



**Meeting of  
East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority  
Board of Commissioners**

<b>MINUTES</b>	<b>DECEMBER 13, 2018</b>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>620 FLORIDA STREET, STE. 110 70801</b>
<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	John Noland		
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Board of Commissioners - Regular Meeting		
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Tara Titone		
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p><b>Attending Board Members:</b> John Noland, Chairman; Brian Haymon, Vice Chairman; Susan Turner, Treasurer; Theodore Major, Secretary; Rodney Braxton</p> <p><b>Also attending:</b> Christopher Tyson, RDA President and CEO; Tara Titone, RDA Vice President; Matthew Johnson, RDA Intern; Heather LeBlanc, Vanessa Graham, LLC; Carolyn Seboe, HNTB; Bryan Jones, HNTB; Rex Cabaniss, WHLC; Rachel DiResto, Emergent Method;</p>		
	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>		<b>JOHN NOLAND</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Noland at <b>9:03 AM</b>		
	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>		<b>JOHN NOLAND</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2018 meeting and took no issue.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Mrs. Turner moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Major seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.		
	<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>		<b>HEATHER LEBLANC</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mrs. LeBlanc provided the Board with the YTD Profit and Loss Actual vs. Budget, Program Statement of Activity and Cash Flow for the period ended November 30, 2018, and Monthly Cash Flow Projections. The Board took no issue.		
	<b>PLANK ROAD MASTER PLAN</b>		<b>CHRISTOPHER TYSON</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Mr. Tyson stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a planning team was released in October. The RDA received 12 submittals from across the country. A 10-person selection committee shortlisted three firms, and invited them to interview in December. The Committee unanimously selected Asakura Robinson as their preferred team and their scores reflected this decision being the highest of the three firms. Asakura Robinson's team includes sub-consultants HNTB, WHLC, Emergent Method and Studio Zwede. Mr. Tyson thanked the Selection Committee for their time and commitment to the project, and asked the Board to consider the Committee's recommendation of Asakura Robinson as the final consultant for the Plank Road Corridor Master Plan.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<p>Mr. Major made a motion to consider the Selection Committee's recommendation of Asakura Robinson as the final consultant for the Plank Road Master Plan Project. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.</p> <p>Mrs. Turner made a motion to adopt Resolution to authorize staff to negotiate and execute documents with Selection Committee's recommended consultant to permit the commencement</p>		

	of the Plank Road Master Plan Project. Mr. Major seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.	
	<b>CEO REPORT</b>	<b>CHRISTOPHER TYSON</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Mr. Tyson reported that the Metro Council approved the City-Parish’s 2019 budget and the RDA was allotted \$500,000 for operations, which the RDA has requested in a lump sum. The RDA is in the process of hiring a community engagement specialist to serve as a liaison between the RDA and neighborhood/ community-level groups and to serve as the point for the Plank Road project. The RDA will also be hiring an administrative assistant and two program managers for the RDA’s Community Planning and Development Grant work.</p> <p>Electric depot will deliver phase I in February 2019.</p> <p>The RDA has a meeting scheduled with the EBR Housing Authority to discuss plans for mixed-income housing at Ardendale. The RDA is still awaiting an update from the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the wetlands permit for Ardendale and working on coordinating timing of development and mitigation. The HUD Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant awards should be announced in February, for which the City and RDA submitted a request for \$30 million. The Ardendale connector roadway (Lobdell to Ardenwood) will be constructed by the City, as it was included in the Mayor’s Green Light plan. Fundraising for Plank Road continues towards a goal of \$250,000. To date, \$210,000 has been committed thanks to Chase, Baton Rouge Area Foundation, Exxon, Georgia Pacific, WH Pacific, Coca Cola, and General Informatics. A press release with this announcement will be prepared by the City-Parish and RDA early next year.</p>	
	<b>RAIL STATION MASTER PLAN</b>	<b>HNTB</b>
<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Mr. Jones and Ms. Seboe presented the final draft of the rail station master plan. The plan locates two stations along the BR to NOLA passenger rail corridor: a Downtown Station located on S. 14<sup>th</sup> St. between Government Street and North Blvd and a Suburban Station located near BR General in the BR Health District. The plan includes prioritized strategies for implementation along with a timeline and potential sources of funding.</p> <p>Mr. Haymon stated that the model of passenger rail is attractive but has had mixed successes around the country. He inquired about the pushback received, given that it is a late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century development. Ms. Seboe stated that Amtrak ridership is actually increasing each year and that rail services are filling a very important role in the greater multi-modal transportation systems in the country. Mr. Major stated that he was excited about the prospect of the reintroduction of passenger rail and asked if a traffic study had been completed and what impacts this will have on traffic. Mr. Jones said that traffic impact studies were part of HNTB’s 2014 Rail Feasibility Study, and that the traffic numbers have only increased since then, making even a better case for the reintroduction of rail into the system. Ms. Seboe closed the presentation by stating that the key to ridership success is the State’s investment in the infrastructure and commitment to providing a high-quality service and experience to the users.</p>	
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	No new business.	
<b>STRATEGIC DISCUSSION</b>	No strategic discussion.	
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	No public comments.	
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Mr. Noland adjourned the meeting at <b>10:55 AM</b>	