

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015, 10:00 A.M., GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

PRESENT: Stephen G. Romig, Chairman; Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Vice Chairman; Anthony V. Ligi, Jr., Treasurer; Shelby P. LaSalle, Jr., Secretary; Joseph A. Jaeger, Jr., Member

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Georgie Bagnetto; Melissa M. Phillpott; Eileen Barthe; Chief Nick Congemi; Perry Daigrepoint; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Cary Bourgeois, Gavin Gillen & Phil Meyers, GEC, Inc.; Dr. Andrea Calvin, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Craig Watson, Blue Williams; Rene Chopin, Burk-Kleinpeter; Byron Poydras, Bank of New York; Steve Bowes, Sisung Securities; Greg Pulley, Regions Bank and Corporate Trust

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF), Dr. Calvin reported the water quality of Lake Pontchartrain is good. She stated that this time of year, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is concerned with a bacteria count of 2000 or higher. Dr. Calvin stated that the count is well below that in all but one sample. She reported there were a couple of rain events in the second week of January and the first week of March that led to some higher counts. Dr. Calvin reported that one of the sites mentioned frequently is the Bogue Falaya River. She stated because of discussions in previous meetings about concerns of the bacteria count, she had a meeting with the Mayor and the Storm Water manager. Dr. Calvin stated that some additional monitoring and tracking has been implemented to make sure the Bogue Falaya River site stays off

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on the impaired water bodies list. Dr. Calvin reported out of the 40 samples taken, 33 of the samples (83%) met primary contact recreation standards.

**On the motion by Romig, seconded by Ligi, the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 4, 2015 were accepted as written. Mr. Romig, Capt. Lorino, Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle and Mr. Jaeger voted in favor of the motion.**

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

Mr. Romig then asked about the Causeway Charitable foundation. Mr. Gavin Gillen stated the skeet shoot has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2015. He reported the date for the skeet shoot may be pushed back to Saturday, October 10, 2015. Mr. Gillen stated that everything is moving towards the big fundraiser at the end of this year. Mr. Dufrechou asked if true that Mr. Gillen would be a father at the end of this year. Mr. Gillen confirmed that was true and stated he would be looking forward to getting out of the house around October.

On the Drawbridge operations, Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 15 vessel openings, 10 test openings and 3 repairs to 1 limit switch and 2 failed circuit breaker incidences.

Mr. Dufrechou stated there was a tremendous amount of fog on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> for 96 hours straight. He stated he was very proud of the GNOEC staff including the Police, MAP, Maintenance, Toll Collectors and Dispatchers for their tireless efforts.

Mr. Dufrechou reported that Police and MAP responded to 115 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 32 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long for a total of 147. He

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reported 17 accidents on the Causeway Bridge and 11 on the Huey P. Long. Mr. Dufrechou confirmed with Chief Congemi that over half of the accidents on the Causeway Bridge were weather related. He also reported that the Causeway was closed yesterday morning from 8:06 am to shortly after 9:00 am for the severe line of weather that moved through the area. Mr. Dufrechou stated that hail was reported on the Bridge during that time.

Mr. Dufrechou showed pictures from an incident that took place on March 7, 2015. He reported that this is the first incident to his knowledge involving graffiti on the Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated that it was done on the flood wall on the South Shore. He reported that a similar design also appeared on the wall of Bud's Broiler restaurant on Causeway Blvd. Mr. Dufrechou stated that the Bascule operator, during his overnight shift, spotted the individual in the act. The Bascule operator reported the details and the Causeway Police Officers were able to locate the suspect. Mr. Dufrechou reported that the individual was a male in his 20s who made a break on his skateboard. He said our Officers did apprehend the suspect after he was found hiding in the bushes. Mr. Dufrechou reported that Maintenance was able to repaint the spot immediately.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a picture of how thick the fog was around the Bascule. He stated the picture shows some of the challenges the commuters and staff face during the 4 days of fog.

Mr. Dufrechou then showed a picture of grout that was spilled on the Bridge on March 12, 2015. He stated that he hoped this would not be a permanent blemish. Mr. Dufrechou told Cary Bourgeois that we have a sample of the substance for further

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analysis. He said they were hoping the rain would remove the spot but has not so far.

Mr. Dufrechou stated they believe the grout fell out of the back of a vehicle.

Mr. Dufrechou showed pictures from an accident that occurs at the 6 mile marker on Friday, March 13, 2015. He stated this was a two car accident at approximately 9:48 pm on the Southbound span. Mr. Dufrechou reported that everyone thankfully made it out of the vehicle without injury.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a picture from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission DWI Enforcement Award Ceremony that was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015. Chief Nick Congemi reported that Officer Scott Huff was issued an award for making 69 DWI arrest for the year. Mr. Dufrechou reported that the Causeway Police Department was also acknowledged for leading the State in DWI Arrests. Chief Congemi stated that Sgt. Mike Dufrene and Sgt. Billy Jones also attended and accepted an award on behalf of the Causeway Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou showed pictures of a cat that was rescued on the Bridge. He stated Walter Teoulet, a Causeway MAP operator, and a Causeway Police Officer spotted the cat on the Northbound span at the 4.5 mile marker. He stated the female cat was rescued and brought to a veterinarian. Mr. Dufrechou reported that after the veterinarian gave the cat some shots and it was adopted that afternoon.

