**MEETING MINUTES**

**Central Louisiana Infrastructure Beltway Commission Meeting**

**Date: March 24, 2014**

**Meeting Location: Rapides Area Planning Commission, Alexandria, LA**

**In Attendance**

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| **Committee** | Mayor Jacques Roy, COA – Present  Mayor Clarence Fields, COP – Present  Mayor Jonathan Dean, Town of Ball – Present  Mayor David Butler, Town of Woodworth – Absent  Mayor Jack Dewitt, Town of Boyce – Present  Harry Silver, COA – Present  Joseph Bishop, Rapides Parish – Present  Reldon Owens, Cenla CoC – Present  (Alternate Bryan L. Bossier, Sr) – Present  Arnold Murrell, Grant Parish – Absent  Charles Jones, Avoyelles Parish – Absent  Jon Grafton, England Authority -- Present  Murphy LeDoux, LADOTD – Present  Dr. Dan Howard, LSU-A – Absent  (Alternate David Wesse) – Present  Dr. Joe Aguillard, Louisiana College – Absent |
| **Staff** | John Miller, RAPC  Yuwen Hou, RAPC  Blake Powell, RAPC  Carol Zhou, RAPC |
| **Others in Attendance** | Dan Broussard, LADOTD  Dawn Sholmire, LADOTD  Matt Johns, LADOTD  Jonathan Lachney, LADOTD  Keith Sayer, LADOTD  Larry Mathews, LADOTD  Delores Brewer, COA  James Branch, COA  Joseph P. Page, COA  T. W. Thompson, COA  Albin A. Provosty, COA  Kay Michiels, Gilchrist Construction  Luke Lazarone, Crest Natural Resources  David Grassi, Crest Natural Resources |

**Agenda Item # 1**

*Call to Order by Mayor Jacques Roy*

**Agenda Item # 2**

*Roll Call*

**Agenda Item # 3**

*Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2013 Meeting*

It was motioned earlier by Mayor Roy to replace ‘in’ before ‘the City of Alexandria’ with ‘and’ in the motion by Mayor David Butler under item # 6.

- Motion by Mr. Joe Bishop

- Second by Mayor Jack Dewitt

**Passed Unanimously**

The minutes from the October 2, 2013 meeting were adopted.

- Motion by Mr. Reldon Owens

- Second by Mayor Clearance Fields

**Passed Unanimously**

**Agenda Item # 4**

*Updates on the Beltway Feasibility Study*

Mayor Roy addressed Mayor Jack Dewitt’s concern on the Beltway Feasibility study area. He indicated that at this stage despite the fact that the study area was generally defined, the committee would not limit the boundary to any specific roads or connections, since the determination of most feasible area is awaiting finalization. The intent of the motion regarding the study area is to look at possibly larger extent and not to limit participation from any cities, municipalities, townships and villages.

Mayor Roy made general comments:

* Mayor Roy and Mayor Dean gave a presentation regarding the Beltway Study at the State Transportation Improvements Program public meeting in Baton Rouge. The technical advisory groups from all State (District) authorities were looking specifically on the Mega Transportation Projects. Mayor Roy shared the good news that in the rating system (from A though D), Beltway project received a priority A (the highest rating) on DOTD’s Mega Projects List. He added that the highest rating is a tremendous vote of confidence in the draft proposal submitted to the Technical Committee. Mayor Roy emphasized how significant this opportunity is if it retains current rating and receives funding as a Mega Transportation Project.
* Mayor Roy informed the committee that the State feasibility study guidance is more likely to focus on the southern half (from Hwy 28W to Hwy 28E) of the beltway. He explained that even though the committee would possibly recommend the northern half to commence the study, the recommendations received from the State level will take feasibility and more technical issues into consideration. Therefore, changes are unlikely regarding the DOTD technical decisions.

Mr. Dan Broussard (LADOTD headquarters) explained to the Committee that the Statewide Transportation Plan is a 30-year long-term plan based on multiple funding scenarios. Over 102 projects compete for a total of $45 billion of transportation funds. Based on the project presentations and report submittals, the Advisory Committee rated the projects within A, B, C, D priorities to make them fit within the funding scenarios. He hopes that LADOTD ‘Priority A’ Mega Projects will get implemented based on the scenario assuming that in 2020 DOTD will start receiving transportation grants from the State vehicle sales tax revenue in a phase-in fashion. He noted that the State was currently working with consultants on finalizing the draft plan, and expected plan review and adoption later this year through early next year.

Mr. Murphy LeDoux brought up that DOTD’s Deputy Secretary Dr. Eric Kalivoda asked the question as to whether or not the Beltway Commission looked at requesting the section from LA 28 E down to US71 on the Red Route, as it would be a critical connection between I-49 and LA 28 E, and between LA28 W and LA28 E. This will require a bridge across the river. Mayor Roy pointed out again the importance of connections and encouraged the Committee to think about it on their each side. He commented that the aforementioned section would be a good opportunity for Pineville. However, the new bridge construction would limit the development of the northern Beltway due to its expensive cost. Further, he added it would only make sense that it made the connection across the Sugarhouse Road as there was already an expensive project undergoing.

Mr. Dan Broussard responded to Mayor Dewitt and Mayor Fields’s question that 13-15 projects made the Priority A, and $3 billion would be allocated to fund these projects.

Mr. Bossier expressed his concern on the Beltway. He asked if the southern bridge connection was crucial to the beltway. Mayor Roy responded that it was important in the sense that a north crossing over the Red River would be needed to complete the beltway. However, considering that the Beltway Commission strives for expanding the infrastructure, it will still fulfill the primary mission of the Commission provided more roads and connections are built along the way.

**Agenda Item # 5**

*Other Business*

Add the item “Discussion of the Issue of Alternate” to agenda.

-Motion by Mayor Clearance Fields

-2nd by Mayor Jack Dewitt

**Passed Unanimously**

**Agenda Item # 6**

*Discussion of the Issue of Alternate*

-Motion by Mayor Jack Dewitt

-2nd by Mr. Reldon Owens

**Passed Unanimously**

Mayor Roy explained that the alternate under discussion is to designate a single person who physically attends the meeting. The alternates have the right to vote on behalf of the acting members they represent. Mayor Roy entertained a motion to seek legislative consultation to incorporate the alternative issue into the Bylaws. Mayor Dean requested to amend the motion to include the language that will entitle the body to address the alternate or proxy situation if the legislation makes the form of digital vote legal in the future. Mayor Roy and Mayor Fields expressed their concerns regarding transparency, complexity and magnitude of the issue. Mayor Dean withdrew the motion.

The Central Louisiana Infrastructure Beltway Commission will seek legislative assistance on the alternate designation issue.

-Motion by Mayor Jacques Roy

-2nd by Mr. Reldon Owens

**Passed Unanimously**

**Agenda Item # 7**

*Adjournment*

- Motion by Mayor Jack Dewitt

-2nd by Mayor Clearance Fields

**Passed Unanimously**