



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OPEN HOUSES DETAIL NEW LA 1 EXPRESSWAY AND  
GEAUXPASS**

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (LA DOTD) announced today it will host a series of informational open houses to explain the new LA 1 toll bridge over Bayou Lafourche near Port Fourchon and Grand Isle and to introduce GeauxPass, the new statewide toll collection system.

“The new bridge at Leeville will utilize the latest toll technology to allow drivers a quick, convenient and safe route to Port Fourchon and Grand Isle,” LA DOTD Secretary William Ankner said. “DOTD realizes tolls are new to many residents and workers in this area. We want to provide detailed answers to questions people may have.”

The new LA 1 toll bridge at Leeville is the first phase of the LA 1 Expressway, which ultimately will consist of 19 miles of new elevated roadway from Golden Meadow to the Gulf of Mexico. The new fixed-level tolled bridge, scheduled to open this summer, will replace the existing Leeville lift-bridge. The existing structure will be demolished and removed.

LA DOTD has planned an eight-meeting regional tour (see attachment) to explain the LA 1 project and introduce GeauxPass, Louisiana’s new toll tag system.

The open houses will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Project staff will distribute information about the electronic toll collection system, toll rates and the new customer service center in Golden Meadow and help residents and visitors register for their own GeauxPass.

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GeauxPass will operate on open road tolling technology. The technology allows travelers to drive the LA 1 Expressway without having to slow down or stop at toll booths promoting smooth traffic flow and safety. Tolls on the LA 1 Expressway are only collected from southbound drivers; drivers heading north from Grand Isle or Port Fourchon will not be charged.

“The environmental benefits of open road tolling systems also are significant,” said Ankner. “Eliminating traditional toll booths reduces traffic congestion resulting in lower emissions and fuel consumption while improving overall air quality.”

To register for a GeauxPass, meeting attendees are required to bring a driver’s license or state-issued identification card, a credit or debit card and vehicle license plate numbers.

GeauxPass will also be fully compatible with the Crescent City Connection in New Orleans and to a limited extent with the Causeway Bridge over Lake Pontchartrain.

Members of the LA 1 Coalition, the organization seeking infrastructure improvements between U.S. 90 at Raceland and Port Fourchon/Grand Isle, will also be available at the open houses to give project details and provide information on future phases of the project.

“The opening of the new LA 1 toll bridge at Leeville represents a milestone toward elevating and improving this critical energy corridor,” said Henri Boulet, Executive Director of the LA 1 Coalition. “The new fixed-level bridge and replacement of the old Leeville lift-bridge has been over a decade in the making. We are pleased to highlight this success and introduce the public to future improvements to the LA 1 corridor.”

The LA 1 Expressway, designated by Congress as a “high-priority corridor” for its role as “critical energy infrastructure,” is the only land access to Port Fourchon, which services 18 percent of the nation's daily crude oil needs. The highway is also the only evacuation route during hurricanes and other adverse conditions for up to 35,000 people, including 6,000 offshore workers and residents of Grand Isle. A critical transportation route, LA 1 provides access to more than 1,200 trucks per day that travel in and out of Port Fourchon.

For more information about the open houses, call (866) 662-8987.

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## OPEN HOUSE MEETING SCHEDULE

### **June 8, 2009**

Houma Terrebonne Civic Center  
346 Civic Center Blvd.  
Houma, LA 70360

### **June 9, 2009**

Frem Boustany Convention Center  
1373 S. College Rd.  
Lafayette, LA 70503

### **June 10, 2009**

Avondale Multipurpose Center  
4008 Hwy. 90  
Westwego, LA 70094

### **June 11, 2009**

Bass Pro, Conservation Room  
175 Bass Pro Blvd.  
Denham Springs, LA 70726

### **June 15, 2009**

South Lafourche High School  
16911 East Main St.  
Galliano, LA 70345

### **June 16, 2009**

Larose Civic Center  
307 E 5th St.  
Larose, LA 70373

### **June 17, 2009**

Warren J. Harang Jr. Municipal Auditorium  
310 N. Canal Blvd.  
Thibodaux, LA 70301

### **June 18, 2009**

Grand Isle Community Center  
3811 Hwy. 1  
Grand Isle, LA 70358