

Ouachita Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2025

Members Present:	Rodney McFarland Monroe City Council	Shane Smiley Ouachita Parish Police Jury
	Thom Hamilton City of West Monroe	Toni Bacon Ouachita Parish Police Jury
Staff Present:	Doug Mitchell Executive Director	Shelby Rybicki Planner II
	Jeff Maxwell CPA	Susan Gentry Hwy. Safety Coordinator
	Jeffrey Tyler Planner II	

The Ouachita Council of Governments meeting was called to order by Shane Smiley. 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 Thom Hamilton and seconded by Rodney McFarland to approve November 25, 2024, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Transportation Policy Committee

A motion was made by Thom Hamilton and seconded by Rodney McFarland to approve *TIP Amendment: MTS Projected Financial Plan 2025-2029* as presented by Marc Keenan for advertisement. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

A motion was made by Toni Bacon and seconded by Rodney McFarland to accept the Budget to Actual Report as presented by Jeff Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rodney McFarland and seconded by Toni Bacon to utilize excess SS4A Program money to cover the match required for the MTP update. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Toni Bacon and seconded by Rodney McFarland to accept the Budget to Actual Report as presented by Jeff Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Toni Bacon and seconded by Rodney McFarland to approve *MPO Safety Performance Measures & Target Setting 2025* as presented by Susan Gentry for advertisement. Motion carried unanimously.


Ambulance Advisory Board

Elmer Noah presented the 2024 Ambulance Service Advisory Board Annual Report to the Board. Acadian Ambulance has submitted a proposed rate schedule for 2025, which is under consideration for approval. The Board has decided to schedule a specially called meeting to review and discuss the proposed rate schedule further.

The current contract with Acadian Ambulance has been extended until December 31, 2026. Mr. Noah recommended that if OCOG wishes to explore alternative providers beyond Acadian Ambulance, the Request for Proposals (RFP) process should begin by the March OCOG meeting. This process must start during the summer to ensure a new agreement can be in place before the contract expires on December 31, 2026.

It was also noted that if either party—OCOG or Acadian Ambulance—does not wish to extend the contract beyond the current term, they must provide 120 days' notice.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Toni Bacon and seconded by Rodney McFarland to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.



Doug Mitchell
Executive Director, OCOG

2/24/25
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
JANUARY 27, 2025
12 NOON

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Action Item

RECESS OCOG

Action Item

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. MTS PROJECTED FINANCIAL PLAN 2025-2029 – INTRODUCTION

Mr. Marc Keenan

Action Item

RECONVENE OCOG

Action Item

RATIFY ACTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Action Item

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Action Item

MPO SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES & TARGET SETTING 2025 – INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Susan Gentry

Action Item

AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Elmer Noah

ADJOURNMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Project Description	Implementing Agency	Federal FY	Funding Statute	Federal Amount	Non-Federal Amount	Obligation Year
Capital - Mobile Fare Collection	1513- City of Monroe	2023	5307	\$600,000	\$150,000	2025
Capital -Support Vehicles	1513- City of Monroe	2023	5307	\$120,000	\$30,000	2025
Capital- Shop Equipment	1513- City of Monroe	2023	5307	\$222,225	\$55,557	2025
Operating	1513- City of Monroe	2023	5307	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	2025
Preventative Maintenance	1513- City of Monroe	2024	5307	\$155,646	\$38,912	2025
Operating	1513- City of Monroe	2024	5307	\$1,787,000	\$1,787,000	2025
Planning	1513- City of Monroe	2024	5307	\$300,000	\$75,000	2025
*Capital- Transit Center Construction Project	1513- City of Monroe	2023	5339	\$1,086,951	\$271,738	2025

- Grant application 1513-2024-2 will be changed from a Capital Bus Purchase to the Transit Center Construction

