

Ouachita Council of Governments  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 2026

|                  |                                             |                                              |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Members Present: | Mayor Staci Mitchell<br>City of West Monroe | Ben Westerburg<br>City of West Monroe        |
|                  | Gretchen Ezernack<br>City of Monroe         | Larry Bratton<br>Ouachita Parish Police Jury |
| Staff Present:   | Doug Mitchell<br>Executive Director         | Shelby Rybicki<br>Planner II                 |
|                  | Jeff Maxwell<br>CPA                         | Jeffrey Tyler<br>Planner II                  |
|                  | Susan Gentry<br>Highway Safety Coordinator  | Ryan Emerick<br>GIS Planner                  |

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 Staci Mitchell to approve the October 27, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gretchen Ezernack and seconded by Larry Bratton to recess OCOG and enter into the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**Transportation Policy Committee**

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Gretchen Ezernack to approve the six (6) TIP Amendments for advertisement as presented by Jeffrey Tyler. Motion carried unanimously.

1. H.014676 Downtown Impr (Ph 1): Bridge St-Pine St  
*Move outside current TIP/STIP years*
2. H.014677 Downtown Impr (Ph 2): Pine St-Wood St  
*Move outside current TIP/STIP years*
3. H.014688 Arkansas Rd Rehab: N 7<sup>th</sup> -Trenton  
*Move outside current TIP/STIP years*
4. H.014691 Trenton St (Ph 1): Arkansas Rd-Cryer St  
*Move outside current TIP/STIP years*
5. H.015023 Standifer & Jackson Roadway Impr  
*Move outside current TIP/STIP years*
6. H.015660 Trenton St Shared-Use Path  
*Add phases in FFY 2026*

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Larry Bratton to adjourn the Transportation Policy Committee and reconvene OCOG. Motion carried unanimously.

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

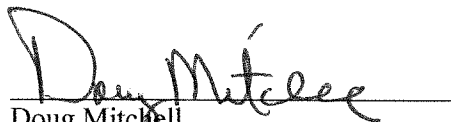
A motion was made by Gretchen Ezernack and seconded by Ben Westerburg to accept the Budget to Actual Report as presented by Jeff Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

**Ambulance Advisory Board**

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Gretchen Ezernack to approve the Acadian Ambulance 3% rate schedule increase as presented by Elmer Noah of the Ambulance Service Advisory Board. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larry Bratton and seconded by Gretchen Ezernack to accept the MPO Safety Performance Measures & Target Setting for adoption as presented by Susan Gentry. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Gretchen Ezernack and seconded by Ben Westerburg to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

  
Doug Mitchell  
Executive Director, OCOG

4/27/20  
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  
February 23, 2026  
NOON

## AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

*Action Item*

RECESS OCOG

*Action Item*

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. TIP AMENDMENTS – INTRODUCE

*Action Item*

RECONVENE OCOG

*Action Item*

RATIFY ACTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

*Action Item*

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

*Action Item*

AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

*Mr. Elmer Noah*

MPO SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES & TARGET SETTING 2025 – ADOPT

*Mrs. Susan Gentry*

*Action Item*

ADJOURNMENT

*\*HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT\**

**MONROE**

**Project: H.014676 DOWNTOWN IMPR (PH 1): BRIDGE ST-PINE ST**

**Request Type: Amendment**

**Request: Remove Project and Construction phase of \$475K of STP50-200k at 80/20 in FFY 2026 (Phase is moving outside current TIP/STIP years)**

Route: Cntrl Section: 000-37 Beg. Log Mile: 0 End Log Mile: 0 Parish: OUACHITA Non-State Road: TRENTON ST

Urbanized Area: Monroe

| Remarks                              | Type Improvement                        | Work Type     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH | STRIPING, STREET LIGHTING AND SIDEWALKS | URBAN SYSTEMS |

| Project Phase                                        | Project Cost        | Tot Cost (w/CE&I+IDC) | Federal Share       | Fund       | Year | Sponsor             |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|------|---------------------|
| *Construction                                        | \$475,000.00        | \$522,500.00          | \$418,000.00        | STP50-200K | 2028 | City of West Monroe |
| <b>Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)</b> | <b>\$475,000.00</b> | <b>\$522,500.00</b>   | <b>\$418,000.00</b> |            |      |                     |

\*Shown for informational purposes only (outside current TIP/STIP years)

**MONROE**

**Project: H.014677 DOWNTOWN IMPR (PH 2): PINE ST - WOOD ST**

**Request Type: Amendment**

**Request: Remove Project and Construction phase of \$475.8K of STP50-200K at 80/20 in FFY 2026 (Phase is moving outside current TIP/STIP years)**

Route: Cntrl Section: 000-37 Beg. Log Mile: 0 End Log Mile: 0 Parish: OUACHITA Non-State Road: TRENTON ST

