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Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday, September 12, 2025 (9:00 AM)

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

Members' Present

Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish – Vice Chair
Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport
Mr. Alan Clarke – MPC City of Shreveport
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Mr. Michael Norton – DeSoto Parish
Dr. Ken Ward – Bossier Parish
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran

Members Absent

Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City
Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish - Chair
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Mrs. Rita Arnold - NLCOG
Mrs. Heidi Stewart – NLCOG
Mrs. Savannah Williams – NLCOG
Mr. Adam Driskill - NLCOG
Mr. Dakota Hawkins – NLCOG Legal Council

Call to Order

Mayor Arceneaux called the meeting to order. He stated that we generally have the invocation, roll call and a pledge at the beginning of the meeting. Mayor Arceneaux asked Mr. Clarke to lead us in prayer and Mr. Washington to lead us on the pledge. He asked if those that cared to join them to please stand. Mr. Clarke led us in prayer followed by Mr. Washington leading us in the pledge. Mayor Arceneaux asked Mr. Rogers to begin roll call. Mr. Rogers called roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mayor Arceneaux stated they were going to part from the agenda for a bit so they can have the new Secretary of DOTD, Mr. Glenn Ledet, make a few comments that might engender some changes in public comments. After Secretary Ledet speaks, we'll then hear the public comments.

Secretary of DOTD, Mr. Glenn Ledet, thanked Mayor Arceneaux and said he appreciated having him here today and for welcoming them as well. He said they're excited to be here. Secretary Ledet said that as you, just jumping into this new role as Secretary of DOTD these last few weeks, he's really excited about the transformation that's underway in the department. Before he jumped in with opening comments, he wanted to welcome a few members of the leadership team that are there today. Secretary Ledet said they had Ms. Peggy Jo Paine, Chief of Staff, the new Deputy Secretary, Ms. Julia Fisher-Cormier, as well as the new Assistant Secretary-Project Delivery, Mr. Eric Dauphine. He's really excited to have the leadership team there as well as the project manager, Mr. Kurt Brauner. Secretary Ledet said that we all know the DEA, District Engineer Administrator, Mr. David North.

Secretary Ledet wanted to say how excited they are to jump into this transformation. Obviously, their team works really hard to deliver transportation across the state, but they want to put everyone in their department at the best position to be successful for citizens of Louisiana, and also to help drawl economic development across the state including Shreveport. They have a few things they want to do to streamline project delivery and to get projects on the ground faster, more cost effective, and more efficient. But also continue to transform the department with innovative methods and ways, to really be a benchmark DOT as they measure themselves across other states. Secretary Ledet said he's just really excited. Having the new leadership team appointed there, they're ready to jump in and work with them to do that. He knows there's some critical projects on the list for the agenda today and he's ready to talk about those. He said it was great to see Governor Landry and his team, having been able to work with, and other cabinets across the departments to really drive a new vision for Louisiana.

Mayor Arceneaux thanked Secretary Ledet. He stated they were moving on to public comments and asked if they had any request to speak.

Mr. Hawkins stated there was one request for public comment, Mr. David Hackney.

Mr. David Hackney welcomed Secretary Ledet and told him congratulations. They look forward to a lot of good stuff happening here and that's what he wants to talk about. Mr. Hackney wanted to compliment NLCOG. He said they do a great job of emailing out the agenda and the updates well ahead of the meetings where the general public can review them, see them, and see if it's something they want to come and attend the meeting for. He was excited to see in the material that they were going to have an update on I-20, Jimmie Davis Bridge, and I-49. Mr. Hackney said he was kind of concerned as to why there wasn't an update to I-69 Service Road or the Tim James Proposed road. He said there was a last minute ad yesterday for the I-69 Service Road so he was looking forward to hearing about that. The updated sheets are wonderful. Major engineering projects that have a Gantt chart, have a critical path, a start date, they have a calculated end date and what the current percentage complete is. Mr. Hackney hopes this becomes a norm because it's fabulous and he wants to thank them.

