

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012, AT 10:00 A.M., IN THE GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

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

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Georgie Bagnetto; Eileen Barthe'; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Stacie Heffker; Perry Dairepont; Phil Meyers, Cary Bourgeois, James Martin & Shelby LaSalle, Jr., GEC, Inc.; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; Patrice McNeal, Chase Bank; Bill Murhammer; Andrea Calvin, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Steve Bowes, Sisung Investment Management Services; Rene Chopin, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.; Kathy Gambino & Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Bob Warren, The Times-Picayune

The Chairman called the meeting to order. Mr. Egan will arrive shortly.

On motion by Romig, seconded by Lorino, the minutes of the regular meeting and the presentation held on July 11, 2012 were accepted as written. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Dr. Calvin stated considering the amount of rain the lake is doing pretty well. She reported one site at the Bogue Falaya River has had high counts. Dr. Calvin stated the Foundation will be relighting the New Canal Lighthouse on August 29; the activities start at 5:30 p.m. and at 8:00 p.m. they will turn on the light. She invited everyone to join them.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Murhammer mentioned the situation with the possible closing of Southeast Hospital but in spite of that, the Foundation will have a Christmas party this year for the residents. He encouraged everyone to attend. The date will be announced shortly.

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For the month of July, Mr. Dufrechou reported eleven vessel openings at the drawbridge and no incidents. He stated Police and MAP responded to 273 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 58 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on July 18 the bridge was closed due to severe weather and visibility less than 150 feet. He stated on July 19 there was another closure for about thirty minutes because of severe weather.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on July 21 and 28 the annual water rescue training exercises were held. He added Sgt. Kelly was the primary instructor; all police and maintenance personnel attend the training exercises.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 23 there was a two car crash near the 13 mile-marker, actually two separate crashes that ended up with six vehicles, on a Monday afternoon. He stated the bridge was closed for more than an hour for those.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 24 near the end of the northbound bridge, a SUV overturned, closing the bridge for almost fifty minutes.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 28 there was a two car crash at the 23 mile-marker; a vehicle ran out of fuel just before the end of the bridge and was rear-ended; again the bridge was closed for about thirty minutes.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on Saturday, August 4, a severe weather episode came through and disabled Lanes 1 and 4. He stated internal forces were able to get the lanes operational by Tuesday morning; exit loops were the problem.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on August 8 on the Huey P. Long Bridge there was a truck fire on the downside going west. The bridge was closed for about forty-five minutes. Police, MAP and local

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fire departments responded.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on Friday, August 10, the drawbridge failed to open for a vessel. He stated one of the brakes on a locking pin shorted out; the pin actually overextended, got itself lodged. He stated it looked like over the weekend there would be an emergency repair to remove the entire pin/brake assembly. Mr. Dufrechou stated between a lot of brainstorming from the maintenance guys and help from Boh Brothers, on Monday by noon they were able to get the pin out and the brake is operational again. He added there have been several drawbridge openings since then.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on August 11, there was another weather system that came through and disabled all four toll lanes. He stated by 6:00 p.m. that afternoon the lanes were operational. Mr. Dufrechou pointed out the new toll system should be in by March 2013.

On the commute summary, Mr. Dufrechou reported on August 1, with school openings, the average commute appears to be thirty-five minutes.

On the Bridge Modifications Hurricane Protection project, Mr. Dufrechou reported the revised reimbursement request has been submitted to the State and Federal governments. He stated staff, Mr. Bourgeois and Mr. McCranie have been instrumental in putting it together; there are reams of paper documenting the Causeway's expenses, which are about \$3.3 million. He added they feel very strongly that \$2.7 million should be reimbursed by the U. S. Government, although when is unknown.

On the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the work is complete, adding there are two action items, one is for 102 additional calendar days at no charge and then acceptance of the project.