Mr. Dufrechou also showed pictures of a vehicle fire that happened on March 27, 2015. He reported that the driver is in good condition but the vehicle was totaled.

Mr. Dufrechou then showed pictures from Rail option B 1. He stated the major change is the base plate was copied from option A. He explained that the base plate did not have

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the L bracket which snagged the bumper and caused high deceleration loads for sedan type vehicles. Mr. Dufrechou stated that it is now mounted directly on top of the existing barrier. Mr. Cary Bourgeois further explained that the base plates were spread out in the new design. Mr. Dufrechou reported that Texas A & M has three more tests to perform.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video of an incident that occurred on the Causeway Bridge on March 19, 2015. He stated that originally the driver was thought to be DWI but it was actually a medical emergency. Mr. Dufrechou stated that the Causeway Police are trained to perform a rolling roadblock for any erratic drivers to protect the other commuters behind them. He reported that the driver kept slowing down and hitting the side of the Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Police were finally able to stop the vehicle at the foot of the Bridge on the Southshore by the Lakeway buildings. He said the Police found out the driver was not impaired but was diabetic. Mr. Dufrechou reported that Officers got him insulin and EMS arrived on the scene. He stated that the driver was able to leave on his own an hour after the incident occurred.

Mr. Romig asked Chief Congemi if the accident that occurred on March 13, 2015 was a result of a breakdown that in turn led to the other vehicle running into its rear end. Chief Congemi stated a tracking system was put into effect two years ago to try and determine why those types of accidents occur. He reported that he was surprised to find out that 90% of these accidents are caused by vehicles that have stopped or have a flat tire and other vehicles running into the back of them. Chief Congemi said usually it is associated with reckless or inattentive driving and can be very dangerous. Mr. Dufrechou stated he is very proud that the Causeway's response time is less than five minutes but in this incident it was less than three minutes.

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On Replacing the Damage Traffic Signs Northbound / Southbound, Mr. Dufrechou presented the acceptance of the project. **On motion by Mr. Jaeger, seconded by Mr. Ligi, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission accepts the project titled Replace Damaged Traffic Signs Northbound/Southbound. The Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission authorizes General Manager, Carlton Dufrechou, to execute any documents associated with the acceptance of this project on behalf of the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission. Mr. Romig, Capt. Lorino, Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle and Mr. Jaeger voted in favor of the motion.**

On the Pavement Marking of Bridge Deck, Mr. Dufrechou presented Change Order No. 2. **On motion by Mr. Romig, seconded by Mr. LaSalle, Plan Change No. 2 provides for the additional police presence in the work zone, compensations for no work days and adjustment in plan quantities to match field quantities in the net amount of \$20,598.55 and 10 calendar days. Based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the GNOEC authorizes the General Manager to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 2. Mr. Romig, Capt. Lorino, Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle and Mr. Jaeger voted in favor of the motion.** Also on the Pavement Marking of Bridge Deck, Mr. Dufrechou presented the acceptance for this project. **On motion by Mr. Romig, seconded by Mr. Ligi, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission accepts the project titled Pavement Marking of the Bridge Deck. The Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission authorizes General Manager,**

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**Carlton Dufrechou, to execute any documents associated with the acceptance of this project on behalf of the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission. Mr. Romig, Capt. Lorino, Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle and Mr. Jaeger voted in favor of the motion.**

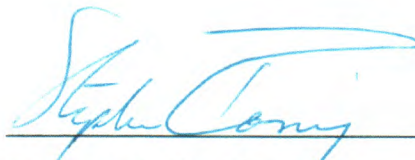
**On the 9-Mile Turnaround Spans, Mr. Dufrechou presented Change Order No. 1. On motion by Mr. Ligi, seconded by Mr. Jaeger, Plan Change No. 1 provides for the addition of 90 calendar days to current 90 calendar day assembly period. Based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the GNOEC authorizes the General Manager to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1. Mr. Romig, Capt. Lorino, Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle and Mr. Jaeger voted in favor of the motion.**

**On TIFIA, Mr. Dufrechou presented a Letter of Interest. On motion by Mr. LaSalle, seconded by Mr. Ligi, the USDOT Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) provides Federal credit assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance. TIFIA can help advance qualified, large-scale projects that otherwise might be delayed or deferred because of size, complexity or uncertainty over the timing of revenues. Based upon the recommendation of staff, the GNOEC authorizes Public Financial Management (PFM) to draft a TIFIA Letter of Interest to be submitted to USDOT for major safety upgrades to the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge including improved rails and safety bays/segmented shoulders. Mr. Romig, Capt. Lorino, Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle and Mr. Jaeger voted in favor of the motion.**

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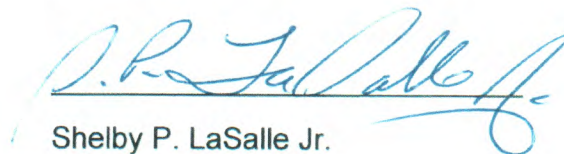
There being no further business, the meeting was be adjourned.

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Stephen G. Romig

Chairman



Shelby P. LaSalle Jr.

Secretary