

**DRAFT MINUTES
OF THE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
BATON ROUGE URBANIZED AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Tuesday, May 12, 2015 ~ 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
BREC Commission Chambers ~ 6201 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA**

Transportation Policy Committee Members present:

Hon. Melvin “Kip” Holden (TPC Chairman and Mayor-President – East Baton Rouge Parish), Hon. Riley “Pee-Wee” Berthelot (TPC Vice Chairman and Parish President – West Baton Rouge Parish), Hon. Joey Normand (Mayor – Town of Brusly), Hon. Harold Rideau (Mayor – City of Baker), Hon. Layton Ricks (Parish President – Livingston Parish), Hon. H. Gerard Landry (Mayor – City of Denham Springs), Hon. Barney Arceneaux (Mayor - City of Gonzales), Fred Raiford (City of Walker), Ronnie Robinson (DOTD), Wilfred Barry (Iberville Parish)

The meeting was also attended by:

Kam Movassaghi (Self - Presenter), Dr. Olin K. Dart, Jr., P.E. (TAC Chairman), Carrie Broussard (CPPC), Brandon Buckner (FHWA), Yasoob Zia (LDEQ), Ken Perret (CATS), Clay Stafford (City of Gonzales), Mike Bruce (Stantec), Bryan Harmon (EBR-DPW), Jamie Setze (CRPC), Ravi Ponnappureddy (CRPC), Mary Breau (CRPC), Kim Marousek (CRPC),

1. INTRODUCTIONS

➤ ***Hon. Melvin “Kip” Holden***

- The meeting was called to order and everyone was asked to identify themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

➤ ***Hon. Melvin “Kip” Holden***

- Hon. Melvin “Kip” Holden asked the committee if there were any corrections or additions that needed to be made to the minutes of the previous Joint TAC/TPC meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. There was no opposition.

Motion was made by Hon. Riley “Pee-Wee” Berthelot and seconded by Fred Raiford to approve the minutes of the previous Joint TAC/TPC meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. (Unanimous in favor).

3. ACTION ITEMS

A. Transportation Improvement Program (2013 - 2017) Amendments

Jamie Setze - Executive Director - CRPC

Jamie stated that future Agendas will contain more information on projects.

Project # H.005693 LA 447/I-12 INTERCHANGE, Construction cost increased to \$4.7M

STPFLEX and \$2.6M NHPP both at 100%, Total cost \$7.3M

Project #H.005734 LA 447 CORRIDOR STUDY, Add environmental phase at a cost of \$601K STPFLEX at 80/20 in FFY 2015

Project #H.009956 LA 44: TURN LANES AND MEDIANS, (Cost changes), ROW phase is now \$4M HSIP funds at 90/10 in FFY 2015, Utility phase is now \$2M HSIP funds at 90/10 in FFY 2015, Construction phase is now \$2.8M HSIP funds at 90/10 in FFY 2016

Project #H.010655 LA 1 LIGHTING RENOVATIONS, Project cancelled – remove from TIP

Include \$2.7M total, \$1.7M (federal share) and \$1M (local match), for the Nicholson Corridor High Capacity Transit System Plan to reflect the awarded TIGER Grant, Baton Rouge, in FFY 2015

Project #H.007441, #H.007442, #H.007443 BUS SHELTERS AND BENCHES along Florida Blvd, Harding Blvd, and Scotlandville Route, respectively, \$905k Transportation Enhancement Program. Funds originally authorize in 2009 and approved by TPC 10/26/2010.

Hon. Riley “Pee-Wee” Berthelot made a motion to approve the presented Transportation Improvement Program (TIP 2015 – 2018) amendments, which was seconded by Hon. Harold Rideau (Unanimous in favor).

B. APPROVING CATS FINAL PROGRAM OF PROJECTS AND AMENDING THE TIP

Jamie Setze - Executive Director - CRPC

Jamie explained why the CATS projects have to be approved separately.

