

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013, AT 10:00 A.M., IN THE GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

**PRESENT:** Lawrence M. Rase, Chairman; Stephen G. Romig, Treasurer; Anthony V. Ligi, Jr., Assistant Secretary Treasurer

**OTHERS:** Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Cpl. Sean Bancroft; Georgie Bagnetto; Stacie Heffker; Cary Bourgeois, Gavin Gillen & Bob Boagni, GEC, Inc.; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; Andrea Calvin, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Kathy Gambino & Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Svc.; Rene Chopin, Burk-Kleinpeter; Steve Bowes, Sisung Investment Services; Robert Rhoden, The Times-Picayune

**ABSENT:** Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Vice Chairman; Tommy S. Cvitanovich, Member

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**On motion by Ligi, seconded by Romig, the minutes of the regular meeting held October 2, 2013 were accepted as written. Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Dr. Calvin reported that in October of the forty-nine water quality samples taken, forty-six samples (94%) met primary contact recreation standards. There were three samples exceeding at Bogue Falaya Park.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Gillen stated the skeet shooting event is this Friday at Covey Rise. Mr. Gillen stated everyone he has contacted has not contributed yet so he believes the goal will be exceeded this year.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the drawbridge was very busy last month because of the Wooden Boat Festival. He reported forty-one vessel openings, one pin motor incident and two test openings.

Mr. Dufrechou stated there were no fog operations needed yet.

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Mr. Dufrechou reported police and MAP responded to 226 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 47 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated he is sorry to report that accidents went up a bit. He reported fourteen on the Causeway Bridge (six southbound, six northbound, one at the toll plaza and one in Crossover 5 - all in dry weather). He reported seven on the Huey P. Long Bridge (one eastbound, six on Jefferson Highway - dry weather).

Mr. Dufrechou stated Lane 1 upgrade was completed on October 11.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on October 18 the budget was approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. He thanked everyone for their help, especially Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Murhammer and Mrs. Phillipott for all the work involved.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on October 29, the under bridge inspection was completed.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on October 31, the upgrades to Lane 2 were completed.

On the Corps' Hurricane Protection project, Mr. Dufrechou stated Mr. McCranie and Mr. Bourgeois almost have a reimbursement from the U. S. Government and it looks like it will be in the vicinity of \$1.8 million.

On the Piling Encapsulation project, Mr. Dufrechou stated Mr. Bourgeois mentioned to him the work is complete and the acceptance should be next month.

On the Restoration of the Nine-mile Turnaround Access project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the award to low bidder Boh Brothers was approved in September and work should start in December 2013. He stated he understands it should be completed within a week. Mr. Bourgeois stated there will be a pre-construction conference next week.

Mr. Dufrechou stated two other projects that hopefully will be bid next month are the cable trays

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support system and the relocation from the nine-mile. He added they are both Hurricane Katrina related projects.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of the incident on the Huey P. Long Bridge on October 11 in which a dump truck overturned going down from the westbank to the eastbank. Corporal Bancroft stated the truck was going from the bridge down onto Jefferson Highway eastbound at 10:27 a.m. Mr. Dufrechou stated the whole load from the truck was dumped onto Jefferson Highway. Corporal Bancroft stated it shut down the bridge for more than an hour. He stated the driver had minor injuries, went to the hospital and was released. Mr. Dufrechou stated this is another incident of the guys on the Huey being the first ones on the scene and being there throughout the entire event. In response to Mr. Dufrechou's inquiry, Corporal Bancroft stated environmental services and State Police came out also. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Corporal Bancroft stated in his opinion the driver was riding the brakes on the way down and they started fading. Mr. Dufrechou asked if DOTD installed the lower speed limit signs on the exit ramps. Corporal Bancroft stated they are 50 mph. Mr. Dufrechou stated they have not been reduced and asked Corporal Bancroft to check with Sergeant Jacob about this.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of October 17 when the old booth from Lane 2 was removed.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of traffic backup in September around 7:30 a.m. going to the North Toll Plaza and Highway 22. The next slides were from Monday with all five lanes open and no traffic backup. Mr. Dufrechou stated the only negative he has heard was from folks getting off on the South Shore asking if the light at West Esplanade can be changed. Mr. Dufrechou showed the tag lane mix as three of the five lanes are dedicated to "Tags Only" in the morning, Lanes 2, 3 and 5 per Mr. Bourgeois' recommendation, which seem to be working out well; Lanes 1 and 4 are

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“Tag/Cash”. Slides showed all of the fascia and support structure for the old signs were removed, making the top of the canopy look much cleaner.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of the cam box at the north channel bascule, adding what he hoped to do initially was just replace the housing but unfortunately the cam and housing come as one unit.

