

Ouachita Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2026

Members Present:	Mayor Staci Mitchell City of West Monroe	Ben Westerburg City of West Monroe
	Mayor Friday Ellis City of Monroe	
	Shane Smiley Ouachita Parish Police Jury	Larry Bratton Ouachita Parish Police Jury
Staff Present:	Doug Mitchell Executive Director	Shelby Rybicki Planner II
	Jeff Maxwell CPA	Jeffrey Tyler Planner II
	Ryan Emerick GIS/Planner	

A public hearing was held March 23, 2026, at the Council Chambers of the Monroe Government Plaza at 11:30 a.m. to hear comments from the public regarding the six (6) TIP Amendments introduced at the previous February 23, 2026, OCOG meeting. There were no comments.

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 Larry Bratton and seconded by Shane Smiley to approve the February 23, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Transportation Policy Committee

A motion was made by Larry Bratton and seconded by Friday Ellis to approve the six (6) TIP Amendments for adoption 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 7th – 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 FY 2026

A motion was made by Friday Ellis and seconded by Larry Bratton to approve the TIP Amendment H.014679 Kiroli Rd Sidewalks and Striping for advertisement as presented by Jeffrey Tyler. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Ben Westerburg to approve the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program and supporting documents for advertisement as presented by Doug Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Friday Ellis and seconded by Larry Bratton to ratify the actions of the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ambulance Service Advisory Board

Elmer Noah presented OCOG with an update on the ambulance service provider RFP process.

The current ambulance provider has repeatedly fallen short of compliance in Zone 3 of the ambulance response zone map. Due to this compliance issue, the Advisory Board approved a revised map wherein the original three compliance zones are consolidated into two zones. Zone 1, comprised of the City of Monroe and City of West Monroe, will have a response time of under 8 minutes. Zone 2, comprised of area outside city limits, will have a response time of under 16 minutes.

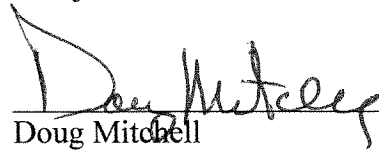
Mayor Mitchell asked the Ambulance Service Advisory Board to revise the new zone map that the Board previously approved. OCOG would like to see a map created by using urban boundaries combined with City Limits of Monroe and West Monroe.

The Ambulance Service Advisory Board plans to advertise the RFP in May to seven different newspapers in Louisiana. The advertisement will state that RFP packets are available for pickup beginning Monday, May 11, 2026. Proposals must be submitted to Doug Mitchell no later than 4:00 PM on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

Olivia Caskey, Air Evac employee and concerned citizen, asked if OCOG would consider completing an EMS feasibility study.

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Staci Mitchell to accept the Ambulance Advisory Board Report, on the condition that the requested change is made to the response zone map, as presented by Elmer Noah. Motion carried unanimously.

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



Doug Mitchell
Executive Director, OCOG

Date 4/27/26



OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Monroe

West Monroe

Ouachita Parish

3000 KILPATRICK BLVD • MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201

OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONROE GOVERNMENT PLAZA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
April 27, 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 – ADOPT

Action Item

1. H.014676 Downtown Impr (Ph 1): Bridge St-Pine St
2. H.014677 Downtown Impr (Ph 2): Pine St-Wood St
3. H.014688 Arkansas Rd Rehab: N 7th -Trenton
4. H.014691 Trenton St (Ph 1): Arkansas Rd-Cryer St
5. H.015023 Standifer & Jackson Roadway Impr
6. H.015660 Trenton St Shared-Use Path

B. TIP AMENDMENT – INTRODUCE

Action Item

1. H.014679 Kiroli Rd Sidewalks and Striping

C. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS – INTRODUCE

Action Item

1. FY 26-27 UPWP
2. FY 26-27 UPWP Resolution
3. FY 26-27 OCOG & North Delta Contract
4. FY 26-27 OCOG Authorizing Resolution

RECONVENE OCOG

Action Item

RATIFY ACTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Action Item

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Action Item

AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Action Item

ADJOURNMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

*Adopting

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

CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH

Type Improvement

STRIPING, STREET LIGHTING AND SIDEWALKS

Work Type

URBAN SYSTEMS

Project Phase

Project Cost

Fund

Year

Sponsor

*Construction

\$475,000.00

STP50-200K

2028

City of West Monroe

Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)

\$475,000.00

\$418,000.00

2028

City of West Monroe

*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

CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH

Type Improvement

STRIPING, STREET LIGHTING AND SIDEWALKS

Work Type

URBAN SYSTEMS

Project Phase

Project Cost

Fund

Year

Sponsor

*Construction

\$475,800.00

STP50-200K

2029

City of West Monroe

Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)

\$475,800.00

\$418,704.00

2029

City of West Monroe

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

6

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

CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH

Type Improvement

MILL AND OVERLAY WITH SHOULDER AND SIDEWALK

Work Type

URBAN SYSTEMS

Project Phase

Project Cost

Fund

Year

Sponsor

*Construction

\$820,000.00

STP50-200K

2027

City of West Monroe

Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)

