

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019, 10:00 A.M., VOA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BLVD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA 70002

PRESENT: Patrick W. Fitzmorris, Chair; Joy Zainey, Vice Chair; Tim Coulon, Treasurer; Donald Sharp, Secretary; P. Lindsey Williams, Member

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Melissa M. Phillipott; Robert Graham; Chief Nick Congemi; Lt. Mike Kelly; Red Thompson; Stacie Heffker; Georgie Bagnetto; Eileen Barthe; Crystal Scott; Craig Watson, Blue Williams; Liz Lambert, Riess LeMieux; Cary Bourgeois, GEC; Jim Martin, DEI Engineering; Jan Evans, Volkert and Associates; Terri Dupre, Meyer Engineering; Dean DuPlantier, Broadmoor Design Group; Faimon Roberts, the Advocate; John Basilica, HNTB; Bert Moore, Gresham Smith; Shelby LaSalle

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**On the motion by Mr. Coulon, seconded by Mr. Sharp, the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 17, 2019 were accepted as written. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp, and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou reported in April the Drawbridge operations included 20 vessel openings, 1 test openings and 0 incidents.

Mr. Dufrechou reported, since the last GNOEC meeting, there were no fog days.

Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 325 breakdown responses in April on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 215 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 110 were caused by debris on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported 31

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breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated 27 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 4 were caused by debris on the Huey P. Long Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported a total of 356 breakdown responses for both bridges in April.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in the month of April there were a total of 10 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 2 occurred Northbound and 8 Southbound. Mr. Dufrechou reported 2 were caused by breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge. He also stated in the month of April, 17 accidents occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He reported 9 Eastbound and 8 Westbound. Mr. Dufrechou reported none were caused by breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

On April 22, 2019, Mr. Dufrechou reported both spans on the Causeway Bridge were closed from 5:50 pm to 6:52 pm for a two car crash with injuries.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the Southbound span, on the Causeway Bridge, closed from 6:01 am to 7:00 am on May 14, 2019 for a vehicle overboard. He reported the response by GNOEC Police Department, MAP, Dispatch, and others were excellent. Causeway Officer Christian Coyle went into the lake to assist rescuing the two occupants and their dog.

Mr. Dufrechou also reported the Southbound span closed on May 15, 2019 from 11:00 am through 12:25 pm to recover the overboard vehicle.

On May 22, 2019, Mr. Dufrechou stated a kayaker was rescued from the lake around 11:30 am.

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Lt. Kelly presented a PowerPoint regarding patrol rifle training in March 2019 at the Franklinton Police department range. Mr. Coulon asked Lt. Kelly for clarification between a patrol rifle and traditional rifle. Lt. Kelly explained the patrol rifle is like a military style rifle. He stated the patrol rifle is easier than a regular bolt action rifle to clean and use. Mr. Sharp asked if all GNOEC Police personnel have a patrol rifle. Lt. Kelly stated no but all Officers did qualify with them. He stated the GNOEC Police department only budgeted for 18 patrol rifles but they would like to purchase more by the end of this year with the goal to outfit one in every unit. Mr. LaSalle asked if patrol rifles are available for every shift. Lt. Kelly stated currently each team has three or four patrol rifles. He also reported for the two Police teams on Huey P. Long have two per shift.

Mr. Dufrechou presented a PowerPoint updating significant events since the last Commission meeting.

Mr. Bourgeois showed pictures of the roadway damage resulting from the vehicle fire that occurred at the 11.3 mile marker on the Southbound span of the Causeway on Monday, April 22, 2019. He stated the damage is approximately 20 feet long and 20 feet wide. Mr. Bourgeois explained this fire was more substantial than any the Causeway has experienced recently. He stated because of the depth and size of this damage and because it affected both lanes, the repair will require several lane closures during two separate weekends. Mr. Bourgeois stated since this could affect 50 thousand commuters, they are looking into alternative solutions such as switching the span with a spare. Mr. Bourgeois stated in 2006 or 2007, a span switch was completed in one overnight shift. He said another benefit to swapping the spans is it would not interfere

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with the Improvement projects already underway on the Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated there will be more information in approximately a month or two.

Mr. Coulon commended Mr. Dufrechou and staff for educating the commuters and residents of both Parishes in reference to the Improvement projects.

Mr. Fitzmorris asked if the overboard was a result of distracted driving. Chief Congemi stated the driver admitted to looking down at his GPS while his dog was jumping around in the vehicle. He stated the occupants were extremely fortunate that it was a rare case of the pickup staying up when it submerged into the water. Mr. Dufrechou agreed they were very fortunate and the response was quick. He explained that he could not give enough praise for the Dispatchers, Police, MAP, and EMS that handled this situation.

