

7. Megaprojects

The Plan is intended to foster long-term economic growth and enhance the quality of life for Louisiana citizens by identifying efficient and effective investments and policies. As part of this effort, the Plan identifies major transportation improvements or “megaprojects” that have been proposed throughout the state. For the purposes of the Plan, a megaproject is a very expensive or large scale transportation improvement that would have a regional or statewide impact and would require special funding outside of normal DOTD funding mechanisms. A transportation improvement included as a megaproject in the Plan may be eligible for further study and possibly implementation, should additional state or federal funding become available. The list of megaprojects and their prioritization are further described below and included fully in **Appendix F**.

7.1 Highlights

113 Total Megaprojects

- RPOs were presented with 113 megaprojects for Plan consideration.

Priority A Megaprojects

- Priority A has 20 megaprojects for a total of \$4.8 billion (\$3.7 billion from DOTD). These can be funded under Scenarios 3 or 4, as outlined in **Chapter 5**.

Priority B Megaprojects

- Priority B has 19 megaprojects for a total of \$5.8 billion (\$3 billion from DOTD). These can only be funded under Scenario 4, as outlined in **Chapter 5**.

7.2 Megaproject Development

A key component of the Plan is selecting the right mix of projects and project types that best achieve intended outcomes, goals, and objectives. Transportation agencies must balance the requirements of sustaining their existing system pavements and bridges against “modernization” improvements (safety, wider lanes, ITS) versus expansion investments (new construction, additional capacity). Many citizens, elected officials, and business groups are interested in advancing large, complex expansion projects, like new highways or additional lanes. The state is faced with many demands and constrained resources; these megaprojects can only be implemented if new transportation revenues are forthcoming. Without new funding, only preservation and limited modernization improvements can be implemented.

Megaproject development for the 2015 Plan was similar to the 2003 Plan. The DOTD invited advocates for new and existing megaprojects to present their projects to the Regional Planning Officials (RPO) Advisory Council for consideration in the Plan. Each advocate completed a project questionnaire that detailed the project's cost, purpose and need, proposed funding options, and description of how that project met the revised Plan's goals. Over the course of 6 days, the RPO reviewed 113 megaproject presentations. Members of the RPO Advisory Council evaluated each megaproject based on how likely it would achieve each goal. In addition, each MPO executive director, planning and development district executive director, and DOTD district administrator was asked to prioritize megaprojects in their area. That input was used in the evaluation process. The project team documented each megaproject evaluation in a database and ranked the megaprojects according to the evaluation results. The megaproject advocate questionnaire and evaluation form are included in **Appendix G**.

