

Press Release



Belle Chasse Tunnel Improvements

For Immediate Release – December 17, 2009

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has plans to increase safety in the Belle Chasse Tunnel. A new lighting system will be installed inside the tunnel, as well as cameras. The concrete approaches will be repaired and the tunnel's pumps will be refurbished.



“These repairs will make the tunnel as safe as it can be for the time being,” said Parish President Billy Nungesser. “We thank the state for putting a worthwhile project to make much needed repairs.”

The work order should be issued for early January 2010 and work is estimated to start up in March.

“These are much needed repairs, and I thank the state for their attention to the tunnel situation,” said District 2 Council Member Keith Hinkley. “This will increase safety coming into the parish, while we address our future needs.”

A 270 day study analyzing three options to replace the Belle Chasse Bridge & Tunnel was completed earlier this year. Parish officials are currently exploring the

best and timeliest option. The three studied include 60 and 70 foot bridges that would open for ship traffic an estimated 1-4 times a week and a 100 foot bridge. The parish will seek public input before a decision is made.