

LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Held on June 5, 2023

At the State Capitol Building

Room C

900 North Third Street

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

REPORTED BY: KELLY S. PERRIN, C.C.R.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 MEMBERS:

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR PATRICK MCMATH

4 JASON P. AMATO

5 SENATOR PATRICK P. "PAGE" CORTEZ

6 BARBARA GOODSON, AS DESIGNEE FOR JOHN L. DARDENNE,

7 JR.

8 CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW JOHNS

9 CHALIN O. "COP" PEREZ, JR.

10 ERIC KALIVODA

11 BRAD LAMBERT

12 ALSO APPEARING:

13 BARRY KEELING, UNDERSECRETARY, DOTD

14 DARHLENE MAJOR, EXECUTIVE COUNSEL, DOTD

15 KIM JUSTICE, SECRETARY, DOTD

16 MEREDITH HATHORN, FOLEY & JUDELL, BOND COUNSEL

17

18

19

20 Reported by:

21 Kelly S. Perrin, Certified Court Reporter

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SENATOR MCMATH:

3 All right. Good morning. Today is June  
4 5th, and this is a meeting of the Louisiana  
5 Transportation Authority. Madam Secretary,  
6 will you please call the roll?

7 MS. JUSTICE:

8 Chairman McMath?

9 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

10 Here.

11 MS. JUSTICE:

12 Mr. Amato?

13 MR. AMATO:

14 Here.

15 MS. JUSTICE:

16 President Cortez?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. JUSTICE:

19 Ms. Goodson?

20 MS. GOODSON:

21 Here.

22 MS. JUSTICE:

23 Mr. Johns?

24 MR. JOHNS:

25 Here.

1 MS. JUSTICE:

2 Secretary Kalivoda?

3 SECRETARY KALIVODA:

4 Here.

5 MS. JUSTICE:

6 Mr. Lambert?

7 MR. LAMBERT:

8 Here.

9 MS. JUSTICE:

10 Mr. Perez?

11 MR. PEREZ:

12 Here.

13 MS. JUSTICE:

14 Representative Wright?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. JUSTICE:

17 We have a quorum.

18 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

19 All right. Do I have a motion to approve  
20 the minutes from the May 23rd of 2022?

21 MR. AMATO:

22 So moved.

23 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

24 Mr. Amato has moved that we approve the  
25 minutes from May 23rd, 2022. Seeing no

1 objection, those minutes are approved.

2 We're going to move down to Informational  
3 Update on the transition of the LA 1 Toll.

4 MR. KEELING:

5 Okay. If you could bring it up for me,  
6 I'd appreciate it. Good afternoon, Committee  
7 Members, Mr. Chairman. I'm Barry Keeling, the  
8 Deputy Secretary for the Department of  
9 Transportation and Development and I'll be  
10 providing a short update on the LA Tolling  
11 Operation, and we have a request for a  
12 resolution. The agenda will be just a  
13 request, an update, and then just a recap of  
14 the request and review of the resolution.

15 The request will be to approve a  
16 resolution which will allow for a toll change,  
17 schedule change, and a toll rate change for  
18 LA 1 and amend the TIFIA Loan Agreement to  
19 reflect the schedule and rate change. The  
20 coordination has already been done with Build  
21 America Bureau for the amendment to the loan  
22 agreement.

23 Update: DOTD signed a contract with  
24 Plenary Infrastructure at Belle Chasse in  
25 April of 2021 to operate and maintain the LA 1

1 toll system. It will leverage the operational  
2 efficiencies with Belle Chasse and it will  
3 install a modern tolling collection system,  
4 continuing the operation at the -- and it will  
5 continue operations at the Golden Meadow  
6 Customer Service.

7 The toll collection changes will  
8 encompass leveraging the aging system and it  
9 will replace the aging system with a new  
10 modern collection system. It will have a  
11 single back office to be used for both  
12 facilities to reduce cost at LA 1 and Belle  
13 Chasse. And the electronic tolling system  
14 will be implemented same at both systems which  
15 will include a high-speed, nonstop tolling, no  
16 manual toll booths. It will have improved  
17 safety because there's no people in the toll  
18 plaza. And invoices will be sent to customers  
19 with or without a transponder.

20 The toll collection system will include a  
21 shape-based vehicle classification system.  
22 Currently, LA 1 is using eight separate  
23 vehicle classes. We'll simplify the tolling  
24 rate table, and it will go to three separate  
25 vehicle classes. It will be the same used at

1 both facilities at LA 1 and at Belle Chasse.

2 This is an example of the current eight  
3 schedules that are there for the different  
4 configurations. And the proposed will be  
5 going to the three classes which is the same  
6 classes that are approved for the Belle Chasse  
7 operation.

8 The toll rate -- the toll revenue  
9 collected on both of these will be toll  
10 revenue neutral so there will be no loss of  
11 revenues to the State for the collection going  
12 from the eight classes to the three classes.

13 The update, just on where we're at, the  
14 new -- after Hurricane Ida, the tolls were  
15 closed down for about a year. We reopened in  
16 September of 2022, where all-electronic  
17 tolling is established. We're currently using  
18 the eight vehicle classes until we convert  
19 over to Plenary later this fall. And we are  
20 using the toll-by-plate invoice transaction.  
21 So whether the person has a transponder or  
22 not, they can still -- we can collect the  
23 tolls through that mechanism.

