



RESILIENT LOUISIANA COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR DON PIERSON

CO-CHAIR TERRIE STERLING

Resilient Louisiana Commission

Task Force Presentations:

Economic & Community Development Task Force, Transportation & Infrastructure Task Force

Monday, June 15, 2020

Meeting called to order at: 9:01 a.m.

Commission members present:

- Terrie Sterling
- Sec. Don Pierson
- Commissioner Jay Dardenne
- Dr. Jim Richardson
- Bill Hogan
- Walt Leger, III
- Ti Martin
- Sonia Perez
- Tyron Picard
- Jade Brown Russell
- Tim Temple

Meeting

- Resilient Louisiana Commission director Andrew Doss opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. and began by welcoming members and guests, and thanking them for input, especially during the final week of the commission. He stated that the meeting is available via zoom, public can access minutes and other info at opportunitylouisiana.com
- Andrew took roll and confirmed there was a quorum. He also confirmed that the meeting could be held virtually under the rules of Governor John Bel Edwards' Executive Proclamation 2020-41.
- Andrew introduced two co-chairs. LED Secretary Don Pierson thanked commissioners and task force participants for the work and the many hours put in in preparation for today's presentation. Terrie Sterling said she looked forward to presentations this week, applaud efforts of commissioners and task force members.
- Andrew then introduced the first presentation of the day, from the economic and community development task force. He introduced the presenting co-chair, Mr. Scott Martinez.

Presentation: Economic and Community Development Task Force

- Task Force co-chair Scott Martinez began by thanking on behalf of the task force, all participants in the preceding discussions. He also thanked fellow co-chair Michael Hecht for his broad knowledge and phenomenal leadership. He acknowledged that Michael would not be able to participate in call.
- Scott then listed all of the task force participants: Jerry Bologna, Jim Clinton, Guy Cormier, Flozell Daniels, Chris DeGulle, John Gallagher, Adam Knapp, Ramesh Kolluru, Vic LaFont, Camille Manning-Broome, Chris Masingill, Quentin Messer, Jan Moeller, Michael Olivier, Odell Riley, Rocky Rockett, Larkin Simpson, George Swift, Tana Trichele, Troy Wayman, Michael Williamson, Pat Witty
- For both the short- and long-term items the task force wanted to address with COVID-19, they desired to be cognitive of being inclusive and making sure we they were not addressing only one particular group or region. The task force wanted to be cognitive of spurring economic developing in the various sectors of the economy, and even looked at obstacles facing the state's economy prior to COVID-19 and opportunities that will come out of COVID-19.

- Scott informed the audience that the task force looked at Louisiana’s reliance on tourism and energy, which were both dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the task force looked at other sectors that were in immediate risk.
- The task force did a sector impact assessment. Additionally, the committee had discussions regarding historic Louisiana data and how it relates to COVID numbers and immediate risk to workers. With the leading tenant a public safety and health, the task force created a list of important priorities.
 - Health and Safety first
 - General Protocols
 - General Employee Policies
 - Sick-leave Policy
 - Sector-Specific Protocols
 - Louisiana has already seen some things take place with retail and restaurants in terms of capacity and opening up service sector items.
 - These are import to local governments that rely on tax revenues
 - Access to PPE
 - Task Force representatives shared regional issues early on with access to PPE, each region having various levels of accessibility.
 - Education and Childcare
 - With the issue of childcare is usually something not addressed with economic development, but it became especially important in reopening the economy.
 - Legal Liability
 - Financial Support
 - LA: Open for Business
 - “Keep the Dollars at Home”
 - State Infrastructure
 - Community Infrastructure
 - DBE and Small Business Support
 - Support for Workers
 - Support for Healthcare
 - Technology for Safety, Efficiency and Prosperity
 - Clear Communication
 - Progress Tracking
 - Reopening Guidelines
- In addition to immediate needs, the task force also discussed Post-COVID 19 recommendations, as well as items that were prevalent before COVID that should be addressed:

