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## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**Friday, January 16, 2026 (9:00 AM)**

Government Chambers at Government Plaza  
505 Travis St., Shreveport, LA 71101

### **Members' Present**

Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City  
Mr. Stephen Jean – MPC of Caddo/Shreveport  
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04  
Mr. Michael Norton – DeSoto Parish  
Dr. Ken Ward – Bossier Parish  
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran

### **Members Absent**

Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish – Chair  
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish – Vice Chair  
Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport  
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City  
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier

### **Others Present**

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG  
Mrs. Savannah Williams – NLCOG  
Mr. Adam Driskill – NLCOG  
Mr. Josh Chevallier – NLCOG Legal Council

## **Call to Order**

Dr. Ward called the meeting to order. He asked Mr. Rogers to begin roll call. Mr. Rogers called roll. A quorum was present.

Dr. Ward asked Mr. North to lead us in prayer and Mrs. Askew-Brown to lead us on the pledge. He stated if those that cared to join them to please stand. Mr. North led us in prayer followed by Mrs. Askew-Brown leading us in the pledge.

## Public Comments

Dr. Ward asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Chevallier stated they had received one public comment.

**Mr. Patrick Harrison** said that he doesn't think he'd seen such a peaceful co-op at an NLCOG meeting before so thank you for letting him have this opportunity. Mr. Harrison stated that he is representing the business community as always, and he didn't see an update for the I-49 Inner City Connector on the agenda today. He knows that it was agreed upon within the NLCOG board to always have an update on the agenda, so he didn't know what to expect for today. He assumes they're not scheduled to talk or give an update on what's going on, and there may not be a lot, but he had just a couple of quick things to discuss.

First thing is, Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Rogers if he could give him any kind of update that he could pass along to the Chamber of Committee of 100 and his colleagues to provide some answers to them as to where they are with this.

Secondly, he reiterates how incredibly important this is to get this over the finish line as soon as possible because although they've done a lot of work already as far as trying to secure funding sources for this, as you know, until they get a record of decision officially, it's hard to get money earmarked for this project and secured. Mr. Harrison said they're going to lose an enormous opportunity for this project in economic development for North Louisiana unless they get this done, obviously as soon as possible. Time is of the essence. It seemed as though they were rolling really well last year, but he knows they've been delayed, and he doesn't understand why they're still not having this record of decision done. Mr. Harrison asked, if at all possible, could someone give him an update on that.

***Dr. Ward said, "Thank you for that". He stated to Mr. Rogers that they actually had a comprehensive discussion on the I-49 Inner City Connector last month.***

***Mr. Rogers said, "Correct".***

***Dr. Ward stated that with that discussion, they're still on track for the end of 2026 for record of decision.***

***Mr. Rogers replied, "Correct". They're waiting on one of the last pieces from the technical documents to submit the full Draft EIS for legal sufficiency and Civil Rights. They have seen the bits and pieces going in, but just not the full final draft. Just waiting on the last piece of the technical documents that got delayed due to the shutdown previously. Mr. Rogers said they hope to have that and are pushing as hard as they can in the department and from the consultant team, but it's mainly at the department level right now.***

***Mr. Chevallier stated that Providence, one of the consulting teams, is waiting on the documents.***

***Mr. Rogers said, "Correct".***

Mr. Harrison asked, "What takes eleven months to get that done"? He thought they were just waiting on some final documents since the letter had been submitted and asked if the route had been selected in that. He thought they were really close and just waiting.

*Mr. Washington stated to the chair that this isn't a public comment with the dialogue back and forth and recommended to Mr. Rogers that he should just provide a copy of the presentation from last time because everything that Mr. Harrison is asking about today was provided at that time.*

*Mr. Rogers said that he could also go on to the NLCOG website to see the presentation with the information.*

## **Business**

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes for the December 19, 2025, meeting. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mr. Norton seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Dr. Ward called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

### **2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendments and Modifications**

Mr. Rogers stated they had two amendments. One was for adoption, which is the state transfer of funds for SporTran that matches the 200k funds that they previously transferred. This is for the bus replacement program. Next, they have an introduction for one of the bridge structures. Previously there was a series of bridges, and they pulled several of them out. This is putting back the design engineering on one of those along US80 in Webster Parish. This one is for intro for public comment. Mr. Rogers said that those are the only two TIP items.

