

APPENDIX E

Policy Committee Meeting Summaries



LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – Adopted
on April 24, 2014 at the Policy Committee Meeting #2

March 13, 2014 • 10:00AM
State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA

APPENDIX E

Present:

Mr. Robert Adley, Senate, Louisiana State Senate
Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, PE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Chair)
Mr. Stephen Moret, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development
Mr. Charles E. “Chuck” Kleckley, Speaker of the House, Louisiana State House of Representatives
Mr. Stephen E. Pugh, Representative, Louisiana State House of Representatives
Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council
Mr. Mike Walsworth, Senator, Louisiana State Senate

Absent:

Mr. John A. Alario, President of the Senate, Louisiana State Senate
Ms. Karen Gaudet St. Germain, Representative, Louisiana State House of Representatives

Other Attendees:

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, PE, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development
Mr. Robert “Butch” Babineaux, PE, Consultant, CDM Smith

MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of the 2003 Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan; Process for Update
- Discussion of Policy Committee’s role
- Review of current Statewide Transportation Plan Update; Scope Of Work; Ongoing activities; Schedule
- Review of Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures
- Open Discussion
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting Date
- Final Comments; Adjourn

MEETING SUMMARY

Secretary Sheri LeBas welcomed the Policy Committee members and led a round of introductions. Dr. Eric Kalivoda with DOTD gave a brief presentation on the overview of the 2003 Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan and the process for the Update. He explained the Policy Committee’s role and reviewed the status and schedule of the current Plan Update. He then reviewed the Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures and opened the floor for discussion. A summary of the discussion follows:

- Senator Adley noted his concern with increased traffic congestion along I-10 especially in Baton Rouge area. Dr. Kalivoda indicated the significant truck traffic (13,000/day) and cost to widen I-10 between the Mississippi River Bridge and I-10/I-12 split. DOTD is hopeful that this section of I-10 will be designated a freight project in the ongoing Statewide Freight Plan so it would be eligible for a 95 percent/5 percent federal/state funding share.
- Mr. Scott asked what the major differences were between the goals and objectives between the earlier 2003 Plan and this Plan update. Dr. Kalivoda clarified that the previous goals and objectives were primarily combined and consolidated for this current Plan Update.

- Senator Adley asked about the viability of GARVEE bonds as a potential funding source. Dr. Kalivoda noted that GARVEE bonds need a steady funding stream and DOTD would recommend against using them until federal funding is more stable.
- Senator Walsworth requested DOTD provide the Committee with a summary of progress made in implementing some of the recommendations included in the last Plan Update over the past 10 years.
- In response to question by Senator Walsworth regarding the status and completion of the TIMED program, Dr. Kalivoda noted the total construction cost of the projects is about \$5 billion and bonds are scheduled to be paid off in 2045. Additionally, the dedicated 4 cents/gallon brings in about \$120m/year.
- Secretary Moret indicated the conflict between the Statewide Plan's desired vision of a focus on small and medium sized cities compared to the preference of many large companies (professional jobs) for good air service (flight frequency and direct flights) that is typically associated with large metropolitan areas. Although rural areas can be attractive to manufacturing jobs, people prefer to be no more than 30 minutes from urban areas.
- Robert Scott cautioned DOTD to not put too much emphasis on the legislative and public survey results in developing the Plan Update but rather recognize what people want does not necessarily correlate with what they say in surveys.
- Secretary LeBas indicated that the Committee needed more time to review the vision, goals and objectives before approving them.
- It was suggested that the next Policy Committee meeting be held near the end of March preferably on a Wednesday. This should give Committee members more time to review and comment on the information presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary LeBas adjourned the meeting.

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – Adopted
on May 28, 2014 at the Policy Committee Meeting #3

April 24, 2014 • 12:00PM

State Capitol, House Committee Room 2 • Baton Rouge, LA

Present:

Senator Mike Walsworth, Louisiana Senate

Senator Dale Erdey, Louisiana Senate (representing Senator Alario)

Representative Karen St. Germain, LA House of Representatives

Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, PE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Chair)

Mr. Stephen Moret, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development

Absent:

Senator John A. Alario, President of the Senate, Louisiana Senate

Senator Robert Adley, Louisiana State Senate

Representative Charles E. “Chuck” Kleckley, Speaker of the House, LA House of Representatives

Representative Stephen E. Pugh, Louisiana House of Representatives

Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council

Other Attendees:

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, PE, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)

Mr. Dennis Decker, PE, Assistant Secretary, Office of Multimodal Planning, DOTD

Ms. Robin Romeo, PE, Transportation Planning Administrator, DOTD

Mr. Dan Broussard, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD

Mr. Don Vary, Consultant, CDM Smith

Mr. Riley Berthelot, Parish President, West Baton Rouge Parish

Mr. Kevin Durbin, Planning Director, West Baton Rouge Parish

MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Final Review of Vision, Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures; adoption by Policy Committee requested
- Presentation of Draft Plan recommended by the Executive Advisory Council
 - Policy Recommendations
 - Megaprojects
 - Funding Scenario Budget Summary
- Discussion of Draft Plan Elements
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting Date
- Final Comments, Adjourn

MEETING SUMMARY

Secretary Sherri LeBas welcomed the group and led a round of introductions.

