



LOUISIANA GOOD ROADS & TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION, INC. GOOD ROADS ALERT

www.louisianagoodroads.org

Fall 2013 - In This Issue:

Hall of Honor



TIMED "a great success"



U.S. 165 in Kinder was just one of the hundreds of roadway segments completed under TIMED. A total of 536 miles of roadway were widened under the program.

Kam Movassaghi to be inducted into Hall of Honor

Dr. Kam Movassaghi, a teenage immigrant from Iran who rose to become a Louisiana engineering icon and leader in academic, public service, civic and business circles, will be inducted into the Louisiana Highways and Transportation Hall of Honor in a November 13 ceremony.

Movassaghi reflects on TIMED program

Kam Movassaghi's role in expediting the TIMED program in the 1990s is well established; what may not be as well known is that program was almost left for dead after years of limping along in a dismally underfunded pay-as-you-go mode.

"The tax was going to expire, the projects were not being completed, and general feeling in the Legislature was, "Well, maybe it was a good idea, but let's be realistic, we'll never be able to afford all these projects," Movassaghi said in a recent interview.

Movassaghi, who was advocating a longer-term financing approach to the program, then was the head of the civil engineering department at ULL, and Frank Denton was secretary of DOTD. When Denton departed, Governor Mike Foster contacted Movassaghi. "I didn't know what he wanted, but if the governor calls you, you go." Foster told Movassaghi he had heard the engineer had been talking about salvaging the statewide program, and Movassaghi said, yes, if the four-cent gas tax for TIMED was bonded to acquire up-front cash, TIMED could be completed in about 10 years. Foster agreed and tapped Movassaghi as the next DOTD secretary.

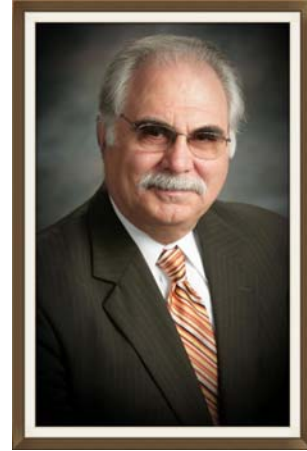
Meanwhile, TIMED's dedicated four-cent gas tax was about to expire. "Juba Diez (then head of the House Transportation Committee) said, 'I can get the tax extended,'" Movassaghi said. "The governor said OK, and that's what we needed."

TIMED still wasn't out of the woods. Movassaghi



John James Audubon Bridge

Dr. Movassaghi's induction was unanimously endorsed by the six sponsoring organizations of the Hall of Honor; the Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association, Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana State Police, American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana, Louisiana Associated General Contractors and the Louisiana Engineering Society. He will become the 42nd inductee into the prestigious Hall of Honor.



Kam Movassaghi, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE

Dr. Movassaghi humbly accepted the news of his induction. "I'm very thankful that I've had a fantastic career, opportunities to serve and be associated with some great people," he said. "This honor is the cherry on top of my ice cream sundae."

Dr. Movassaghi is best known as the former secretary of DOTD, where he served from 1998-2004 under former Governor Mike Foster. As secretary, one of Dr. Movassaghi's signature accomplishments was expediting the statewide TIMED program, 16 major transportation projects across the state. Under Dr. Movassaghi's leadership, TIMED was converted from a pay-as-you-go program that would have taken another 30+ years to complete to a 10-year program leveraging bonds, thereby saving taxpayers millions of dollars and completing the projects at least 20 years ahead of schedule. Completed projects under TIMED include the newly widened Huey P. Long Bridge in Jefferson Parish, the Audubon Bridge in West Feliciana Parish and several highways connecting north and south Louisiana, including U.S. 165, U.S. 167 and U.S. 171.



JJA's expansion joints allow 2 feet of expansion.

knew the accelerated TIMED program would need additional management oversight, but now he was leading an agency that wasn't enamored with the idea of bringing in an outside

consultant to manage the program. "South Carolina had done something similar to TIMED utilizing program management, and that's what we needed to do," he said. "But anytime you start something new, there are skeptics."

Once the list of potential consultants was pared down to three, Movassaghi said the political pressure to pick certain firms was "unbelievable." In the end, Movassaghi and DOTD were able to select what the agency objectively considered to be the best team to manage TIMED. "I'm very grateful to Governor Foster for supporting us and not backing down to the pressure," he said.

