

Capital Area Road and Bridge District Meeting Minutes

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., December 15, 2025

Location: Louisiana State Capital
Senate Committee Room "E"

Members Present: Chairman, Mr. J. H. Campbell, Jr., Governor's Appointee
Mr. Fred Raiford (representing East BR Parish Mayor/President Sid Edwards)
Mr. Wally Avara (representing Parish President Randy Delatte), Livingston Parish
Mr. Brandon Bourgoyne (representing Parish President Jason Manola, West Baton Rouge)
Hon. Secretary of DOTD Glenn Ledet
Hon. Parish President Chris Daigle, Iberville Parish

Member Absent: No Representative from Ascension Parish was in attendance.

❖ Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Minutes from the September 29, 2025, were approved, on motion made by Mr. Raiford and seconded by President Daigle.

Next on the Agenda, there was an 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.

- A. Introduction of Representative(s) of DOTD – Ms. Christina Brignac.
- B. Comments from Representative(s) of DOTD.
- C. Other Bridge Project updates from attending representatives of DOTD.
- D. Comparison of Timelines and Tasks to actual performance by Atlas.
- E. Further updates on the three remaining alternatives for potential Bridge location.
- F. Report on the recently held Public Meetings held in the Capital Region.

Reports available at www.mrbsouth.com

Christina Brignac, the Project Manager, of DOTD, reported on the bridge project as follows:

1. The twelve (12) month NEPA process was commenced after the September 2025 meeting of the District.
2. Public Meetings were held in St. Gabriel and In Plaquemine, and she reported on those meetings and the attendees.
3. Other Public Meetings would be held in the First Quarter of 2026, and a Public Hearing on the preferred alternative some time in Q2 of 2026 so that the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) will be available for the Public Hearing.

4. A Timeline for the Completion of the NEPA review in 2026 was provided and explained.
5. Anticipating a Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact by the Fall of 2026. If not, an Environmental Impact Statement could be required by FHWA which would require an additional 24 months of review.
6. A Detailed List of the Completed Tasks was provided and explained.

Sec. Ledet explained the process if significant environmental impacts were to be found, which would then require an environmental impact statement.

President Daigle inquired about the EIS process and was told it would result in an additional 24 months. He also inquired about the timeline for the construction. Mrs. Brignac indicated 2-3 years for design after a FONSI.

President Daigle also mentioned the comments he had received from residents about their interest in having an easier and more convenient means of crossing the Mississippi River.

Goal is to have additional public meetings in February of 2026.

Mrs. Brignac indicated that there were 147 people in attendance at the St. Gabriel Public Meeting with 80% identified as residents. 48 comments were received by DOTD and recorded in the documents. She also reported that there were 62 people in attendance at the Plaquemine Public meeting with 82% identified as residents. 14 comments were received by the DOTD and recorded in the documents.

The next steps identified by DOTD, other than the Public Meetings and the Public Hearing, is the assessment of environmental impacts which is performed by the DOTD and the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) to make the determination of any impact of the project on the environment.

The DOTD prepares the final Document, and as the Lead Federal Agency, the FHWA reviews and approves the Document.

Under New Business:

Chair Campbell requested ratification of the action taken by the Chair for the payment made to Roedel Parsons Law Firm for the preparation of a response to a public records request in the amount of \$292.50. Motion by President Daigle, Seconded by Mr. Avara and the ratification was approved without an objection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Campbell called for public comments. He reminded all in attendance that the **Capital Area Road and Bridge District (CARB-D)** does not make any decision about the actual location of the site where the Bridge would make its crossing. He reminded all in attendance that the CARB-D was created as a Taxing District, and the entities involved in the site selection process were the DOTD, and their Contract Consultant, Atlas Technical and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Campbell asked if there was any opposition to any of the proposed crossings other than **Location E-11-(IV)**.

All Public Comments were received only on **Location E-11-(IV)**, as follows:

Speaking in **Opposition** to **Location E-11-(IV)** were:

Catherine Coates, Clifford Comeau; Laura Comeau; Lydia Haydel; and Julia Hebert

Opposition views covered such topics as the finding of a significant environmental impact on any of the final three sites, the attendance of the two public meetings, and request of removing E-11- iv as one of the final sites. Other comments centered on assertions that certain information was not included in the reports filed, which was contested by DOTD representatives. A Wildlife & Fisheries letter was referenced concerning alleged irreversible harm, and the sampling of the correct properties. Concerns about the area known as Plaquemine Point.

Chairman Campbell inquired about any items allegedly being left out of the project file and Mrs. Brignac reminded all in attendance that since a final decision has not been made then comments are still being gathered and received, and all will be properly included.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Campbell called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was offered by President Daigle.

Without objection, the meeting was deemed adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary of CARB-D

President Chris Daigle, Iberville Parish

Attest:

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