

Ouachita Council of Governments  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2022

Members Present:	Mayor Staci Mitchell City of West Monroe	Carday Marshall Monroe City Council
	Thom Hamilton City of West Monroe	Shane Smiley Ouachita Parish Police Jury
Staff Present:	Doug Mitchell Executive Director	Jeffrey Tyler Planner I
	Jeff Maxwell CPA	

The Ouachita Council of Governments meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitchell. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the Monroe Government Plaza.

A roll call certified a quorum was present.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Thom Hamilton to approve the February 28, 2022, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Thom Hamilton to recess OCOG and enter into the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**Transportation Policy Committee**

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Carday Marshall to approve the Amtrak Resolution to support the development of passenger rail service. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Thom Hamilton to adjourn the Transportation Policy Committee and reconvene OCOG. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carday Marshall and seconded by Thom Hamilton to ratify the actions of the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Thom Hamilton and seconded by Shane Smiley to accept the Budget to Actual Report as presented by Jeff Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Thom Hamilton and seconded by Shane Smiley to accept the Annual Audit Report as presented by John Cameron. Motion carried unanimously.

**Ambulance Advisory Board**

No report.

**Long Term Recovery Board**

No report.

There being no other business a motion was made by Thom Hamilton and seconded by Shane Smiley to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



Doug Mitchell  
Executive Director, OCOG

  
Date



# OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Monroe

West Monroe

Ouachita Parish

3000 KILPATRICK BLVD • MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201

OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONROE GOVERNMENT PLAZA  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
**MARCH 28, 2021**  
**12 NOON**

## **AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

*Action Item*

RECESS OCOG

*Action Item*

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. AMTRAK RESOLUTION - APPROVAL

*Action Item*

RECONVENE OCOG

*Action Item*

RATIFY ACTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*Action Item*

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

*Action Item*

*Mr. John Cameron*

LONG TERM RECOVERY EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Mrs. Karen Cupit*

ADJOURNMENT

\*HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT\*

**An Equal Opportunity Employer**



# OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FROM FORT WORTH, TEXAS THROUGH THE CITIES OF WEST MONROE AND MONROE, LOUISIANA TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA ALONG THE I-20 CORRIDOR AND RELATED ISSUES

RESOLUTION MADE BY: **OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, INC. (OCOG) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (MPO)**

**WHEREAS**, the Congress has recently passed a major infrastructure bill, which includes some sixty-six (66) billion-dollar allocation for passenger rail and Amtrak;

**WHEREAS**, connecting Fort Worth, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia, with points along the Interstate 20 Corridor including the Cities of West Monroe and Monroe, Louisiana, would establish a passenger rail connection joining more than 14,000,000 residents throughout Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, and connecting these states with the East Coast and onward north to New York;

**WHEREAS**, the existing Interstate 20 was constructed almost sixty years ago, and there has been no material increase in capacity, despite the population growth throughout these states of two to three times during the last two generations, and there appear to be no present plans to materially expand the existing four lanes of Interstate 20 for the foreseeable future;

**WHEREAS**, the I-20 Corridor Council, representing many cities and councils of governments along the proposed route obtained federal funding and has completed two important studies, including

- 1) A 2015 Amtrak **feasibility study** which determined that a long-distance passenger rail connection could operate profitably over the existing railroad infrastructure would require no annual governmental subsidy, and
- 2) A 2017 **capacity study** suggested that a capital expenditure investment of less than \$80 million in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. This would represent a fraction of the cost of conventional highway construction and would enable new passenger rail service on the route without adversely affecting freight traffic along the host railroad; and

**WHEREAS**, the I-20 Rail Corridor service would provide an east-west connection consisting of two daily passenger trains for the regions of Dallas, Fort Worth and Atlanta and would run through the Ouachita Urban Area; and the proposed railway service will connect surrounding regions and result in increased economic viability for cities along the railway route for tourism and increased mobility by providing and alternative means of transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, grassroots, multi-state coalitions including mayors, local, state and federal officials, business and economic leaders and many other stakeholders have shown great support of this opportunity along the I-20 Corridor, and creating an economical and environmentally attractive addition to highway travel;



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**WHEREAS**, the proposed acquisition of the Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS) by Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) is pending before the United States Surface Transportation Board, and Canadian Pacific and Amtrak have announced plans to conduct a study to finalize a cooperative agreement to operate the passenger train for the I-20 Corridor along the trackage being acquired by CP;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the **OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, INC. (OCOG) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (MPO)**, hereby recognizes and supports the efforts to construct and operate a long-distance passenger rail connection along the I-20 Corridor, also supports the approval of the Surface Transportation Board of the merger between KCS and CP, and further supports the efforts to improve on-time performance of Amtrak passenger trains with the host railroad carriers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications; and, to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

## CERTIFICATION

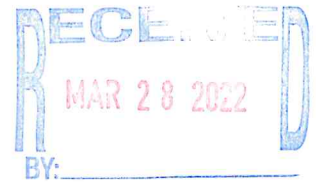
I, **Doug Mitchell**, Secretary to the Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of said committee on \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

Monroe, Louisiana, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Mitchell, Secretary

Ouachita Council of Governments

Publisher of  
**The News-Star**  
www.thenewsstar.com  
MONROE, LOUISIANA  
**PROOF OF PUBLICATION**



OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT  
3000 KILPATRICK BLVD  
MONROE, LA 71201

Account No.: SHR-304416

Ad No.: 0005173794

Ad Total: \$16.09

PO #: Legal Ad

**This is not an invoice**


# of Affidavits 1

The hereto attached advertisement was published in The News Star. A daily newspaper of general circulation. Published in Monroe, Louisiana. Parish of Ouachita in the issues dated:

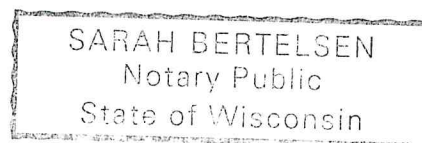
03/17/2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LEGAL CLERK

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 17 day of March, 2022 AD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public. State of Wisconsin. County of Brown

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
My commission expires



The regular meeting  
of the Ouachita  
Council of Govern-  
ments is scheduled  
for Monday, March  
28, 2022, at 12 noon,  
in the Council Cham-  
bers of the Monroe  
Government Plaza.  
More, LA  
March 17, 2022  
5173794