

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012, AT 5:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF MANDEVILLE CITY HALL, 3101 EAST CAUSEWAY APPROACH, MANDEVILLE, LA

PRESENT: Lawrence K. Katz, Chairman; Lawrence M. Rase, Vice Chairman; Peter F. Egan, Secretary; Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Assistant Secretary Treasurer

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillipott; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Stacie Heffker; Perry Daigrepoint; Robert Brocato; Phil Meyers, Cary Bourgeois, Shelby LaSalle, Jr. & Gavin Gillen, GEC, Inc.; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bill Becknell & Brian Meissner, The Becknell Law Firm; Bill Murhammer; Steve Bowes, Sisung Investment Management Services; Rene Chopin, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.; Bennett Powell & Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services; Willie Paretto; Bob Casse, Joy Dillard; Al Weysham; Steve Phillippi; Mandeville Mayor Donald Villere; Mandeville Councilman David Ellis; Mandeville Councilman Clay Madden; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Bob Warren, The Times-Picayune

ABSENT: Stephen G. Romig, Treasurer

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Mr. Egan stated he would like to take a moment to reflect on the event of Pan Am Flight 759 that has been remembered many times by the media in the past few days. He stated everyone remembers where they were at that moment and acknowledged many of us knew people who were involved.

Mr. Egan stated there is one person who was very intricately involved as a Lieutenant and who knew many of the crew members because he worked at the airport; he actually witnessed the accident first-hand and was one of the many unsung heroes of everything that happened for a period of time thereafter. He was probably one, with many others, who never got the acknowledgment or the gratitude that was his due, along with firefighters and others involved in the activities. Mr. Egan stated as a young police officer, Nick Congemi was on the scene early and was friends with the flight crew and many people on the ground. Mr. Egan stated as a police officer Congemi worked every

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department and for those who saw the growth and development of the City of Kenner over a thirty-five to forty-year period of time can acknowledge that Chief Congemi brought the Kenner Police Department very much into the twenty-first century and was one of the most modern police departments in the country, and provided protection and piece of mind to the citizens of Kenner and the communities surrounding the metropolitan area. Mr. Egan stated his colleagues on the Commission asked him to acknowledge Chief Congemi, adding it is his privilege as he has had the good fortune of working in the City of Kenner for a period of time when Chief Congemi was a patrolman and even then he had those traits of leadership. Mr. Egan stated on behalf of the Commissioners and staff, he wants to commend Chief Congemi for the wonderful work he has done in his career, adding it is a privilege to have him as the Police Chief of the Causeway. Mr. Katz thanked Mr. Egan for his remarks and added he is honored to have Chief Congemi as a friend and have him work with the Causeway. On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Katz thanked Chief Congemi for everything he has done for citizens. Chief Congemi thanked the Commission and added he accepts the kind words on behalf of all the first responders and everyone who was on the scene of Flight 759 that day - many good people from law enforcement and first responders, along with many good citizens who came out to render aid; they will always have a great place in his heart as well as those who were families of the victims.

Mr. Katz recognized Mandeville Mayor Villere and thanked him for his hospitality. Mr. Katz also recognized Mandeville City Councilmen Clay Madden and David Ellis.

Mr. Katz acknowledged Willie Paretto, stating she was the long-time Chairperson of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation for fourteen years. Mr. Katz stated Gavin Gillen has taken her place and is now Chairman of the Foundation. Mr. Gillen acknowledged the hard work Mrs. Paretto has

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done for the Foundation, taking it to a new level with the luaus and functions during the years. Mrs. Paretti stated it has been her pleasure to serve, adding Mr. Gillen was willing to take over as Chairman but she is not going anywhere. The Commission presented Mrs. Paretti a plaque of recognition and thanks.

On motion by Egan, seconded by Lorino, the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 6, 2012 were accepted as written. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Dufrechou recognized Mayor Villere asking him if he has anything to say for Mandeville or has any complaints they can try to address. Mayor Villere stated there are absolutely no complaints. Mayor Villere stated it is his pleasure to continue the working relationship that Mandeville has established with the Causeway and Mr. Dufrechou. Mayor Villere stated they are taking a look at a number of issues as far as to allow Mandeville citizens to move around from the east side to the west side, across the West Approach and the East Approach, and that type of thing. Mayor Villere stated Mr. Dufrechou and his folks have always been very helpful, very cooperative in working with the city to get what it needs to continue to make Mandeville a great place to live. Mayor Villere stated one of the areas they have been working on is accessability across the West Causeway Approach around Dalwill Drive. Mayor Villere stated when one looks at the West Causeway Approach, there is no way for pedestrian transportation, for bike path, or anyone with a wheelchair to get across to a shopping area. He explained a lady who lives in Beau Rivage went to him and Reid Falconer saying they need access across there because they cannot get over to a shopping area or whatever. Mayor Villere stated he invited Mr. Dufrechou and the lady to have a meeting, and about a year ago they started a process of getting the Regional Planning Commission involved in

