

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillipott; Georgie Bagnetto; Eileen Barthe'; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Stacie Heffker; Perry Daigrepoint; Verdi Adam, Phil Meyers, Cary Bourgeois, James Martin & Gavin Gillen, GEC, Inc.; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; Andrea Calvin, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Steve Bowes & Kent Schexnayder, Sisung Investment Management Services; Rene Chopin, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.; Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; Robert Rhoden, The Times-Picayune

ABSENT: Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Assistant Secretary Treasurer

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**On motion by Romig, seconded by Rase, the minutes of the regular meeting held August 15, 2012 were accepted as written. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig and Mr. Egan voted in favor of the motion.**

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Dr. Calvin reported of the thirty water quality samples taken in August, twenty-seven samples (90%) met primary contact recreation standards. She reported of the thirty-six samples taken in September, twenty-five samples (69%) met primary contact recreation standards. Dr. Calvin stated by mid-September a lot of the water quality had gone back down to normal levels. Mr. Rase pointed out Bogue Falaya Park had problems. Dr. Calvin mentioned the Foundation has talked to the new Mayor about what is needed and what is going on along the river. Mr. Rase offered his help, if needed.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Gillen mentioned the upcoming skeet

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2012**

shoot fund-raiser scheduled for October 26. Flyers providing information are available. Chief Congemi added everything is going along well. Mr. Dufrechou stated the skeet shoot registration begins at 11:00 a.m. and it should be a fun event. He invited everyone to attend. Mr. Gillen stated for those who do not own shotguns, he thinks someone may take an extra one. Mr. Rase asked about the closing of Southeast Hospital and how it will affect the Foundation. Mr. Dufrechou stated there are still patients in the hospital this year and his appreciation is there will definitely be one more time of providing Christmas for them. Mr. Gillen stated possibly once the hospital is closed, the Foundation may direct more funds toward St. Tammany ARC or other groups. Mr. Dufrechou stated Mr. Gillen has done a great job with the transition from the luau to the skeet shoot as a fund-raiser.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in August there were twenty-two vessel openings, one drive fault incident and six test openings at the drawbridge. He reported in September there were ten vessel openings and one test opening. Mr. Dufrechou stated the drawbridge was inoperable for seven days; the bridge was on generator power and the decision was made to keep the drawbridge closed while on generator power to be safe for the motorists crossing.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in August there were 284 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 66 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated in September there were 263 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 53 on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated from August 27 through August 30 there were Hurricane Isaac operations. He stated the Causeway was open to the public until around 9:00 p.m. on August 28 when the winds exceeded 60 MPH and Sgt. Kelly shut it to the general public. He stated the bridge did remain open to first responders until Wednesday, August 29, about 4:00 p.m. He added Chief

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2012**

Congemi, Mr. Graham and Mr. Thompson were the last to leave that afternoon. Mr. Dufrechou stated the bridge was shut down primarily because there were waves on the columns, girders and water coming up through the drains. Mr. Dufrechou stated the next morning on Thursday, as the winds started to subside, he met with Mr. Martin and went north on the bridge while Mr. Bourgeois and the maintenance guys went under the bridge at the same time. He stated by noon they had inspected both the north and southbound bridges; it was opened at that time to first responders and to the general public at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday. He stated the total closure of the bridge was about twenty hours. Mr. Dufrechou stated he is proud of the staff; police officers were on call throughout the entire event as were maintenance people. Mrs. Lopreore had a corps of volunteers that kept things going in Dispatch. Everything was operating on generator power at the VOA. South Shore Maintenance Supervisor Bob Brocato lived in the VOA office for many days doing a more than admirable job keeping things operational as well as transporting dispatchers and luggage back and forth to the Marriott Hotel where they stayed. After the power went out at the hotel, the dispatchers lived in the VOA offices. With respect to damage sustained by the bridge, Mr. Dufrechou stated the nine-mile access ramps were lost; the high voltage cable/fiber trays were damaged in more than forty locations. He mentioned Mr. Graham and maintenance personnel, with the help of the engineers, were able to get all of the trays out of the lake. Mr. Dufrechou stated there was also damage to the fender systems, bridge signage and the North Toll Plaza scour protection.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on September 19, the Shuttle Endeavor had a fly-by over the bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on September 27, maintenance personnel repaired a small pothole on the southbound bridge near the nineteen-mile marker.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the variable message signs were knocked out during Isaac. On October 2,

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2012**

about three quarters of them were back operational primarily due to in-house forces, Howard Hotard and Steve Sharp, with support from the engineers.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides on the two classes of water rescue training led by Sgt. Kelly for all police and maintenance personnel held annually. Slides were shown of the stretch on the west side of the Monroe Overpass that began last month, initial road work adjacent to Mande's, the area for the waterline work and the access ramp going off the Monroe Overpass heading south that should be complete in four weeks.

With respect to the commuting delays, Mr. Dufrechou stated Isaac caused significant backup on the North Shore. Mr. Dufrechou stated with help from Chief Congemi, the engineers were able to re-taper the alignment of the barricade and the delays on the North Shore getting on the bridge have been eliminated completely; prior to this, the delays were up to twenty minutes. Mr. Dufrechou stated there are no delays getting on the bridge in the morning, however, coming off they are back to about twenty minute transit time on average but it appears to be just the increase in traffic with folks going back to school in September.

