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Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee

MINUTES

Friday, August 21, 2026 (9:00 AM)

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

Members' Present

Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport - Chair
Mrs. Carlotta Askew-Brown – MPC City of Bossier City - Vice Chair
Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish
Mr. Eric England – Port of Caddo-Bossier
Mr. Stephen Jean – MPC of Caddo/Shreveport
Mr. David North – LaDOTD District 04
Dr. Ken Ward – Bossier Parish
Mr. Dinero' Washington – SporTran

Members Absent

Mayor Tommy Chandler – City of Bossier City
Mr. Michael Norton – DeSoto Parish

Others Present

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

Call to Order

Mayor Arceneaux called the meeting to order. Mayor Arceneaux asked Mr. Washington to lead us in pledge, and Mrs. Askew-Brown to lead us in prayer. He stated if those that cared to join them to please stand. Mr. Washington led us in prayer followed by Mrs. Askew-Brown leading us for the pledge. Mayor Arceneaux asked Mr. Rogers to begin roll call. Mr. Rogers called roll. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mayor Arceneaux asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Chevallier stated they had not received any requests for public comment.

Items for Consideration

1. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2026

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes for the July 24, 2026, meeting. Mr. Jean motioned, and Mr. England seconded to approve the minutes as provided. Mayor Arceneaux 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 they had two projects for adoption. One is for the Shreveport Pavement Program, panel replacement. The second is for the preservation interstate on LA 3132

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

Dr. Ward asked Mr. Rogers if these panel replacements were already in process.

Mr. Rogers stated that these were not yet. There were actually two projects that were done under the panel replacement project. One is the panel replacement, and one is the asphalt/overlay project.

Mr. Petro said that the asphalt/overlay project is going to be let shortly.

Mr. Rogers stated that there was a separate project that was Linwood rehab and it was broken into four different pieces.

Mayor Arceneaux asked if the other patching was on I-20.

Mr. Petro said that it was for the inner loop. It was for fiscal year 2027.

Mr. Rogers stated that they did have one and it's some of what the work they have going on now for I-49, and asked Mr. North to correct him if he was wrong.

Mr. North said not right now. That part of the work is separate. The patching project is a major project.

Mr. England asked Mr. North where it was going to take place.

Mr. North said the urban section of I-49.

- **State Infrastructure Bank Funding**

Mr. Rogers said they received some information about the transfer of funds for the STBG>200k program. *(Please see attached letter)*

Project Updates

3. I-69 Frontage Road Update

- **H.014054 I-69 FRTG RD CONN (ELLERBE RD to LA 1)**

(Please see attached update)

Dr. Ward asked if any of the right-of-way was secured yet.

Mr. Rogers said for the first segment it's roughly thirty-two million for estimate. Eighty-two million is what they had total.

Mr. England said thirty-two million for Ellerbe to the Port. There's a thirty percent contingency in that. He knows that's pretty common, but that's a big number. He believes the bridge part only had a ten percent contingency, which is more realistic. Mr. England said they want to work on getting those contingencies down so they can save money for the other two parts. You can eat up the available funds just on those contingencies and give the requirement of having it all in place before it bid.

Dr. Ward asked if they have to finish the design before the start of the right-of-way acquisition?

Mr. England stated that this is ninety-five percent preliminary.

Dr. Ward asked who was going to do the right-of-way acquisition?

Mr. England said DOTD.

Dr. Ward asked if that was the agreement they had.

Mr. England stated that it's the golden rule on that one.

Mr. Rogers said to Mr. England to correct him if he was wrong, but the Port controls ninety-five percent of that.

Mr. England said yes. That's why they wanted to push that phase first.

4. DZD Northwest Louisiana

- Railway Safety Update – Agent Barry Spinney, CPKC

Mr. Rogers said that next we had Special Agent, Barry Spinney, with CPKC, and Special Agent, John Colvin, with UP.

Mr. Spinney said, “Good morning,” and introduced himself. He said that Mrs. Williams and Mr. Rogers wanted him to come talk today, and that he presented at the NWLA DZD Coalition meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Spinney said that they’ve probably seen some of the stuff they’re dealing with recently for specifically crossing collisions. He’s not really sure what’s going on, but they’re trying to get help from the different agencies for some assistance in the people they’re trying to reach.

