

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 21st DAY OF JANUARY, 2025

The Caddo Parish Long Range Planning Committee met in legal session on the above date at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room of Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Ron Cothran, presiding, and the following member in attendance constituting a quorum: Commissioners Cothran, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Kracman and Lazarus (5). ABSENT: Commissioner Thomas (1).

Mr. Lazarus gave the invocation, and Mr. Epperson led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiances.

There were no Public Comments nor Agenda Additions, so the Committee moved onto New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Continue discussion regarding amendments to Red River Expressway Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and assignment*

Attorney Bernstein said that this project started a few years ago. Mr. Tim James is proposing to build a toll bridge over the Red River. Under State law, anyone proposing to build a toll roll is required to get the approval of the governing authority of that Parish. The original proposal was that the surface road in Caddo Parish would become a Caddo Parish road, and that it would be the Parish's responsibility to maintain it with a 15-year warranty. The proposed amendment would make the surface road a private road, so all of the maintenance would be Tim James' responsibility, not the Parish's. Attorney Bernstein also mentioned that the assignment of this property would go to another Tim James entity.

Mr. Curtis Joseph added that public vehicles will not be required to pay the toll to cross the bridge.

Mr. Atkins asked for more clarification regarding the private road and the Parish's role in it. Attorney Bernstein said that part of the agreement is that the Parish approves the plans and the design of the road.

Mr. Tim James came before the Committee and explained that he and his sons build private infrastructure. They look for transportation needs in midsize markets. This project is approximately 9 miles. The roads are private roads for public use—all public vehicles will be able to use this toll bridge for free. They plan to be under construction beginning Fall 2025, and it will be completed in 2 years.

Mr. James explained that the road will be dedicated to the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority in order to be able to borrow USDA funds.

Mr. Atkins pointed out that this toll bridge would free up some of the traffic congestion in that area. Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed.

It was **moved by Mr. Kracman**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *that the amendments for the Red River Expressway CEA be forwarded to the full body. Motion carried unanimously of those present.*

- *Regional Lab*

Mrs. Bryant said that the people who were housed in the Regional Lab building on 533 Vine street have since relocated, and now the building is vacant. She said that Brentwood has offered to purchase the building for \$1.18M. Mrs. Bryant also said that the building has been empty for awhile and has been maintaining it. She also explained that the funds would need to go back to the Health Tax Fund.

It was **moved by Mr. Epperson**, seconded by Mr. Lazarus, *that the recommendation to allow Brentwood to purchase the former Regional Lab building be forwarded to the full body. Motion carried unanimously of those present.*

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

  
Michelle Nations  
Assistant to the Commission Clerk