

Ouachita Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2024

Members Present:	Mayor Staci Mitchell City of West Monroe	Toni Bacon Ouachita Parish Police Jury
	Rodney McFarland Monroe City Council	Shane Smiley Ouachita Parish Police Jury
	Thom Hamilton City of West Monroe	
Staff Present:	Doug Mitchell Executive Director	Shelby Rybicki Planner II

The Ouachita Council of Governments meeting was called to order by Staci 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 Toni Bacon and seconded by Shane Smiley to approve the October 28, 2024, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Rodney McFarland to accept the Budget to Actual Report as presented by Doug Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

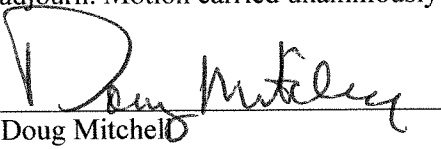
Doug Mitchell presented an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050 project. The project consultant has finished three preliminary technical report memos on Safety, Transit, and Freight. These will ultimately be combined into a single existing conditions technical report and will serve as the foundation for chapters in the final MTP document.

Ambulance Service Advisory Board

Shelby Rybicki presented the Ambulance Service Advisory Board update. The Board met on November 14th for its regular quarterly meeting. Acadian Ambulance has had compliance time issues related to Zone 3 for the past several months; although, Acadian met compliance requirements in all zones for September. Under the terms of the Ambulance Service Agreement, the Board voted to request Acadian submit a written plan of action regarding how it plans to address compliance issues. The next Board meeting will be held on January 16, 2025.

Doug Mitchell shared a status report on the kayaking trail mapping project for Ouachita Parish. Although supplemental funding is still being pursued, there will be a continued effort to research funding opportunities and grants that could further enhance and expand this project.

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


Doug Mitchell
Executive Director, OCOG

1/27/25
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
NOVEMBER 25, 2024
12 NOON

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Action Item

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Action Item

MTP 2050 UPDATE

AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

Budget to Actual
November 25, 2024

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>October 2024</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>September 2024</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	35,613	11,871	33.33%	-	8,903	25.00%	8,903	35,613
FTA	83,326	27,775	33.33%	6,675	26,269	31.53%	7,208	57,437
Human Svcs	15,000	5,000	33.33%	1,888	2,967	19.78%	596	12,018
FHWA	385,598	128,533	33.33%	36,437	139,248	36.11%	31,908	369,429
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>205,953</u>	15.00%	<u>20,858</u>	<u>72,557</u>	5.28%	<u>16,498</u>	<u>196,827</u>
TOTAL	1,892,559	379,132	26.56%	65,858	249,944	13.21%	65,113	671,324

SS4A	August			Local
	Budget	Actual	%	
	399,600	253,307	63.39%	
Contracted	350,000	238,742	68.21%	111,258
North Delta	49,600	14,565	29.36%	35,035
				7,007

Safety is a 5 year contract.

The new safety contract started February 1, 2024.

1	Budgeted amounts remaining on contract per month:				<u>Total Contract Spent</u>	<u>Contract End Date</u>
	Local	35,613	8	4,451.63		
	Safety	1,198,177	51	23,493.67	174,845	1/3/2029
	FTA	57,057	8	7,132.13		
	Human Svcs	12,033	8	1,504.13		
	FHWA	<u>246,350</u>	8	<u>30,793.75</u>		
		1,549,230		67,375.29		



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North Delta Regional Planning & Development Dist.

ATG Project No: 000000577
P.O. No.

MONTHLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Period: July 23, 2024 to August 31, 2024

Project Manager: Ed Elam

INVOICE # 18975

I. Work Status

Work Completed Past Period:

- Prepared for and attended the Project Kickoff Meeting
- Prepared for and attended Project Status Meetings
- Completed and submitted Project Management Plan
- Start development of the Public Involvement Plan
- Distribute master project schedule
- Developed initial list of data collection needs

Work To Be Completed Next Period:

- Completed and submitted Public Involvement Plan
- Begin data collection
- Develop project document templates
- Begin stakeholder identification
- Conduct outreach with transportation stakeholders
- Obtain regional Travel Demand Model
- Continue data collection efforts
- Begin existing conditions analysis
- Begin creating project basemaps
- Continue Travel Demand Model analysis
- Prepare for and Hold first TAC meeting reviews
- Develop project stylesheets, templates and master documentation.

