



**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

## **CITY OF KENNER**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Aug. 7, 2014**

### *AGREEMENT WITH PARISH RESOLVES TRANSIT TAX ISSUE*

**Kenner, LA.** – The future for public transit in Kenner is bright now that the Parish has approved an agreement to pay about \$290,000 this fiscal year that includes a formula to fairly divide a parish-wide transit tax in the future.

The Jefferson Parish Council ratified a three-year cooperative endeavor agreement recently that includes an option for an additional three years. The agreement also includes a formula designed to ensure the yearly payment has the flexibility to adjust to changes in costs for both sides.

“This is great news for Kenner residents who rely on public transit and for the city as a whole,” Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said. “I want to thank the Jefferson Parish Council and Parish President John Young for working with us to come up with an agreement that is fair and reasonable.”

Over the years, the distribution of the proceeds of the 2-mill transit tax has been the source of considerable disagreement between officials in Kenner and Jefferson Parish because the tax generates \$850,000 from Kenner homeowners, but the city has received as little as \$50,000 in past years.

Two years ago, Councilman Ben Zahn, with the help of Councilman Mark Spears, convinced the Parish Council to approve a payment so that Kenner would not have to subsidize the Kenner Loop bus line.

The cooperative endeavor agreement eliminates the need for any additional yearly negotiations between Kenner and the parish – for up to six years.

Kenner’s share of the parish transit tax generated in the city was determined by calculating the costs for both the Kenner Loop and the three parish bus routes on the east bank that must be re-routed into Kenner to hook up with the Kenner line. Those three parish bus lines make it possible for Kenner riders to continue on to the West Bank or into New Orleans.

“While the tax brings in \$850,000 in Kenner, much of that money is used to extend the three parish bus routes into the city,” Yenni said. “The city’s transit consultant has analyzed the figures and concluded that \$290,000 for Kenner is fair to both sides.”

###