

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010, AT 10:00 A.M., IN THE GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

PRESENT: Frank L. Levy, Chairman; Lawrence K. Katz, Vice Chairman; Lawrence M. Rase, Treasurer; James E. Ravannack, Assistant Secretary Treasurer

OTHERS: Carlton F. Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillipott; Eileen Barthe'; Georgie Bagnetto; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Perry Daigrepoint; Stacie Heffker; Philip Meyer, Cary Bourgeois & James Martin, GEC, Inc.; Steve Phillippi, Bill Haensel & Carmelo Gutierrez, Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Patrice McNeal, Chase Bank; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; Steve Bowes, Sisung Investment Management Services; Sonja Mistretta, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; Steve Fall, N Y & Associates; Gavin Gillen, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Jeff Adelson, The Times-Picayune

ABSENT: Pat Brister, Secretary

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

On motion by Rase, seconded by Katz, the minutes of the regular meeting held November 9, 2010 were accepted as written. Mr. Levy, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Ravannack voted in favor of the motion.

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Mr. Dufrechou reported for November 68% of the water quality samples met primary recreation criteria.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Gilven reminded everyone the Christmas party for the residents of Southeast Hospital is Friday, December 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Dufrechou reported nineteen openings for the drawbridge last month, one pin limit switch incident southbound and one pin motor wiring incident with the southbound gate. He reported several fog logs and one day of fog operations on November 24 with convoys southbound and one lane operations northbound between 5:00 - 9:00 a.m. Mr. Dufrechou reported Police and MAP personnel responded to 396 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 25 breakdowns on the Huey

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P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on November 19, he and Mr. Katz met with the dean of Tulane Architectural School regarding a replication of the South Toll Plaza canopy. Mr. Katz stated they met with Dean Schwartz and presented to him the generational opportunity to make a statement with the canopy by work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - an opportunity to welcome visitors and residents to the South Shore and tell them thank you. Mr. Katz stated he and Mr. Dufrechou presented the concept to the Dean, not certain what he would think, adding they want to get as many design ideas as possible. Mr. Katz stated the Dean was excited about the idea and understood the significance of the canopy, the Causeway and its importance to the area. He stated the Dean has come up with a couple of concepts, one of which is a senior graduate student design contest - suggesting a very small award for the winning submittal. Mr. Katz stated he suggested to the Dean the concept of offering reimbursements of up to \$50 per entrance. He stated the Dean thinks there may be upwards of fifty different ideas for the canopy, for a cost of a couple thousand dollars total to the Commission. Mr. Katz stated the Dean is going to assign someone to be in charge of the idea. Mr. Dufrechou stated November 29 was the final night for the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway lettering on top of the plaza canopy, adding they are in storage and will be put on the new canopy.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on November 30 there was an adverse weather frontal passage resulting in the southbound bridge being closed about thirty minutes and the northbound bridge closed forty minutes during the morning commute.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on November 30 the controller was replaced on the traffic signal at Skipper Drive and West Causeway Approach.

Mr. Dufrechou reported December 2 was the first day using the scabber to roughen the deck section.

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A video presentation will be shown at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on December 2 CLECO erected the wind turbine tower at the North Toll Plaza. He stated on December 3 the variable message sign at the South Toll Plaza was removed, adding it was a five-hour operation for the removal and the sign is being stored at the North Shore Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Dufrechou reported the Piling Restoration - Part E project is 96% complete, with slightly less than twenty piles left. The work was scheduled for completion on December 26 but the contractor is requesting a thirty-day no-cost extension.

