



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contract Awarded on Phase III of Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) has awarded the contract to widen the main span of the Huey P. Long Bridge over the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish.

“The investment in the Huey P. Long Bridge project is vital to the economic growth of Jefferson Parish and the New Orleans area,” DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry said. “After careful consideration, we are accepting the recent bid and moving forward with this historic project.”

Massman Construction Co., Traylor Brothers, Inc. and IHI, Inc., submitted a bid of \$453 million for Phase III of the four-phase construction project on June 27, 2007. The bid, which was the only bid received on the project, was 51 percent higher than the DOTD estimate of \$299 million, and it has been under review for the past month.

“This phase of the project is very complex and requires a large amount of steel,” Bradberry said. “The price of steel is continuing to rise, and there is no indication prices will drop. If we re-bid the project to get a better price, we risk having no bidders or receiving an even higher bid. Either scenario puts the entire project in jeopardy.”

The Huey P. Long Bridge widening project will improve traffic conditions for the approximately 50,000 vehicles that cross the bridge and adjoining intersections each day. The replacement of the traffic circles at Bridge City Avenue and Jefferson Highway with signalized intersections also will improve traffic flow in the area, decrease congestion and lessen back-ups onto the bridge.

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The completed project will include three 11-foot lanes in each direction and inside and outside shoulders across the bridge. The existing bridge has two 9-foot lanes in each direction with no shoulders. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2013.

The widening project broke ground in April 2006, and construction is underway on the first two phases. So far, the construction work has not affected traffic, but Phase III construction will require some lane closures. These traffic impacts will be posted at www.hueypbridge.com and announced through local media. Additional information is also available by contacting (504) 731-4200 or hueypbridgeinfo@latimedmgrs.com.

The widening of the Huey P. Long Bridge is one of three major bridge projects included in the TIMED Program (www.timedla.com) – the single largest transportation program in state history. The program includes 16 transportation projects that include four-laning 536 miles of state highways; widening and /or new construction on three major bridges; and improvements to the Port of New Orleans and Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and is funded by a dedicated \$0.04 per gallon gas tax.

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