II. Project Schedule

On Schedule: YES NO

III. Issues for Resolution/Critical Path

None



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North Delta Regional Planning & Development Dist.

ATG Project No: 0000000577
P.O. No.

MONTHLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Period: September 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Project Manager: Ed Elam

INVOICE # 18977

I. Work Status

Work Completed Past Period:

- Began data collection
- Developed project document templates
- Began stakeholder identification
- Conducted outreach with Monroe Transit
- Obtained regional Travel Demand Model and completed initial review
- Begin existing conditions analysis
- Begin creating project basemaps
- Complete development of the Public Involvement Plan

Work To Be Completed Next Period:

- Update Master Schedule, as needed
- Continue data collection efforts
- Continue existing conditions analysis
- Continue creating project basemaps
- Complete identification of stakeholder list and identify potential meeting dates and locations
- Continue Travel Demand Model analysis
- Prepare for and hold first TAC meeting

II. Project Schedule

On Schedule: YES NO

III. Issues for Resolution/Critical Path

None

Public Involvement Proposed Schedule



Round 1 Kickoff

- Project Kickoff – August 2024
- TAC Meeting – October 2024
- OCOG Meeting – November 2024
- Public Involvement – November 2024

Round 2 Analysis

- Midway Status Report to TAC – December 2024
- Stakeholder Interviews – January 2025
- Open House – January 2025

Round 3 Final

- Public Outreach – March 2025
- Final Status Report to TAC, MPO, OCOG – July 2025
- Final MPO Documentation – July 2025

Status Report on Kayaking Trail Mapping Project for Ouachita Council of Governments

Overview: Our collaboration with the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) has made significant strides toward enhancing the paddling experience in Ouachita Parish. We are collaborating with Steve Birmingham, a local expert on paddle trails, to create waypoints for the various destinations. His insight and expertise have been instrumental in ensuring the routes highlight the best scenic and natural features they have to offer, creating a unique and safe paddling experience.

Through detailed mapping and data collection, we've supported the CVB in developing an engaging, user-friendly website with specific, mapped waypoints, boat ramps, and access points to help residents and tourists navigate the area's kayaking trails. This work not only enhances the visibility of local natural resources but also promotes tourism by making the parish's water trails accessible to visitors seeking outdoor activities.

Project Highlights:

1. GIS Files Created and Shared

We've created and shared essential GIS files with the CVB, including:

- **Boat Ramps:** All ramps were geotagged and entered into the system for ease of access and navigation by paddlers.
- **Cheniere Lake Paddle Trails:** We mapped key paddle trails on Cheniere Lake, one of the most popular local water destinations.
- **Way Points:** Specific waypoints were created for guidance along various paddle routes, enhancing paddlers' experience.

2. Mapping Uploads

For mapping purposes, files were uploaded for:

- **LDWF Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) Conservation Areas:** Inclusion of conservation areas adds value for eco-tourists and informs paddlers of protected areas to explore responsibly.
- **Lake D'Arbonne Turtle Bay Route:** We requested waypoints specifically for the Turtle Bay Route, which is anticipated to be a prominent paddling destination.

3. Custom Map Files

Custom maps were developed to provide comprehensive navigation tools, including:

- **Ouachita Parish Paddle Trail Map:** A complete map highlighting the parish's official paddle trails.
- **Monroe-West Monroe Parks Map:** Map of local parks, supporting paddlers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

4. Line Layers Created

Several line layers were mapped to guide paddlers and hikers through notable areas:

- **Levee Paths in Monroe:** These paths offer scenic routes for those exploring Monroe.
- **Paddle Trails:** Various paddle trails have been clearly marked to guide users through specific waterways and paths.