We approved the preliminary plan of projects last MPO meeting. There have been no comments and the list hasn't changed.

The only reason we're doing this is that in FTA language, the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) is called the Program of Projects. And because we have to have FTA language on our documents, we have to approve it as a "Program of Projects".

Bob Mirabito, CEO - CATS, was not here to give the presentation.

Motion to approve CATS Final Program of Projects was made by Fred Raiford and seconded by Hon. Harold Rideau. (Unanimous in favor).

C. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP, FY-16 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016))
Jamie Setze - Executive Director - CRPC

The UPWP is how the MPO is going to spend its federal funds for the next year.

➤ **UPWP FY 2016 Highlights**

- Completion of Congestion Management Process (CMP) Update
- Initiation of new Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update
- ERC Study/Setup to promote environmentally sustainable transportation and economic growth in the Capital Region
- Regional Traffic Counting Program
- Implementation of Safety Action Plans
- Continual outreach and implementation of carpool/vanpool program **Geaux Ride**
- Regional Complete Streets/Non-Motorized Plan Update
- Pavement and Asset Management System (PAMS)
 - Data collection in Ascension Parish during the last quarter
 - Analysis and presentation of various reports to local entities
- Continued assistance to CATS
- Continued and enhanced public outreach (Newsletters, Social Media, Public Meetings etc.)
- Develop and update regional databases
 - Special Projects
- Nicholson Corridor High-Capacity Transit System Study
- LA 3251/Ashland Connector Feasibility Study

➤ **UPWP FY 2016 - Tasks Code and Description**

➤ **Task by Task Comparison with UPWP FY 2015**

Motion to approve the Unified Planning Work Program, FY-16 was made by Hon. Riley “Pee-Wee” Berthelot and seconded by Hon. Harold Rideau. (Unanimous in favor).

4. NON ACTION ITEMS

A. MPO Activity Update

Jamie Setze - Executive Director - CRPC

The following was discussed:

- **CRPC Newsletter**
 - Inaugural Newsletter Released Monday, May 4, 2015 (Feedback welcome)
 - Upcoming
 - Revamped CRPC Website
 - Brochure explaining CRPC services to the public and elected officials

- **Can You See Me Now video contest**
 - Winners:
 - First Place: Baton Rouge Magnet High School team, Maura Dupre', Tiffany Le, Cindy Tran ([Winning Video](#))

 - Second place: Team submittal by Thomas "TJ" Hanlon from Mentorship Academy

 - Third Place: Produced by Robert Sciambra of Catholic High School

- **Capital Region Transportation Safety Coalition (CRTSC) Update**
 - Contact:
 - Ashley Hebert
 - Regional Transportation Safety Coordinator
 - Capital Region Planning Commission
 - (225) 383-5203
 - ahebert@brgov.com
 - CRTSC Day at the Capitol – May 6
 - Impaired Driving Outreach and Education
 - Live After Five - Impaired Driving Event

- **Planning Commissioner Training Workshop**
 - Contact:
 - Kim Marousek
 - kmarousek@brgov.com
 - (225) 383 5203
 - When : June 13th, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 - Where: 909 Pearl St, Franklinton, LA 70438
 - Who: Planning officials to complete their Act 859 four-hour training requirements
 - No Cost, First come, first served, RSVP by Wednesday, June 10, 2015

- **Travel Demand Management Program**
 - <https://geauxride.greenride.com/>
 - Working to setup pilot portals for LADOTD, LDEQ, LDNR, and Private Industries.
 - Conducted survey of the employees of the three state agencies.
 - Developing partnerships with Uber to ensure that Geaux Ride participants have a guarantee ride home.