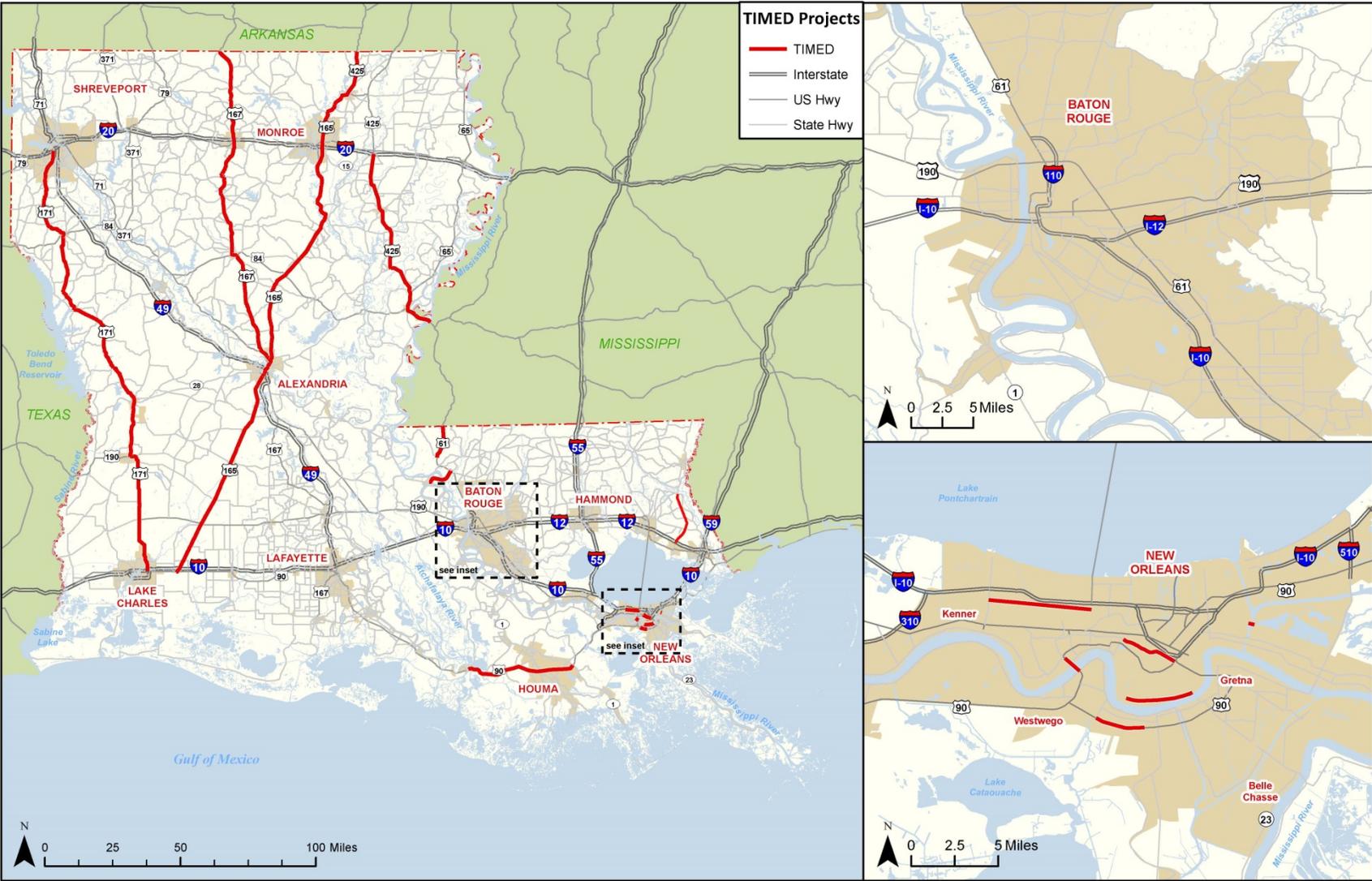
The project team and DOTD staff prepared additional megaproject analyses based on cost-benefit, traffic modeling results, and previous priority rankings. They assigned each megaproject a letter grade, ranging from A to D, and presented the results to the RPO and Executive advisory councils. These councils adjusted the prioritization of the megaprojects prior to the DOTD's presentation of the final recommendations to the Policy Committee in late spring 2014.

The final list of megaprojects approved by the Policy Committee identified 39 out of 113 projects as the highest priority for implementation should new revenues come available. These are Priority A or Priority B megaprojects, and coincide with the funding Scenarios 3 and 4, respectively, as described in **Chapter 6**. The 39 Priority A and B megaprojects have an unfunded cost of \$10.6 billion (\$6.7 billion from DOTD). An additional 74 megaprojects in Priority C and D are included in this Plan, but are not included in any of the funding scenarios described in **Chapter 6**. The 53 Priority C megaprojects have an unfunded cost of \$14.6 billion, while the 21 Priority D megaprojects total \$16.4 billion.

7.3 Completed/Funded Megaprojects

The 2003 Plan identified dozens of megaprojects that have since been completed under the TIMED program and with other one-time funding sources, such as hurricane relief funds and federal or state legislative earmarks. **Figure 7-1** shows the megaprojects included in the TIMED program. **Figure 7-2** shows the TIMED program's megaprojects, plus completely funded megaprojects from the 2003 Plan.

Figure 7-1: TIMED Program Projects



7.4 Prioritized Unfunded Megaprojects

The 2015 Plan includes 39 megaprojects listed as Priority A and B. Priority A megaprojects are of highest priority to the state and will be funded under funding Scenarios 3 or 4. Funding Scenario 3 assumes a \$400 million annual increase of state transportation funds expected in fiscal year 2020. Priority B megaprojects are those projects funded under funding Scenario 4. Funding Scenario 4 assumes an aggressive increase in transportation funding due to the additional dedicated state revenue beginning in 2020, plus a \$300 million annual increase in federal funding beginning in fiscal year 2020.