Final Review of Vision, Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures

Secretary LeBas reminded the committee members of the presentation of the Vision, Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures at the first policy committee meeting in March 2014. She recognized that there was not a quorum present to vote to accept them.

Presentation of Draft Plan Recommended by Executive Advisory Council

Dr. Kalivoda presented to the committee the plan's purpose, its schedule for completion, its decision-making structure and the role of the committee. Dr. Kalivoda then described the policy recommendations, the funding scenario budgets and the draft plan elements, while Mr. Decker led the discussion of the megaprojects. Dr. Kalivoda explained that the committee would vote for approval on the recommendations, megaprojects and funding scenario budgets at the third and final policy committee meeting. A summary of the megaproject discussion follows:

- Senator Erdey asked about the economic benefits of allocating \$25 million annually to deepen waterways and channels. Dr. Kalivoda noted that the consultant team could look into this once the committee has voted on this recommendation. Mr. Decker noted that the Port Priority program funds projects that can demonstrate a 5:1 benefit-cost ratio. Representative St. Germain reinforced the importance of supporting Louisiana's waterways system.
- Secretary LeBas asked for more information about a proposed allocation of \$300 million for channel deepening. Mr. Decker responded that the money would be used only for deepening to authorized dimensions (50 feet) and that none of the money would be used for port or channel operations.
- Senator Erdey noted that there is a moratorium on building new highways in the state and asked about two megaprojects that are new roads on new rights of way. Mr. Decker responded that the two projects in question are left over from the TIMED program and can be grandfathered in. Secretary LeBas noted that there is a third project, which improves local roads around Alexandria to higher-speed standards, as well.
- Secretary LeBas asked for clarification on what the notation of "other funding sources" means. Mr. Decker responded that there are several potential sources that the term covers – including capital outlay and tolls – that could fit that definition.
- Senator Erdey asked about an upgrade of existing four-lane facilities around Baton Rouge to Interstate standards, collectively known as Baton Rouge Urban Mobility Plan (BUMP). Dr. Kalivoda expressed the need for a bypass around Baton Rouge to divert through traffic out of the heart of Baton Rouge. Mr. Decker noted that the BUMP appears as a Priority C megaproject.
- Representative St. Germain expressed concern over the use of the word "loop" in describing the project to redirect I-10 through traffic away from Baton Rouge. Dr. Kalivoda agreed to use a different description. She also asked about a megaproject to improve LA 3127 and noted that the road in question was a pleasure to drive on currently. Dr. Kalivoda described the project as a widening to 4 lanes in the vicinity of the intersection of LA 3127 with LA 20 in conjunction with a new roadway linking Thibodaux with Interstate 10 via the Gramercy-Wallace Bridge.

- Secretary LeBas asked about the sources of funding for Scenarios A and B. Dr. Kalivoda explained that Scenario A (which funds Priority A megaprojects) would be funded through the vehicle sales tax and that Scenario B (which funds Priority A and B megaprojects) would be funded from both the vehicle sales tax and a federal gas tax increase.
- Representative St. Germain referred to several roadway improvement proposals that she has been studying. One is a set of Baton Rouge improvements that appears to have support from both East and West Baton Rouge constituents. A second is a bill to accelerate the transfer of vehicle sales tax proceeds to the Department in three years instead of six, and a third is to introduce enabling legislation for alternative finance mechanisms, such as infrastructure banks.
- Senator Erdey inquired about the status of the “real” West Bank Expressway; A proposal to construct a new Interstate-type facility parallel to LA 1 from I-10 to a point south, with a new Mississippi River Bridge and connections to the Sunshine Bridge. Dr. Kalivoda noted that the project, as presented, would be very expensive and for that reason has been assigned a priority of D. Dr. Kalivoda further noted that, although several of the Priority C and D projects are good projects, the project rankings reflect the limitations on funding even under the most optimistic scenario.
- Senator Walsworth expressed concern over the multiple demands for dredging funds and asked about what other states are doing to meet dredging needs. Dr. Kalivoda referred the committee to their packet of information and pointed to the recommendation for Capital Outlay funds to be used for deepening navigation channels (no funds are shown for maintenance dredging, however). He also referred to the Port Priority Program. Dr. Kalivoda explained that the state’s contribution for channel and port deepening is meant to leverage federal funds.
- Senator Walsworth also inquired about the status of federal transportation appropriations. Dr. Kalivoda responded that, at this time, Congress does not intend to use general fund revenues to cover deficits in the Highway Trust Fund, as Congress has done in past years. Dr. Kalivoda also explained that several donee states operate systems that have a high proportion of through traffic, in the context of explaining why some states such as Louisiana are donor (receiving less federal trust fund revenue than generated) states and why some are donee (receiving more federal trust fund revenue than generated) states.
- Senator Erdey asked about implementing tolls to move some of the megaprojects forward. Dr. Kalivoda noted that the Department’s position is to use toll roads for new capacity roads only (federal dollars can support the tolled lanes for new capacity only). He also voiced support for public private partnerships and tolling to build new roads, but added that in most or all cases, tolling levels would not be sufficient to cover the entire cost of construction and operations of new roads. Senator Erdey, referring again to the West Bank Expressway, stated that tolling would affect travelers from out of state.
- Senator Walsworth asked about the I-69 project and whether Texas and Arkansas intend to construct an alignment that would bypass Louisiana. Dr. Kalivoda assured Senator Walsworth that this was not the case. He further noted the importance of the participation of all three states to construct the portions of the interstate that would be their responsibility.