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doing a study for them that came up with a good solution that will help pedestrian transportation across West Causeway Approach with minimal interference as far as the traffic. Mayor Villere stated he is grateful for that and for working on a few other projects. Mr. Dufrechou stated Mayor Villere's maintenance folks help the Causeway guys frequently and thanked him for that coordination, which helps a lot.

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Mr. Dufrechou reported for June that 80% of the water quality samples met primary recreation criteria. There were two exceeding on the South Shore and six exceeding on the North Shore. Mr. Dufrechou stated there was a lot of rain associated with these and five of the eight were all on one rain event day.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Gillen reported they are looking toward early November for a skeet shoot.

Mr. Dufrechou reported for June, twenty-six vessel openings and two drive fault incidents at the drawbridge. He reported Police and MAP responded to 227 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 49 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on June 6, there was another heavy rain and lightning event that knocked out Lane 3 for a short while. He stated maintenance was able to cannibalize enough parts to get it up and going again.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on June 7, the Huey P. Long police and MAP rescued a cat from the roadway. It is unknown how the cat got on the bridge but it was saved.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on June 7, a truck with trailer going south on the Causeway about 2:30 p.m. carrying movie props lost a twelve foot long/five foot in diameter section of Styrofoam - it looked like a column rolling down the roadway. He stated police and MAP got to it quickly but the biggest

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problem was its size and moving it off the bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 25, a truck stalled in the southbound roadway just before the drawbridge; personnel were on the scene in almost less than two minutes and thirty seconds, but unfortunately between that time there was one vehicle that, despite all the hazard warning lights, kept going straight and rear-ended the truck. He stated the vehicle striking the truck was a four-door automobile and was torn up badly; the individuals in the truck were out of it but instead of going to the back of the truck as recommended, one was looking under the hood and they stepped out of the way at the last minute; everyone was okay.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on June 22, maintenance forces did a temporary roadbed repair on the northbound bridge at about the 8.8 mile-marker.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on July 2, police and MAP interceded with a potential jumper off the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 3, Standard & Poor's completed its review and he is pleased to announce the "A" rating is unchanged. He thanked Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Murhammer and Mrs. Phillpott for their work on the review.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 9, a small truck broke down on the Causeway southbound; it lost the drive train, which hit the deck, and then punched a hole in one of the fuel lines on the truck. He stated there was not much fuel in the tank but the bridge was closed for about twenty-five minutes to mop up the ten gallon spill and wait for the fire department to escort the vehicle off the bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated at about 8:00 a.m. this morning there was an incident involving an SUV about two miles from the North Shore on the southbound bridge. Chief Congemi explained the wheel came off but it was the strangest thing he has ever seen because the lug nuts were still in it; the rim

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broke around and the tire with that part of the rim came off and dug into the ground, the vehicle hit the railing, went up onto the rail and flipped over. He added he has never seen one where the lugs were actually still attached to the brake drum. Mr. Dufrechou stated the positive news was the officers were able to open the bridge; the bridge was only closed five minutes totally; one lane was opened almost immediately. He stated the entire event was less than thirty minutes.

With respect to the southbound commute summary, Mr. Dufrechou stated earlier in the year when the third exit lane was lost the average commute time increased almost fifty minutes. He stated in the past few weeks it has been down to less than thirty minutes.

Mr. Dufrechou stated there will be a status update on the Corps' project in the 6:00 p.m. presentation following this meeting. He stated the revised reimbursement request is complete and ready to be submitted back to the Corps and State of LA.

On the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Mr. Dufrechou reported the permanent replacement of the bearing cap was scheduled for tomorrow but one of the caps is not back and the work has been rescheduled for July 26.

On the 5th Lane at North Toll Plaza/TEA-21 project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the work will begin on Monday, July 16. A presentation will be shown at 6:00 p.m. after this meeting.

