

ONE to ONE

An Update on the Efforts of the LA 1 Coalition

Fall 2006

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MMS to Hold Hearing in Larose

LA 1 supporters are urged to attend the December 7 public meeting at the Larose Civic Center and request that federal funding be used to address the impacts of expanding energy activity on the LA 1 highway system.

It has been said that, when it comes to offshore energy production, "Louisiana does a job that other states refuse to do." And within Louisiana, the job of servicing the offshore oil and gas industry is done predominately by Port Fourchon and the LA 1 Corridor.

Production in the central Gulf of Mexico has grown exponentially over the past decade, fueling expansion at Port Fourchon and compounding traffic and the deterioration of the only highway connecting this port of choice to the rest of the nation—LA 1. Under the MMS' proposed new 5-Year Lease Plan for years 2007-2011, activity off of Louisiana's coast will likely increase, and with it, impacts on critical energy infrastructure and coastal

wetlands. It is time, according to the LA 1 Coalition, for the MMS to properly document these impacts and develop a funding mechanism to implement effective mitigation so that Louisiana can continue to serve the nation's energy needs.

At 7 pm on **Thursday, December 7**, the MMS will hold a public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the 5-Year Lease Plan at the **Larose Civic Center**. The Coalition urges all of its members and community residents to attend and voice their support for federal funding to mitigate impacts experienced by the Louisiana coast and critical energy infrastructure like LA 1.

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Foundations Laid for New Leeville Bridge Connector

The footprint of the new Leeville overpass along LA 1 is beginning to be visible now, as workers with the Taylor-Massman Construction Group proceed with concrete pile driving operations for the South Connector Ramp. The South Connector Ramp will transport motorists traveling north from Fourchon on LA 1 to the new overpass at Bayou Lafourche. According to Project Engineer Gary Gisclair, the pilings are 16" precast concrete, varying in length from 60 feet to 150 feet, depending upon the soil conditions at each location. Construction of Phases 1B and 1C of the LA 1 Improvement Project is now 8.5 percent complete, with anticipated completion in February 2009.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ARE FOCUS OF 2007

Henri Boulet, LA 1 Coalition Executive Director



My first-year anniversary as Executive Director has come with no shortage of challenges. A \$90 million shortage of funds for construction of Phase 1A from Leeville to Port Fourchon was overcome in September with an announcement from Governor Blanco pledging the needed funds. Bids are scheduled to be taken in mid-December for this critical 6.8-mile section of elevated replacement highway.

The next few months will present opportunities to fund Phase 2 of the Project. The coalition seeks your comments at an upcoming MMS Public Hearing on the Draft EIS of the 5 Year Drilling Plan in the Gulf of Mexico. The hearing is scheduled for 7pm on December 7, 2006 at the Larose Civic Center.

While the Coalition is in full support of this plan, we realize additional traffic impacts on LA 1 will be experienced. We are requesting that the final EIS adequately document expected impacts and propose a mechanism to fund both previous unmitigated impacts caused by previous lease sales and those impacts to LA 1 brought upon by the 5-Year Plan. The 5-Year Plan includes 11 proposed lease sales in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico.

I am also working on qualifying the LA 1 Project for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds. These grant funds are allocated to significantly reduce or eliminate future risk of lives and property from natural hazards.

Building additional industry support for the project is also a goal of the coalition, and one on which I have enjoyed working. Two new energy companies have joined the LA 1 Coalition – Apache Corporation and TOTAL E & P. We welcome you aboard this community effort and thank you for your critical support! We are awaiting formal replies from several other key stakeholders we have met with over the last few weeks.

As another year draws to a close, I want to thank and congratulate all of our members and those who speak in support of our project on the local, state and federal level. It is because of this community cooperation that we are able to celebrate the great accomplishments of the past year and plan for the milestones that lay before us. *Happy Holidays!*

MMS Hearing in Larose

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In a November 14 letter to MMS officials, LA 1 Coalition Executive Director Henri Boulet commented on the Draft EIS, noting that, “the proposed lease sales of 2007-2011 will no doubt have increased negative impacts on Louisiana Highway 1... To date, only \$78 million in congressional earmarks have been offered by the federal government toward replacing the at-risk, subsiding and flood-prone LA 1 with a four-lane elevated highway expected to cost \$1.4 billion.”

At an October public hearing in New Orleans on the Draft EIS, Boulet told MMS officials, “We encourage and expect MMS to include a more detailed account of impacts on Louisiana Highway 1 in the final EIS. It is critical that impacts from OCS-driven traffic be properly documented. This documentation is exactly what the LA 1 Coalition needs to lobby appropriate federal and state resources for the investment this ‘High Priority Corridor’ needs to further domestic oil and gas production.”

