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YOUNG LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ANNOUNCE TEMPORARY FIX TO BRIDGE LIGHTS ISSUE

YLC Continues to Work with DOTD On Permanent Funding Solution

NEW ORLEANS, LA – The Young Leadership Council learned this week that the Regional Planning Commission has agreed to fund the lights on the Greater New Orleans Bridges No. 1 and No. 2 (the Crescent City Connection) for the next three years. Funding for the lights, including operation and maintenance, will be drawn from the \$5.7 million of transition funding managed by the RPC.

[QUOTE FROM WALTER BROOKS, EXEC DIR. OF THE RPC]

Recent Media coverage has brought forth the question as to who would fund the bridge lights on the Crescent City Connection after a successful YLC-led campaign last year to “Save Our Lights.” Facing a refusal by the state to pay for the lights last year, the Young Leadership Council donated three months of funding and the RPC voted to fund the lights for the remaining of the Fiscal Year of 2013-2014 out of the transition fund it manages.

The Young Leadership Council, the non-profit civic engagement and leadership development organization that originally raised the money for and donated the lights more than 20 years ago, says that it will continue to work to find a long-term solution to keep the bridge illuminated beyond the next three years.

“We are extremely pleased that the RPC has decided to honor the State's obligation to fund the Bridge Lights,” said Scott Sternberg, an attorney with Baldwin, Haspel, Burke & Mayer and General Counsel to the YLC.

In 1989, the YLC raised \$500,000 to have the lights installed on the bridge as part of its civic engagement commitment to New Orleans. At the time, the organization entered into an agreement with the State, the terms of which left the State with the responsibility of ongoing operation and maintenance for the lights. The YLC is now working with representatives from DOTD to come to an agreement regarding funding and maintaining the lights in perpetuity.

“The Bridge Lights are an iconic symbol of our region as a vibrant economic area with an even brighter future. We are committed to finding a solution, and working with state and local stakeholders, to keep the lights on for many years to come,” Sternberg said.

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About the YLC

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.

About the RPC:

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) serves as the designated Economic Development District for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes as well as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all of the named parishes in addition to St. Charles and St. John parishes. This regional body is comprised of a 31 voting member board with representation from each of the six core parishes and supported by a staff of planning professionals. This board, which consists of elected officials and citizen members, meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues that are regional in nature.

For more information on YLC, please visit our website at www.ylcnola.org.

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