

Capital Area Road and Bridge District Meeting Minutes

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., March 30, 2026

Location: Louisiana State Capital
Senate Committee Room "E"

Members Present: Chairman, Mr. J. H. Campbell, Jr., Governor's Appointee
Mr. Wally Avara (representing Parish President Randy Delatte), Livingston Parish
Mr. Brandon Bourgoyne (representing Parish President Jason Manola, West Baton Rouge)
Mr. Daniel Helms (representing Parish President Clint Cointment, Ascension Parish)
Hon. Secretary of DOTD Glenn Ledet
Hon. Parish President Chris Daigle, Iberville Parish

Member Absent: No Representative from East Baton Rouge Parish was in attendance.

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

Minutes:

Minutes from the December 15, 2025, were approved, on motion made by President Daigle and seconded by Mr. Helms.

Next on the Agenda, there was an update on the Environmental Assessment and the recent Public Meetings being made by DOTD represented by Ms. Christina Brignac, 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. Agency scoping meeting was held on February 23, 2026.
2. DOTD advanced the mainline and interchange concept designs.
3. Public Meetings were held in Iberville Parish and the West side and the East side of the River with 73 attendees on the west side and 106 attendees on the East side. She reported disparate opinions on the alternative preferences, with 174 total comments received. Most of the attendees were residents of the area.

4. The purpose and the need for the Bridge was reiterated. The project would address the following transportation problems: a) lack of redundancy in emergencies; b) lack of alternative routes; c) lack of capacity in the roadway network.
5. A review of the existing environmental conditions and the proposed crossing sections. This included an anticipated elevated roadway, the main span bridge, and at-grade roadway.
6. Next steps were identified as: a) the identification of a preferred alternative; b) conduct additional field data and impact analysis; c) draft an environmental assessment and permit a 30-day public review; 4) public hearings will occur midway through the public review period.
7. Interchange options were described including a flyover and a trumpet design as options for the tie-ins to La. 1 and La. 30 for each option – E.11.IV; F.13.IV; and F.14.V

Under New Business:

Next, Secretary of DOTD, Glen Ledet introduced Mr. Tom Rousakis from the Ernst & Young Consulting practice to fully discuss the Public-Private Partnership (PPP or 3P or P3) process. Mr. Rousakis indicated that a P3 is a long-term performance-based contract where a public agency contracts with a private consortium to design, build, finance, operate, and/or maintain an infrastructure asset (i.e., a bridge and its connectors). Over the course of the agreement user fees (tolls) of other revenue sources are paid to reduce the obligation with the consortium.

He described the manner in which the Calcasieu River Bridge project was being handled.

Models described included a Design – Bid – Build; or a Design-Build; or a Design – Build – Finance; or a Design – Build- Finance- Operate – Maintain (DBFOM) (with either an availability payment or a toll risk option). He also discussed the use of a Pre-Development Agreement.

Questions were asked about the party responsible for the maintenance of the bridge and its connectors. It was explained that such was dependent on the type of option chosen for the structure of the deal with the consortium.

Next President Daigle mentioned a piece of proposed legislation presented by Rep. Dixon McMakin which would add additional commissioners to the District.

Next, a motion was made by President Daigle and seconded by Mr. Helms authorizing the Chairman, Mr. Campbell, to investigate, with the assistance of the DOTD, the use of a consultant to help the District understand all of the public and private financing options which the District might be able and eligible to utilize to optimize the financing alternative of the proposed Mississippi River Bridge under consideration. This motion passed unanimously.

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:

Clifford Comeau; Laura Comeau; John Day; Robert & Denise Ellison; Lydia Haydel; Julia Hebert; Amber King; Kathryn Ellison Smith; and Scott Causey.

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 the need to preserve the Cypress tree forest on the Comeau property, and the wetlands. Complaints were expressed about future pollution and traffic. Salt water intrusion was mentioned as a concern. Requests were made for copies of the biological and cultural studies performed. Another concern was expressed about water quality and waste water issues.

Mrs. Brignac and Sec. Ledet reminded all in attendance that since a final decision has not been made that comments are still being gathered and received, and all will be properly included in the final report.

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 3:20 p.m.

Secretary of CARB-D

President Chris Daigle, Iberville Parish

Attest:

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