\$820,000.00

\$721,600.00

2027

City of West Monroe

*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

CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH

Type Improvement

MILL, OVERLAY AND NEW SIDEWALK

Work Type

URBAN SYSTEMS

Project Phase

Project Cost

Fund

Year

Sponsor

*Construction

\$1,075,000.00

STP50-200K

2029

City of West Monroe

Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)

\$1,075,000.00

\$946,000.00

2029

City of West Monroe

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

MONROE

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

Remarks

CITY OF MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH

Type Improvement

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Work Type

URBAN SYSTEMS

Project Phase

Project Cost

Fund

Year

Sponsor

*Construction

\$195,000.00

STP50-200K

2029

City of Monroe

Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)

\$195,000.00

\$171,600.00

2029

City of Monroe

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

MONROE

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: 0

OUACHITA

Non-State Road: TRENTON ST

Urbanized Area: Monroe

Remarks

CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH

OTHER / MISCELLANEOUS

Project Phase

Right of Way

Utility Relocation

Construction

Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)

Project Cost

\$400,000.00

\$2,950,000.00

\$2,900,000.00

\$6,250,000.00

Tot Cost (w/CE&+IDC)

\$400,000.00

\$2,950,000.00

\$3,190,000.00

\$6,540,000.00

Federal Share

\$320,000.00

\$2,360,000.00

\$2,552,000.00

\$5,232,000.00

Fund

DEMO

DEMO

DEMO

DEMO

Year

2026

2026

2026

Sponsor

City of West Monroe

*Introducing

MONROE

Project: H.014679 KIROLI RD SIDEWALKS AND STRIPING

Request Type: Amendment

Request: Remove Project and Construction phase of \$460K of STP50-200K at 80/20 in FFY 2026 (As per the MPO, H.014679 (KIROLI RD SIDEWALKS AND STRIPING) is being cancelled; the scope of work for H.014679 will be done under H.013371 (KIROLI RD SIDEWALKS AND PED IMPROVEMENTS) using TAP funds.)

Route:

Cntrl Section: 000-37

Beg. Log Mile: 0

End Log Mile: 0

Parish: 0

OUACHITA

Non-State Road: KIROLI RD

Urbanized Area: Monroe

Remarks

CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH

URBAN SYSTEMS

Project Phase

Construction

Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)

Project Cost

\$0.00

\$0.00

Tot Cost (w/CE&+IDC)

\$0.00

\$0.00

Federal Share

\$0.00

\$0.00

Fund

STP50-200K

STP50-200K

Year

2026

Sponsor

City of West Monroe

Budget to Actual
April 27, 2026

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>March 2026</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>February 2026</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	35,613	26,710	75.00%	8,903	26,709	75.00%	-	35,613
FTA	75,739	56,804	75.00%	10,457	67,663	89.34%	7,240	59,043
Human Svcs	15,000	11,250	75.00%	940	8,127	54.18%	1,509	8,273
FHWA	373,849	280,387	75.00%	30,827	309,195	82.71%	36,791	365,389
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>842,950</u>	61.39%	<u>26,489</u>	<u>181,880</u>	13.25%	<u>22,497</u>	<u>213,217</u>
TOTAL	1,873,223	1,218,101	85.32%	77,616	593,574	31.69%	68,037	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	8,904	3	2,968.00
Safety	892,155	33	27,035.00
FTA	8,076	3	2,692.00
Human Svcs	6,873	3	2,291.00
FHWA	<u>64,654</u>	3	<u>21,551.33</u>
	980,662		56,537.33

<u>Safety</u>	
<u>Total Contract Spent</u>	<u>Contract End Date</u>
480,867	1/3/2029

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

DATE: **April 27, 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	✓	

OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS MEETING
MONROE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

April 27, 2026
12 NOON

PLEASE SIGN IN:
(Print Please)

NAME	AGENCY REPRESENTING
Rodger McConnell	DHS/EP
Taylor Richard	Acadian
Daniel Bowens	Acadian
1/1 SotEAU	Acadian
Chy Smith	Acadian
Jennifer Johnson	OPP/JP
Olivia Caskey	Air EVAC
Robert Smith	A72 EVAC
STEPHEN MOFFAT	AIR EVAC
Robert Moore	OPFD
JAMIE HANKS	OPP J

USA TODAY CO.



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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:

MON Monroe News Star 05/18/2026
MON thenewsstar.com 05/18/2026

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 05/18/2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Kollett".

Legal Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Jacobs".

Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

8-21-26

My commission expires

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NICOLE JACOBS
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Documents for Public Review

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Monday, June 22, at 11:30 a.m. in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers to hear comments on the Draft FY 26-27 UPWP and supporting documents as well as Draft TIP Amendment H.014679. All documents will be available for review at 3000 Kilpatrick Blvd., Monroe, LA 71201, and at www.northdelta.org.

May 18 2026

LLOU0519759