- Early Childhood education
 - K-12 Education
 - Higher Education and Workforce
 - It continues to be very important and being addressed as we reopen the economy.
 - Taxes
 - Scott shared that Louisiana has a complex tax system, saying that when looking at the composite, Louisiana has one of the lowest, but navigating through the system is problematic when attracting companies
 - Fiscal Policy Reform
 - Pension Reform
 - The State Constitution and the need for its simplification to increase fiscal flexibility.
 - Transportation and Other Infrastructure
 - Technology and Innovation
 - Leverage the work of the Louisiana Cybersecurity Commission – Louisiana has become a leader and we should continue to be one.
 - Business Prospects in the New Normal
 - Grow foundational industries while also encouraging innovation and diversification of industries.
 - Health and well-being, social determinates of health
 - Community Reinvestment and Redevelopment
 - It is still early on with Opportunity Zones, some have not been fully leveraged. Leveraging the assets and tools that are in the toolbox.
- Andrew Doss opened the meeting up to see if there were commissioners who had questions.
 - Jim Richardson asked Scott If he was able to list top 2 and Top 3 priorities. Scott replied that Health and Safety is number One, but that he personally thinks Broadband and simplifying the tax code are also top priorities.
 - Terri Sterling spoke of the importance of sick leave, and asked if there is a specific policy recommendation. Scott replied that he didn't believe there was a specific policy recommendation from the task force.
 - Terri asked if there was any dialogue on minimum wage. Scott said he did not recall any but acknowledged its importance.
 - Tim Temple asked if the task force discussed how to work with Louisiana manufacturers to fill the need for PPE. Scott said that the issue seemed to correct itself overtime, but

there was a discussion on the state level of a centralized procurement. Commission Co-Chair Secretary Don Pierson said that the Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center discussed this.

- Sonia Perez asked if there was any discussion about the FCC funding being made available, stating that the FCC does not fund area deployment where states have already deployed it, and if the state made an investment, it would preclude Louisiana from making use of FCC funds. She asked if there was a discussion about that? Scott replied that the discussion was not held, but such insights can be included in the task force's report. Co-Chair Pierson stated that the complexity of this topic is challenging, and that with regulatory bodies, sources of funding, new legislation – so many moving parts – that discernment of a clear path forward is quite the challenge right now.
- Andrew Doss signaled the conclusion of the Economic and Community Development Task Force's presentation time, and turned the meeting over to Shawn Wilson to discuss the Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force.

Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force

- Task force co-chair Shawn Wilson introduced the task force Co-chair Gregg Morrison and other members: Gerrelda Davis, Bill Hogan, Tim Temple, Robert S. Boh, Steve Davison, Randy P. Guilliot, Jaclyn Hotard, Bryan Jones, Renee Lapeyrolerie, Robert Maness, James E. Mayo, Sandra McQuain, Dan "Blade" Morrish, Roger Ogden, Drew Tessier, Dinero' Washington.
- Co-chair Gregg Morrison provided the presentation, stating that the task force covered a lot of sectors, which required a lot of time, but the participation of Bill Hogan and Tim Temple was quite helpful.
- Shawn is resident expert as Sec. of DOTD. Shawn Wilson is Secretary for the Department of Transportation and Development, and said he was the defacto expert on the task force. The task force had five or six calls with offline work as well.
- He stated that transportation was determined to be an essential service that the state should provide, DOTD and the larger transportation service continued to work. The industry witnessed a little slow down on the vertical side, but in terms of the public, all of infrastructure were open.
- The state's early estimates were that Louisiana was going to lose \$50 million in revenue for infrastructure investments per quarter, based on national average. Louisiana ultimately fared better than that average. Still, others sectors were down: transits saw a

75 percent to 90 percent of ridership. Aviation was no different – 50 to 90 percent reduction compared to next year.

