

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

Minutes of Meeting
2024-2025 Interim
March 17, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chair of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Room 6, 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 Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Bryan Fontenot, vice chair
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Phillip Tarver
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Patrick Connick, chair
Senator Mark Abraham
Senator Heather Cloud
Senator Edward Price

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Gary Carter, vice 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:

Myrtis Jarrell, House sergeant at arms
Louis Carral, Senate sergeant at arms
John Rogers, Senate sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION

Public Hearing for the FY 2025-2026 priority list for the Port Construction and Development Priority Program

Commissioner Julia Fisher Cormier, office of multimodal commerce, DOTD, no address provided, spoke for information only on the FY 2025-2026 priority list for the Port Construction and Development Priority Program, and provided a handout Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Commissioner Fisher Cormier gave the committee a brief overview of the new priority program applications that were submitted and answered questions from members of the committee about the priority list applications.

Representative Walters informed the committee about the Caddo-Bossier Port that was on fire for 24 hours. She thanked the first responders and thanked the department for their support to the port.

Stephen Barnes, UL Lafayette Blanco Center, 400 E. St. Mary Blvd., Lafayette , LA 70503, spoke for information only and answered questions from Senator Abraham regarding how certain totals on the priority list were gathered.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Public Hearing for the FY 2025-2026 priority list for Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (Freight Rail)

Commissioner Julia Fisher Cormier, office of multimodal commerce, DOTD, no address provided, spoke for information only on the FY 2025-2026 priority list for Class II and III Rail Infrastructure

Improvement Program (Freight Rail), and provided a handout included in Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

J. Dean Goodell, LA DOTD, 37679 Rue De Lac, Denham Springs, LA 70706, spoke for information only on the FY 2025-2026 priority list for Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (Freight Rail).

Mr. Goodell answered questions from Representative Phelps on how the projects are prioritized and application due dates.

Public Hearing for the FY 2025-2026 priority list for the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program

Commissioner Julia Fisher Cormier, office of multimodal commerce, DOTD, no address provided, spoke for information only on the FY 2025-2026 priority list for the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program.

Bradley R. Brandt, DOTD - office of multimodal commerce, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., spoke for information only and provided a handout included in Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Commissioner Fisher Cormier answered questions from Senator Cloud on aviation fuel tax and the Aviation Trust Fund.

Representative Phelps suggested that in the future it would be helpful to know how long projects have been on the priority lists, to which Commissioner Fisher Cormier agreed and stated that she will look into adding that information.

Kevin Melton, Chennault International Airport, 3650 Senator J. Bennett Johnston, no other information provided, spoke in support of the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program. Mr. Melton thanked the committee for their great work and expressed the importance of the Airport Construction Development Priority Program to Louisiana and to Chennault especially.

Senator Connick asked Mr. Melton questions about the Chennault International Airport. Senator Abraham joined in the discussion to further inform the committee about the uniqueness that Chennault has and the importance the airport will have in the future for creating jobs in the state.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Public Hearing for the FY 2025-2026 priority list for the Statewide Flood Control Program

Lucas Johnson, SWFC, no address provided, spoke in support of the Statewide Flood Control Program and provided a handout, included in Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Leroy Sullivan, Mayor, City of Donaldsonville, 609 Railroad Ave., Donaldsonville, LA, spoke in support of the Statewide Flood Control Program and informed the committee of projects and areas in Donaldsonville where flooding remains a problem.

Senator Price thanked the Mayor for coming to the meeting and expressed his appreciation for all that the Mayor does for the city of Donaldsonville.

Randy T. Cloutre Sr., P.L.D., spoke for information only and informed the committee on a few projects that are problematic in his district and thanked the committee for their hard work.

Representative Wiley thanked Mr. Cloutre for his work through the years as an elected official, a member of the Pontchartrain Levee District, and the Amite River Basin Commission.

Senator Price asked Mr. Cloutre about the Perkins Road Bridge improvement and which parishes that would be affected. Mr. Cloutre informed him that Ascension, Iberville and East Baton Rouge parishes would be impacted by this project if not funded and completed.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Senators Connick, Abraham, Cloud, and Price voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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