Overall, TIMED is a Louisiana success story. The program widened 536 miles of two-lane highways to four lanes across the state, it built a new Mississippi River bridge linking West Feliciana and Pointe Coupee parishes, completely refurbished the Huey P. Long Bridge and made considerable improvements to the Port of New Orleans and the Louis Armstrong International Airport. Although two of the 16 projects remain incomplete (La. 3241 is review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Florida Avenue Bridge project is being re-evaluated in light of Hurricane Katrina's impact), TIMED put thousands of people to work, contributed billions of dollars to the state and local



HPL Bridge was expanded to 3 wider lanes in each direction

After his service at DOTD, Dr. Movassaghi remained an impassioned champion of an improved transportation infrastructure for Louisiana and the nation. He has held leadership positions within the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Transportation Research Board. In 2012, Dr. Movassaghi served as executive director of Louisiana's first-ever "Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure," a publication by ASCE's Louisiana chapter that documented serious deficiencies in many critical areas of Louisiana's engineering infrastructure.

Before his service at DOTD, Dr. Movassaghi was a professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and also served as the head of the Civil Engineering Department. After serving at DOTD, Dr. Movassaghi joined C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, where he now serves as president of the Lafayette-based engineering consulting firm.

Individuals are inducted into the Hall of Honor based on their contributions to and accomplishments for Louisiana's transportation system.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association Annual Meeting and Board of Directors meeting will take place on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 at the Baton Rouge Country Club, 8551 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

The board meeting, which is open only to members of the board of directors, will take place at 11:30 a.m. The general membership meeting, which is open to all members of LGRTA, will be take place at noon.

DOTD nabs ARTBA award

economies and made traveling much easier and safer.

"Despite the skeptics, despite the people who said it was too expensive, TIMED was a great, great success for Louisiana," Movassaghi said.

GOOD ROADS LEADERSHIP

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3713
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Phone: 225-408-8279
Fax: 225-344-0458

Officers

PRESIDENT
KEN PERRET
FHWA Admin.-Arkansas (Ret.)
LADOTD Asst. Secy. (Ret.)

SR. VICE PRESIDENT
DON WEATHERS
Ex. Dir. - La. Asphalt Pavement Assn.

VICE PRESIDENT
JOHNNY BRADBERRY
LA DOTD Secretary (Ret.)

SECRETARY/TREASURER
KEN NAQUIN, CEO
Louisiana AGC, Inc.

Board of Directors

JOE ACCARDO, JR.
Executive Director - Ports Assn. of Louisiana

GEN. JOHN BASILICA
HNTB

WILLIAM B. CONWAY
Mojeski and Masters, Inc.

for innovation, project results

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has received recognition from the American Road & Transportation Builders Association for innovation that yields a high return on investment for customers.



The award was presented recently during an ARTBA Young Executive Leadership Council reception in San Jose, Calif. The ARTBA Transportation Development Foundation's (ARTBA-TDF) TransOvation Awards honor "innovative transportation infrastructure-related products, services, technologies and techniques" brought forth in the last five years that have proven to yield a "high return on investment" by improving safety in transportation, saving customers time and/or money, or creating a more environmentally sustainable transportation infrastructure system.

DOTD and its partners received the award for the TIMED Program, which consisted of a list of voter-approved transportation projects, deemed high-priority, to reinvigorate the economy. This was made possible through a 4-cent increase in the gas tax, though DOTD found the pay-as-you-go system to be limited. DOTD explored and then utilized other options such as bond financing, cash allocation for specific project elements, and e-acquisition for right-of-way to speed up utility relocations. This allowed DOTD to complete the TIMED program 20 years ahead of schedule and has brought 66 new businesses to the program's main corridors.

State DOTs in Utah and Oregon also received ARTBA awards. UDOT was honored for "Innovative Contracting: Fixed-Price, Best Design Procurement," for its I-15 Corridor Expansion project procurement that eventually

JAN L. EVANS, P.E.
Volkert, Inc.

COURTNEY FENET
Vice Pres. - R.E. Heidt Construction

BRIN FERLITO
Neel-Schaffer Engineers

AL FLETTRICH
EnCon Resource Group, LLC

STEVE HACKWORTH
D & J Construction

DAVID S. HUVAL
Huval & Associates, Inc.

SHELBY P. LASALLE, JR.
Former CEO/Chairman
Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants

WAYNE MARCHAND
LADOTD District Administrator (Ret.)