7.4.1 Priority A Megaprojects

The 20 Priority A megaprojects are worth \$4.8 billion. Of this amount, the DOTD would fund \$3.7 billion of that total (assuming new revenues become available), and other entities (MPOs, local governments, private sector, etc.) would fund the remaining \$1.1 billion worth of project costs, from other funding sources. Priority A projects include 13 interstate upgrades/widening projects, three bridge projects, two new highways, Mississippi River deepening, and the expansion of a Port of New Orleans container terminal. **Table 7-1** lists the Priority A megaprojects. **Figure 7-3** illustrates the Priority A megaprojects in addition to the TIMED program projects, plus the completely funded megaprojects from the 2003 Plan.

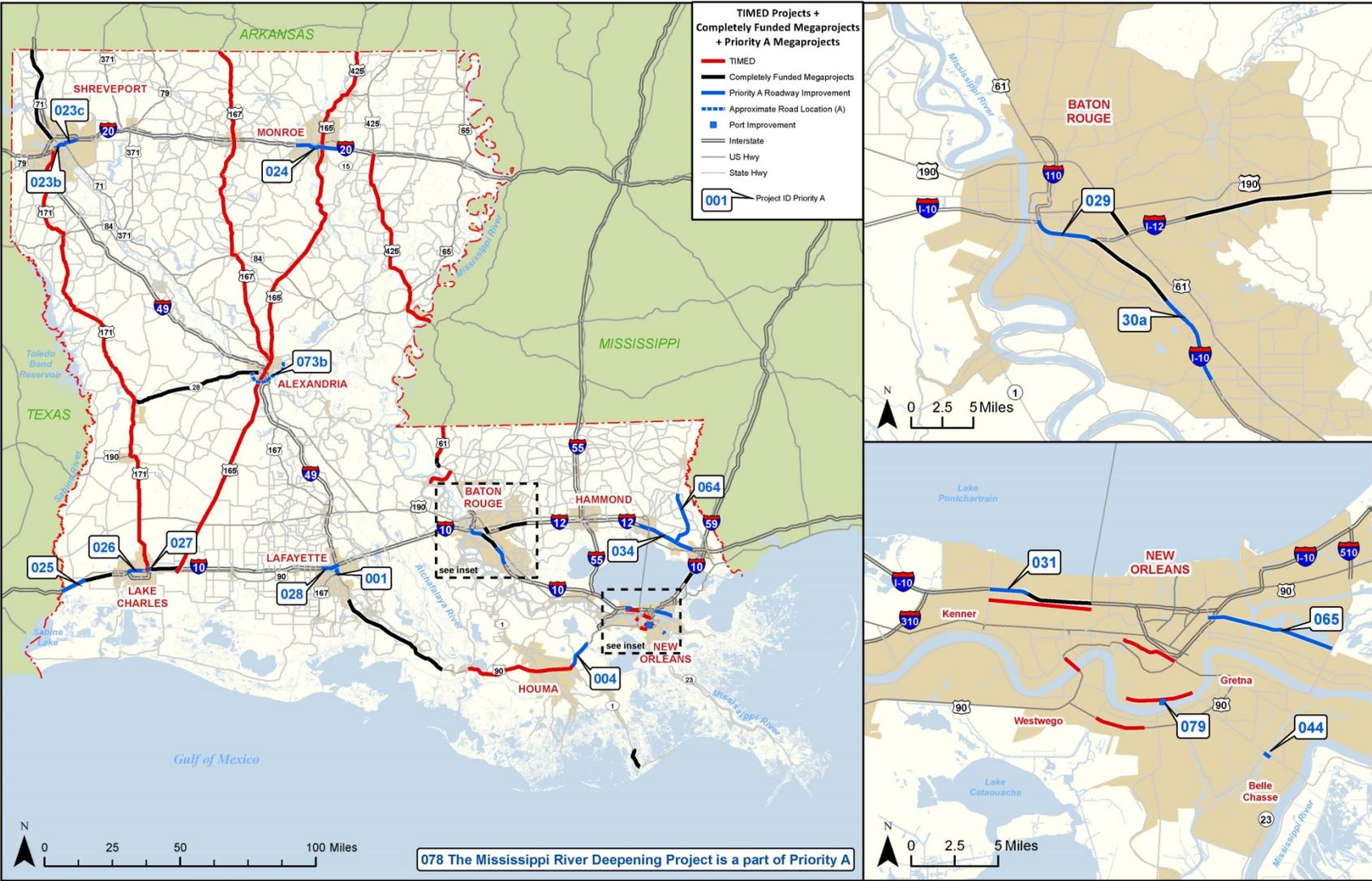
Table 7-1: Priority A Megaprojects

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)	DOTD (\$M)	Other Funding Sources (\$M)
1	Lafayette	I-49 South	I-10 in Lafayette to Lafayette Airport	Upgrade to freeway	\$750	\$700	\$50
4	Lafourche & St. Charles Parishes	I-49 South	Raceland to Des Allemands	Upgrade to freeway	\$190	\$190	\$0
23b	Shreveport	I-20	Red River Bridge (I-49, Shreveport to Traffic Street, Bossier City)	Widen to six lanes	\$135	\$135	\$0
23c	Shreveport	I-20	LA 3 to I-220 E	Widen to six lanes	\$90	\$90	\$0
24	Monroe	I-20	LA 546 to LA 594 (Monroe)	Widen to six lanes	\$220	\$220	\$0
25	Sulphur/Lake Charles	I-10	TX SL to LA 108	Widen to six lanes	\$65	\$65	\$0
26	Lake Charles	I-10 (Calcasieu River Br./ Approach)	I-210W to US 90 (Lake Charles)	Replace bridge, widen highway	\$450	\$450	\$0
27	Lake Charles	I-10	UPRR Overpass (Lake Charles) to I-210	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	\$50	\$50	\$0
28	Lafayette	I-10	LA 93 to I-49	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	\$100	\$100	\$0
29	Baton Rouge	I-10	I-110 to I-12 (Baton Rouge)	Widen 6-lane to 8-lane	\$320	\$320	\$0

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)	DOTD (\$M)	Other Funding Sources (\$M)
30a	Ascension	I-10	LA 42 to LA 74	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane & new interchange	\$100	\$100	\$0