24 Over the last year, we've been developing  
25 the new toll rates for the vehicle classes

1 invoice transaction process. We've ensured  
2 the new toll rates are revenue neutral, as I  
3 mentioned earlier. And the toll plaza  
4 construction for the new tolling system took  
5 place on May 1 of 2023. It's expected to be  
6 complete and we'll be ready to transition over  
7 to Plenary in September of 2023.

8 To facilitate the staff training that  
9 will be required for this, the GeauxPass  
10 Customer Service will operate Monday through  
11 Thursday from 8:00 to 4:00 beginning in July  
12 with Fridays designated as a training day for  
13 the outsource vendor, which is Plenary.  
14 Effective August of 2023, the outsource vendor  
15 will begin to install their equipment which  
16 will cause some degrading of the system which  
17 we're estimating could impact the collections  
18 by about \$17,000 while that new system is  
19 being installed.

20 Public outreach has been going on since  
21 February, communicating the new rates, the  
22 revenue neutral position on that where, even  
23 though the rates are changing, they're going  
24 up for some and down for some. It's not  
25 collecting any additional revenue than what

1 was previously being collected. The public  
2 outreach to date has included social media,  
3 letters via emails, and will include radio and  
4 television announcements. The ramped-up  
5 public engagement began in May of 2023. And  
6 the latest round of letters were sent to  
7 Legislators, public officials, and local  
8 businessmen. They included the upgraded  
9 enhancements to the facilities, the new toll  
10 rates classifications, the new toll rates, the  
11 process to get the GeauxPass, and contact  
12 numbers via telephone numbers and email for  
13 people that have questions, complaints. To  
14 date, we've received no comments or complaints  
15 from any individuals that we've been working  
16 with over the last four or five months.

17 Just a request on the recap of the  
18 request, we're asking for approval of the  
19 resolution for the toll schedule change, the  
20 toll rate change, and to allow us to amend the  
21 TIFIA Loan Agreement to reflect the toll  
22 schedule and rate changes with Build America  
23 Bureau. So that's the request.

24 In your packets, you did have a copy of  
25 the resolution. Perhaps we had a couple of

1 minor corrections we needed to make on it, and  
2 we can facilitate getting that signed by the  
3 appropriate people later this week.

4 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

5 We need to make these changes prior to  
6 voting on it?

7 MR. KEELING:

8 The change is we needed to change the  
9 signatures on there from Senator -- to Senator  
10 McMath, you, sir from Representative Wright  
11 and then just add the date of today.

12 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

13 Okay. All right. Request of your  
14 approval of the resolution, sir?

15 SECRETARY KALIVODA:

16 Move to approve.

17 MS. GOODSON:

18 I'll second.

19 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

20 You've got a question, right, Mr. Amato?

21 MR. AMATO:

22 A couple of questions. Looking at the  
23 classifications and all a couple of months  
24 ago, I think, so going from eight down to  
25 three is pretty standard among other states,

1 too, I imagine? I don't remember that many  
2 classifications when we went through the toll  
3 at Destin.

4 MR. KEELING:

5 That is -- these were done back in around  
6 2008 or '07 originally and then updated in  
7 2013. And they are a little bit cumbersome  
8 when it comes to collections and the different  
9 processing out there. It's not necessarily  
10 standard throughout the industry.

11 MR. AMATO:

12 Good. Thank you. Appreciate it.

13 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

14 All right. We have a motion by Secretary  
15 Kalivoda to approve a resolution authorizing  
16 the changes to the toll rate and vehicle  
17 classification schedule applicable to the LA 1  
18 Bridge. Is there any objection?

19 Seeing none, that has been approved.

20 All right. Next, we have to authorize  
21 the amendment of the TIFIA Secured Loan  
22 Agreement and the Pledge and Security  
23 Agreement to conform to the new toll schedule.

24 MS. HATHORN:

25 Yes. So Meredith Hathorn, Foley &

1 Judell, Bond Counsel. That's actually already  
2 included in the resolution, so it was a toll,  
3 it was the Loan Agreement, and it was the  
4 Pledge Agreement. And those are all the  
5 documents relating to the outstanding bond of  
6 the LA 1 Project.

7 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

8 Does the same go to the authorization to  
9 execute --

10 MS. HATHORN:

11 Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

13 -- any and all?

14 MS. HATHORN:

15 Yes, sir. And y'all have already taken  
16 that.

17 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

18 So we have taken care of all of our new  
19 business?

20 MS. HATHORN:

21 You have taken care of that.

22 CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

23 Very, very efficient meeting.

24 Any old business?

25 Any other business?

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Other comments?

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

SECRETARY KALIVODA:

So moved.

CHAIRMAN MCMATH:

Secretary Kalivoda has moved to adjourn.

And we are adjourned. Thank you.

(WHEREUPON, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.)

1 R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, KELLY S. PERRIN, a Certified Court  
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19 and advisory opinions of the board; that I am not  
20 of counsel nor related to any person participating  
21 in this cause and am in no way interested in the  
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