



Multimodal Commerce Advisory Commission

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Mark Moses
Chairman

Senator Norby Chabert
Vice-Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014
10:00 A.M.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Sen. Robert Adley
Sen. Conrad Appel
Ben Billings
Anthony Bodin
Chett Chaisson
Z. David DeLoach
Cathy F. Gautreaux
Janet Gonzales
Sec. Sherri LeBas
Rep. Walt Leger
Anthony J. Marino
Sec. Stephen Moret
Rep. Karen St. Germain
John Spain

Commission Staff

Alan Miller
Attorney

Michelle Johnson
Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Multimodal Commerce Advisory Commission was called to order at 10:05 a.m., on September 25, 2014, at the State Capitol Building, Hainkel Committee Room, Senate Basement, Baton Rouge, Louisiana by Mark Moses, Chairman.

II. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll and the following was established:

Members Present

- Mark Moses, Chairman
Senator Robert Adley
Senator Conrad Appel
Mr. Ben Billings
Mr. Anthony Bodin
Senator Norby Chabert
Mr. Chett Chaisson
Mr. Z. David DeLoach
Ms. Cathy Gautreaux
Ms. Janet Gonzales
Ms. Sherri LaBas
Sec. Stephen Moret
Mr. Anthony Marino (Proxy for Rep. Ponti)

Members Absent

- Mr. Carmack Blackmon
Representative Walt Leger
Representative Karen St. Germain
Mr. John Spain

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Mark Moses, Chairman, introduced the Commission staff - Alan Miller, Commission attorney; Michelle Johnson, Commission secretary and Ashley McKneely, Division of Administration Liaison and then himself. He informed the members that he was appointed to serve as Chairman by the Kristy Nichols, Division of Administration Commissioner.

Then all members present introduced themselves.

Following the introductions, Chairman Moses asked Senator Chabert to provide information to the Commission as he authored Act 719, which created the Commission.

Senator Chabert informed the Commission members that the Bureau of Economic Analysis Study ranked three of Louisiana's metropolitan areas - Lake Charles, Houma and Baton Rouge. The study showed those cities GDP growth to be within the top 20 in the country. Senator Chabert wanted to seize the moment, and have all stakeholders represented on the Commission work together. He stated the stakeholders on the Commission - they drive the economy. Senator Chabert informed the members that other states were looking at Louisiana and how they will lead. He charged the members to take the Commission seriously in hopes of solving some of Louisiana's on-going problems.

IV. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION'S PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

Following Senator Chabert's comments, Chair Moses motioned to adopt the Senate's Uniform Rules of Committee Procedures - Senate Rules 13.51 through 13.97 - as applicable for the Commission's purposes, and that any other the rules be adopted by separate motion. There was no objection, and the rules were adopted.

Chairman Moses stated due to the importance of the work before the Commission and the relatively short time frame to accomplish the work, he thought it was appropriate to have a vice chair. Therefore, he motioned that as Senate Rule 13.5 was not applicable for the Commission's purposes, and named Senator Norby Chabert Vice-Chairman. There was no objection, and Senator Chabert became the Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

V. REVIEW OF ACT 719 AND COMMISSION'S DUTIES

Mr. Alan Miller, Commission Attorney, provided the Commission with an overview of Act 719.

Mr. Miller stated Act 719 originated as Senate Bill 573 in the 2014 Regular Session of the legislature by Senator Chabert and Representative Leger. He stated Section 1 of the bill addresses some existing law within the Department of Transportation. Under the law at the time the bill was introduced, there was an office of multimodal planning within the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). Mr. Miller explained that this Act divided those offices. Under the Act, there will be an Office of Planning and an Office of Multimodal Commerce. He further explained the Office of Multimodal Commerce would administer the planning and programming functions of the Department related to the strategic intermodal issues, aviation, commercial trucking, intercity public mass transit, railroad expansion and development, port and water transportation systems, and related matters, and any other special programs as may be directed by the governor. Mr. Miller stated the Office will advise the Office of Planning within the Department of Transportation on intermodal issues and implement the Master Plan as it relates to intermodal transportation. With regard to certain federal rail safety programs, those functions will remain within the Office of Engineering, Department of Transportation and Development, but the Office of Multimodal Commerce will be vested with the powers, duties, responsibilities, budgetary authority, department employees, equipment, facilities, and funding necessary to carry out functions conferred upon by the provisions of the Act. Mr. Miller explained the Commissioner will be appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation, and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Additionally, Mr. Miller stated that the Commissioner would also

