

# ONE to ONE

An Update on the Efforts of the LA 1 Coalition

Summer 2006

[www.LA1Coalition.org](http://www.LA1Coalition.org) • e-mail: [info@LA1Coalition.org](mailto:info@LA1Coalition.org)

Work began in April on the historic construction of a new Leeville overpass along LA Highway 1, kicking off the first phase of an ambitious plan to connect Port Fourchon to the rest of the world with a safer, more dependable highway.

*Construction equipment (right) is a welcome site to residents and workers in south Lafourche as Traylor Brothers/Massman Construction Joint Venture begins work on the new Leeville overpass and connecting ramps.*



## Road Construction Begins!

It's a project that is over a decade in the making, and motorists could be driving over the new overpass along "America's Energy Corridor" as early as December 2009.

The \$161 million construction of the Leeville overpass project includes four miles of approaches and exit ramps. Referred to as Phases 1B & 1C, it is being conducted by Traylor Brothers/Massman Construction Joint Venture, which was awarded the state contract in March. Completion of these first segments is expected by December 2009.

The new structure will replace the lift-bridge along LA 1

at Leeville that is at risk from scouring and collisions from boat traffic. Automobile traffic has also been stalled for hours south of the bridge in recent years due to accidents on the bridge itself.

Members of the LA 1 Improvement Project Team are awaiting news on potential funding sources for Phase 1A of the project before advertising for bids on construction of that segment, which is currently \$90 million short of its estimated \$144 million price tag. Phase 1A includes five miles of two-lane elevated highway from Leeville to Port Fourchon.

---

### ***Federal and State Leaders Applaud Efforts of Community and Coalition at LA 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony***

With shovels in hand, a host of federal, state and parish officials joined the LA 1 Coalition and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in officially breaking ground on the LA 1 Improvement Project during a March 24 event held at Bobby Lynn's Marina in Leeville. Addressing the crowd

at the history-making ceremony were Governor Kathleen Blanco, U.S. Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, Congressman Charlie Melancon, DOTD Secretary Johnny Bradberry, State Senator Reggie Dupre, State Representative Loulan Pitre, Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph, and Coalition Chairman and Greater Lafourche Port Commission Executive Director Ted Falgout.

"This is one of the most important sections of highway in the nation because it literally fuels the nation," explained Governor Blanco. "We all understand the importance of the Leeville Bridge

*(continued on page 2)*

# Activity Brings Opportunity

Henri Boulet, LA 1 Coalition Executive Director



Sharing the story of unparalleled post-Katrina growth at Port Fourchon has been the central theme of the LA1 Coalition's message these last few months. Major oil exploration and production companies have consolidated their operations to Fourchon, bringing with them long-term plans to utilize our seaport. These reorgan-

izations will allow our port to play an ever-increasing, significant role in upcoming deepwater developments with a substantial new MMS lease program scheduled to begin in 2007.

These promising activities have placed our road at the heart of America's energy production. We have utilized these developments to highlight LA 1's role in fueling our nation as we seek to be included in two major funding opportunities.

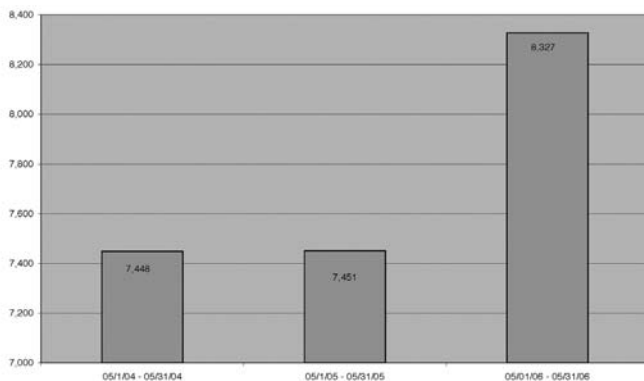
Our coalition, with the LA DOTD, has developed a competitive application for Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds. This program allows our state Department of Natural Resources, which manages the program, to invest up to \$80,000,000 in infrastructure of local, state, or national significance. We qualify under each of these terms, and have requested the lion's share of these funds to construct Phase 1A of the LA 1 project, which includes five miles of elevated highway from Leeville to Port Fourchon.

## "We have utilized these developments to highlight LA 1's role in fueling our nation..."

The LA 1 Coalition has also been working with our state on qualifying the LA 1 Project for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. In this program, an estimated \$1.7 billion will be available to mitigate structures to protect them from floods. With the stated objective of the program being to "significantly reduce or permanently eliminate future risk to lives and property from natural disasters," we feel strongly that the entire section of highway south of Golden Meadow should qualify. We will keep tabs on this program's development at the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness.

I thank all of you for your continued involvement in this community effort, and send a special thanks to all who were able to submit public comments supporting LA 1's CIAP application.

LA 1 Leeville  
May 1-31, 2004 vs May 1-31, 2005 vs May 1-31, 2006



In May 2006, LA 1 experienced its highest recorded traffic count.



Federal, state and local leaders attended a March 24 groundbreaking ceremony for the new Leeville Overpass.

## LA 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony (continued from page 1)

to our economy and America's energy supply. When storms shut it down last fall, America paid at the pump. I think the nation is finally beginning to recognize what we provide to this country."

Construction of the new overpass at Leeville and approaches will be paid for with federal and state funds, along with bond revenues and a federal transportation loan that will be repaid by tolls collected on the new roadway.

"All of you said this project is worth it, and you were willing to impose tolls on yourself to get this bridge built," said Secretary Bradberry. "What we need is your continued support, partnering with the LA 1 Coalition, to finish the entire project. Make your voices heard."

