

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013, AT 10:00 A.M., IN THE GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

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

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Lt. Curt Franz; Melissa M. Phillpott; Eileen Barthe'; Georgie Bagnetto; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Sgt. Michael Kelly; Stacie Heffker; Perry Daigrepoint; Cary Bourgeois, James Martin, Gavin Gillen & Bob Boagni, GEC, Inc.; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Svc.; Hugh Martin, Foley & Judell; John Poche, Raymond James & Associates; Terri Dupre, Meyer Engineers; Jose Rodriguez, Burk Kleinpeter, Inc. Steve Bowes & Kent Schexnayder, Sisung Investment Management Services; Shelby P. LaSalle, Jr.; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Robert Rhoden, 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 July 3, 2013 were approved as written. Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Mr. Dufrechou stated Dr. Calvin could not be in the meeting today. Mr. Dufrechou stated he does not have the data but reported there were a few rain events that caused negative numbers around Bonnabel Boat Launch and on the North Shore. He added over all the lake is doing very well.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Gillen stated the first event of the year will be November 1 or 2 and they are hoping to get a lot more people involved than last year.

Mr. Dufrechou reported for July eighteen vessel openings, one gate incident and one test opening at the drawbridge.

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 7, 2013**

Mr. Dufrechou reported 199 breakdowns handled on the Causeway Bridge and 43 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou reported 10 accidents on the Causeway (4 southbound, 4 northbound, 1 at the toll plaza and 1 in a crossover; all in dry weather conditions). He reported 4 accidents on the Huey P. Long Bridge (2 eastbound, 2 westbound; all dry weather conditions). Mr. Dufrechou stated Sgt. Jacob informed him there is a problem that he has been talking about with Chief Congemi that people have been traveling at high rates of speed. Mr. Dufrechou stated Sgt. Jacob has talked to DOT about adding some "Reduce Speed Ahead" signs on both the east and west banks; the speed limit on the bridge is 50 MPH but they are doing that almost all the way down to ground level.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 11 and July 14 there were bridge closures in the afternoon for about forty minutes each for severe weather.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 19, just before 8:00 p.m., some of the officers intercepted a walker, an individual who was walking on the bridge from the North Shore.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 29 he is very pleased to say that the 5<sup>th</sup> Lane testing began in the morning and asked Mr. Thompson if he is pretty pleased so far. Mr. Thompson replied so far, it has been open all week. Mr. Dufrechou stated some auditing is being done on it right now and once it is complete and the auditing is accepted, they will start work on Lane 4, which could begin as early as next week.

Mr. Dufrechou stated he is also glad to report, and thinks Mr. Lorino will be happy to hear this too, that 5<sup>th</sup> Street is finally open at Causeway Boulevard after almost three years of closures so now he can come straight down in. Mr. Dufrechou added although the federal government has not told them it is permanent yet, from everything they hear it seems it will be.

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 7, 2013**

On the restoration for the 9-Mile temporary access and turnaround, Mr. Dufrechou stated the bid opening should be August 20.

Mr. Dufrechou stated in the continuing saga of animals on the bridge, a kitten was rescued about a mile out on the bridge on July 7. He added it was taken to a facility on the North Shore and has been adopted. Slides of the kitten were shown.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of the water rescue training. He explained there are two sessions, with the first one on July 20. Mr. Dufrechou introduced Sgt. Mike Kelly as the architect behind all this training. In response to Mr. Dufrechou's inquiry, Sgt. Kelly stated he has been doing the water rescue training for seven years and has been with the Causeway Police for fourteen and one half years. Sgt. Kelly pointed out the rope ladder that is standard in all cars and MAP vehicles in the event they have to go into the water. He explained the ladder is hung up at the North Plaza for the officers to climb a few times to see it is not as easy as it looks. Sgt. Kelly stated they do a full mock rescue drill on the bridge itself; all officers are involved and maintenance personnel are included. He showed a MAP truck with the rescue basket. Sgt. Kelly stated they review guidelines on what to do on the scene if there is a vehicle in the water or may be rescuing a boater. Sgt. Kelly stated Cpl. Mike Bernard is his assistant with the water rescue training and is a certified diver and instructor. Cpl. Bernard gives instructions while in the water as to how to load an individual into the basket and take care of someone who may be injured. Sgt. Kelly showed Cpl. Bernard demonstrating how to load and secure a person into the basket, then the person is lifted from the water. He showed a slide of everyone involved in one of the two training exercises that incorporates the maintenance and police departments. Sgt. Kelly stated the next training exercise will be Saturday, August 24, at 8:00 a.m. Mr. Dufrechou stated he is proud of Sgt. Kelly and all the guys

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 7, 2013**

in the training.

