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Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday, August 26, 2022 (9:00 AM)

NLCOG

625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present

Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish
Mr. Steven Brown – DeSoto Parish
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Dr. Woodrow Wilson – Caddo Parish
Mr. Alan Clarke – MPC City of Shreveport

Members Absent

Mr. Butch Ford – Bossier Parish
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City
Mayor Adrian Perkins – City of Shreveport

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mrs. Rita Barnette – NLCOG
Mr. Josh Chevallier – BMKS, legal counsel
Ms. Joy Johnson – LaDOTD
Mrs. Dawn Sholmire – LaDOTD
Mrs. Mary Stringfellow - FHWA

Call to Order

Mrs. Askew-Brown called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Rogers to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mrs. Askew-Brown called for public comments. Mr. Rogers stated that two request for comments had been turned in.

John Perkins wanted to address the board to apologize to Mr. Rogers for his last statements made at the June 22nd, 2022 meeting. He has spoken to the Christopher Coes the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and it was confirmed that the board is less than the 6 year mark for setting their record decision. He stated that the board is approximately 5years and 11 months from meeting the 6-year mark.

Mr. Tim Larkin then addressed the group on the LA 3132 (Inner Loop) Ext. A written copy of Mr. Larkin's statement is attached.

Business

1. Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes of the June 22, 2022, meeting. Mr. Clarke motioned, and Mr. Blanton seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Mrs. Askew-Brown called for questions or comments having none the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2023-2026

Mr. Rogers reviewed the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for the four parishes including: Bossier, Caddo, Desoto and Webster. Mr. Rogers stated that the current Transportation Improvement Program will expire on October 1, 2022, and that no amendments or modifications can be made after that date.

Mr. Rogers explained the purpose of the Transportation Improvement Program in relation to the federal legislation. He identified and briefly reviewed the Transportation Planning Area as well as the Performance Based Planning measures and their relation to the TIP. Mr. Rogers then described the Project Programming for the tip and how it is divided into three principle programs. (DOTD – Highway Program, MPO – STGB>200K Program and Transit – FTA Funding). Mr. Rogers then reviewed the financial constraint and project listings for the MPO program.

Mrs. Askew-Brown entertained a motion to Introduce the NLCOG 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for 30-day public comment period. Mr. England motioned, and Dr. Wilson seconded. Mrs. Askew-Brown called for questions or comments. Having none the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

PROJECT UPDATES

- 3.** Mr. Rogers then introduced Ms. Joy Johnson from DOTD to give the presentation for the Louisiana Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan. Ms. Johnson provided members information on: the purpose of the State EV Plan, Alternative Fuel Corridors, Justive40 Initiatives, Pending Eligibility Criteria, Louisiana's EV deployment development & adoption timeline.

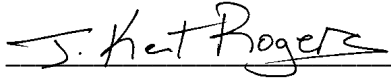
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rogers announced the approval of the Raise Award to the City of Shreveport for the Kings Highway Corridor Project. The I 49 – I 20 and MLK area will be completely reconstructed. Total amount of reward is \$22.164 million dollars to be matched by roughly \$6 million from the City of Shreveport.

Mr. Rogers remind the group that the October 7, 2022 meeting has been rescheduled for September 30, 2022 in order to meet the TIP Adoption time line.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. England moved to adjourn; Dr. Wilson seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kent Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

My name is Tim Larkin. I am speaking on behalf of Larkin Development North, LLC.

It was announced at the last MPO meeting that the NEPA study for LA 3132 will be delivered to the Federal Highway Administration requesting them to make a Finding of No Significant Impact for the B-2 Alternative.

Concurrent with that report, the LADOTD has contacted us about their own separate study to modify and extend the Control of Access at the intersection of LA 3132 and Flournoy Lucas Road.

DOTD has informed us that they propose to close the entrance to the Larkin Development North property and Esplanade and Forbing Ranch. They propose to relocate the entrance to an existing private driveway owned by the Glen Retirement Center, and they have asked for comments from us.

In spite of NEPA regulations to the contrary, the City of Shreveport halted LD North's development in the B-2 Corridor years ago to preserve it for the extension of LA 3132. Over eight million dollars in development assets have been idled for years.

The NEPA study does not take into consideration the residential properties in LD North or in Esplanade that are platted below and adjacent to the proposed F2 Freeway. Consequently, the impact of the proposed freeway on those properties has not been evaluated. This appears to have been caused by the omission of the LD North PUD and the omission of the sixth Phase of the Esplanade PUD. That information appears never to have been provided to BKI for their study map.

Because the City of Shreveport prevented LD North from developing the property according to its entitled use and because the NEPA study fails to consider the LD North and Esplanade developments, the NEPA process appears to be incomplete.

Following the MPO July meeting we requested a meeting with Kent Rogers and NLCOG staff. On Wednesday August 17 we met. Chris Campbell, Scott Sinclair and I met with Kent Rogers, Chris Petro and Josh Chavallier. The purpose of the meeting was to update NLCOG on our efforts to resolve these problems with DOTD. Some of the solutions centered around agreements that we have reached with a private bridge and roadway developer, Tim James, Inc. We wanted to find out if the move to send in the FONSI necessarily jeopardizes these agreements. Presently, as we understand it, NLCOG has not taken a position of opposition to the Red River Express project. Presently, it is our intent to continue to work with the Tim James Group as they complete their application process with the Corps of Engineers. We left that meeting with a hope we can find solutions and move forward with the cooperation of the MPO, NLCOG, DOTD and the City of Shreveport.