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

### **MINUTES**

**Friday, October 17, 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  
Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City  
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City  
Mr. Alan Clarke – MPC City of Shreveport  
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier  
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04  
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran

### **Members Absent**

Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish – Chair  
Mr. Michael Norton – DeSoto Parish  
Dr. Ken Ward – Bossier Parish

### **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**

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

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Blanton asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Hawkins stated they had received one public comment.

**Mr. Bill Robertson** introduced himself and said he was there representing Allendale Strong. He said it was nice to see Mr. North and Mayors' Arceneaux and Chandler. Mr. Robertson said that he sat up there a few weeks ago, and many of them may know this, he sits on the City Planning Commission there in Shreveport. He said they had an interesting case, and he wrote about it, subsequently. It was a proposal by some property owners on Kings Highway, right up next to interstate I-49, to redevelop their property from residential to commercial. It generated a fair amount of commentary, as you can imagine, because it butts up right against a neighborhood called Janther Place. Mr. Robertson said that Mr. Clarke knows all about it. He said that he was really torn about this case because he sympathizes with the property owners. They've been there a hundred years, or at least the property has. The houses are quite old, and some are still occupied. The Janther Place neighborhood is pretty filled up by twenty-two to twenty-three homes. Mr. Robertson said that their neighbors that butt up to Kings Highway wanted to remove the three houses that exist on the property and replace them with a gas station. He thought to himself, "What happens when you wake up one morning, and you have an interstate highway in your backyard"? It really tore him. He was sympathetic to the applicants. Mr. Robertson said that of course the neighbors showed up in large numbers and testified for their historic neighborhood. The people who lived in the condos down the street did the same thing. St. Mark's Church also came and said that this was not appropriate, please don't approve it. Mr. Robertson said that he says that to them because there are unattended consequences of running a freeway through a city. As an Allendale Strong member, he strongly opposes the connector. He believes they don't need it. He thinks all of them have heard these arguments in the past. He hopes they'll consider them going forward. Mr. Robertson said they're not going to give up their campaign and they're working as best they can to put obstacles in their path. One last thing he wanted to tell them. They've done some examinations of their statements with regard to the loop, how they think it's insufficient, and they want to make the case that building the loop up is more expensive than building the connector. They believe those are faulty arguments. They have an expert that they would like to present to NLCOG, free of charge, they'll pay all the cost, who can verify what he's saying. Mr. Robertson asked for them to please give that some consideration. He knows they want to be openminded, transparent and consider all the facts and data that supports their argument about building this highway. They think they can present an alternative vision. That's really all he's got to say this morning and he's primarily there just to listen. Mr. Robertson said thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. Blanton said that he always likes to mix things up, so he wanted to stop there for a minute and do the invocation and the pledge. Mayor Arceneaux was going to do the invocation and Mr. Blanton led us in the pledge. He asked if those that cared to join them to please stand.

## **Business**

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

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes for the September 12, 2025, meeting. Mr. Clarke motioned, and Mr. England seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Mr. Blanton 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 three amendments for them.

- The first is to add the remaining funds for Shreveport's Pavement Program. They are pretty much ready to go out for construction on this project, then supplementing the remaining funds into this phase.
- The second amendment is for the Aerial Photography Program. They'll be flying roughly late December, early March timeframe. Leaves off, good weather and no clouds type of weather.

- The third amendment is for US 171: US 84 to LA 3015. That includes a rehab of that corridor.

Mr. Rogers said that these included all the TIP Amendments for them at this time. These amendments are for Introduction for Public Comment.

Mr. Blanton asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mr. Blanton entertained a motion to Approve the Introduction for Public Comment for the Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications and Amendments. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mr. England seconded. Mr. Blanton called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

### **3. Resolution in Support of Multi-State Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding Program**

#### **- Adoption of Resolution in Support of Multi-State Future Interstate Program**

Mr. Rogers said that next on the agenda was a Resolution in Support of Multi-State Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding Program. Basically, what this is, ISTEA and TEA-21, there was a high priority projects program that had around thirty-four projects across the country in it. The next generation of the bit was I-49, I-69, I-14, some things for I-10, and various different corridors across the country. Main interstates across the country that hadn't been completed or had other projects associated with them. Mr. Rogers said that project ballooned into what became the downfall of earmarks. In the last generation of it there were some twenty thousand projects that got added to the program and they pretty much killed it after that. What they're trying to do is resurrect that program back to the original projects that were in there and allocate funding straight to those programs that would be over and above the traditional funding allocations for the state. The reason for the timing for this is the reauthorization of the IJA and they're starting that process now. It's an effort to get them to recreate that program and put money with it and narrow it back down to that original order.

