

# ***MINUTES***

Transportation Policy Committee  
of the  
Regional Planning Commission  
for

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes

**July 10, 2012**

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Committee Members: John Young, Chairman, David Peralta, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, Mitch Landrieu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman (designee: Cedric Grant), Pat Brister, Treasurer, John Shaddinger, Lee Giorgio, Jack Stumpf, Jackie Clarkson (designee Joe Rochelle), Jeffery Schwartz, Ronald Carrere, Keith Hinkley, Byron Marinovich, Mike Ford, Darren Barrois, Sr., Charles Ponstein, David Munn, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, Maureen Clary, Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack), Freddy Drennan, John Morrow, Larry Katz, Cathy Gautreaux, Pat Gallwey, Natalie Robottom (designee Angelic Sutherland), Donald Villere, Barbara Major (designee: Stefan Marks) and Mike Cooper

Attendance: 30

Consultants: Ernest Burguières, III, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jeff Roesel, Nick Silvey, Megan Leonard, et al



## **AGENDA**

1. Consideration: Approval of June 12, 2012 Minutes
2. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element
3. Consideration: Amendment to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element
4. Consideration: Consultant Selection:  
Jefferson Parish Bicycle Master Plan  
(RPC Project No. SGSBMPJ)  
Amount \$225,000
5. Presentation: Hurricane Preparedness Update  
By: Steve Strength, P.E.  
Traffic Operations Engineer  
DOTD District 02

- 6. Consideration: Public Comment Period
- 7. Other Matters:



**Mr. Young led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Following the roll call, a quorum was established and the Chairman called the Transportation Policy Committee meeting to order.

**1. Consideration: Approval of June 12, 2012 Minutes**

Mr. Stefancik made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ponstein and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**2. Consideration: Amendments to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element**

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 4 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the New Orleans TIP, Highway Element and provided a brief explanation of each item.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the New Orleans TIP amendments for the highway element. It was so moved by Mr. Munn, seconded by Mr. Grant and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**3. Consideration: Amendments to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element**

Mr. Brooks referred members to page 5 of the meeting packet for the amendment to the St. Tammany TIP, Highway Element and provided a brief explanation of each item.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the amendment to the St. Tammany TIP, highway element. It was so moved by Mr. Stefancik, seconded by Ms. Brister, and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**4. Consideration: Consultant Selection:  
Jefferson Parish Master Bicycle Plan  
(RPC Project No. SGSBMPJ)  
Amount \$225,000**

Mr. Brooks explained that the scope of this study will work to imbue smart growth transportation policy changes within a suburban framework by guiding and educating citizens and public officials about smart growth principles during the development of a bicycle master plan for Jefferson Parish, the region's largest parish.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 6 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. Following RPC staff and DOTD review, GCR Inc. was recommended to undertake this project.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant selection and to authorize the Chairman and/or Executive Director to execute any documents in connection with this project. It was so moved by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. Young, and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**6. Presentation: Hurricane Preparedness Update**  
**By: Steve Strength, P.E.**  
**Traffic Operations Engineer**  
**DOTD District 02**

