

Stakeholders in agreement with draft bridge opening time manual

SIMPSON BAY--On Wednesday, September 4, the representatives of the St. Maarten Marine Trade Association (SMMTA), Princess Juliana International Airport and the Simpson Bay Lagoon Authority Corporation (SLAC) met at the SLAC offices in Simpson Bay to further discuss a new time manual for Simpson Bay Bridge as well as Simpson Bay Causeway Bridge.

All parties involved in the discussions are major stakeholders in and around Simpson Bay Lagoon, and all endorsed the new proposed time manual for the bridges. The time manual includes more frequent openings of the bridges, with the times in between openings synchronized and staggered to allow both marine and vehicular traffic to flow better.

The agreed upon time manual for the Simpson Bay bridges will be discussed with French counter parts, after which it will be submitted to the Chief of Police on the Dutch side. The Dutch authorities will

then execute further research with the Traffic Department to examine if the suggested time manual can be approved.

There will also be discussions between the contractor responsible for the construction of the causeway and the Traffic Department pertaining to digital road signage. This will give motorists information such as waiting times and or travel directions when bridges are opening.

SLAC will also be more involved in solving the issues at hand in and around the Simpson Bay Lagoon area. The Lagoon Authority will soon be functioning fully from their new office locat-

ed on Simpson Bay Road.

The Lagoon Authority will have a clear strategy toward stakeholders, a better relationship with the Simpson Bay community and stakeholders such as the Airport. The Authority also has a clear strategic and environmental action plan, based on the Environmental Impact Study from Lievens, and a CH2M HILL action plan.

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