On the 5th Lane project, Mr. Dufrechou stated it is underway as of July 16. He stated some of the

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starting work was on the service road on the west side of the Monroe Overpass in front of Mande's Restaurant; it is being widened and the paving was completed last week on the outboard side and the contractor, Barriere, has shifted to the inboard eastern side this week. The contractor is getting ready to work on the police pullout bay. Mr. Dufrechou stated he will present Plan Change No. 1, which would increase the saw cutting pavement at an additional cost of \$128,250 - done by LA DOTD; the Causeway's 20% cost share will be \$25,650. Mr. Dufrechou stated Plan Change No. 2 will be for a police detail for traffic control at a not to exceed cost of \$5,000 - the Causeway's 20% will be \$1,000. Mr. Dufrechou stated Plan Change No. 3 is for an increase in length of the police pullout bay for an additional cost of \$55,000; the Causeway's 20% will be \$11,000.

On the Discretionary Bridge Program, Mr. Dufrechou stated the projects include the South Channel Fender Repair, the Bascule Control System, and the Pile Encapsulation Utility Vaults. He stated these will be 20% funding by the Causeway and 80% by FHWA. Anticipated bidding by LA DOTD is in the fourth quarter 2012.

Mr. Rase asked when a car shows up in the tag lane without a tag, what is done. Mr. Thompson replied the vehicle is turned around or, if there is no traffic behind the vehicle, the collector will take the cash for the toll. Mr. Dufrechou stated this is to get people trained to go in the proper lane.

Mr. Dufrechou presented the Amended Budget for fiscal year November 1, 2011 - October 31, 2012 and the Proposed Budget for 2013. Mr. Dufrechou stated they have progressively reduced the budgets for five straight years, with last year being the lowest budget since 2004, for \$20,755,000. He stated they realized at that point if it was cut severely, they would be cutting services to the public and walk that fine line between efficiency and safety. Mr. Dufrechou stated this year they are proposing \$21,820,000 - about a \$1,065,000 increase. He stated the primary increase is in Capital

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Acquisitions, with \$860,000 being put back into projects on the bridge for the continuing safety, maintenance and rehabilitation of the bridge. Mr. Dufrechou stated three years ago Chief Congemi, maintenance personnel and staff were trying to always keep the police units cycled in and current; the goal in 2010 was to add at least five or six units every year. He added they are run to 150,000 plus miles and have thirty-two that are active units; the idea is to try to cycle them out on a five-year period. Mr. Dufrechou stated last year they got down to three units being requested, four were purchased and went back up to requesting five this year for an increase of \$70,000 for Capital Acquisitions - buying two more police units than last year plus a MAP rescue truck with all the safety apparatus included. Mr. Dufrechou stated the balance of the increases will be 2% and 3% salary increases proposed for employees on a merit base; employees making less than \$30,000 and doing a good job a 3% increase is being proposed; for those making more than \$30,000 a 2% increase. He stated there is a handful of individuals, six, who are not up to GNOEC performance standards and will be reevaluated mid-year and if they are back up to standards they will receive a 2% increase. Mr. Dufrechou stated the salary increases cumulatively are \$87,000. He explained the Parochial Employees' Retirement System contribution increased 1%, which is about \$42,000. Mr. Dufrechou stated the toll revenue is basically the same, about \$16,000,000; Highway Fund No. 2 will come in about \$1,000,000 higher than last year. In response to the inquiry regarding the increase in Highway Fund No. 2, Mr. Dufrechou stated last year there was a decrease of more than anyone expected and if anything, this may be making up for the shortfall last year, which is an opinion. Mr. Murhammer stated there was an allocation issue a few years ago that created a similar situation so it could be what happened; more details may be determined later. Mr. Dufrechou reported last year's was the lowest amount ever received. He stated the check for the Causeway's share of Highway

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Fund No. 2 should be received in the next few days. **On motion by Romig, seconded by Lorino, the Commission accepted and approved the Amended Budget for fiscal year November 1, 2011 - October 31, 2012 and the Proposed Budget for fiscal year November 1, 2012 - October 31, 2013 as presented. The Commission also accepted and approved the Toll Covenant calculations made of the net revenue requirements in accordance with Section 6.15 of the Bond Indenture. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Dufrechou thanked Mr. Murhammer, Mrs. Lambert and all the staff for putting it together.**

