



**LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS – ROUND TWO
 REGIONAL PLANNING OFFICIALS
 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY**

October 1, 2013 • 1:30PM to 4:30PM

Marriott Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Advisory Council Members		
Brooks	Walter	Regional Planning Commission
Bush	Grant	Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning & Development Commission
Decker (Chair)	Dennis	LA DOTD
Hill	T. Marshall	LA DOTD
Hollier	Mike	Lafayette MPO
Jiles	Steve	LA DOTD
LeDoux	Murphy	LA DOTD
Marretta	Leo	Houma-Thibodaux MPO
Oliver Jr.	William	LA DOTD
Rogers	Kent	Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
Setze	James	Capital Regional Planning Commission
Stack	Michael	LA DOTD
Vosburg	Chad	LA DOTD
Other Attendees		
Mason	Ken	LA DOTD
Lavender	Jill	IMCAL
Roesel	Jeff	NO RPC
Babineaux (Facilitator)	Butch	CDM Smith
Vary	Don	CDM Smith

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Second Round of Advisory Council meetings was to brief the Advisory Councils on the status of the Plan update, review previous issues and discuss newly proposed issues regarding each mode, and discuss policy recommendations and rank them according to high, medium or low priority.

Note: This meeting summary is a compilation of the input received from the advisory council members and reflects the views expressed.

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- Regional Planning Officials Issues
- Regional Planning Officials Previous Policy Recommendations

MEETING SUMMARY

Opening Session

In the opening session, Advisory Council members received information about the status of the Plan update. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Plan Status
 - Draft aviation and rail plans are complete. Draft freight plan due Fall 2014
 - Tasks to be completed:
 - Identify preferred revenue scenario
 - Allocate preferred revenue scenario dollar amounts by mode across preservation and expansion needs
 - Finalize supporting policies and implementation strategies
 - Prepare economic impact analysis
 - Hold Round Three Advisory Council Meetings
 - Plan completion scheduled for mid-2014
- Megaprojects
 - 102 projects were presented in August 2013 and sorted into Priorities A through D
 - A total of \$44.5B in projects were submitted including 27 new projects, 10 non-highway projects and 31 interstate projects
- Needs Assessment
 - Needs assessment is being finalized
 - A total of \$42.7M of state system needs were identified for FY 2012-2044 (constant 2010 dollars)
- Financial forecast
 - Scenario 1 (Baseline revenues) will generate \$18.9B by 2044
 - Scenario 2 (Reduction) will generate \$16.4B by 2044
 - Scenario 3 (Modest Increase) will generate \$28.3B by 2044
 - Scenario 4 (Aggressive Increase) will generate \$35.3B by 2044
- Gap and Revenue Scenarios
 - How do we address the funding gap between revenues and needs?
 - Average Annual shortfall per mode:
 - Roadway & Bridge: \$360M
 - Transit: \$164M
 - Freight & Passenger Rail: \$48M
 - Waterways & Ports: \$204M
 - Aviation: \$83.2M

Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council Meeting

The agenda for the breakout Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council meeting included:

- Introductions/Opening Remarks
- Recap of Regional Planning Officials Issues and Needs

- Results of preliminary ranking of megaprojects
- Discussion of Regional Planning Officials Policy Recommendations and Implementation Strategies
- Ranking of Recommendations

Introductions/Opening Remarks

Dennis Decker, Chair, led a round of introductions and then he and Butch Babineaux provided an overview of the meeting purpose, previously discussed issues, and evaluation methodology used to develop preliminary rankings of the megaprojects. The group discussed the megaprojects and policy recommendations included in the last plan and made the following suggested changes:

Priority A Megaprojects

- Project 001, Lafayette I-49 South – change limits to “South of Airport”
- Project 023, Shreveport I-20 – Kent Rogers recommended breaking up into three separate projects. Make LA 3 to I-220E and Red River Bridge sections Priority A and move Texas SL to I-220W to Priority C. Move/swap Project 102, I-220 Extension from Priority C to Priority A.
- Project 027, Lake Charles I-10 – change limits to UPRR Overpass instead of US 171 and change improvement type to “Widen 4 to 6/8 lanes”. Also, Steve Jiles believes cost is around \$40 to \$50M instead of \$8M and he will confirm.
- Project 028, Lafayette I-10 – Bill Oliver and Mike Hollier requested that the \$92M cost be increased to \$192M to include I-49 interchange improvements.
- Project 057, Baton Rouge North Loop – change description to note only 1 new MS River Bridge crossing and reduce \$933M cost to reflect the estimated amount funded by tolls (Jamie estimates 60 percent of construction could be paid by tolls and will confirm).
- Project 062, North Shore I-12 – Walter/Jeff will confirm if \$300M construction cost includes Fire Tower Road interchange.
- Project 064, LA 3241 and Project 065, Florida – footnote that these are TIMED projects.
- Project 078, Mississippi River Deepening and Project 079, Port of New Orleans Napoleon Terminal – footnote that these projects are not competing with DOTD highway funds.