MONROE TRANSIT PROJECTED FINANCIAL PLAN FOR 2025-2029

Section 5307-Capital		Fed FY 25	Fed FY 26	Fed FY 27	Fed FY 28	Fed FY 29
Project Description						
Bus Rolling Stock		277,782.00		300,000.00		
Bus Engines		750,000.00				
Mobile Fare Collection System		150,000.00				
Support Vehicle				60,000.00	50,000.00	
Bus Stations Stops & Terminals						
Other Capital Items (Bus)			375,000.00			
Metropolitan Planning				70,000.00		
Bus Support Equip./Facilities		942,225.60	300,000.00	344,000.00	40,000.00	
Federal Share		1,177,782.00	375,000.00	430,000.00	50,000.00	
TOTAL PROJECT		235,556.40	75,000.00	86,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
City/Local Share						
Section 5307-Operating						
Federal Share		1,300,000.00	1,787,000.00	1,787,000.00	1,787,000.00	1,787,000.00
City/Local Share		1,300,000.00	1,787,000.00	1,787,000.00	1,787,000.00	1,787,000.00
Total		2,600,000.00	3,574,000.00	3,574,000.00	3,574,000.00	3,574,000.00
Section 5307-Preventative Maintenance						
Federal Share			155,646.00	155,646.00	200,000.00	250,000.00
City/Local Share		0.00	38,912.00	38,912.00	50,000.00	62,500.00
Total			194,558.00	194,558.00	250,000.00	312,500.00
Section 5307 TOTALS						
Federal Share		2,242,225.60	2,242,646.00	2,286,646.00	2,027,000.00	2,037,000.00
City/Local Share		1,535,556.40	1,900,912.00	1,911,912.00	1,847,000.00	1,849,500.00
Total Eligible Project		3,777,782.00	4,143,558.00	4,198,558.00	3,874,000.00	3,886,500.00
Section 5339 Capital						
Project Description						
Bus Rolling Stock - Electric Bus					250,000.00	250,000.00
Bus Technology upgrades						
Electric Charging Station						
Transit Terminal Project		1,358,688.75	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00
Totals		1,358,688.75	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00
Federal Share		1,086,951.00	212,500.00	200,000.00	212,500.00	212,500.00
City/Local Share		271,737.75	37,500.00	50,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00

Budget to Actual
January 27, 2025

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>December 2024</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>November 2024</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	35,613	17,807	50.00%	8,903	17,807	50.00%	8,903	35,613
FTA	83,326	41,663	50.00%	5,466	35,837	43.01%	4,102	57,437
Human Svcs	15,000	7,500	50.00%	596	4,717	31.45%	1,154	12,018
FHWA	385,598	192,799	50.00%	21,459	178,636	46.33%	17,929	369,429
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>251,721</u>	18.33%	<u>10,598</u>	<u>91,520</u>	6.67%	<u>18,586</u>	<u>196,827</u>
TOTAL	1,892,559	511,489	35.83%	47,022	328,517	17.36%	50,674	671,324

Safety is a 5 year contract.

The new safety contract started February 1, 2024.

1	Budgeted amounts remaining on contract per month:	Total Contract Spent	Contract End Date
	Local 17,806 6 2,967.67		
	Safety 1,168,993 49 23,857.00	204,029	1/3/2029
	FTA 47,489 6 7,914.83		
	Human Svcs 10,283 6 1,713.83		
	FHWA 206,962 6 34,493.67		
	<u>1,451,533</u> <u>70,947.00</u>		

OCO	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	
MTP Update	\$ 500,000	\$ 154,014	30.80%



Office of Planning, Highway Safety Section
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245
ph: 225-379-1950 | fx: 225-242-4552

Jeff Landry, Governor
Joe Donahue, Secretary

TO: Louisiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Executive Directors

FROM: Adriane McRae, P.E. *ASM*
Highway Safety Administrator

DATE: October 22, 2024

SUBJECT: HSIP Performance Measures and Establishing Targets

The FAST Act and subsequent federal rulemaking (23 CFR 490) established five performance measures related to highway safety. The measures are:

- Number of fatalities;
- Number of serious injuries;
- Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled;
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled; and
- Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

Federal regulations require the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to establish and report statewide highway safety performance targets by August 31st of each year to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). MPOs are required to either adopt and support the LADOTD's statewide targets or set their own targets specific to their areas. Annual targets will be expressed as five-year rolling averages and will be compared with a five-year rolling average base period comprising of the five calendar years ending prior to the year the targets are due.

LADOTD, in coordination with the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC), has established statewide targets for each of the five highway safety performance measures as follows:

- 1% annual reduction in fatalities from a 2023 baseline of 849 to a target of 832 in 2025.
- 1% annual reduction in serious injuries from a 2023 baseline of 2,145 to a target of 2,102 in 2025.
- 1% annual reduction in fatality rate from a 2023 baseline of 1.591 to a target of 1.560 in 2025.
- 1% annual reduction in serious injury rate from a 2023 baseline of 3.973 to a target of 3.893 in 2025.
- 1% annual reduction in non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries from a 2023 baseline of 502 to a target of 492 in 2025.

Similar to previous years, a steady percentage-based reduction was chosen as the most practical justification for determining the 2025 target.

As part of the target setting process, each year LADOTD will:

- Inform MPOs of the five performance measure targets established for the state each year in conjunction with the submittal of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Annual Report which is due August 31st of each year.
- Provide the number of fatalities, number of serious injuries, estimated vehicle miles traveled, and the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries for the five-year base period within the respective MPO Planning Area boundaries to MPOs. A web based tool has been developed for the MPOs to obtain this information and is accessible at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/LAHSIPTool2025>

NOTE: After consultation with the FHWA Division Office, the tool has been updated to include the revised Planning Area boundaries currently under review by FHWA. Please refer to “MPO Boundary Map” tab within the tool for more information. The crashes and VMT estimates have been recalculated for previous 5 years using the updated Planning Area boundaries.

- If requested, provide target setting guidance to MPOs should they decide to establish their own targets for one or more of the five performance measures.

Please note that since the adoption of the national injury definitions in 2019, suspected serious injuries have increased significantly. This can be attributed in part to the recent deployment of the new state sponsored crash reporting software, eCrash, which has definitions embedded in the software for easy access and reference for all law enforcement agencies investigating crashes. As a result, the State anticipates this has created more consistency and accuracy across the state with reporting serious injury crashes.

By February 27th of each year, MPOs are required to:

- Have their Policy Committees formally adopt the five safety targets through Long Range Transportation Plan amendment; and
- Provide LADOTD a letter confirming their action by their Policy Committee and the date of approval.

For informational purposes, please find enclosed a copy of the 2024 HSIP Implementation Plan which was recently submitted to FHWA in response to Louisiana not meeting 2022 targets or making significant progress. SHSP Infrastructure and Operations statewide leaders will be coordinating with various stakeholders as they work through action items identified in the plan.

Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office at 225-379-1950.

Enclosure

C: Connie Betts
Dawn Sholmire
Betsey Tramonte
Mary Stringfellow



**HAMMONDS, SILLS, ADKINS,
GUICE, NOAH & PERKINS LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1500 N. 19th Street, Suite 301
Monroe, LA 71201
PH 318-324-0101
FX 318-322-5375
800-960-5297

www.hamsill.com

January 24, 2025

Robert L. Hammonds
Harold J. Adkins
Jon K. Guice, APC
Elmer G. Noah, II, LLC
Neal L. Johnson, Jr., LLC
Alejandro R. Perkins
Linda K. Ewbank
Wayne T. Stewart
Evan M. Alvarez
Pamela Wescovitch Dill
Charles R. Hardie, VI
(Special Counsel)
John R. Blanchard
Jonathan D. Blalce
Andrew F. Barr
William P. Self
K. Kyle Celestin
Ashley U. Johnson

Gerard T. Morgan
(Special Counsel)
Timothy J. Rivera
Thomas M. Hayes, IV
(Special Counsel)
John B. Saye
(Special Counsel)
Casey C. Hollins
Benjamin D. Jones
Aaron J. Lawler
Marissa A. Baisie
J. Scott Thomas
(Special Counsel)
Parris A. Taylor
(Special Counsel)
Breanna R. Buffington

Of Counsel
Kenneth R. Sills

Mr. Doug Mitchell
Executive Director
North Delta Regional Planning
and Development District, Inc.
3000 Kilpatrick Blvd.
Monroe, LA 71201

VIA E-MAIL - doug@northdelta.org

Re: Ambulance Services Agreement -
Ambulance Service Advisory Board
2024 Annual Report

Dear Doug:

In my capacity as Contract Administrator, please accept the following as my 2024 Annual Report to the Ouachita Council of Governments. The Ambulance Service Advisory Board is comprised of seven (7) voting members. In 2024, Mr. Jay Lewis, ULM appointee, has served as Chairperson of the Board. Also serving on the Board are retired Monroe Fire Chief Terry Williams, Ouachita Parish Fire Chief Bobby Moore and West Monroe Fire Chief Charlie Simmons. The three medical centers located in Ouachita Parish are currently represented by Todd Worley (Glenwood), Andy Carter (Ochsner/LSU Health Monroe) and Kayla Johnson (St. Francis).

The Ambulance Service Advisory Board meetings are normally held on a quarterly basis. In 2024, board meetings were held at the City of Monroe Public Safety Center, 1810 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard on January 30, March 11, April 25, May 23, July 18, and November 14. Copies of the Minutes from each Board meeting are being provided along with this report. Per the Ambulance Ordinance, the 2024 Acadian Ambulance Rate Schedule was submitted and a 3% rate increase was approved. A copy of the 2024 Rate Schedule is attached.

Mr. Doug Mitchell
January 24, 2025
Page 2

RESPONSE TIME REPORTS

Under the terms of the Ambulance Services Agreement, Acadian is required to submit Response Time Reports to the Contract Administrator within fifteen (15) days of the end of the month. Acadian has met that requirement. Copies of the Response Time Reports are provided to each Board member in advance of every Board meeting. Response Time Reports are presented and reviewed at each board meeting by Keisha Sparks, the Operations Manager for Acadian Ambulance in Ouachita Parish. A Summary Compliance Report for each month is also being provided with this report. With some exceptions, generally noted to be in Zone 3, Acadian Ambulance has made a good faith effort to satisfy its Response Time obligations as required by the Agreement. Acadian submitted an Action Plan for improving response times on December 12. The Action Plan was reviewed by Acadian's Operations Manager, Keisha Sparks, at the January 16, 2025 Board meeting. A copy of the Action Plan is attached to this report.

COMPLAINTS

A small number of complaints were referred to the Contract Administrator for disposition in 2024. All of the complaints were addressed in a timely manner by Acadian Ambulance personnel.

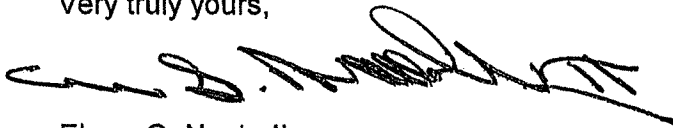
SUMMARY

Acadian Ambulance Service is making a good faith effort to comply with its contractual obligations and requirements as provided by the Ambulance Services Agreement. In accordance with the terms of the Ambulance Services Agreement, the agreement has been extended through December 31, 2026.

If you have any questions or desire further information, please let me know. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve as the Contract Administrator for the Ambulance Services Agreement.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Elmer G. Noah, II
Contract Administrator

EGNII/jm
Enclosures

cc: Mayor Friday Ellis, City of Monroe (w/enc.)
Mayor Staci Albritton Mitchell, City of West Monroe (w/enc.)
Mr. Shane Smiley, President, Ouachita Parish Police Jury, District E (w/enc.)
Mr. Jay Lewis, Chairperson, Ambulance Service Advisory Board (w/enc.)

DATE: January 27, 2025

ROLL CALL

	MEMBERS	PHONE #	EMAIL	PRESENT	ABSENT
X	Mayor Friday Ellis	318-329-2227	friday.ellis@ci.monroe.la.us		X
X	Mayor Staci Mitchell	318-396-2600	smitchell@westmonroe.la.gov		X
✓	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
JANUARY 27, 2025
12 NOON**

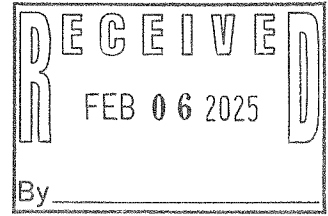
**PLEASE SIGN IN:
(Print Please)**

NAME	AGENCY REPRESENTING
Susan Gentry	DZID-Northeast
Rodger McConnell	Ouachita OEP
Mace Ken	Transit
Keisha Sparks	AASI
Jill Kennard	AASI
Colby Kennard	AASI
Jay Mitchell	OPPS
Elmer Noah	Amb Comm
Jackie Hardy	JDS.



Louisiana
GANNETT

PO Box 631825 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1825



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:

01/17/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 01/17/2025

Amy K. Kott

Legal Clerk

Nicole Jacobs

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

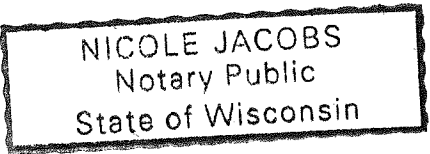
8-21-26

My commission expires

Publication Cost:	\$31.82	
Tax Amount:	\$0.00	
Payment Cost:	\$31.82	
Order No:	10948248	# of Copies:
Customer No:	1180458	0
PO #:	LLOU0223067	

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!

Please do not use this form for payment remittance.



OCOOG Meeting Notice

The regular meeting of the Ouachita Council of Governments is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025, at noon in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers.

January 17 2025

LOU0223067