With regard to the North Channel Bascule - Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Plan Change No. 5 provides for the addition of 102 calendar days to the construction period at no additional cost to the Commission. **On motion by Egan, seconded by Romig, based upon the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc., the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 5 on the referenced project. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 5 with Boh Brothers Construction Co., LLC. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.**

On motion by Egan, seconded by Lorino, based upon the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc., the Commission accepted the project titled North Channel Bascule - Trunnion Bearing Maintenance. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of the certificate of acceptance with Boh Brothers Construction Co., LLC. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

On the North Toll Plaza Lane Modifications project, Mr. Dufrechou stated there are three Plan Changes. He explained Plan Change No. 1 provides for an increase in the quantity of saw cutting

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of pavement from 3,800 linear feet to 38,000 linear feet - a change in methodology by DOTD in the calculation - the additional cost is \$128,250. The cost to the Commission is 20%, \$25,650. He stated the staff and engineers recommend approval. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou stated the engineering estimate was actually higher than the low bid but this seems to be getting it more in line with the original estimate. Mr. Bourgeois stated the original measurement of a linear foot with no depth was changed to a linear foot per inch of depth of pavement, which resulted in the plan quantity being low by a multiple of the depth of the concrete. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Romig, based upon the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc., the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 1 on the North Toll Lane Modifications project. The General Manager was authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.**

On motion by Rase, seconded by Lorino, Plan Change No. 2 provides for a Police Detail for traffic control in the construction zone at the detail rate of \$40 per hour and \$25 per day for vehicle. Based upon the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc., 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 in the amount not to exceed \$5,000. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou stated it is for two Causeway Police officers throughout the detail. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion. On motion by Rase, seconded by Egan, Plan Change No. 3 provides for an increase in the length of the Police Pullout Bay. Based upon the recommendation of the staff and its Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc., the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 3

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on the referenced project. The General Manager was authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 3 in an amount not to exceed \$55,000. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the Causeway Police have a confiscated 1992 Oldsmobile Cutlass that should be declared surplus in the upcoming auction in the fall. **On motion by Egan, seconded by Rase, based upon the recommendation of the staff and Consulting Engineers, GEC, Inc., the Commission approved and authorized the General Manager to dispose of a 1992 Oldsmobile Cutlass, which has been declared surplus equipment. Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase, Mr. Romig, Mr. Egan and Mr. Lorino voted in favor of the motion.** Mr. Graham stated the auction will be held on September 20, 2012 in Mandeville.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on behalf of the Commission and everyone he would like to recognize Captain Lorino for contributing \$1,500 to the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation.

In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou stated the southbound exit off the bridge should be 100% complete by mid-October. Mr. Katz noted originally it was December so this is good news. Mr. Dufrechou stated this will put the capacity back to pre-project or a little better.

Mr. Katz stated James Ravannack has been a Commissioner a number of times and expressed congratulations to him for his involvement with U.S. wrestling for many years, and this year in London two U. S. wrestlers won gold medals.

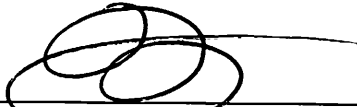
Mr. Katz stated there are two birthdays to celebrate - the first one is for the Causeway's fearless Assistant General Manger, Debbie Lopreore, (Chief of Staff) whose birthday was yesterday. He stated on August 30 the Causeway's original bridge will be fifty-six years old.

Mr. Katz announced the Commission has decided not to have a meeting in September because so

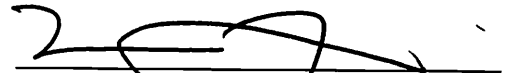
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much was included on the August agenda. The next meeting will be held on the first Wednesday in October, which is October 3, 2012. Mr. Katz stated Mrs. Lambert will distribute and publish the appropriate notices to everyone.

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



PETER F. EGAN
SECRETARY



LAWRENCE K. KATZ
CHAIRMAN