

## **Capital Area Road and Bridge District Meeting Minutes**

**Time/Date:** 9:00 a.m., May 27, 2022

**Location:** Senate Committee Room F, State Capitol

**Members Present:** Chairman, Mr. J. H. Campbell, Jr., Governor's Appointee  
Mr. Fred Raiford (representing Mayor-President Sharon Broome), East  
Baton Rouge Parish  
Parish President Riley Berthelot, West Baton Rouge Parish  
Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary, DOTD  
President Mitch Ourso, Iberville Parish

**Member Absent:** Parish President Layton Ricks, Livingston Parish; President Clint  
Cointment, Ascension Parish

❖ Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **Minutes:**

Minutes from the March 28, 2022 Meeting were approved, on motion made by President Berthelot and seconded by Sec. Wilson.

**Next on the Agenda, was the 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](http://www.mrbsouth.com)

Kara Moree (Atlas) provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the project. Ms. Moree reviewed the project team, project objectives and project workflow. She outlined how Atlas was nearing the end of the Enhanced Planning Phase. She discussed the six public meetings which were held and the approximately 1200 attendees. She also identified how the public input was actually received.

Ms. Moree and Mr. Vaught then announced the final three site locations under consideration as being identified as E-11, F-13, and F-14 as noted on the maps provided to the Commissioners and a part of the presentation.

Atlas and DOTD will now proceed through the environmental process with an anticipated final decision on one site or location by the summer of 2024.

President Ourso thanked the project team for their efforts and for selecting all locations in Iberville Parish.

Secretary Wilson acknowledged the professional work of the team and highlighted the number of meetings that had been held and how the process was on schedule and enhanced by the funding already proposed and approved by the Legislature.

Mr. Raiford noted that another bridge was needed in the region, and also thanked the team for their efforts and acknowledged the importance of the public input in the process.

Mr. Berthelot indicated that he would support the data and the analysis process, and congratulated President Ourso. He also highlighted how the city of Plaquemine would have some future challenges and will need some additional infrastructure work to accommodate the anticipated traffic.

Mrs. Moree indicated that each of the final three locations will benefit LA Hwy- 1

Mr. Campbell asked about the traffic count and when its analysis might be provided for a thorough review, and also asked about the continuing work to be done and the possibility of having it completed sooner.

Sec. Wilson indicated that the process could be done quicker than 24 months to secure a Record of Decision. Sec. Wilson also stated that the permitting process is fully funded. He indicated the state would be actively seek additional funding for the construction from the federal government.

Mr. Campbell then asked about what will happen about improving the infrastructure to provide an easier passage through the city of Plaquemine. Sec. Wilson indicated this area will need to be reviewed over the next two years as part of the due diligence process. Mr. Ourso indicated that he was confident that the city of Plaquemine would handle the situation effectively.

Senator Ward was then recognized, and he congratulated the group for their work. Mr. Campbell indicated that the next quarterly meeting for the District would be held in late September.

Mr. Kevin Durbin of West Baton Rouge Parish then asked whether DOTD and Atlas had considered keeping the fourth alternative since its score was so close to the third option. He indicated that such an option would be prudent if the three locations all located south of Plaquemine were not acceptable to the Federal reviews, then at least one option would be viable for consideration. Mr. Durbin also commented that LA Hwy- 1 may be too constrained through Plaquemines and could present future challenges.

Mr. Campbell also asked about possibly expanding to four options, in order to include C-6-III since the scoring was so close.

Sec. Wilson indicated that the process was established to reduce options and generally was not setup to expand the options. Sec. Wilson indicated that adding another option would not be helpful and would add costs and create further delays in the process. As the Enhanced Planning Study was ending around July of 2022, the Environmental Evaluation Phase would begin around July of 2022, and be completed on or before July of 2024.

At this point, Chairman Campbell noted that the District did not have the authority or call in its statutory charge to approve the sites but could accept the recommendation of DOTD and their designated Consultant, Atlas, of the three final sites selected, and would accept a motion to do so.

A Motion to Accept the Recommendations of DOTD and the Consultant, Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC, for the final three sites under consideration for a new Bridge across the Mississippi River, all located in Iberville Parish on the west side, was made by President Ourso, and seconded by Mr. Raiford. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Campbell called for public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Campbell called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Berthelot.

Without objection, the meeting was deemed adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Secretary of CARB-D

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Riley Berthelot, President of West Baton Rouge Parish

Attest:

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