31	New Orleans	I-10	Williams Blvd. (LA 49) to Veterans Blvd.	Widen to eight lanes	\$150	\$150	\$0
34	Slidell	I-12	LA 21 to Airport Rd. (to I-10/I-59)	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	\$170	\$170	\$0
44	New Orleans	LA 23	Belle Chasse Tunnel (New Orleans)	Build 4-lane bridge	\$180	\$160	\$20
64	St. Tammany	LA 3241 (TIMED)	I-12 to Bush	New 4-lane	\$230	\$230	\$0
65	St. Bernard	Florida Avenue (TIMED)	Bridge and Approaches	New bridge and approaches	\$270	\$270	\$0
73b	Alexandria/Pineville	Alexandria/Pineville Beltway	Beltway (Segments "E, F,G,H,I"/Red Route) from LA 28 East to LA 28 West	Build/upgrade 4-lane highway (Relocate LA 28 south of urban area)	\$175	\$155	\$20
78a	MS River	MS River	MS River	Deepen River to Baton Rouge	\$300	\$0	\$300
78b	Louisiana Coastal Access Channels	Coastal Access Channels	Coastal Access Channels	Deepen coastal access channels	\$300	\$0	\$300
79	New Orleans	Port of NO	Port of New Orleans	Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal Phase II & III	\$550	\$100	\$450
Total Costs					\$4,795	\$3,655	\$1,140

Note: Project ID Numbers are not assigned or listed in any order of priority.

Figure 7-3: Priority A Megaprojects + TIMED Program Projects + Completely Funded Megaprojects



7.4.2 Priority B Megaprojects

The 19 Priority B megaprojects total approximately \$5.8 billion. Of this amount, the DOTD would fund \$3.0 billion (assuming new revenues become available), and other entities (MPOs, local governments, private sector, etc.) would fund the remaining \$2.8 billion, from other funding sources. The 19 projects include one highway and five interstate upgrades/widening projects, four new highways, two rail projects, two interchange improvements, three new bridges, and Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge safety improvements. **Table 7-2** lists the Priority B megaprojects. **Figure 7-4** illustrates the Priority A and B megaprojects in addition to the TIMED program projects, plus the completely funded megaprojects from the 2003 Plan.

