

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2017, 10:00 A.M., VOA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BLVD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA 70002

PRESENT: Shelby P. LaSalle, Jr., Chairman; Anthony V. Ligi, Jr., Vice Chairman; Stephen Romig, Treasurer; Patrick W. Fitzmorris, Secretary

ABSENR: P. Lindsey Williams, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Melissa M. Phillipott; Eileen Barthe; Stacie Heffker; Chief Nick Congemi; Lt. Mike Kelly; Lt. Thea Andras; Sgt. Mike Dufrene; Ofc. Shawn Rice; Ofc. Colt Bruhl; Don Cerise; Robert Graham; Red Thompson; Craig Watson, Blue Williams; Cary Bourgeois and Philip Meyers, GEC; Robert Rhoden, Times Picayune; Byron Poydras, Bank of New York Mellon; Frank Zemmer, Richard C. Lambert Consultants, LLC; Michael Nicoladis, NY and Associates; Stephen Cali, Volkert and Associates; David Miller, PFM; Steve Bowes, Sisung Securities; Kendra Taylor, AECOM; Jim Martin, Design Engineering Inc.; Kathy Gambino, Arthur J. Gallagher; Hugh Martin, Foley and Judell LLP; Rob Masson, Fox 8; Charles Goodwin

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

On the motion by Mr. Romig, seconded by Mr. Ligi, the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 8, 2017 were accepted as written. Mr. Ligi, Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. LaSalle asked the audience if anyone had any comments or questions for the Commission.

There were no comments or questions.

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Chief Nick Congemi presented Office Colt Bruhl and MAP Officer Donald Cerise each with a lifesaving award and medal. Chief Congemi read the following letter honoring both employees:

On March 8, 2017, at 1145 hours, Causeway Police Officers were dispatched to a disabled gravel tractor-trailer on the Causeway Bridge southbound at mile marker 15.9. Shortly thereafter the incident resulted in a two vehicle crash, as reported by responding Motor Assistance Patrol Officer Donald Cerise, who was travelling in the opposite direction. Officer Cerise, quickly appreciating the severity of the situation, requested that Emergency Medical Services be summoned. Officer Cerise arrived on the scene shortly thereafter, closely followed by Police Officer Colt Bruhl. Officer Bruhl and Officer Cerise noticed immediately that the 2015 Chevrolet Silverado that crashed into the tractor-trailer had ignited, and that the driver was pinned within and unable to exit. Officers Bruhl and Cerise, utilizing their issued fire extinguishers, doused the flames while attempting to extricate Mr. Joseph Tuminar. They were successful in suppressing the fire but could not remove Mr. Tuminar due to the extreme structural damage to the vehicle. Shortly thereafter St. Tammany District 4 Fire District arrived on the scene, and after eleven minutes extricated Mr. Tuminar and transported him to North Oaks Hospital with moderate to severe fracture injuries. On this day, Officer Donald Cerise, without regard for his own well-being and personal safety, calmly and decisively executed his sworn duties in order to rescue Mr. Tuminar. On behalf of the Causeway Police Department and the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission, we commend Officer Cerise for his heroic actions of March 8, 2017. Officer Cerise's actions are indicative of his outstanding abilities as a MAP officer and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Causeway Police Department. In light of his actions, he is hereby presented with the Class "C" Life Saving Award. Applause and personal congratulations from Commission followed.

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Mr. Tony Ligi stated the main beneficiaries of the Causeway's Safety Improvements will be commuters that travel the bridge every day. He stated Officer Bruhl and Mr. Cerise are great examples of how our personnel put their lives on the line. Mr. Ligi stated that we owe these individuals to improve the safety on this Bridge so they are not exposing themselves to situations like this or jumping into the Lake to save someone. He thanked Officer Brhul and MAP Officer Don Cerise for their hard work.

On the Drawbridge operations, Mr. Dufrechou reported in March there were 13 vessel openings, 3 test openings and 1 incident.

Mr. Dufrechou stated there were no fog operations to report.

Mr. Dufrechou reported that Police and MAP responded to 297 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 69 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge for a total of 366. He reported 16 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated 5 occurred Northbound, 6 Southbound, 4 at the South Toll Plaza and 1 in Crossover 1. He stated 2 were results of breakdowns. Mr. Dufrechou also stated 17 accidents occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He reported 9 Eastbound and 8 Westbound.

Mr. Dufrechou showed one video and three pictures of an accident that occurred on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 1:18 p.m. He stated after an 18-wheeler was having problems making it up the Drawbridge and was rear ended by another vehicle. He reported that Police and MAP responded immediately but unfortunately extrication equipment had used to free a driver from the wreckage.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video of a stolen vehicle that was intercepted on Tuesday, March 21, 2017. He noted this was a result of the license plate cameras. The driver was arrested.

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Mr. Dufrechou showed three pictures from a DWI crash that occurred Southbound on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 2:30 am. He stated both spans were closed on March 23, 2017 due to the crash and fatality. The Northbound span opened at 4:30 am and Southbound span opened at 5:30 am. He also stated on March 26, 2017, the Southbound span closed from 3:00 am to 5:30 am to repair rails and complete crash investigation for this accident.

Mr. Dufrechou showed three pictures of the recovery of the hurricane damage deck sections at the 9 mile marker. These decks were lifted off their piles by Hurricanes Katrina and Isaac. He stated that both spans were closed due to a storm unsecured barges in Lake Pontchartrain on April 3, 2017 from 5:00 am to 7:30 am.

Mr. Dufrechou reported that the Police Headquarters are now operational and its dedication plaque that is installed.

Mr. Dufrechou showed two pictures of the concrete supports for the new message boards. He stated the pours occurred on April 4th and April 7th. Three pedestals are now complete.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video of a DWI incident that happened on Saturday, April 8, 2017 that was traveling Southbound on the Northbound Bridges. An off duty Orleans Sherriff's department deputy saw this vehicle travel in the wrong direction on the Northshore and called State Police. State Police notified us. Chief Congemi stated the Causeway Police department tried to intercept this vehicle at Crossover 2 but the driver refused to stop. He reported that spikes went out at Crossover 3 and they were able to stop the vehicle just beyond.

Mr. Dufrechou showed three pictures of a vehicle that refused to stop on Sunday, April 9, 2017. Causeway officers boxed the vehicle and it stopped.

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Mr. Dufrechou showed two pictures from Lt. Conrad Franz's retirement party on April 19, 2017 at Trey Yuen. He stated Lt. Franz retirement came after thirty years of dedicated service.

Mr. Dufrechou showed three pictures of an incident that occurred on Sunday, April 21, 2017 at 7:43 pm. He explained that a Causeway Police unit was behind a breakdown and was in the process of escorting it when it was struck from behind by another vehicle. Chief Congemi stated that State Police was called in since this accident involved one of our Police Units. He confirmed that there were no injuries.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video and explained that on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 5:54 pm, a RV towing a trailer had engine trouble and lost power before completely getting into Crossover 3. Mr. Dufrechou stated that one of the Causeway Police Officers used his Police unit to push the motorhome into the Crossover. He asked Chief Congemi to thank the officer for the assistance.

Mr. LaSalle asked Mr. Dufrechou to replay the video of the 18 wheeler that was rear ended on March 8, 2017. He asked Officer Colt Bruhl to give further explanation of this incident. Officer Colt Bruhl stated MAP Don Cerise arrived first on scene and witnessed the accident. He stated Mr. Cerise noticed a fire coming from the engine bay of the 18 wheeler. Officer Bruhl reported they had the fire contained as soon as possible by using fire extinguishers. He stated as soon as the fire was extinguished, they realized the driver of the 18 wheeler was pinned in his vehicle. Officer Bruhl stated the fire department arrived on scene and extracted the driver. He reported the driver suffered some fractures and breaks as a result of this accident. Mr. Ligi stated it was a courageous act by the Causeway Police department. He said hopefully once the safety improvements are made, the Police will not be exposed to those situations.

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Mr. Dufrechou stated the toll increase will be instituted on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 4:00 am.

Mr. Steve Romig confirmed with Mr. Dufrechou that the increase information will be sent out as a press release to the media and as an email blast to commuters. Mr. Dufrechou confirmed that was correct.

On the Demolition of the 9-Mile Turnaround spans, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval for Plan Change Number 1. **On motion by Mr. Romig, seconded by Mr. Fitzmorris, Plan Change Number 1 provides for the installment of 65 MPH impact attenuators instead of the specified 62 MPH impact attenuators in the amount of \$9,260.07 and no working days. Based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the GNOEC authorizes the General Manager to complete the execution of Plan Change 1. Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Ligi, Mr. Romig and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.**

On the North Toll Plaza Building Renovations, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval of acceptance of the project. **On motion by Mr. Fitzmorris, seconded by Mr. Ligi, On January 20, 2017, a certificate of substantial completion was filed in St. Tammany Parish as Instrumental No. 205810 for Project No. 821 North Toll Plaza Police Building Renovations, New Building “E” at the North Shore Toll Plaza. All punch list items were completed by CM Combs Construction, LLC. Therefore, the GNOEC accepts Project No. 821 North Toll Plaza Police Building Renovations, New Building “E” at the North Shore Toll Plaza, in accordance with the plans and specifications and all plan changes prepared by Broadmoor Design group. Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Ligi, Mr. Romig and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.**

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On the Third Party Administrator, Mr. Dufrechou recommended execution of contract with CCMSI. On motion by Mr. Fitzmorris, seconded by Mr. Ligi, On December 7, 2016, the GNOEC authorized advertisement for Third Party Administration of claims. On March 2, 2017, the GNOEC issued RFQ No. 2017-03RM for Statement of Qualifications from qualified firms providing claims adjusting and claims administration services. On March 27, 2017, two responses were received by the GNOEC. After evaluation, consideration, and upon recommendation from Sigma Consulting Corp. and the GNOEC staff, the GNOEC hereby authorizes the General Manager to execute a contract with CCMSI for third party administrator. Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Ligi and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Romig recused himself from this vote due to his personal relationship with CCMSI.