have the authority to employ, appoint, transfer, assign and promote such personnel as is necessary for the efficient administration of the office. The office will be divided into six different divisions, which would include commercial trucking, ports and harbors, aviation, rail, maritime and intercity public mass transit. Mr. Miller informed the members that part of the Act is effective on July 1, 2016, which will allow the Commission two sessions to fill in the details on exactly how the Multimodal office will conduct itself. He further stated Section 2, of Page 5, line 9 of the Act, which created the commission was effective upon signature of the Governor. He further stated the charge of the Commission was to meet and develop an operational plan for the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature regarding allocation of the Department's employees, equipment, facilities, and funding, the organizational structure of the office of Multimodal Commerce with a further allocation of the office's powers, duties, responsibilities, offices, equipment, employees and other specific divisions provided for in the Act.

The commission is charged to develop an operational plan that would be presented to the Senate and House Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committees for their review, amendment and approval no later than February 1, 2015.

Following Mr. Miller's presentation, Senator Appel informed the Commission's members of the International Commerce Commission that resides in the Department of Economic Development. He stated that it has a charge that is not totally dissimilar to the Commission's charge in one area. Senator Appel stated the International Commerce Commission has responsibilities to create a Master Plan for international Commerce for the State of Louisiana, which includes certain facilities that is determining what facilities align with that Master Plan and the applicability of people coming with new projects to their alignment with that Master Plan. Senator Appel wanted to make sure there would be no conflicts. He expressed concern with language on Page 3, lines 28 through 30, which shall administer the planning/programming functions of the Department related to strategic and inter-modal issues. His concern was primarily with the word "strategic" because that was the charge of the International Commerce Commission. Senator Appel stated they have to outline the duties, so that there would not be an over-lap or conflicts of activities. Senator Appel recommended the Commission's Chair get with the Chair of the International Commerce Commission as soon as possible to work out details.

Commissioner Moses stated he would absolutely do that.

Senator Adley informed Senator Appel that the concerns he had were probably something he would have to address in some future legislation because the Act was now law. Senator Adley stated his concern pertained to making sure the Commission does only what it was designated to do. He further stated those duties were pretty clearly stated. Senator Adley informed Mr. Miller that he had concerns with the statement he made relative to having a two year period because the effective date was 2016. He stated the law stated it was February 1, 2015 and that the work had to be done because the law did not allow for a second meeting of the Transportation, Highway Committees for any changes to that.

Mr. Miller apologized and stated that he spoke too broadly. He stated the legislature has within its purview to amend any law they chose to in the 2016 Session, and that the actual Act does state that the Commission has to provide a plan by February 2015. However, he intended to say that the legislature will have an opportunity in 2016 to make any changes they chose to make to the law or any other additions that would be applicable.

Senator Adley wanted to make sure the Commission knew they had to put together the Plan by February 2015 and as chair of one of the committees, he wanted to see those two items addressed before the Transportation Committees.

VI. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION MEMBER'S CHARGE FOR NEXT MEETING

Following Senator Adley's comments, Chairman Moses addressed the next agenda item, which was the member's charge for the next meeting. He stated since the meeting was introductory and there was a lot of work going forward, Chair Moses made some requests of the Commission members. He requested DOTD make a presentation and report on the existing DOTD operations in regards to inter-modal transportation, as well as provide suggestions on how to transition the activities into the new Office of Multimodal Commerce. Chair Moses also requested DOTD provide in their report and make part of their presentation at the next meeting any recommendations from DOTD on maximizing the new Office of Multimodal Commerce and Intermodal Transportation as a whole in Louisiana.

