

MINUTES

Transportation Policy Committee
Of the
Regional Planning Commission
For

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes

January 14th 2014

Committee Members: Chairman Mitch Landrieu designee Cedric Grant), 1st Vice Chairman Billy Nungesser, 2nd Vice Chairman Patricia Brister, 3rd Vice Chairman John Young, Secretary Gordon Burgess, Treasurer David Peralta, Belinda Constant, Jack Stumpf, Jacquelyn Clarkson, Stacy Head, Jeffrey Schwartz, Ronald Carrere, Kirk Lepine, Byron Marinovich, Mike Ford, Casey Hunnicutt, Charles Ponstein, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, David Vial, Dr. Bonnie Lewis, Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack), Larry Rase (designee: Carlton Dufrechou), V.J. St. Pierre, Iftikhar Ahmad, Natalie Robottom, Donald Villere, Sal Longoria, and Mike Cooper

Attendance: 30

Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, III, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jeffrey Roesel, Nicholas Silvey, Megan Leonard, et al



AGENDA

1. Consideration: Approval of the December 10, 2013 minutes
2. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
3. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
4. Consideration: Report on the South Tangipahoa Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program
5. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Stage 0 Feasibility Study
Andrew Higgins Corridor - New Orleans, LA
RPC Task No. A-8.14; FY-14 UPWP
Amount \$140,000
6. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Transportation System Surveillance
RPC Task No. ST-6.14; FY-14 UPWP
Amount \$20,000
7. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
US 90/I-310 Interchange - Interim Improvements for Safety and Efficiency
Stage 1 Environmental Assessment and Interchange Modification Report
St. Charles Parish (RPC Project I310SC)
Amount \$345,000

- 8. Presentation: Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport:
Development Plan Update
By: Iftikhar Ahmad, Director
- 9. Consideration: Public Comment Period
- 10. Consideration: Other Matters



Mrs. Brister led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the roll call, a quorum was established. Mr. Silvey requested Mrs. Brister chair the January 14th 2014 meeting in Chairman Landrieu’s absence. Mrs. Brister called the Transportation Policy Committee meeting to order.

1. Consideration: Approval of December 10, 2013 Minutes

President Peralta made a motion to approve the December 10, 2013 minutes, seconded by Councilmember Stefancik and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

2. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 4 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the New Orleans TIP, Highway & Transit Elements, and provided a brief explanation of each item.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the New Orleans TIP amendments for the Highway & Transit Elements. It was so moved by President Peralta, seconded by Councilman Head and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

3. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements

Mr. Brooks referred the members to pages 5 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the St. Tammany TIP, Highway & Transit Elements, and provided a brief explanation of each item.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the St. Tammany TIP amendments for the Highway Element. It was so moved by Councilmember Falconer, seconded by Councilmember Stefancik and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

4. Consideration: Report on the South Tangipahoa Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Brooks referred the members to pages 6 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the South Tangipahoa TIP, Highway & Transit Elements, and provided a brief explanation of each item.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the South Tangipahoa TIP amendments for the Highway Element. It was so moved by President Burgess, seconded by Dr. Bonnie Lewis and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

**5. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Stage 0 Feasibility Study
Andrew Higgins Corridor - New Orleans, LA
RPC Task No. A-8.14; FY-14 UPWP
Amount \$140,000**

Mr. Brooks explained the purpose of this task is to prepare a Stage 0 Feasibility Study for the Andrew Higgins Street corridor in New Orleans.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 7 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. He reported that, following RPC staff review and ranking, Parsons Brinckerhoff was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by Deputy Mayor Grant, seconded by Councilmember Clarkson and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

**6. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
Transportation System Surveillance
RPC Task No. ST-6.14; FY-14 UPWP
Amount \$20,000**

Mr. Brooks explained the purpose of this task is to assist the Regional Planning Commission in the collection of traffic data.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 8 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. He reported that, following RPC staff review and ranking, ITS Regional, LLC was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by President Burgess, seconded by President Peralta and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

**7. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
US 90/I-310 Interchange - Interim Improvements for Safety and
Efficiency
Stage 1 Environmental Assessment and Interchange Modification
Report
St. Charles Parish (RPC Project I310SC)
Amount \$345,000**

Mr. Brooks explained the purpose of this task is to assist the Regional Planning Commission in the preparation of a Stage 1 EA and Interchange Modification Report (IMR) for safety and efficiency in the US 90/I-310 Interchange area until such time as the full I-49 freeway may be funded.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 9 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. He reported that, following RPC staff review and ranking, AECOM Technical Services was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by President St. Pierre, seconded by President Peralta and approved unanimously by the Transportation Policy members in attendance and the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

**8. Presentation: Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport:
Development Plan Update
By: Iftikhar Ahmad, Director**