On the North Channel Bascule control System replacement project, Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 2 for the replacement of the bridge positioning cams in the amount of \$21,964 and no additional calendar days. Mr. Dufrechou stated the staff and engineers recommend approval. Mr.

Dufrechou stated he was trying to save a little bit too much money every once in a while and this one came back to haunt him so they are getting all new stuff and new housing too. **On motion by**

**Romig, seconded by Ligi, Plan Change No. 2 provides for the replacement of the bridge positioning cams in the amount of \$21,964 and no calendar days. Based upon the**

**recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission authorized the General Manager to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 2. Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig and**

**Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated the next action item is Hurricane Katrina replacement of damaged signs, which is a Federal Highway Administration funded project at 100%. Mr. Dufrechou stated they concur with DOTD’s award to the low bidder; the bids received ranged from \$295,000 to \$698,000. He

stated the low bidder is Traffic Solutions in the amount of \$295,020; engineers and staff are recommending approval. **On motion by Romig, seconded by Ligi, based upon the**

**recommendation of the staff and Consulting Engineers, the Commission concurred with the recommendation of the LA Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to award**

**State Project No. H.005970 to the low bidder Traffic Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$295,020.**

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**The Commission authorized General Manager Carlton Dufrechou to execute any documents associated with the award of the contract on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated the last action item is with Trinity Insurance Services for Third Party Claims Administration Agreement for three additional years beginning November 1, 2013. Mr. Dufrechou stated staff is recommending approval, adding Trinity has been very helpful in investigating incidents on the bridge. **On motion by Ligi, seconded by Romig, the Commission accepted and approved the Third Party Claims Administration Agreement between the GNOEC and Trinity Insurance Services, Inc. as presented, for a three-year period beginning November 1, 2013 and ending October 31, 2016. The General Manager was authorized to execute the Agreement. Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou mentioned this Friday the Causeway will be presented a national engineering historical landmark award by the American Society of Civil Engineers at 10:30 a.m. at the North Toll Plaza. He stated it should not last more than an hour and the former President of the ASCE will be there along with Parish President Brister and Councilwoman Cynthia Lee-Sheng will be representing Jefferson Parish. Mr. Dufrechou stated it is a terrific award and the Causeway will be one of only three structures in the State of Louisiana that has ever received this designation. He stated it is because primarily the Causeway was such an innovative design in the 1950s and has been such a timely and efficient mechanism. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou stated it is for 10:30 a.m. and should be out hopefully by 11:30 a.m. right at the toll plaza.

Mr. Dufrechou stated tomorrow evening, he and Mr. Rase will be visiting the St. Tammany Parish Council and hopefully that will be finished quickly also.

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Mr. Rase expressed thanks to Chief Congemi and staff for getting that guy again, adding sometimes he gets calls about people and they do a great job watching for them and getting them. Mr. Dufrechou explained there was a repetitive speeder every morning and with a citizen's report that Mr. Rase got, the guys were able to get him. Mr. Dufrechou added the first couple times the speeder was found, he slowed down, but after about two or three weeks they finally got him.

Mr. Dufrechou stated Mr. Thompson and Mr. Graham are on the North Shore getting everything ready for Friday, which is why they are not here.

Mr. Rase announced the next meeting will be Wednesday, December 4, 2013.

Mr. Rase asked Mrs. Lopreore if she is going to check on what has been done in the past about public service announcements. Mrs. Lopreore replied yes.

With regard to the budget approval by the JLCB, Mr. Ligi stated over the past five years he has sat on the other side of the table in Baton Rouge and this year was part of it on the other side and he wanted to comment about it. Mr. Ligi stated over the past five years, starting with Mr. Dufrechou's predecessor, Robert Lambert, and continuing through him, they have established a great deal of transparency in the process. Mr. Ligi stated he can see that a lot of trustworthiness has been built up among the members of the Committee. Mr. Ligi commended Mr. Dufrechou, Chief Congemi, all the staff and everyone who worked on the budget. Mr. Ligi stated it is great to see a public entity like this have so much trust in Baton Rouge and he thinks it was built up through the leadership over the past six years that he knows of. Mr. Ligi stated there was one question asked and Mr. Dufrechou hit a grand slam with the answer. He stated everyone did a great job. Mr. Dufrechou thanked the Commission, adding it could not be done without them.

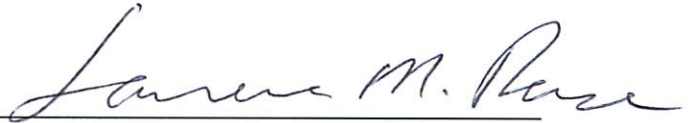
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There being no further business, on motion by Romig, seconded by Ligi, the meeting was adjourned.



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ANTHONY V. LIGI, JR.  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TREASURER



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LAWRENCE M. RASE  
CHAIRMAN