

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS
EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016, 10:00 A.M., VOA
BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BLVD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA 70002

PRESENT: Anthony V. Ligi, Jr., Chairman; Shelby P. LaSalle, Jr., Vice Chairman; P.
Lindsey Williams, Member; Patrick W. Fitzmorris, Member

ABSENT: Stephen G. Romig, Secretary

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Stacie
Heffker; Robert Graham; Red Thompson; Cpl. Mike Bernard; Ofc. Scott
Huff; Ofc. Jason Bourne; Craig Watson, Blue Williams; Cary Bourgeois
and Phil Meyers, GEC, Inc.; Rene Chopin, Burk Kleinpeter; Kathy
Gambino, Arthur J. Gallagher; Chris Coulon, Adams and Reese; Mayor
Donald Villere, City of Mandeville; Robert Rhoden, Times Picayune; Hugh
Martin; Danielle Huff; Steven and Ellen Huff

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**On the motion by Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Mr. Fitzmorris, the minutes of the
regular meeting held on October 5, 2016 were accepted as written. Mr. Ligi, Mr.
LaSalle, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Ligi addressed the audience to see if anyone had any comments or questions for
the Commission. There were no comments or questions.

Mr. Ligi introduced Mayor Donald Villere from the City of Mandeville. Mayor Villere
thanked the Commission. He stated there is a projected increase of traffic in the Port
Marigny Development on Monroe Street heading toward East Causeway Approach.
This increase prompted St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister, Carlton Dufrechou
and Mayor Villere to ask the New Orleans Regional Traffic Committee to do a study on
traffic. Mayor Villere stated this will help the City of Mandeville plan for the future. The

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RPC contracted with DDG and SAIN to do a traffic study. Mayor Villere explained although it is still preliminary, he wanted to give the initial findings to the Commission. He stated the applicant for Port Marigny performed a study and their finding indicated their traffic would be satisfied by a right and left turning lane on the East Approach going South at that intersection. Mayor Villere said their concern is not just Port Marigny but also the traffic that would go through that intersection in the future. He stated the study shows a roundabout at that location is needed. Mayor Villere offered the Commission the City of Mandeville's assistance. He stated assuming it is approved by the Council, Port Marigny will deposit \$300,000.00 for constructing a roundabout. Mayor Villere would like to offer those funds to go towards the construction of the roundabout. He stated Mariner's Village has also expressed interest in joining this effort. Mayor Villere stated he believed the roundabout will take care of that intersection for a long time and urged the Commission to strongly consider construction in the area very soon. He does not suggest delaying this project because it is easier to fix before it becomes a major problem. Mayor Villere stated when the final version is completed, he will make sure to pass this along to the Commission. Mayor Villere also stated in January 2017, the City of Mandeville, at their expense, will be working on the West bound lane on the Florida street extension between North Causeway and West Approach. Mr. Ligi thanked Mayor Villere for the update and asked as the information becomes available, please keep the Commission updated. Mr. Ligi stated the Commission has always shown sensitivity for traffic situation on the Northshore and are always open to hear the City of Mandeville's requests. Mr. Ligi asked if there were any additional questions for Mayor Villere. Mr. Shelby LaSalle asked if there was any traffic projections for the next ten years. Mr.

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Dufrechou answered that information can be obtained through Stantec. Mr. Ligi thanked the Mayor again. Mayor Villere stated it was his pleasure.

Mr. Ligi introduced the latest Commissioner to the GNOEC, Mr. Lindsey Williams. He thanked Mr. Williams for dedicating time to the Commission. Mr. Williams stated it was an honor.

Mr. Ligi stated one of the Causeway Police Officers received an accreditation from the State of Louisiana. He introduced Officer Scott Huff and asked Chief Nick Congemi to present him with a certificate from the State. Chief Congemi stated Officer Huff is only one of only six thousand Officers in the entire Nation to become a certified drug recognition expert. Officer Huff attended classes in Baton Rouge and in Jacksonville. Chief Congemi stated that equals approximately two hundred hours of training in total. Chief Congemi explained that Officer Huff is now an expert at identifying/determining what types of drugs people may have taken. Chief Congemi explained when State Police have checkpoints; they call Officer Huff to assist. He told Officer Huff that the GNOEC is very proud of him and presented a certificate commemorating his efforts. Chief Congemi stated on behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, this certificate certifies Officer Scott Huff has successfully completed all requirements of the Drug Evaluation and Classification program and is hereby recognized as a Drug Recognition Expert. Chief Congemi congratulated Officer Huff. Mr. Dufrechou invited Officer Huff's family to join him in the front of the Commission and audience. Officer Huff introduced Danielle Huff (his wife), Ellen Huff (his mother) and Steven Huff (his father). Mr. Dufrechou told the family that the GNOEC is extremely proud of Officer Huff. Mr.

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Dufrechou stated Officer Huff does an excellent job at identifying drivers if they are under the influence.

Mr. Dufrechou also pointed out that even though the Causeway Police department is small; they were rated in the top ten out of 300 Law Enforcement agencies for DWI enforcement.

Mr. Ligi stated Chief Nick Congemi was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame. He stated Chief Congemi was too modest to mention it. Mr. Ligi stated it was a great honor and not a lot of people have been recognized there. Mr. Ligi congratulated Chief Congemi on that great honor. Chief Congemi thanked Mr. Ligi and everyone else.