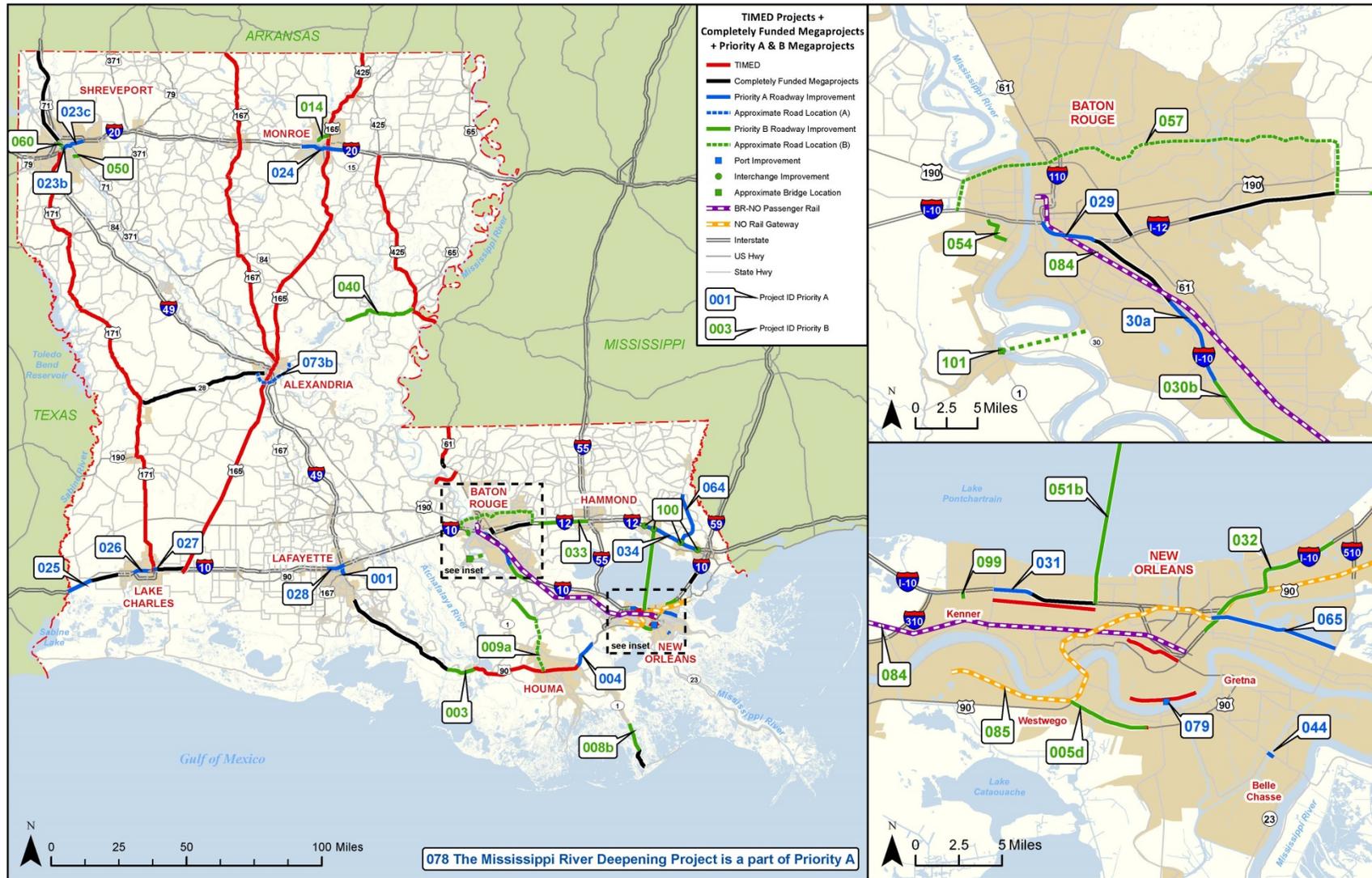
Table 7-2: Priority B Megaprojects

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)	DOTD (\$M)	Other Funding Sources (\$M)
3	St. Mary	I-49 South	Wax Lake outlet to Berwick	Upgrade to freeway	\$250	\$225	\$25
5d	Jefferson Parish	I-49 South	Extend West Bank Expressway (Ames Blvd. to Westwego)	Upgrade to freeway	\$150	\$150	\$0
8b	S. Central LA	LA 1 South	Golden Meadow to Leeville (Phase 2)	Complete 2-lane elevated roadway	\$320	\$250	\$70
9a	Houma	Houma-Thibodaux NS Connection to LA 3127 – Interstate Access Highway Phase I	US 90 to LA 3127; LA 3127	Purchase right-of-way for four lanes; Build out two lanes of new alignment; Widen LA 3127 (LA 3213 to LA 70)	\$550	\$350	\$200
14	Monroe	New Bridge	Ouachita River in Monroe	New bridge & connections	\$350	\$150	\$200
30b	Ascension	I-10	LA 74 to LA 22	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	\$80	\$80	\$0
32	New Orleans	I-10	Elysian Fields Ave. to Bullard Ave. (New Orleans)	Widen, implement ITS	\$225	\$225	\$0
33	Hammond	I-12	Satsuma to I-55 (S. Satsuma Rd. – I-55)	Widen to six lanes	\$180	\$180	\$0
40	E. Central Louisiana	US 84	Archie to Ferriday (El Camino)	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$85	\$75	\$10
50	Shreveport / Bossier City	LA 511 (J. Davis Bridge)	70th St. to Barksdale Blvd. (Shreveport)	Construct new 2-lane bridge	\$60	\$50	\$10
51b	New Orleans	Pontchartrain Causeway	US 190 to I-10	Raise SB Railing, Safety Bays, 10-foot shoulders	100% Toll Funded	\$0	\$0