Dr. Kalivoda then described the funding scenarios and he returned to the goals and objectives. Senator Walsworth requested that the DOTD add an objective in support of continuing the Road Transfer Program under Goal Area 4. With assurances that this modification would be made, the Committee moved to adopt

the goals, objectives and performance measures. Representative St. Germain moved to adopt them, and Senator Walsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Walsworth moved to adopt the meeting minutes from the March 13, 2014 Policy Committee meeting and Representative St. Germain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A summary of the public comments and discussion follows:

- Parish President Berthelot spoke about the importance of the LA 1 Connector project in West Baton Rouge Parish. He urged the Policy Committee to raise its ranking from Priority C to Priority A or B. He then asked how large projects such as I-49 North have been funded.
- Secretary LeBas noted the variety of funding sources used beyond the state's Transportation Trust Fund to complete large roadway expansion projects in the past. These sources include federal earmarks, surplus funds, unclaimed property, capital outlay dollars and federal recovery dollars from the state and partner MPOs. She further noted the significant amount of public input received during the annual road show and that over 100 megaproject presentations were made to the Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council.
- Senator Walsworth referred to the recurring congestion issue near the I-10 interchange at Washington Street. Secretary LeBas noted that there is a study underway to address the weaving from traffic southbound on I-110 to the exit. She also noted that the Department is looking at ways to use surface streets as reliever routes when incidents close or restrict the I-10 mainline. Mr. Kevin Durbin, West Baton Rouge Parish Planning Director, was on hand to emphasize the importance of making improvements to this section of the interstate and added that the Port of Baton Rouge's expansion and continued development would add to the congestion on I-10.
- Before adjourning, the Committee set the third and final meeting for May 28th at 8 am.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary LeBas adjourned the meeting.

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – Adopted
on July 9, 2014 at the Policy Committee Meeting #4

May 28, 2014 • 8:00 AM

State Capitol, House Committee Room 3 • Baton Rouge, LA

Present:

Senator Robert Adley, Louisiana State Senate
Representative Karen St. Germain, LA House of Representatives
Representative Stephen E. Pugh, Louisiana House of Representatives
Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, PE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Chair)
Mr. Stephen Moret, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development
Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council

Absent:

Senator John A. Alario, President of the Senate, Louisiana Senate
Senator Mike Walsworth, Louisiana Senate
Representative Charles E. “Chuck” Kleckley, Speaker of the House, LA House of Representatives

Other Attendees*:

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, PE, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)
Mr. Dennis Decker, PE, Assistant Secretary, Office of Multimodal Planning, DOTD
Ms. Robin Romeo, PE, Transportation Planning Administrator, DOTD
Mr. Dan Broussard, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Ms. Dawn Sholmire, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Mr. Robert “Butch” Babineaux, Consultant, CDM Smith
Ms. Mary Stringfellow, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Mr. Brandon Buckner, FHWA
Mr. Jamie Setze, Capital Region Planning Commission
Mr. Matthew Johns, Alexandria Metropolitan Planning Commission
Mr. Kevin Durbin, Planning Director, West Baton Rouge Parish

*Additional attendees were present but were not identified.

MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Adoption of April 24, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary
- Review of previous Policy Committee Meetings
- Review of Draft Plan elements:
 - Policy Recommendations
 - Megaprojects
 - Budget Allocation
- Discussion of Draft Plan Elements

- Adoption of Final Draft Plan
- Public Comments
- Next Steps / Future Meeting(s)
- Final Comments; Adjourn

MEETING SUMMARY

Secretary Sherri LeBas welcomed the group and Dr. Eric Kalivoda conducted a roll call.

Adoption of April 24, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary

Representative St. Germain moved to adopt Policy Committee Meeting Summary No. 2 and Mr. Robert Scott seconded.