With regard to the Hurricane Protection Work, Mr. Dufrechou stated Boh Brothers is the contractor. He stated Boh is locating the subsurface utilities. The first road impacts are scheduled to begin Friday, December 10, after peak hour traffic - northbound initially and then southbound - striping the lanes and putting up barricades. Mr. Dufrechou stated on Monday, December 13, traffic will be reduced to two lanes southbound exiting the bridge for about two weeks and then will go back to three lanes of traffic exiting the bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated the green light cycle at 6th Street will change on Monday, December 13, as well. Mr. Dufrechou stated the South Toll Plaza offices are being relocated to Ridgelake, the fiber is connected, and the move is underway. He added the plaza buildings will be the first to be demolished soon. Mr. Dufrechou stated he has two action items on this project that will minimize delays. He stated total expenditures for the project to date is approximately \$1.1 million and is estimating it will be upward to \$2.7 million, all of which is reimbursable. Mr. Dufrechou pointed out, however, to date the Causeway has not received any of the reimbursable funds. He stated Mr. McCranie continues to pursue the matter with the State and Feds.

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With respect to the AASHTO bridge inspection, Mr. Dufrechou reported the field work is complete.

Mr. Dufrechou reported ten submissions were received for the Construction Management Request for Qualifications and have been qualified.

With respect to the thirty-day no-cost extension to the Piling Restoration Part E project, Mr. Katz asked if there are penalties if the contractor does not complete on time. Mr. Dufrechou replied yes.

With respect to the CLECO wind turbine installation, Mr. Katz asked Mr. Dufrechou if a ground breaking is being scheduled. Mr. Dufrechou stated yes, adding he will check on the date.

Mr. Dufrechou stated associated with the hurricane protection work by the Corps, Bridge Modifications at the South Toll Plaza, Optical Fiber System - Ridgelake Office to VOA Building project should have been part of the initial tasks but was overlooked by the federal contract. He stated as a result, the Corps has requested the Causeway to assist with an interim solution by relocating the South Toll Plaza equipment to the vacant computer trailer to make temporary fiber connections. He presented Change Order 1 in the amount of \$19,329 with Fisk Electric to install fiber between the VOA building and the temporary trailer, including a new utility pole. **On motion by Ravannack, seconded by Rase, based upon recommendation of the Staff and Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc./Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants, Inc., the project titled Bridge Modifications at South Toll Plaza, GNOEC Project No. 418, was amended by Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$19,329. The Commission hereby ratifies the Administration's execution of Change Order No. 1 with Fisk Electric Company. Mr. Levy, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Ravannack voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated the work associated with Corps' project necessitates moving the variable message/call box controller, antenna, fiber optic equipment and temporary power to the trailer in the

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parking lot. Mr. Dufrechou stated because of the time-line of the project the engineers are recommending a plan to change GNOEC Project 818 with a not to exceed budget of \$75,000 with Jack B. Harper Electrical, Inc. to facilitate the sequence of construction on the Corps project. He added this is reimbursable also. In response to inquiries by Mr. Katz and Mr. Ravannack, Mr. Bourgeois stated it is a firm price, however, because of the time-line of it they were unable to get the final design to Harper in time for Harper to give a quote before this morning. Mr. Martin explained both of these items are being done at the Corps' request to help speed along construction. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Mr. Bourgeois stated they believe the cost will be around \$70,000 which is why they estimated \$75,000 in case it comes in a little higher than \$70,000. Mr. Katz stated to have that range in the resolution puts the Commission at a disadvantage; it is not being negotiated with anyone; they are asking for a quote; it is not a competitive situation. Mr. Bourgeois stated there is no other way to do it unless it is left open-ended, which is why the engineers included a cap. Mr. Levy stated another way is to have more than one person quote. Mr. Ravannack stated if they estimate \$50,000 but the quote comes in at \$73,000 because the contractor heard the cap is \$75,000, then there is an issue. Mr. Bourgeois mentioned Harper is already doing some of the work. Mr. Katz suggested eliminating the name Jack B. Harper Electrical from the resolution. Mr. Bourgeois stated the way it is worded now is to allow for a plan change to the project. He stated if they go to another contractor, the only other one to go to is Fisk Electrical because they are currently under contract to do fiber work. He pointed out if this is not done as a plan change, then they will have to go out for a completely new bid on all of the work. Mr. Bourgeois stated they are to a degree stuck going down the path of asking Harper for a price on this. He stated the price will be reviewed to make sure it is fair. Mr. Bourgeois stated all the work is compensable by the Corps. In response