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)	DOTD (\$M)	Other Funding Sources (\$M)
54	W. Baton Rouge Parish	LA 1 Connector	I-10 to LA 1	Build 4-lane	\$125 (\$60 from tolls)	\$65	\$60
57	Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge North Bypass	I-10 to I-12 (Baton Rouge)	Build/upgrade to 4-lane freeway, upgrade existing or build new MS River Bridge	\$1,000	\$500	\$500
60	Shreveport	I-49 North (Inner City Connector)	I-20 at I-49S to I-220 at I-49N Shreveport	New 4-lane freeway	\$380	\$300	\$80
84	S. Central LA	Rail	Baton Rouge to New Orleans Intercity Passenger Rail	Passenger/Freight Rail	\$262	\$0	\$262
85	New Orleans	Rail	New Orleans Rail Gateway Project	Rail Gateway	\$700	\$100	\$600
99	New Orleans	Loyola Drive/I-10 interchange, Kenner	Reconstruct Loyola Interchange (Improve access to new Louis Armstrong N.O. International Airport Terminal)	Reconstruct Interchange	\$90	\$80	\$10
100	St. Tammany Parish	I-12 Interchange Upgrade Projects	I-12 @ LA 21, US 190, LA 434, and Northshore Blvd.	Reconstruct Interchanges	\$160	\$160	\$0
101	Baton Rouge Metro Area	New MRB	LA 1 to LA 30	New MS River Bridge	\$800	\$100	\$700
Total Costs					\$5,767	\$3,040	\$2,727

Note: Project ID Numbers are not assigned or listed in any order of priority.

Figure 7-4: Priority A and B Megaprojects + TIMED Program Projects + Completely Funded Megaprojects



7.4.3 Priority C Megaprojects

The 53 Priority C megaprojects total approximately \$14.6 billion. Of the 53 projects, five are non-highway projects. **Table 7-3** lists the Priority C megaprojects.

