

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2025

The Caddo Parish Public Safety Committee met in legal session on the above date at 2:00 p.m. in the Government Plaza Chambers, with the following members were present constituting a quorum: Commissioners Atkins, Epperson, Gage-Watts, Lazarus, and J. Young (5). ABSENT: None (0).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were administered during a previous committee meeting. There were no Agenda Additions nor Public Comments, so the Committee moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discussion related to Resolution No. 33 of 2025, relative to the state and federal roadways to feature a presentation from the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development*

Mr. Epperson introduced Mrs. Erin Buchannan and Mr. Kevin LeBlanc with the Louisiana Department of Transportation (LADOTD) to discuss Resolution No. 33 of 2025.

Mrs. Buchannan conducted a presentation on LADOTD's resource allocation for interstate maintenance, noting a budget of \$1.1B with \$43.6M for interstate pavement (Orleans Parish, Lafayette Parish, Rapides Parish, Madison Parish, St. Tammany Parish, and Jefferson Parish) and \$98.5M for non-interstate pavement. She also mentioned that DOTD's primary source of funding is the fuel tax (16 cents). This was last increased in 1989. More fuel-efficient vehicle reduce the gas tax revenues.

In the FY 2027-2028 budget, there is \$45M allocated to Caddo Parish's I-20.

She also highlighted the challenges in maintaining roadways due to limited funding and aging infrastructure. They address litter removal efforts, including contracts with the cities and private companies.

Committee members raised concerns about the buckling on I-49 and potholes. Mrs. Buchannan provided a number for anyone to call to report potholes in Caddo Parish.

She also mentioned DOTD is conducting a signage replacement project on 3132 and plans for concrete panel repairs. Mrs. Buchannan reiterated that limited funding and aging infrastructure contribute to road issues. Most projects depend on federal funds. Legislators can identify and allocate funding for specific projects, but project delays can occur due to the legislative voting cycle, which can take 3-4 years.

Mr. Atkins asked about the dump trucks that were not in service. Mr. LeBlanc explained that the Department of Administration owns their vehicles. Requests for new vehicles have been submitted. Dump trucks are especially hard to acquire due to high demand and backlogs.

Mrs. Gage-Watts asked about street lighting responsibilities. Mr. LeBlanc explained that street lighting is considered a utility and is owned and maintained by the local municipality, not the State. Lighting projects could be included during construction, but maintenance is still the local entity's responsibility.

Mrs. Buchannan talked about water lines and how water leaks can cause damage to roadways, and repairs are technically handled by the City's contractors. Coordinating water line repairs with road overlays is important to prevent future issues.

Mr. Thomas brought up the Linwood Overpass. Mrs. Buchannan clarified that the Linwood overpass is owned by the City, not the State. The City is responsible for repairs or replacement of the bridge. DOTD inspected the bridge and deemed it unsafe for travel.

- *Review of disaster booklet—updates, additions, response, distribution, etc.*

Mr. Epperson requested that Bethany be added to the booklet, as well as the State Insurance. He would like people to submit their changes and requests to the Commission Clerk's Office by the end of September.

He also requested that the Clerk of the Commissioner, Mr. Everson, reach out to Foster Campbell's Office if there is a possibility to include tree trimming to the rate base of the electricity.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.



Michelle Nations
Assistant Commission Clerk