

# ***MINUTES***

Transportation Policy Committee  
of the  
Regional Planning Commission  
for

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

**May 8, 2012**

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Committee Members: David Peralta, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, Mitch Landrieu, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman, (designee: Cedric Grant) Billy Nungesser, Treasurer, (designee Byron Williams); John Shaddinger; Jack Stumpf, Jackie Clarkson, Ronald Carriere, Keith Hinkley, Byron Marinovich, Darren Barrois, Charles Ponstein, David Munn, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, Maureen Clary, and Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack) John Morrow, Pat Gallway, President Natalie Robottom, Barbara Major, Ryan Brown and Mike Cooper

Attendance: 23

Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, III, Legal Counsel

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



## **AGENDA**

1. Consideration: Approval of April 10, 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:  
Leake Ave Improvements  
Transportation Feasibility Study  
(RPC Project No. LK-9499)  
Amount \$150,000
5. Consideration: U.S. Department of Energy Clean fleet Leader Awards 2011  
By: Rebecca Otte, Regional Planning Commission
6. Presentation: Real Estate and Economic Forecast

By: Dr. Ivan J. Miestchovich, Jr.  
Director, UNO Center for Economic Development  
Public comment Period

- 7. Consideration:
- 8. Comment Period:



**Mr. Stefancik acted as Chairman and 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 April 10, 2012 Minutes**

Mr. Munn 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.

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. Grant, seconded by Mr. Williams 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.

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. Falconer, seconded by Mr. Kelley, and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**4. Consideration: Consultant Selection:  
Leake Ave Improvements  
Transportation Feasibility Study  
(RPC Project No. LK-9499)  
Amount \$150,000**

Mr. Brooks explained that the scope of this study is to perform a Stage 0 Feasibility Study and Environmental Inventory for the possible realignment of Leake Avenue in order

to establish new and improved sidewalks and bicycle facilities and a landscaped buffer zone between the community and the Public Belt Railroad. This complete streets project will also examine the potential for enhanced pedestrian crossing(s) between the community and the Levee Park.

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 6 which listed respondents to the Request for Proposals. Following RPC staff and DOTD review, Design Engineering 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. Grant, seconded by Mr. Ponstein, and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

## **5. Presentation: U.S. Department of Energy Clean Fleet Leader Awards 2011**

Rebecca Otte, Regional Planning Commission, began the presentation with an overview of Clean Fuel Partnership. Clean Fuel Partnership is the local affiliate of Clean Cities, the US Dept. of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Vehicle Technologies Program. It communicates DOE information on alternative fuel options in our region and facilitates partnerships between suppliers, distributors, and fleets. Rebecca went over 2011's annual report and then recognized the Clean Fleet Leaders.

City of New Orleans: **1 Hybrid Vehicle**  
Jefferson Parish: **6 Hybrid Vehicles**  
Limousine Livery: **3 Propane Vehicles**  
Coca-Cola Refreshments: **8 Hybrid Delivery Vehicles**  
RPC: **Bike Lane Facility Improvements**  
Jefferson Parish Transit: **42 Biodiesel Buses**  
Golden Leaf Energy: **1 E85 Vehicle, 5 Biodiesel Vehicles, Biodiesel Supplier**  
Dr. Pipe: **14 Natural Gas Vans**  
Airport Shuttle: **31 Dual-Fuel Propane Van and Minibus Shuttles**  
RTA: **66 electric streetcars & 150 Biodiesel Buses including 5 Hybrid Buses and an Enhanced Tire Inflation System**

After the awards were handed out; Rebecca discussed upcoming events of the Clean Fuel Partnership and the resources for local government.

## **6. Presentation: Real Estate and Economic Forecast** By: Dr. Ivan J. Miestchovich, Jr. Director, UNO Center for Economic Development

Mr. Brooks introduced Dr. Ivan J. Miestchovich, Jr. who gave a presentation on "New Orleans Economic Outlook". Dr. Miestchovich discussed the recent economic news within the New Orleans area and the U.S.

