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Bid Received on Phase III of Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project

BATON ROUGE – A joint-venture of three companies submitted the only bid to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) today to widen the main span of the Huey P. Long Bridge over the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish.

Massman Construction Co., T aylor Brothers, Inc. and IHI, Inc., submitted a bid of \$452,605,568 for Phase III of the four phase construction project. The bid was more than 50 percent higher than DOTD’s estimate of \$299 million. No other company bid on the project.

“We are very concerned about the lack of competition in the market and how that is affecting bids,” DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry said. “We will aggressively review all bids that deviate substantially from our estimate to justify how the public’s money is being spent.”

A DOTD engineering committee will review the Phase III bid and make a recommendation within 45 days on whether the agency should accept or reject it. The review will include looking for errors in the bid and determining if the high cost of the bid is justified. If the bid is accepted and a contract is signed, work should begin in early 2008. If the bid is rejected, the project will be re-examined for possible changes.

The completed project will include three 11-foot lanes in each direction, along with inside and outside shoulders across the bridge. The project also will include construction of new roadway approaches that will provide signalized intersections at Bridge City Avenue and Jefferson Highway. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2013.

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The 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 cause 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 \$4.7 billion 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.

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