

Ouachita Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2025

Members Present:	Mayor Staci Mitchell City of West Monroe	Toni Bacon Ouachita Parish Police Jury
	Gretchen Ezernack Monroe City Council	Shane Smiley Ouachita Parish Police Jury
	Ben Westerburg City of West Monroe	
Staff Present:	Doug Mitchell Executive Director	Shelby Rybicki Planner II
	Jeff Maxwell CPA	Jeffrey Tyler 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 Ben Westerburg and seconded by Shane Smiley to approve the June 23, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Transportation Policy Committee

Ed Elam with consultant firm ATG-DCCM gave a presentation on the draft 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

OCOG requested the following corrections:

1. Clarify the distinction between short-term and mid-term projects.
2. Ensure the project to widen I-20 to six lanes on both sides of the bridge is included in the vision list.
3. Correct the project description for Project #214.

A motion was made by Toni Bacon and seconded by Shane Smiley to accept the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendation and approve the **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan** with corrections for adoption. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Toni Bacon to ratify the actions of the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ambulance Advisory Board

No report.

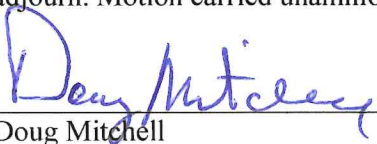
Long Term Recovery Board

No report.

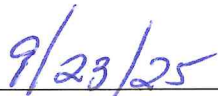
Northeast Delta Human Services Board

No report.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Ben Westerburg 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
AUGUST 25, 2025
NOON

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Action Item

RECESS OCOG

Action Item

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) – ADOPT

Presentation by: ATG-DCCM

Action Item

RECONVENE OCOG

Action Item

RATIFY ACTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Action Item

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Action Item

ADJOURNMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

Project List

Fiscally constrained projects are those that have been proposed and identified with a funding source. Nineteen projects have been selected and organized into time frames that reflect funding availability and planning priorities.

Short-term projects are estimated to be implemented from 2025 - 2030.

Medium-term projects are estimated to be implemented from 2031 - 2040.

Long-term projects are estimated to be implemented from 2041 - 2050.

Short-Term

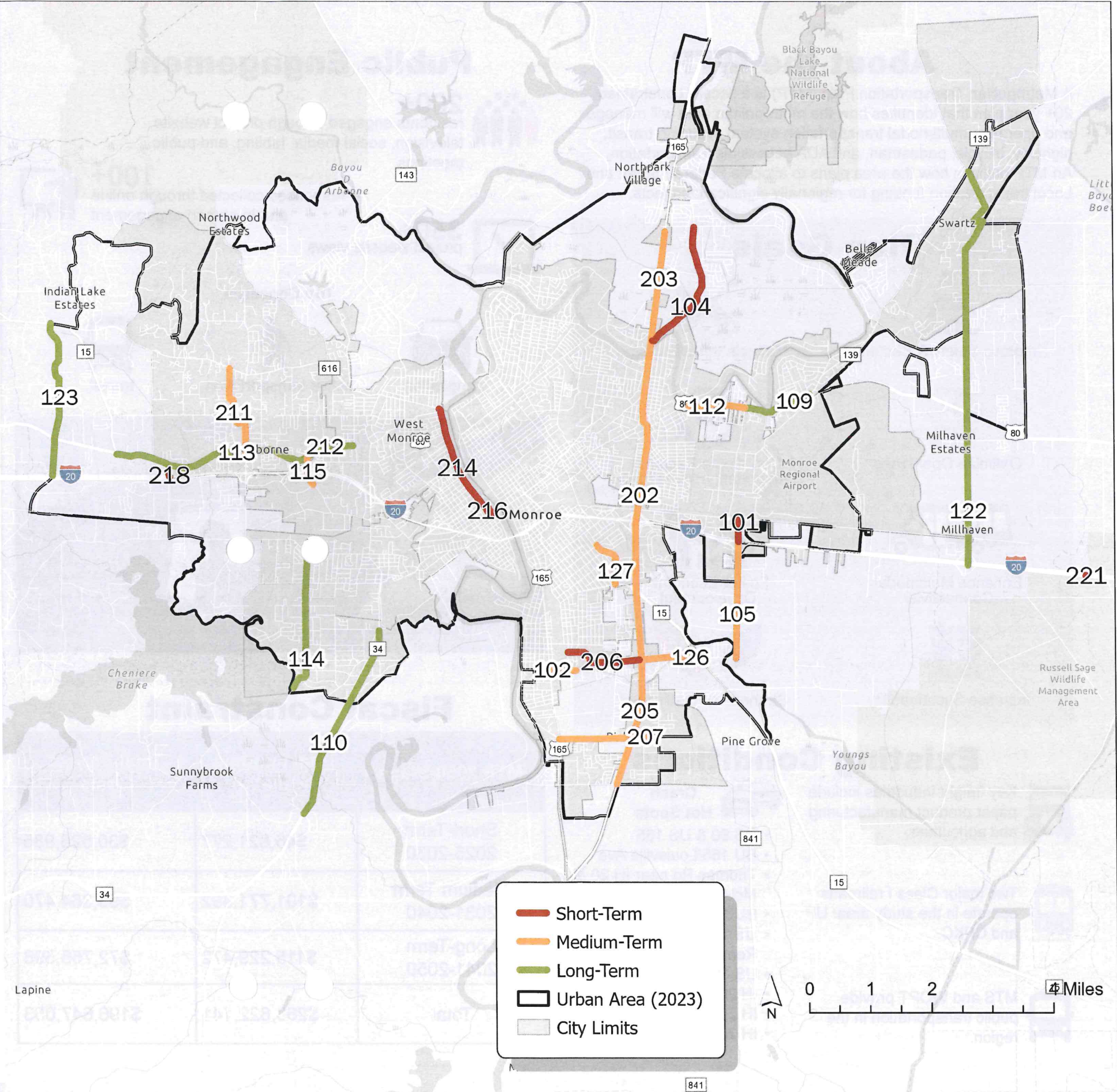
ID	Route	Description	2025 Cost
206	Bernstein St/Ticheli Rd	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$4,651,376
101	Garret Rd	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$10,631,060
104	Old Sterlington Rd	Center Turn Lane	\$8,410,707
216	Trenton St/Commerce St	Convert to Couplet	\$129,157
214	Trenton St/S Riverfront Ave	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$6,704,686
218	I-20	Construct Interchange	\$35,000,000
221	I-20 at Millhaven	Construct Interchange & New 2 Lane Roundabout	\$85,000,000

Medium-Term

ID	Route	Description	2025 Cost
127	Parkview Dr/S 12th St	Center Turn Lane	\$1,515,443
203	US 165 (Sterlington Rd)	Widen to 6 Lanes and New Bridge	\$24,973,806
202	US 165 (Sterlington Rd)	Widen to 6 Lanes	\$6,034,217
205	US 165	Widen to 6 Lanes	\$18,856,928
126	Tichelli Rd	Widen to 4 Lanes; Re-alignment	\$4,998,091
115	Downing Pines Rd	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$2,011,406
207	Richwood Rd 1	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$6,788,494
211	Wallace Dean Rd	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$6,453,260
112	US 80 (Desiard St)	Widen to 5 Lanes	\$3,939,003
105	Garret Rd	New 4 Lane Roadway	\$14,942,035
102	US 165-B Connector	New 2 Lane Roadway	\$2,851,788

Long-Term

ID	Route	Description	2025 Cost
109	US 80 (Desiard St)	Widen to 5 Lanes	\$4,609,471
122	LA 594	Widen to 4 lanes	\$27,363,498
123	LA 15 (Cheniere Drew Rd)	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$10,434,167
113	US 80 (Cypress St)	Widen to 5 Lanes	\$9,218,943
212	US 80 (Cypress St)	Widen to 5 Lanes	\$7,836,101
114	LA 3033	Center Turn Lane	\$8,600,137
110	LA 34 (Jonesboro Rd)	Widen to 4 Lanes	\$4,693,280



About the MTP

A Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a fiscally constrained 20+ year plan that identifies how the metropolitan area will manage and operate a multimodal transportation system including transit, highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and ADA accessible transportation. An MTP outlines how the area plans to allocate Federal, State, and Local transportation funding for regionally significant projects.

