

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 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; Peter F. Egan, Secretary; Lawrence K. Katz, Assistant Secretary Treasurer

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; Phil Meyers & Cary Bourgeois, GEC, Inc.; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; Rene Chopin, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.; Bennett Powell, Kathy Gambino & Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; Shelby P. LaSalle, Jr.; Steve Bowes, Sisung Investment Management Services

ABSENT: Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Vice Chairman; Stephen G. Romig; Treasurer

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**On motion by Katz, seconded by Egan, the minutes of the regular meeting held December 5, 2012 were accepted as written. Mr. Rase, Mr. Egan and Mr. Katz voted in favor of the motion.**

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Mr. Dufrechou reported of the twenty-seven water quality samples taken, eighteen (67%) samples met primary contact recreation standards. He stated there were seven exceeding on the South Shore and two on the North Shore.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Chief Congemi stated there is nothing to report. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Foundation had a successful fund-raiser and Christmas party at Southeast Hospital.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in December there were eighteen vessel openings, two drive fault incidents and one test opening for the drawbridge.

Mr. Dufrechou reported Police and MAP responded to 178 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 37 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou noted the 215 breakdown total is down

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a bit because they average almost 250 a month most of the time.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the southbound commute time is down to about under 35 minutes.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of an incident that occurred on December 6 in which a pickup truck hit a radar mast in Crossover 5. He stated the good news is the mast did not come down. Mr.

Dufrechou stated the guys got out there very rapidly and used the reach-all to pick up the mast.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the radar was relocated to Crossover 2, mounted within eight hours and back operational. Mr. Dufrechou stated he is very proud of the guys and the radar is operational.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on December 7, 8 and 25, there were fog operations.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on December 11, there was a man who ran onto the bridge from the North Toll

Plaza just after a shift change, out about three hundred feet on the bridge, with an officer following

him. Chief Congemi stated then the man decided to dive over, which confounds him as to why they do it; the officers chased him and finally grabbed him to bring him in. Mr. Dufrechou showed

slides of the incident, stating the interesting item was the man decided to come out kind of natural, with the officers helping him out of the lake. Mr. Dufrechou stated this is the first one, to his knowledge, that was actually skinny-dipping in the lake, adding fortunately he is all in one piece and was transported to one of the area hospitals.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of Police and MAP folks helping when Santa's sleigh broke down; it was assisted back onto its trailer to get back to the North Pole.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on December 25, there was a weather closing on Christmas Day from about 3:25 - 3:45 p.m. because of poor weather.

Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of the construction of the 5<sup>th</sup> Lane at the North Toll Plaza and in surrounding areas.

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Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of some non-income producing residents that the camera department found recently on the camera equipment at the North Toll Plaza, adding from what he understands, the birds have been roosting there for about a month. He added hopefully they are not interfering with all the electronics.

Mr. Dufrechou stated a lot of effort has been put into reviewing new police vehicles by Chief Congemi and Lieutenant Lemoine, when he was with the Causeway. Mr. Dufrechou mentioned, as everyone already knows, Lt. Lemoine resigned effectively last Friday. Mr. Dufrechou stated Lt. Lemoine is back with Kenner, wishes him the best, and it sounds like he has his dream job with data management. Mr. Dufrechou stated Lt. Lemoine was very helpful to Chief Congemi and Mr. Graham also in review of all of the vehicles. Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of the Chevrolet Tahoe PPV and its counterpart, the Ford Police Interceptor (Explorer). He stated the vehicles are phenomenally much alike, in not only dimensions but performance. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Tahoe has been in the field longer - State Police has used them for at least three years now. He stated the Ford Interceptor is being used by Jefferson Parish. Mr. Dufrechou stated St. Tammany Parish has both vehicles and is doing a comparison. He stated the Causeway Police should have the comparative data by the end of this month or early next month and make its order from there.

