

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M., IN THE GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

PRESENT: Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Chairman; Stephen G. Romig, Vice Chairman; Anthony V. Ligi, Jr., Treasurer; Lawrence M. Rase, Assistant Secretary Treasurer

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Georgie Bagnetto; Perry Daigrepoint; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Stacie Heffker; Cary Bourgeois & Bob Boagni, GEC, Inc.; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Kathy Gambino & Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Svc.; Jose Rodriguez, Burk-Kleinpeter; Steve Bowes & Kent Schexnayder, Sisung Investment Services; John Poche, Raymond James; Faiman Roberts, The Advocate; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Robert Rhoden, The Times-Picayune

ABSENT: Tommy S. Cvitanovich, Secretary

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

On motion by Ligi, seconded by Romig, the minutes of the regular meeting held December 12, 2013 were accepted as written. Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Ligi and Mr. Rase voted in favor of the motion.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Murhammer reported they will be working on fund-raisers for this year and probably have another skeet shoot.

For December, Mr. Dufrechou reported two vessel openings, one pin motor incident, two drive fault incidents and twelve test openings at the drawbridge.

Mr. Dufrechou reported there were fog operations on January 10 and 11.

Mr. Dufrechou reported during December, Police and Map responded to 188 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 28 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge, which is actually down a bit particularly on the Causeway Bridge, for the month. He stated, however, they made up for it last weekend with the fog and operations.

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Mr. Dufrechou reported in December there were eleven accidents on the Causeway Bridge and seven on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated year-to-date on the Causeway Bridge in 2013 there were 150 and on the Huey P. Long Bridge there were 114. Mr. Dufrechou stated the trend on the Causeway in 2012 was 151 accidents, which came down just a little in the past two years, having the storm protection project in 2011 and 2012; and, in 2013 there was the North Shore work for the toll plaza.

Mr. Dufrechou showed traffic backed-up on the bridge when a traffic light at West Esplanade Avenue malfunctioned at about 7:15 a.m. on January 9. He stated at one point, traffic went back to the eight-mile crossover. Mr. Dufrechou stated a dispatcher contacted the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, which contacted the Public Works Department and the light was operational within twenty minutes; nevertheless, the damage was done that morning. He stated it was about 8:15 a.m. before traffic was cleared.

Mr. Dufrechou presented the actual accident stats for the years: on the Causeway in 2013 there were 150; 151 in 2012; 133 in 2011; 144 in 2010; 157 in 2009; a lot of activity in 2006 the year after Katrina. Mr. Dufrechou stated Chief Congemi reminded him this year they did have an up-kick in DWIs, about 20% more compared to last years. Mr. Dufrechou stated the officers are out there very diligently all the time. Mr. Dufrechou pointed out the difference with the new lanes on the Huey P. Long Bridge - 114 in 2013 compared to 183 in 2012; 251 in 2011; the wider and multiple lanes make a big difference. Mr. Dufrechou stated, again, the officers are out there diligently on duty all the time. Mr. Ligi asked with respect to the 150 in 2013, time-wise, are the accidents happening more in the day, in peak traffic periods, or evenings - do they keep track of periods. Chief Congemi stated they happen more in the daytime and surprisingly there are more in dry

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weather than wet weather, adding he thinks people drive slower and more careful when it rains. Mr. Dufrechou stated to follow-up on Chief Congemi, in December, of the eleven accidents, seven were in dry conditions and four in wet. He stated people tend to be a little more cautious when the weather conditions are down.

On the Replacement of the Toll Collection System project, Mr. Dufrechou presented Change Order No. 5, stating it provides for additional demolition work removing the old signage from the canopy in the amount of \$15,452.80 and also software modifications for development of additional reports for \$24,650; the combined amount is \$40,102.80. He stated engineers and staff recommend approval. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Ligi, Plan Change No. 5 provides for additional demolition work at the North Toll Plaza canopy and for the development of additional reports in the total amount of \$40,102.80. Based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 5 on the referenced project. The General Manager was authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 5 with The Revenue Markets, Inc. (TRMI). Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Ligi and Mr. Rase voted in favor of the motion.**

On the Modifications to Nine-Mile Turnaround Spans project, Mr. Dufrechou stated this is the expansion of Crossover 5. He stated LA DOTD is receiving bids today at 10:00 a.m. and the Causeway will be able to review the bids for compliance. Mr. Bourgeois stated there are eight plan-holders. Mr. Dufrechou stated if DOTD finds the bids in compliance and makes a recommendation for a low bid award, this resolution would give the Causeway the ability to concur. **On motion by Ligi, seconded by Rase, bids on State Project No. H.005972 will be received by the LA Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) on January 15, 2014. The low**