Mr. Dufrechou stated other projects pending are the South Channel Fender Repair, the Bascule Control System and the Pile Encapsulation Utility Vaults. The LA DOTD bidding is anticipated before the third quarter of this year.

Mr. Dufrechou stated, as presented at the last meeting, proposals were received from three vendors for the replacement of the toll system at the North Plaza. He stated they ranged from the high of \$2.59 million, \$2.44 million and \$2.35 million and were evaluated by staff and engineers. Mr.

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Dufrechou stated after negotiations with the vendor everyone thought was the most robust, he is pleased to report that the engineers, attorneys and staff were able to get the price down in excess of \$200,000 from the initial estimate. Mr. Dufrechou stated they are recommending that the Commission enter into a contract with The Revenue Markets, Inc. (TRMI) at a cost not to exceed \$2,373,700. Mr. Katz asked about the time table. Mr. Dufrechou stated the road work will begin next week; once the contract is executed the TRMI guys will start collecting the hardware and software. He stated TRMI will assemble a complete lane that will be tested at TRMI facilities before it comes down here; once the 5th Lane is complete, the first new toll booth will be in the 5th Lane - completely installed hardware and software; it will be field-tested and once working to satisfaction, they will go progressively to the other four toll lanes. Mr. Dufrechou stated at all times during construction four toll lanes will be open for morning commuters so the time through the lanes should never be any less than it is right now. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry regarding the canopy, Mr. Bourgeois stated all demolition required to install the 5th Lane will be done during off-peak hours. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry regarding the cost-saving, Mr. Bourgeois stated they are hoping to transfer some items, the gantry/canopy and treadles, from this TRMI project to the 5th Lane Barriere Construction project - actual construction of the lane. He stated he has not had a chance to approach Barriere on those items or remove them from the TRMI work yet. Mr. Dufrechou stated TRMI will most likely be the lowest bid. **On motion by Lorino, seconded by Egan, the following resolution authorizing the Commission to enter into a contract with The Revenue Markets, Inc. (dba TRMI Systems Integration) to replace the toll collection system under RFP No. 819 was adopted:**

WHEREAS, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission (GNOEC) authorized

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its General Manager to negotiate a contract with The Revenue Markets, Inc. (dba TRMI Systems Integration) to replace the GNOEC toll equipment under RFP No. 819; and,

WHEREAS, the General Manager has concluded those negotiations and recommends to the GNOEC that it enter into a contract for a replacement of the toll collection system under RFP No. 819 on the terms and conditions agreed upon at a cost not to exceed \$2,373,700.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission:

SECTION 1: The GNOEC shall enter into a contract with The Revenue Markets, Inc. (dba TRMI Systems Integration) to replace the GNOEC toll collection system under RFP No. 819 on the terms and conditions negotiated by the General Manager at a cost not to exceed \$2,373,700.00;

SECTION 2: The General Manager is authorized to execute the contract for and on behalf of the GNOEC.

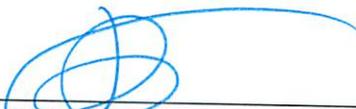
In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Mr. Bourgeois stated there will be a revised schedule once the contracts items are negotiated; the first lane (the new 5th toll lane) should be operational by the end of the year; the other lanes will be installed afterward. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry about traffic, Mr. Bourgeois stated there should be no traffic impact. Mr. Katz thanked Mr. Bourgeois, Mr. Dufrechou and staff for their work and review on this matter. Mr. Dufrechou stated the staff and engineers have put in a tremendous effort and he is very proud of them for a really great review and many good suggestions. Mr. Katz called for a vote on the motion. **Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated the official journal rotates annually between publications in St. Tammany Parish and Jefferson Parish; it is time to rotate back to the North Shore. He stated based on the submissions received, the staff is recommending the St. Tammany Farmer for a proposal of \$.95 per column inch, effective today, July 11, 2012. Mr. Katz asked if the Commission is required to be in a daily publication. Mr. McCranie replied no, just published in the parishes - alternating every year.

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On motion by Rase, seconded by Lorino, based on the proposal received from the St. Tammany Farmer, which quoted a rate of \$.95 per column inch, the Commission selected the St. Tammany Farmer (Parish of St. Tammany) as the Official Journal for one year, effective July 11, 2012. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Katz stated the August meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, August 15, 2012 and the September meeting may be rescheduled because of the Labor Day Holiday. Notices will be distributed and published accordingly.

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



PETER F. EGAN
SECRETARY



LAWRENCE K. KATZ
CHAIRMAN