Mr. Hackney said that concerning the I-69 Service Road, between Caddo and DeSoto parish, if they were going out to select a project manager for that job, or really any engineering job, would you select an entity that says, "It will not be subject in any respect to the authority control or supervision of any local regulatory body or any political subdivision"? Mr. Hackney said that he wouldn't, and he doesn't think they should. The Port is managing this project and that extract from the definition of legal legislation defining the Port. He said he'll leave it at that.

Regarding the Tim James proposal, Mr. Hackney said he asked Commissioner Bryant a couple of months ago about the revised CEA that Caddo Parish had done, no update on that. There's an organization called Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority. They've created a CEA with Tim James. Mr. Hackney said that he's read those two documents that include the Caddo revised one and the Northwest Louisiana Finance one. Both of those documents, in his opinion, can't be true. If one is true, the other one can't be complied on. Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority is a component unit of the City of Shreveport. In the CEA it says, "The City of Shreveport will become the owner of the Red River Expressway and lease it back to Tim James". Mr. Hackney said that there enter lies the problem. He hopes this stimulates some discussion and further debate.

Business

1. Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes for the July 18, 2025, meeting. Mr. Clarke motioned, and Mr. Washington seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Mayor Arceneaux called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Louisiana US DOT-FHWA IJIA Competitive Projects - Summary as of July 2025**
- **STBG> 200K Urban Program Update**

Mr. Rogers stated in the first part of the TIP updates, they had a request from FHWA to list the Competitive Projects Summaries in the TIP. Locally, they have three of those that have been awarded over the past few years. The most recent one is the INFRA grant for the I-69 Service Road Project. They have the RAISE grant that was awarded to the City of Shreveport for the Kings Highway Corridor, and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant that was awarded to NLCOG. They've asked for us to include this sheet with the description for those projects within the TIP when they're for review.

Mr. Rogers said in the second section, which was after the planning division meeting they had with DOTD the week before to go over all the projects that are under what they call the Urban Program, is the STBG>200K Program with contributable funds that come to the area. They've listed an update on each of those projects that have received funding through that program. The first of those being associated with I-69 Service Road and they'll have Mr. Tyler Comeaux give an overview of that project as a whole in a few minutes. Mr. Rogers said those also lead back into that INFRA grant that was awarded. The Shreveport Pavement Preservation Program, there are two sections of that. One is for panel replacement, and the other is for asphalt overlay. Engineering has been revised for the panel replacement program and is underway. The second one with Shreveport is the Linwood Avenue Reconstruction-Phase IV. Phase IV is roughly from the railroad tracks north of the interloop up to 70th Street. Originally, they were looking at a full reconstruction. The city has made some panel replacements as they've fixed some water and sewer lines, so it would just need some panel replacements along with that. That's been modified and the actual letting for that for construction will be early part of next calendar year.

Mr. Petro asked if he could interject something with that particular project. He wanted to give kudos to the City of Shreveport, engineering department. They were able to reduce the scope of that and prioritize the panel they were going to replace with the money that's available to them. He had to give them credit for that. Mr. Petro said that hopefully they'll be able to deliver this project shortly.

Mr. Rogers said the next piece is the US 371: WIDENING project in Webster parish. The match support for that ended up coming from the Capital Outlay Program so that project is being totally administered by the department rather than a city/state agreement with the parish department. It's moving along.

The Regional Aerial Photography project is how they do their aerals every few years. This again will be a contract for two flights over four years. The next flight should be around December-February timeframe. Mr. Rogers said "leaves off" timeframe.

Mr. Rogers said there is one listed for the Inner Loop Extension, and that's kind of a place holder. It revolves around what is happening with the Inner Loop Extension, the Tim James project that was brought up, and also the control of access project for the department. It's a placeholder to go to the next step of whatever it ends up being.

