



AREAWIDE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

ACTION SUMMARY

LAFAYETTE NORTH/SOUTH CORRIDOR STUDY

Special Meeting and Public Hearing

September 22, 1993

I. Welcome and Introduction

J. Maxie Broussard welcomed all present to the Lafayette Transportation Policy Committee's Special Meeting and Public Hearing on the Lafayette North-South Corridor Study and introduced the Lafayette Areawide Transportation Policy Committee and members of the Design Team.

II. Review of Action Summary Accepted

The Chair called on Ms. Loretta Gayle to report on the September 13, 1993 meeting and review the Action Summary. Ms. Gayle asked committee members if there were any changes or corrections to the Action Summary, if not, they would remain as written. No changes were made.

III. TPC and Public Hearing Procedures

Mr. Broussard stated the purpose of this public hearing and the procedures set forth for the meeting. Mr. Broussard then introduced Mr. Roger K. Hedrick, AICP, Chair of the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and Executive Director of LAPC.

IV. Overview: Lafayette North/South Corridor Study

Mr. Roger K. Hedrick, AICP, briefed the committee and the public on the four different freeway corridors along with a "no build" proposal that were studied and evaluated by the Design Team and the LAPC. Mr. Hedrick also discussed the four (4) criteria used to evaluate the various alternatives: 1) traditional highway cost benefit, 2) public safety, 3) environmental, and 4) quality of life.

V. TTC Recommendation

As chair of the TTC, Mr. Roger K. Hedrick, AICP, presented the TTC's recommendation from its regular meeting on September 22, 1993. The TTC approved, selected, and recommended Alternative No. 3 (Evangeline Thruway Corridor) to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) as the best of the North/South Corridor Alternatives studied for the planned I-49 Connector including service roads along and on both sides of Interstate 10, between the LA Hwy 93 Interchange and the Bayou Vermilion.

Open Public Hearing

VI. Evangeline Thruway (Alternative No. 3)

Mr. Broussard called as the first speaker Ms. Rae Robinson, President of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. It was at this time, Ms. Robinson, acting as the voice of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Inc., presented its final recommendation and formally endorsed the Interstate-49 Connector route to be the Evangeline Thruway Corridor. She went on to say the Evangeline Thruway corridor will have a positive impact on the environment as well as address the growing problems of heavy traffic.

After Ms. Robinson's opening remarks, Mr. Broussard called to the podium approximately thirty-eight (38) individuals who spoke in favor of Alternative 3:

Mr. Ed C. Abell, Jr.; Lafayette, LA
Dr. Jean T. Kramer; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Rae Robinson; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Sam Jones; Mayor of Franklin, LA
Ms. Lena B. Thibodeaux; Franklin, LA
Mr. Larry P. Bergeron; Morgan City, LA
Cliff Aucoin; Mayor of New Iberia, LA
Mr. Roy Holleman; New Iberia, LA
Representative Jerry Luke LeBlanc; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Arthur Longberger; Houma, LA
Mr. Bill Bacque, Lafayette Board of Realtors; Broussard, LA
Mr. Kevin Belanger, Planning Manager of Houma/Thibodeaux; Houma, LA
Mr. Lynn Guidry, Parish Council; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Harry Begneaux, written commits read by Mr. Lynn Guidry
Mr. Charles E. Langlinais, Mayor of Broussard, LA
Mr. L.J. Bobby Broussard, Mayor Pro-Temp, Broussard, LA
Mr. Steven D. Wilson, LaFouche Parish President, LaFouche, LA
Mr. Dean Tekell, City Engineer; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Gerald Gerami, Trustee St. Genevieve Church; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Glenn Armentor, Downtown Development Authority; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Ken Veron, Cafe Vermilionville; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Mary Blanchet Prejean; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Bill Barrois; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Mike Michot; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Eddie Cazayoux; South LA Architecture; Breaux Bridge, LA
Mr. J. David Strother; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Judy Keller, Acadiana Home Builders Association; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Rusty Cloutier; Lafayette, LA
Mr. David E. Black; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Carol Joyce, Northgate Mall and Northgate Management Co.; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Howard McCain, Capital Improvement Management; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Paul Hilliard; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Rosalind Revoire; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Russell C. Romero; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Jo Ann Gant Johnson; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Ike Hebert, CODA; Lafayette, LA

(Enclosed and made part of this document is a list of individuals, organizations, and/or governing bodies which submitted documents of support for Alternative 3.)

Mr. Harold Schoeffler, Sierra Club, opened the floor in opposition of Alternative 3. Mr. Schoeffler's major concerns involved environmental impact, water levels and the "tunnel", and hazard materials. Approximately fifteen (15) people spoke in opposition to Alternative 3 and/or in favor of another alternative.