Project B Megaprojects

- Project 002, Lafayette/New Orleans I-49 South – reduce \$600M construction cost to exclude improvements already programmed along this section. Bill Oliver will provide revised cost estimate.
- Project 004, Lafayette/New Orleans I-49 South – Bill Oliver noted \$580M doesn’t seem correct and will provide an updated cost estimate.
- Project 109, LA 1 South – Leo Marretta requested that the project be moved to Priority A.
- Project 020, W. Central La 117 – Murphy Ledoux requested this project be moved to Priority C (swap with Project 061, W. Central LA 8)
- Project 030, Ascension Parish I-10 – Dawn Sholmire will determine if the new interchange and associated cost should be included in this project or Project 108, Ascension Parish 1-10. (After the meeting Ms. Sholmire confirmed the information for this project was accurate.)

- Project 040, US 84 – \$1,200M is cost for the entire El Camino project. Dan Broussard will provide the cost estimate for the section between Archie and Ferriday. Cost may be around \$70M.
- Project 043, Houma Tunnel – Leo Marretta will confirm \$68M cost.
- Project 048, Baton Rouge US 61 – Chad noted that the \$211M cost seems high. He will provide a revised cost.
- Project 050, Shreveport/Bossier City LA 511 Bridge – Kent Rogers requested that the improvement type be changed to “Reconstruct existing 2-lane bridge and construct new 2-lane bridge.”
- Project 051 New Orleans Pontchartrain Causeway – Walter Brooks requested that Priority B only include “safety improvements including southbound raising rails and constructing shoulders and safety bays and he will provide a new “improvement type” description and associated cost. The widening from 4 to 6 lanes should be moved to Priority C.
- Project 052, St Tammany US 190 – remove “Pontchartrain Causeway” from the improvement type description.
- Project 060, Shreveport I-49 North Inner City Connector – Kent to confirm \$380M cost.
- Project 066, Lafayette/Baton Rouge I-10 – project limits should be “East of Lafayette” as the widening between Louisiana Avenue and Henderson (foot of Basin bridge) is already programmed.
- Project 084, Baton Rouge to New Orleans Rail – improvement type description should be Passenger/Freight Rail since project is using existing freight line and will involve freight rail improvements. Need to double check \$131M cost. Sounds low unless it is a percent of the total cost. Don Vary indicated that this amount refers to the potential state contribution only.

Priority C Megaprojects

- Project 005, Lafayette/New Orleans I-49 South – Walter Brooks and Mike indicated that the \$1B cost is an old cost and is too high.
- Project 009, Houma N-S Hurricane Route – Having come out of Round 1 with a Priority C ranking, Leo Marretta suggested that maybe the project could be broken up into 3 separate projects if that would increase its chances of a higher ranking in the final analysis.
- Project 054, W. Baton Rouge Parish LA 1 Connector – Jamie Setze requested that the project be moved to Priority B and that the team assume that approximately \$30M of the \$134M total cost be funded by tolls.
- Project 061, W. Central LA 8 – Murphy Ledoux requested project be moved to Priority B to complete the connection to the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway in Texas.
- Project 098, Lake Charles LA 378 Loop – Grant requested that the project be moved to Priority B.
- Project 099, New Orleans I-10/Loyola Interchange – Walter Brooks requested that the project be moved to Priority B.

Priority D Megaprojects

- Project 045, New Orleans Chalmette Bridge – Mike requested that the project be moved to Priority C
- Project 046, Central LA Natchitoches East Bypass – Murphy requested that the project be moved to Priority A or B.
- Project 073, Alexandria/Pineville Loop – Murphy suggested breaking up the project into several separate projects and moving highest priority project to Priority B. (Alexandria doesn't have a project in Priority A or B.)

Policy Recommendations

- Most of the policy recommendations are being addressed by the new State Highway Operations Advisory Council.
- The RPO Advisory Council members are supportive of all previous policy recommendations.
- Revise wording of H-10 (Local Option Gas Tax) with “Coordinate with local governments to identify and evaluate alternative funding sources.”

Additional Comments

- It was recommended that costs shown for toll megaprojects be reduced by an estimate of revenues to be funded by tolls. These costs could be footnoted or an additional “Cost” column could be added for toll projects.