

Ouachita Council of Governments
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026

Members Present:	Mayor Staci Mitchell City of West Monroe	Ben Westerburg City of West 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 on August 24, 2026, at the Council Chambers of the Monroe Government Plaza at 11:30 a.m. to hear comments from the public regarding **TIP Amendment H.015660 Trenton Street Corridor Ped Safety Ph 1** introduced at the previous July 27, 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 July 27, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Shane Smiley 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 Shane Smiley to approve the following TIP Amendment for adoption as presented by Jeffrey Tyler. Motion carried unanimously.

1. H.015660 Trenton Street Corridor Ped Safety Ph 1
 - *Change project name from "Trenton Street Shared-Use Path" to "Trenton Street Corridor Ped Safety Ph 1"*
 - *Remove Utility Relocation phase of \$2.95M to of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026*
 - *Remove Right of Way phase of \$1.5M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026*
 - *Change Construction phase from \$2.9M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026 to \$4.2M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026*

A motion was made by Ben Westerburg and seconded by Shane Smiley to approve the following TIP Amendment for introduction as presented by Marc Keenan. Motion carried unanimously.

1. MTS Financial Budget Amendment for FFY 2026

A motion was made by Shane Smiley and seconded by Larry Bratton to approve TIP 2027-2030 for introduction as presented by Doug Mitchell. Motion carried unanimously.

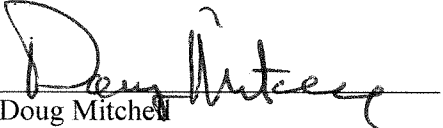
A motion was made by Larry Bratton and seconded by Ben Westerburg to reconvene OCOG and to ratify the actions of the Transportation Policy Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ambulance Service Advisory Board

Elmer Noah presented the Ambulance Service Advisory Board Report. The Board is finalizing the Ambulance Contract with Acadian Ambulance, and it will be ready to sign by next month's meeting.

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

10/2/26
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 24, 2026

NOON

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Action Item

RECESS OCOG

Action Item

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

A. TIP AMENDMENT – ADOPT

Action Item

1. H.015660 Trenton Corridor Ped Safety Ph 1

B. TIP AMENDMENT – INTRODUCE

Action Item

1. MTS Financial Budget Amendment for FY 2026

C. TIP 2027-2030 – INTRODUCE

Action Item

RECONVENE OCOG & RATIFY ACTIONS OF TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Action Item

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

Action Item

AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD

ADJOURNMENT

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT



OUACHITA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Monroe

West Monroe

Ouachita Parish

3000 KILPATRICK BLVD • MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201

MEMO:

TO: Members of the Ouachita Council of Governments

FROM: Shelby Rybicki, Planner II

RE: Meeting Notice/Draft Agenda

DATE: August 14, 2026

A meeting of the Ouachita Council of Governments is scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2026, at noon, at the Council Chambers of the Monroe Government Plaza.

DRAFT Agenda:

1. Review and approval of previous meeting minutes
2. Transportation Policy Committee
 - a) TIP Amendment – Adopt
3. Budget to Actual Report
4. Ambulance Service Advisory Board
5. Other Business
6. Adjourn

HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

* Amendment

MONROE													
Project: H.015660 TRENTON STREET CORRIDOR PED SAFETY PH 1													
Request Type: Amendment													
Request: Change project name from "TRENTON STREET SHARED-USE PATH" to "TRENTON STREET CORRIDOR PED SAFETY PH 1"													
Request: Remove Utility Relocation phase of \$2.95M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026													
Request: Remove Right of Way phase of \$1.5M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026													
Request: Change Construction phase from \$2.9M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026 to \$4.2M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026													
Route:		Cntl 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		PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS		DEMO / HIGH PRIORITY									
Project Phase		Project Cost		Tot Cost (w/CE&I+IDC)		Federal Share		Fund		Year		Sponsor	
Construction		\$4,200,000.00		\$4,620,000.00		\$3,696,000.00		DEMO		2026			
Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)		\$4,200,000.00		\$4,620,000.00		\$3,696,000.00							

