

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF MANDEVILLE CITY HALL, 3101 EAST CAUSEWAY APPROACH, MANDEVILLE, LA.

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Katz, Vice Chairman; Lawrence M. Rase, Secretary; Stephen G. Romig, Member

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillipott; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Perry Daigrepoint; Stacie Heffker; Robert Brocato; Cary Bourgeois & Bob Boagni, GEC, Inc.; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; James Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; The Honorable Donald J. Villere, Mayor of Mandeville; John Shires, Professional Engineering Consultants Corp.; Franklin Kyle, Kyle Associates; Steve Phillippi; Carl Anderson, Ed Scheuermann & Lizabeth Howard, Corps of Engineers; Suzanne LeBreton, St. Tammany News; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Bob Warren, The Times-Picayune, FOX 8 News

ABSENT: Pat Brister, Chairman; James E. Ravannack, Treasurer

Mr. Rase called the meeting to order. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update on the status and schedule of the Corps of Engineers' Hurricane Protection Project on the South Shore and to inform the public about the proposed 5<sup>th</sup> lane and related roadway modifications at the North Toll Plaza.

Mr. Dufrechou introduced Carl Anderson, Corps of Engineers Project Manager, who was representing Rebecca Constance, the Senior Project Manager. Mr. Anderson used a power point presentation to outline the current status of the Hurricane Protection Project. Construction is on schedule. The next major traffic shift should occur late in 2011. This shift will occur at the toe of the bridge on the South Shore by redirecting traffic exiting southbound and entering northbound outboard to two lanes of new elevated roadway. Once traffic is moved to the elevated roadway, construction of the remaining segment of floodwall across Causeway Boulevard will be completed.

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This will be followed by constructing the final additional exit/entry lanes on top of the center floodwall segment. Final completion of the project is expected near the close of 2012 or early 2013. Mr. Dufrechou recognized Ed Scheuermann and Lizabeth Howard from Boh Brothers Construction. He expressed the Commission's appreciation to Boh, the Corps, Jefferson Parish, and especially to all Causeway commuters and staff for their assistance in helping to keep traffic flowing smoothly since the hurricane protection project started last year

Mr. Dufrechou introduced Cary Bourgeois with GEC who gave an overview of the proposed 5<sup>th</sup> lane and associated infrastructure and roadway modifications for the North Toll Plaza. Mr. Bourgeois stated the project is to increase capacity through the North Toll Plaza by adding a fifth lane in the median of the roadway. He explained that by installing a fifth lane, they will be able to always have four lanes open during construction as repair work is done to some of the existing pavement and modifications to the roadway. Mr. Bourgeois stated the project is mostly federally funded, with 20% being paid by the Commission. He stated the project will be bid through the LA Department of Transportation and Development, which is anticipated to be done in early spring of 2012; construction should begin a month or two after and be completed by the end of November 2012. Mr. Bourgeois stated there will be no impact to the morning commute; four toll lanes will be open at all times. The duration of the work will be nine or ten months. Once the 5<sup>th</sup> lane and associated road work are complete, a second phase of work will replace the toll equipment. The second phase should begin in early 2013 and be complete by the end of 2013.

A question and answer period followed. Five members of the audience asked questions regarding the schedule of the Corps' Hurricane Protection Project and need for the proposed 5<sup>th</sup> lane as well

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as fog operations. Responses were provided by Mr. Dufrechou, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bourgeois.

Total public attendance appeared to be about ten persons.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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PATRICIA P. BRISTER  
CHAIRMAN



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LAWRENCE M. RASE  
SECRETARY