Mr. Dufrechou stated these vehicles are much better than the sedans; the sedans are too small for the Causeway operations today. He stated both vehicles are more than comparable to the existing Crown Victoria Fords; they both have more power; the Tahoe does have a V-8; the Ford has a V-6; both have more horse power and more cargo capacity than the Crown Vics. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Tahoe is a little more comfortable, at least to him, in driving; however, the Ford Police Interceptor is more maneuverable of the two; either would fit the needs well. He stated

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when they get the data, he and Chief Congemi will sit down and make a final call. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou replied five are budgeted for this year; there is a total of thirty-two police vehicles now, so within the next five years they will be converting the entire fleet. Mr. Katz stated he knows the cars are on State contract and asked if the dealers have them priced identically. Mr. Graham stated yes, they actually do a bid every year and one dealer will get the bid for State contract. Mr. Katz asked if it is only one dealer in the whole state. Mr. Graham replied yes, and it will vary. In response to Mr. Dufrechou's inquiry as to who has been supplying the cars the police have been driving, Mr. Graham stated Lamarque Ford. Mr. Dufrechou asked who is providing the Explorer and Tahoe demonstration vehicles. Mr. Graham stated a dealer in Hammond. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Mr. Graham replied there will be one that will have the State contract. Chief Congemi explained the vehicles can be bought just about any place but the dealers have to give the State contract bid for the year. Mr. Dufrechou stated both vehicles have a 100,000 miles warranty.

With regard to the South Shore Storm Protection Project, Mr. Dufrechou stated Boh Brothers anticipates demobilizing in the next sixty days. He stated the gantry is the major item left and is yet to be installed.

On the Discretionary Bridge Program, Mr. Dufrechou stated bidding on the Bascule Control System will be in February; bidding for the Piling Encapsulation Utility Vaults is today; the Fender System bidding has been delayed by LA DOTD to incorporate the Hurricane Isaac repairs, which may be in the second quarter of the year.

On the project to Replace the GNOEC Toll Collection System, Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 1, which recommends removal of the gantry from the scope of work for a credit of

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\$195,600. He added this work was transferred to the Barriere Construction project in December. He stated the staff and engineers recommend Commission approval. **On motion by Katz, seconded by Egan, Plan Change No. 1 provides for the removal of the overhead mounting gantry from the Scope of Work for the Replace the Toll Collection System project with a credit to the GNOEC in the amount of \$195,600. Based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 1 on the referenced project. The General Manager was authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1 with The Revenue Markets, Inc. (TRMI Systems Integration). Mr. Rase, Mr. Egan and Mr. Katz voted in favor of the motion.**

On the same project, Replace the Toll Collection System, Mr. Dufrechou presented Plan Change No. 2 that will provide for the installation of a traffic entry gate for Lane 5 and the replacement of gates on existing Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4. Mr. Dufrechou stated this is an addition of \$98,181 and the engineers and staff recommend it for the Commission's consideration. **On motion by Egan, seconded by Katz, Plan Change No. 2 provides for the installation of a traffic entry gate in Lane 5 and the replacement of the traffic entry gates in Lanes 1 through 4 in the amount of \$98,181. Based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 2 on the referenced project. The General Manager was authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 2 with The Revenue Markets, Inc. (TRMI Systems Integration). Mr. Rase, Mr. Egan and Mr. Katz voted in favor of the motion.** Mr. Katz stated for the record the Commission saved \$195,000 with his motion.

Mr. Dufrechou wished Chief Congemi a Happy Birthday. Mr. Dufrechou mentioned the Huey P. Long guys have a new office and the internet will be connected on Monday.

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Mr. Rase announced the next meeting is set for Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

On behalf of the staff and Commission members, Mr. Rase presented Mr. Katz with a gavel for his service as Chairman the past year. Mr. Rase stated he has been very fortunate having first served under Frank Levy; then came behind with Pat Brister; and then the same time as Mr. Katz and his second time to be with Mr. Egan. Mr. Rase stated it has been a good experience for him and they will continue as they have in the past to do the right thing all the time. Mr. Rase added he is sorry the nine-mile turnaround is gone because growing up as a kid it was a great meeting place; he thinks there was one police officer then and he is not so sure it was not Mr. Lambert.

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



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PETER E. EGAN  
SECRETARY



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LAWRENCE M. RASE  
CHAIRMAN