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Media Contact:
Juliana Anderson Wilkins
Juliana@ylnola.org
504.585.1500 x201

Young Leadership Council exploring all options to maintain decorative lights on the Crescent City Connection bridge

New Orleans, LA (March 15, 2013) – Young Leadership Council (YLC) views the lights on the Crescent City Connection as one of its signature projects and is proud of the iconic status the bridge has achieved as part of the New Orleans skyline. In 1991, YLC raised approximately \$500,000 to install lights on the Crescent City Connection—the organization’s first major capital fundraising campaign.

In response to the announcement that the bridge lights would be extinguished tonight, YLC led an effort to bring all necessary parties together to work toward a solution and even offered to use its own funds to temporarily cover the cost of the lighting for whatever agreement might be reached. YLC is working diligently to find both a short- and a long-term solution to maintain the lights on the bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Jefferson and Orleans parishes.

The organization plans to continue its discussions with appropriate parties at the local, regional, and state levels to ensure that the bridge remains a recognizable symbol of the Greater New Orleans region in the coming months and for many years to come.

When YLC raised the funds to install the lights more than two decades ago, there was an understanding that the State of Louisiana would fund all aspects of the decorative lighting on the bridge moving forward. YLC believes the State has an obligation to find a long-term solution to pay for the lights.

YLC will continue to work toward a short- and long-term solution. The organization’s discussions do not pertain to the May 4 vote, and any agreement would be irrespective to the results of that vote. The YLC continues to take no position on the tolls.

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The Young Leadership Council is a non-profit, non-partisan civic organization created to develop leadership through community projects. Through volunteer-created community projects, the YLC recruits and retains young professionals to New Orleans, creating a positive impact on the quality of life in the region. The oldest, independent YPO (young professionals' organization) in the country, the YLC has raised more than \$25 million to support community projects in and around the New Orleans area since 1986.