

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012, 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, Chairman; Lawrence M. Rase, Vice Chairman; Stephen G. Romig, Treasurer; Peter F. Egan, Secretary; Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Assistant Secretary Treasurer

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Melissa M. Phillpott; Perry Daigrepoint; Georgie Bagnetto; Eileen Barthe'; Sgt. Mike Kelly; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Phil Meyers, Cary Bourgeois, Jim Martin & Shelby LaSalle, Jr., GEC, Inc.; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; James Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; John Lopez, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Franklin Kyle, Kyle Associates; Fred Robertson; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Bob Warren, The Times-Picayune

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

On motion by Romig, seconded by Lorino, the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 14, 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. John Lopez presented the December report. Dr. Lopez reported of the forty water quality samples taken, thirty-nine samples (98%) met primary contact recreation standards. He stated the only exceeding one was at Bogue Falaya Park.

Dr. Lopez stated the lake is returning to normal and the water clarity is good. Mr. Dufrechou stated Dr. Lopez is the Executive Director of the Foundation and doing a fine job. He stated Dr. Lopez and his staff are about to break ground on rebuilding the New Basin Canal Lighthouse, which is being done with private funds.

Mr. Dufrechou reported for December there were three vessel openings, one gate incident and four test openings at the drawbridge. He reported fog operations have been busy - six days in December

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and one already in January. Mr. Dufrechou stated Police and MAP responded to 203 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 32 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on December 5 the Corps of Engineers closed the at-grade southbound exit off the bridge from three lanes to two between the toe of the bridge and 6th Street.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on December 12 the Causeway took over operation of the signal light at 6th Street, which reduced the traffic delays exiting the bridge about five minutes by manually operating the light from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. every morning.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on December 29 there was a forty-car accident on the I-10 inbound from Slidell. He stated this diverted about an extra 4,000 vehicles to the Causeway Bridge after the morning rush. Boh Brothers was able to shut down and reopen the second lane to get the traffic off the bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated last week there was a similar incident when the State Police shut down I-10 but this time Boh Brothers kept the lane open to get the traffic off the bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated last week there were discussions again with Jefferson Parish about the 6th Street traffic signal and the Causeway continuing to maintain operation of the signal every morning. He stated Jefferson Parish dedicated some individuals to manually coordinate the light entering at 6th Street into the Lakeway complex to try to keep traffic flowing into Lakeway more easily.

Mr. Dufrechou stated Sgt. Kelly is representing Chief Congemi, who is attending a meeting of Police Chiefs. In response to Mr. Dufrechou's inquiry, Sgt. Kelly stated traffic has been moving well. Sgt. Kelly stated Causeway Officer Mike Bernard is now stationed at the 6th Street signal every morning. He stated Officer Bernard usually arrives at the location about 5:50 a.m. and runs the light until about 9:35 a.m. Sgt. Kelly stated Susan Treadway with Jefferson Parish Traffic Engineering has assisted with the light and is monitoring as well so everything is moving fine; as much traffic as they

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are dealing with, it is going great. Sgt. Kelly added traffic was steady this morning, with the longest backup being to the 5.7 mile marker - no accidents or breakdowns reported; everything went well. Mr. Dufrechou thanked Sgt. Kelly for keeping the traffic going. He stated there are also maintenance employees coordinating with the police to be sure the northbound traffic going into Lakeway in the morning does not back up to West Esplanade Avenue. Mr. Dufrechou stated there are delays for traffic going into Lakeway anywhere from five to ten minutes, adding they are trying to be sure the folks in Lakeway recognize that the commuters coming off the bridge are at minimum having a fifteen minute addition to their travel time and sometimes much more. He stated it will be a balancing act for the next sixty days until the beginning of the third lane is complete, which should be in late February or early March 2012. Mr. Dufrechou stated until that time the Causeway will be actively managing the light.

On the North Channel Emergency Span Motors project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the project is complete and there are two resolutions for the Commission to consider today. The first will be for a plan change for \$24,000 for additional material required to complete the job. The second will be to accept the job.

On the Bridge Modifications for the Hurricane Protection project, Mr. Dufrechou stated this work is the ongoing Corps of Engineers' work. Mr. Dufrechou stated he, Mr. McCranie and Mr. Bourgeois continue to meet with the Corps and the State of LA regarding the Causeway's reimbursement. He stated to date they have made requests for more than \$1 million for Causeway funds that have been expended, adding that actually the Causeway's expenses to date are almost \$2 million. Mr. Dufrechou stated the State has agreed to \$64,000 of the reimbursements so far, but is optimistic saying they recognize the Causeway's costs are real, however, many have to be

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reclassified to their particular models of what is acceptable to them. He stated Mr. Bourgeois and Mr. McCranie are in the process of doing the reclassifications.

