternatives analysis (a year-long)
- The survey itself is about a year-long study, which started in May 2010.
- Public meetings have been conducted as well as surveying riders and field work.
- Over 900 telephone interviews in East Baton Rouge for market research has been conducted to capture the views of bus riders, but more importantly non-riders. These interviews will be completed at the end of October.
- The comprehensive analysis is expected to be complete by the end of 2010, and the alternative analysis will be completed in May 2011.
- An overview can be obtained on www.mycatsbr.com

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Hon. Melvin “Kip” Holden adjourned.