

House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 15, 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 9:00 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque, chair
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Bryan Fontenot, vice chair
Representative Steven Jackson
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Annie Spell
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, attorney
Jaclyn Champagne, attorney
Darcas Deverteuil, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 82 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 82, which designates the Intracoastal Waterway Gulf Outlet Bridge on Louisiana Highway 47 in Orleans Parish as the "Vietnam War Veterans Green Bridge".

Representative Fontenot offered an amendment originated in committee to:

- (1) Add the designation of a portion of La. Hwy 20 in LaFourche Parish as the "Martha Ann-Woods-Shareef Highway".
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 82 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 82 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 83 by Representative Cox

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 83, which designates a portion of LA 466 in the city of Gretna as "Chief B.H. Miller, Jr. Memorial Parkway".

Representative Boyer offered amendments to:

- (1) Add the designation of the elevated portion of La. Hwy 31 in St. Martin Parish as the "Coach Raymond Lavergne Sr. Memorial Bridge".
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Boyer offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Boyer offered a motion to report House Bill No. 83 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 83 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 180 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 180, which redesignates a portion of United States Highway 425 in Richland Parish as "Sheriff Gary Lynn Gilley Memorial Highway".

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 180 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 180 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Representative Fontenot in the chair.

(Below action on House Bill No. 174 occurs between two separate discussions of House Bill No. 556.)

House Bill No. 556 by Representative Bourriaque

Representative Bourriaque presented House Bill No. 556, which reforms operations for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Representative Bourriaque offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Prohibit monies in the Transportation Trust Fund, the Construction Subfund, or state allocated one-time monies from being appropriated, dedicated, or otherwise used, directly or indirectly, for the payment of state sales use tax.
- (3) Specify the departmental reforms under the direction of the deputy secretary.
- (4) Designate certain powers and duties to the assistant secretary for project management.

- (5) Authorize any one member from the House or Senate committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to petition the House or Senate committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works meet jointly to include eligible projects in the program by a favorable two-thirds vote.
- (6) Require that no later than June 30, 2026 the department maximize third-party contracts for maintenance of every section or sections of highways or any of the facilities of the department, in lieu of having department employees attempt to conduct work in a timely and effective manner.
- (7) Requires the chief engineer to work in collaboration with assistant secretary for project management for noncompetitive negotiation selections.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 556 at a later point in the meeting. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 556.

House Bill No. 174 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 174, which designates the bridge located on U.S. 167 in Winn Parish as the "Clayton Horne Memorial Bridge" and provided a handout, Exhibit A, no copies provided.

Representative Fontenot offered a technical amendment. Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 174 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 174 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 556 by Representative Bourriaque

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 556 from earlier in the meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 556.

Joe Donahue, LA DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 556.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 556.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 556.

Elai Levinson, Louisiana Progress, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 556.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 556 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 556 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Schamerhorn, Spell, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 556.

House Bill No. 528 by Representative Bourriaque

Representative Bourriaque presented House Bill No. 528, which reforms the organizational structure for the Department of Transportation and Development including its duties, powers, and responsibilities of officers and employees.

Representative Jackson offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add the office of Louisiana Highway Construction under the division of administration.
- (3) Remove the office of engineering.

- (4) Change project management to project delivery.
- (5) Prohibit the Transportation Trust Fund, the Construction Subfund, and any one-time funding allocation as a means of financing for all costs associated with past and present employees of the department effective July 1, 2026.
- (6) Specify that the chief engineer have other duties assigned to him by the secretary of the assistant secretary.
- (7) Authorize the assistant secretary to assign a manager the duties of administering the planning and programming matters of the department.
- (8) Authorize the deputy secretary to perform any of the duties of the assistant secretary when the assistant secretary is absent or incapacitated.
- (9) Specify that the assistant secretary, with the approval of the secretary may designate any member of senior staff to perform any duties required of the assistant secretary.
- (10) Require that there be nine district offices within the department of operations each led by a district administrator who is to report directly to the assistant secretary. Additionally, require that each district's lab report directly to the dept.'s material engineer administrator.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, C. Travis Johnson, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Joe Donahue, LA DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 528.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 528 with amendments, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 528 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, Jackson, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 621 by Representative Bourriaque

Representative Bourriaque presented House Bill No. 621, which establishes the Louisiana Highway Construction Authority.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Dickerson, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, and Walters voted yea.

Joe Donahue, LA DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 621.

Representative Bourriaque offered a motion to report House Bill No. 621 by substitute, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 621 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 428 by Representative Bourriaque

Representative Bourriaque presented House Bill No. 428, which re-creates the Department of Transportation and Development.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report House Bill No. 428 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 428 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Joe Donahue, LA DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 428.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2023-2024 Interim dated January 30, 2024, and the minutes from the 2024 Regular Session dated March 12, March 13, March 14, March 18, March 19, March 20, March 25,

April 2, April 8, April 15, April 22, April 29, and May 13 were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Fontenot offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Spell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bourriaque, Boyer, Braud, Chassion, Fontenot, C. Travis Johnson, Moore, Phelps, Schamerhorn, Spell, Tarver, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: