

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS
EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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. Phillpott; Robert Graham; Commander Curt
Franz; Lt. Mike Kelly; Lt. Thea Andras; Stacie Heffker; Eileen Barthe;
Crystal Scott; Georgie Bagnetto; Red Thompson; Craig Watson, Blue
Williams; Liz Lambert, Riess LeMieux; Cary Bourgeois and Johnny
Bradberry, GEC; Jim Martin, DEI Engineering; Jan Evans, Bruce Adams,
Hossein Ghara, and Lloyd Ostendorf, Volkert and Associates; Terry
Dupre, Meyer Engineering; Faimon Roberts; Times Picayune / The
Advocate; Bob Schmidt, Huval & Associates; Babak Naghavi, Hardesty
and Hanover; Rene Chopin, Burke Kleinpeter; John Basilica, HNTB;
Shelby LaSalle, Shelby P. LaSalle LLC; Mike Cooper, President Elect for
St. Tammany Parish

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Mr. Fitzmorris introduced Mr. Mike Cooper who is the President Elect for St. Tammany
Parish. President Elect Cooper thanked the GNOEC. He stated he had the pleasure of
working with the Commission and Mr. Dufrechou during his 8 year term as Mayor of
Covington. President Elect Cooper complimented the Commission and staff for keeping
the bridge safe and that he looks forward to working with everyone in the future. Mr.
Coulon congratulated President Elect Cooper for his new position, thanked him for the
kind remarks, and stated the GNOEC was excited to work with him in the future also.

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

Mr. Shelby LaSalle announced the American Public Works Association is holding their Expo in New Orleans on August 30, 2020 through September 2, 2020. He stated many years ago, Homeland Security acknowledged Police, Fire, and Public Works as the first responders. Mr. LaSalle explained that, in a catastrophe, Public Works is usually the first on the scene to clear the way for Police and last to leave by taking down the barricades. He stated the GNOEC is considered Public Works. Mr. LaSalle stated the Public Works Expo is the largest display of technology in the World. He stated 10,000 members are expected. Mr. LaSalle reported that he has been working with Mr. Dufrechou to hold a technical tour for some of the members during the Expo.

Mr. Fitzmorris stated the GNOEC election of officers has been deferred to the January 2020 Commission meeting.

On the Southbound Bridge Rail Improvements project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to authorize Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to the Construction Engineering and Inspection Services contract with Design Engineering, Inc. **On motion by Mr. Coulon, seconded by Mr. Sharp, on January 9, 2019 the Commission selected DEI, Inc. as having the most advantageous proposal to perform the Construction Engineering and Inspection services for the Rail Improvement Project. Based on the hours predicted by the contractor for the Project, DEI's Contract called for two full time inspectors. However, the Project has necessitated the use of additional inspectors due to the contractor increasing hours and manpower. Supplemental Agreement No. 1 is needed to increase DEI's Contract cap in order to facilitate the additional inspectors needed for the Project, for a total maximum amount not to exceed \$2,352,407.55. Accordingly, after consideration, and upon**

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

recommendation from the GNOEC staff, the engineers, the project manager, and legal counsel, the GNOEC hereby authorizes the General Manager to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with DEI, Inc. 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 Segmented Shoulder Improvements project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended execution of Plan Change No. 15. On motion by Mrs. Zainey, seconded by Mr. Coulon, Plan Change No. 15 provides for the modification of Temporary Traffic Control Plans to accommodate continuous lane closures when working directly adjacent to the work zone for the Safety Rail project. This will be a no-cost Plan Change. No additional days will be added to the contract. Based upon the recommendations of Staff and the Engineers, the GNOEC approves the execution of Plan Change No. 15. 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 Segmented Shoulder Improvements project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended execution of Plan Change No. 16. On motion by Mr. Sharp seconded by Mr. Williams, Plan Change No. 16 provides for mobilization costs to install permanent audible striping in the six Safety Bays on the southbound bridge. The contract price will be increased by \$17,600. No additional days will be added to the

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

contract time. Based upon the recommendations of Staff and the Engineers, the GNOEC approves the execution of Plan Change No. 16. 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 Segmented Shoulder Improvements project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended execution of Plan Change No. 17. On motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Sharp, Plan Change No. 17 provides for the following as a part of the Partial Acceptance process for Safety Bay 11 and modifications to incentive payment for Safety Bay 3: adds 0 Excessive Adverse Weather Days from September 19, 2019 through October 6, 2019 to the contract completion date, recognizes the Partial Acceptance of Safety Bay 11, provides a \$25,500 early completion incentive payment for Safety Bay 11, and increases the early completion incentive payment for Safety Bay 3 from \$4,500 to \$19,500 recognizing 10 additional days to the contract completion date based on previously approved Plan Change 11. Based upon the recommendations of Staff and the Engineers, the GNOEC approves the execution of Plan Change No. 17. 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 Segmented Shoulder Improvements project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended execution of Plan Change No. 19. On motion by Mr. Coulon, seconded by Mrs.

