**Capital Area Road and Bridge District**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Time/Date:** 2:00 PM, June 17, 2019

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

**Members Present:** Chairman J. H. Campbell, Jr., Governor’s Appointee

William Daniel (representing Parish President Kenny Matassa), Ascension Parish

Mayor-President Sharon Broome, East Baton Rouge Parish

Parish President Riley Berthelot, West Baton Rouge Parish

Parish President Mitchell Ourso, Iberville Parish

Eric Kalivoda (representing Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary), DOTD

**Members Absent:** Parish President Layton Ricks, Livingston Parish

**Minutes:**

* Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order.
* Minutes from the May 13, 2019 meeting were approved.
* Senator Rick Ward spoke regarding his discussion with Governor Edwards and Secretary Wilson in which a commitment was made to fund the environmental evaluation for the project in the amount of $5 million from DOTD’s budget. Eric Kalivoda confirmed that commitment on behalf of Secretary Wilson.
* Mark Cooper, Chief of Staff for Governor Edwards, encouraged the CARB-D to pursue its work, expressed support for public-private partnerships, and offered the support of the Governor’s office.
* Scott Kirkpatrick provided an overview of the activities of the Technical Working Group in crafting the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). He also provided an overview of the Technical Working Group discussions concerning the type of facility being pursued, namely a freeway (Interstate-quality) facility versus a conventional highway/expressway. The recommendation from the Technical Working Group was that a conventional highway/expressway be pursued.

Eric Kalivoda then provided further detail on the RFQ and discussed the necessity of following the National Environmental Policy Act requirements. He stressed the importance of selecting an experienced consultant that has a thorough understanding of the environmental process and procedures, and can move the project forward expeditiously. The consultant selection process would involve oral presentations and interviews of the three top rated consultants in which CARB-D Commissioners and members of the Technical Working Group could attend and ask questions. The selection process is anticipated to take six months from the date of advertisement.

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* In response to a question from Parish President Ourso, Eric Kalivoda explained that current state law provides that the Secretary select from the top three rated firms but that he may be able to consider recommendations from entities such as CARB-D.
* The CARB-D unanimously approved pursuing a conventional highway/expressway as opposed to a freeway facility.
* The CARB-D unanimously approved the request for Qualifications.
* Chairman Campbell expressed CARB-D’s desire to enter into a formal agreement with DOTD regarding the role of each entity in moving the project forward. A meeting will be scheduled with Secretary Wilson to discuss.
* Chairman Campbell opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.
* The meeting was adjourned.