The recent economic news for the U.S. has been generally positive, and is expected to grow modestly. While recent employment reports have provided some encouragement, the pace of the

economic growth is not likely to generate enough jobs to quickly bring down unemployment. The Federal Reserve has put in place a set of policies to further lower borrowing costs for both consumers and businesses to strengthen economic recovery. In moving forward, Dr. Miestchovich discussed the sources of growth; consumer spending and business investment while the weaknesses are unemployment and depressed housing markets. He further discussed the New Orleans Metro Job overview in comparing the job markets before Katrina in comparison to the current job market.

After Dr. Miestovich's presentations there were some questions in regards to New Orleans East, and the slow return of commercial investment.

**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 called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Falconer and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

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Attendance: 17

Administrative Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, Legal Counsel

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



## **AGENDA**

1. Consideration: Approval of April 10, 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: State Economic Development Assistance Program for 2012
5. Consideration: Consultant Selection:  
Leake Ave Improvements  
Transportation Feasibility Study  
(RPC Project No. LK-9499)  
Amount \$150,000
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: Travel Authorizations  
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 April 10, 2012 Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of March 13, 2012 were approved upon a motion by Mr. Carrere, seconded by Mr. Kelly 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 referred the members to pages 7 & 8 of the meeting packet for two amendments to be added to the Regional Planning Commission's Policy and Procedure Manual. The first amendment is an update to the Smoking Policy for RPC Offices to comply with the intent of the Louisiana Smokefree Air Act of 2007 (No. 815) and Drug Free Workplace Policy for RPC Offices to comply with the intent of the Drugfree Workplace Act of 1988 (as described in 49 USC 32.200). The second amendment is Internal Controls; to maintain a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that: 1. Transactions are executed in accordance with management's general or specific authorization. 2. Transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and requirements established by the federal agencies, and maintain accountability for assets. 3. Waste, Fraud and inefficiency are being prevented through: Segregation of duties, approvals and verification and record retention and physical restrictions.

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

Mr. Silvey then referred the members to page 9 of the meeting packet for the balance sheet for the month ending March 31, 2012. He indicated that the RPC's total liabilities and fund balance were \$1,898,583.28 with all parishes up-to-date with their dues.

He then referred the members to page 10 of the meeting packet for the budget compared to actual expenditures dated March 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. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Munn and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**4. Presentation: State Economic Development Assistance Program for 2012**

Kara Renne, RPC's Director of Economic Development discussed the 2012 Delta Regional Authority (DRA) State Economic Development Assistance Program, for which applications are due May 29. The DRA's four areas of emphasis for investment, include the following: Basic Public Infrastructure, Transportation Infrastructure, Business Development and Workforce Development. The DRA strongly emphasizes job creation and retention in its selection process. Most of the application is online, but there are several documents that need to be physically submitted to Kara. The documents, which state goals/objectives/priorities can be found on the DRA website at: [www.dra.gov](http://www.dra.gov), under Economic Development, go to "Strategic Economic Development Plans, which contains both DRA's and the State of Louisiana's plans.

- 5. Consideration: Consultant Selection:  
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- 6. Consideration: Amendment to the New Orleans  
Transportation Improvement Program  
Highway Element**
- 7. Consideration: Amendment to St. Tammany Transportation  
Improvement Program  
Highway Element**

Mr. Brooks requested concurrence of items 5-7 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 5-7 in globo. It was so moved by Mr. Ponstein, seconded by Mr. Grant and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**9. Consideration: Travel Authorizations**

Mr. Silvey reported that there was one staff member requesting to attend the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities coordinator's Leadership Retreat, Sept. 24-28, 2012, Denver, Colorado.

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

**10. Consideration: Consultant Billings**

Mr. Silvey referred the members to a summary list of the consultant bills on page 12 in the meeting packet, noting that staff had favorably reviewed each of 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. Falconer and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**15. Other Matters:**

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