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## **Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**Friday, April 25, 2025 (9:00 AM)**

Government Chambers at Government Plaza  
505 Travis St., Shreveport, LA 71101

#### **Members' Present**

Mr. Alan Clarke – MPC City of Shreveport  
Dr. Ken Ward – Bossier Parish  
Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish  
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04  
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish  
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier  
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran

#### **Members Absent**

Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport  
Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City  
Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City  
Mr. Michael Norton – DeSoto Parish

#### **Others Present**

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG  
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG  
Mrs. Rita Arnold - NLCOG  
Mrs. Heidi Stewart - NLCOG  
Mr. Josh Chevallier – NLCOG Legal Council

### **Call to Order**

Mrs. Bryant called the meeting to order. She stated that we generally have the invocation, roll call and a pledge at the beginning of the meeting. Mrs. Bryant said that she was going to ask Mr. Clarke to lead us in prayer and Mr. England to lead us on the pledge. She asked if those that cared to join them to please stand. Mr. Clarke led us in prayer followed by Mr. England leading us in the pledge. Mrs. Bryant asked Mr. Rogers to begin roll call. Mr. Rogers called roll. A quorum was present.

### **Public Comments**

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Rogers stated they hadn't received any comments.

## **Business**

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes for the April 04, 2025, meeting. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mr. England seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Mrs. Bryant called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

### **2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Amendments and Modifications**

Mr. Rogers stated the only TIP Amendment they had at this time is the state project US371: KCS RR OVERPASSES HBI, and it was introduced at the last meeting for the addition of the Right-of-Way phase. They've received no public comments.

*Mr. North wanted to ask Mr. Rogers a question. He asked if that project was the one at Sibley or Minden. Mr. North said that he could find out.*

Mrs. Bryant asked if there were any further questions. Having none, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to Approve the Adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program Administrative Modifications and Amendments. Mr. Washington motioned, and Mr. England seconded. Mrs. Bryant called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

### **3. Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program – Introduction of Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP (to be adopted June 13, 2025)**

Mr. Rogers said that they should have received a full copy of the proposed work program for next year. It will not be up for adoption until the June meeting. This is just an initial introduction for them. Mr. Rogers said they've made a couple of changes as compared to the previous program. Some of the items are for the TIP Program and the listing of Annual Obligated Projects portion have been combined into the Core Metropolitan Planning Programs section. That section now includes the TIP, the standard requirements under the federal law that they have to maintain and develop, the Plan, and the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects. They've combined all of those into the Core Metropolitan Planning Programs.

Mr. Rogers said that everything else remains pretty much the same. The only difference with the Safety Program is that it was previously listed as "G" and now it's an "S". It was requested from the State to have the Safety part listed as an "S" for project and program.

All of this is just a first initial introduction. If there are any questions or comments, he'd be glad to answer.

*Mr. Clarke said that he remembered at some point that they were looking at Highway 79 for a possible four-lane to DeBerry (Texas) about two years ago, and Mr. Rogers had said that it was on the list of unfunded needs, or something to that effect. Mr. Clarke said he was just curious and wanted to follow up.*

*Mr. Rogers said that he believes it's listed on their Long-Range Plan. They will be making a major update to their Long-Range Plan. He's anticipating from the responses he's heard from staff, and submittals, they'll be getting a presentation from those submittals at the next meeting. That plan update, they'll start probably late June early July timeframe.*

#### 4. Project Updates

**I-49 ICC** – Mr. Rogers said we are still on schedule. The draft submittals for legal sufficiency review, including Chapter 2, 4f and Section 106 documents are working their way around the USDOT/FHWA division office and the consulting team to make sure everything is good to go there before they send it up to Washington. Mr. Rogers said that he had noted in the last meeting that it would be going to the USDOT legal sufficiency, they had rescinded that, and it will be going to the FHWA legal sufficiency office. They at least know what to expect from that. Through their DC trips and DC contacts they've made sure the federal government knows where they are in this process, what the project is and where they're at. Mr. Rogers said that they continue to remain on schedule.

**I-69 Service Road**- Mr. Rogers said they're still working on the survey and preliminary engineering work. Once they get that completed, they'll move on to the next part. From his understanding, the Port is working with FHWA on the actual BUILD grant signatures and that's a direct allocation from DOTD.

**I-69 Full Route** – Mr. Rogers said they've met a couple of times with the Coalition of States. They're starting to coordinate the wording for inclusion in the upcoming IIJA authorization. Similar to what they had done with I-69 and I-20, they're trying to create a high priority corridor funding stream for those projects across the US that can't be funded under the normal streams. They're trying to get some wording in for the next reauthorization.

**I-20 Rehab Project** - Mr. Rogers said that it's going great. He didn't know if Mrs. Buchanan or Mr. North had anything to update on the project.

*Mrs. Buchanan said that she had just done an update that morning for the ramps that are currently closed.*

**Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511)** - Mr. Rogers said it's moving along great as well.

**Youree Drive (LA 1)** - Mr. Rogers said he's driven on it and it's nice. It's moving along.

**Upcoming Projects of Interest** – Mr. Rogers said there's a series of upcoming projects that will be coming up soon. US371 Widening, the Responsible Charge agreement was adopted, and the Entity State Agreement is in development.

*Mr. Blanton asked what the next step after that will be.*

*Mr. Rogers said that once that City/State Agreement is assigned, they'll advertise for engineering.*

*Mr. Blanton said he knows they've been waiting on some money for that, and they got it six months ago. He wanted to verify that they weren't waiting on them.*

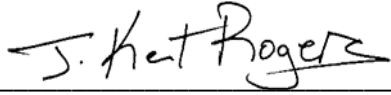
*Mr. Rogers said that "No, they weren't."*

#### Announcements

Mr. Rogers said that at the next meeting they would have a short list of consultants for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. The next regular scheduled MPO meeting is on Friday, May 16, 2025, in the Government Chambers at 9:00 am.

## Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, Mrs. Bryant entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. England motioned, and Mr. Blanton seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Kent Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "R".

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J. Kent Rogers, Secretary