ROGER MELANCON
RDM Consulting

DANIEL E. MOBLEY
Executive Director - ACEC of LA

DR. KAM MOVASSAGHI
Fenstermaker-LADOTD Secretary (Ret.)

GORDON NELSON
LADOTD Deputy Secretary (Ret.)

BOB SCHMIDT
Director of Operations - AECOM

WILLIAM SUSSMANN
LA FHWA Division Admin. (Ret.)

WILLIE T. TAYLOR
LADOTD District Administrator (Ret.)

BILL TEMPLE
Executive Director - CAAL

NEIL WAGONER

expanded the project from 14 to 24 miles, reduced the project schedule by two years and saved taxpayers about \$260 million. Oregon Department of Transportation's "Environmental Programmatic Permitting for OTIA (Oregon Transportation Investment Act) III State Bridge Delivery Program," took home the honor for its collaborative partnership with 11 state and federal agencies to manage environmental programmatic permitting in an effort to repair or replace 300 highway bridges in less than 10 years.

Additional information on ARTBA-TDF is available [here](#).

Call for participants: UNO, DOTD Transportation Priorities Survey

The University of New Orleans Transportation Institute is asking Louisiana residents to share their opinions on land use and transportation issues, including commuting choices, transportation infrastructure and finance, and managing future real estate development and growth.

The statewide public opinion poll, which is available online, is part of a study sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana Transportation Research Center that's focused on how to more effectively coordinate transportation investments and manage growth to promote the development of more livable, economically competitive communities. The results of the poll, which takes about five minutes to complete, will be used to inform state legislators and DOTD about how to more effectively support the needs and priorities of communities in Louisiana. You can [take the survey by clicking here](#).

National report calls federal gas tax flawed and

LA DOTD Secretary (Ret.)

GARD WAYT
Executive Director, I-49 International Coalition

Director Emeritus

W.P. WRAY, JR.
Attorney-at-Law
Wray & Pierce, L.L.P.



Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, left, visits with DOTD Secretary Sherri LeBas and Good Roads President Ken Perret after the September Board of Directors meeting. Dardenne, who is considering running for governor in 2015, said he realizes transportation is underfunded and is keeping an open mind toward increased funding.

"unsustainable"

A new report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP)



highlights the federal gas tax as the single most important source of transportation funding, then describes the unsustainable course this funding stream is on as revenue lags are increasing each year.

This report cites a design flaw that fails to account for the effects of inflation and proposes reforms that will bring the tax back in line with the costs it was intended to cover. Though other taxation models are also contending for attention, we can expect to see either a reform of existing tax structures and/or adoption of new methods of taxation, such as the VMT (vehicle miles traveled), or significant decline in federally funded transportation infrastructure. You can view the entire report at <http://www.itep.org/pdf/fedgastax0913.pdf>.

The ITEP is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization, based in Washington, DC, that focuses on federal and state tax policy. ITEP's mission is to inform policymakers and the public of the effects of current and proposed tax policies on tax fairness, government budgets, and sound economic policy.

DOTD purchases eco-friendly vehicles to help Grant Parish

DOTD announced the purchase of three Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles that will help to decrease emissions, improve air quality and provide access to jobs and community services for citizens utilizing public transportation in Grant Parish.

"DOTD is committed to enhancing the quality



Good Roads President Ken Perret addresses the Shreveport chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana. Perret told the group that Louisiana's fuel tax is not generating enough money to keep the state's economy moving forward. His comments were picked up by the Shreveport Times newspaper the next day.

of life for citizens by improving people's access to jobs and to community services," said DOTD Secretary Sherri H. LeBas. "The rural transit agencies DOTD works with provide a vital service in the communities they serve, and I am pleased that we are able to partner with them each year."

The purchased vehicles will be supplied to the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office, who will begin operating a new transit system for the parish's residents, for a total cost of approximately \$170,000.

"The use of CNG and other alternative fuels in vehicles reduces the amount of pollutants released into the air," said Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Peggy Hatch. "We commend DOTD and Grant Parish for their proactive approach to improving air quality and the environment for Louisiana citizens."

CNG vehicles have been found to produce lower emission levels than vehicles fueled by gasoline, which improves air quality. Specifically, CNG vehicles have been proven to decrease:

- carbon monoxide emissions by 70 to 90 percent
- non-methane organic gas emissions by 50 to 75 percent
- nitrogen oxide emissions by 75 to 95 percent
- carbon dioxide emissions by 20 to 30 percent

In addition, since CNG fuel systems are sealed, they produce no evaporative emissions.

