



LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – Adopted**  
**on July 9, 2014 at the Policy Committee Meeting #4**  
*May 28, 2014 • 8:00 AM*  
*State Capitol, House Committee Room 3 • Baton Rouge, LA*

**Present:**

Senator Robert Adley, Louisiana State Senate  
Representative Karen St. Germain, LA House of Representatives  
Representative Stephen E. Pugh, Louisiana House of Representatives  
Ms. Sherri H. LeBas, PE, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Chair)  
Mr. Stephen Moret, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development  
Mr. Robert T. Scott, President, Public Affairs Research Council

**Absent:**

Senator John A. Alario, President of the Senate, Louisiana Senate  
Senator Mike Walsworth, Louisiana Senate  
Representative Charles E. “Chuck” Kleckley, Speaker of the House, LA House of Representatives

**Other Attendees\*:**

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, PE, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)  
Mr. Dennis Decker, PE, Assistant Secretary, Office of Multimodal Planning, DOTD  
Ms. Robin Romeo, PE, Transportation Planning Administrator, DOTD  
Mr. Dan Broussard, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD  
Ms. Dawn Sholmire, PE, Transportation Planning Section, DOTD  
Mr. Robert “Butch” Babineaux, Consultant, CDM Smith  
Ms. Mary Stringfellow, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Mr. Brandon Buckner, FHWA  
Mr. Jamie Setze, Capital Region Planning Commission  
Mr. Matthew Johns, Alexandria Metropolitan Planning Commission  
Mr. Kevin Durbin, Planning Director, West Baton Rouge Parish

\*Additional attendees were present but were not identified.

**MEETING AGENDA:**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Adoption of April 24, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary
- Review of previous Policy Committee Meetings
- Review of Draft Plan elements:
  - Policy Recommendations
  - Megaprojects
  - Budget Allocation
- Discussion of Draft Plan Elements



- Adoption of Final Draft Plan
- Public Comments
- Next Steps / Future Meeting(s)
- Final Comments; Adjourn

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

Secretary Sherri LeBas welcomed the group and Dr. Eric Kalivoda conducted a roll call.

### **Adoption of April 24, 2014 Policy Committee Meeting Summary**

Representative St. Germain moved to adopt Policy Committee Meeting Summary No. 2 and Mr. Robert Scott seconded.

### **Presentation of Draft Plan Elements, Dr. Eric Kalivoda**

Dr. Kalivoda reviewed the previous policy committee meetings. Dr. Kalivoda then described the policy recommendations, the funding scenario budgets and the draft plan elements, while Mr. Decker led the discussion of the megaprojects. A summary of the discussion of draft plan elements follows:

#### **Discussion of Draft Plan Elements**

- Robert Scott expressed his appreciation and complimented Eric Kalivoda's professional and informative presentation to PAR representatives a couple weeks ago and encouraged other Policy Committee members to meet with DOTD staff to discuss the Plan in further detail.
- Senator Adley requested that Aviation Policy Recommendation No. CDE-1 specify that the state's support would be for capital construction only.
- The Committee members discussed concern regarding funding ports at \$25M/year out of capital outlay.
- The Committee members requested deletion of reference to incentives in the Trucking Policy Recommendation No. EC-16 regarding peak hour operations at ports.
- Eric Kalivoda clarified that the previous dedicated funding for I-49 North does not include the section in Shreveport between I-20 and I-220 which is included as a Megaproject Priority B and has an estimated construction cost of \$380M assuming the elevated alternative.
- Eric Kalivoda noted that several sections of I-49 South are included as Megaprojects in Priorities A and B and that approximately 100 miles of the total 156 miles have already been upgraded to interstate standards. Senator Adley requested that the sections that are currently meeting interstate standards be shown as such on DOTD base maps so the public realizes a significant amount of work has already been completed along I-49 South.
- Representative St. Germain thanked DOTD for moving Megaproject No. 54, LA 1 Connector from Priority C to Priority B. She also requested that DOTD consider moving Megaproject No. 101 New Mississippi River Bridge from Priority C to Priority B, which is needed for improved mobility, has strong support of an area delegation, and a resolution was recently signed by the state legislature to fund a feasibility study. Eric Kalivoda noted that consideration would be given to moving the new Mississippi River Bridge to Priority B assuming that most of the \$800M construction cost would be funded by "other" sources.
- Senator Adley asked why Megaproject No. 50 Jimmie Davis Bridge widening is being shown in Priority B with Megaproject No. 23b being shown in Priority A. Dennis Decker noted that consideration was given to input and recommendations by Shreveport area officials included in the RPO Advisory Council.
- In response to Senator Adley's question regarding the estimated construction timing of Megaprojects in Priorities A and B, Eric Kalivoda noted the earliest would likely be year 2020 when a portion of the vehicle sales taxes is projected to start being dedicated to transportation funding. Megaprojects in Priorities C

and D are not funded for any of the revenue scenarios but could be moved up should additional revenues be found; if construction costs for Megaprojects in Priority A and B are significantly less than anticipated; or if these higher priority projects experience significant delays or are found to be unfeasible.

- Senator Adley asked if cable barriers similar to those installed in the medians of some interstates were included in DOTD's budget allocation. Eric Kalivoda noted they were included in the Highway Safety category.
- At the request of Representative St. Germain, Eric Kalivoda explained the four Revenue Scenarios and noted that DOTD believes Scenario 3 (includes vehicle sales tax) is the most reasonable at this time.
- Senator Adley complimented DOTD's performance with limited funding but indicated the public needs to understand the uncertainty of future transportation funding and the state administration needs to show strong support and leadership in securing needed funding and addressing existing needs now.
- Senator Adley requested more time to review the Revenue Scenarios before adopting the Plan recommendations.
- Stephen Moret requested that DOTD evaluate another growth scenario assuming an annual population/employment increase of 2 percent/year to determine the impacts on traffic congestion and increased revenue. Eric Kalivoda noted that he would present the results of this growth scenario at the next Policy Committee meeting. Eric Kalivoda also advised the Committee that an economic development analysis will be conducted for the Plan recommendations.
- It was agreed that another Policy Committee Meeting should be held for draft Plan adoption to give Committee members more time to review the revenue scenarios and recommendations. The preferred date for the next meeting is July 9 at 10am or 11am.
- Secretary Sherri LeBas advised the Policy Committee that even though they plan to adopt the draft Plan at their next meeting they would have another opportunity to revise the Plan recommendations during the required 45-day public comment period of the Draft Plan Report.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Secretary LeBas adjourned the meeting.