In her remarks, Senator Landrieu commented that, with the help of the LA 1 Coalition, LA 1 has become "one of the most famous roads in America," and Senator Vitter stressed that, as a nation, "we need to focus on priorities and get them done in a few years, not 10 or 20."

In advance of the groundbreaking, Randolph received a letter from Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Undersecretary of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), congratulating Lafourche Parish on the LA 1 Improvement Project. NOAA provided a \$1.7 million grant for the initial design and engineering expenses of the project.

## LA 1 in the News

- The new LA 1 overpass at Leeville, now under construction, will be named the **Tomey Doucet Bridge** thanks to a bill filed by State Representative Loulan Pitre and approved during the 2006 regular legislative session. Doucet, who died in 1998, was president of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and helped to create the LA 1 Coalition. The overpass that will bear his name will be a lasting reminder of his service to the community of south Lafourche and his vision for the region's economic progress.

- The U.S. Transportation Appropriations Bill, passed by a House committee in June, **contains \$1.5 million for Phase 1A of the LA 1 Improvement Project**. Of the \$3.47 million approved for Louisiana's Third Congressional District, the LA 1 project would be the single largest recipient. The bill now moves to the full House for debate.

- The LA 1 project and Port Fourchon were recently featured in two major newspapers. The *San Antonio Express News* ran an article entitled, "Crude Road" on April 23, 2006, citing that the \$1 billion project is needed to safeguard America's access to oil. In a May 7, 2006, *Times-Picayune* article entitled "At Risk Energy Infrastructure," reporter Pam Radtke Russell writes, "...By far, the **biggest threat to Port Fourchon is the road leading to it**. From Golden Meadow to Port Fourchon, Louisiana 1 is a two-lane road in the middle of mostly open water."



# Chairman's Report

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

## Understanding What's at Stake in Coastal Louisiana

As we move towards the "thick" of another hurricane season, because of the progress we have made, we are starting to see through the trees, but are far from getting out of the woods. I am sure we all wish for a storm-free season, but we know we must be prepared for the worst.

The storms of 2005 created a greater awareness of our vulnerabilities. This is probably the first time ever that the entire state and most of the nation is truly concerned about coastal Louisiana and what is at stake if we lose it. The coast-wide destruction and the resulting record energy prices have created an awareness never before witnessed and this presents us with a window of opportunity to "land the big fish."

We must double our efforts in order to fully capitalize on the situation at hand. There is a very visible need for levees and coastal restoration that demand billions to address. We must keep at the forefront of our state and federal government officials' minds that critical infrastructure is equally

important and should be an integral component of any restoration effort.

We have to educate and explain to all that will listen that, even with the most aggressive coastal restoration efforts, it

***"The coast-wide destruction and the resulting record energy prices have created an awareness never before witnessed and this presents us with a window of opportunity to 'land the big fish.'"***

will take many years to restore the coast. Projects like LA1 do not have time to depend upon long-term restoration efforts for their salvation. Action must be taken NOW if we are to continue to have this "Corridor to America's Energy Coast."

It became very evident to me when addressing the National League of Women Voters at their convention in Minneapolis recently that this country is not convinced that Louisiana will spend the money in

the right places. Lord knows we have enough examples where we haven't. The nation has us under a magnifying glass, and they want to have confidence that their billions in tax dollars will be well spent.

This fall, two things will go a long way in showing our ability to do the right thing: One will be how this state decides to spend its Coastal Energy Impact Program (CIAP) money approved in last year's Energy Bill, and the other is if the voters overwhelmingly approve the state Constitutional Amendment to dedicate all offshore revenue sharing money to coastal protection and restoration.

Let's hope we can be spared from major disasters this hurricane season and that when America checks on us to determine if we have shunned the awful stigmas of greed, waste and corruption, they will see we are fighting for our lives, and we are serious about doing the right thing. If so, I am sure they will be generous, because they now understand what is at stake.

---

## "Mitigate Impacts," Coalition Tells MMS

As the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) begins work on a preliminary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a new Gulf of Mexico five-year lease program, the LA 1 Coalition and a host of other local groups are taking the opportunity to remind the MMS that impacts to infrastructure that supports offshore energy activity must be addressed.

"The proposed lease sales of 2007-2011 will no doubt have increased negative impacts on LA 1," writes Coalition Executive Director Henri Boulet in a April 7, 2006 letter to the MMS. "Supporting the mitigation to LA 1 impacts, such as the elevated replacement highway, is sound, progressive national energy policy. Dependable access will support growth in domestic oil production, and reduce the possibility of a national energy crisis that could result from tropical systems washing the existing road out."

The Coalition has requested that the agency conduct a public meeting in South Lafourche when the draft EIS is complete, and will notify its members if and when that public meeting is scheduled.



**MMS officials recently toured Port Fourchon. Pictured here are LA 1 Coalition Chairman Ted Falgout, David Dismukes of the LSU Center for Energy Studies, South Lafourche Levee District Director Windell Curole, MMS Environmental Assessment Chief Dennis Chew, MMS Economist Kristin Strellec, LA 1 Coalition Executive Director Henri Boulet, MMS NEPA Coordinator Michele Morin and C-Port's James Guidry, who conducted the tour.**

**LA 1 COALITION**  
P.O. Box 2048-NSU  
Thibodaux, LA 70310

PRSR.T. STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
PERMIT NO. 213

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE COALITION

*As of June 15, 2006*

Abdon Callais Offshore, LLC  
Allied Shipyard, Inc.  
Allison Marine-Fourchon, LLC  
ANS Engines, Inc.  
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.  
Energy 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.  
Valentine Sugars, Inc.  
Venture Transport, Inc.  
Welch Sales and Service

## Updated LA I Improvement Project Cost Estimates: (as of June 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.

**Phases 1B & 1C:** Two-lane overpass at Leeville and associated interchanges. (UNDERWAY)

**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