

Capital Area Road and Bridge District Meeting Minutes

Time/Date: 1:30 PM, September 27, 2021

Location: Senate Committee Room E, State Capitol

Members Present: Chairman, Mr. J. H. Campbell, Jr., Governor's Appointee
Mr. Fred Raiford (representing Mayor-President Sharon Broome), E. B. R. Parish
Parish President Riley Berthelot, West Baton Rouge Parish
Dr. Eric Kalivoda, (representing S. Wilson, Secretary, DOTD)
Mr. Hank Grace (representing Parish President Mitch Ourso), Iberville Parish
Mr. John Diez (representing President Clint Cointment, Ascension Parish)

Member Absent: Parish President Layton Ricks, Livingston Parish

❖ Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes:

Minutes from the June 28, 2021 Meeting were approved, on motion made by Mr. Raiford and seconded by Berthelot.

Update on the progress being made by DOTD and Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC., since the last meeting on the Bridge project, and its identified tasks and timelines:

Paul Vaught – DOTD Project Manager

Kara Moree – Project Manager for Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC

- A. Introduction of Representative(s) of Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC.
- B. Comments from Representative(s) of Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC.
- C. Other Bridge Project updates from attending representatives of DOTD.
- D. Comparison of Timelines and Tasks to actual performance by Atlas.
- E. Report on amount of funds expended/disbursed by DOTD to Atlas.

Reports available at www.mrbsouth.com

Kara Moree (Atlas) and Paul Voight (DOTD) provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the project. Mrs. Moree reviewed the project team, project objectives and project workflow. Round 1 screenings reduced alternative locations or crossings to 17 with 15 alternatives being eliminated.

As the number of potential locations continue to decline, the team will begin to prepare for public meetings on the remaining locations. Round 1 screening eliminate those sites with highly sensitive areas, travel demand information, and bridge constraints. Mrs. Moree went through the map of the 17 alternatives, and the reasoning for why the 15 locations were eliminated.

Mr. Campbell asked for confirmation that a twin span next to the Horace Wilkinson Bridge had been removed, and Mrs. Moree confirmed. Mr. Berthelot asked why some of the southerly routes could not already be excluded. Mrs. Moree and Mr. Voight said they felt the data suggested these southerly routes should remain in for the moment, even though they would likely fall out during subsequent screenings.

Mr. Berthelot asked for detail about the average daily traffic counts. Mr. Voight clarified that the ADT is the projected volume on each alternative. The numbers do not reflect the impacts from tolling.

Dr. Kalivoda asked if data was available for the amount of I-10 bridge traffic that would shift to the new bridge. Mrs. Moree indicated affirmatively, and this info will be available on the website. Mr. Campbell inquired about the VHT numbers. Mr. Voight explained that number was a systemwide number and very large based on daily VHT. Dr. Kalivoda highlighted there was not necessarily a correlation between ADT and VHT.

Mr. Campbell inquired about the completion of the Round 2 screenings and Mr. Voight indicated the Round 2 screenings would be completed before the public meetings. Mr. Voight did not know if the toll analysis would be complete before the next CARB-D meeting in December. Mr. Diez asked about the perceived preference for the C locations. Mr. Voight indicated that while they were all green-lighted in Round 1, there would be additional considerations in Round 2 that may change how each location scores.

Sen. Rick Ward then addressed the District, and discussed the recently passed state infrastructure funding legislation. This legislation was the largest funding bill passed in 38 years in Louisiana. Starting in 2023-2024 a portion of the vehicle sales tax will be diverted into the construction sub-fund of the TTF. The following year, an additional 30% will be dedicated, totaling around \$300 million in 2025. Up to 75% of the dollars are to be set aside for certain megaprojects, including the Baton Rouge Mississippi River Bridge. Sen. Ward addressed the federal infrastructure bill as well. If passed by Congress, it would help with various projects around the state. Sen. Ward did note that the state bill could be adjusted with future legislation if needed.

Mr. Campbell asked about the bonding capacity and timing – Dr. Kalivoda indicated the bonding process would be determined based on project timing. Generally, 80% of the bonded funds

must be spent within 3 years. In talking about the prioritization of large projects in the state, Dr. Kalivoda indicated that the Lake Charles bridge was already in process and would move forward.

Mr. Diez advocated for Highway 30 funding. Sen. Ward highlighted where the state funding bill could provide funding for Highway 30. Sen. Ward thanked the Bridge District for their efforts, particularly since a revenue source has now been identified for the bridge.

Mr. Campbell inquired about any delays created or caused by Hurricane Ida and Dr. Kalivoda indicated he did not see where there would be any delays and noted road and bridge damage was relatively minor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Campbell called for public comments. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no public comments, Chairman Campbell called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Raiford. Without objection, the meeting was deemed adjourned at 2:53pm.

Secretary of CARB-D

Riley Berthelot, President of West Baton Rouge Parish

Attest:

J.H. Campbell, Jr., Chairman of CARB-D