*Mr. Petro wanted to add a comment. He said that I-69 was in the original list so that's why this has some relevance to this area.*

Mr. Blanton asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mr. Blanton entertained a motion to Approve the Adoption of Resolution in Support of Multi-State Future Interstate Highway Formula Funding Program. Mr. Clarke motioned, and Mr. Washington seconded. Mr. Blanton called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

## **Other Matters**

### **4. Congestion Management Process**

#### **- Corridor Screening and Public Survey results**

Mr. Petro wanted to give the board an update on what's going on internally within NLCOG. *Please see the attached link for Mr. Petro's presentation.*

*Mr. Washington asked if they've considered Public Transit in the Congestion Mitigation Plan.*

*Mr. Petro said, "yes". He didn't really want to get into prioritization, but it will be used after this base level analysis is done with the public input and the data analysis that shows where the severity is. It will be used as a step when they prioritize the projects at the very end. Which corridors are the most important to be mitigated first when they release the list of projects. It would be the fixed route transit that would be incorporated into that prioritization process, along with, for the first time he's going to include, freight. Freight is also a very important consideration when it comes to congestion.*

*Mr. Washington asked if two of the corridors are future corridors.*

*Mr. Petro stated that he thinks Kings Highway is, not only by public input, but the data analysis shows Kings Highway. It actually surprised him that it showed to be congested from the data analysis standpoint.*

*Mr. Washington said that the other two that they're looking at, and announcements have been made about, are Youree and Airline Drive. They work very closely with TSP (Traffic Signal Prioritization) to plan for those corridors.*

*Mr. Petro said that Youree and East 70<sup>th</sup> have both always been a contingent for many congestion management plans.*

*Mr. Petro wanted to add one last thing just as a side. They found a trend, back when they started these plans in 1996, Mansfield Road was one at the top. Because of population loss, changes in economic activity, and improvements that the City of Shreveport have made throughout that area along Mansfield Road, not one public response was on the entire length of US 171. It's really changed a lot as far as where the actual location of congestion is in our area over the last thirty years.*

*Mr. Rogers wanted to let Mr. Washington know as well that in one of the big map formulas, they have a line in there that if a transit route is along that corridor, it adds like ten points to the whole process. They make sure that transit corridors get a bump.*

## **5. Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

### **- Plan Update – Neel Schaffer**

Mr. Vijay Kunada, from Neel-Schaffer, presented their plan update for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. *Please click the link below for the presentation.*

## **Announcements**

Mr. Rogers stated that the Joint Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee have rescheduled. The Legislative Public Hearings for our district will be held December 2, 2025, at 8:30 am, in the Government Chambers. This is previously what they've called the "Road Show".

Mr. Rogers said that again, the FHWA/FTA MPO Certification Review is scheduled for December 17-18, 2025. The FHWA and FTA will be attending the December 19, 2025, meeting and making a presentation.

Mr. Rogers had one more thing he wanted to make a brief announcement about. Last Thursday, he had the pleasure of attending the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association. They were invited down because their active transportation plan was honored an award for their planning process of the plan. He knows that Mr. Clarke was there, as well as members of Mrs. Askew-Brown's staff were there. It was just an honor to receive that award.

The next regular scheduled MPO meeting is on Friday, November 21, 2025, in the Government Chambers at 9:00 am.

Mr. Clarke had a question. He said that he's always wanting to get updates in reference to the I-49 ICC. He's got two and a half months left and he's been sitting on the board for eight years. Mr. Clarke said that he would just like to know that each month, if they don't mind, whatever progress is being made.

Mr. Rogers said that after having the fairly comprehensive update at the last meeting, he can tell him that all drafts of all the different chapters and the technical studies have been delivered to DOTD. Pieces of that have gone to the division office of federal highways for their reviews. There are also some people out on the ground doing some of the survey work, re-evaluating some of the wetland areas up around the Hearne area and also doing some survey work for the noise part along the corridor. With all that again, they're still pushing as hard as they can. They still intend to have that public hearing by the end of this year. The shutdown hasn't affected this in any shape, fashion or form. He believes the FHWA and FTA to some degrees have been affected, but

because most of the funding coming through IJJA, the long-term bills, those don't get affected as much with the shutdown as other departments do. A portion of federal transit funds does come through the general and annual appropriation, but again, a great majority of that comes through the long term. The intent is still to hold public hearing by the end of the year.

Mr. Clarke said, "One last thing". He wanted to congratulate NLCOG for the Honorable Mention they received at the state board meeting. He said that Mr. Rogers wasn't giving himself the credit he deserved. They were very proud. Many times, North Louisiana is left out of that process. Mr. Clarke has asked the MPC staff for next year, present some of the plans that are happening here in Shreveport, but if he's not mistaken, the only award for North Louisiana. That's above Alexandria you received. He said, "Kudo's to NLCOG and thank you for making them proud".

## Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, Mr. Blanton entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Clarke motioned, and Mr. Washington 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 long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

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.

Briefly describe your comment(s):