

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011, AT 10:00 A.M., IN THE GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Katz, Vice Chairman; Lawrence M. Rase, Secretary; Stephen G. Romig, Member; Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Member; Peter F. Egan, Member

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Perry Daigrepoint; Stacie Heffker; James E. Ravannack; Phil Meyers & Cary Bourgeois, GEC, Inc.; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bennett Powell & James Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; Andrea Calvin, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Bill Murhammer; Tammy Sellno, Bank of New York; Steve Bowes, Sisung Investment Services; Kelly McHugh, Kelly McHugh & Associates; Kristen Kendrick, Rene Poche, Justin Smith & Carl Anderson, Corps of Engineers; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer

Mr. Katz, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order.

On behalf of Mr. Rase, himself and the staff, Mr. Katz welcomed Mr. Romig to his second meeting, adding he was appointed by Cynthia Lee-Sheng of the Jefferson Parish Council. Mr. Katz welcomed back Mr. Egan, who is the swing seat member appointed by the Governor to represent St. Tammany Parish. Mr. Katz welcomed Mr. Lorino to his first meeting as the member appointed by the Governor to replace Pat Brister and represent St. Tammany Parish.

On motion by Romig, seconded by Rase, the minutes of the regular and special meetings held on September 15, 2011 were accepted as written. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Dr. Andrea Calvin presented the October report. Mr. Dufrechou stated Dr. Calvin has run the water quality program for the Foundation for more than a decade. Dr. Calvin stated there was very little rain in October, which resulted in only one exceeding criteria. She reported of the forty water quality samples taken, thirty-nine (97%) met

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primary recreation criteria - no exceeds on the South Shore and one on the North Shore. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou stated Dr. Calvin was instrumental in creating the pollution source identification program for Tangipahoa and St. Tammany Parishes. He stated Dr. Calvin's model is being taken over by the State and the EPA in other portions of the country. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou stated Mississippi River diversions going into the wetlands are beneficial to our coast. Mr. Dufrechou stated he spent time recently with Senator Vitter regarding diversions.

Mr. Dufrechou recognized outgoing Commissioner James Ravannack. Mr. Katz stated Mr. Ravannack served ably with the Commission and just completed his term. Mr. Katz welcomed Mr. Ravannack and thanked him for his service to the Causeway.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Murhammer reported the Causeway will host its annual Christmas party for the residents of Southeast Hospital on Friday, December 9, 2011, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and invited everyone to attend. He pointed out this is the only Christmas the residents will have, adding it is a heartfelt and worthy event. Mr. Murhammer stated the Foundation is working on two fund-raisers for next year.

Mr. Dufrechou reported there have been sixty drawbridge openings, one brake incident, five drive fault incidents and eight test openings for the period September 5 through October 30. He stated there have been no fog operations. Mr. Dufrechou reported police and MAP personnel responded to 206 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 37 on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on October 19 there was an Entergy power outage at the VOA building about 2:00 a.m. The emergency generator powered Dispatch, however, the land telephone lines and 700 radio communications went down until about 3:30 a.m. as a result of an unannounced AT&T

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modification to a telecommunications panel in the VOA building. It was subsequently corrected.

Mr. Dufrechou reported maintenance personnel and engineers completed the above water portion of the annual bridge and approach road inspections on October 19. The underwater inspection is underway and should be completed prior to year end.

Mr. Dufrechou reported that on October 28 the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget approved the Causeway's 2012 Budget, which is \$20,755,000. Mr. Dufrechou stated he is extremely proud of the staff, adding it is approximately \$500,000 less than last year and is the lowest budget in about seven years. He thanked Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Phillipott, Mr. Murhammer, Mrs. Lopreore, Chief Congemi, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Graham, who have all been instrumental in getting the budget together and making cost-consciousness throughout the organization. Mr. Dufrechou stated the toll revenue has been stable at \$16 million, however, Highway Fund No. 2 was down this past year. He stated the budget is taking a conservative approach on Highway Fund No. 2 next year.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on October 31, two pickup trucks collided in Crossover 7. A video presentation will be shown later in the meeting.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on Friday, November 4, an end cap on the southbound bridge deck came loose. Emergency repairs were done early Saturday morning with rolling convoys being used to prevent closing the bridge.

With respect to the North Channel Emergency Span Motors project, Mr. Dufrechou reported the final acceptance should be next month.

On Bridge Modifications at STP/LPV Hurricane Protection Work project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the attorneys and engineers are still working with the State for the Causeway to get reimbursed for its expenses associated with the project.

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With respect to the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the manufacturer made an error during fabrication which has required discarding parts and starting again. Plan Change No. 2 adds 125 days extension to the assembly period at no cost.

On the Call Box Migration project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the work should be completed by Friday. Mr. Rase mentioned Jack Harper and the problems he has had, and the State bid laws, and asked Mr. Bourgeois if the Commission has to use Harper again if he bids and if there is a disqualification process. Mr. Katz asked if Harper can be disqualified next time it happens. Mr. Bourgeois stated there is not a project that involves electrical work coming out any time soon and does not believe they can be kept from bidding. Mr. Dufrechou stated while this has been a problematic project, in the last two weeks Harper has changed 180 degrees, adding he is not quite sure why unless it is all the troubleshooting by Mrs. Lopreore and maintenance personnel.

On the Resurface Pavement South Marine Crossing project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the project is on hold and may be rebid in the spring of 2012.