The Grant Parish Police Jury has secured funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to build a CNG fueling station on U.S. 167 near Dry Prong, which will provide CNG fuel for parish vehicles and the general public. The savings in fuel costs will save the parish thousands of dollars each year.

Louisiana Intrastate Rail



State Senator Troy Brown, one of the newer members of the Senate Transportation Committee, addressed the Good Roads' Board of Directors in November.

ARTBA offers free online work zone safety conference

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association's Transportation Officials Division invites you to register today for LoTrans™ 2013, the Local Transportation Management Virtual Conference & Innovation Showcase featuring "Best Practices in Work Zone Safety."



Compact hosts inaugural meeting

The Louisiana Intrastate Rail Compact met for the first time on October 2 to elect leadership and receive an update on a rail feasibility study underway for the New Orleans to Baton Rouge corridor.



Kristin Gisleson Palmer

"This historic convening of leaders across the super-region signals this project is moving forward. This compact is dedicated to realizing the immense economic vitality that passenger rail can spark in our region. Our two great cities are already the economic engine for our state, but with more regional connectivity, we can emerge as an epicenter for growth nationwide," said New Orleans Councilwoman Kristin Gisleson Palmer, who was elected chairwoman of the compact. Other officers include Vice-Chair Cornelius Lewis of Baton Rouge and Secretary/Treasurer Ryland Percy of Ascension Parish.

The compact is comprised of representatives from East Baton Rouge, Orleans, Jefferson and Ascension parishes. It is anticipated that other parishes along the corridor can join in appointing members at a later date.

The compact will complement previous efforts of the Southern Rail Commission, which was formed by representatives from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi to engage public and private organizations with rail interests and support rail initiatives across the Southeast U.S.

State Rep. Walt Leger III is also an appointee to the compact and is a former chair of the Southern Rail Commission. He said, "We have to make smart infrastructure investments to ensure future prosperity for our state and our

It is scheduled November 19-20 at your nearest desktop or laptop computer. There is no charge to participate.

Nearly 15 sessions are scheduled over the two days. Some of them will focus on the driverless car and other technologies under development by automobile manufacturers and their many potential impacts on the design, construction and maintenance of the nation's transportation network. They include:

November 19

- 11:00 a.m.(EST): How Innovation in Automobile Technology Will Transform U.S. Transportation
 - Mitch Bainwol, president & CEO, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
- 12:00 p.m.: Self-Driving Cars and Other Game-Changing Technologies: Safety, Management and Liability Issues
 - Bryant Walker Smith, fellow, Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School
 - Tom Bamonte, general counsel, North Texas Toll Authority
- 1:15 p.m.: New Technologies and Workplace Practices That Can Help Organizations Become More Innovative
 - Phaedra Boinodiris, global serious game program manager, IBM
 - Ross Smith, director of test, Microsoft
- 2:00 p.m.: A "Smarter Transportation Program"
 - Naveen Lamba, global industry lead for intelligent transportation, IBM
- 2:45 p.m.: 2014 Transportation Construction Economic Forecast & State Report
 - Dr. Alison Premo Black, chief economist, ARTBA

region. By promoting and encouraging safe, reliable, efficient movement of people and goods between our cities, we can measurably grow the economies along the rail corridors and become a leader in connectivity and intrastate synergy."

To learn more about the Rail Compact and CONNECT, click [here](#).

Do you enjoy reading the Good Roads newsletter online?



Good Roads is now distributing this electronic version of the printed newsletter we have published for many years. The e-newsletter has many advantages; You can link to other articles or websites by clicking on the words that are [underlined and in blue](#). And, you can easily forward the newsletter to anyone who might be interested.

This newsletter is being 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 the newsletter. Let us know at debbieh@lagc.org, or you can write us at

The "Best Practices in Work Zone Safety" component, sponsored by the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, will cover: preventing work zone intrusions, new standards on silica exposure, work zone safety audits, and the new OSHA work zone inspection directive. The Federal Highway Administration is hosting bonus sessions on sustainable pavement and intelligent compaction, geosynthetic reinforced soils, and 3D engineered models and construction.

Check out the full schedule and register today:
www.lotransvirtualconference.org.

Good Roads, P.O. Box 3713, Baton Rouge,
LA 70821.



Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation
Association
www.louisianagoodroads.org
P.O. Box 3713
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
225-408-8279



Produced and distributed by Lambert
Media,
a communications consulting firm
225-937-8113

www.lambert-media.com