Speakers in Opposition to Alternative #3:

Mr. Roderick Miller, Trustee of Christ the King Church; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Bobbie Smith-Judice, Gateway Foundation Broad; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Mike McCloud, Auto Zone; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Bernard Bonneau; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Linda McAulay, City Zoning Commission Chair; Lafayette, LA
Dr. Oliver Daly; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Andy Hebert; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Jimmy Theaux, Alderman for the Town of Broussard; Lafayette, LA
Ms. Ray B. Theaux, written comments read by Mr. Jimmy Theaux
Mr. Charles F. Grimmer; Lafayette, LA

VII. Speakers for Alternative #1:

Mr. Don Lytle; Lafayette, LA

VIII. Speakers for Alternative #2:

Mr. Jimmy Theaux; Lafayette, LA
Mr. Rod Miller; Lafayette, LA

IX. Speakers for Alternative #4:

None

X. Speakers for No Build

None

XI. Speakers for Other Alternatives:

Mr. Harold Schoeffler, Lafayette, LA
Mr. D.Q. Moody, Lafayette, LA

Mr. Joe Giglio made a "rebuttal" statement again in support of the Evangeline Thruway Corridor. Mr. Maxie Broussard then asked for questions.

XII. Questions and Answers

Some of the questions asked of the Design Team concerned maintenance of the plaza area, land acquisition, frontage roads, and where will the spoils and condemned material be placed?

Questions / Answers:

Mr. Rod Miller, cost figures / answered by Bill Campbell, Parish Engineer
Mr. Bob Sides, Alternative #3 / answered by Joe Giglio
Mr. Bernard Bonneau, drainage / answered by Calvin Courville
Mr. Andrew Hebert, plaza area operation and maintenance cost / Dean Tekell and Joe Giglio
Mr. D.Q. Moody, segmentation and water level back-up / answered by Calvin Courville
Mr. John Sapway, green area and public property / answered by Ed Abell
Mr. Douglas Benton, evacuation statement
Mr. Jim Theaux, land acquisition / answered by Joe Giglio
Mr. Jim Theaux, price estimates / answered by Dean Tekell

Mr. Jerry Uncker, frontage roads / answered by Dean Tekell
Mr. Harold Schoeffler, spoils and condemned material / answered by Dean Tekell
Mr. Jim Theaux, spoils and condemned material / answered by Calvin Courville.

Mr. Dean Tekell, City of Lafayette Traffic Engineer and member of the Design Team, commented that this committee is being asked to re-institute funding for an Environmental Impact Statement. Mr. Tekell also stated that this impact statement is presently "dead" and that no one at DOTD is working on it. With the endorsement of the Evangeline Thruway by this committee, this project will be reactivated, more studies made, and answers to these questions. Mr. Tekell remarked that the EIS needs to proceed and that this committee needs to take part in reactivating it.

Close Public Hearing

XIII. Selection of Corridor for Implementation by Transportation Policy Committee

Mr. Broussard declared the public hearing closed. Mr. Broussard addressed the committee and charged them with the responsibility of weighing the evidence presented to them and to act accordingly.

Boyd Boudreaux, representative of the Chamber of Commerce, made the motion the Transportation Policy Committee approve, select, and recommend Alternative #3, the Evangeline Thruway Corridor, as recommended by the Transportation Technical Committee as the best of the North / South Corridor Alternatives Study for the planned I-49 Connector. It is further recommended the service roads along and on both sides of Interstate 10, between the LA Hwy 93 Interchange and the Bayou Vermilion be included. In addition, a citizen's oversight committee be created to work in conjunction with the technical talents during the design and construction phases of this project. The motion was seconded by Charles Langlinais, Mayor of Broussard.

Question was called for and the motion carried 14-0-2-4. The two abstentions were Ms. Helen Bellamy, Lafayette City Council, and Coan Bueche, DOTD. Ms. Bellamy asked that her vote be counted as an abstention until which time a resolution can be either passed or defeated by the Lafayette City Council at which time she would ask that the vote be amended to reflect her vote as a representative.