Urbanized Area: Monroe

| Remarks                              | Type Improvement                        | Work Type     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH | STRIPING, STREET LIGHTING AND SIDEWALKS | URBAN SYSTEMS |

| Project Phase                                        | Project Cost        | Tot Cost (w/CE&I+IDC) | Federal Share       | Fund       | Year | Sponsor             |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|------|---------------------|
| *Construction                                        | \$475,800.00        | \$523,380.00          | \$418,704.00        | STP50-200K | 2029 | City of West Monroe |
| <b>Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)</b> | <b>\$475,800.00</b> | <b>\$523,380.00</b>   | <b>\$418,704.00</b> |            |      |                     |

\*Shown for informational purposes only (outside current TIP/STIP years)

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**MONROE**

**Project: H.014688 ARKANSAS RD REHAB: N 7TH - TRENTON**

**Request Type: Amendment**

**Request: Remove Project and Construction phase of \$820K of STP50-200K at 80/20 in FFY 2026 (Phase is moving outside current TIP/STIP years)**

Route: Cntrl Section: 000-37 Beg. Log Mile: 0 End Log Mile: 0 Parish: OUACHITA Non-State Road: ARKANSAS RD

Urbanized Area: Monroe

| Remarks                              | Type Improvement                            | Work Type     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH | MILL AND OVERLAY WITH SHOULDER AND SIDEWALK | URBAN SYSTEMS |

| Project Phase                                        | Project Cost        | Tot Cost (w/CE&I+IDC) | Federal Share       | Fund       | Year | Sponsor             |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|------|---------------------|
| *Construction                                        | \$820,000.00        | \$902,000.00          | \$721,600.00        | STP50-200K | 2027 | City of West Monroe |
| <b>Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)</b> | <b>\$820,000.00</b> | <b>\$902,000.00</b>   | <b>\$721,600.00</b> |            |      |                     |

\*Shown for informational purposes only (outside current TIP/STIP years)

**MONROE**

**Project: H.014691 TRENTON ST. PH.1 (ARKANSAS RD- CRYER ST)**

**Request Type: Amendment**

**Request: Remove Project and Construction phase of \$1.075M of STP50-200K at 80/20 in FFY 2026 (Phase is moving outside current TIP/STIP years)**

Route: Cntrl Section: 000-37 Beg. Log Mile: 0 End Log Mile: 0 Parish: OUACHITA Non-State Road: TRENTON ST

Urbanized Area: Monroe

| Remarks                              | Type Improvement               | Work Type     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH | MILL, OVERLAY AND NEW SIDEWALK | URBAN SYSTEMS |

| Project Phase                                        | Project Cost          | Tot Cost (w/CE&I+IDC) | Federal Share       | Fund       | Year | Sponsor             |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|------|---------------------|
| *Construction                                        | \$1,075,000.00        | \$1,182,500.00        | \$946,000.00        | STP50-200K | 2029 | City of West Monroe |
| <b>Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)</b> | <b>\$1,075,000.00</b> | <b>\$1,182,500.00</b> | <b>\$946,000.00</b> |            |      |                     |

\*Shown for informational purposes only (outside current TIP/STIP years)

**Project:** H.015023 STANDIFER & JACKSON ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS  
**Request Type:** Amendment

**Request:** Remove Project and Construction phase of \$195K of STP50-200K at 80/20 in FFY 2026 (Phase is moving outside current TIP/STIP years)

**Route:**                                      Cntrl Section: 000-37                      Beg. Log Mile:                      0 End Log Mile:                      0 Parish:                      OUACHITA    Non-State Road:    STANDIFER AVE

**Urbanized Area:**    Monroe

|                                 |                      |               |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Remarks</b>                  | Type Improvement     | Work Type     |
| CITY OF MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH | ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS | URBAN SYSTEMS |

| Project Phase                                 | Project Cost | Tot Cost (w/CE&I+IDC) | Federal Share | Fund       | Year | Sponsor        |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|------|----------------|
| *Construction                                 | \$195,000.00 | \$214,500.00          | \$171,600.00  | STP50-200K | 2029 | City of Monroe |
| Total Cost (includes only phases shown above) | \$195,000.00 | \$214,500.00          | \$171,600.00  |            |      |                |

\*Shown for informational purposes only (outside current TIP/STIP years)

Project: H.015660 TRENTON STREET SHARED-USE PATH  
 Request Type: Amendment  
 Request: Add Project and Right of Way phase of \$400K of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026  
 Request: Add Project and Utility Relocation phase of \$2.95M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026  
 Request: Add Project and Construction phase of \$2.9M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026  
 Route: Cntrl Section: 000-37 Beg. Log Mile: 0 End Log Mile: 0 Parish: OUACHITA Non-State Road: TRENTON ST  
 Urbanized Area: Monroe