On the Drawbridge operations, Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 37 vessel openings, 4 test openings and 2 incidents.

Mr. Dufrechou reported that Police and MAP responded to 87 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 55 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge for a total of 142. He reported 14 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated 6 occurred Northbound, 6 Southbound and 2 at the North Toll Plaza. Mr. Dufrechou also stated 12 accidents occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He reported 6 Eastbound, 4 Westbound and 2 at other locations.

Mr. Dufrechou showed one picture of a rescued dog from the Causeway Bridge on Sunday, October 9, 2016 by Officer Gary Allen. Mr. Dufrechou stated Chief Congemi adopted the dog. He showed a picture with the Chief's grandson with his new best friend Sadie (the dog). Chief Congemi stated the dog had crawled into a motorcycle and fell out. He reported that two tour buses were behind the motorcycle. One bus went over

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the dog and the second bus stopped and picked up the dog before calling the Causeway Police. Chief Congemi stated they think the motorcycle circled back to find the dog but the Police were not able to connect with the driver. He said the Officer brought the dog to the St. Tammany animal shelter and they held onto the dog for two weeks before it could be adopted. Mr. Ligi stated that was a great story.

Mr. Dufrechou showed two additional pictures of another animal rescued. He stated on Friday, October 21, 2016, a cat was rescued Officer Jason Bourne at the Huey P. Long Bridge. The cat was sent to the Jefferson Parish animal shelter.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video and a picture from an incident that occurred on the Causeway Bridge on Thursday, October 27, 2016. He explained that a Jeep ran through the toll lane at approximately 9:00 am. Causeway Police units tried to slow the speeding vehicle down but the driver shot three times through his windshield before turning the weapon onto himself. Chief Congemi further explained that no Causeway Police Officers discharged their weapons during the pursuit. Chief Congemi stated there is still no explanation for the incident and the driver is in critical condition at University hospital. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Southbound span was closed for approximately two and a half hours.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a picture and a diagram of an accident that happened on Thursday, October 27, 2016. He explained that a Chevrolet Astro Van had mechanical failure and was disabled in the roadway when it was struck by a Ford Van. Mr. Dufrechou stated after the Astro Van was hit, the Ford Van then struck the guardrail. He

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said the Ford Van driver was issued a citation for following too closely and the Causeway Bridge was not closed.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video an incident that occurred on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 7:19 pm. He reported that a Ford F150 was slowing down in anticipation of entering the reduced speed zone when a Mazda MZ3 rear ended it. Mr. Dufrechou stated the F150 struck the left curb and slid along the left guardrail before returning to the center of the roadway. The MZ3 driver said he was glancing down at his cell phone and did not notice the truck decelerating. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Causeway Bridge sustained damage to 12 brackets and 14 rails. Chief Congemi stated the driver of the MZ3 was cited for carless operations. He explained the Southbound span was closed from 7:40 pm to 8:20 pm to clean up a gas leak.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video of a meteor that was caught on camera by Crystal Scott on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 6:47 am. Mr. Dufrechou explained that NASA had already shut down their cameras in the region due to impending daylight. He explained that Mrs. Scott had the only footage and shared it with NASA. Mr. Dufrechou stated the object was believed to be a meteor that was traveling 80,000 miles an hour.

Mr. Dufrechou showed two pictures of Sgt. Jacob representing the GNOEC during the Night Out Against Crime recently in Lafreniere Park in Metairie.

On the demolition of the 9-mile turnaround spans, Mr. Dufrechou recommended award to lowest bidder. **On motion by Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Mr. Fitzmorris, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and the Consulting Engineers, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission concurs with the recommendation of the**

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Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to award State Project No. H.011217 to the low bidder L&A Contracting Co. in the amount of \$2,517,358.40. The Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission authorizes General Manager Carlton Dufrechou to execute any documents associated with the award of this contract on behalf of the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.

On the Switchgear Replacement at Crossover #6, Mr. Dufrechou recommended award to lowest bidder. On motion by Mr. Fitzmorris, seconded by Mr. Williams, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the project titled Switchgear Replacement at Crossover #6, GNOEC Project No. 205, is awarded to the low bidder, Kevin Clark Electrical Services, LLC in the amount of \$166,611.00. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of the contract with Kevin Clark Electrical Services, LLC pending the review of the bonds and insurance by legal counsel and insurance representatives. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.

On the pavement marking of the Bridge deck, Mr. Dufrechou recommended acceptance of the settlement. On motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. LaSalle, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission entered into contract, on or about July 28, 2014, for Project No. 423, Pavement Marking of Bridge Deck for Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (“the Project”). However, after completion of the Project, an excessive number of raised pavement markers began separating from the surface of the bridge. The Contractor and Subcontractor for the Project have

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agreed to remove and replace the pavement markers to avoid the cost and uncertainty of litigation. Thus, in accordance with the recommendation of GNOEC Legal Counsel and the Consulting Engineers, the GNOEC authorizes that the Contract for Project No. 423 be amended to effectuate the settlement of this matter. The GNOEC further authorizes the General Manager to execute any and all documentation associated therewith. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Ligi reminded everyone the next meeting is tentatively scheduled December 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the VOA building on the South Shore.

There being no further business, the meeting was be adjourned.



Anthony V. Ligi

Chairman



Shelby LaSalle

Vice Chairman