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## **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RTA CEO issues statement on the status of ferry service**

(New Orleans) – Today, the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) CEO, Alex Wiggins, issued a statement on the status of ferry service:

“Following the most recent breakdown of the Armiger ferry, the vessel has been in dry-dock to address its ongoing mechanical issues. Despite the best efforts of the dry-dock repair teams, the vessel continues to experience persistent mechanical problems which affect the boat’s cooling water system and bearings. These persistent issues have proven exceptionally difficult to repair and the RTA cannot return the vessel to service at this time as passenger safety is the paramount priority of the agency.

“The RTA remains focused on providing efficient, reliable and safe ferry service for residents and visitors and is working towards to entering the new ferry vessels (RTA 1 and RTA 2) into service at the end of the year. Recently, the project management team completed their initial review of the vessels and recommended a thorough marine survey be conducted to evaluate the electrical, mechanical and structural systems on both vessels. The RTA recently contracted with Elliot Bay Design Group to execute these surveys and have begun working this week.

“The RTA recognizes the hardship the ferry outages have on residents and small business and will continue to operate a bus bridge between the Algiers Point and Canal Street Ferry Terminal. The RTA is also committed to partnering with local community and business organizations to increase reliable public transportation options to move people between the places they live, shop, work and play.”