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bid will be reviewed by DOTD for compliance with the specifications. Should this review find the bid in compliance with the specifications, DOTD will recommend award to the low bidder. Contingent on the recommendation by DOTD of the award, the Staff and Consulting Engineers will review the bid and make a recommendation on award of the project. Contingent upon the recommendation of the Staff and Consulting Engineers, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission concurs with recommendation of the LA Department of Transportation and Development award State Project No. H.005972, Modifications to Nine-Mile Turnaround, to the low bidder. The Commission authorized General Manager Carlton Dufrechou to execute any documents associated with the award of this contract on behalf of the GNOEC. Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Ligi and Mr. Rase voted in favor of the motion.

On the Overlay of the East Causeway Approach Road project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the resolution would authorize the execution of the design memorandum to develop plans and specifications for the East Approach. He stated the staff recommends approval. On motion by Romig, seconded by Rase, based on the recommendation of the Staff, the General Manager was authorized to execute the project memorandum for the project titled Overlay the East Causeway Approach Road and the Consulting Engineers are authorized to begin development of plans and specifications, and advertise the project. Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Ligi and Mr. Rase voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Dufrechou stated there were three letters regarding the fog operations in the past week. He stated on Thursday night an SUV broke down and our guys were there right on the spot to change a tire and got the people on their way; in another one the vehicle was actually on the 16-mile crest

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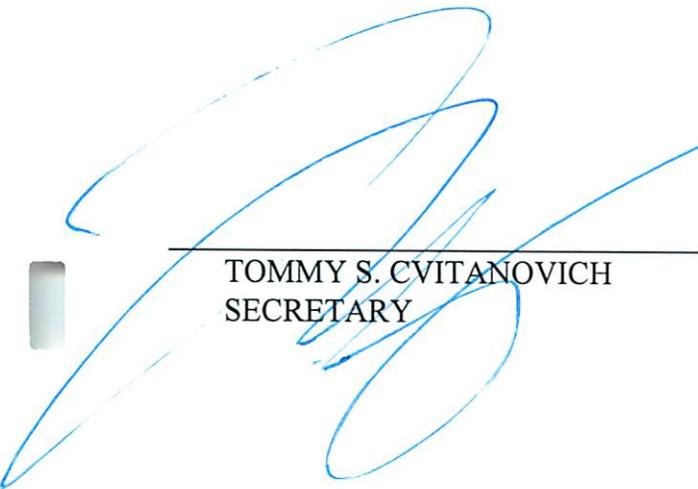
going up in the fog and broke down before predawn hours with the driver correctly concerned about the position they were in; they called right away and officers were there within minutes, pushed them to an intersection out of the road; there was one other that was a flat tire. Mr. Dufrechou apologized for not having copies of the letters in the meeting. Mr. Lorino asked Chief Congemi to pass on to those gentlemen the Commission's thanks; they do a great job and it is very nice to hear the public take the time and effort to send something in like that. Mr. Lorino stated he knows it is very important and asked that the officers be given a copy and tell them thank you on behalf of the Commission. Chief Congemi stated he will.

Mr. Lorino stated he and Mr. Rase have known each other for a long time, adding Mr. Rase was one of the first people that lived on the North Shore. Mr. Lorino stated Mr. Rase has been a very, very dedicated citizen that has served this Causeway in numerous ways - he has been on the Commission for a number of years and he has served as Chairman. Mr. Lorino stated last year he watched Mr. Rase serve as Chairman and will try to do as good a job. Mr. Lorino stated Mr. Rase is a very, very passionate person about what he likes to do and the State and the Causeway were very lucky to have him as Chairman. Mr. Lorino congratulated Mr. Rase on behalf of the Commission and presented him with a gavel. Mr. Rase stated this is the first gavel he has ever gotten and it is very nice. Mr. Rase stated he does remember when he first went on the Causeway - he was going out to dinner when Governor Blanco called him to ask if he would serve on the Causeway. Mr. Rase stated it is something near and dear to him because when the Causeway opened, that is when he moved to the North Shore. He stated he has been a commuter for many, many years - had to leave the state for a few years but got back here - and always with passion drove the Causeway. Mr. Rase stated it has been very near and dear to him and he has been very happy

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to serve and to him the Commission has always been very honorable. He stated he thinks we have a good organization and Mr. Dufrechou was a great find to lead the charge out there. Mr. Rase thanked everyone, adding he will be on the Commission for another year and then will take it from there.

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



TOMMY S. CVITANOVICH
SECRETARY



MICHAEL R. LORINO, JR.
CHAIRMAN