Mr. Brooks introduced Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Mr. Ahmad began his presentation with some key facts: MSY conducts more

than 80% of all of Louisiana's Enplanements, 11 Airlines, 39 non-stops, 19,700 airports in the U.S. Of these, 5,170 airports are open to the general public with 503 airports offering commercial service 9.2 Million passengers, \$106.3 Million Annual Revenue, 12,471 Direct Jobs and In-direct Jobs, \$2.6 Billion Annual Economic Impact, the Airport is a self-sustainable organization with its own revenue and expenses streams. Mr. Ahmad showed different alternatives and explained the North Alternative provides the best opportunity for a World Class Airport. He explained the funding sources & uses for the budget. The Northside alternative's one time impact on construction related jobs in the regional economy is 40.3% greater than the No Build alternative, the Northside alternative's average annual operations impact on sustained jobs in the regional economy is 7.7% greater than the No Build alternative, average impact over the given time horizon (2013 – 2028), does not include the economic impact of tourism that is attributable to the airport, average annual impact from tourism is projected to be 34,449 jobs (2013-2028).

Mr. Brooks thanked Mr. Ahmad for his presentation.

9. Consideration: Public Comment Period

The Chairman asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

10. Consideration: Other Matters

There being no other matters to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting and proceeded to the Regional Planning Commission Meeting.

MINUTES

**Regional Planning Commission
For
Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes
January 14 , 2014**

Committee Members: Chairman Mitch Landrieu designee Cedric Grant), 1st Vice Chairman Billy Nungesser, 2nd Vice Chairman Patricia Brister, 3rd Vice Chairman John Young, Secretary Gordon Burgess, Treasurer David Peralta, Belinda Constant, Jack Stumpf, Jeffrey Schwartz, Ronald Carrere, Kirk Lepine, Byron Marinovich, Mike Ford, Casey Hunnicutt, Charles Ponstein, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, David Vial, Dr. Bonnie Lewis, and Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack)

Attendance: 20

Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jeffrey Roesel, Nicholas Silvey, Megan Leonard, et al



AGENDA

1. Consideration: Approval of the December 10, 2013 minutes
2. Committee Reports: (a) Budget and Personnel Committee
 - Revision to the RPC Policy & Procedures Manual(b) Other Committee Reports
3. Consideration: Financial Report
 - (a) Balance Sheet of Local Activities
 - (b) Monthly Budget Report
4. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
5. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements
6. Consideration: Report on the South Tangipahoa Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program
7. Consideration: Consultant Selection:
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St. Charles Parish (RPC Project I310SC)
Amount \$345,000
10. Presentation: Adams & Reese
Jeffrey Brooks
11. Consideration: Travel Request
12. Consideration: Contract Extensions
13. Consideration: Consultant Billings
14. Consideration: Public Comment Period
15. Consideration: Other Matters



The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted the existence of a quorum.

1. Consideration: Approval of December 10, 2013 Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of December 10, 2013 were approved upon a motion by Mr. Ponstein, seconded by Councilmember Stefancik and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

2. Committee Reports: (a) Budget and Personnel Committee - **Revision to the RPC Policy & Procedures Manual** **(b) Other Committee Reports**

Mr. Silvey explained the Revision to the RPC Policy & Procedures Manual. It was requested Ernest Burguieres, RPC's legal counsel look into the revision and to defer the motion until next month.

3. Consideration: Financial Report - (a) Balance Sheet of Local Activities** - (b) Monthly Budget Report**

Mr. Silvey referred the members to page 11 of the meeting packet for the balance sheet for the month ending November 30, 2013. He indicated that the RPC's total Assets and Liabilities, which include the Fund Balance) in the amount of \$1,750,046.50

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the balance sheet of local activities. It was so moved by Councilmember Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Kelley and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

Mr. Silvey then referred the members to page 12 of the meeting packet for the monthly budget report with one budget amendment. There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the monthly budget report. It was so moved by President Young, seconded by President Nungesser and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

- 4. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements**
- 5. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway & Transit Elements**
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Mr. Brooks requested concurrence of items 4-9 which were already recommended for approval by the members of the Transportation Policy Committee.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve items 4-9 as these items have been already approved by the Transportation Policy Commission. It was so moved by President Young seconded by Deputy Mayor Grant and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

- 10. Presentation: Adams & Reese
Jeffrey Brooks**

Mr. Brooks began by explaining the general information on the omnibus measure: Aviation
The Department of Homeland Security received a \$336 million cut in funding, with most of the reductions at the Transportation Security Administration. The measure appropriates \$12.4 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration, about \$168 million less than the agency received in fiscal 2013. The measure will require TSA to continue staffing exit lanes at airports and hikes fees on aviation security that are tacked onto the cost of a ticket. Currently passengers pay a \$2.50 per flight segment fee which is capped at \$5 per trip. The measure raises that fee to \$5.60 per trip. The measure also allocates \$140 million to ensure the contract tower program stays afloat, with \$10.3 million directed towards the contract