Table 7-3: Priority C Megaprojects

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)
2	Lafayette	I-49 South	Lafayette Airport to LA 88	Upgrade to freeway	\$450
5a	St. Charles Parish	I-49 South	Des Allemands to I-310 (includes improvements to I-310/US 90 interchange)	Upgrade to freeway	\$470
5b	St. Charles and Jefferson Parishes	I-49 South	I-310 to Avondale (East of Lapalco Blvd.)	Upgrade to freeway	\$253
5c	Jefferson Parish	I-49 South	Avondale (East of Lapalco Blvd.) to Westwego (includes HPL/US 90 Interchange upgrade)	Upgrade to freeway	\$270
7	NW LA	I-69, SIU 15	I-20 Houghton to US 171 near Stonewall	New 4-lane freeway	\$950
9b	Houma	Houma-Thibodaux North South Connection to LA 3127 – Interstate Access Highway Phase 2	US 90 to LA 3127	Build out final two lanes to complete 4-lane corridor	\$325
11	New Orleans	LA 3139 (Earhart Expressway Ramp)	Hickory Ave/Orleans Parish Line (Earhart to Airline Connector Ramp)	Add ramps to Airline Highway (US 61)	\$125
12	New Orleans	LA 3139 (Earhart Expressway)/US 61 (Airline) Widening	Hickory to I-310	Build 6-lane freeway	\$250
16	Bastrop	US 165/US 425 Bypass (Bastrop Bypass)	US 425 to US 165	Build two lanes (4-lane RW)	\$90
20	W. Central LA	LA 117 Improvement	LA 8 to Military Training Ground (Peason Ridge)	Reconstruct two lanes with full shoulders	\$30
22	N. Central LA	Tarbutton Rd (LA 149)	I-20 to US 80	Interchange and I-20 frontage road	\$20
23a	Shreveport	I-20	TX SL to I-220W	Widen to six lanes	\$180
41	Abbeville/Esther	US 167/LA 82	Abbeville to Esther	Build/upgrade 0/2 to 4/2 lanes	\$40
42	Baton Rouge Metro	LA 408 (Hooper)	LA 37 to LA 16	Build 2-lane	\$150
43	Houma Metro	LA 3040	Houma Tunnel	Build 4-lane bridge	\$65
45	New Orleans Metro	Chalmette Bridge/I-510	Almonaster Blvd. to West Bank Expressway	Extend freeway, build new bridge	\$1,350
46	Central LA	East Bypass, Natchitoches, LA	LA 1 to LA 6	Build 2-lane roadway	\$65

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)
47	Central LA	LA 28 East	Alexandria to Archie	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$275
48	Baton Rouge	US 61 (Airline)	Gonzales to Cedarcrest Avenue	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	\$125
49	SE LA	LA 67 (Plank Rd.)	Baker to Clinton	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$130
51a	New Orleans	Pontchartrain Causeway	US 190 to I-10	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	100% Toll Funded
52	St. Tammany Parish	US 190	LA 1077 to US 11	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$180
53	S. Central LA	Lafayette Beltway	I-10 to US 90	Build 4-lane	\$400
55	Alexandria Metro	MacArthur Drive	I-49N to I-49S	Upgrade to freeway	\$110
61	W. Central LA	LA 8	TX SL to US 171	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$175
62	North Shore	I-12	Hammond to Mandeville, I-55 to LA 21	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	\$375
66	Lafayette/Baton Rouge	I-10	East of Lafayette to west of Baton Rouge (Louisiana Ave to LA 1)	Widen 4-lane to 6-lane	\$950
67	Lafayette	Lafayette Loop	I-10E to I-49N to I-10W to I-49S	Build 4-lane	\$1,600
68	Lake Charles	I-210	I-10 to I-10	Corridor upgrade	\$165
69	Monroe	US 165 Widening	Monroe Metro	Corridor upgrade/widening	\$165
70	SW LA	US 171 DeRidder Bypass	US 171 to US 171	Corridor upgrade	\$90
74	River Region	I-10/I-55 Interchange	Connection between I-10EB with I-55NB	Build new freeway connection	\$110
75	Mandeville/Covington	LA 25	Covington to Folsom	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$135
77	Baton Rouge	BUMP	US 61/US 190 Connecting I-10, I-12, I-110, US 61, and US 190	Upgrade to freeway	\$1,000
81	New Orleans	Earhart Expressway	US 61 to I-10	Extend to I-10	\$225
82	New Orleans	Peters Road LA 3017	West Bank Expressway to LA 23	Widen/build 2/0 to 3/2 lanes	\$110
87	Shreveport	LA 3132 Inner Loop	LA 523 to TBD (LA 1 or future I-69)	New Freeway	\$160
88	Ascension/Livingston	Ascension/Livingston Parkway Connector	NE Ascension Parish to SW Livingston Parish	New 2-lane road w/ bridge	\$50
92	Lafayette	I-49	Lafayette to Opelousas, I-10 to US 190	Widen to six through lanes	\$200
93	S. Central LA	I-10	Sunshine Bridge to Veterans Memorial Bridge, LA 22 to LA 641	Widen to six through lanes	\$120

