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ST. BERNARD NEWS

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Florida Avenue Bridge Committee meets Thursday

CHALMETTE — The St. Bernard Parish Florida Avenue Bridge Committee will hold its second meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Parish Council chambers.

Membership on the committee is open to the public.

The State Dept. of Transportation & Development has unveiled four bridge proposals,

three of which were within the budget projected.

At the previous meeting, the committee voted to support a plan for the new Florida Avenue Bridge to be a fixed, high-rise bridge extending as far west as Elysian Fields Avenue with its eastern start at Tupelo Street, which is within budgetary constraints.

"The Parish Government voted to create this committee as a means for St. Bernard residents to state their concerns to the state about this project," said former Councilman Mike Bayham, who is chairman of the committee. "The new Florida Avenue Bridge project is an important transportation undertaking and we

need to do everything we can to ensure that our parish commuters benefit from their tax money.

"We also want to oppose any bridge alternative that could have a negative impact on our residents. Pending on which alternative is accepted, the St. Bernard Parish drivers could reap the benefits or have to

deal with increased traffic congestion."

Officials from the Dept. of Transportation & Development have been invited to attend the committee meeting to share with the public new information and to field questions.

"These meetings are very important, especially since public input is one of the factors

that will determine which bridge proposal is adopted," said Bayham. "I encourage all residents who are interested in the new Florida Avenue Bridge project to attend these meetings and become active with this committee."

Call Bayham at 258-4467 or 278-4217 for additional information.