Mr. Spinney wanted to give them an idea of what they were looking at. ***(Please see attached slides from presentation)*** The first slide they were looking at was his area. He’s based out of Shreveport. He goes over to Monroe, down to Leesville, Alexandria, into Texas, and all the way up to Texarkana into Ashdown, Arkansas. That’s his territory. What they were looking at on the first slide was a map of their train lines. The one going North runs through Oil City and Vivian. The one running to the side of the screen is the Vicksburg subdivision and that runs all the way to Vicksburg, but also to Haughton, Ruston and Monroe. Going South, one runs to New Orleans, through Alexandria and one runs through Beaumont, Texas through Mansfield, Many, and Leesville area. Mr. Spinney said that what they’re looking at on the screen is all their obstructions and accidents in these areas. The red dots are all accidents. Those are the crashes and collisions that they’ve been dealing with. This is from January 2023 to August 2026. The green buttons represent obstructions, which are vehicles getting stuck on tracks or crossings for whatever reason. Some of them they hit, most of them they don’t hit. They just get stuck and they’re able to let the trains know something’s stuck and they’re able to get them unstuck before they get hit. Mr. Spinney said that the number says they’ve had 37 vehicle accidents since 2023. They’ve actually had 39 since he’s had this presentation done. The major crash and derailment in Elm Grove. They had another one in Gibsland the same day, hitting a log truck coming out of their sawmill. So, they’ve had 39 not 37. The problem with this is, of those 39, 20 have been since June 1st of this year. They’re hitting a lot of vehicles. Not really sure why. What you don’t see on this map and what’s not represented on this map are any pedestrians or trespassers that have been hit by walking on foot or walking the tracks. Mr. Spinney said they haven’t had as many of those this year. In 2025, between the United States and Canada, which is their lines, CPKC formally KCS, they hit 41 people between the US and Canada, his territory hit 13 of them. You can see that they’re busy in this area.

Mr. Spinney went to the next slide. He stated that as they could see, the red X’s represent the 650 rail crossings that he has in his territory. Some are public and some are private rail crossings. To put it in perspective, there’s 5,531 crossings across the U.S. South District between Kansas City, MO and Laredo, TX. He has 650 of them. This just gives you an idea of how really busy they are.

The last slide is the one Mr. Spinney really wanted to concentrate on. These are crossing assessments that they’ve had. 62 of the 650 rail crossings have had one or more accidents and/or obstruction incidents reported. The big red dot on the map is the crossing at South Hazel Street that’s in Arcadia. They had 15 incidents there, mostly are obstructions. Trucks getting stuck, low clearance crossing, which means that trucks that sit low to ground, the highway comes up at angle, flattens then comes up again, so they’re getting stuck a lot. They have had some crossing collisions there and he believes this

year they've 2 or 3 there. With that specifically, he knows that's a little out of the MPO, but they're dealing with that one. Mr. Spinney said he met with Mr. Petro on Wednesday. They're doing a study along with DOTD to get that crossing fixed. Some others that they're dealing with are within the Shreveport Terminal. Some that are just outside the City of Shreveport, some that are in Bossier. Not really getting a lot till they hit South. They have some on the Alexandria Subdivision, which for reference, those are the tracks that run along Barksdale Blvd. That's the Alexandria Subdivision. They had several pedestrian strikes on that particular subdivision.

Mr. Spinney said that with all that to say, one of the things they wanted him to say was reaching out to some of these trucking companies. That's one of the ones, for whatever reason, they're dealing with a lot of crossing collisions with these trucking companies. The truck that they hit last Thursday evening was a saltwater truck coming out of one of the well sites. The truck that they hit that morning was a log truck. They're all showing that they're not yielding at these crossings, they're not stopping or looking. They have locomotive cameras set up so they see everything that happens in front of them. Particularly the one that happened in Elm Grove where the gentleman was killed. He never even looked, slowed down or stopped. He went right through that site, and they hit him right between the cab of the truck and the trailer. Because of that crash they derailed 22 rail cars. 19 of them were tanks and all 3 locomotives were derailed because of that. He lost his life.