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)
94	Shreveport	I-20	Shreveport to Minden, I-220 E to US 371	Widen to six through lanes	\$200
95	Monroe	I-20	Ruston to Monroe	Widen to six through lanes	\$220
96	Monroe	I-20	Minden to Ruston, US 371 to US 167	Widen to six through lanes	\$380
97	Lake Charles/Lafayette	I-10	Lake Charles to Lafayette, US 165 to LA 93	Widen to six through lanes	\$530
98	Lake Charles	Hwy 378 Loop	John Stine to West Fork Bridge	5-lane and realignment	\$50
102	Shreveport	I-220 Ext to Barksdale Air Force Base	I-220 Extension to Barksdale AFB (New Gate)	Extend to Barksdale AFB new gate	\$80
104	Ascension	LA 30/LA 431	LA 30/431 Commercial-industrial loop (includes LA 30 to LA 492 section from 2008)	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$440
105	Ascension	LA 73 to I-10	Industrial Access: I-10/LA 429	New interstate interchange on LA 429	\$35
Total Costs					\$13,868
Non-Highway Megaprojects					
83	New Orleans	Rail	New Orleans CBD to New Orleans Airport	Passenger rail	\$500
86	North LA	Rail	Shreveport to Texas state line	Passenger rail	\$160
89	Northeast LA	Vidalia Port (on MS river)	South of MRB between Vidalia & Natchez	Port development & industrial facilities	\$20
90	Central LA	Avoyelles Parish Port	Site adjacent to Atchafalaya River	Port development & industrial park/staging	\$25
91	Central LA	Site adjacent to US 165/LA 1, at I-49	Alexandria Multimodal Development	Rail rehab and extension, road improvements	\$20
Total Costs					\$725
GRAND TOTAL					\$14,593

Note: Project ID Numbers are not assigned or listed in any order of priority.

7.4.4 Priority D Megaprojects

The 21 Priority D megaprojects total approximately \$16.4 billion. **Table 7-4** lists the Priority D megaprojects.

Table 7-4: Priority D Megaprojects

ID No.	Area	Facility	Limits	Improvement Type	Total Cost (\$M)
6	NW LA	I-69, SIU 14	I-20 Haughton, LA to AR SL	Build 4-lane freeway	\$1,212
8a	S. Central LA	LA 1 South	Port Fourchon to US 90 (Phase 1)	New 2-lane elevated roadway, 4-lane	\$1,300
13	E. Central LA	Z. Taylor Parkway	I-49 to I-59	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$1,750
15	Monroe	Ouachita Loop	I-20 Monroe to I-20 West Monroe	Build two lanes	\$600
18	NE LA / Clayton	US 65	LA 15 to AR SL	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$870
19	SW LA	Acadiana Trail, US 190 / LA 12	TX SL to Basile (Acadiana Trail)	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$600
21	W. Central LA	LA 117 Widening	LA 8 to LA 6	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$380
35	Lake Charles-Monroe	US 165	I-10 to I-20	Upgrade to freeway	\$2,700
36	NW LA	LA 1	LA 169 to LA 538	Widen two to four or five lanes	\$30
37	NW LA	LA 1 (Tri-State)	LA 538 to AR SL	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$220
39	W. Central LA	LA 6 / US 84	TX SL to Archie (El Camino)	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$925
56	New Orleans Metro	Donner Rd.	West Bank Expressway to Peters Rd.	Build 4-lane	\$110
58	Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge South Bypass	I-10 to I-12 (Baton Rouge)	New 4-lane freeway	\$2,170
59	Monroe	LA 137/133, US 425	I-20 Rayville to Bastrop	Widen 2-lane to 4-lane	\$260
63	South Central LA	I-10 Alternative, US 165/190	US 165, I-10 to US 190; US 190, US 165 to I-49	Upgrade to freeway	\$1,075
71	NW LA	US 371	US 71 to AR SL	Construct passing lanes	\$50
72	Baton Rouge – River Parishes	West Side Connector	I-10 (WBR) to St. John/St. Charles Parish Line + connectors	Build new 4-lane highway + new Miss. River Bridge; upgrade exist. highways	\$1,700
73a	Alexandria/Pineville	Alexandria/Pineville Beltway	Beltway (Segment "J"/Green Route) from LA 28 West to I-49	Build new 4-lane highway	\$20
76	North Shore	LA 25	Folsom to Mississippi	4-lane (Widen to 4-lane divided)	\$250
80	New Orleans	Leake Avenue	Port of New Orleans	Extend to Port of NO	\$75
103	St. John Parish	I-10 Connector	I-10 to US 61 with interchange	New 4 lane & interchange	\$110
Total Costs					\$16,407

Note: Project ID Numbers are not assigned or listed in any order of priority.