revised amendment on 8.20.26 per ladotd

* Amendment

MONROE													
Project: H.015660 TRENTON STREET SHARED-USE PATH													
Request Type: Amendment													
Request: Change Utility Relocation phase from \$2.95M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026 to \$4.8M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026													
Request: Remove Construction phase of \$2.9M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026 (phase is moving outside current STIP years)													
Route:		Cntl Section: 000-37		3eg. Log Mile:		0 End Log Mile:		0 Parish: OJACHITA Non-State Ro: TRENTON ST					
Urbanized Area:		Monroe											
Remarks		Type Improvement		Work Type									
CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH		SHARED-USE PATH		DEMO / HIGH PRIORITY									
Project Phase		Project Cost		Tot Cost (w/CE&I-IDC)		Federal Share		Fund		Year		Sponsor	
Utility Relocation		\$4,800,000.00		\$4,800,000.00		\$3,840,000.00		DEMO		2026			
Construction		\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00							
ly phases shown above)		\$4,800,000.00		\$4,800,000.00		\$3,840,000.00							

introduced at OCOG meeting on 7.27.26

* Modification

MONROE									
Project: H.015660 TRENTON STREET SHARED-USE PATH									
Request Type: Administrative Modification									
Request: Change Right of Way phase of \$400K of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026 to \$1.5M of DEMO at 80/20 in FFY 2026									
Route:		Cntrl Section: 000-37		Beg. Log Mile: 0		End Log Mile: 0		Parish: 0	
Urbanized Area: Monroe		OUACHITA		Non-State Rr: TRENTON ST					
Remarks		Type Improvement				Work Type			
CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH		SHARED-USE PATH				DEMO / HIGH PRIORITY			
Project Phase		Project Cost		Tot Cost (w/CE&+IDC)		Fund		Year	
Right of Way		\$1,500,000.00		\$1,500,000.00		DEMO		2026	
Total Cost (Includes only phases shown above)		\$1,500,000.00		\$1,500,000.00		\$1,200,000.00		City of West Monroe	

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

Remarks	Type Improvement	Work Type
CITY OF WEST MONROE TO PROVIDE MATCH	SHARED-USE PATH	OTHER / MISCELLANEOUS

Project Phase	Project Cost	Tot Cost (w/CE&I+IDC)	Federal Share	Fund	Year	Sponsor
Right of Way	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$320,000.00	DEMO	2026	City of West Monroe
Utility Relocation	\$2,950,000.00	\$2,950,000.00	\$2,360,000.00	DEMO	2026	
Construction	\$2,900,000.00	\$3,190,000.00	\$2,552,000.00	DEMO	2026	
Total Cost (includes only phases shown above)	\$6,250,000.00	\$6,540,000.00	\$5,232,000.00			

MONROE TRANSIT FINANCIAL BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2026

Project Description	Implementing Agency	Federal FY	Funding Statue	Federal Amount	Non-Federal Amount	Obligation Year
Capital - Facility Renovations	151- City of Monroe	2026	5307	250,000	62,500	2026
Capital - Bus Technology Upgrades	151- City of Monroe	2026	5307	750,000	187500	2026

MONROE TRANSIT FINANCIAL PLAN AMENDMENT FOR FY 2026

Section 5307-Capital		
Project Description	Fed FY 26	
Facility Renovations		937,500
Bus Technology upgrades		312,500
Bus Engines		
Mobile Fare Collection System		
Support Vehicle		
Bus Stations Stops & Terminals		
Other Capital Items (Bus)		375,000
Metropolitan Planning		
Bus Support Equip/Facilities		
Federal Share		1,300,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT		1,625,000.00
City/Local Share		325,000.00
Section 5307-Operating		
		Fed FY 26
Federal Share		1,787,000.00
City/Local Share		1,787,000.00
Total		3,574,000.00
Section 5307-Preventative Maintenance		
		Fed FY 26
Federal Share		155,646.00
City/Local Share		38,912.00
Total		194,558.00
Section 5307 TOTALS		
		Fed FY 26
Federal Share		3,242,646.00
City/Local Share		2,150,912.00
Total Eligible Project		5,393,558.00
Section 5339 Capital		
Project Description		Fed FY 26
Bus Rolling Stock - Electric Bus		
Bus Technology upgrades		
Electric Charging Station		250,000.00
Transit Terminal Project		
Totals		250,000.00
Federal Share		200,000.00
City/Local Share		50,000.00

Budget to Actual
August 24, 2026

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>June 2026</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>May 2026</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	35,613	35,613	100.00%	8,905	35,613	100.00%	-	35,613
FTA	75,739	75,739	100.00%	3,445	86,822	114.63%	5,628	59,043
Human Svcs	15,000	15,000	100.00%	2,280	15,071	100.47%	4,159	8,273
FHWA	373,849	373,849	100.00%	33,630	389,344	104.14%	25,309	365,389
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>686,511</u>	50.00%	<u>32,362</u>	<u>228,529</u>	40.78%	<u>22,393</u>	<u>213,217</u>
TOTAL	1,873,223	1,186,712	83.12%	80,622	755,379	40.33%	57,489	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	-	1	-
Safety	813,144	30	27,104.80
FTA	-	1	-
Human Svcs	-	1	-
FHWA	-	1	-
	<u>813,144</u>		<u>27,104.80</u>