Dr. Ward asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Dr. Ward entertained a motion to Approve the Adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications and Amendments. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mr. Jean seconded. Dr. Ward called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

### **3. Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Introduction of Annual Safety Performance Measures & Targets**

Mr. Rogers stated that next on the agenda was the Introduction of Annual Safety Performance Measures and Targets. This is one of the requirements for what they call PM1 (Safety Performance Measures). This is one of five and this is for the safety that's required each and every year. Mr. Rogers showed them and pointed out on the slides that the information is based on a five year rolling average. Typically, they follow the state's guidelines in terms of a -1% reduction. Mr. Rogers stated that as they look at the chart, he asked Mr. Petro to add in some annual change in the total change in that five year period. There was a change in 2023, he believes, that took effect in 2022, where legislatures changed the definitions for Severe Injuries which caused some changes in how that was reported and actually had some increases in there. Overall, they are meeting that -1% per year. Other than that, the third chart shows the difference between the state and the MPO numbers. The Performance chart shows what those targets should be for the MPO. Again, this is the introduction for this and has to have a public comment period prior to adoption.

Mr. Rogers said that he had noted a while back that following the adoption of the SS4A Program, they may need to relook at this -1% per year. There are some different things that you have to do if you

don't follow the state's guidelines. Having looked at those other numbers that show the differences along the line, and across those years, seeing that they are doing more than that -1%, He doesn't feel that there's a need to deviate from what the state is saying since they are doing better than what was recommended. *(Please see attached link for slide presentation.)*

Dr. Ward asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Dr. Ward entertained a motion to Introduce the 2026 MPO Safety Performance Measures and Targets for Public Comments. Mr. Norton motioned, and Mrs. Askew-Brown seconded. Dr. Ward called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

## **Project Updates**

### **4. Bossier Parish East West Corridor – Project Status Report and Update**

Mr. Rogers said that he was going to hand it over to Mr. Eric Hudson, Bossier Parish engineer, to give brief update.

Mr. Hudson thanked the board for inviting him there this morning to give an update on this. He said he was happy to report that the parish is under contract with Volkert to do the design on this project. They are well on their way to surveying and they hope that in 2026 to start purchasing the right-of-way, at least for the first two phases of the project and as they move forward to the East side of the parish.

Mr. Hudson said that for just a brief overview of the project. They may already know that this project will stretch from Benton Road to Winnfield Road. It's an East West Corridor that crosses Airline Drive, Swan Lake Road, connects to Benton Road then at Winnfield Road and Bellevue Road. Mr. Hudson said that it's been a long project and they've worked their way through some stuff. They've worked with the state to get this project underway. They've secured probably around twenty million dollars and it's around an eighty-seven million dollar project for what they think. It's in three phases, that's what they're thinking they're going to need to break it down to get it built and get some usable units. Phase 1: LA 3 to Airline Drive, which is about a mile segment of roadway. Phase 2: Airline Drive to Swan Lake Road, about 2.3 miles, and then Phase 3: Swan Lake Road to Bellevue Road at Winnfield Road, which is about 4.7 miles to finish off the corridor.

Mr. Hudson said their goal here with the money that's been appropriated for them is to try and secure a BUILD Grant this year. They feel better about their chances this year because they're further along in the design process with this. That's where the parish is right now with the project and he appreciates letting him come and update them on the project today.

### **5. Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511)**

Mr. Rogers said just a quick update. Roughly forty-four percent complete as they're continuing work on the existing bridge and the connector roadways. When he drove by there, he counted eleven cranes out there working. A question that he's been asked recently is "What's is going to look like?" Mr. Rogers said that his understanding is that it's being done similar to the Shreveport Barksdale bridge. You won't see any structure above. Just a nice clean bridge structure across and widening on. But again, forty-four percent complete and estimated mid 2027 for completion.

## **6. I-20 Major Rehab – Project Status Report and Update**

Mr. Rogers said roughly ninety-nine percent complete. The only ramp that's still closed is the eastbound off-ramp to Benton Road. There're still lane closures across the whole thing for final cleanup and whatnot and they'll be some signage, striping and seeding to undergo, but still looking at March/April for full completion. He had been advised that there will be a ribbon cutting, big press deal type thing once it's all complete.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Rogers said the next regular scheduled MPO meeting is on Friday, February 20, 2026, in the Government Chambers at 9:00 am. He knows that several of them will be in Washington D.C. in a couple of weeks and he hopes it'll all be productive when they get there if not shut down.

Dr. Ward said that he'll actually be out on February 20 because he'll be back in D.C. for NAACO, just to let everyone know.

Mrs. Askew-Brown wanted to welcome Mr. Jean to the board.

### **Adjourn**

With no remaining agenda items, Dr. Ward entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Norton motioned, and Mrs. Askew-Brown seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

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