

# **Multimodal Commerce Advisory Commission Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 15, 2017**

**Iberville Building, LED FastStart Conference Room**

**627 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**

**1:30 PM**

*The following constitute minutes of the Multimodal Commerce Advisory Commission Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings. An audio recording is kept at the Office of Multimodal Commerce in Baton Rouge, LA.*

## **I. Call to Order**

## **II. Roll Call of Commissioners**

Thomas Clark, Commissioner, Present

Senator Norby Chabert, Senate, Present

Representative Walter Leger, House of Representatives, Present

Mandi Mitchell, LED, Present

Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary DOTD, Designee Chance McNeely, Present

Senator Page Cortez, Senate Transportation, Absent

Representative Kenny Havard, House Transportation, Absent

Senator Daniel Martiny, Senate Commerce, Absent

Representative Thomas Carmody, House Transportation, Present

Chett Chaisson, PAL, Present

David Deloach, LWA, Absent

Janet Gonzales, LAMA, Designee Joe Wheeler, Present

Cathy Gautreaux, LMTA, Present

Carmack Blackmon, LRA, Present

Don Sanders, LBIC, Present

Aaron Smith, OMSA, Present

John Spain, SRC, Present

### **Others in attendance:**

Col. James P. Jones, OMC, Deputy Commissioner

Randall Withers, DOTD, Ports

Dean Goodell, DOTD, Freight & Passenger Rail

Chris Collins, DOTD, Waterways

Brad Brandt, DOTD, Aviation

Stephanie Lejeune, DOTD, Ports

Jessica Shambra, DOTD, Ports

Elizabeth Eastwood, DOTD, OMC

Don Pierson, LED

Maria Bowen, LMTA

Rashida Keith, House Commerce Attorney

Allen Miller, Senate Attorney

**III. Introductions and welcome by Commissioner Clark and Don Pierson with LED.**

**IV. Review of Agenda, attached**

**V. Office of Multimodal Commerce PowerPoint Presentation, attached**

- Review of OMC Organizational Chart, section break-down, funding and how OMC works within DOTD. Current status of filling the position of Commercial Trucking section head. Foster greater collaboration among agencies.
- Briefings by each Section Head: review of programs, projects and funding

Aviation, Brad Brandt

Freight & Passenger Rail, Dean Goodell

Ports, Randall Withers

Waterways, Chris Collins

Commercial Trucking, Commissioner Clark states that he and Cathy Gautreaux have discussed this position and the importance of permit reform that affects commerce and freight at all ports across the state. Cathy Gautreaux asked what our timeline for filling the trucking position was. Commissioner Clark says he hopes to have the trucking position descriptions to HR and advertise the position within the next two weeks. Based on the candidates we receive, fill it as soon as possible thereafter. Cathy asked what would we be looking for in a candidate. Commissioner Clark states the skillsets we advertise for, from a commercial trucking aspect, is a logistics background, good people skills, the ability to collaborate with entities both internal and external, and be a liaison within the department. i.e. Intermodal Connector Program. Cathy says she hopes we would focus on improving administrative & operational efficiency of trucking and that this does not take a backseat to intermodalism. Commissioner Clark duly notes Cathy Gautreaux's request.

**VI. Objectives/advisory/Guidance/Discussion**

**Act 719** - Senator Chabert states after 2 years he understands there were issues with getting the OMC set-up, that he would like to see the trucking position filled. He is optimistic and excited about the opportunity that we have before us and that hopefully this office brings in every subsector of Louisiana commerce into one office that can communicate and bridge that gap and be a conduit that connects everybody and brings forth that synergy that we so desperately need in the state. Senator Leger states he is pleased to be meeting to get an update and there is no limit to what can be

accomplished. Coordination and bringing people together to solve complicated issues around how we move products around our state and how we deal with various industry partners is the job description and he is interested in us getting rolling. He mentioned the congestion around the Port of New Orleans and how it effects commercial trucking, and states this is reproduced in any number of ways all over the state at any given moment. States we are blessed to have a number of incredibly skilled business people in the area of logistics and how they move products, and it is important for the state to have a high level of sophistication in understanding Louisiana businesses and finding ways to enhance it.

**LA DOTD** - Chett Chaisson asked if Louisiana DOTD is organized like other states. Senator Chabert addressed this issue by saying that Texas, Mississippi and Arkansas do not have the word “development” in their name. Also, they do not have the complex issues we have, in that we have the Mississippi River going through our cities and state. Consider the two states on either side of us, Texas has 18M people and Mississippi has 2M, which is completely inequitable in terms of comparison. We need to conform to our neighbors on the Gulf and to the north of us to some extent, but we need to capitalize on what makes us unique. He believes Louisiana will be a model to other states that have natural geographic benefits and challenges. Commissioner Clark suggests we develop benchmarking for this.

**Gasoline Tax** – Commissioner Clark stated that one issue that has taken focus during the last legislative session is the gasoline tax debate. There needs to be an awareness in the community that there is much more than roads and bridges and we need a strategy that helps to communicate and educate the public as to the all the commerce that is moving around our state and around our infrastructure. We are working toward that as well.

**Act 382** – Relates to developing the dredging program; Commissioner Clark received an email from a Legislative auditor asking where we are as to promulgating the rules for the bill, even though we do not have a fund mechanism for the bill. Resolution 220 - Working with LTRC and CPRA for an enhanced dredging study. There is a consultant working on a study that includes the new technology relating to dredging, to provide economic value. Work with the Water Institute of the Gulf to figure out the beneficial use of the product. Phil Jones stated that the new technology can bring down the costs of dredging substantially and Morgan City is currently involved with this.

**Navigable Waterways** – Senator Chabert says Louisiana has an immense number of navigable waterways which can be used for commerce instead of the Mississippi River. And this should be more of a point of interest for CPRA – everybody wants to restore the coast and do hurricane protection,

but we need to consider the positive economic impact of using smaller waterways. Commissioner Clark stated that we need to look at the lost revenue from ships having to light load to use these waterways, or they have to wait on each other because it is only one lane to navigate on the waterway. Senator Chabert stated that the Coastal Master Plan is a \$50B plan over 50 years and there is a seat on that board for a lot of Secretaries, and it's imperative that we put more emphasis on the master plan.

**Multimodal Monday** on Twitter has a different message every Monday.

**Issues Register** – Commissioner Clark reviewed how the different sections in Office of Multimodal Commerce use this internal document to keep the Secretary's office informed of the various issues related to the various modes of transportation.

**VII.** Suggested there be future meetings every quarter or as needed.