With regard to the Isaac damage to the cable trays, on the slides Mr. Dufrechou pointed out the cables were actually lifted out of the trays by the wave energy in almost fifty spots. Mr. Bourgeois pointed out a clip that clips onto the inside of the tray. Mr. Dufrechou added the trays actually turned ninety degrees. He showed the trays retrieved by maintenance personnel and put on brackets. Mr. Dufrechou showed the ones that went underneath the bridge, adding he understands these are the ones that had more trouble in Katrina. Mr. Bourgeois stated every location like this was damaged during Katrina. He stated very little was damaged on the western side; the majority was on the eastern side.

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2012**

Mr. Dufrechou showed a slide photo of the Shuttle Endeavor passing.

Mr. Dufrechou showed the relighting of the New Basin Canal lighthouse, adding the Causeway was very helpful. He stated this was the first night the beacon was on in more than twelve years. He stated Senator Vitter, Mayor Landrieu, Mayor Yenni and Coast Guard officials attended. Mr. Dufrechou mentioned the 610 Stompers were there, adding not only does the Causeway have a very talented engineer in Gavin Gillen, but he is a Stomper also and helped coordinate their appearance at the lighting.

Mr. Bourgeois made the presentation on the damage caused by Hurricane Isaac. He stated there was damage to five areas: the 9-Mile Turnaround, High Voltage Aerial Cable/Fiber Optic Cable Support Tray, South Channel and North Channel Fender Systems, Bridge Signage and Scour Protection at the North Toll Plaza Northbound. Mr. Bourgeois stated the cable support tray was damaged the length of the bridge. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Mr. Bourgeois mentioned the brackets and the engineers need to go back and look at the entire length because there is the possibility that things did come loose in that area. He stated the South Channel fender is about fifteen years old and there is a project in the works to do some repairs; walers are missing at the southeast corner. He stated the North Channel fender fared very well with the exception of where the waves crashed against it damaging the walkway and railing; all of the dolphins lost some fill on the top, which is programmed to be recapped and replaced in one of the Katrina projects. He stated a number of signs were lost along the length of the bridge; they can be replaced in the Katrina-related project. He stated there are scour issues at the North Toll Plaza. Mr. Bourgeois showed slides of the 9-Mile Turnaround, looking south down the main ramp, one span shifted over; the northern most bent cap was damaged from the span displacement. He showed the northern ramp looking south with four

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2012**

spans missing. On the South Channel fender, Mr. Bourgeois stated there was already a plan to replace things on the bottom level of it; walers are missing at the southeast corner. On the North Channel fender, Mr. Bourgeois stated the waves came predominately from the east pushing the pier, damaging the walkway and railing. With regard to the cable tray damage, Mr. Bourgeois showed a few of the locations. He explained because the level of the lake was higher, the waves were impacting the tray that is continuous along the length of the spans, pushing it up. Mr. Katz stated it appears the tray was designed to hold the weight of the cable but not during the second hurricane in a row causing major damage. Mr. Bourgeois stated the plan is to come in with additional brackets at critical areas where it goes underneath the bridge and for one span out because what they found was it started rolling out to the next span over; they will go in with additional brackets to hold it down but instead of relying on the clamping action, they will put a cap on the top so it will also hold it down so that even if the tray does disintegrate there will be a physical bond to the location to keep the cable up. Mr. Bourgeois showed examples of some of the signs missing on the bridge. The slides showed some of the erosion damage at the North Toll Plaza and debris near the 9-Mile turnaround on the northbound bridge. A slide showed an eight-foot alligator swimming in the North Channel. With regard to the cable tray project, Mr. Dufrechou stated it is part of the Hurricane Katrina repairs potentially scheduled for next year.

With respect to the Bridge Modifications - Hurricane Protection project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the Causeway's reimbursement request went to the State sixty days ago but as of yesterday, it has not been forwarded to the Corps of Engineers. He stated this is for approximately \$2.7 million reimbursement for funds expended by the Causeway for the Corps' project.

On the Discretionary Bridge Program, Mr. Dufrechou stated it includes the South Fender Repairs,

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2012**

the Bascule Control System and Piling Encapsulation projects and LA DOTD will be bidding them in the first quarter of 2013.

Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 4 on the North Toll Plaza Lane Modifications project, which recommends relocating an eight-inch waterline near the intersection of Monroe and Copal Streets. The waterline services the North Toll Plaza and the Lewisburg subdivision. He stated the staff and engineers recommend approval. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Egan, Plan Change No. 4 provides for the relocation of an eight-inch waterline near the Monroe Street Overpass U-turn lane and Copal Street. Based upon the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc., the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 4 on the North Toll Plaza Lane Modifications project. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 4 in an amount not to exceed \$51,000. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Egan and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated it was learned yesterday from Mrs. Lambert that the budget hearing is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 19, in Baton Rouge. Mrs. Lambert stated she sent e-mail notices to the Commission members and others to inform them. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Mrs. Lambert stated the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. in one of the Committee rooms.

Mr. Katz announced the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Dufrechou welcomed Robert Rhoden with The Times-Picayune.

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 3, 2012**

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



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PETER F. EGAN  
SECRETARY



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LAWRENCE K. KATZ  
CHAIRMAN