

LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Held on June 8, 2021

At the State Capitol Building

John J. Hainkel, Jr. Room

900 North Third Street

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 MEMBERS:

3 CHAIRMAN SENATOR RICK WARD, III

4 JASON P. AMATO

5 SENATOR PATRICK P. "PAGE" CORTEZ

6 BARBARA GOODSON

7 SHAWN D. WILSON, PH.D

8 MANDI D. MITCHELL

9 ALSO APPEARING:

10 BARRY KEELING, UNDERSECRETARY, DOTD

11 CHRISTINA STEWART, SECRETARY, DOTD

12 JOE DONAHUE, DOTD

13 Reported by:

14 Kelly S. Perrin, Certified Court Reporter

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN WARD:

3 All right. We're going to go ahead and
4 get started here. Madam Secretary, if you can
5 call the roll, please?

6 MS. STEWART:

7 Mr. Amato?

8 MR. AMATO:

9 Here.

10 MS. STEWART:

11 Ms. Goodson?

12 MS. GOODSON:

13 Here.

14 MS. STEWART:

15 Representative Pierre?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. STEWART:

18 Senator Ward?

19 SENATOR WARD:

20 Here.

21 MS. STEWART:

22 President Cortez?

23 SENATOR CORTEZ:

24 Here.

25 MS. STEWART:

1 Secretary Wilson?

2 SECRETARY WILSON:

3 Here.

4 MS. STEWART:

5 Ms. Mitchell?

6 MS. MITCHELL:

7 Present.

8 MS. STEWART:

9 And that's it. We have a quorum.

10 CHAIRMAN WARD:

11 All right. We have a quorum. Do I have
12 a motion to approve March 1st, 2021 meeting
13 minutes?

14 SECRETARY WILSON:

15 So moved.

16 CHAIRMAN WARD:

17 All right. Those minutes will be
18 approved. We're going to go right into our
19 first agenda item, the update on the LA1
20 project. Joe Donahue?

21 MR. DONAHUE:

22 Good evening, Board members. Joe Donahue
23 with DOTD. You may recall that in March of
24 our last quarterly meeting, we had a rather
25 detailed update regarding the status of LA1.

1 I'm happy to report to you that not much has
2 changed since then, so this update will be
3 very brief.

4 Primarily, the biggest occurrence was --
5 you may recall also that it was discussed,
6 there was a pending option for the contractor
7 in the Belle Chasse P3 Project to take over
8 the operations of LA1. And the Department was
9 in negotiations with that developer. Those
10 negotiations have concluded successfully, and
11 we have reached an agreement with them. The
12 takeover by Plenary Infrastructure Belle
13 Chasse will take about two years to perform
14 the work. It will require some slight
15 modifications to the infrastructure, the toll
16 pay entry, and the replacement of the existing
17 technology.

18 So that will, as I said, I believe the
19 estimated contract time is actually 720 days,
20 so 10 days short of two years. And that is
21 currently the status. The technology partner
22 for the developer has begun working on the
23 software, and so things are moving along.

24 CHAIRMAN WARD:

25 Secretary Wilson for a question.

1 SECRETARY WILSON:

2 No question but just wanted to comment
3 that much of the recapitalization of the
4 equipment needed to be done anyway. And the
5 fact that we are moving forward with the
6 remaining segment for construction, it had to
7 be built in a way that accommodates that
8 growth. So it really is good timing in terms
9 of what we're doing because it has to get done
10 and we're going to do it based on what the
11 final buildout will be for the new entrance to
12 LA1.

13 And then the other piece that's worth
14 mentioning, we are going to begin a process of
15 trying to restructure the toll configuration.
16 Right now, the system we have is based on
17 axles. It's very complicated. That speaks to
18 some of the challenges over the next two years
19 to redo that system to comply with what we
20 want to be. But we've done the research and
21 are able to begin a public conversation on
22 narrowing and refining those tolls that will
23 be revenue-neutral essentially. We can't make
24 that exact promise because it's going to be
25 consolidating, I think, 13 different

1 configurations down to three basic
2 configurations, which is much cheaper to build
3 and maintain in terms of its system.

4 So that's a public conversation that
5 we're going to start with the community that
6 could readjust -- if you remember, the tolls
7 adjust upward every five years to account for
8 inflation, so it could also be more modest
9 adjustments as opposed to significant
10 adjustments every five years. All of that can
11 be factored into what we're doing and use more
12 current numbers in terms of those who are
13 using the bridge.

14 CHAIRMAN WARD:

15 Sounds good. Any other information or
16 update?

17 MR. DONAHUE:

18 Not regarding LA1.

19 CHAIRMAN WARD:

20 All right. Do we need to take action on
21 that or just an update?

22 MR. DONAHUE:

23 Just an update.

24 CHAIRMAN WARD:

25 All right. Any new business to be

1 discussed? It looks like we're good there.
2 Old business? Jimmie Davis Bridge update as
3 well.

4 MR. DONAHUE:

5 Yes. So you also may recall that last
6 year in the June meeting of LTA, we had --
7 DOTD had presented an unsolicited proposal
8 from United Bridge Partners regarding the
9 Jimmie Davis Bridge in Bossier Parish offering
10 to replace it and toll it in a P3 project. At
11 the June meeting, that request was tabled.
12 The request was for the authority to give DOTD
13 the go-ahead to vet that proposal and evaluate
14 it. And the proposer actually was given
15 additional time to go out and do some
16 community outreach regarding the tolling.

