



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Driving Safe on the Huey P. Long Bridge

JEFFERSON, La. – Recently, two accidents created major traffic delays for morning commuters. The first accident on September 30 involved an overturned 18-wheeler. The second, on October 9, involved a pickup truck damaging a section of guardrail. These two accidents serve as a reminder to motorists to be mindful, aware and alert when driving on and around the Huey P. Long Bridge.

According to Causeway Police Sgt. Roy Jacob, “most infractions on the Huey P. Long Bridge are drivers taking up both lanes of traffic.” He advises motorists driving big trucks or vehicles to use the right lane and let traffic pass on the left lane. “Using two lanes on the bridge is something we do not tolerate”, Jacob warns.

He also encourages motorists to report unsafe drivers to the Causeway Police by dialing *27 from any mobile phone. “Most of the time, if someone calls us about an unsafe driver, we can catch the driver by the time he gets off the bridge,” explains Jacob. When reporting an unsafe driver, the caller should provide detailed information like a license plate number, make / model / color of the car, and noticeable stickers, if any.

Due to the current widening project, it is important to be aware of the various construction work zones sites. Motorists are urged to use caution and follow a few basic guidelines:



- **Follow the signs.** Observe and obey all posted construction signs. These signs were designed to protect motorists and construction crews.
- **Be alert.** Pay extra attention to your surroundings while driving around these areas.
- **Plan ahead.** Construction zones can cause delays. Give yourself extra time to drive through these zones or use alternate routes.
- **Remain calm.** Construction zones are not there to personally inconvenience you. Staying calm during heavy slowdowns will make you a safer driver.
- **Keep your distance.** Maintain your distance from work vehicles and other motorists and remember not to tailgate!

“Patience is a virtue”, Sgt. Jacob expresses. “When approaching construction cones, drivers should use turning signals when attempting to merge and be courteous by allowing cars to merge”, he advises. These very simple steps can help make traffic flow easier and without incidents.

Back in April 2008, the Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project created a website to keep drivers informed and educated about safe driving around existing work zones sites — www.geauxorange.com. This informative website includes safety driving tips, current bridge closures and a downloadable visor card with important emergency phone numbers. “Many drivers are unaware of the proper driving etiquette around work zones, [geauxorange.com](http://www.geauxorange.com) can help educate and keep drivers safe” said Indira Parrales, project spokesperson.

The Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project is a TIMED (Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development) Program project. The TIMED Program was created by Act 16 of the 1989 Louisiana Legislature, was voted for by the people and is the single largest transportation program in



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state history. The \$5.2 billion improvement program includes widening 536 miles of state highways, new construction or improvements to three major bridges projects and the improvements to both the Port of New Orleans and the Louis Armstrong International Airport. The Program is designed to enhance economic development in Louisiana through an investment in transportation projects.

As one of 16 TIMED projects, the completed Huey P. Long Bridge Widening Project will include three 11-foot lanes in each direction, along with new 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 entire project is scheduled to be complete by 2013.

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For more information or high resolution images, contact Indira Parrales, Public Outreach Office at 504-731-4200 or visit www.hueypbridge.com.