<u>Safety</u>	
<u>Total Contract Spent</u>	<u>Contract End Date</u>
559,878	1/3/2029

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

Budget to Actual
August 24, 2026

	<u>Contract Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D Budget</u>		<u>July 2026</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>		<u>June 2026</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Local	\$ 35,613	\$ 2,968	8.33%	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 8,905	\$ 35,613
FTA	75,210	6,268	8.33%	7,201	7,201	9.57%	3,445	59,043
Human Svcs	15,000	1,250	8.33%	574	574	3.83%	2,280	8,273
FHWA	373,849	31,154	8.33%	36,418	36,418	9.74%	33,630	365,389
Safety	<u>1,373,022</u>	<u>709,395</u>	51.67%	<u>23,216</u>	<u>23,216</u>	42.47%	<u>32,362</u>	<u>213,217</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,872,694	\$ 751,034	52.60%	\$ 67,409	\$ 67,409	3.60%	\$ 80,622	\$ 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	789,928	29	27,238.90
FTA	68,009	11	6,182.64
Human Svcs	14,426	11	1,311.45
FHWA	<u>337,431</u>	11	<u>30,675.55</u>
	1,245,407		68,646.08

<u>Safety</u>	
<u>Total Contract Spent</u>	<u>Contract End Date</u>
583,094	1/3/2029

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	
Federal Sources	645,056	58,685	9.10%
Local Sources	146,155	8,724	5.97%
Other Revenues	<u>55,500</u>	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	846,711	67,409	
Expenditures	<u>846,711</u>	<u>71,557</u>	8.45%
Net	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,148)</u>	

DATE: August 24, 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		

PLEASE SIGN IN:
(Print Please)

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USA TODAY CO.



PO Box 631825 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1825

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Shelby Rybicki
Shelby Rybicki
3000 Kilpatrick Blvd
Suite 1
Monroe LA 71201

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:

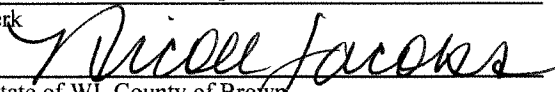
MON Monroe News Star 07/30/2026
MON thenewsstar.com 07/30/2026

and that the fees charged are legal.
Sworn to and subscribed before on 07/30/2026

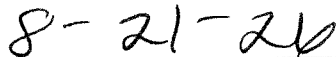




Legal Clerk



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown



8-21-26

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NICOLE JACOBS
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Draft TIP Amend- ment

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers to hear comments on Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment H.015660. The amendment will be available for review for fourteen days at 3000 Kilpatrick Blvd., Monroe, LA 71201, and at www.north-delta.org.

July 30 2026

LLOU0566005

ORDER DETAILS

PREVIEW FOR AD NUMBER LLOU05742970

Order Number:

LLOU0574297

External Order #:

12552859

Order Status:

Approved

Classification:

Public Notices

Package:

General Package

1 Affidavit:

13.29

Marketplace Online Akron:

0.00

Total payment:

49.26

Payment Type:

Account Billed

User ID:

[REDACTED]

External User ID:

1180458

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Ouachita Council Of Government

3000 Kilpatrick BLVD

Monroe, LA 71201-5166

318-387-2572

[REDACTED]

Ouachita Council Of Government

Contract ID: GOVTNON

TRANSACTION REPORT**Date**

August 10, 2026 3:19:36 PM EDT

Amount:

49.26

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

1 Affidavit

SCHEDULE FOR AD NUMBER LLOU05742970

August 13, 2026

Monroe News-Star

**OCOg Public Hearing
Notice**

The regular meeting of the Ouachita Council of Governments is scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2026, at noon in the Monroe Government Plaza Council Chambers. A public hearing will be held at 11:30 a.m. to hear comments from the public regarding the Draft TIP Amendment H.015660 Trenton St. Shared-Use Path. The amendment is available for review for fourteen days at 3000 Kilpatrick Blvd., Monroe, LA 71201, and at www.north-delta.org.

August 13 2026
LLOU0574297