17 As of this morning, the Jimmie Davis
18 Bridge Project was approved by the Joint
19 Transportation Committee to go forward as a
20 design build project. So the funding has been
21 identified for that project and is no longer
22 eligible for a P3. So under the LTA statutes
23 and the bylaws, one of the things that the
24 proposer had to submit when they provided
25 their proposal was a \$50,000 fee, basically,

1 to defray the costs of review of the proposal
2 by DOTD. And the bylaws do authorize
3 refunding that fee in the event that the
4 project is unable to go forward for legal
5 reasons which, here, would be the fact that
6 DOTD has not approved it to go forward as a
7 P3, and that qualifies in order to be able to
8 refund that fee.

9 So it would be DOTD's recommendation that
10 the \$50,000 fee provided by UBP in connection
11 with their unsolicited proposal be refunded to
12 them.

13 CHAIRMAN WARD:

14 Okay. Secretary Wilson?

15 SECRETARY WILSON:

16 Three seventy-five-- no, that's an
17 incentive to Senator Peacock. No, thank you.
18 Thank you, Joe. The one thing I wanted to do
19 because we oftentimes, as we evolved and
20 looked at all of these other developing P3s,
21 we still have current and active P3
22 procurements underway or at least one
23 procurement underway for one of the five
24 projects, which is the Calcasieu Project that
25 is moving forward.

1 I do want to, you know, while no one
2 expected \$100 million to fall from the sky or
3 be a part of the package, we are appreciative,
4 and we've always maintained, Mr. President
5 would remember, when we passed Legislation, we
6 always said, if we had cash to do it, we would
7 take that option. We don't always have cash
8 to do it. I think it's important for this
9 Body to recognize the P3 Community for
10 stepping up, particularly, United Bridge
11 Partners, because this is only the second
12 unsolicited partner, a proposal that we've
13 received, and not to be discouraged when these
14 projects here and across the country come up
15 because it's a very boutique industry. This
16 doesn't happen very often that you find 100
17 percent of the funding to move projects along.

18 And so we are very appreciative for the
19 Administration in Washington for giving us
20 those dollars that made it possible; because
21 we've always said, if we get money, we'll
22 build it that way. And I just want to thank
23 United Bridge Partners for having confidence
24 in Louisiana and seeing the interest in our
25 projects and would encourage them, in that

1 space, to continue looking for those options.
2 And while we haven't really begun the
3 procurement process, other than being
4 authorized to use design build, it does not
5 exclude them from being considered as a design
6 builder in the traditional sense for that
7 project.

8 And so I just wanted to go on the record
9 to do that to know that we didn't enter into
10 this process expecting it to happen that way,
11 but it's just one of the challenges. And it's
12 a good challenge in the situation since we can
13 provide this full funding for this project.
14 So I just wanted to make that comment on the
15 record.

16 CHAIRMAN WARD:

17 We're thankful to have some dollars to be
18 able to do --

19 SECRETARY WILSON:

20 Absolutely.

21 CHAIRMAN WARD:

22 -- things right now. Hopefully, we can
23 continue that going forward.

24 Senator Peacock, were you wanting to say
25 anything about the project?

1 SENATOR PEACOCK:

2 Very appreciative and thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN WARD:

4 Okay. Senator Cortez?

5 SENATOR CORTEZ:

6 Do we need a motion to refund the \$50,000
7 that was deposited? If so, I'll be happy to
8 make that motion.

9 CHAIRMAN WARD:

10 Okay.

11 MS. GOODSON:

12 I'll second.

13 CHAIRMAN WARD:

14 All right. So we have a motion by
15 Senator President Cortez to refund the \$50,000
16 for the -- was the down payment, probably not
17 the right terminology for the unsolicited
18 proposal.

19 SECRETARY WILSON:

20 Application fee.

21 CHAIRMAN WARD:

22 Application fee, there you go.

23 Hearing no objection, that motion is
24 adopted.

25 MR. DONAHUE:

1 Thank you very much, Board members.

2 SENATOR CORTEZ:

3 Just a comment, you know, having spent
4 four years in your seat as the Chairman of
5 Transportation traveling the state, the
6 Northwest CCOG would always say, the Jimmie
7 Davis Bridge was their number one project.
8 And so, you know, there's always a -- when you
9 can knock one that's on the top list of the
10 region of the state and say we're able to get
11 it done after "x" so many years, so I just
12 want to remind everybody that, when the mega
13 project was the I49 connector is now the
14 number one project on the mega project, so if
15 we can work towards that. I know LA415 is
16 pretty important to some people too.

17 CHAIRMAN WARD:

18 That's right. Secretary Wilson?

19 SECRETARY WILSON:

20 I was just going to say, every region has
21 a number on project, Mr. President. But I
22 would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that
23 we did authorize this morning CMAR for the 415
24 project, as well as the Hooper Project. And
25 there's a little project in Lafayette, the

1 Connector, I think, that we also authorized
2 Construction Manager At Risk with some of
3 those fundings; that funding tool from ARP to
4 move some additional projects and get them
5 done. So kudos to all of those who had
6 something to do with that \$563 million coming
7 to the budget to be put on these projects,
8 some of which are at the table today. So...

9 CHAIRMAN WARD:

10 Well, thank you, Mr. Secretary. I
11 believe that is it on that.

12 Do we need to take any other action on
13 that? Okay.

14 MR. DONAHUE:

15 No.

16 CHAIRMAN WARD:

17 Okay. We're good there.

18 Public comments, anyone? No public
19 comments.

20 A motion to adjourn?

21 So ordered. We stand adjourned.

22 (WHEREUPON, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.)
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