- Geaux Ride Pilot Survey Results

➤ **EDA 2015 Funding Cycle**

Contact:

Courtney Maciasz

CMaciasz@brgov.com

(225) 383 5203

- The next funding cycle deadline for Economic Development Administration grants closes on June 12, 2015.
- The City of Walker is collaborating with CRPC for infrastructure funds from EDA for its Industrial park.
- Through EDA's competitive process, Walker has been selected for further consideration in the approximate amount of \$1.5 Million. Total project cost is \$3.0 Million

➤ **East Feliciana Airpark and Aviation Business Development Complex (EDA Project)**

➤ **DRA 2015 Funding Cycle**

Contact:

Courtney Maciasz

CMaciasz@brgov.com

(225) 383 5203

- FY 2015 funding cycle is now open. Online application portal (<http://dra.gov/sedap>)
- SEDAP this year will institute an open application format . However, it is encouraged communities apply before July 31, 2015
- 75% of DRA funds must be invested in economically distressed counties and parishes. Funding is in four categories:
 - basic public infrastructure
 - transportation infrastructure
 - business development (with focus on entrepreneurship), and
 - workforce development.

➤ **Bike/Pedestrian Planning**

- Worked with Front Yard Bikes to help conduct a road safety demonstration for earth day.
- Worked with the Webb Park Home Owners Association to improve connectivity and walkability in that neighborhood.
- CRPC in collaboration with EBR Mayor President's Office, DDD, BRAF, and CPEX worked on the approved EPA Bike Share grant. Held introductory conference call on May 4th. Workshop is tentatively scheduled for late July.
- Participated the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee meetings regarding complete streets for Baton Rouge.
- Continued to promote Bike/Ped safety

➤ **Other Activities**

- Finalized the Draft UPWP
- Provided Technical Assistance to CATS
- Continued modeling, analyzing results and preparing reports for Government Street road diet project as requested by LADOTD.
- Staff worked with LADOTD and local entities to address DOTD's comments on STP>200K projects.

B. Changing the Highway Department

Kam Movassaghi, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE

Jamie Setze introduced Dr. Kam Movassaghi, PhD., P.E.. Dr. Movassaghi gave a presentation on changing the highway department. His presentation, entitled "A New Model for Louisiana's Transportation System" can be found as a shared file:

<https://crpc.sharefile.com/d-sd6040fa0c094db6a>.

5. Other Business

➤ *Hon. Melvin "Kip" Holden*

• **Capital Region Industry for Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions - CRISIS**

Mayor Holden commented that we've all been watching the evolution of the CRISIS and found some parts of it to be very offensive. He went on to discuss what is already in place and being addressed. He commented that this body has put out a lot of things in terms of a clear vision, but the dollars aren't there. He gave an example of PeeWee's situation, they didn't call in and ask what PeeWee's ideas were because we've been pushing a lot of things for a long time.

He went on to point out one of the written purposes of the coalition: We need to "support the development of high quality MPO planning and prioritization standards that lead to improved implementation of effective transportation solutions." We all collectively have been sitting here every month trying to deal with the problems all over this area covered by everybody that's on this body. These statements are now being fed to the media and would like to hear some comments. Jamie stated that it does concern him and gave a two year plan.

Mayor Holden went on to add another comment, "increasing MPO accountability and performance." Jamie explained that next summer, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration will jointly come review the MPO planning process.

Mayor Holden voiced a concern that we are a target and everything goes in the paper. All of the groups and all of us have been working on projects all of these years. Not one time have we turned anybody down because it's a public process. Jamie stressed that we all need to work together.

Mayor Holden asked the members to watch out for the group because a lot of the work they are proposing, we have already done. The best thing the group can do is to sit down and discuss matters with us.

He thanked everyone for all the work they have done. He said it might be wise for us to collectively begin to look at and show them all the different things we do and tell them the obstacles that are in the way and what we plan to do to make progress.

- Hon. Riley “Pee-Wee” Berthelot complimented CRPC on the Newsletter.

6. Adjournment

A motion was placed by Hon. Riley “Pee-Wee” Berthelot to adjourn the meeting. Hon. Melvin “Kip” Holden adjourned the meeting. (Motion carried with no opposition).