

# Central Louisiana Infrastructure Beltway Commission Meeting

December 21, 2011

## Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

By Mayor Jacques Roy

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present:**

Mayor Jacques Roy  
Mayor Clarence Fields  
Mayor Jonathan Dean  
Mayor Jack Dewitt  
David Manuel  
Tim Johnson  
Keith Sayer

Reldon Owens  
Richard Billings  
Arnold Murrell  
Harry Silver  
Jon Grafton

**Others Present**

Dennis Woodward  
Matt Johns  
Vera Zhang

**3. Approval of Minutes of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Meeting**

- Motion by Jon Grafton  
-2<sup>nd</sup> by David Manuel  
Passed Unanimously

**4. Recognition of the Contributions of Mr. Elton Pody**

Mayor Jacques Roy reminded everybody that Mr. Elton Pody was the former and the first chairman of the Beltway Commission. Mr. Pody was a true proponent of the regional infrastructure related projects and had built up connections among regional stakeholders.

Meeting attendees took a moment of silence to recognize the contributions of Mr. Elton Pody.

## **5. Review of Beltway Commission Legislation**

Mayor Jacques Roy led the legislation review and discussion. He first reviewed the definition of revenue which included “toll revenue” and other sources such as bonding capability. He pointed out that the beltway project was a huge project which would require funding to construct, to operate, and to maintain; therefore tollways could be a possible solution to think about. He mentioned that there were states having successful toll road systems, such as Florida and Texas. Richard Billings mentioned that the tolls were “users pay for”, which was different from “tax” for everybody.

Mayor Roy reviewed the definition of “board of directors; meetings; quorum”. He pointed out that the language of “A majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum” meaning that the meeting had to have a real quorum of the actual members to transact the business, but not just “who shows up to do business”. He suggested fixing the language in the following sentence a little tighter to avoid ambiguity of interpretation.

Mayor Roy suggested that the Beltway meetings be scheduled right behind the MPO meetings, because most of the commissioners served on both and the two meetings were interrelated. He encouraged everybody to review the legislation and to realize that the beltway commission was a serious commission with full authorities.

Reldon Owens pointed out that the language in this legislation was formulated by closely consulting the Lafayette Beltway Legislation. He explained that the word “infrastructure” included in this beltway legislation took into account not only transportation aspect, but also water, sewage, and utilities from a development vision.

## **6. Beltway Feasibility Study using MPO funds**

Matt Johns lead the discussion of the beltway study. Matt stated that the beltway study would use the STP funds and be conducted by the MPO staff. The MPO staff would have to identify a scope of services by following FHWA guidelines and the beltway commission’s decisions. After the scope of services is approved by DOTD, the STP money can be spent. Matt presented a map with previous three alternative plans of the beltway and reminded everybody that the alternatives should be considered so as to meet the FHWA requirements. Matt introduced the commission a three phased Cenla Beltway study plan, including Phase 1, Existing Conditions, Phase 2, Procedures on General Scale, and Phase 3, Evaluation of Alternatives.

Mayor Roy commented that the meeting was a good position of start. He suggested an item to add to the next meeting of the adoption of the beltway commission bylaws, the commission seal and the opening of an account. Jon Grafton suggested that the beltway

commission adopt a logo with professional design. Matt showed his preliminary design of logo to the commission. Mayor Roy suggested sending Matt's design to KJ for professional touch up.

Mayor Jonathan Dean commented that the utilities were an important aspect in terms of infrastructure projects. He asked what possible feasibility studies and strategies the commission would have to deal with the utilities communities. Matt answered that the MPO staff would want to get as much as more GIS information for the commission to make decision. Jon Grafton pointed out that there would be right-of-way allocated for certain corridors of the beltway. The utilities would be set up in the right-of-way at the construction stage. Mayor Roy mentioned that it would be a good idea to have a Technical Advisory Committee to provide technical solutions to the commission. He suggested adding an item to the next meeting of appointment of a Technical Advisory Committee by the Beltway Sub-Committee. The possible members could be similar to those of the MPO TAC, plus representatives from Cleco, public service commission, and city and parish engineers, etc.

-Motion by Mayor Fields of sending Matt's preliminary logo design to KJ.

-2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard Billings.

**Passed Unanimously**

#### **7. Appointment of Sub-Committee for Beltway Study**

Mayor Roy led the discussion of the Beltway Sub-Committee (Steering Committee). Everybody agreed that the steering committee could have a size of five people. Mayor Roy made the first appointment of Jon Grafton as a steering committee member. Chancellor David Manual would serve on the committee. Keith Sayer would represent DOTD to serve on the committee till the new DA take up the appointment. Mayor Roy appointed Reldon Owens and Mayor Jonathan Dean as the other two members. Matt mentioned that a land bank would be necessary for the beltway commission to accept the land donated from people.

#### **8. Other Business**

-Motion by Mayor Fields to adopt **Resolution #1112211** Naming the RAPC as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Beltway Commission.

-2<sup>nd</sup> by Reldon Owens

**Passed Unanimously**

#### **9. Adjournment**

-Motion by Jon Grafton

-2<sup>nd</sup> by Harry Silver

**Passed Unanimously**