

**Rapides Area Planning Commission
Transportation Policy Committee - Meeting**

Date: September 3, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Location: Rapides Area Planning Commission Conference Room & Online (Zoom)

Attendees:

Mayor Joe Bishop	Craig Smith	Laura Phillips (online)
Nathan Martin	Ollie Overton	Jonathan Bolen
Mayor Jacques Roy	Ralph Hennessy	Nick Blackstone
Jules Green	Troy Russell	Matt Johns

Summary:

The Transportation Policy Committee meeting on September 3, 2025, focused on conducting the public hearing for the MPA stormwater study. Key findings included identifying 14 areas of mitigation interest, with five critical areas: Downs Lane, McKinsey Drive, Horseshoe Drive Canal, Camilla Place, and Cypress Garden. The study used advanced modeling and community input to develop a working H&H model. Recommendations emphasized incorporating stormwater mitigation into MPO projects, targeting flood-prone corridors, and standardizing stormwater ordinances. The committee also discussed the importance of proper drainage maintenance and the potential for future development opportunities along old rail corridors.

Agenda:

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Mayor Bishop called to meeting to order.
2. Roll call conducted by Mr. Bolen and confirmed a quorum was present.
3. Online attendance checked.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

1. Mayor Bishop entertained a motion to approve minutes from June 11, 2025, TPC meeting.
2. Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Craig Smith, seconded by Mr. Jules Green.
3. On vote the motion unanimously passed, minutes accepted.

Item 3: Stormwater Study Public Hearing

- Mayor Roy entertains a motion close the TPC meeting and open the public hearing.
- Mr. Martin makes a motion, seconded by Mr. Ollie Overton. On vote the motion unanimously passed.
- Mayor Roy calls the public hearing to order.
- Mr. Bolen explains the purpose of the hearing: to present the findings of the MPA stormwater study and receive public comment; details the robust process of the study, including advanced hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, fieldwork, and community input.; explains the modeling results, including the depth-times-velocity raster model and flood risk under multiple storm scenarios; reviewed study key findings and recommendations.
- Mayor Roy opens the floor for public comment and entertains a motion for a three-minute limit per speaker. Mayor Bishop makes the motion, seconded by Mr. Overton and approved unanimously.

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- No public comments were made online or in person at the time.
- Mayor Roy notes public comment period will remain open until September 22 and accepted by letter, email, or RAPC online comment form.
- Mr. Green reiterates the success of the New Scott Ollie open house and the importance of continued public input.
- Mr. Bolen emphasizes the comprehensive, cooperative, and collaborative (3C) nature of the planning process.
- Stakeholders and officials discussed the sufficiency of public outreach and participation. Suggestions for a public outreach campaign to remind residents to maintain drainage infrastructure and prevent debris blockages. Additional recommendations include expanding public education on resilience, mitigation, and insurance, and developing toolkits for local communities.
- Stakeholders and officials discussed the importance of gravity-fed drainage versus reliance on pumps, the impact of new developments on stormwater infrastructure, and the need for uniform ordinances and continued public education.
- Mayor Roy entertains a motion to close the public hearing. Motion to adjourn moved by Mr. Overton, seconded by Mr. Smith. On vote the motion unanimously passed.

Item 4: Other Business

- Mr. Bolen provided updates for Safe Streets for All and Reconnecting Communities grants, provided summary of work to be completed.
- Mayor Roy discussed the City of Alexandria's "Reignite" project in partnership with CSRS, focusing on the Masonic Drive corridor and broader parish development recommendations. Parish-wide study results to be shared with all stakeholders for planning purposes.
- Mr. Bolen announced upcoming TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) call for projects for the next TIP FFY2027-2030, and encouraged members to submit project ideas.

Item 5: Adjournment

- Mayor Roy entertains a motion to adjourn TPC meeting. Motion made by Mayor Bishop, seconded by Mr. Overton.
- No opposition; meeting adjourned.

Action Items:

- Organize a workshop with stakeholders to discuss aligning stormwater management ordinances across jurisdictions.
- Provide updates on the status of the Safe Streets for All and Reconnecting Communities grants.
- Develop a public outreach campaign to educate residents on maintaining drainage infrastructure and preventing debris blockages.
- Explore opportunities to incorporate stormwater mitigation into upcoming transportation projects.
- Share information on the "Reignite" project and its potential to unlock funding for drainage and infrastructure improvements.