

DUPLICATE ORIGINAL  
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Minute No. 300

El Paso, Texas  
August 30, 1999

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE REPLACEMENT  
INTERNATIONAL CORDOVA - BRIDGE OF THE AMERICAS**

The Commission met at 2:00 PM on August 30, 1999, in the headquarters offices of the United States Section in El Paso, Texas, to consider joint operation and maintenance activities for the Replacement International Cordova - Bridge of the Americas in furtherance of Resolutions Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 8 of Minute No. 290, "Replacement of the International Cordova - Bridge of the Americas Over the Rio Grande at El Paso, Texas - Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua," dated September 21, 1993.

The two Commissioners reviewed the "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers Recommending an Operation and Maintenance Work Plan for the Replacement International Cordova - Bridge of the Americas," signed by Principal Engineers Carlos Marin of the United States Section and Luis Antonio Rascón Mendoza of the Mexican Section on August 27, 1999. The Commissioners noted that construction of the replacement bridge was completed in June 1998, consisting of two light vehicle structures and approaches and two commercial vehicle structures and approaches, each having nine spans, with span number six being intersected by the international boundary. The Commissioners observed that the replacement bridge is viewed by the two Governments as a component of a New Border Vision on the eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The Commissioners observed that the Principal Engineers recommend a work plan and funding with the following principal components:

- Joint operation and maintenance, based on annual plans with specific work elements to ensure the safe and reliable operation of two light vehicle and two commercial vehicle replacement bridge structures and approaches for a 25-year period, reviewed before the 10th, 20th and 25th years, with the understanding that before the end of the 25<sup>th</sup> year, there would be a recommendation of a means of funding the operation and maintenance after the 25<sup>th</sup> year.
- Work distribution in which operation and maintenance of the light vehicle structures and approaches of the replacement bridge in the United States are performed at a cost to the United States, and operation and maintenance of the light vehicle structures and approaches in Mexico and the commercial structures and approaches in both countries are performed at a cost to the commercial users in the United States and Mexico from contributions temporarily self-imposed by commercial users and collected in Juarez under authority provided by the Commission.
- A first year operation and maintenance cost estimate of \$47,000, United States currency, of which \$30,000, United States currency, or 64 per cent, is covered by commercial

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users. This would be apportioned such that an amount of \$6,000, United States currency, would cover the cost of the part of the commercial structures and approaches in the United States and \$24,000, United States currency, would cover the cost of the part of the commercial and light vehicle structures and approaches in Mexico, and \$17,000 United States currency, to cover the estimated cost for operation and maintenance of the part of the light vehicle structures and approaches in the United States, cost to be covered by the United States Section.

- An annual cost of \$4,500 to cover administrative costs necessary to manage an escrow account.
- Annual operation and maintenance costs covered by commercial users for 25 years from an escrow fund of \$680,000 United States currency, in an interest bearing account from imposed fees from commercial users accumulated after deduction of construction costs and taking into account cost escalations, disbursements, including administrative costs and interest yields.
- Suspension of contributions from commercial users on August 15, 1999, the date in which the self-imposed fees from commercial users accumulated to an estimated amount of \$680,000, United States currency, after deduction of construction costs.
- Procedures for expending the above funds as required by operation and maintenance needs.
- A framework to administer and supervise the above funds and execution of the referenced work schedule.

The Commissioners found the work plan and funding recommended by the Principal Engineers to be satisfactory in exercise of the obligations incurred by the Governments of the United States and Mexico for the operation and maintenance of the Replacement International Cordova - Bridge of the Americas in accordance with the provisions of Commission Minute No. 290.

Accordingly, the two Commissioners submit the following recommendations for the approval of the two Governments:

1. The "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers Recommending an Operation and Maintenance Work Plan for the Replacement International Cordova - Bridge of the Americas," signed by Principal Engineers Carlos Marin of the United States Section and Luis Antonio Rascón Mendoza of the Mexican Section on August 27, 1999, is approved and forms an integral part of this Minute.

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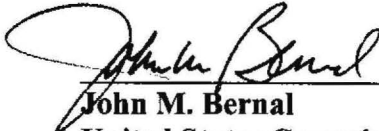
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2. The Commission will ensure the joint operation and maintenance, based on annual plans with specific work elements to ensure the safe and reliable operation of two light vehicle and two commercial vehicle structures and approaches of the replacement bridge for a 25-year period, reviewed before the 10th, 20th and 25th years. Further, the Commission will recommend to the two Governments, before the 25th year of the start of such operation and maintenance, a means of funding the operation and maintenance in that and in future years.
3. The United States Section of the Commission will ensure the operation and maintenance of the light vehicle structures and approaches of the replacement bridge in the United States at a first year estimated cost to the United States of \$17,000, United States currency.
4. The Commission will ensure the operation and maintenance of the light vehicle structures and approaches to the replacement bridge in Mexico and the operation and maintenance of the commercial vehicle structures and approaches of the replacement bridge in both countries in accordance with the work plan described in the above referenced joint report. The costs for such operation and maintenance will be covered for 25 years using the \$680,000, United States currency, accumulated from self-imposed commercial user fees, taking into account disbursements, including administration costs, escalation costs, and interest yields. The first year's costs are estimated at \$30,000, United States currency, which correspond to the commercial vehicle structures and approaches in the United States and commercial and light vehicle structures and approaches in Mexico.
5. The authorization by the Commission to voluntarily temporarily collect the funds in 4) above, was suspended on August 15, 1999 when the self-imposed fees from commercial users accumulated after the deduction of construction costs, and collection costs reach an estimated \$680,000, United States currency.
6. Both Sections of the Commission may rely on institutions and legal arrangements in their respective country for the administration of funds and execution of the work plan.
7. The exercise of these funds will be performed, upon entry into force of this Minute, in accordance with operation and maintenance needs, under procedures described in the Joint Report adopted in 1) above.


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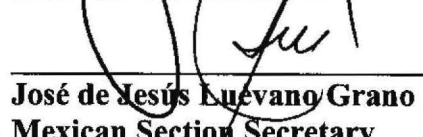
8. All activities undertaken in furtherance of provisions of this Minute are subject to the availability of funds, resources and corresponding personnel as well as to applicable laws and standards in each country.
9. This Minute enters into force when the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Mexican States notify approval of this Minute through their respective Sections of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
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**John M. Bernal**  
**United States Commissioner**

  
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**Manuel R. Ybarra**  
**United States Section Secretary**

  
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**J. Arturo Herrera Sofis**  
**Mexican Commissioner**

  
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**José de Jesús Luevano Grano**  
**Mexican Section Secretary**