- The projects that can be seen under development today were projects that were funded several years ago. The problems that Louisiana faces is the latent effect of the revenue dollars that did not come in. Shawn said that if you don't have folks moving goods or materials from one port to the next, you'll see a downturn there too.
- The task force identified four priorities to help support the transportation and infrastructure sector:
 - Provide appropriate education modes to prevent the spread of COVID in public mobility
 - Provide gap funding to transportation Trust Fund to sustain construction efforts.
 - Provide gap funding to the aviation sector to address costs related to travel reductions.
 - Provide gap funding to the transit sector to address fair box shortages (Federal CARES act provides some funding for the aviation and transit sector).
- In Post- covid recommendations, surface transportation has not received some of the funding of aviation and others. The task force developed several recommendations:
 - Increase sustained state funding to address state's transportation infrastructure needs.
 - Request federal stimulus funding focused on interstate widening. It's important, but only after securing gap funding.
 - Request for federal stimulus focused on bridge repair/replacement.
 - Request for federal stimulus focused on congestion relief and reduction
 - Request for federal stimulus on resilience projects, as in flood prevention.
 - Request for federal stimulus focused on public works
 - Request for federal stimulus focused on segments of the independent utility of mega projects that benefit from phasing
 - Identify federal support for projects of interest to local governments that are not part of the state system.
 - Request for federal stimulus focused on commuter rail
 - Addressing truck parking shortage
 - Expanding aviation service across the state, only after the gap has been filled for the other above interests.
 - Transit services across the state.

- Shawn said that, last, but not least, he can't stress enough for both public and private sector the need for federal funding.
- Gregg Morrison provided closing comments, encouraging the members for the RLC to support the request for stimulus dollars. He acknowledged that everyone is aware of the backlog, but stated that infrastructure dollars have the biggest ROI of anything. Some studies show the return is as much as 3x. If Louisiana could get stimulus dollars, it could put up to 3,000 people to work in a matter of months.
- Morrison concluded his remarks by saying his participation in the task force was a good exercise and he appreciated everyone who served.
- Andrew Doss opened meeting up to question from commission members.
- Tyron Picard said that the indication we're getting from DC is for congress to wrap up a stimulus package toward the end of July. Shawn Wilson asked to continue that conversation offline to discuss increasing numbers in Louisiana's favor.
- Jim Richardson asked for clarity on airport funding, as some of the allocations are based on the more debt you have the less funding you got? Shawn affirmed this point, saying that the metric that Congress used unintentionally punished those small and mid-sized airports, as well as new airports in Lafayette and New Orleans. Conversations are underway to correct that.
- Jim Richardson also asked if the state had we thought of any other method for raising money for highway and infrastructure funding other than a gas tax. Shawn said that he doesn't anticipate electric vehicles will have a major impact, the return on which will be diminutive. The gas tax it is still the main source of funding that the Louisiana uses. Some sources of funding that other states use, go to general funds in Louisiana.
- Terrie Sterling asked about equity in terms of average wages, health benefits, and what have Shawn has seen as best practices. Shawn replied that on the equity issue, in the construction industry, the private side is very competitive, and they understand what it means to have a strong business culture, while in the public sector, we're not especially competitive.
- Andrew Doss acknowledged that the meeting was going over time, but open the meeting up for public comments.
- Dorien Nunez asked if it possible to get a copy of the report that was mentioned. Andrew Doss said that it is a private working draft. Dorien Nunez how would someone

go about working with the commission to point out existing sources of funding in the CARES Act. Shawn thanked Mr. Nunez, and said that we have made use of the funding that is provided by CARES act. There are some items included in the CARES act that affect transportation industry, but are outside of DOTD.

- Referencing the meeting's extended length, Terrie Sterling asked if the Commission wanted to extend the presentation windows to 40 or 45 minutes for questions, or did the Commission want to shorten presentation portion to allow for 10 for comments. Commissioners support extending time, but were reminded that scheduling limitations may prevent extending time.
- Co-chair Pierson concluded the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.