

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021, 10:00 A.M., VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE.

PRESENT: Wanda Theriot, Chair; Joy Zainey, Vice Chair; Red Thompson, Treasurer; Gary Cooper, Secretary; Col. Evans Spiceland, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Melissa M. Phillpott; Robert Graham; Commander Curt Franz; Lt. Mike Kelly; Lt. Thea Andras; Stacie Heffker; Eileen Barthe; Crystal Scott; Craig Watson, Blue Williams; Liz Lambert, Riess LeMieux; Cary Bourgeois and Johnny Bradberry, GEC; Jim Martin, Ben Bartlett, and John Hartgreve, DEI; Bob Schmidt, Huval & Associates; Jan Evans and Hossein Ghara, Volkert and Associates; Babak Naghavi, Hardesty and Hanover; Cullen Ledet, Modjeski and Masters; and Shelby LaSalle.

Ms. Theriot called the meeting to order.

**On the motion by Ms. Theriot, seconded by Mrs. Zainey, the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 20, 2021 were accepted as written. Ms. Theriot asked for comments or questions. There were none. Ms. Theriot, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Cooper, and Col. Spiceland voted in favor of that motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou reported in January the Drawbridge operations included 7 vessel openings, no test openings and no incidents.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in February the Drawbridge operations included 4 vessel openings, 2 test openings and no incidents.

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Mr. Dufrechou reported, since the last GNOEC meeting, there were six days of fog operations; January 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 206 breakdown responses in January on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 129 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 77 were caused by debris on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported 16 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated 10 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 6 were caused by debris on the Huey P. Long Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported a total of 299 breakdown responses for both bridges in January.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in the month January there were a total of 13 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 4 occurred Northbound, 8 Southbound, and 1 at the North Toll Plaza. Mr. Dufrechou stated 2 were caused by breakdown or debris in the roadway. He reported there were 4 accidents that occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge in January. Mr. Dufrechou stated 2 occurred Eastbound, 2 Westbound and none were caused by breakdowns or debris in the roadway.

Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 198 breakdown responses in February on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 117 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 81 were caused by debris on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported 13 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated 10 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 3 were caused by debris on the Huey P. Long Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported a total of 211 breakdown responses for both bridges in February.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in the month February there were a total of 8 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 1 occurred Northbound, 6 Southbound and 1 at the South

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Toll Plaza. Mr. Dufrechou stated 5 were caused by breakdowns or debris in the roadway. He reported there were 14 accidents that occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge in February. Mr. Dufrechou stated 5 occurred Eastbound, 9 Westbound and none were caused by breakdowns or debris in the roadway.

On the landscaping and maintenance of the Monroe street overpass, staff recommended approval to execute an agreement with the City of Mandeville. **On motion by Col. Spiceland, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the GNOEC desires to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Mandeville related to landscaping improvements and maintenance of the Monroe Street Underpass. The public purpose of this agreement is for the improvement and beautification of the area along the Monroe Street Underpass. Based on the recommendations of GNOEC staff and legal counsel, the GNOEC hereby authorizes its General Manager to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and all necessary documents with the City of Mandeville for landscaping and maintenance of the Monroe Street Underpass. Ms. Theriot asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. Mr. LaSalle asked Mr. Dufrechou wording of the title on this agreement. Mr. Watson explained the language was provided by the City of Mandeville. There were no additional comments or questions from the audience. Ms. Theriot, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Cooper, and Col. Spiceland voted in favor of the motion.**


On the messaging alert system, staff recommended approval to advertise a Request for Proposals. **On motion by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the GNOEC desires to procure a messaging alert system in order to replace the current contract,**

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which is expiring in June of 2021. The messaging alert system provides emails and text messages to the employees and commuters of the bridges with alerts related to various issues, including, but not limited to, accidents, incidents, weather, construction, and closures. The GNOEC hereby authorizes its General Manager to issue and advertise a Request for Proposal, under La. R.S. 38:2234, et seq., to provide for the messaging alert system. Ms. Theriot asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Ms. Theriot, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Cooper, and Col. Spiceland voted in favor of the motion.

Ms. Zainey asked if we participated in the Amber Alert program. Commander Franz responded that the GNOEC only participates when requested by the Louisiana State Police.

Ms. Theriot reminded everyone the next meeting is tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, April 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Video Conferencing. There being no further business, the meeting was be adjourned.

By:   
for

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Wanda Theriot  
Chair

By:   
for

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Gary Cooper  
Secretary