

Capital Area Road and Bridge District Meeting Minutes

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., March 27, 2023

Location: Senate Committee Room F, State Capitol

Members Present: Chairman, Mr. J. H. Campbell, Jr., Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Diez (representing President Clint Cointment) Ascension Parish
Parish President Riley Berthelot, West Baton Rouge Parish
Dr. Erik Kalivoda, (Secretary, DOTD)
Mr. Hank Grace (representing President Mitchell Ourso), Iberville Parish

Member Absent: Parish President Sharon W. Broome, East Baton Rouge Parish; and Parish President Layton Ricks, Livingston Parish

❖ Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Minutes from the December 12, 2022 Meeting were approved, on motion made by Berthelot and seconded by Kalivoda.

Next on the Agenda, was the update on the progress being made by DOTD and Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC., since the last meeting on the Bridge project, and its identified tasks and timelines:

- A. Introduction of Representative(s) of Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC.
- B. Comments from Representative(s) of Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC.
- C. Other Bridge Project updates from attending representatives of DOTD.
- D. Comparison of Timelines and Tasks to actual performance by Atlas.
- E. Report on amount of funds expended/disbursed by DOTD to Atlas.

Reports available at www.mrbssouth.com

Kara Moree (Atlas) provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the project. Ms. Moree reviewed the project team, project objectives, and project workflow.

Mr. Campbell asked about the distance between Point E and Point F on the map being reviewed, and Mrs. Moree responded about 2 miles. Roman Numeral (IV) is 2 miles south of Bluebonnet Blvd in EBR Parish. Mr. Campbell then asked about the NEPA timeline and Mrs. Moree indicated that in initial meetings with FHWA, it was suggested that a shortened Environmental Assessment would be needed and not necessarily the longer Environmental Impact Statement. Mr. Campbell asked what factors would differentiate the current three (3) project locations. Mrs. Moree gave a range of options including wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, etc.

President Berthelot then asked about the \$300 million approved legislative appropriation and its potential use on the Highway 30 project. Mrs. Moree indicated this project was already in the environmental phase. Mr. Kalivoda indicated the Iberville and Ascension portions of this project were not funded.

Mr. Campbell asked if the project was on track to complete the environmental analysis by the Summer of 2024 and Mrs. Moree indicated that the project was on time. Mr. Campbell then asked if the study funding was still available, and Mrs. Moree said yes.

Mr. Cory Landry, a Project manager of the DOTD, came to provide an update on the LA 415 Connector in WBR Parish. He indicated that they were preparing documents to go into the CMAR procurement process. Mr. Campbell then asked about the construction timeline and was told that construction should be completed in 2029.

Mr. Grace asked for copies of the slides presented, and Mr. Landry said he would provide them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Campbell called for public comments.

Mrs. Laura Comeaux gave public comment regarding concerns about the old growth cypress forest possibly being adversely impacted by the E- 11 -IV bridge location. She mentioned the U.S. Forest Service, her family's Cypress Forest, Title 3, Section 4275 of the Revised statutes, indicating that the cypress was designated as a state tree, and the cultural heritage. She provided the commissioners and/or their Designees in attendance with a packet of information.

Mr. Caleb Holmes gave a public comment on behalf of the Sierra Club/Delta Chapter with concerns about traffic emissions and cultural impacts, and suggested the promotion of public transportation options. Mr. Berthelot suggested that such a conversation might be more appropriate with the Capital Region Planning Commission.

Mr. Harvey Stern gave public comment on behalf of Louisiana Purchase Cypress Legacy and expressed concerns with the E-11 -IV bridge location regarding its impacts on Cypress Forests.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Campbell called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Berthelot.

Without objection, the meeting was deemed adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Secretary of CARB-D

Riley Berthelot, President of West Baton Rouge Parish

Attest:

J.H. Campbell, Jr., Chairman of CARB-D