Mr. Dufrechou stated in addition to the Records Department tracking the number of incidents on the bridge, Chief Congemi is tracking traffic and statistics associated with enforcement action, adding there is a direct correlation between enforcement and accidents. He noted the citations have increased and when they go up, the crashes go down.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of a two-car crash that occurred on July 25. Lt. Franz explained that a pickup truck stalled in the right lane; the striking vehicle did not see the stalled truck until the last minute and struck it. The vehicle overturned and there were three injured persons transported to hospitals.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of the piling encapsulation work with a jack-up barge onsite. Mr. Bourgeois pointed out the barge from where the work is being done. Mr. Dufrechou stated one of the requirements is that everything be done from the water because it is imperative to keep the bridge open. Mr. Bourgeois explained how the encapsulation is done. He added the contractor, CEC, Inc., is moving along well and on schedule.

Mr. Dufrechou presented the Amended Budget for 2013 and the Proposed Budget for 2014. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Budget for 2014 is \$21,751,000, which is about \$70,000 less than the Approved Budget for last year. Mr. Dufrechou explained the big items are under Capital Acquisitions, more police vehicles are being bought this year to try to make up for last year. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Mr. Graham stated the delivery date for the six 2014 vehicles is August 12. Mr. Dufrechou stated it is a good budget and commended not only the accounting staff but everyone who has helped keep the budget tight. **On motion by Romig, seconded by Lorino, the Commission accepted and approved the Amended Budget for fiscal year November 1, 2012 - October 31,**

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 7, 2013**

**2013 and the Proposed Budget for fiscal year November 1, 2013 - October 31, 2014 as presented. The Commission also accepted and approved the Toll Covenant calculations made of the net revenue requirements in accordance with Section 6.15 of the Bond Indenture. Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated for the past six or seven months they have been talking about refunding the revenue bonds of the 2003 Series bonds and are proposing this morning to authorize the issuance of the refunding. He stated the refunding will probably save in the order of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 over the remaining term of the bonds, adding there is no new money, just trying to capitalize on a lower interest rate for a savings. **On motion by Katz, seconded by Ligi, the Commission adopted a Series Resolution authorizing the issuance of not exceeding Forty-Four Million Dollars (\$44,000,000) aggregate principal amount of Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission Refunding Revenue Bonds, in one or more series; providing for the terms, provisions and conditions of such Bonds; authorizing and approving the preparation and distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement and a final Official Statement relating to the Bonds; authorizing the execution of a Certificate of Determination containing terms and details of said Bonds; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.** To avoid any misconceptions, Mr. Romig pointed out and reconfirmed the Commission is not extending the terms of the bonds and is just saving on interest costs. **Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

On the North Channel Bascule Control System Replacement project, Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 1 for a no-cost extension of the assembly period from 30 days to 120 days because the motor control center is a 20-week item. He added staff and engineers are recommending this and

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 7, 2013**

it will be the last of the major work at the bascule. **On motion by Ligi, seconded by Katz, the LA DOTD uses a standard 30-day assembly period and it is the contractor's responsibility to request additional time if needed. Delivery time on the Motor Control Center (MCC) is approximately 20 weeks; accordingly, the contractor is requesting the assembly period be extended to 120 calendar days. Plan Change No. 1 adjusts the assembly period from 30 calendar days to 120 calendar days at no additional costs. Based upon the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission authorized the General Manager to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1. Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

On the Piling Restoration Transformer Platforms project, Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 1, which changes the location of the grounding rod closer to the center of the existing pilings and there is no cost associated with it. He stated the staff and engineers are recommending this because it is a better place for the grounding rod. **On motion by Lorino, seconded by Katz, Plan Change No. 1 adjusts the location of the ground rod from the contract location near the outer edge of the fiberglass jacket to be placed next to the piling. Based upon the recommendation of the staff and Consulting Engineers, the Commission authorized the General Manager to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1 in an amount of \$0 and no additional calendar days. Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou recognized today is Mr. Ligi's birthday.

Mr. Rase stated they need to look at people going through the tag only line, adding he has heard about this at least five times last week. He stated it is where guys are sitting in the tag lane to pay cash and asked who do they talk to about some kind of program. Mr. Thompson explained when

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 7, 2013**

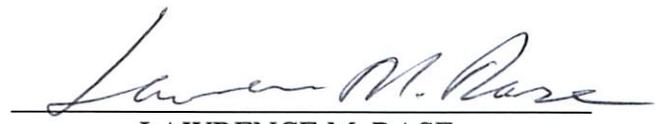
somebody goes through a tag only lane during rush hour they are turned around and a lot of times if a tag does not read right the toll taker tries to stop the vehicle and get the tag number off the tag. Mr. Thompson stated they do not take cash in a tag only lane - not during rush hour. Mr. Dufrechou stated if someone comes in a tag lane from a different state, obviously the collector takes the cash and gets them through.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



---

ANTHONY V. LIGI, JR.  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TREASURER



---

LAWRENCE M. RASE  
CHAIRMAN