On the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Mr. Dufrechou stated Plan Change No. 4 will add \$63,036.93 for a trunnion bearing repair. The inspection found one other trunnion in need of repair on the southwest pier. Mr. Dufrechou stated the work is one month behind schedule and should be completed in April 2012.

On the VMS/Call Box/HIL System Migration project, Mr. Dufrechou reported the work is complete. He explained there will be a plan change for additional calendar days at no cost to close the job. He stated acceptance of the project as complete is recommended.

Mr. Dufrechou stated work under the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) includes a fifth lane for the toll system on the North Shore. He stated the planning is essentially complete. Mr. Dufrechou stated it is anticipated that LA DOTD will be putting it out for bid in February 2012; a large part of the funding is by the Federal government.

With respect to the Discretionary Bridge Program, Mr. Dufrechou stated it will cover about \$2.8 million worth of work for the South Channel fender Repair; the Bascule Control System, which is high priority; and the Piling Encapsulation for the utility vaults. He stated bidding is anticipated in the second quarter of this year by LA DOTD, with cost sharing by the Federal government.

On the North Channel Bascule Emergency Span Motors project, Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 1, which will provide for additional materials in the amount of \$24,300.50, for a total project cost of \$433,534.50. He stated the plan change also provides for additional calendar days to complete at no cost. **On motion by Romig, seconded by Lorino, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan**

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Change No. 1 on the North Channel Bascule Emergency Span Motors project. Plan Change No. 1 provides for the addition of Item S-103, Additional Materials and Components, Item S-104, Replace Generator Receptacle and Item S-105, Reimbursement for Damaged Radios in the amount of \$24,300.50. The Plan Change also provides for additional calendar days that were necessary for the completion of the work at no additional cost to the Commission. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1 with Jack B. Harper Electrical, Inc. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the staff and engineers recommend acceptance of the North Channel Bascule Emergency Span Motors project. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Egan, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted the project titled North Channel Bascule Emergency Span Motors. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of the certificate of acceptance with Jack B. Harper Electrical, Inc. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.**

On the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 4, which will add \$63,036.93 for the trunnion bearing repair for the southwest pier; the total project is \$411,838.08. He stated the staff and engineers recommend approval. **On motion by Egan, seconded by Lorino, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 4 for the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project. Plan Change No. 4 provides for the addition of thirty calendar days to the assembly period at no additional cost to the Commission and for the**

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renovation of the East Trunnion Bearing on the southwest pier in the amount of \$63,036.93.

The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 4 with Boh Brothers Construction Co. LLC. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

On the VMS/Call Box/HIL System Migration project, Mr. Dufrechou presented Change Order No. 2, which will provide for additional calendar days necessary for the completion of the work at no additional cost. He stated the job is complete, and the staff and engineers recommend acceptance.

On motion by Lorino, seconded by Romig, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 2 on the VMS/Call Box/HIL System Migration project. Plan Change No. 2 provides for additional calendar days that were necessary for the completion of the work at no additional cost to the Commission.

The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 2 with Jack B. Harper Electrical, Inc. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Dufrechou recommended acceptance of the VMS/Call Box/HIL System Migration project as complete. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Lorino, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted the project titled VMS/Call Box/HIL System Migration. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of the certificate of acceptance with Jack B. Harper Electrical, Inc. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.** Mr. Dufrechou asked for a round of applause for Mrs. Lopreore, Mr. Graham, Mr. Bourgeois and everybody who pressed the contractor to get the job completed.

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Mr. Dufrechou mentioned an opinion letter in The Times-Picayune on Monday from a commuter who says he is grateful for Causeway convoys. The commuter wrote that after seeing the horrific accident that occurred on I-10, he was reminded how blessed the commuters are to have the Causeway Police restrict lanes and caravan traffic across the Causeway during fog operations. He wrote that he has heard people complain that it inconveniences them on their Causeway trek, adding they should reflect on what happened to those forty vehicles on I-10. He thanked the Causeway Police for keeping the commuters safe. Mr. Dufrechou added that not only the police, but maintenance, dispatch, monitors, toll takers - everyone keeps the commuters safe.

Mr. Katz stated the next meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 8. The March meeting will be on the first Wednesday getting the meetings back on schedule.

Mr. Rase asked if there are any cars coming up to be declared surplus. Mr. Graham replied yes. Mr. Rase stated he would like to call Mayor Gitz of Madisonville, adding he believes the Causeway can give a piece of equipment to another municipality. He stated Madisonville lost all its equipment two years ago and is playing catch up. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Causeway always wants to help and the vehicles are usually auctioned.

In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Dr. Lopez reported on the progress of river diversions into wetlands.

There being no further business, on motion by Rase, seconded by Lorino, the meeting was adjourned.



PETER F. EGAN
SECRETARY



LAWRENCE K. KATZ
CHAIRMAN