Presentation of Draft Plan Elements, Dr. Eric Kalivoda

Dr. Kalivoda reviewed the previous policy committee meetings. Dr. Kalivoda then described the policy recommendations, the funding scenario budgets and the draft plan elements, while Mr. Decker led the discussion of the megaprojects. A summary of the discussion of draft plan elements follows:

Discussion of Draft Plan Elements

- Robert Scott expressed his appreciation and complimented Eric Kalivoda's professional and informative presentation to PAR representatives a couple weeks ago and encouraged other Policy Committee members to meet with DOTD staff to discuss the Plan in further detail.
- Senator Adley requested that Aviation Policy Recommendation No. CDE-1 specify that the state's support would be for capital construction only.
- The Committee members discussed concern regarding funding ports at \$25M/year out of capital outlay.
- The Committee members requested deletion of reference to incentives in the Trucking Policy Recommendation No. EC-16 regarding peak hour operations at ports.
- Eric Kalivoda clarified that the previous dedicated funding for I-49 North does not include the section in Shreveport between I-20 and I-220 which is included as a Megaproject Priority B and has an estimated construction cost of \$380M assuming the elevated alternative.
- Eric Kalivoda noted that several sections of I-49 South are included as Megaprojects in Priorities A and B and that approximately 100 miles of the total 156 miles have already been upgraded to interstate standards. Senator Adley requested that the sections that are currently meeting interstate standards be shown as such on DOTD base maps so the public realizes a significant amount of work has already been completed along I-49 South.
- Representative St. Germain thanked DOTD for moving Megaproject No. 54, LA 1 Connector from Priority C to Priority B. She also requested that DOTD consider moving Megaproject No. 101 New Mississippi River Bridge from Priority C to Priority B, which is needed for improved mobility, has strong support of an area delegation, and a resolution was recently signed by the state legislature to fund a feasibility study. Eric Kalivoda noted that consideration would be given to moving the new Mississippi River Bridge to Priority B assuming that most of the \$800M construction cost would be funded by "other" sources.
- Senator Adley asked why Megaproject No. 50 Jimmie Davis Bridge widening is being shown in Priority B with Megaproject No. 23b being shown in Priority A. Dennis Decker noted that consideration was given to input and recommendations by Shreveport area officials included in the RPO Advisory Council.
- In response to Senator Adley's question regarding the estimated construction timing of Megaprojects in Priorities A and B, Eric Kalivoda noted the earliest would likely be year 2020 when a portion of the vehicle sales taxes is projected to start being dedicated to transportation funding. Megaprojects in Priorities C

and D are not funded for any of the revenue scenarios but could be moved up should additional revenues be found; if construction costs for Megaprojects in Priority A and B are significantly less than anticipated; or if these higher priority projects experience significant delays or are found to be unfeasible.

- Senator Adley asked if cable barriers similar to those installed in the medians of some interstates were included in DOTD's budget allocation. Eric Kalivoda noted they were included in the Highway Safety category.
- At the request of Representative St. Germain, Eric Kalivoda explained the four Revenue Scenarios and noted that DOTD believes Scenario 3 (includes vehicle sales tax) is the most reasonable at this time.
- Senator Adley complimented DOTD's performance with limited funding but indicated the public needs to understand the uncertainty of future transportation funding and the state administration needs to show strong support and leadership in securing needed funding and addressing existing needs now.
- Senator Adley requested more time to review the Revenue Scenarios before adopting the Plan recommendations.
- Stephen Moret requested that DOTD evaluate another growth scenario assuming an annual population/employment increase of 2 percent/year to determine the impacts on traffic congestion and increased revenue. Eric Kalivoda noted that he would present the results of this growth scenario at the next Policy Committee meeting. Eric Kalivoda also advised the Committee that an economic development analysis will be conducted for the Plan recommendations.
- It was agreed that another Policy Committee Meeting should be held for draft Plan adoption to give Committee members more time to review the revenue scenarios and recommendations. The preferred date for the next meeting is July 9 at 10am or 11am.
- Secretary Sherri LeBas advised the Policy Committee that even though they plan to adopt the draft Plan at their next meeting they would have another opportunity to revise the Plan recommendations during the required 45-day public comment period of the Draft Plan Report.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary LeBas adjourned the meeting.

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – Adopted
on June 12, 2015 at the Policy Committee Meeting #5

July 9, 2014 • 10:00 AM

State Capitol, House Committee Room 2 • Baton Rouge, LA

MEETING ATTENDEES

Present:

Senator Robert Adley, Louisiana State Senate
Senator Mike Walsworth, Louisiana State Senate
Representative Karen St. Germain, Louisiana House of Representatives
Representative Stephen E. Pugh, Louisiana House of Representatives
Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, PE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Chair)
Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council

Absent:

Senator John A. Alario, President of the Senate, Louisiana Senate
Representative Charles E. “Chuck” Kleckley, Speaker of the House, LA House of Representatives
Mr. Stephen Moret, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development

Other Attendees*:

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, PE, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)
Mr. Dennis Decker, PE, Assistant Secretary, Office of Multimodal Planning, DOTD
Ms. Robin Romeo, PE, Transportation Planning Administrator, DOTD
Mr. Dan Broussard, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Ms. Dawn Sholmire, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Mr. Shawn Wilson, DOTD
Mr. Don Vary, Consultant, CDM Smith
Mr. Butch Babineaux, Consultant, CDM Smith
Mr. Brandon Buckner, FHWA
Ms. Chandra Bondzie, FHWA
Mr. Matthew Johns, Alexandria Metropolitan Planning Commission
Mr. Kevin Durbin, Planning Director, West Baton Rouge Parish
Mr. Joe Accardo, Jr., Ports Association of Louisiana
Mr. Carmack Blackmon, Louisiana Railroads Association
Mr. Mac Wade, Port of Morgan City
Mr. Roy Quezaire, Port of South Louisiana
Mr. Sean Duffy, Big River Coalition
Mr. Anthony Marino, Baton Rouge Airport

*Additional attendees were present but were not identified.

MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Adoption of May 28, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary
- Review of previous Policy Committee Meetings
- Review of Draft Plan elements:
 - Policy Recommendations
 - Megaprojects
 - Budget Allocation
- Next Steps
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting
- Final Comments; Adjourn

MEETING SUMMARY

Secretary Sherri LeBas welcomed the group and Dr. Eric Kalivoda conducted a roll call.

Adoption of April 24, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary

Senator Walsworth moved to adopt Policy Committee Meeting Summary No. 3. Without objection, the minutes were adopted.

Presentation of Draft Plan Elements, Dr. Eric Kalivoda

Dr. Kalivoda reviewed the previous policy committee meetings. Dr. Kalivoda then described the policy recommendations, the funding scenario budgets and the draft plan elements, while Mr. Decker led the discussion of the megaprojects. A summary of the discussion of draft plan elements follows:

Discussion of Draft Plan Elements

- Senator Adley expressed his concern regarding the plan's proposed funding levels for pavement preservation, relative to the proposed funding of ports and waterways included in Recommendations EC-1 and EC-14. EC-1 and EC-14 recommends maintaining a minimum of \$25m in Priority 2 of the State Capital Outlay Program. Senator Adley recognizes the importance of efficient ports and waterways to the state's economy but believes DOTD should make the funding of highways its highest priority. He believes state funding of highways should increase from the existing \$27m/year to \$70m/year, which is more consistent with the highway preservation funding levels of several years ago. He also noted his concern that approximately \$60m/year of the state's vehicle gas tax was being diverted to the Department of Public Safety and the state was providing \$46m/year to the Parish Road Fund, which is more than the \$30m/year required.
- Senator Walsworth requested a breakdown of how DOTD was using the more than \$600m/year in federal transportation funding at the next Policy Committee meeting.
- Senator Adley noted the need for DOTD to consider different approaches to using state and federal funds to improve the state's transportation system in the near term and not wait for future funding assumed in the Plan's proposed funding scenarios. He cautioned DOTD's assumption regarding the amount of vehicle sales tax that would be available for Funding Scenario 3 as he believes there is a possibility that this funding will be diverted for other purposes in the future.

- Senator Walsworth noted his understanding that there is limited truck access to the Port of Baton Rouge and asked how the Plan was addressing the need for improved access and connections to port facilities in the state. Dr. Kalivoda indicated that the Plan recommends the continuation of the Intermodal Connector Program, which is currently funded at \$10m/year and has been used for access improvements to the Port of Lake Charles, Port of South Louisiana, and other ports. Mr. Scott asked about the allocation of the vehicle sales tax that would be dedicated for port improvements. Dr. Kalivoda explained that 7% of 93% of future vehicle sales tax receipts would be used for the Port Priority Program.
- Representative St. Germain noted the state legislature should consider ways to generate additional revenues to fund needed improvements for all modes of transportation in the state and expressed concern regarding the significant loss in buying power of the current vehicle gas tax as it is not indexed to inflation. She noted that the tax is worth \$0.07 now, down from \$0.16 per gallon when the last increase was approved.
- Senator Adley asked about the funding status of the TIMED program, which was supposed to be funded with 4 cents/gallon of the state's total 20 cents/gallon in vehicle gas tax. Dr. Kalivoda stated the retiring of debt for the TIMED program was requiring about 5 cents/gallon (about \$30m/year) instead of the intended 4 cents. Senator Adley noted consideration should be given to restructuring the financing of the TIMED program using the Capital Outlay Fund as a source so that TIMED could be funded with the intended 4 cents/gallon from the TTF.
- Senator Walsworth asked for clarification regarding the Mississippi River Deepening project included in Priority A of the recommended megaprojects. Dr. Kalivoda noted it included the deepening of the Mississippi River between the Port of Baton Rouge and the Gulf of Mexico from approximately 45 feet to 50 feet and would require a 50% federal/50% state match. Senator Walsworth requested DOTD provide examples of how other states and local entities were participating in funding of port and waterway improvements in their states at the next Policy Committee meeting.
- Senator Adley noted the importance of coordinating the proposed deepening of the Mississippi River with CPRA's diversion project and would like DOTD to report on these coordination efforts at the next Policy Committee meeting.
- Senator Walsworth asked about the funds allocated to parish roads and emphasized his preference that the priority in state funding be the upkeep of the state highway system.
- Representative St. Germain encouraged participation in the Legislative Committee recently established to identify ways to fund transportation improvements. The first meeting will be held in the early fall.
- Mr. Scott asked the committee for a summary of the action items needed for the next Policy Committee meeting. Senator Adley asked for a focus on highway preservation; a reconsideration of using the Vehicle Sales Tax as a critical source of funding (in Scenarios 3 and 4); a reconsideration of the allocations of future funds for local roads; 4) a consideration of alternative future funding to complete the TIMED program, and a consideration of an offset for the state police share of the Transportation Trust Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following persons made public comments regarding the importance of ports and waterways to Louisiana's overall transportation system and economy and expressed their strong support for the state to increase its participation in the funding of needed freight infrastructure.

