

This is the quarterly newsletter of the Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association. We hope you will find the articles informative and useful, and we encourage you to forward the email to anyone who may be interested in the content. Good Roads' mission is to advocate for a well-planned, adequately funded transportation system in Louisiana to facilitate economic development, provide good jobs and improve the quality of life for all citizens. Please let us know how we can improve this newsletter by emailing our editor at lambertmedia@eatel.net. Thank you for your time.
Ken Perret, President



LOUISIANA GOOD ROADS & TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

GOOD ROADS ALERT

www.louisianagoodroads.org

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Most local tax measures approved

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Louisiana voters overwhelmingly approved most transportation-related tax measures in the November 6 election, according to complete but unofficial results from the [Secretary of State](#).



The biggest and closest contest was in the greater New Orleans area, where a 20-year toll renewal on the Crescent City Connection was approved by only 18 of more than 300,000 votes cast. The approval means the tolls that were reinstated on the bridge in 1989 will continue at least until 2033. The vote had to pass a majority of combined voters in Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes. Voters in Jefferson and Plaquemines voted against the measure, but Orleans voters pushed the total vote to 154,393 to 154,375. The only proposition in Louisiana that failed was in Ascension Parish, where President Tommy Martinez and the parish council asked voters to approve a new, ½-cent sales tax to fund road improvements. The measure failed, with 59 percent of the parish voters against the new tax.

One other new tax, a 1-mil property tax to fund a public transportation system in Madison Parish, squeaked by with 51 percent. The margin of difference in that proposition was only 42 votes.

Other parishes that passed transportation-related renewals include:

- Allen, a 5.3-mil tax, with 56 percent voting yes
- East Carroll, an 8.24-mil tax for bridges, with 63 percent voting yes
- Evangeline, a combination renewal and new sales tax, with 56 percent voting yes
- Franklin, a 1% sales tax renewal, with 69 percent voting yes
- Livingston, a 5-mil renewal, with 57 percent voting yes
- Tangipahoa, a 1% sales tax renewal, with 62 percent voting yes
- West Carroll, a 1% sales tax renewal, with 69 percent voting yes

Good Roads annual meeting notice



The LGRTA Annual Meeting and Annual Board of Directors meeting will take place on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012 at the Baton Rouge Country Club on Jefferson Highway. The board meeting will take place at 11 a.m. and is open only to board members. The general membership meeting, which is open to all members of LGRTA, will take place at noon.

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Port Allen Rotary Club

Good Roads creates revenue task force

Good Roads President Ken Perret announced the formation of a transportation revenue task force that will work with political leaders as the state begins a tax reform effort.

"We have an opportunity to be a player in this effort," Perret said. "We all understand the need to develop a new model for transportation funding in Louisiana as we modify the current per-gallon fuel tax that supports the state transportation trust fund." Governor Bobby Jindal has said he wants to focus on tax reform in the 2013 legislative session.

The state's 20.4 cents-per-gallon fuel tax is not sufficient to meet the state's transportation needs, but raising that tax to meet current road and bridge needs would be politically impossible, Perret said. Other options, including tolls, accelerating the transfer of vehicle sales tax revenue to the trust fund and/or adopting a vehicle-miles-traveled funding model have been discussed as potential revenue generators.

New! Good Roads develops e-newsletter

Beginning with this Fall 2012 issue, Good Roads will distribute an electronic version of this newsletter. The newsletter will be sent via email to all members who have provided Good Roads with a valid email address. If you would like to receive the e-newsletter, make sure Good Roads has an updated email address. You can send your email address to Debbie Husser at debbieh@lagc.org to be included on the list. We also would like to hear your opinions about switching from this printed version of the newsletter to an all-electronic version of the newsletter. Let us know at debbieh@lagc.org, or you can write us at Good Roads, P.O. Box 3713, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.



DOTD unveils new logo



Good Roads President Ken Perret visits with Port Allen Rotary Club President Joni LeRay, right, and Rotary Officer Kendall Hebert, left at the group's October 30 meeting. Perret talked to the group about the importance of a solid transportation system to economic development.

Wes Bolinger



FHWA Louisiana Administrator Wes Bolinger, left, was the guest speaker at October's Good Roads' Board of Directors' meeting. Bolinger discussed changes in federal funding as a result of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), the new federal highway spending bill.



[DOTD](#) has a new look. According to the department, extensive research and focus group surveys involving DOTD staff, metropolitan planning organizations, legislators, contractors and consultants

revealed that there was not strong external recognition of the department and its efforts. To more clearly communicate the commitment to transportation, DOTD unveiling a new logo and brand position focusing on the department's ability to connect people, places and businesses.

"We appreciate how many of you participated in the research process to provide us valuable feedback concerning the future of DOTD," DOTD said in a news release. "The information gathered not only helped to launch this new look but provided us a road map toward continued customer awareness and service. Being mindful of the economic concerns across the department and state, DOTD will update its marketing materials only as they need to be reprinted to limit overall costs. However, you will be seeing more and more use of our new logo."

DOTD said the orange lettering in the new logo represents innovation, boldness, safety and construction. The lettering is forward leaning and, the swoosh in the 'O' through the bottom graphic denotes movement. The bottom graphic is an abstract representation, incorporating the department's multimodal focus on transportation. The gray portion represents roads and airports, blue for waterways and green for environmental beautification. Additionally, the words "Transportation & Development" are bolded at the bottom to emphasize the department's role as a leader across the state.

DOTD completes big-ticket projects

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development recently completed construction on several large projects across the state.

One of the biggest projects recently completed was interchange improvements and widening of Interstate 12 in Slidell. The \$25.7 million project was paid for by state surplus funds. DOTD officially celebrated the project's completion on November 5. According to DOTD, the project widened I-12 from four to six lanes from the I-10/I-12/I-59 interchange to just west of Vincent's Bayou Bridge, a distance of about two miles. In addition, the I-12 eastbound off-ramp to Northshore Boulevard was widened from one to two lanes, and a deceleration lane was added at the I-12 westbound off-ramp to Airport Road.



Huey P. Long Bridge receives landmark status

The Huey P. Long Bridge in Jefferson Parish has joined famous structures such as the Eiffel Tower and the Panama Canal as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the [American Society of Civil Engineers](#). The landmark designation was bestowed upon the 77-year-old bridge in September. The bridge, which is now undergoing a [\\$1.2 billion widening](#), is one of less than 250 structures to receive that designation and only the third in Louisiana. The other two are the Eads South Pass Navigation Works south of New Orleans and the McNeill Street Pumping Station in Shreveport. When the HPL Bridge was designed in 1926, engineers had limited tools to for measurement and calculation, so they had to "overbuild" the bridge. The fact that it is structurally sound enough to accommodate the massive expansion is a testament to the skill and ingenuity of those engineers and those who built the bridge.

"This project is a welcomed improvement and will allow for safer, more efficient travel for the 70,000 plus drivers who use this road each day," DOTD Secretary Sherri LeBas said in a news release.

In Lafayette, LeBas announced on November 1 that the department had completed a widening project on U.S. 90 from Pinhook Road to Broussard, a 7.1-mile project that cost \$20 million. LeBas called the widening a significant step in the construction of the Interstate 49 Extension between Lafayette and New Orleans.

LeBas pointed out that DOTD has invested more than \$193 million in I-49 South.

Also in the Acadiana area, DOTD recently opened the Patout Bridge at Weeks Island, a new swing-span bridge along La. 83 in Iberia Parish. The \$16 million project began in May 2010. DOTD kept the old bridge open while building the new bridge. State Representative Simone Champagne said in a DOTD news release that the project "not only provides a safer and more efficient commute for motorists, but it also adds to the economic growth of the agriculture industry in this region."

DOTD also recently installed 22.5 more miles of cable barrier on Interstate 10 between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Since 2008, DOTD has installed more than 78 miles of the cable barrier on interstates 10 and 12, and the department says it has had no cross-over accidents in areas where the barrier has been installed.

The latest project, which cost \$2.7 million, began in October 2011 and included Jefferson, St. John the Baptist, Ascension and East Baton Rouge parishes.

In Ruston, DOTD held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 24 to mark completion of intersection improvements at U.S. 80 and U.S. 167. The \$609,000 project added one lane to the intersection to alleviate congestion.

DOTD also has completed several smaller projects in New Orleans in the federally funded Paths to Progress street improvement program. Paths to Progress is a regional program designed to rehabilitate dozens of roadway segments that suffered damage from Hurricane Katrina. The eight projects completed in October were in New Orleans East and Lower Ninth Ward.



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