Bossier Parish Congestion Relief has a Winfield Road project. Mr. Rogers said he thought they had some potentially good news along with that project, if Dr. Ward wanted to add it. Bossier Parish has been granted the ability to do advertising and selection of consultants and engineers for the project. This is the first one of those that they're going through and hopefully it'll help speed some processes up. If it's successful, they might be able to spread that process up to the other entities in the area. Again, we're hoping to speed some of the processes up.

Mr. Rogers said the other portion of the Urban Program contributable funds is what's called the CRP, Carbon Reduction Program. We use a great majority of those funds that come from that as the match support for the M.A.P. Control Program. The M.A.P. Control Program is funded fifty percent per DOTD and fifty percent through NLCOG. After that it's just a list of other projects that have either been completed or are underway utilizing these funds.

Mayor Arceneaux asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mayor Arceneaux entertained a motion to Approve the Transportation Improvement Program Updates. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mr. England seconded. Mayor Arceneaux called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

Other Matters

3. I-20 Major Rehabilitation - Project Update

Mr. Rogers stated that next on the agenda was the I-20 Major Rehabilitation Project Update and Mrs. Erin Buchanan, Public Information Officer for DOTD, was going to come up to give the update. Mrs. Buchanan said "hello" and introduced herself. The first project update she had was I-20 Major Rehabilitation and they actually had a slight update from what's on their slide. The project is officially ninety-four percent complete as of today. As most as everyone has driven through the area are aware, we have major reconstruction on the travel lanes and several of the interchanges within the project limits. We have several ramps that are currently closed for reconstruction. Those will all be opening between November and December of this year, and hopefully Airline Drive in October. Mrs. Buchanan said the outside travel lanes are also being reconstructed as we speak. They are looking to round up this project in late 2025, early 2026, somewhere between December and early February. They will hopefully be cutting a very large ribbon for I-20 and celebrating the completion of that project. She wanted to remind everyone that they do keep a project webpage for this project updated frequently at the DOTD website. Anything you want to know about this project is on that webpage so please visit that if you have any questions.

4. Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511) Replacement/Rehabilitation – Project Update

Mrs. Buchanan said their next project update is Jimmie Davis Bridge. As everyone is also probably aware, they're in the process of building a new four lane structure, immediately north of the existing two lane structure. Contractor and design-builder are currently working over the water building the foundation of that new bridge. In addition to the bridge work though, they're having to widen and realign LA 511 on both sides of the river. There's a lot of utility relocation, dirt work, alignment work, ramp work that's all underway on LA 511 itself. If all goes well, we'll be driving over a new four-lane Jimmie Davis Bridge in a couple of years from now. We're still fairly early on in this very large project. A lot can happen, but as with I-20, we remain in continuous communication with the contractor on these types of projects. Again, they have a project webpage for Jimmie Davis that is updated as well. As far as the existing structure is concerned, there are still discussions and plans underway for the future of that bridge and the future conversion into a linear park. That will be the last component of this project. In the interim, they'll be building a new bridge and realigning LA 511. Mrs. Buchanan said those are her updates.

Mayor Arceneaux wanted to ask a question. He said it was from his understanding that once they finished the east side of the river that DOTD would move to the west side of the river.

Mrs. Buchanan asked if he was talking about Jimmie Davis Bridge.

Mayor Arceneaux said “No, I-120”.

Mrs. Buchanan asked, “As far as another project”?

Mayor Arceneaux said, “Yes”.

Mrs. Buchanan said that they do have a couple of future projects. Those are still several years out, pending funding. She said that this project includes a number of concrete repairs on the Shreveport side of the river, however, we know that section on I-20 on the Shreveport side does need a future project and it does have one on the schedule, but that project is still early in development.

Mayor Arceneaux asked when they expected the panel replacement to go to bid.

Mrs. Buchanan stated that she’d have to get back to him on that.

