

MINUTES

Transportation Policy Committee
of the
Regional Planning Commission
for

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

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Committee Members: John Young, Jr., Chairman; Mitch Landrieu, 2nd Vice Chairman ; (designee: Cedric Grant); Patricia Brister, Treasurer; Elton Lagasse (designee: Angela Callais), John Shaddinger, Lee Giorgio, Jack Stumpf, Ronald Carriere, Jacquelyn Clarkson, Jeffrey Schwartz, Bill Bubrig, James Hufft, Ray Lauga, Casey Hunnicutt; Charles Ponstein, Steve Stefancik, Reid Falconer, Richard Kelley, Sherri LeBas (designee: Mike Stack); Carlton Dufrechou, John Morrow, Natalie Robottom, Barbara Major (designee: Stefan Marks); V.J. St. Pierre, Pat Gallwey; Mike Cooper

Attendance: 26

Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, III, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jonathan Ducote, Jeff Roesel, Nicholas Silvey, Maggie Woodruff, et al



AGENDA

1. Consideration: Approval of January 10, 2012 Minutes
2. Consideration: Amendments to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-12)
3. Consideration: Amendments to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-12)
4. Consideration: Approval of the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-13 through FFY-16)
5. Consideration: Submission of the Draft Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for Review (FY 2012 –13)
6. Consideration: Consultant Selection: Noise Study for Summit Blvd. – Slidell. Amount \$25,000; RPC Task SL-6.12
7. Consideration: Consultant Selection: Magnolia Pedestrian Bridge – Stage 1 – EA. Orleans Parish. Amount \$67,000; RPC Task A-4.12

- 8. Consideration: Public Comment Period
- 9. Other Matters Support for Port of New Orleans Almonaster Intermodal Bridge Replacement



Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Silvey welcomed new members: Westwego Mayor John Shaddinger and St. Bernard Councilman Casey Hunnicutt.

1. Consideration: Approval of January 10, 2012 Minutes

Mr. Silvey explained that Ms. Pat Gagliano is on medical leave and the minutes would be ready for the next meeting on March 13, 2012. Mr. Ponstein made a motion to defer the minutes, seconded by Mr. Kelley and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

2. Consideration: Amendments to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-12)

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 4 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the New Orleans TIP, Highway Element, and provided an explanation of the proposed amendments.

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

3. Consideration: Amendments to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-12)

Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 5 of the meeting packet for the amendments to the St. Tammany TIP, Highway Element, and provided an explanation of the proposed amendments.

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

4. Consideration: Approval of the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-13 through FFY-16)

Mr. Brooks referred the members to a handout of the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, highway element. He clarified that this document is for Federal Fiscal Years 2013 through 2016, whereas item number 2 above covered Federal Fiscal Year 2012 for the New Orleans Urbanized Area.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program highway element (FFY 13 – 16). It was so moved by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Carrere, and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

5. Consideration: Submission of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program for Review (FY 12 – 13)

Mr. Brooks referred the members to a handout of the draft Unified Planning Work Program for FY 12-13.

Following Commission review and allowing time for public review, the document will be considered for adoption at its March meeting.

**6. Consideration: Consultant Selection
Noise Study for Summit Boulevard:
(LA 433 to US 190B) – Slidell
RPC Task SL 6-12; Amount: \$25,000**

Mr. Brooks explained that the purpose of this project is the preparation of a Noise Study for the completion of Summit Boulevard in Slidell. The Noise Study shall be completed in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines, along with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations and guidelines. Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 6 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. Following RPC staff and DOTD review, the firm of Bowlby & Associates, 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. Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Kelley and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**7. Consideration: Consultant Selection
Magnolia Pedestrian Bridge;
Stage 1 Environmental Assessment; Orleans Parish
RPC Task A-4.12; Amount: \$67,000**

Mr. Brooks explained that this was a consultant selection to provide all services required to provide the documentation necessary for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The RPC has been working with the City of New Orleans and the Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association on plans to restore the Magnolia Bridge over Bayou St. John. This bridge occupies a central role in the City's bike/ped network and its restoration is a key element in RPC's livable communities initiative. Mr. Brooks referred the members to page 7 which listed respondents to the Request for Qualifications. Following RPC staff and DOTD review, the team led by Volkert 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 Ms. Brister and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

The Chairman requested amending the agenda to allow representatives of the Business Council Coalition to make their presentation at this point. He called upon Mr. Giorgio who introduced Gregory Rusovich, Chairman of the Southeast Regional coalition of Business Councils. Mr. Rusovich was joined by David Andignac, Executive Director of the Jefferson Business Council, Bob Brown, managing director of the New Orleans Business Council and Dale Benoit, representing the Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry. Mr. Rusovich explained that the Regional Coalition is comprised of the NOBC, JBC, PABI, Northshore Business Council and the St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce. This organization has, for 4 years now, been working on legislative matters of common interest—primarily at the State level. In preparation for the upcoming session, the group has met with area legislators who are committee chairs or vice-chairs, and will meet with all 32 members of the Legislature representing some part of this 5 parish region on Thursday, March 1. Among the Coalition's priorities this session will be International Trade, K-12 Reform, Pension Reform, OIG Legislation (Jefferson and Orleans) and the possible combining of Louis Armstrong International Airport and Lakefront Airport. He closed by saying that the purpose of the briefing was to introduce the RPC to the coalition and its work.