- Mr. Joe Accardo, Jr., Ports Association of Louisiana
- Mr. Sean Duffy, Big River Coalition
- Mr. Mac Wade, Port of Morgan City

Mr. Roy Quezaire did not speak but completed an “Affirmation in Support” card.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that another Policy Committee meeting should be held to further discuss the funding concerns expressed at this meeting and to adopt the Plan before soliciting public comments on the Plan report. It was requested that the next meeting be held on a Friday in September 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary LeBas adjourned the meeting.

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – Adopted on
November 19, 2015 at the Policy Committee Meeting #6**

June 12, 2015 • 10:00 AM

State Capitol, House Committee Room 2 • Baton Rouge, LA

MEETING ATTENDEES

Present:

Senator Robert Adley, Louisiana State Senate
Senator Mike Walsworth, Louisiana State Senate
Representative Karen St. Germain, Louisiana House of Representatives
Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, PE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Chair)
Representative Stephen E. Pugh, Louisiana House of Representatives
Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council
Steven Grissom, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development

Absent:

Senator John A. Alario, President of the Senate, Louisiana Senate
Representative Charles E. “Chuck” Kleckley, Speaker of the House, LA House of Representatives

Other Attendees*:

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, PE, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)
Mr. Dennis Decker, PE, Assistant Secretary, Office of Multimodal Planning, DOTD
Ms. Robin Romeo, PE, Transportation Planning Administrator, DOTD
Mr. Dan Broussard, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Ms. Dawn Sholmire, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Mr. Randall Withers, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Mr. Shawn Wilson, DOTD
Ms. Connie Porter-Betts, Assistant to Secretary for Policy, DOTD
Mr. Don Vary, Consultant, CDM Smith
Mr. Christopher Johns, Alexandria Metropolitan Planning Commission
Mr. Carmack Blackmon, Louisiana Railroads Association

*Additional attendees were present but were not identified.

MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Adoption of July 9, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary
- Review of previous Policy Committee Meetings
- Brief review of Draft Plan and Proposed changes to the 7/9/14 Draft Plan elements
- Call for Adoption of the Draft Statewide Transportation Plan

- Next Steps – Statewide Transportation Plan Public Involvement Procedures
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting
- Final Comments; Adjourn

MEETING SUMMARY

Secretary Sherri LeBas welcomed the group and Dr. Eric Kalivoda conducted a roll call.

Adoption of July 9, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary

Senator St. Germain moved to adopt the Policy Committee Meeting Summary, second by Representative Pugh and the committee adopted it without comment.

Presentation of Draft Plan Elements, Dr. Eric Kalivoda

Dr. Kalivoda provided an overview of the purpose and intent of the Statewide Transportation Plan, and reviewed the previous policy committee meetings. Dr. Kalivoda then outlined the Department's accomplishments since the adoption of the 2003 Plan. He described the 2015 Plan's funding scenarios and directed the committee's attention to one additional recommendation under the state highway operations and maintenance section: to provide a minimum of \$70 million in state Transportation Trust Fund dollars each year for state highway and bridge sustainability (preservation), to match federal funds. Dr. Kalivoda also provided responses to questions raised at the previous meeting about how DOTD uses its FHWA funds and how other states fund port and waterway improvements.

Senator Adley stated his appreciation for the dedicated highway and bridge funding provision. He described the change from the now-defunct vehicle sales tax provision (VST) that was to have provided \$400 million in additional transportation funding, when excess funds beyond a threshold of \$9.9 billion in VST was predicted to have been attained. The funding was estimated to have become available in 2021. The new provision provides additional funding of \$100 million. Senator Adley asked whether the new provision is considered within the funding scenarios and Dr. Kalivoda affirmed that it was, and that this amount is equivalent to a scenario that would fall somewhere between scenarios one and three. Mr. Adley confirmed that the \$100 million would become available beginning in 2017, following a question from Dr. Kalivoda about the first year that the funding would be available. Current statutes claim all current budget stabilization funding, the eventual source of the \$100 million in new transportation funds, until 2016. The legislature has taken actions to raise additional revenue from the mineral stabilization fund, from \$850 to \$950 million per year, and this will provide the \$100 million for the TTF. Dr. Kalivoda confirmed that the \$70 million floor provision would remain in effect after 2017.

