**Central Louisiana Infrastructure**

**Beltway Commission Meeting**

**October 2, 2013**

**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

Mayor David Butler

Arnold Murrell

Joseph Bishop

Murphy LeDoux

David Wesse

Jon Grafton

 Charles Jones

**Others Present**

Keith Sayer

Matt Johns

John Miller Carol Zhou

Vera Zhang

Charlie Moore

James Lee

**3. Approval of Minutes of August 21, 2013 Meeting**

- Motion by Mayor Clearance Fields

-2nd by Mr. Joe Bishop

**Passed Unanimously**

**4. Discussion of Alternates for Board Members**

Mayor Jacques Roy reviewed the legislation again and expressed his opinions on it. He suggested the board should leave Mr. James Downs (Rapides Parish District Attorney) as the expert to consult legislation issues and the board members can ask their own attorneys for relevant questions. Mayor Roy had spoken with Mr. James Downs about an alternates issue and Mr. Downs pointed out that it would be necessary to create legislation to allow alternates to have the authority to vote. He said he would direct his staff to get prepared on this for next session right away and encouraged the board members to send alternates (whether they can vote or not) if not able to attend the meetings to keep the flow of information going. In response to Mr. David Butler’s comment that the Bylaws do indicate designees under Article IV, Mayor Jacques Roy said he would anticipate use of alternates and suggested a future vote on the alternates. He pointed out that the Legislation does not include articles about alternates; however he would anticipate incorporating it into the Bylaws after soliciting Mr. James Downs for professional judgment and probably needing an amendment.

**5. Review and Discussion of Bylaws**

Mayor Jacques Roy said the Bylaws largely follow the Legislation and the board can always amend and add items. He pointed out one important thing not included in the Legislation that the Beltway Commission did under Article VIII with regards to appointing a Technical Advisory Committee. He then went through briefly the languages and duties listed under the Bylaws. He also brought up another question he may want to ask Mr. Downs about the interpretations on the language in sub-paragraph E: whether or not the majority of the people left at the meeting are able to vote if people go during the meeting. He continued that once the alternate issue is done, some part of that could be written in the Bylaws. Mayor Jacques Roy also mentioned introducing a valid proxy part but was not sure if it is allowed any more to a public body with changes in the law. Mr. David Butler suggested leaving it out on the account of transparency. Board members agreed at taking actions based on the majority of actual membership.

Keith Sayer pointed out to add number “8” after “Highway District Number” in Page 3. Article IV. Item (g).

* Motion by Mayor Jonathan Dean to add an amendment to the Bylaws
* 2nd by Mayor David Butler

**Passed Unanimously**

- Motion by Mr. Jon Grafton to adopt the Bylaws

- 2nd by Mayor Clearance Fields

**Passed Unanimously**

**6. Other Business – Beltway Segments Recommendation for DOTD’s Mega Project List**

Mayor Jacques Roy briefly summarized the discussions on the Beltway project last meeting. He pointed out that now there are three beltway routes being entertained: one of them is probably way too big to grow capacity-wise; the routes cannot be too small either, which will limit the metropolitan area’s future expansion. Due to the fact that the existing roadway cannot be used to connect as a part of the beltway, a south - north crossing over the Red River will be needed to make the true beltway. To the extent that this might be the new bridge area, it can save local money otherwise not finically feasible to be built in 30-40 years. Mayor Jacques Roy encouraged the board members to think about their roads and where best to connect them looking at the existing connections.

 Murphy LeDoux said he attended the Advisor Committee Meeting for the transportation plan one day before the meeting. Based on the discussions on the Beltway Project, he said the funding is about 1.7 billion and the project is put in a later priority. He said he felt that there was not a lot going on in Alexandria, there is an opportunity for him to push this project up to a priority B or C if it can be broken into segments. He suggested the board to arrive at some agreements on what segment would be first. Matt Johns presented the preliminary findings based on the old transportation model to be considered in the feasibility study: at Alexandria side from I-49 to Hwy 28 W to all the way down to I-49/Hwy 71; at Pineville side possibly from Hwy 107 to Hwy 28 E. It was suggested not to go any further west of Rapides Station. Mr. Grafton proposed to a segment from Hwy 107 to Hwy 28 E at green route. The board members came up with three segments being recommended. Mayor Jacques Roy suggested forwarding the recommendations to the TAC committees, having the TAC members work on this and circulate the findings.

- Motion by Mayor David Butler to add the item to approve “A study for future implementation of a connection designated for Beltway external loop purposes connecting 1- 49 to Hwy. 28 W at, around, or within Rapides Station area and the City of Alexandria” to the agenda.

- 2nd by Mr. Joe Bishop

**Passed Unanimously**

 Add the amended item to the agenda.

 To approve the study of implementing a leg segment of beltway external loop connecting 1-49 to Hwy. 28 W at, around, or within Rapides Station and to have that matter forwarded to the TAC for study and recommendation to LADOTD.

 Motion by Mayor Jonathon Dean to add an amendment to include a segment between Hwy 107 and 28 E at Pineville side.

 - 2nd by Mayor Clearance Fields

**Passed Unanimously**

 - Motion by Mayor Jonathan Dean to approve “ A study of and implementation regarding recommendation and incorporation of a segment of the proposed external loop on beltway- as a priority 1 matter for inclusion in the State of Louisianan’s Mega Project’s list - to include an Alexandria and Pineville side segment more particularly defined as a connection between I-49 and Hwy. 28W at, around, or within Rapides Station and City of Alexandria and Hwy. 107 and Hwy. 28 E; and to commend this final determination to the discretion of the TAC.

 - 2nd by President Joe Bishop

**Passed Unanimously**

**7. Adjournment**

- Motion by Mayor Jack Dewitt

-2nd by Mayor Clearance Fields

**Passed Unanimously**

Respectively submitted by,

Carol Zhou