With respect to the Florida Triangle/Turning Lanes West Causeway project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the bids received were significantly over engineering estimates. He stated the City of Mandeville and St. Tammany Parish have declined to increase their cost share so the project is terminated.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on the Fiber Optic Cable Tray Lease RFP two proposals were received but were low. The project has been put on hold and RFPs may be reissued in the spring of 2012.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the Hurricanes Katrina/Rita Emergency Relief projects include bridge traffic signs, modifications to the cable tray support system, relocations from the 9-mile turnaround and realignment of the northbound spans. These are federally funded projects to make the bridge more strong and secure for the future, with the exception of the design work that will be funded by the

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Causeway. The projects will be bid by LA DOTD.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) project is for adding a fifth lane at the North Toll Plaza. The environmental work is completed and LA DOTD is reviewing it. The project may be bid out by LA DOTD in February 2012.

With respect to the Discretionary Bridge Program, Mr. Dufrechou stated this is \$2.8 million FHWA funding for the south channel fender repair, the bascule control system and piling encapsulation for utility vaults work. The environmental work is completed and LA DOTD is reviewing. The project will be bid out by LA DOTD in the first quarter of 2012.

Mr. Dufrechou asked for Commission action on the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Plan Change No. 2, for the addition of 125 days at no cost. He stated the engineers and staff are recommending the plan change. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Romig, based on the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 2 on the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project. Plan Change No. 2 provides for additional 125 calendar days to the assembly period at no additional cost to the Commission. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 2 with Boh Brothers Construction Co., LLC. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou introduced Carl Anderson, the Senior Project Manager for the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers, adding he will give an update on the Storm Protection Project and potential lane changes which may occur in December. Mr. Dufrechou stated both the Corps and Boh Brothers have been amenable to trying to keep traffic moving and have done a tremendous job during the first year of this project. Using a power point presentation, Mr. Anderson showed the rendition

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of what the area will look like when the work is completed - the Causeway crossing over the levee and the seawall that will go underneath the bridge making the line of protection for Jefferson Parish. Mr. Anderson showed the current detour in place and stated the second detour will start in mid-December southbound, and then the northbound will open in mid-January 2012. He stated Boh Brothers is the contractor and the Corps has a good working relationship with Boh. Mr. Anderson stated the project is complicated, adding it is very congested in this area with the access and working areas very limited so they have worked closely with Boh to work out any problems. Mr. Anderson explained that in the first detour the traffic lanes north and south were moved to the middle of the area. He stated in exiting the bridge two lanes have been kept open southbound, with a third lane turning into Lakeway on 6th Street, and then expanding to four lanes continuing on Causeway Boulevard. He stated northbound there have been three lanes on Causeway Boulevard going down to two lanes entering and continuing onto the bridge. Mr. Anderson stated that in Detour 2, which is planned for December, the first phase is to shift the southbound lanes onto the new bridge that will be completed by early December; on the northbound lanes the traffic will be moved onto that part of the bridge in January 2012. He showed the southbound lanes moved onto the new bridge with two lanes going down; meanwhile they will be building the main portion of the bridge. He stated ultimately there will be four lanes of traffic. He stated at 6th Street they can get two lanes - eleven foot lanes are about as wide as they can get - and then expand to three lanes going into four lanes on Causeway Boulevard. Mr. Anderson stated the goal is to see if they can get a third lane in as soon as possible, but it will not be until January or spring sometime. He added the work will continue for another year. Mr. Dufrechou stated the date is set for December 5, 2011 and Mr. Anderson agreed. Mr. Anderson showed an aerial view of the project when it is completed. Mr. Rase referred to doing

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this the first week in December, beginning December 5, and asked if they had considered allowing Christmas to pass before doing this. Mr. Anderson stated he would hate to postpone the work, adding he has to start working on the seawall. Mr. Dufrechou stated what Mr. Rase has pointed out has been discussed in some of the pre-meetings if traffic picks up between Thanksgiving and Christmas - if there is any way to try to keep traffic flowing. Mr. Anderson stated that would delay the project and they cannot wait. Mr. Dufrechou thanked the Corps and Boh.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a slide presentation of the accident that occurred on Monday, October 31, about 4:00 p.m. in Crossover 7, in which one truck slammed into another. Mr. Dufrechou stated Causeway MAP and Police personnel responded immediately, along with other agency fire and EMS departments. He stated the bridge was not closed.

Mr. Dufrechou stated former Commissioner Kyle France arranged for Chief Congemi and Officer Shannon Guidry to meet with Adam Linebarger because of his interest in the Causeway. Chief Congemi stated Adam is an outstanding young man who is so knowledgeable of what is going on, so worldly and interested in everything. Chief Congemi stated meeting Adam was a great experience for him, Officer Guidry and everyone who came in contact with him - truly an inspiration. Chief Congemi stated looking at Adam one would think he is handicapped but Adam is not handicapped at all; he is full of energy and has lots of questions. Chief Congemi stated it was an honor to be with him during his visit. The power point presentation showed Adam during his visit at the Causeway, in the police unit and in Dispatch. Mr. Dufrechou stated Adam is well beyond his eight years of age, extremely intelligent and interested in police work. Chief Congemi pointed out Adam may not be able to drive a police vehicle but there are other positions in which he could serve. Mr. Dufrechou expressed his appreciation to the police department and Officer Guidry for putting the visit together.

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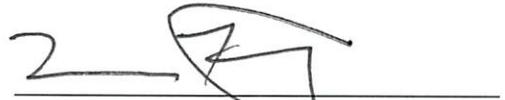
Mr. Dufrechou read a Letter to the Editor in the Times-Picayune from a motorist who experienced a flat tire on the Causeway. She commended Sgt. Mike Kelly and MAP operator Philip Bonura for their speedy, professional and caring assistance.

With respect to upcoming Commission meetings, Mr. Dufrechou stated Mr. Egan has a conflict in meeting on Tuesdays and the meetings may be scheduled for Wednesdays or other days. He stated the next meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

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



LAWRENCE M. RASE
SECRETARY



LAWRENCE K. KATZ
VICE CHAIRMAN