The Larose public hearing is being held at the request of the Coalition, which asked the MMS to conduct a public meeting in communities most affected by the 5-Year Lease Plan.

“It is so important that we have as many people at this public meeting as possible, to show the federal government that we proudly provide this nation’s energy but need the nation’s help to continue,” Boulet says. “Now is the time for us to make a statement about the value of our region, and insist that we receive the federal assistance that we deserve.”

If you would like more information about the public hearing on December 7 or if you would like to receive talking points on the LA 1 project, contact Boulet in the LA 1 Coalition office at 985-448-4485 or by e-mail: henri.boulet@nicholls.edu.

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Can't attend the MMS December 7 public hearing at the Larose Civic Center, but want to participate?

Submit your written comments on the Draft EIS
by January 2, 2007.

- Log on to: www.occonnect.mms.gov
 - E-Mail to: environment@mms.gov
 - Mail to: Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment, MMS, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70123-2394
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LA 1 Coalition Receives Business and Industry Award

LA 1 Coalition Executive Director Henri Boulet (pictured right) accepted the Chamber of Lafourche and the Bayou Region’s Business and Industry Award on behalf of Coalition members at the Chamber’s annual banquet on November 9. “This award tonight is really for all of you, the businesses of South Lafourche and the extended community,” Boulet said. Presenting the award was Chamber President Windell Curolle (pictured left).

From its beginnings in 1996 until today, the Coalition has grown to 75 member companies and, in 2006, broke ground on the first phase of the LA 1 Improvement Project.



Chairman's Report

-by Ted Falgout, Executive Director, Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Much Has Been Accomplished, Much Work Remains

Phase II – Leeville to Golden Meadow. How do we fund it? That is the \$220 million question at this time. Few people ever thought when we launched this effort nearly ten years ago that they would see hundreds of millions of dollars of highway construction within a decade. After all, we have defied the odds; we simply did not accept the norm of 30 years to launch a transportation infrastructure improvement of this magnitude.

Thinking back on this effort and the many players that we have engaged to get us where we are today, one would think it took a lot of luck, and it has. But our definition of luck is when "preparation meets opportunity," and every contributor to this effort should stick their chest out with pride when reviewing our accomplishments.

It is our membership that has afforded the Coalition the means to aggressively pursue this challenge. We have been able to hire

very talented Executive Directors that have played a large role in our success. Our Board of Directors and Executive Committee have contributed untold amounts of energy and direction into our efforts as well. We have truly been able to

"We now have the most vulnerable part of our highway under reconstruction, but unless we get to Golden Meadow, we only have half of a bridge."

develop exceptional local support, very strong state support from the Governor and her department heads and staff, unquestionable bipartisan support from our Congressional Delegation, and have convinced Wall Street that this is a sound investment.

Given this, much work remains. We now have the most vulnerable part of our highway under reconstruction, but unless we get to Golden Meadow, we only have half of a bridge.

Funding the remainder will be an equal or even more difficult challenge to our Coalition. Henri Boulet has been working very hard expanding our membership among the energy companies utilizing LA 1 for access to their Gulf operations. Membership, as it has since the beginning, will enable us to increase our efforts to secure the funding necessary to complete this critical phase of our LA1 improvement mission.

The hurricane season of 2005 has made us keenly aware of what's at stake. As I have told you before, time and tide are both not on our side.



Coalition Hosts State Leaders at Fourchon

The LA 1 Corridor and Port Fourchon were the focal points of two recent meetings held by state officials in South Lafourche.

On October 12 and 13, the LA 1 Coalition welcomed members of two panels—the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) and the Louisiana Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Protection – to Fourchon for a tour of the port. Coalition Executive Director Henri Boulet took the opportunity to explain the critical role that the highway system and Port Fourchon play in America's energy supply, and why infrastructure improvements and coastal protection are essential to preserve these important state and federal assets.

To the members of the Joint Select Committee, Boulet expressed the Coalition's support of efforts by the South Lafourche Levee District to upgrade the district's 26-mile levee system, thereby protecting a key segment of LA 1.

In addition to the educational port tour and presentation on LA 1 needs, LRA members learned why the highway system merits consideration for funding in the state recovery plan. Many members embarked on a brief fishing trip on the second day of their visit, allowing



Members of the Louisiana Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Protection, along with representatives from the Terrebonne and South Lafourche Levee Districts (SLLD), met in Galliano on October 12, 2006, and toured the SLLD floodgates.

them to observe the port by water, and the quantity and size of vessels serviced.