5. Way Points and Launch Sites Created

We've created and provided waypoints that offer detailed route guidance and access points, including:

- **Bayou D'Arbonne and Bayou Desiard Way Points**
- **Forsythe to Lazzarre Launch Points**
- **Bayou Desiard, Cheniere Lake, and Ouachita River Launch Sites**
- **Points of Interest:** Curated and geotagged points of interest along these trails enhance paddlers' journeys and encourage exploration of local features.

Project Impact and Benefits:

- **Tourism Boost:** By providing detailed maps and waypoints online, we've made it easier for visitors to plan their paddling trips, which is expected to increase local tourism and stimulate economic growth in Ouachita Parish.
- **Enhanced User Experience:** Detailed geolocation data for launch sites, waypoints, and points of interest allows paddlers to navigate confidently and explore scenic areas they may not have otherwise discovered.
- **Marketing and Visioning Support:** In collaboration with the CVB, we have assisted in marketing and visioning efforts to develop a sustainable, visitor-friendly kayaking infrastructure.

Future Directions:

- **Expansion and Development:** There is great potential for expanding this project. Additional routes and waypoints could be mapped to cover more waterways, creating a more extensive network that draws in a broader audience.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Although supplemental funding is still being pursued, we continue to research funding opportunities and grants that could further enhance and expand these efforts.

Our team has engaged with the CVB multiple times throughout this project, aligning our goals and ensuring that the kayak trails remain accessible, informative, and inviting for visitors and locals alike. This project is an evolving asset to the area's tourism, and we are committed to supporting its ongoing development for years to come.

DATE: November 25, 2024

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	PHONE #	EMAIL	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mayor Friday Ellis	318-329-2227	friday.ellis@ci.monroe.la.us		X
Mayor Staci Mitchell	318-396-2600	smitchell@westmonroe.la.gov	✓	
Mr. Thom Hamilton	318-235-5998	thomhamiltonemail@gmail.com	✓	
Mr. Rodney McFarland	318-512-0421	rodney.mcfarland@ci.monroe.la.us	✓	
Mrs. Toni Bacon	318-331-3188	toni.bacon@oppj.org	✓	
Mr. Shane Smiley	318-267-8659	ssmiley@oppj.org	✓	

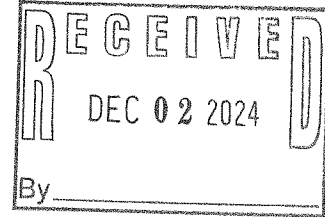
**OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING
MONROE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 25, 2024
12 NOON**

**PLEASE SIGN IN:
(Print Please)**

NAME	AGENCY REPRESENTING
<i>Jay Mitchell</i>	<i>OPPJ</i>

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Ouachita Council Of Government
3000 Kilpatrick BLVD
Monroe LA 71201-5166

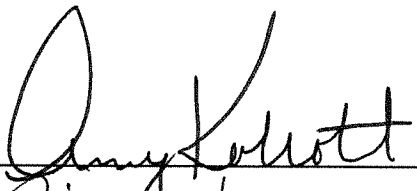


STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

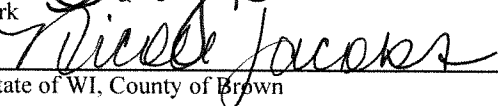
The News Star, a daily newspaper published in the city of Monroe, in the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

11/13/2024

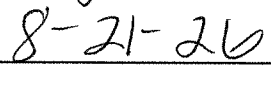
and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 11/13/2024



Legal Clerk



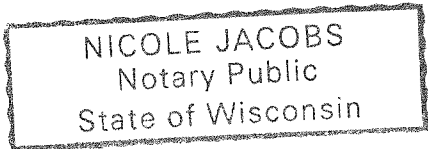
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OCOOG Meeting Notice

The regular meeting of the Ouachita Council of Governments is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2024, at noon in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers.

November 13 2024

LOU0190478