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to Mr. Dufrechou's inquiry, Mr. Bourgeois stated \$50,000 is a ball park estimate and after looking at it in-house, they are comfortable with it. Mr. Dufrechou stated Mrs. Lopreore is suggesting that the not to exceed budget amount be removed from the resolution and authorize execution of a plan change to the project with Jack B. Harper Electrical and then the dollar amount comes back to the Commission for its approval or rejection; take the \$75,000 amount out. The Commission agreed. Mr. Dufrechou thanked Mrs. Lopreore for a great recommendation. **On motion by Katz, seconded by Ravannack, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc./Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants, Inc., the Commission authorized the General Manager to execute a plan change with Jack B. Harper Electrical, Inc. to install interim power and fiber optic communications at the South Toll Plaza to facilitate the sequence of construction of the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Project LPV 17.2. Mr. Levy, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Ravannack voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated the existing eighteen-year-old pavement surface is worn at the South Marine Crossing and the project Resurface Pavement South Marine Crossing would remove the remaining surface, clean the decks, resurface with new polymer treatment and install new striping, reflectors and buttons. He stated the engineers and staff are recommending execution of a design memorandum for Project No. 422, with a not to exceed budget of \$135,000. He stated the estimate is actually about \$122,700. In response to Mr. Levy's inquiry, Mr. Bourgeois replies yes it will be bid out. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Katz, based on the recommendation of the Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc./Krebs, LaSalle, LeMieux Consultants, Inc., and the GNOEC Staff, the General Manager is hereby authorized to execute the design memorandum for the project titled Resurface Pavement South Marine Crossing and other matters therewith, with**

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a not to exceed budget of \$135,000. Mr. Levy, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Ravannack voted in favor of the motion.

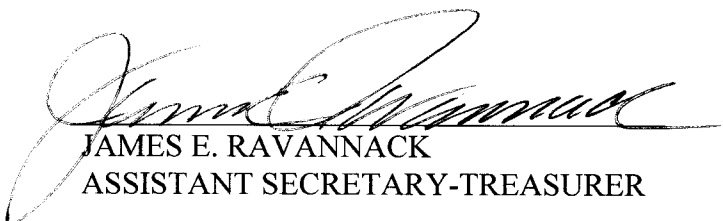
Mrs. Lopreore stated on December 23, 2010 the Causeway will have its Christmas buffet here in the VOA office beginning at 11:00 a.m. and invited everyone to attend. She stated employees attending bring a dish; Causeway funds are not used for the buffet.

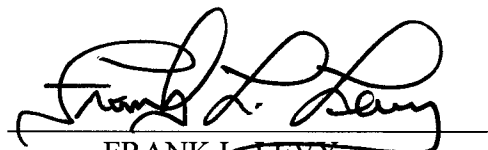
Mr. Dufrechou showed a video presentation of the scabbler being used at the drawbridge. He also showed a video of the variable message sign being removed from the South Toll Plaza as part of the Corps hurricane protection work. He added there is a temporary variable message sign further down on the median of Causeway Boulevard.

Mr. Levy stated the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2011, however, it may be rescheduled to Tuesday, January 11, 2011. The appropriate notices will be distributed.

Mr. Ravannack mentioned the increase in citations and asked Chief Congemi if safety-wise and wreck-wise the Causeway is all right. Chief Congemi replied yes. Mr. Dufrechou asked Chief Congemi to make a presentation of the tracking data being compiled by Lt. Lemoine at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Ravannack asked that the safety of the bridge be included.

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


JAMES E. RAVANNACK
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER


FRANK L. LEVY
CHAIRMAN