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

Zainey, Plan Change No. 19 adds 13 Excessive Adverse Weather Days for the period from October 7, 2019 through October 31, 2019 to the contract completion date. There is no increase in the contract price. Based upon the recommendations of Staff and the Engineers, the GNOEC approves the execution of Plan Change No. 19. 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 replacement of GNOEC's camera and related Genetec system, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to contract with the State of Louisiana. On motion by Mrs. Zainey, seconded by Mr. Coulon, in order to replace the current equipment and technology that is reaching the end of its useful life, the GNOEC desires to procure cameras and related Genetec system licenses to use for various security, traffic, and toll monitoring purposes. The GNOEC hereby authorizes its General Manager to contract with the approved state vendors under contract with the State of Louisiana, pursuant to La. R.S. 39:1702, et seq., to provide for the cameras and the related Genetec system licenses. 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 1994 Reach All model UB-50 Bridge Inspection truck, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to dispose of this surplus equipment. On motion by Mr.

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

Sharp, seconded by Mr. Williams, based on the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the GNOEC approves and authorizes the General Manager to dispose of the 1994 Reach All Model UB-50 Bridge Inspection Truck which has been declared surplus equipment. 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 Engineering Services for Bridge Inspections RFQ, Mr. Dufrechou recommended approval to advertise. On motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Zainey, the GNOEC is seeking Statements of Qualifications from qualified firms interested in providing professional engineering services for the annual inspection of the bridges, toll plazas, and access roadways on either side of the bridges and associated overpasses in accordance with the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials Recommended Bridge Inspection Standards of Practice, on an as needed basis. Accordingly, the GNOEC hereby authorizes the General Manager to advertise the issuance of a RFQ for professional engineering services for bridge inspections. 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.

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

On the motion by Mr. Coulon, seconded by Mr. Sharp, the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 9, 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 September the Drawbridge operations included 24 vessel openings, 2 test openings and 1 incident.

Mr. Dufrechou reported, since the last GNOEC meeting, there was fog on November 27, 2019.

Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 315 breakdown responses in September on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 210 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 105 were caused by debris on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported 28 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated 22 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 6 were caused by debris on the Huey P. Long Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported a total of 343 breakdown responses for both bridges in September.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in the month of September there were a total of 8 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 6 occurred Northbound and 2 Southbound. Mr. Dufrechou reported 3 were caused by breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge. He also there were 9 accidents that occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge in September. He reported 4 Eastbound and 5 Westbound. Mr. Dufrechou reported none were caused by breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in October the Drawbridge operations included 29 vessel openings, 8 test openings and 2 incidents.

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

Mr. Dufrechou reported there were 296 breakdown responses in October on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 209 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 87 were caused by debris on the Causeway Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported 21 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He stated 15 of those breakdowns were due to mechanical problems and 6 were caused by debris on the Huey P. Long Bridge. Mr. Dufrechou reported a total of 317 breakdown responses for both bridges in October.

Mr. Dufrechou reported in the month of October there were a total of 16 accidents on the Causeway Bridge. He stated 6 occurred Northbound and 10 Southbound. Mr. Dufrechou reported 7 were caused by breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge. He also there were 15 accidents that occurred on the Huey P. Long Bridge in October. He reported 12 Eastbound and 3 Westbound. Mr. Dufrechou reported 2 were caused by breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

On October 21, 2019, Mr. Dufrechou reported the Southbound span, on the Causeway Bridge, was closed from 4:10 pm to 7:54 pm for a vehicle crash from a breakdown that resulted in a fatality near the 14.5 mile marker.

On October 26, 2019, from 4:30 am to 6:00 am, the Causeway Bridge was closed due to 60+ MPH sustained winds from Tropical Storm Olga.

On November 13, 2019, Mr. Dufrechou reported the Southbound span, on the Causeway Bridge, was closed from 2:02 pm to 4:50 pm for a vehicle crash from a breakdown that resulted in a fatality near the 4.5 mile marker.

**Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission
Regular Meeting – December 4, 2019**

Mr. Fitzmorris stated there is a conflict with the next meeting date and it will be announced when the Commission can coordinate their schedule (later the meeting date was changed to Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the VOA building on the South Shore). There being no further business, the meeting was be adjourned.



Patrick Fitzmorris
Chair



Joy H. Zainey
Vice Chair