

## **MINUTES**

**New Orleans Regional Planning Commission Freight Roundtable  
October 28, 2015 - 8:30 AM  
Regional Transportation Management Center  
10 Veterans Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70124**

### Attendees

Karen Parsons, RPC (Speaker)  
Ellis Vliet, Turner Industries  
Meredith Soniat, RPC (Speaker)  
Jim Murphy, MARAD  
Joe Accardo, Ports Association of LA  
Courtney Young, Clean Fuel Partnership  
David Kearney, Kearney Companies  
Scott Richoux, NOPB  
Jeff Louis, TCI Trucking  
John Hyatt, The Irwin Brown Company (Speaker)  
Maggie Woodruff, RPC  
Richard Metcalf, LMOGA  
Andree' Fant, Port of New Orleans  
Brandy Christian, Port of New Orleans  
Ben Broyles, Cooper/CTLC  
Nicole Rizzo, LaDOTD  
Michael Connolly, CSX  
Randall Withers, LaDOTD  
Billy App, J.W Allen  
Laura Phillips, LaDOTD  
Bruce Lambert, ITTS  
Cathy Nagin, NOCS Transport  
Jeff Roesel, RPC (Speaker)  
Mandrel Pansy, Sr.  
Chris Laborde, RPC  
Roy Quezaire, Port of South LA  
Walter Brooks, RPC (Speaker)

***Agenda Item #1-Welcome and Introductions***

Karen Parsons welcomed the attendees and encouraged them to sign-in. Coffee was provided by RPC's Clean Fuel Partnership. Each person introduced themselves and provided their affiliation.

***Agenda Item #2-RPC 2015 Truck Survey Update***

Parsons explained that the RPC's on-line truck survey tool did not receive the desired amount of participation and therefore lacked data to create an analysis of trucking problems in our 8 parish region. Parsons will work to find an alternative survey tool and update the survey as needed to increase participation.

***Agenda Item #3-Featured Presentation: What the Strengthened Ozone Standards Mean for the New Orleans, MSA: Meredith Soniat, Sustainability Planner, RPC***

Meredith Soniat, Sustainability Planner at the Regional Planning Commission, gave a power point presentation (see attached) on the effects of the new ozone standards published in [EPA's Federal Register](#) on October 26, 2015. She explained that New Orleans is currently in attainment (meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards [NAAQS]) but is close to being in nonattainment. LEDQ will make final designations on October 1, 2016. If New Orleans is designated nonattainment, the types of projects RPC can work on, particularly capacity projects, will be greatly affected. Emissions banking and trading would be a result of being designated nonattainment. Baton Rouge currently participates in this process because they are in nonattainment. Richard Metcalf explained a dilemma many people are having: whether to embark upon a new project now to help prevent the region from going into nonattainment **or** wait until next year to see if the region goes into nonattainment to begin projects so that they will be able to bank credits earned from the project.

Soniat noted that the New Orleans Clean Air Coalition (CAC) is searching for a Freight representative to be present at meetings and also a dedicated Director to run the program.

***Agenda Item #4-Featured Presentation: Louisiana International Gulf Transportation Terminal (LIGTT) Update: John Hyatt, Vice-President, Irwin Brown Company***

John Hyatt, Vice-President of the Irwin Brown Company, gave a power point presentation (see attached) on the history and operations of LIGTT. He described the four phases, or capabilities, of LIGTT which include: dry bulk cargo, liquid bulk, an LNG facility, and container shipping. LIGTT is focusing on the dry bulk phase which will create profits to finance the next phases. Hyatt explained that all revenue goes directly to LIGTT and not the state pot of funding. After 50 years, all revenue will be turned over to the state due to their lease agreement. David Kearney noted that this port is unique because it is privately funded and receives no subsidies, which is an economic boost for the state of Louisiana and the port industry. Billy App said it is encouraging to see that phase one is now underway. Permitting for an LNG facility has yet to

begin for LIGTT but is very feasible, when compared to the LNG facility created by the partnership of Shell, Hess, and ConocoPhillips Australia. South Asia port executives/terminal operators and LIGTT representatives recently united for a conference which focused greatly on the agreement made between Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and Abhijet Group of India to ship 9 million tons of Appalachian coal to India's power plants annually for the next 25 years. Hyatt closed with a discussion about the future of LIGTT and how new infrastructure is needed for the predicted 20 million tons of cargo coming our way.

***Agenda Item #5-RPC Freight Projects- Status Report***

Four RPC freight related projects were highlighted and accompanied with several slides (see attached power point slides).

a. Florida Bridge and Roadway Project

Jeff Roesel, Deputy Director of the Regional Planning Commission, gave an overview of the Florida Avenue Bridge Extension project spanning from I-610 at Elysian Fields to Paris Rd which will serve the heart of Arabi/Chalmette and the Port of St. Bernard. The feasibility study is complete. Original TIMED funding ran out, so they are now using Federal Aid. DOTD is negotiating fees with Arcadis for an Environmental Review (EA/EIS).

b. Port of St. Bernard Proposed Access Road

Walter Brooks, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Commission, explained that the new entrance for the Port of St. Bernard will align with the future Florida Avenue Connector Roadway in hopes to relieve truck congestion on Aycock St. traveling to Domino Sugar Refinery. Construction set to be completed by 2018 at \$1.5 million.

c. I-12 @ US 51 Business Interchange Improvements

Roesel discussed the planned improvements on I-12 at US 51 near the Hammond Mall on route to Ponchatoula. These improvements integrate two Round-A-Bouts at the Eastbound and Westbound Off-Ramps and many embellishments to improve the visual environment including lighting, landscaping, architecture, artwork, and decorative fencing. Construction set to be completed by 2016 at \$6.9 million.

d. US 90B Ramp Improvements

Parsons went over the summary slides noting how residents of the Westbank wanted the third lane to be reopened. Currently the project is 75% complete with final completion set for the end of November and the cost is estimated at \$3.6 million. It includes the lengthening of Claiborne Ave/Superdome on-ramp and restriping I-10 West to have 3 lanes.

e. Ramp Metering Improvements

Parsons explained that “Hospitality Zone” Ramp Meters time the entrance of vehicles on the interstate. Brooks noted that they were first implemented from the Westbank Expressway to Elysian Fields Ave around the time of the Super Bowl to simplify merging. Roy Quezaire, Deputy Director of the Port of South Louisiana, explained they are used to promote driver discipline until it becomes habit. Nicole Rizzo of LaDOTD said there will be a press release when the 3<sup>rd</sup> lane is restriped on I-10 West and also when the 19, fiber-optic modified traffic signals are operational.

***Agenda Item #6-Roundtable Discussion***

Laura Phillips of LaDOTD announced the next [Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies \(ITTS\)](#) Conference is set for April 12, 2016. It is a free conference with a cap on attendance so you must register in advance. Bruce Lambert, Executive Director of ITTS, said the conference will cover topics such as changing supply and demand, market to consumer speed and overall trends in urban freight movement.

Phillips noted that comments for the LaDOTD Freight Mobility Plan are due November 6<sup>th</sup> and should be emailed to [Laura.Phillips@la.gov](mailto:Laura.Phillips@la.gov). You can access the [Draft Freight Mobility Plan](#) on the [DOTD Multimodal Planning](#) page.

[http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside\\_LaDOTD/Divisions/Multimodal/Transportation\\_Plan/Pages/default.aspx](http://wwwsp.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Multimodal/Transportation_Plan/Pages/default.aspx)

The next Freight Roundtable meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at the Regional Transportation Management Center, 10 Veterans Blvd. at 8:30 a.m.

*Minutes by Courtney Young*