Plan Goals



Existing Conditions

Key freight industries include paper product manufacturing and agriculture.

Two major Class I railroads operate in the study area: UP and CPKC.

MTS and WOPT provide public transportation in the region.

Crash Hot Spots

- US 80 & US 165
- BU 165/Louisville Ave
- Thomas Rd near IH 20 & McMillan Rd
- BU 165 Near 18th St
- US 165 b/w Luberta and Renwick Sts
- US 165 & LA 15
- IH 20 & BU 165
- IH 20 & Thomas Rd
- IH 20 & Well Rd

Public Engagement

200+ residents engaged through project website, television, social media, tabling, and public meetings

350+ project website views

100+ responses collected through online and in-person engagement

Top Concerns

congestion

active transportation

transit

Fiscal Constraint

MTP 2050 Stage	Total Funding Available	Total Project Costs
Short-Term 2025-2030	\$46,821,277	\$30,526,985
Medium-Term 2031-2040	\$101,771,392	\$93,364,470
Long-Term 2041-2050	\$115,229,472	\$72,755,598
Total	\$263,822,141	\$196,647,053



Budget to Actual August 25, 2025

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>July 2025</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>June 2025</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	35,613	2,968	8.33%	-	-	0.00%	-	35,613
FTA	75,739	6,312	8.33%	7,596	7,596	10.03%	5,474	59,043
Human Svcs	15,000	1,250	8.33%	1,740	1,740	11.60%	919	8,273
FHWA	373,849	31,154	8.33%	40,482	40,482	10.83%	35,987	365,389
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>530,747</u>	38.66%	<u>18,421</u>	<u>18,421</u>	1.34%	<u>16,533</u>	<u>213,217</u>
TOTAL	1,873,223	572,430	40.09%	68,239	68,239	3.64%	58,913	681,535

Safety is a 5 year contract.

The new safety contract started February 1, 2024.

1 Budgeted amounts remaining on contract per month:

Local	35,613	11	3,237.55
Safety	1,055,613	42	25,133.64
FTA	68,143	11	6,194.82
Human Svcs	13,260	11	1,205.45
FHWA	<u>333,367</u>	11	<u>30,306.09</u>
	1,505,996		66,077.55

Safety

<u>Total Contract Spent</u>	<u>Contract End Date</u>
317,409	1/3/2029

OCOg	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		
MTP Update	\$ 500,000	\$ 490,104	98.02%	June 2025

DATE: August 25, 2025

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS	PHONE #	EMAIL	PRESENT	ABSENT
X Mayor Friday Ellis	318-329-2227	friday.ellis@ci.monroe.la.us		✓
• Mayor Staci Mitchell	318-396-2600	smitchell@westmonroe.la.gov	✓	
✓ Mr. Ben Westerburg	318-366-4488	bwesterburg@westmonroe.la.gov	✓	
✓ Ms. Gretchen Ezernack	318-366-1675	gretchen.ezernack@ci.monroe.la.us	✓	
✓ Ms. Toni Bacon	318-331-3188	toni.bacon@oppj.org	✓	
✓ Mr. Shane Smiley	318-267-8659	ssmiley@oppj.org	✓	

August 25, 2025
12 NOON

(Print Please)

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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:

06/27/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 06/27/2025





Legal Clerk


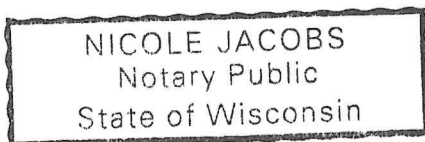
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Draft Document for Review

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held Monday, July 28, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers to hear comments on the Draft FY 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The document will be available for review for fourteen days at 3000 Kilpatrick Blvd., Monroe, LA 71201, and at <https://north-delta.org/mtp2050/>
June 27 2025
LLOU0322895

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
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08/14/2025

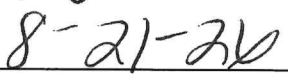
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NICOLE JACOBS
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

OCOOG Meeting Notice

The regular meeting of the Ouachita Council of Governments is scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2025, at noon in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers.

August 14 2025
LLOU0350703