On the Safety Bay Improvement project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to authorize Plan Change No. 1. **On motion by Mr. Coulon, seconded by Mr. Sharp, Plan Change No. 1 provides for the purchase of bearing pad materials in the amount of \$52,760.85 and no calendar days. Based upon the recommendations of Staff and the Engineers, the GNOEC approves the execution of Plan Change No. 1. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.**

Also on the Safety Bay Improvement project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to authorize Plan Change No. 2. **On motion by Mrs. Zainey, seconded by Mr. Coulon, Plan Change No. 2 provides for the modification of the original contract retainage**

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percentage in accordance with La. R.S. 38:2248 which provides for retainage withheld on public construction contracts. The plan change has no additional costs or days. Based upon the recommendations of Staff and the Engineers, the GNOEC approves the execution of Plan Change No. 2. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.

Also on the Safety Bay Improvement project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to authorize Plan Change No. 3. On motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Zainey, Plan Change No. 3 provides for the supplemental specifications to LADOTD Standard Specification for Roads and Bridges (LSSR), Section 815.04.1 – Joint Systems, Precast Deck Placement – Vertical Tolerance across Longitudinal Joints. The plan change has no additional costs or days. Based upon the recommendations of Staff and the Engineers, the GNOEC approves the execution of Plan Change No. 3. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.

On the Safety Bay Improvement project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to authorize Supplemental Agreement No. 4. On motion by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mr. Coulon, on August 22, 2018, the GNOEC entered into a Contract with Hardesty & Hanover for construction engineering and inspection services for the Safety Bay

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**Improvement Project No. 432. Supplemental Agreement No. 4 is needed to adjust the compensation rate to allow a per diem for travel related expenses and is estimated to reduce direct expenses under the Contract. Accordingly, after consideration, and upon recommendation from the GNOEC staff, the project manager, and legal counsel, the GNOEC hereby authorizes the General Manager to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 4 with Hardesty & Hanover. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.**

**On the GNOEC's official journal, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to accept the New Orleans Advocate. On motion by Mr. Coulon, seconded by Mr. Williams, the Official Journal for the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission is chosen for one year to publish all notices, proceedings, and financial statements as required by state law. Based on a proposal received, the Commission appoints the low bidder, the New Orleans Advocate, with a bid of 33¢ per line, as the Official Journal for one year, effective July 2, 2019. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.**

**On the Transcore, LP Agreement, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to authorize amending the software maintenance support. On motion by Mrs. Zainey, seconded**

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**by Mr. Sharp, the GNOEC desires to amend the Software Maintenance Support Agreement (“Agreement”) with Transcore, LP for continued maintenance and support related to the toll tag system. The Amendment will renew the Agreement for a term of one year, commencing on June 1, 2019 and terminating on May 31, 2020. The GNOEC hereby authorizes its General Manager to execute all necessary documents with Transcore, LP to amend the Software Maintenance Support Agreement to effect the renewal. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.**

**On the GNOEC Maintenance Facility, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to authorize Plan Change #1. On motion by Mr. Coulon, seconded by Mrs. Zainey, Change Order No. 1 provides for increase in the contract amount of \$51,543.00 for thermostats, additional concrete paving, redesign charges, re-routing an existing oil separator, labor for reworking paving, relocation of columns, and adding a new fence, gate, and drive and an increase in the contract time of 57 days. Based upon the recommendations of the Staff and the Architect, the GNOEC authorizes the General Manager to complete the execution of Change Order No. 1 with CM Combs Construction LLC. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.**

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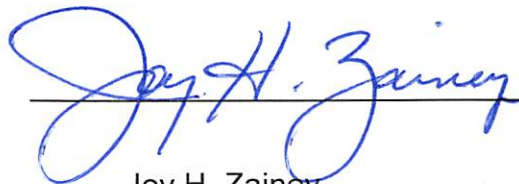
On the GNOEC Bylaws, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to amend article 6. On motion by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mr. Williams, the GNOEC desires to amend the language of Article 6 of the Bylaws in order to incorporate the process and timing required for a person to have an item considered by the Commission for inclusion on the agenda of an upcoming public meeting. The amended language also places a reasonable limitation on the amount of time that will be provided to the speaker on the agenda item. All amendments are in compliance with the Louisiana Open Meetings Law. The GNOEC hereby amends Article 6 of the Bylaws as provided in Exhibit A attached to this Resolution. Mr. Fitzmorris asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no comments or questions from the audience. Mr. Fitzmorris, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Coulon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Williams voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Fitzmorris reminded everyone the next meeting is tentatively scheduled June 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the VOA building on the South Shore. There being no further business, the meeting was be adjourned.



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Patrick Fitzmorris  
Chair



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Joy H. Zainey  
Vice Chair