Mr. Brooks introduced Steve Strength, Traffic Operations Engineer for DOTD District 02. Mr. Strength began his presentation on Traffic Operations for Hurricane Evacuation. He began by explaining that the primary goals are to get residents out of harm's way and to get evacuees to safe shelters inland. He explained in order to do this it takes a coordinated effort amongst Parish emergency managers, GOHSEP, State Police, and DOTD. He then began to discuss the factors to consider in an evacuation: the 11 lanes of capacity outbound using contraflow (I-10 West – 4 lanes, I-10 East – 3 lanes, Causeway North – 2 lanes, US 61 North – 1 lane (2 x ½ of a freeway lane, US 90 East or West – 1 lane (2 x ½ freeway lane)) Mr. Strength explained the contraflow by doing the math. The contraflow consists of: 1650 vehicles per lane per hour, 24 hours of contraflow operation, with an average of 3 persons per vehicle, resulting in 1,306,800 persons. Mr. Strength stressed that these numbers are very optimistic; assuming there is constant flow, no interruptions, no commuter traffic, even distribution of directions outbound and not everyone leaving at one time. Mr. Strength next explained phased evacuation, Phase I - 50 hours before landfall – evacuate areas outside of hurricane protection, Phase II - 40 hours before landfall – evacuate West Bank and St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John as needed, Phase III - 30 hours before landfall – evacuate East Bank of Orleans and Jefferson using contraflow, with Bus evacuations – 72 to 96 hours out. Mr. Strength then showed examples of how contraflow works at major intersections. Mr. Strength then introduced Plaquemines Parish's emergency manager Dexter Accardo and Captain Carl Saizan, Troop B State Police to say a few words. Mr. Accardo explained that the most important thing is working together and keeping the communication going between the Parishes, the State and also neighboring states in order for the area to be evacuated. Ms. Brister noted that this looks like a plan that will help with the North Shore concerns and thanked them for the information. Mr. Shaddinger asked about cooperation between LA & MS. Captain Saizan explained to the Commission that everyone is in communication between parishes, counties, state officials, local police & state police of both states. Contraflow continues into MS, and exits will only be blocked as needed for short periods in response to periodic congestion. After no further questions Mr. Young thanked Mr. Strength, Captain Saizan and Mr. Accardo for the presentation and information.

**7. Consideration: Public Comment Period**

The Chairman asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

**8. Other Matters:**

There being no other matters to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting and proceeded to the Regional Planning Commission Meeting.

# ***MINUTES***

Regional Planning Commission  
for  
Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes

**July 10, 2012**

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Committee Members: John Young, Chairman, David Peralta, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, Mitch Landrieu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman (designee: Cedric Grant), Pat Brister, Treasurer, John Shaddinger, Lee Giorgio, Jack Stumpf, Jackie Clarkson (designee Joe Rochelle), Jeffery Schwartz, Ronald Carrere, Keith Hinkley, Byron Marinovich, Mike Ford, Darren Barrois, Sr., Charles Ponstein, David Munn, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, Maureen Clary, Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack)

Attendance: 21

Administrative Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jeff Roesel, Nick Silvey, Megan Leonard, Meredith Soniat, Rebecca Otte, et al



## **AGENDA**

1. Consideration: Approval of June 12, 2012 Minutes
2. Committee Reports: (a) Budget and Personnel Committee  
(b) Other Committee Reports
3. Consideration: Financial Report  
(a) Balance Sheet of Local Activities  
(b) Monthly Budget Report
4. Presentation: Retrofitting Suburbia  
By: Ellen Dunham-Jones, AIA
5. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans  
Transportation Improvement Program  
Highway Element
6. Consideration: Amendment to St. Tammany Transportation  
Improvement Program  
Highway Element

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|--------------------------|---|
| 7. Consultant Selection: | Jefferson Parish Master Bicycle Plan<br>(RPC Project No. SGSBMPJ)<br>Amount \$225,000 |
| 8. Consideration:        | Travel Authorizations   |
| 9. Consideration:        | Contract Extensions   |
| 10. Consideration:       | Consultant Billings   |
| 11. Consideration:       | Other Matters   |



The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted the existence of a quorum.

**1. Consideration: Approval of June 12, 2012 Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of June 12, 2012 were approved upon a motion by Mr. Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Giorgio and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**2. Committee Reports: (a) Budget & Personnel  
(b) Other Committee Reports**

Mr. Silvey explained that the committee reports would come under regular agenda items.