Dr. Kalivoda described the funding scenarios and the mega projects. He also provided a brief update on the status of the TIMED projects and the 2003 mega projects. He described the four tiers of mega projects and noted that the focus of the current plan is on mega projects A and B. He noted that in some cases very little state funding would be applied, such as in the case of adding shoulders to the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway.

In describing the plan's budget sheet, Dr. Kalivoda directed the committee's attention to the 2012 and 2022 budget line items for each of the four scenarios. Roughly \$245 million per year for pavement and \$85 million per year for bridge preservation is expected to be available, which will move DOTD toward scenario three. Bridge needs will become more acute in the future, and the Department will need to focus additional resources for bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction and replacement.

Senator Adley asked about using the term “sustainability” in reference to preservation projects. Dr. Kalivoda responded that FHWA recently introduced this language and that the plan would be updated to reflect this change in language.

Senator Adley and Mr. Scott discussed the Senate’s recent actions including the establishment of the \$70 million funding floor for highways and bridges.

Mr. Scott asked about recent senate actions to increase funding for transportation, specifically, Senator Adley’s bill dealing with stabilization fund, a title fee increase for new car purchases and a sales tax trigger. Mr. Scott inquired about the impact of each of these and asked whether there are additional bills that need to be accounted for.

Senator Adley reviewed the Senate’s actions in the last few days of the 2015 session. The Senator’s goal was to provide at a minimum \$70 million for preservation this year and there was a series of additional bills tied into this year’s budget. The Governor’s budget had allocated \$70 million for state police, but the legislature proposed reducing that amount to \$45 million, with the difference going to transportation uses. A second bill, the collection of past due traffic fines, made part of a proposed raise in state police pay contingent on collecting the fines. The revenue from these collections would be directed towards transportation uses, primarily for preservation. These actions and others in total could raise as much as \$90 million for transportation funding in the current year.

Senator Adley also described a proposed constitutional amendment that could provide additional transportation funding for the Department’s highway and intermodal programs. The constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, would create 2 funds: 1) a continuation of the existing budget stabilization fund, in which funding would be capped at \$500 million per year. Any funds in excess of \$500 million, up to an additional \$500 million would be directed to 2) a transportation stabilization fund. Funds in excess of the additional \$500 million for the transportation stabilization fund would be deposited into the general fund. The source of funding for both stabilization funds is an existing tax on mineral exploration and production.

Representative St. Germain discussed proposed legislation that did not pass, as well as an approved proposal to create a transportation infrastructure bank. Senator Adley noted that the legislature has ended the mobility fund program, which provided funding for toll projects. He also noted that some of the 2017 funds (funding in excess of \$70 million) would be made available for the infrastructure bank.

Dr. Kalivoda responded to Senator Walsworth’s request about how federal funds are spent. He presented excerpts from the budget partition, and noted that about 20 percent of federal highway funding is dedicated for local programs. Turning to the question of how other states fund port and waterway improvements, Dr. Kalivoda described the findings of the Department’s review of 14 Gulf Coast and East Coast states. Six of the 14 states reviewed provide state funds for ports. Florida and Georgia currently support channel deepening projects. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 made certain channels meeting tonnage criteria eligible for federal funding, including port channels in Louisiana. Some states use transportation trust funds within an established state port program, while others have used one-time funds for special projects.

Dr. Kalivoda also described a Corps of Engineers study on various channel and ecosystem water diversion proposals.

Mr. Scott asked whether state funds for port and waterway improvements can leverage state funds. Dr. Kalivoda explained that there is no federal program in place to support ports currently. He mentioned that the Corps of Engineers does support waterway dredging projects and occasionally, widening channels. The dredging and widening projects require matching funds. He also explained that the Department intends to have funds available to match federal funds if there is an opportunity to advance an important navigation channel project.

Mr. Scott asserted that the state needs to be more competitive to be able to leverage more federal funds, because other states are providing higher match rates to advance their widening and deepening projects.

Dr. Kalivoda described the remaining steps to be taken to complete the plan adoption process. After approval to adopt the Draft Plan, there will be a 45 day public review and comment period. The committee will meet again in October to review the comments received and DOTD's response.

Representative St. Germain moved to accept the change and to adopt the Draft Plan.

Before adoption, Mr. Scott stated that he would like to see additional information about the performance impacts of the recommended projects. He noted the state's pavement ratings, bridge sufficiency ratings and congestion ratings, some of which have been produced by national associations. Dr. Kalivoda agreed to have the information available for the next meeting in October, and noted that there will be a substantial amount of information about mega projects in the plan appendix.

