

# Joint Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting  
2023-2024 Interim  
March 11, 2024

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chair of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## II. ROLL CALL

### HOUSE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque  
Representative Bryan Fontenot  
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson  
Representative Chad Michael Boyer  
Representative Jacob Braud  
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion  
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

### SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Patrick Connick  
Senator Gary M. Carter Jr.  
Senator Mark Abraham  
Senator Heather Cloud  
Senator Edward J. "Ed" Price  
Senator William "Bill" Wheat Jr.

### HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, legislative analyst  
Jennifer Winkler, legislative analyst  
Darcas Deverteuil, committee administrative assistant

### HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Steven Jackson  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore  
Representative Tammy T. Phelps  
Representative C. Travis Johnson  
Representative Joy Walters

### SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Patrick McMath

**SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Archana Cadge, attorney  
Serena Mohammad, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

**III. BUSINESS**

Joe Donahue, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only and introduced himself to the committee.

**DOTD Statewide Flood Control Program**

Lucas Johnson, no card provided, spoke about the DOTD Statewide Flood Control Program, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records. He informed the committee that no changes had been made to the Flood Control Program since the last joint committee meeting that was held on March 7, 2024.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to approve the 2024-2025 priority list for the Statewide Flood Control Program pursuant to R.S. 38:90.6. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Fontenot, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Wiley, Schamerhorn, and Tarver voted yea. Senators Connick, Carter, Abraham, Cloud, Price, and Wheat voted yea.

Representative Bourriaque took a moment of personal privilege to welcome the American Bikers Active Towards Education Group.

**DOTD Airport Construction and Development Priority Program**

Bradley Brandt, DOTD- Office of Multimodal Commerce, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records. He informed the committee that no changes had been made to the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program since the last joint committee meeting that was held on March 7, 2024.

Scott Gammel, Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates, 1611 Arnold Dr., Alexandria, LA 71303, spoke in support of the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program.

Senator Connick offered a motion to approve the 2024-2025 priority list for the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program pursuant to R.S. 2:803. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Fontenot, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Travis Johnson, Wiley, Schamerhorn, and Tarver voted yea. Senators Connick, Carter, Abraham, Cloud, Price, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **Port Construction and Development Priority Program**

Randall Withers, LA DOTD - Port Program, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records. He informed the committee that no changes had been made to the Port Construction and Development Priority Program since the last joint committee meeting that was held on March 7, 2024.

Stephen Barns, UL Lafayette, 400 St. Mary Blvd., Lafayette LA 70503, spoke for information only on the Port Construction and Development Priority Program and answered a series of questions from Senator Abraham in regards to the metrics that are used to determine the rate of return on Ports.

Randall Withers also answered a few questions from Senator Abraham in regards to how the funding is distributed in the Priority list. He explained that the projects are already ranked and scored in Priority order and once funding is received the Department goes down the list until the funding runs out.

Representative Schamerhorn suggested that the Department include the jobs that the Ports will create as a factor in the return on investments. He explained that including the jobs will help the legislature see the benefit in investing in the Ports which in turn can help bring in more funding to the Ports.

Senator Price offered a motion to approve the 2024-2025 priority list for the Port Construction and Development Priority Program pursuant to R.S. 34:3453. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Fontenot, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Travis Johnson, Wiley, Schamerhorn, and Tarver voted yea. Senators Connick, Carter, Abraham, Cloud, Price, and Wheat voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program**

J. Dean Goodwill, LA DOTD - Rail, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 spoke for information only on the Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (Freight Rail), and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records. He informed the committee that no changes had been made to the Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program since the last joint committee meeting that was held on March 7, 2024.

Senator Carter offered a motion to approve the 2024-2025 priority list for Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (Freight Rail) pursuant to R.S. 48:388.1. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Fontenot, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Travis Johnson, Wiley, Schamerhorn, and Tarver voted yea. Senators Connick, Carter, Abraham, Cloud, Price, and Wheat voted yea.

### **State Highway Priority Program**

Mary Elliot, LA DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 spoke for information only on the Statewide Highway Priority Program, and provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records. She informed the committee that no changes had been made to the State Highway Priority Program since the Public Hearings Road Show which took place in February 2024.

Representative Bourriaque asked Mary Elliot to explain to the members and the public how the Public Comments that were received during the Road Show meetings are collected and how that data is used when creating the Highway Priority Program. To which she explained how the Department keep a three year running list of all the projects that the public submits while on the Road Show for potential inclusion in the Highway Priority Projects.

Senator Price offered a motion to approve the 2024-2025 priority lists for the Statewide Highway Priority Program projects according to R.S. 48:231. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Fontenot, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Travis Johnson, Wiley, Schamerhorn, and Tarver voted yea. Senators Connick, Carter, Abraham, Cloud, Price, and Wheat voted yea.

## **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Tarver offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Fontenot, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Travis Johnson, Wiley, Schamerhorn, and Tarver voted yea. Senators Connick, Carter, Abraham, Cloud, Price, and Wheat voted yea.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: