

**House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works
and
Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works**

Minutes of Meeting
2024-2025 Interim
December 12, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Bourriaque, chair of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in Room 2, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chair
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Bryan Fontenot, vice chair
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Tammy T. Phelps

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Gary Carter, vice chair
Senator Heather Cloud
Senator Edward "Ed" Price

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Mark Abraham
Senator Patrick Connick, chair
Senator Patrick McMath
Senator William "Bill" Wheat

HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, House attorney
Darcas Deverteuil, House committee administrative assistant

SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Archana Cadge, Senate attorney
Christine Peck, Senate attorney
Serena Mohammad, Senate secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Johnae Conner, House sergeant at arms
Louis Carral, Senate sergeant at arms
Bruce Thornton, Senate sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

To receive public testimony and vote to accept, reject, or modify Port Priority Applications received through September 1, 2024, for inclusion in the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development FY 2025-2026 Recommended Port Construction and Development Priority Program

Julia Fisher-Cormier, office of multimodal commerce - DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on the Port Priority Applications and presented a PowerPoint Presentation, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mrs. Fisher-Cormier answered a series of questions from Representative Tarver about the Port Priority backlog and how project applications moved through the process, to which Mrs. Cormier explained in detail.

Senator Carter offered a motion to approve the Port Priority Applications received through September 1, 2024, for inclusion in the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development FY 2025-2026 Recommended Port Construction and Development Priority Program. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Senators Carter, Cloud, and Price voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

To receive an update from the Department of Transportation and Development regarding the status of transportation projects funded during the 2024 Regular Session

Joe Donahue, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on the status of transportation projects funded during the 2024 Regular Session and provided a handout, included in Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representatives Walters and Jackson both commended Secretary Donahue and the staff at DOTD for the work that they have been doing in North Louisiana.

To discuss bridge operations and maintenance with the Department of Transportation and Development

Haylie Brown, DOTD, no address provided, spoke for information only on bridge operations and maintenance, and presented a PowerPoint presentation, included in Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Joe Donahue, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on bridge maintenance.

Ms. Brown and Secretary Donahue answered questions from a host of committee members on topics such as poor bridge inspections, bridge maintenance, and the bridge funding process to which they answered in detail.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2023-2024 Interim dated November 14, 2023 were presented to the committee for approval. Senator Price offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Senators Carter, Cloud, and Price voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Carter offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Jackson, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Senators Carter and Price voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Ryan Bourriague
House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works