Senator Adley seconded the motion to accept the change and adopt the Draft Plan. Secretary LeBas thanked the group and staff for their efforts.

Representative St. Germain thanked Shawn Wilson for his support during the plan review process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments registered. Secretary LeBas adjourned the meeting.

LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING #6 SUMMARY

November 19, 2015 • 1:00 PM

State Capitol, House Committee Room 3 • Baton Rouge, LA

MEETING ATTENDEES

Present:

Senator Patrick Page Cortez (for Senator Robert Adley), Louisiana State Senate
Senator Mack A. “Bodi” White, Jr. (for Senator Mike Walsworth), Louisiana State Senate
Representative Walt Leger, III (for Speaker Charles E. Kleckley), Louisiana State House of Representatives
Representative Karen St. Germain, Louisiana State House of Representatives
Ms. Mandi Mitchell (for Secretary Steven Grissom), Louisiana Economic Development
Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council
Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, P.E., Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), Chair

Other Attendees*:

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, P.E., Deputy Secretary, DOTD
Mr. Dennis Decker, Assistant Secretary, Office of Multimodal Planning, DOTD
Mr. Shawn Wilson, Chief of Staff, DOTD
Ms. Connie Porter-Betts, P.E., Assistant to the Secretary for Policy, DOTD
Mr. Phil Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Transportation, DOTD
Ms. Robin Romeo, P.E., Transportation Planning Administrator, DOTD
Mr. Dan Broussard, P.E., Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Ms. Dawn Sholmire, P.E., Transportation Planning Section, DOTD
Mr. Rodney Mallett, Public Relations Director, DOTD
Mr. Christopher Johns, Alexandria Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Mr. Carmack Blackmon, Louisiana Railroads Association
Mr. Derrell Cohoon, Capitol Partners
Mr. Henri Boulet, Executive Director, LA 1 Coalition
Mr. Wilfred Barry, P.E., representing Parish President J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., Iberville Parish
*Additional attendees were present but were not identified.

MEETING AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Adoption of the June 12, 2015 Policy Committee Meeting Summary
- Brief Overview of the Final Draft Statewide Transportation Plan; brief review of previous Policy Committee meetings
- Review of Public Comments on Statewide Plan; suggested resolution of comments
- Public Comment
- Subject to Policy Committee agreement, call for Adoption of the Draft Statewide Transportation Plan
- Final Comments; Adjourn

MEETING SUMMARY

Secretary LeBas welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Dr. Kalivoda conducted a roll call. There was a quorum present.

Adoption of the June 12, 2015 Policy Committee Meeting Summary

Representative St. Germain moved to adopt the Policy Committee Meeting Summary of the June 12, 2015 meeting. Without objection, the meeting summary was adopted.

Presentation – Review of Plan development; Review of previous Policy Committee meetings; Review of public comments, Dr. Kalivoda

Eric Kalivoda gave a PowerPoint presentation that described the Plan development process, including a brief description of the Advisory Councils, Policy Committee meetings, and the formal Public Involvement process. He also summarized the public comments on the draft Plan and described how DOTD proposed to address them. Dr. Kalivoda answered several questions from the Committee members regarding specific megaprojects, and current transportation funding issues.

Public Comments

- Mr. Henri Boulet, LA 1 Coalition commented on the importance to the State and nation of the LA 1 South improvement project – continuing the construction of the new LA 1 elevated causeway from Leesville, LA to Golden Meadow, LA. Mr. Boulet delivered copies of a recent study by the US Homeland Security agency regarding this LA 1 project. He also answered several questions from the Committee members.
- Mr. Wilfred Barry, representing Iberville Parish, commented on the importance to the Baton Rouge region of building a new Mississippi River Bridge and the ‘West Side Expressway’ megaprojects.
- Mr. Matt Johns, Alexandria MPO, and representing the LA Planning Council (organization of all LA MPOs) asked that DOTD consider the MPOs as active partners when developing funding plans for all transportation improvements in the urban areas of the state.

Adoption of the 2015 Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan

Representative St. Germain moved to adopt the 2015 Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan. Without objection the Plan was adopted by the Policy Committee.

Final Comments by the Policy Committee members

- Mr. Scott thanked the DOTD for conducting an open process in developing the new Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan. He recommended that DOTD continue to address the main measures (congestion, bridge safety, etc.) that are used to analyze the condition and effectiveness of transportation systems in all states.
- Secretary LeBas thanked everyone who was involved with the development of the new Plan, and the Policy Committee for their service. She also noted that to date, the DOTD has been guided by the 2003 Statewide Transportation Plan; and that Louisiana will now follow this new 2015 Plan.
- Representative St. Germain thanked Secretary LeBas for her service as DOTD Secretary and her, and her staff’s, work that resulted in the new 2015 Statewide Transportation Plan. She noted that “transportation cannot take a back seat anymore”.

Karen St. Germain moved to adjourn the Policy Committee meeting. Without objection, the meeting adjourned.