## Budget to Actual February 23, 2026

|            | <u>Contract<br/>Budget</u> | <u>Y-T-D<br/>Budget</u> |        | <u>January<br/>2026</u> | <u>Y-T-D</u>   |        | <u>December<br/>2025</u> | <u>Prior<br/>Year</u> |
|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|----------------|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Local      | 35,613                     | 20,774                  | 58.33% | 8,903                   | 17,806         | 50.00% | -                        | 35,613                |
| FTA        | 75,739                     | 44,181                  | 58.33% | 6,903                   | 49,966         | 65.97% | 8,263                    | 59,043                |
| Human Svcs | 15,000                     | 8,750                   | 58.33% | 632                     | 5,678          | 37.85% | 197                      | 8,273                 |
| FHWA       | 373,849                    | 218,079                 | 58.33% | 27,688                  | 241,577        | 64.62% | 29,261                   | 365,389               |
| Safety     | <u>1,373,022</u>           | <u>780,510</u>          | 56.85% | <u>23,497</u>           | <u>132,894</u> | 9.68%  | <u>16,534</u>            | <u>213,217</u>        |
| TOTAL      | 1,873,223                  | 1,072,294               | 75.11% | 67,623                  | 447,921        | 23.91% | 54,255                   | 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      | 17,807         | 5        | 3,561.40         |
| Safety     | 941,141        | 35       | 26,889.74        |
| FTA        | 25,773         | 5        | 5,154.60         |
| Human Svcs | 9,322          | 5        | 1,864.40         |
| FHWA       | <u>132,272</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>26,454.40</u> |
|            | 1,126,315      |          | 63,924.54        |

| <u>Safety</u>                       |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Total<br/>Contract<br/>Spent</u> | <u>Contract<br/>End<br/>Date</u> |
| 431,881                             | 1/3/2029                         |

| OCO        | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Y-T-D</u> |         |
|------------|---------------|--------------|---------|
| MTP Update | \$ 500,000    | \$ 500,000   | 100.00% |

**Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc.**  
**Pricing Catalog**  
**Ouachita Parish**

|                           | <b><u>2026 Rates</u></b> | <b><u>Effective Date</u></b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b><u>Base Rate</u></b>   |                          |                              |
| Emergency                 | \$1,463.00               | January 1, 2026              |
| Non Emergency             | \$ 990.00                | January 1, 2026              |
| Specialty Care Transports | \$2,598.00               | January 1, 2026              |
| <br><b><u>Mileage</u></b> |                          |                              |
| Mileage                   | \$ 30.18                 | January 1, 2026              |
| <br><b><u>Air Med</u></b> |                          |                              |
| Air Med Base Rate         | \$23,895.00              | January 1, 2026              |
| Air Med Mileage           | \$ 238.96                | January 1, 2026              |

These rates are to be applied to transports with an origin within Ouachita Parish.

We are proposing a 3% increase.



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 31<sup>st</sup> 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

DATE: **February 23, 2026**

ROLL CALL

|   | MEMBERS               | PHONE #      | EMAIL                             | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| ✓ | Mayor Staci Mitchell  | 318-396-2600 | smitchell@westmonroe.la.gov       | ✓       |        |
| ✗ | Mayor Friday Ellis    | 318-329-2227 | friday.ellis@ci.monroe.la.us      |         | ✓      |
| · | Mr. Shane Smiley      | 318-267-8659 | ssmiley@oppj.org                  |         | ✓      |
| ✓ | Mr. Ben Westerburg    | 318-366-4488 | bwesterburg@westmonroe.la.gov     | ✓       |        |
| ✓ | Ms. Gretchen Ezernack | 318-366-1675 | gretchen.ezernack@ci.monroe.la.us | ✓       |        |
| ✓ | Mr. Larry Bratton     | 318-614-3370 | larrybratton2019@gmail.com        | ✓       |        |

**12 NOON**

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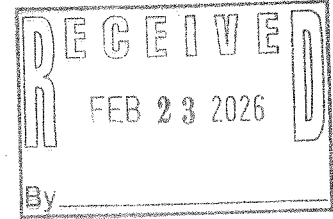
# USA TODAY CO.



PO Box 631825 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1825

## **AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

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

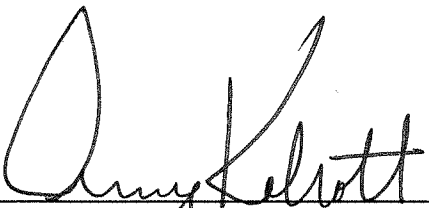


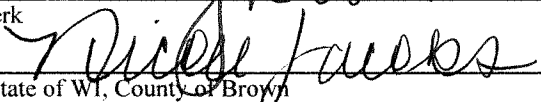
STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

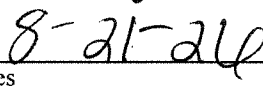
The News Star, a daily newspaper published in the city of Monroe, in the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana, and personal knowledge of the facts herein state and that the notice hereto annexed was Published in said newspapers in the issue:

02/12/2026

and that the fees charged are legal.  
Sworn to and subscribed before on 02/12/2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

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

|                   |             |              |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
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*Please do not use this form for payment remittance.*

NICOLE JACOBS  
Notary Public  
State of Wisconsin

# OCOOG Meeting Notice

The regular meeting of the Ouachita Council of Governments is scheduled for Monday, February 23, at noon in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers.

February 12 2026  
LLOU0457477