**3. Consideration: Financial Report  
(a) Balance Sheet of Local Activities  
(b) Monthly Budget Report**

Mr. Silvey then referred the members to page 7 of the meeting packet for the balance sheet for the month ending May 31, 2012. He indicated that the RPC's total liabilities and fund balance were \$1,854,955.32 with all parishes up-to-date with their dues.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the balance sheet. It was so moved by Mr. Ponstein, seconded by Mr. Kelley and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman

Mr. Silvey then referred the members to page 8 of the meeting packet for the budget compared to actual expenditures dated May 31, 2012 and there were no budget amendments.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the financial report. It was so moved by Mr. Munn, seconded by Mr. Kelley and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**4. Presentation: Retrofitting Suburbia  
By: Ellen Dunham-Jones, AIA**

Meredith Soniat, RPC introduced Ellen Dunham-Jones. Ms. Dunham-Jones began her presentation on Retrofitting Suburbia, urban design solutions for redesigning suburbs. She began by showing pictures of abandoned shopping malls, strip malls, big box stores and vacant lots.

She began discussing the unintended consequences of suburbanization; impact on climate instability, increased dependence on foreign oil, and poor public health. In addition, sprawl is unaffordable and inefficient. She pointed out that, “Half of Americans now spend 30% of their income on transportation.” She briefly discussed the dynamic of the demographic shift and showed a chart of an age pyramid which showed 75-85% of new households through 2025 will not have children in them. She suggests 3 retrofitting strategies: Reinhabitation, regreening and redevelopment. Next, she showed how different areas around the country are reusing such vacant areas to make them habitable again in a more ecologically positive manner. A few of her examples were: in Denton, TX, a vacant grocery store was turned into a library and in Cape Cod, MA a strip mall was turned into “attachable urbanism”. The Chairman thanked Ms. Dunham-Jones for her presentation.

**5. Presentation: CSX Locomotive Retrofit Project  
EPA Clean Diesel Grant  
By: Rebecca Otte, RPC**

Ms. Otte began by explaining the completion of RPC- CSXT Locomotive Repower Project. The RPC partnered with CSXT to apply for an EPA Clean Diesel Grant to repower one CSXT Switcher Locomotive with a GenSet Engine. The switcher locomotive puts train cars together in the rail yard and then hands them off to long-haul locomotives. The project replaced the switcher locomotive’s one large engine with three smaller, more fuel efficient engines that will turn on and off as required by the load. The fuel savings are 15,000 gallons annually, reducing our dependence on foreign oil and improving air quality. Ms. Otte showed pictures of the locomotive and a chart to show the pollutant reductions and funding. The Chairman thanked Ms. Otte for her presentation.

**6. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans  
Transportation Improvement Program  
Highway Element**

**7. Consideration: Amendment to St. Tammany Transportation  
Improvement Program  
Highway Element**

**8. Consideration: Consultant Selection:  
Jefferson Parish Bicycle Master Plan  
(RPC Project No. SGSBMPJ)  
Amount \$225,000**

Mr. Brooks requested concurrence of items 5-8 which were recommended for approval by the members of the Policy Committee.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve items 5-8 in globo. It was so moved by Mr. Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Ponstein and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**9. Consideration: Travel Authorizations**

Mr. Silvey referred Members to page 9 of the packet and pointed out that there were two staff members (Lynn Dupont & Clare Brown) requesting to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> URISA Annual Conference for GIS Professionals, September 29-October 4, 2012, in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Silvey also reported that a staff member (Nik Richard) is requesting to attend the National Title VI / Nondiscrimination Forum, August 5-9, 2012, in Detroit, Michigan

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the travel requests. It was so moved by Mr. Munn seconded by Mr. Kelley and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**10. Consideration: Contract Extensions**

Mr. Silvey directed the members to page 10 for the complete list of contracts that were to be extended.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the contract extensions. It was so moved by Mr. Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Kelley and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**11. Consideration: Consultant Billings**

Mr. Silvey referred the members to a summary list of the consultant bills on page 11 in the meeting packet, noting that staff had reviewed each of them and favorably recommended them for payment.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the consultant billings. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Giorgio and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**12. Other Matters:**

There being no other matters to discuss, the Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Mr. Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Carrere and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.