Additionally, Chairman Moses stated since there was a lot of information to cover at the next meeting, he asked that the presentations be limited to approximately 30 minutes with the full report being provided to the Commission through the Chairman.

Chairman Moses also requested the six individual stakeholder groups, which consist of commercial trucking, ports and harbors, aviation, rail, maritime and intercity public mass transit, provide an oral presentation at the next meeting with their recommendations concerning the operation and goal of the new Office of Multimodal Commerce.

Further, Chairman Moses requested that a full report on the recommendations be submitted to the Commission through the chairman.

If the six stakeholder groups could limit their presentations to ten minutes each, Chairman Moses explained that would help the Commission stay on track. Additionally, if the stakeholder groups had questions about what was expected of their presentations, he asked them to address their questions to the Commission's Attorney Alan Miller.

Mr. DeLoach, Commission member, stated there were two of them on the commission representing the maritime interest one focus on in-land or brown water, and he focus more on the off-shore side. He asked if they needed to collaborate on one presentation, or should there be two presentations - one regarding blue water off-shore and the other being the in-land brown water?

Chair Moses stated for the purpose of getting started, two presentations would be fine.

Senator Chabert stated for clarification purposes those presentations would allow for the commission members to have questions and answers. He asked if the ten minutes time would not be related to just the presentation.

Chairman Moses responded that was correct, and that they would want the presentations to last no more than ten minutes so that the members could have ample opportunity for questions and answers following the presentations.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Then Chairman Moses moved to the next agenda item.

Chairman Moses stated with the work before the Commission, the Commission would meet a total of six times over the next five months. There was a tentative meeting schedule. He further announced the next meeting would be held on October 22nd.

Senator Adley asked to have that meeting moved to Friday, October 24th due to both Senate and House Transportation Committees traveling the state for their annual road shows.

Chairman Moses responded he wanted as many members present as possible and moved the meeting from October 22nd to October 24th.

After further discussion and due to conflicts in other members schedules, Senator Chabert recommended members submit their conflicts to Alan Miller so that they could later determine a date that is convenient for most members.

Chairman Moses asked members to send conflicts to Mr. Miller for purposes of determining a meeting date in October and then he will inform all of the members of the new meeting date.

VIII. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Moses asked the members if there were any comments or suggestions.

Senator Appel thanked Senator Chabert for his efforts. He further stated as Senator Chabert pointed out, employment in industries related to maritime commerce is extraordinarily important to Louisiana. Senator Appel further stated that Louisiana is very successful in international ports. Louisiana has the largest ports in the world on the Mississippi; however, Louisiana is short in jobs created as a result of that commerce. Senator Appel further stated anything Louisiana does to enhance the transportation base industries and jobs related to that are an incredibly wide field to make wealth-created jobs. He mentioned using the mechanism of public-private partnership and other non-traditional methods of funding to pay for those expensive projects.

Following Senator Appels comments, Mr. DeLoach stated they should take a long term approach using non-parochial systems and that funding should not be a problem but part of a solution to a problem. He informed the members that he listened to a presentation the previous week and there were billions of dollars available; however, the system has to be structured properly. Mr. DeLoach stated that he hoped the Commission would educate themselves, locate the funding by looking at other states to identify their funding sources and find out where the Commission needs to go - understand the rules and identify the problems and solutions using a risk base approach and ask what would a collapse to a transportation system do to the state's economy. Find what parts are most at risk of that collapse.

Chairman Moses thanked Mr. DeLoach for his comments.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

He asked if anyone from the public wished to make comments.

There was none.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Moses stated there was a lot of work going forward and that he looked forward to the next meeting and good presentations.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Then he motioned to adjourn. There was no objection and the meeting adjourned at



MARK MOSES, CHAIRMAN