cost share program. TIGER Grants - The Obama Administration's popular TIGER Grant program which provides funding for innovative state projects received \$600 million through the Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) portion of the omnibus measure. The figure represents a 20 percent increase over fiscal year 2013 funding. Inland Waterways Trust Fund -The THUD portion of the measure federalizes 75 percent of the Olmsted lock and dam project on the Ohio River, up from the current 50 percent level. That leaves just 25 percent to be matched by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund that comes from towboat fuel taxes paid by barge lines. This frees up tens of millions of dollars this year for the IWTF to help launch other, long overdue lock projects. The language mirrors a House proposal in the current Water Resources Development Act. Community Development Block Grants- Community Development Funds will be held at \$3.03 billion which is \$48 million below the sequester level. National Institute of Food and Agriculture -The measure maintains the Senate approved level of \$1.277 billion for NIFA, which is \$74 million above fiscal year 2013. The bill maintains the Senate levels of \$316.409 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative; \$243.701 million for the Hatch Act; \$33.961 million for McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act; \$52.485 million for Research at 1890 Institutions; and \$300 million for Smith-Lever, Section 3(b) and (c) programs and Cooperative Extension. National Institute of Health-NIH will get a rare budget increase as part of the fiscal 2014 Labor HHS-Education bill wrapped into the omnibus. NIH received \$29.9 billion for fiscal year 2014, an increase of almost \$1 billion from fiscal 2013 levels. NASA and NSF -While NASA will receive a small increase over last year's funding, the National Science Foundation will receive almost \$82 billion less than last year. NASA is allocated \$17.6 billion for fiscal year 2014 through the Commerce, Justice, Science portion of the omnibus while NSF will receive \$7.2 billion from the same measure. Department of Energy- Energy programs within DOE will see a \$620 million increase over current enacted levels while the Environmental Protection Agency will receive a \$143 million reduction from current levels. The Department was largely spared from major policy riders that House Republicans sought, although riders pertaining to regional haze, mining permits, and climate change programs were all included in the final measure. Defense Spending-Military spending is essentially kept level in the new measure coming in at about \$29 billion less than the Pentagon requested. The budget includes \$486.9 billion for the Pentagon's base budget and another \$85.2 billion for operations overseas this year. Pell Grants -The bill maintains level funding for the Pell Grant program at \$22.8 billion. Combined with mandatory funding, the total maximum award is estimated to rise by \$85 to a total of \$5,730. The Department of Education is expected to announce the actual mandatory increase, which is based on calendar year 2013 Consumer Price Index data, next month. TRIO Programs -The bill includes \$838 million, an increase of \$42 million, to help low-income and first generation college student prepare for college. LIHEAP- The measure includes \$3.425 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program which represents a \$169 million increase. Flood Insurance -The legislation includes a one-year delay of certain "grandfathered" National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) properties. The delay is for properties built in compliance with an effective flood insurance rate map but have since been remapped into a different flood risk zone or base flood elevation. Legislative Riders -Ultimately, appropriators compromised on some of their top policy priorities in order to finish work on the legislation and avoid another fiscal standoff. The measure contains some longstanding abortion riders including the so-called Hyde amendment that bars Medicaid plans from covering abortion, except in the case of rape, incest or when the mother's life is endangered. Riders prohibiting funding for the Affordable Care Act (PL 111-148, PL 111-152) and the Dodd Frank financial overhaul (PL 111-203) were blocked from inclusion in the final legislation. Mr. Brooks finished up his presentation with an Outlook -The omnibus measure is expected to pass in both chambers and arrive on the President's desk before week's end. Passage of the measure will indicate a reassertion of control by House and Senate appropriators over a wayward appropriations process and hopefully set the stage for a regular order process for fiscal year 2015. Consideration of fiscal year 2015 will begin following the President's State of the Union address on January 28.

Mr. Brooks thanks Mr. Brooks for the presentation.

11. Consideration: Travel Request

Mr. Silvey referred Members to page 13 of the packet and pointed out 2 travel requests: one staff member (Walter Brooks) requesting to attend a meeting on January 15th 2014 in Washington, D.C. Also, Two staff members (Meredith Soniat & Emilie Bahr) to attend the Climate Change and Transportation Workshop, February 6, 2014, Mobile, AL.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the travel requests. It was so moved by Councilmember Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Ponstein, and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

13. Consideration: Contract Extensions

Mr. Silvey referred the members to page 14 for a list of contract extensions. There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the contract extensions. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Grant, and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

14. Consideration: Consultant Billings

Mr. Silvey referred the members to a summary list of the consultant bills on page 15 in the meeting packet, noting that staff had reviewed each of them and favorably recommended them for approval.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant billings. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Ponstein, and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.

15. Consideration: Public Comment Period

The Chairman asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

16. Consideration: Other Matters

There being no other matters to discuss, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by President Young and approved unanimously by the members of the Regional Planning Commission, as noted by the Chairman.