The LA 1 Coalition was instrumental in inviting the LRA panel and staff to visit Port Fourchon and South Lafourche following their scheduled meeting in Houma on the morning of October 12.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE COALITION

As of November 15, 2006

Abdon Callais Offshore, LLC
Allied Shipyard, Inc.
Allison Marine-Fourchon, LLC
ANS Engines, Inc.
Apache Corporation
Arrighi Simoneaux
ASCO
Barriere Construction Co.
Belle Terre Erosion Control, LLC
Betty Roth Hebert
Bilco Tools, Inc.
Bayou Civic Club
Bayou Industrial Group
Bayou Supply & Chemical, Inc.
Bollinger Shipyards, Inc.
BP Corporation North America, Inc.
Breaux Petroleum Products, Inc.
Buquet Distributing Company, Inc.
C & G Boats, Inc.
Caillouet Land Corporation
Cajun Trucking, Inc.
CanDo, Inc.
Capital One Bank
Chase Bank
Chevron USA
Constantin Land Trust
Coastal Commerce Bank
Coastal Environments, Inc.
Community Bank
Crosby Tugs, Inc.
Danos & Curole, Inc.
Deepwater Port Services, Inc.
Delmar Systems, Inc.
Delta Testing & Inspection, Inc.
Deramee & Allemand, LLP
Doucet & Adams, Inc.
E S & H Consulting Services, Inc.
Edison Chouest Offshore, LLC
Edward Wisner Donation Advisory Cmte.
Entergy Louisiana
Francis Drilling Fluids, Ltd.
Galliano Tugs
Galliano Marine Services
G&A Barge Rental & Construction, Inc.
G&B Marine Transportation
Grand Isle Port Commission
Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc.
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Guidry Brothers Towing Co., Inc.
Halliburton Energy Services
Houma Armature Works and Supply
International Boat Rentals, Inc.

John W. Stone Oil Dist., Inc.
Joseph B. Caillouet, Architect
J. Wayne Plaisance, Inc.
John Plaisance & Sons, Inc.
Kevin Gros Consulting
L & M Botruc Rentals, Inc.
Lady of the Sea General Hospital
Lafourche Parish Council
Lafourche Realty Corp.
Landry House Bed and Breakfast
Larry Griffin Towing
Larry Picciola, Inc.
Louisiana Machinery Co.
Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, LLC
Magnum Mud Equipment Co., Inc.
Martin Terminal, Inc.
Mid Continent Oil & Gas Association
M.I. Drilling Fluids
MONTCO Offshore, Inc.
Morgan City Rentals
Morris P. Hebert, Inc.
NEFF Rental
Ocean Marine Operators, LLC
Offshore Towing
Orgeron Properties
Picciola & Associates, Inc.
Pointe Fourchon Homeowners Assoc.
Reggie Melancon
Regions Bank
Ronald Adams Contractor, Inc.
Rousse Marine, Inc.
SJI, Inc.
Seacor Marine
South Central Industrial Association
Southern Guard
Southern Scrap Recycling, LLC
South Lafourche Bank & Trust
South Lafourche Levee District
State Bank & Trust Company
Suard Barge Service, Inc.
Superior Shipyard Fabrications, Inc.
Sureway Supermarket, Inc.
SWDI
T. Baker Smith & Son, Inc.
Terrebonne Motor Co., Inc.
Tetra Oil & Gas Services, Inc.
Theriot, Duet & Theriot, Inc.
TOTAL E&P
Valentine Sugars, Inc.
Venture Transport, Inc.
Welch Sales and Service

Updated LA I Improvement Project Cost Estimates: (as of Nov. 1, 2006)

Phase 1A:	\$144 million
Phases 1B & 1C:	\$161 million
Phase 2:	\$220 million
Phase 3:	\$340 million
Phase 4:	\$582 million

TOTAL: \$ 1.44 Billion

Description:

Phase 1A: Two-lane elevated highway between Leeville and Port Fourchon. Bids to be opened December 13, 2006.

Phases 1B & 1C: Two-lane overpass at Leeville and interchanges. Construction underway. Anticipated completion in February 2009.

Phase 2: Two-lane elevated highway between Golden Meadow and Leeville.

Phase 3: Four-lane at-grade highway from Larose to U.S. 90.

Phase 4: Two additional lanes from Golden Meadow to Port Fourchon & upgrades to Grand Isle.

For Your Information...

If you would like to receive additional copies of "One to One" or more information on the LA 1 Coalition, call Henri Boulet, Executive Director, at (985) 448-4485 or write to us at P.O. Box 2048-NSU, Thibodaux, LA 70310. Our office is located on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA, within the offices of the South Louisiana Economic Council. The LA 1 Coalition is a non-profit 501(c4) corporation. Donations are not tax deductible. Editor: Jennifer Armand