5. I-69 Service Road (LA 1 to I-49) – Project Update

Mayor Arceneaux said that next on the agenda brings us to the I-69 Service Road. Mr. Tyler Comeaux, Director of Operations for The Port of Caddo-Bossier, said “Good Morning”. Mr. Comeaux said another quick update on the Jimmie Davis Bridge that’s interesting, the DOTD contractor is actually utilizing some of their Port facilities to load stuff onto barges to be able to lift it up onto the bridge. Just a fun fact for them. Maybe next November or December timeframe is when they could start leasing some property and moving the girders into place. Mr. Comeaux said that just as a reminder, the Service Road is going to tie into 3276, Stonewall/Frierson exit, and run up to the Port. It’s going to be three different projects. ***(Please see attached slides below for Mr. Comeaux’s presentation)***

Secretary Ledet thanked Mr. Comeaux for his presentation and said it’s great to hear that it’s fully funded again and they’ll check with Mohammed again for the status of that agreement.

Mr. England wanted to thank Secretary Ledet for managing the project board and it’s contrary to the comment that was made in the public comment. And just because it’s said in a public comment doesn’t mean it’s true and in no way is the Port out there saying that they’re managing the project and trying to take the place of DOTD. Mr. England said, “Again, thank you for managing the project”.

6. I-49 Inner City Connector – Project Update and Presentation

Mr. Rogers said they have had extensive discussions since the past meeting and extensive meetings and working between departments of other resource agencies, the consulting team as a whole, and to use an analogy that Mayor Arceneaux alluded to at the last meeting about pushing the rope from the bottom, they are now standing at the top and yanking that rope forward. The best part of this presentation is that a preferred has been identified and it has been given to FHWA for their approval and moving forward. Mr. Rogers said what that has done in the process has now led to all those technical documents and all the associated work is now underway. They have been given the authority to move forward with all the technical documents and everything else. For the timeline, he knows everybody says it’s changed, but the timeline remains the same. They’re hoping for a quick review from FHWA and approval for pushing it forward, but the likelihood it’ll stay about the same. Mr. Rogers said they’re still on schedule for the public hearing to be held by the end of this year and still on schedule for the

remainder of the project to continue moving forward as is. Again, he feels the biggest news is that a consensus has been reached from all the resource agencies and parties, and a preferred has been submitted to FHWA for their concurrence. Mr. Rogers asked Mr. Brauner if he had anything to add to that or any other comments. Mr. Rogers said he would like to ask if anyone else had any comments or questions from them or if the Secretary had any comments he'd like to make.

Secretary Ledet thanked Mr. Rogers for the update. He knows, as Mr. Rogers has said, there's been extensive work that's obviously been going into this for many years. It's good to see them hit this milestone working with both National Park Service and SHPO on cultural resources aspects and working through that to develop the preferred alternative that they presented to FHWA to get them to that key milestone at the end of this year and to present the draft to EIS as well as that preferred alternative at the public meeting. Secretary Ledet said it's great for them reach these milestones and then get into that approval of record to be sent in. It's good to see them coming together on both the federal and state side and move this far.

Announcements

Mayor Arceneaux said the FHWA/FTA MPO Certification Review is scheduled for December 17 – 18, 2025, with attendance at the December 19, 2025, meeting. The next regular scheduled MPO meeting is on Friday, October 17, 2025, in the Government Chambers at 9:00 am.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, Mayor Arceneaux entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Clarke motioned, and Mr. Norton seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

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

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

All cards must be returned to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting. Comments will not be accepted during the meeting. You will be called upon at the appropriate time to speak.

Please print:

Date: Sept 12 2025

Name: David Hackney

Address: 9660 Railsback Ridge Sport

E-mail: davehackney@gmail.com

Phone: (318) 210-1475

I am representing: ☒ myself ☐ business ☐ organization

Name of business / organization: _____

Comment on Agenda Items Only

Briefly describe your comment(s):

Road project updates

As a reminder, public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Comments relative to any issues that are in active litigation will not be heard in this meeting.

Speakers are to address the Chairman, not each other or the audience, and are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The use of abusive or profane language shall not be allowed. No debate or argument between speakers and/or members of the audience shall be permitted.