8. Consideration: Public Comment Period

Mr. Brooks explained that when RPC has a meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee, an opportunity for public comments on the Commission's activities has to be provided. There were no comments.

**9. Other Matters: Support for Port of New Orleans:
Almonaster Intermodal Bridge Replacement**

Mr. Brooks referred members to page 8 and explained the importance of replacing the 92 year-old intermodal bridge situated across the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal which is a strategic component of a rail gateway linking national east/west rail services through New Orleans and it is subject to frequent breakdowns and maintenance. Therefore, he submitted a Resolution for the

Board to support submission of an application to be jointly submitted by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans and the Regional Planning Commission to the U.S. Department of Transportation under the 2012 TIGER Discretionary Grant program for the Almonaster Intermodal Bridge Replacement.

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

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Attendance: 19

Administrative Consultants: Ernest Burguieres, Legal Counsel

Staff: Walter Brooks, Jeff Roesel, Nicholas Silvey, Maggie Woodruff, et al



AGENDA

1. Consideration: Approval of January 10, 2012 Minutes
2. Committee Reports:
 - (a) Budget & Personnel
 - (b) Other Committee Reports
3. Consideration: Financial Report
 - (a) Balance Sheet of Local Activities
 - (b) Monthly Budget Report
4. Presentation: RPC Annual Audit Report for FY 2011
As presented by Carr Riggs Ingram
5. Presentation: Business Council Coalition
Regionalization Initiatives
6. Presentation: NOLA Wise – U.S. DOE Homeowner Assistance
Beth Galante, Director, Global Green New Orleans

7. Consideration: Amendments to the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-12)
8. Consideration: Amendments to the St. Tammany Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-12)
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10. Consideration: Submission of the Draft Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for Review (FY 2012 –13)
11. Consideration: Consultant Selection: Noise Study for Summit Blvd. – Slidell. Amount \$25,000; RPC Task SL-6.12
12. Consideration: Consultant Selection: Magnolia Pedestrian Bridge – Stage 1 – EA. Orleans Parish. Amount \$67,000; RPC Task A-4.12
13. Consideration: Travel Authorizations
14. Consideration: Consultant Billings
15. Other Matters: Support for Port of New Orleans Almonaster Intermodal Bridge Replacement



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

1. Consideration: Approval of January 10, 2012 Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of January 10, 2012 were deferred upon a motion by Mr. Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Lauga 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 page 9 of the meeting packet for the balance sheet for the month ending December 31, 2011. He indicated that the RPC's total liabilities and fund balance were \$2,241,479.73 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 December 31, 2011 for 6 months of the fiscal year (July through December 2011), 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. Lauga and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

**4. Presentation: RPC Annual Audit Report for FY 2011
As Presented by Carr Riggs Ingram
(formerly Rebowe & Co.)**

Mr. Don Wheat of the firm of CRI made a presentation to the Commission of the annual audit of the RPC financial operations for Fiscal Year of 2012 (July 2010 thru June 2011).

Mr. Wheat advised the Commission that the RPC financial activities are audited under the strictest of Federal guidelines, OMB Circular A-133.

In the CRI audit it was noted that there were no audit findings, and Mr. Wheat congratulated the Executive Director and the financial staff for the excellent financial controls, the accounting system and the improvements effected for grant management.

**5. Presentation: Business Council Coalition
Re: Regionalization Initiatives
By: Lee Giorgio, et al**

This item was presented during the Transportation Policy Committee Meeting.

**6. Presentation: NOLA Wise
Re: U.S. Dept. of Energy Homeowner Assistance
By: Beth Galante, Director, Global Green N.O.**

Ms. Renne introduced Ms. Galante who provided a detailed presentation on the NOLA Wise program. NOLA Wise is a collaborative effort of several non-profits and the City of New Orleans to help local homeowners achieve energy efficiency. The program works with homeowners to evaluate their energy loss, recommend energy improvements, help with financing and incentives, and identify and monitor expert contractors. She stressed that the focus is to identify the improvements that will provide the biggest benefits for the least cost to the homeowner.

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- 9. **Consideration:** **Approval of the New Orleans Transportation Improvement Program, Highway Element (FFY-13 through FFY-16)**
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Mr. Brooks requested concurrence of items 7 – 9 and 11 and 12 which were recommended for approval by the members of the Policy Committee. Item 10 was for information purposes only.

There being no questions or objections, the Chairman called for a motion to approve items 7 – 9, 11 and 12 in globo. It was so moved by Mr. Stefancik, seconded by Mr. Ponstein and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

13. Consideration: Travel Authorizations

Mr. Silvey reported that there were no travel authorizations this month.

14. Consideration: Consultant Billings

Mr. Silvey referred the members to a summary list of the consultant bills before page 11 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. Stefancik and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

15. Other Matters Support for Port of New Orleans Almonaster Intermodal Bridge Replacement

Mr. Brooks requested concurrence of this resolution of support which was approved by the Policy Committee. It was so moved by Mr. Grant and seconded by Mr. Stefancik and approved unanimously as noted by the Chairman.

Mr. Brooks asked the Chairman to allow RPC Attorney Ernest Burguières to give a brief announcement about new Louisiana statutes which require ethics training for RPC commission members and staff. The Chairman called upon Mr. Burguières who explained that elected officials who are members of the Commission have probably already made arrangements for their ethics training as a consequence of their elected positions. Citizen members and RPC staff will have to make arrangements to either take the session online at the Ethics Board website, or participate in one of several public seminars being held around the state.

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