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Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

Friday, April 25, 2025 (9:00 AM)

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

Members' Present

Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish
Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish
Dr. Ken Ward – Bossier Parish
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier

Members Absent

Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City
Mayor Tom Arceneaux, Chair – City of Shreveport
Mr. Michael Norton, Vice-Chair – DeSoto Parish

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Mrs. Rita Arnold - NLCOG
Mrs. Heidi Stewart – NLCOG
Mr. Josh Chevallier – NLCOG Legal Council

Call to Order

Mrs. Bryant called the meeting to order. She stated that we generally have an invocation, roll call and a pledge at the beginning of the meeting, but we just had both for the MPO meeting so we were just going to move forward. Mrs. Bryant asked Mr. Rogers to begin roll call. Mr. Rogers called roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Rogers stated they hadn't received any comments.

Financial

1. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Update

- **Expenses Update-Budget to Actual with recommended changes**

Mr. Rogers said this primarily has to do with the increase in insurance for dental, vision, health, and life insurance changes. In the overhead category, there's some increase in travel, which has a lot to do with the additional trips to D.C. and Baton Rouge. Mr. Rogers said there's no change in the overall bottom line. It's just shifting some around into different categories.

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Expenses Amendment. Mr. Blanton motioned, and Mr. England second. Mrs. Bryant called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

Dr. Ward asked Mr. Rogers what the "advertising" money was for.

Mr. Rogers said it was for when they have to advertise for meetings, or when they have the TIP Amendments, they have to advertise those.

Dr. Ward asked if the amended amount of two thousand dollars and the updated budget now three thousand dollars, would he be okay with that.

Mr. Rogers said that he would. That is what they've anticipated.

- **UPWP Task Update – Budgeted to Actual with recommended changes**

Mr. Rogers said this is a similar type thing, but within the budget and the Work Program. The funding is distributed among those Tasks over the timeframe of the year. They were required to work on some specific things and needed to make some adjustments within those different Task items. Mr. Rogers said again there's no change in the overall bottom line. It's just where work has occurred, and things have been requested.

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP Task Budget Amendments. Mr. England motioned, and Mr. Blanton second. Mrs. Bryant called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

2. Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget

Introduction of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (to be adopted June 13, 2025)

Mr. Rogers said this is similar to the Work Program that was sent out to the MPO, the Introduction of Income and Expenses, and will not be up for adoption until the June meeting. He's listed the budget for them and the income funding sources. A couple of things to note are the SPR and the STBG>200 funds and those are for the Plan Update. Those will be contractual services. Mr. Rogers said there was a slight

decrease in the Transit funding this year, and also a slight decrease in the CDC Watershed funding. They're not sure what's going to happen for that program at the State level at this time. Mrs. Stewart has been working with the State and the CDC and whatnot, but they've basically come to an end with that first level of funding that was provided through EPA, but they're not sure whether the State is going to continue the program through the board or to just get them through the rest of the year with what's out there after the first round.

Mr. Rogers said in the expenses category, there's a line item for vehicle replacement. The vehicle that he's had in the last few years is approaching two hundred thousand miles. He's been to Baton Rouge every few days lately and he's racking up the miles on it.

Dr. Ward asked if fifty thousand was enough.

Mr. Rogers said he's looked at the State listing of vehicles and it's somewhere in that range. He said they could move that amount up and if it's less than that it would be fine.

Dr. Ward said he just wanted to make sure he had enough to do it.

Mr. Rogers said they have additional funds in the reserve funding.

Mrs. Bryant said for the amount to be increased to sixty thousand dollars. She said they'll need to remember to amend it because it's not adopted till June 13, 2025.

Mr. Rogers said that's correct. They will do the same for the Work Program. They'll put out a formal public comment period early to mid-May. Technically for the public comment period there's a fourteen day plus one type of thing. Depending on when it hits and when the paper goes out on the weekend. He thinks he scheduled it to where there's at least a week's difference between the public meeting date and comments have to be received by date.

Dr. Ward asked what Streetlight Data on the Computer Software side is.

Mr. Rogers said that's the Traffic Count Data that they've been providing for them on the roads and the trucks going down to the Port and whatnot. It's a combination of different things. It's cell phone tracking, transponder tracking, and other permanent counters that are in place in roadways. It's extremely good data.

Mr. Petro said that Mr. Eric Hudson made a data request to them, asking if they could provide a scenario utilizing their Streetlight Data to determine traffic impacts upon the Caplis Sligo Bridge closing. He's about to deliver the results of those impacts of that closure. Mr. Hudson is looking at possible damages to the neighborhood by the bridge being closed by certain contractor, and Mr. Petro wasn't going to name any names. Mr. Hudson is looking into whether there are any negative impacts incurred upon the residents there along Caplis Sligo once the bridge is closed due to the fault of the contractor... like more increased travel time for the neighborhood residents that have to use alternative routes. Mr. Petro said it's like an origin destination survey. Using the scenario when the bridge is open compared to when it's closed to destinations that are common to that origin from the neighborhood. He is actually delivering that data to Mr. Hudson today.

Dr. Ward asked how long it took to get the data. Obviously, you have to put the traffic cameras out.

Mr. Petro said it's 2024 data and it's great for a study of that nature. He said feel free to call Mr. Driskill anytime. He's taken him under his wing and been training him to provide the AADT Data or Speed Data or Travel Time Data. Any type of traffic metrics you want, just give us a call and that goes for all the member agencies. It's a huge expense, but it's a safety issue with staff having to go out and place counters out to observe traffic. It's very dangerous and he's done it for years. This software is wonderful. Mr. Petro said that he's put it on record now that Mr. Hudson is getting his data today, so he had better get it delivered.

Legal Report

Mr. Chevallier stated there was no legal news to report.

Other Business

1. Approval of Minutes

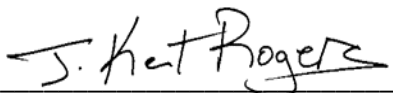
The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes from the April 04, 2025, meeting. Mrs. Bryant called for a motion to Approve the Minutes as provided. Mr. England motioned, and Dr. Ward second. All approved and motion was passed.

2. Announcements

Mrs. Bryant reminded everyone that the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Directors will be on Friday, May 16, 2025, at Government Plaza in the Government Chambers.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. England was the first to motion, and Mr. Blanton second. The meeting was adjourned.



J. Kent Rogers, Secretary