Mr. Spinney said what they really want to do, and John's kind of dealing with the same thing, they want to get out with these trucking companies. Also, the local agencies including police departments and sheriff's departments. Talk to them about what they're seeing and if they're seeing these violations such as vehicles trying to beat crossings or trying to beat the lights, we need to get out and talk to them. Mr. Spinney said he's one guy and more reactive than he ever is proactive. As he said before, 20 collisions since June 1st, he doesn't have time to do anything except clean the scene up. They have Rail Safety Week coming up in September and it's a big week for them. So far, he has two officers on a train detail planned for that week. One day he's going to work in the Alexandria Subdivision which is there in Bossier City. They're going to put an officer on a locomotive running along Barksdale Blvd., specifically concentrating on the Airline Drive crossing. As he sees them crossing illegally or running a red light, trying to go around the gates, they'll have an officer stop them and write them tickets. Mr. Spinney said they do that typically every year and are very productive. Usually within an hour they've written 20-25 tickets for crossing violations. They're going to do the same event in Monroe with the same detail.

Mr. Spinney said that they're trying to get out with some of those brochures and take the information to some of the safety officers and talk to some of the truckers about being safe around crossings, when to cross and when not to, and just to pay attention as to what you're doing. You really only get one shot with a train. That's just kind of where they're at right now and knows they've seen some stuff on the news and been hearing some things. He just wanted to let them know what they're dealing with. Mr. Spinney said that if there's anything they can do as the railroad to help them to get information or assist with some of this stuff, to please let him know. If there's anything any of them could do to help them reach some of those agencies and talk about safety, please let him know. He asked if anyone had any questions.

Mayor Arceneaux said, "Thank you for being there." He asked if he knew the number of accidents within the City of Shreveport?

Mr. Spinney said that no, they haven't really had a lot in Shreveport. He knows that last year they had a

bridge strike over there by Sci-Port. It was one of the dumpster trucks that didn't lower its boom down and hit one of the bridges. They really don't deal with a lot of things in Shreveport and they're lucky for that. He's trying to be as proactive as he can.

Mayor Arceneaux said that was great, but he was surprised. They seem to have a lot of drivers who think the rules are suggestions.

Mr. Petro wanted to ask Special Agent John Colvin if they had a crossing that's similar to that, that's really abnormal that maybe an infrastructure or improvement could really make a difference in reducing the accidents.

Mr. Colvin asked if he meant for the City of Shreveport?

Mr. Petro said, "No, anywhere in the Northwest Louisiana".

Mr. Colvin said that he would look into that. He's sure they do. He could ask his transportation department to be more specific. Off the top of his head, he can't think of one specifically. Mr. Colvin said he would love to get with him on that because they have improvements that need to happen everywhere. His area, just like Mr. Spinney, different areas, different police department, but he covers all of Northwest Louisiana for Union Pacific. He also goes to East Texas, all the way to Big Sandy, up to Mount Pleasant, and down to Palestine. It's a huge territory. He has a lot of problems in East Texas and those are the ones that really jump out at him. He will double check and will be more specific. Yearwood Road with saltwater trucks is a big hot spot. Visibility issues are another big issue. Sometimes that is them and sometimes it's the local road authority. The vegetation can sometimes block drivers from being able to see. He would be happy to check that and get him some statistics.

Mr. Petro said that would be wonderful. He introduced Mr. North, District Administrator for DOTD.

Mr. North said for them to come to his office and visit sometime. He would give them the data to reach everyone, including Shawn Luke, Railroad Construction Coordination Engineer for DOTD.

Mr. Petro said that something like this is such a low-hanging fruit that just a simple infrastructure improvement between the roadway, transition and the crossing would make a world of difference.

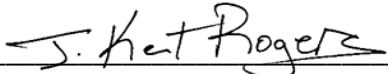
Mr. Spinney said that he found out yesterday that they are teaming up with them for that study in Arcadia.

Announcements

The next regular scheduled MPO meeting is on Friday, September 18, 2026, in the Government Chambers at 9:00 am.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, Mayor Arceneaux entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. England motioned, and Dr. Ward second, and the meeting was adjourned.



J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

