CHAPTER 21.  INTERSTATE 10-12 CORRIDOR DISTRICT

§1811.1.  Definitions

The following terms shall have the following meanings as used in this Chapter:

(1)  "Commission" means the Interstate 10-12 Corridor Commission.

(2)  "Department" means the Department of Transportation and Development.

(3)  "District" means the Interstate 10-12 Corridor District.

(4)  "Highway" means Interstate Highways 10-12 between the Sabine River and the Pearl River and any improvement or extension thereof within the district.

(5)  "Transportation improvement" means the construction, expansion, improvement, or extension of Interstate Highways 10 or 12, including the multilane improvements of all or any portion thereof, within the boundaries of the district and the construction of bridges, interstate bypasses, loops, causeways, overpasses, underpasses, service roads, traffic circles, interchanges, and landscaping relating thereto, as well as the construction and operation of high-speed rail service along or within the boundaries of the district and into the state of Texas.  The commission may develop plans for high-speed rail service in consultation with any state or federal agency or other national organization involved in the development of such a project.

Acts 2007, No. 437, §1.

§1811.2.  Creation of the district and the commission; territorial jurisdiction; purpose

The Interstate 10-12 Corridor District and the Interstate 10-12 Corridor Commission are hereby created.  The district shall be comprised of all territory between a line five miles north of the north edge of the Interstate Highway 10 right-of-way and a line five miles south of the southern edge of the Interstate Highway 10 right-of-way and a line five miles north of the Interstate Highway 12 right-of-way and a line five miles south of the Interstate Highway 12 right-of-way and all territory between these interstate highways as the highway extends from the Louisiana/Texas border through the parishes of Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Ascension, St. James, St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Tangipahoa, and St. Tammany, to the Pearl River.  The commission shall not have the power or authority to contract for or perform any of the work involved in the construction of any transportation improvement.  Such work shall be performed by or through the authority of the department.  The purpose of the commission is to facilitate and promote the construction of transportation improvements so as to encourage and promote economic development in terms of the creation of jobs and business expansion and the improvement of quality of life for the communities located in or near the district.  All proposed transportation improvements shall be submitted to the metropolitan planning organization of the parish where the project is located for review and approval before submitting the project to the department for consideration.

Acts 2007, No. 437, §1.

§1811.3.  Interstate 10-12 Corridor Commission; appointment; terms

A.  The commission members shall be appointed as follows:

(1)  The parish governing authority of each parish shall select one person from among its membership to serve on the commission and shall select one alternate commissioner from among its membership.

(2)  The mayor of the parish seat of each parish included within the district or his designee shall serve as a member of the commission.

(3)  The secretary of the department or his designee shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the commission. Any designee shall be an employee of the department.

B.  Each member, alternate member, or designee of the commission serving pursuant to Paragraph (A)(1) or (2) of this Section shall be a citizen of the United States and a qualified voter domiciled in the parish which he represents on the commission.

C.  In the event that a commissioner's position should become vacant by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise, the alternate member for that parish or designee for that municipality shall serve in the same manner and under the same authority as the original appointment.  Any vacancy in the position of alternate commissioner or designee must be filled by the parish governing authority or mayor responsible for such appointment within thirty days of receipt of notification of the vacancy.

D.  A parish governing authority may appoint a new member or alternate at any time, and a mayor may appoint a new designee at any time.

E.  The members of the commission shall serve without compensation from the  commission.  The commission may reimburse any member for expenses actually incurred in the performance of his duties as a commissioner.

F.  The members shall elect from the membership a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer whose duties shall be those usual to such offices.  At the option of the commission, the offices of the secretary and treasurer may be held by one person.  No member shall be elected to serve for more than two successive years in any office.  The commission shall meet in regular session once each month and shall also meet in special session as often as the president of the commission convenes them or on written request of four members.  Four commissioners shall constitute a quorum; however, no action of the commission shall be authorized unless approved by a majority of four votes in an open public meeting.  The commission shall adopt rules to govern its meetings.

G.  The commission shall be domiciled in a parish located within the corridor. However, the location of its meetings shall be rotated between the cities of Lafayette, Jennings, Crowley, Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Slidell, and New Orleans in accordance with a schedule developed by the commission.

Acts 2007, No. 437, §1.

§1811.4.  Powers of the commission

A.  The commission shall advise and make recommendations to the secretary on all matters concerning the development and construction of transportation improvements within the district.

B.  The commission shall be limited to the following powers:

(1)  The commission may be designated as an official depository for information relating to the development and construction of transportation improvements within the district. As such, it may receive and preserve all information gathered by other parties pertaining to its purposes and objectives.

(2)  The commission may receive money from any public or private body which may desire to appropriate or donate such funds to be used to defray the expenses of the commission incurred in the performances of its duties.

C.  In furtherance of these purposes, the commission is specifically authorized to apply for, receive, and accept from any state or federal agency or political subdivision of this state any grant or contribution of either money, property, or other things of value to be held, used, and applied for purposes for which such grants and contributions may be made or for any other lawful purpose.

Acts 2007, No. 437, §1.

§1811.5.  Advice and services of the Department of Transportation and Development

The secretary of the department may make available such staff expertise and support as the commission may request.

Acts 2007, No. 437, §1.

§1811.6.  General compliances

No provisions of this Chapter shall be construed so as to exempt the commission from compliance with the provisions of Louisiana laws pertaining to open meetings, public records, fiscal agents, official journals, dual employment, public bidding for the purchase of supplies and materials, and the Code of Governmental Ethics.

Acts 2007, No. 437, §1.