XI. Adjournment

X. Meeting Attendance:

Members Present (16 members present):

J. Maxie Broussard, Chair, LAPC
Cathy Webre for Downtown Development Authority
Mike Bridges for University of Southwestern LA
Robert Benoit for Lafayette Parish President
Boyd Boudreaux, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
Coan Bueche for LA-DOTD Secretary
Lynn Guidry for Chair of Lafayette Parish Council
Bill Fontenot for LA-DOTD District 3
Bill Lowry for Lafayette Airport Commission
Gerald DuBroc for Mayor of Duson
Mike Hefner, Lafayette Parish School Board
Charles Langlinais, Mayor of Broussard
C.J. Stelly for LEDA

Hazel Meyers, Mayor of Scott
Helen Bellamy for Lafayette City Council
Ken Johnstone, Acadiana Railroad Development District

Members Absent:

Tommy Angelle, Mayor of Carencro
Lucas Denais, Mayor of Youngsville
Jim Leonard, Chair Bayou Vermilion District
John Raines for Mayor of Lafayette
Virgil Page, Planning and Research Program Manager, FTA

One Hundred twenty-one (121) survey/speaker cards where signed, returned, and have be placed in the hearing master file. Approximately three hundred (300) citizens were present for the public hearing.

BODY	SIGNATURE	BRIEF CONTENT
Lafayette Board of REALTORS	P. Daryl Schouest, President	Resolution in support of "the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Arterial Task Force recommendation" - Alt.3
Council, St. Mary Parish	Albert Foulcard, Chairman	Resolution in support of Alt.3
Assumption Parish Police Jury	Bettie Monson, Secretary Treasure	Resolution in support of Alt.3
City of Morgan City, Louisiana	Timothy Matte, Mayor	Resolution in support of "I-49 Connector from I-10 to the Lafayette Airport"
Iberia Industrial Development Foundation	Roy C. Holleman, President & CEO	Resolution in support of "extension of I-49 southward through Lafayette"
The Beaver Club	Russell H. Mann, President	Motion to endorse "the central corridor route for the I-49 Connector as proposed by the Chamber"
Keaty & Keaty Attorneys at Law	Robert B. Keaty	Support of the "Evangeline Thruway route"
Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce	Roy C. Holleman, President & CEO	Resolution in support of "the proposed extension of I-49 southward through Lafayette"
Lafayette Parish Council	Lloyd C. Rochon, Clerk of the Council	Resolution in support of "the proposed Evangeline Thruway I-49 North/South Corridor Consisting of 4.5 Miles of Freeway Connecting Interstate 10 and US Highway 90 East at the Lafayette Regional Airport"
Rotary Club of Lafayette South, Inc.	Donald J. Courville, President	Resolution in support of "the proposed Evangeline Thruway I-49 North / South Corridor"
Acadian Home Builders Association	Judy Keller, Executive Officer	Statement of Ms. Keller in support of the Chamber of Commerce's proposal and recommendation
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce	John H. Laing, President and Arthur Lonberger, Chairman, Transportation Committee	Letter in support of the concept to extend I-49 through the city of Lafayette

Franklin Women's Republican Club	Jodie Johson, President	Letter in support of "the Lafayette North-South Study of the Interstate 49 Connector proposal and the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce's recommended option" - Alt.3
American Institute of Architects, South Louisiana	Edward J. Cazayoux, AIA, President, AIA South Louisiana	Resolution in support of Alt.3
CSI, Acadiana Chapter	Edward J. Cazayoux, AIA, CSI President, CSI Acadiana	Resolution in support of Alt.3
Downtown Development Authority	Catherine Webre, Executive Director and Glenn Armentor, Chairman	Letter/summary of remarks and endorsement of "the Chamber Plan for the I-49 Connector"
South Louisiana Economic Council	Emmett P. Futch, President	Resolution in support of "the Lafayette North-South Freeway Corridor Proposal"
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government	Barry Bonvillain, Parish President	Letter in support of extending I-49 southward
Houma Metropolitan Area	Paul A. Labat, Council Clerk	Resolution advocating the procurement of a north/south interstate access highway connecting the Houma Metropolitan Area with Interstate 10
Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Statistical Area	Paul A. Labat, Council Clerk	Resolution advocating the procurement of a north/south interstate limited access highway connecting the Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Statistical Area with the Bramercy Bridge
Terrebonne Parish Council	Paul A. Labat	Resolution in support of "the extension of Interstate 49 to New Orleans via Lafayette"
Citizen	C. Paul Hilliard	Letter in support of "the I-49 Connector...between New Orleans and Kansas City"...the "Evangeline Thruway" route
Lafayette Arcawide Planning Commission	J. Maxie Broussard, Chair, and Roger K. Hedrick, AICP, Executive Director	Recommends and endorses Alt.3, the Evangeline Thruway Alignment
Lafayette Arcawide Transportation Policy Committee	J. Maxie Broussard, Chair, and Roger K. Hedrick, AICP, LAPC Executive Director	Recommends and endorses Alt.3, the Evangeline Thruway Alignment

