



**LOUISIANA STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS – ROUND ONE
REGIONAL PLANNING OFFICIALS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**

March 20, 2013 • 1:30PM to 4:30PM

LA DOTD, Baton Rouge, LA

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Advisory Council Members		
Decker (Chair)	Dennis	LA DOTD
Goza	Darrell	LA DOTD
Hill	T. Marshall	LA DOTD
Hollier	Mike	Lafayette MPO
Jiles	Steve	LA DOTD
Jones, Jr.	Jerry W.	IMCAL
Maciasz	Courtney	Capital Region Planning Commission
Marretta	Leo	Houma-Thibodaux MPO
Minton	Dwight	IMCAL
Moon	Ricky	LA DOTD
Porandla	Raju	CRPC
Rogers	Kent	Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
Schilling	Allison	LA DOTD
Schmidt	Roy	LA DOTD
Vosburg	Chad	LA DOTD
Other Attendees		
Kalivoda	Eric	LA DOTD
Romeo	Robin	LA DOTD
Broussard	Dan	LA DOTD
Stringfellow	Mary	FHWA
Buckner	Brandon	FHWA
Setze	Jamie	FHWA
Babineaux (Facilitator)	Butch	CDM Smith
Goodin	Krista	Fenstermaker
Nagura	Mikeila	Fenstermaker

PURPOSE

The purpose of the First Round of Advisory Council meetings was to give the Advisory Councils a briefing on the status of the plan update and to allow each Council to discuss issues regarding their mode. Attendees also received the Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures to review and provide feedback, as well as the previous Policy Recommendations to consider for the next round of meetings.

Note: This meeting summary is a compilation of the input received from the advisory council members and accurately reflects the views expressed.

HANDOUTS

- Agenda
- Opening PowerPoint Presentation
- Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council PowerPoint Presentation
- Initial Regional Planning Official Issues
- Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures
- Highway and Megaproject Recommendations from 2008 Review and Status Report

MEETING SUMMARY

Opening Session

In the opening session, the State Highway Operation and Maintenance Advisory Council, the Ports and Waterways Advisory Council, and the Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council members heard information about the status of the plan and an initial overview of conditions and issues, presented by Don Vary of CDM Smith. Highlights included:

- Plan Status
 - Draft vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures based on input from DOTD leadership interviews, state legislator questionnaire, public telephone survey, and a visioning workshop as well as initial technical analyses of conditions
 - Round One Advisory Council meetings are focusing on issues and a review of the vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures
 - Plan completion scheduled for mid-2014
- Initial Overview of Issues
 - Overall Issues, regardless of mode include:
 - Asset Management: maintaining what exists in good condition
 - Mobility: to support and encourage economic growth and quality of life
 - Governance: more cooperation and collaboration, especially relative to land use and transportation
 - Safety: developing programs and practices that deal with changing times – more elderly, more trucks, etc.
 - Revenue: developing sustainable funding options
 - The individual Advisory Councils will be discussing issues related to their particular mode/topic area

Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council Meeting

The agenda for the breakout Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council meeting included:

- Introductions/Opening Remarks
- Regional Planning Officials Issue Discussion
- Review of Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures
- Handout of Previous Plan Policy Recommendations

A copy of all materials will be posted on the web along with these meeting notes.

Introductions/Opening Remarks

Butch Babineaux, CDM Smith, introduced the Chair, Dennis Decker, and then there were self-introductions by all attendees.

Issues Discussion

An initial list of Regional Planning Officials issues was developed to guide discussion by the group on key issues that should be addressed. This initial list included:

- Program Delivery/Funding
- Connectivity/Integration
- Changing Conditions (Population, etc.)
- Coordination/Cooperation
- Other Issues
 - Condition of Assets
 - Efficiency/Mobility
 - Trucking

The following are key points noted during the group discussion:

- Program Delivery/Funding
 - Need a four lane east-west corridor across the state such as US 84.
 - There is a coordination gap between DOTD and local agencies. There needs to be coordination of all plans at each level.
 - Coordination between state and the locals for corridor preservation needs to happen in the early stages (pre-planning) of a project.
 - Revised Statute 48.193c states that municipalities over 5,000 must prepare and adopt a master street plan that is submitted to DOTD for approval. This seems to be an unfunded mandate and is not being implemented. How should this be addressed?
 - We need to be proactive in developing a methodology/process to engage local officials regarding transportation.
 - How do we leverage dollars towards a common effort across jurisdictions?
 - Instead of focusing on megaprojects, can we do more small capacity projects? There is opportunity to add capacity to corridors by implementing access management and narrowing lanes.
 - There are restrictions on funding dependant on where it is coming from. Municipalities need be educated on this and each partner needs to be on the same page regarding the rules (eg. ROW donation, expropriation, acquiring land). This will help minimize project delays, audits, and loss of funds. Would like local flexibility but still need to follow state requirements and restrictions.
 - Local view on DOTD prioritization on roadway projects
 - Utilize more appropriate terminology in communicating with the public on projects, specifically if a total project can't be completed the public needs to understand that interim projects are portions of the total project.

- Connectivity/Integration
 - We need to employ a multi-faceted approach to address issues.
 - There should be a connectivity emphasis on Ports as economic drivers for the state. Lafourche Parish's Comprehensive Planning has put more emphasis on connections to ports/rail/freight transfer and coordination with the state highway system.
 - Need to maximize efficiency of existing corridors (eg. access management, complete streets, and narrowing lanes).

- Changing Conditions
 - Population projections show increased growth. How are we planning our infrastructure to accommodate this growth?
 - The placement of new developments that are large trip generators such as schools should not be located along main arterials.
 - We need better education on the relationship between safety and congestion and between preservation and capacity.
 - Land use + Development + Location of facilities on state routes is a local land use planning issue.
 - The varying boundaries/geographical limitations of each entity (eg. DOTD District, Regional Planning District, Metropolitan Planning Organization, State Police Troop Area) is confusing and can be a challenge in coordination, communication and addressing transportation needs.

Draft Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures

General discussion of overall goals and objectives included the need for:

- Measurable Goals
- Coordination/Using the same measures among Federal, State, and Local agencies
 - Preservation quantification
 - Functional Class updates

Note: All Principal Arterials now NHS Roads per Map-21.

Previous Plan Policy Recommendations

The group was provided with a handout of the recommendations from the previous statewide plan effort and asked to familiarize themselves with it and talk to colleagues about changes that would be needed to address the issues discussed on March 20. This will be the subject of the next round of Advisory Council meetings in the summer of 2013.

It was also noted that the Regional Planning Officials Advisory Council will be responsible for listening to presentations given by advocates of proposed mega highway and transportation improvement projects in the next few months. The Regional Planning Officials will also assist in evaluating and prioritizing the mega projects based on the plan's established goals, objectives and evaluation criteria.

COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER MEETING

The following comments were received after the Advisory Council Meeting through April 22, 2013:

- Priority B Megaproject #013 – US 165/US 425 Bypass (US 425 to US 165) in Bastrop. Since the mill has closed in Bastrop, this project should be moved.
- Priority D Megaproject #052 – LA 137/133 (I-20 to Bastrop) in Monroe. This road was changed to US 425. Should now read “US 425 (I-20 to Bastrop)”. LA 137 does not exist.