

Ouachita Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2025

Members Present:	Mayor Staci Mitchell City of West Monroe	Ben Westerburg City of West Monroe
	Shane Smiley Ouachita Parish Police Jury	Toni Bacon Ouachita Parish Police Jury
Staff Present:	Doug Mitchell Executive Director	Shelby Rybicki Planner II
	Jeff Maxwell CPA	Jeffrey Tyler Planner II
	Susan Gentry Highway Safety Coordinator	

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 Toni Bacon to approve the September 22, 2025, meeting minutes. 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.

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Shane Smiley to accept the MPO Safety Performance Measures & Target Setting for advertisement as presented by Susan Gentry. Motion carried unanimously.

Ambulance Advisory Board

Elmer Noah presented the Ambulance Service Advisory Board 2025 Annual Report. Acadian Ambulance Service is making a good faith effort to comply with its contractual obligations and requirements as provided by the Ambulance Services Agreement. However, the Board has will soon initiate the process of soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFP) for a new ambulance services agreement. The expectation is to start the RFP process in early 2026.

Long Term Recovery Board

No report.

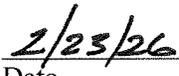
Northeast Delta Human Services Board

No report.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Toni Bacon 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
OCTOBER 27, 2025
NOON

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Action Item

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Action Item

MPO SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES & TARGET SETTING – INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Susan Gentry

Action Item

AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Elmer Noah

ADJOURNMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

Budget to Actual
October 27, 2025

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>September 2025</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>August 2025</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	35,613	8,903	25.00%	8,903	8,903	25.00%	-	35,613
FTA	75,739	18,935	25.00%	7,456	20,917	27.62%	5,865	59,043
Human Svcs	15,000	3,750	25.00%	1,256	3,569	23.79%	573	8,273
FHWA	373,849	93,462	25.00%	37,678	119,908	32.07%	41,285	365,389
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>655,628</u>	47.75%	<u>18,047</u>	<u>57,280</u>	4.17%	<u>20,812</u>	<u>213,217</u>
TOTAL	1,873,223	780,678	54.68%	73,340	210,577	11.24%	68,535	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	26,710	9	2,967.78
Safety	1,016,754	39	26,070.62
FTA	54,822	9	6,091.33
Human Svcs	11,431	9	1,270.11
FHWA	<u>253,941</u>	9	<u>28,215.67</u>
	1,363,658		64,615.50

<u>Safety</u>	
<u>Total Contract Spent</u>	<u>Contract End Date</u>
356,268	1/3/2029

OCO	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	
MTP Update	\$ 500,000	\$ 498,986	99.80% August 2025



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
Glenn Ledet, Jr., Secretary

TO: Louisiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Executive Directors

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

DATE: October 16, 2025

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 2024 baseline of 854 to a target of 837 in 2026.
- 1% annual reduction in serious injuries from a 2024 baseline of 2,568 to a target of 2,517 in 2026.
- 1% annual reduction in fatality rate from a 2024 baseline of 1.582 to a target of 1.550 in 2026.
- 1% annual reduction in serious injury rate from a 2024 baseline of 4.707 to a target of 4.613 in 2026.
- 1% annual reduction in non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries from a 2024 baseline of 562 to a target of 550 in 2026.

Similar to previous years, a steady percentage-based reduction was chosen as the most practical justification for determining the 2026 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/HSIPTargetSettingTool>
- 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 state sponsored crash reporting software, eCrash, within the last five years. The eCrash platform now 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 2025 HSIP Implementation Plan which was recently submitted to FHWA in response to Louisiana not meeting 2023 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, LADOTD
Dawn Sholmire, LADOTD
Betsey Tramonte, FHWA
Laura Phillips, FHWA
Mary Stringfellow, FHWA

Harold J. Adkins
Jon K. Guice, APC
Elmer G. Noah, II, LLC
Neal L. Johnson, Jr., LLC
Alejandro R. Perkins
Wayne T. Stewart
Evan M. Alvarez
John R. Blanchard
Andrew F. Barr
K. Kyle Celestin
Pamela Wescovich Dill*
Ashley J. Firven
Timothy J. Riveria
Thomas M. Hayes, IV*
John B. Saye*



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October 24, 2025

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*Special Counsel

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
2025 Annual Report

Dear Doug:

In my capacity as Contract Administrator, please accept the following as my 2025 Annual Report to the Ouachita Council of Governments. The Ambulance Service Advisory Board is comprised of seven (7) voting members. In 2025, Mr. Jay Lewis, ULM appointee, has served as Chairperson of the Board. Also serving on the Board are the representative for the City of Monroe, Jimmie Bryant, Ouachita Parish Fire Chief Bobby Moore and West Monroe Fire Chief Daniel Overturf. The three medical centers located in Ouachita Parish are currently represented by Rusty Breaux (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 2025, board meetings have been held at the City of Monroe Public Safety Center, 1810 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard on January 16, February 20, April 17, May 15, June 17, September 4, and October 16. Copies of the Minutes from each Board meeting are being provided along with this report. Per the Ambulance Ordinance, the 2025 Acadian Ambulance Rate Schedule was submitted and a 3% rate increase was approved. A copy of the 2025 Rate Schedule is attached.

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 the Operations Manager for Acadian Ambulance. A Summary Compliance Report for each

Mr. Doug Mitchell
October 24, 2025
Page 2

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, 2024. The Action Plan was reviewed by Acadian's Operations Manager, Keisha Sparks, at the January 16, 2025 Board meeting.

COMPLAINTS

A small number of complaints were referred to the Contract Administrator for disposition in 2025. All of the complaints were addressed in a timely manner by Acadian Ambulance personnel.

RFP DISCUSSIONS

The current Ambulance Services Agreement has been extended through December 31, 2026. OCOG has instructed the Ambulance Service Advisory Board to initiate the process of soliciting Requests for Proposals for a new ambulance services agreement. The minutes of the April 17, 2025 Advisory Board meeting reflect OCOG's directive to initiate the RFP process. Beginning with the May 15 board meeting, timelines and details from the last RFP done in 2018 were discussed. The expectation has been to start the RFP process in early 2026. Board meetings have been held to discuss the RFP process on June 17, September 4 and October 16.

SUMMARY

Acadian Ambulance Service appears to be making a good faith effort to comply with its contractual obligations and requirements as provided by the Ambulance Services Agreement. Zone 3 response time compliance continues to be a problem. The Action Plan to improve response times was implemented beginning on January 6, 2025. A BLS truck was added from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Also, on Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. a medic was assigned to help with wait times at St. Francis Medical Center. It was noted at the April board meeting that posting changes were being made and trucks were being added in Zone 3 to get better coverage. There were 13 day and 9 night ALS trucks and 3 day and 3 night BLS trucks. Classes have been established to add more staff.

On September 4 it was noted that 6 ambulances had been added. It was expected that 13 EMT's and 10 paramedics would be added within the next 2 months. At the last board meeting held on October 16, Operations Manager, Ty Soileau, stated that 7 trucks had been added in August and September to help accommodate out of town transports and peak hours. There are now a total of 13 ALS and 11 BLS trucks in service.

If you have any questions or desire further information, please let me know. |

Mr. Doug Mitchell
October 24, 2025
Page 3

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/ej
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.)

Acadian Ambulance Service Inc

Pricing Catalog 2025

Ouachita Parish

<u>Base Rate</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Emergency	\$1420.00	01/01/2025
Non Emergency	\$961.00	01/01/2025
Specialty Care Transport	\$2522.00	01/01/2025

<u>Mileage</u>		
Mileage	\$29.30	01/01/2025

<u>Air Rates</u>		
Air Med Base Rate	\$23,199.00	01/01/2025
Air Med Mileage	\$232.00	01/01/2025

DATE: October 27, 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	✓	
X	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	✓	

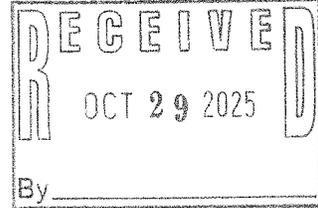
**OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING
MONROE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
October 27, 2025
12 NOON**

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

NAME	AGENCY REPRESENTING
Jamic Hanks	OPPJ
Kevin Crosby	OPRS
Jennifer Johnson	Jppj

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Ouachita Council Of Government
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Monroe LA 71201-5166

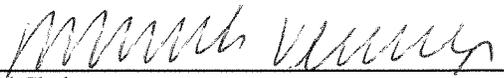


STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

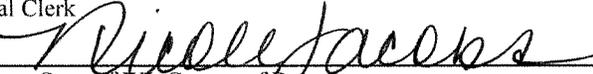
The News Star, a daily newspaper published in the city of Monroe, in the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

10/16/2025

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 10/16/2025



Legal Clerk



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

8-21-26

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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, October 27, 2025, at noon in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers.

October 16 2025

LLOU0388799