Mr. Dufrechou introduced Mr. David Miller with Public Financial Management (PFM) who presented a PowerPoint regarding the bond financing for safety improvements. (Please see attached for the PowerPoint).

Mr. Ligi read the following information from the American Society of Civil Engineers 2017 Louisiana infrastructure report card:

14.7% of Louisiana's bridges (1,898) are classified as functionally obsolete; however, when the length of a bridge is taken into consideration, this number jumps up to 44%. With the evolution of the highway industry in 1960, the importance for safety, adequate shoulders, and barriers were realized. A majority of the functionally obsolete bridges are due to inadequate shoulders; furthermore, on some of the longer bridges, a shoulder could mean the difference of avoiding an accident. For example, the Causeway Bridge that crosses Lake Pontchartrain between

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Jefferson and St. Tammany Parish is 23.9 miles with no shoulder and has roughly 2,000 vehicle breakdowns a year, or 5.5 per day, with nowhere to pull over. In 2016, the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission (GNOEC) passed a \$1 increase for toll tags and \$2 increase for cash customers to improve the barrier on the southbound bridge and install several safety bays for an estimated construction cost of just over \$100M. Ideally, GNOEC could have upgraded both bridges entirely to current safety standards; however, this would have cost between \$1.8 – 2.0 billion, which would lead to \$25 - \$30 tolls. Mr. Ligi stated there was never any doubt that the Commission was doing the right thing based on the data that is available but he is even more certain now that this report was released.

Mr. LaSalle asked the Chief Congemi confirm that the incidents from the reports show that they rose from 250 to approximately 300 and the citations went from 1200 to 1400 this month. He asked if there were any reason for this raise in statistics. He also commended the Chief for a great job done by the Causeway Police department. Chief Congemi responded that it is very hard to say why there was an increase. He stated the Causeway Bridge incidents are indicative of what is happening on the average roadway. Chief Congemi stated that we monitor and record more than any other agency. He stated also because other roadways/bridges have shoulders, they have a way to avoid these types of crashes. Mr. LaSalle again commended the Causeway Police for the increase in citations. Mr. LaSalle asked Chief Congemi if he could provide a figure next meeting that states the amount of stops as opposed to the citations. Mr. LaSalle stated he understands every stop does not end in a citation and he would like to see that information next month. Chief Congemi stated that Lt. Kelly had some figures regarding breakdowns resulting into crashes that Mr. LaSalle had requested previously. Lt. Kelly stated for the month of March, there were 297 breakdowns on the Causeway bridge. Lt. Kelly

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explained that the highest percentage of those breakdowns (30%) were a result of flat tires. He stated there were 102 calls (34%) regarding debris this month. He stated there were 42 (14%) calls regarding vehicles that ran out of gas this month. Lt. Kelly explained there were 19 calls (6%) regarding vehicles overheating on the bridge. Mr. LaSalle thanked Lt. Kelly for his report.

On the Safety Improvements, Mr. Dufrechou recommended authorization and sale of Bonds. **On motion by Mr. Ligi, seconded by Mr. Fitzmorris, the GNOEC previously authorized the implementation of safety bays and rails on the Causeway Bridge. The GNOEC hereby authorizes the General Manager and GNOEC Bond Counsel to move forward with the necessary steps for the authorization and sale of bonds for the Safety Improvements on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. LaSalle, Mr. Ligi, Mr. Romig and Mr. Fitzmorris voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Shelby LaSalle recognized Mr. Charles Goodwin who requested to speak to the Commission. Mr. Goodwin stated that commenting on the studies Mr. Ligi had mentioned previously, it almost comes to an apples and oranges comparison. Mr. Goodwin stated the study is in relation to a stretch of roadway that is straight. He stated by creating safety bays on the Causeway bridge, some commuters will use that as an in and out. Mr. Goodwin stated that in his opinion, that takes away Causeway's biggest safety factor. He also pointed out if a vehicle is broken down on the bridge; it would have no way to get to those bays.

Mr. LaSalle requested that Mr. Dufrechou meet with general Counsel to develop an RFQ/ contract documents for rail improvements.

Mr. LaSalle reminded everyone the next meeting is tentatively scheduled June 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the VOA building on the South Shore.

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There being no further business, the meeting was be adjourned.



Shelby P. LaSalle Jr.

Chairman



Patrick W. Fitzmorris

Secretary