INTERIM EMERGENCY BOARD

Monday, March 9, 2026
8:00 a.m.
Senate Committee Room E
Louisiana State Capitol

MEETING MINUTES

A public meeting of the Interim Emergency Board was held at the State Capitol in Senate Committee Room E on March 9, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

ITEM NO. 1

Senate President Henry, board chair, called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. and asked the secretary to call the roll.

Present:

- Senator Cameron Henry, President of the Senate and IEB Chairman
- Mr. Taylor F. Barras, Commissioner of Administration and IEB Vice Chair
- Representative Devillier, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Senator Womack, Chairman of Senate Finance Committee
- Representative McFarland, Chairman of House Appropriations Committee
- Mr. Brandon Burris, designee of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser
- Ms. Katie O'Connor, designee of State Treasurer John Fleming

ITEM NO. 2

Commissioner Barras moved for the approval of the minutes for the September 18, 2025 meeting. The motion passed without objection.

ITEM NO. 3

President Henry asked Mr. Matt Baker from the Division of Administration, Office of Facilities Planning and Control, to present information regarding Item Nos. 3-12, which are project alterations that included nine proposed scope changes and one approval of a state depository/ fiscal agent.

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 3 from ACT 2 of 2025 was a request by Plaquemines Parish Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), that the scope of its project "Plaquemines Parish Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), Planning and Construction" (Plaquemines, 50/J38 – 575056 on page 71 [FPC No. 50-J38-23-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $2,000,000 payable from Priority 5 General Obligation Bonds and $2,000,000 payable from the Criminal Justice and First Responder Fund, be revised to include the renovation of the building and the purchase of new equipment necessary for the operation of the Plaquemines Parish Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). The new title will be "Plaquemines Parish Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), Construction and Equipment". Commissioner Barras made a motion to approve. Without objection, the motion passed. President Henry asked for item Nos. 4-12 to be approved by an in globo vote when Mr. Baker was finished presenting.

ITEM NO. 4

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 4 of ACT 2 of 2025, was a request by Jefferson Parish Economic Development and Port District, that the scope of its project "Restore Rail Connection and Crossing to Avondale, Planning and Construction" (Jefferson, 36/P41-574526 on page 57 [FPC No. 36-P41-22-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $100,000 payable from Priority 1 General Obligation Bonds, $3,700,000 payable from Priority 5 General Obligation Bonds, and $2,000,000 payable from the Capital Outlay Savings Fund, be revised to include the one additional crossing over River Road with rail track as well as additional new rail track on the Avondale Global Gateway (AGG) and storage tracks. The improvement will increase the throughput at AGG by doubling the existing daily rail car capacity.

ITEM NO.5

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 5 of ACT 2 of 2025, was a request by the City of Pineville, that the scope of its project "Consolidated Municipal and Court Complex, Planning and Construction" (Rapides, 50/MN3 – 575924 on page 103 [FPC No. 50-MN3-22-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $11,090,000 payable from Priority 5 General Obligation Bonds and $1,000,000 payable from the Capital Outlay Savings Fund, be revised to remove the renovation of the City Hall and a change in project title. The new title will be "New Police Complex and City Court Additions and Improvements, Planning and Construction". The proposed change will also reduce the estimated cost from $13,090,000 to $7,500,000.

ITEM NO.6

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 6 of ACT 5 of 2024, was a request by DePaul Community Health Center, that the scope of its project "Oretha Castle Haley Central City Project, Planning and Construction" (Orleans, 50N11 – 572473 on page 111 [FPC No. 50-N11-24-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $1,000,000 payable from the Capital Outlay Savings Fund, be revised to include the acquisition of a building located at 3500 Canal Street in lieu of renovations of the existing facility located at 1300 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard due to State regulations surrounding long term leases and the increase in renovation costs.

ITEM NO.7

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 7 of ACT 485 of 2021, was a request by St. Landry Parish, that the scope of its project “Courthouse Renovations, Planning and Construction” (St. Landry, 50/J49 – 704 on page 54 [FPC No. 50-J49-21-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $180,000 payable from State General Fund (Direct), be revised to include ADA corrections throughout the courthouse in order to meet current ADA regulations. The ADA corrections would be funded with the remaining project funds, and no additional state funds are being requested.

ITEM NO.8

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 8 of ACT 2 of 2025, was a request by Made in America, that the scope of its project “Construction of Small Business Incubator and Workforce Training Center, Planning and Construction” (Caddo, 50/NAV – 574023 on page 119 [FPC No. 50-NAV-25-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $1,000,000 payable from Priority 2 General Obligation Bonds and $9,000,000 payable from Priority 5 General Obligation Bonds, be revised to reflect the new address for the project at 210 Kings Highway, Shreveport, La., 71104 and a change in project title. The new title will be “Construction of a Small Business Incubator, Community Health Clinic, and Workforce Training Center, Planning and Construction” and all State funding will be utilized at the new project address

ITEM NO.9

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 9 of ACT 2 OF 2025 was a request by the City of Eunice, that the scope of its project “Renovations to City Hall/Police Department, Planning and Construction” (St. Landry, 50/M83 – 575646 on page 88 [FPC No. 50-M83-25-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $1,320,000 payable from the Criminal Justice and First Responder Fund, be revised to include renovations of the city jail which will include the upgrade/ replacement of the deteriorated metal components of the cells for added safety for inmates and guards as well as a new common area for inmates.

ITEM NO.10

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 10 of ACT 2 of 2025, was a request by Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, that the scope of its project “Disaster Relief Mega Shelter, Planning and Construction” (East Baton Rouge, 19/619 - 574242 on page 43 [FPC No. 19-619-19-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $1,144,942 payable from Priority 1 General Obligation Bonds and 9,200,000 payable from Priority 5 General Obligation Bonds, be revised to include the construction of a safe room in accordance with FEMA requirements. The new title will be “Disaster Relief Mega Shelter and Safe Room, Planning and Construction”.

ITEM NO. 11

Mr. Baker explained that Item No. 11 of ACT 2 of 2025, was a request by the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc., that the scope of its project "Louisiana Chamber of Commerce's Business Innovation Center, Planning and Construction" (Calcasieu, 50/NGN – 576217 on page 126 [FPC No. 50-NGN-22-01]) with an appropriation in the amount of $1,644,795 payable from Priority 1 General Obligation Bonds, be revised to include the construction of a 14,000 square foot building to serve as a Business Innovation Center which will provide business support and growth services to small businesses with the goal of creating jobs and increasing the opportunity for training and skill set growth.

ITEM NO.12

Mr. Baker presented information on item No. 12, regarding the designation of The Northern Trust Company and Planters Bank and Trust Company, recommended by the Department of Treasury as a state depository/fiscal agent for the four year period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2027.

As there were no further questions or discussion required for Items 4 through 12, Commissioner Barras motioned for approval of the nine requests. The motion passed without objection.

With no further business to discuss, Speaker Devillier moved to adjourn. The motion passed without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connor Boldt, Board Secretary

Link to video of this meeting:
[LA Senate On-Demand Video]