

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*I-20/I-220 Barksdale Air Force Base project groundbreaking*

2019



*DOTD eagerly participates in National Work Zone Awareness Week every year to stress the importance of safe driving through work zones. Each year, the department sets up a safety cone memorial in front of DOTD headquarters in recognition of those who have lost their lives in work zones.*

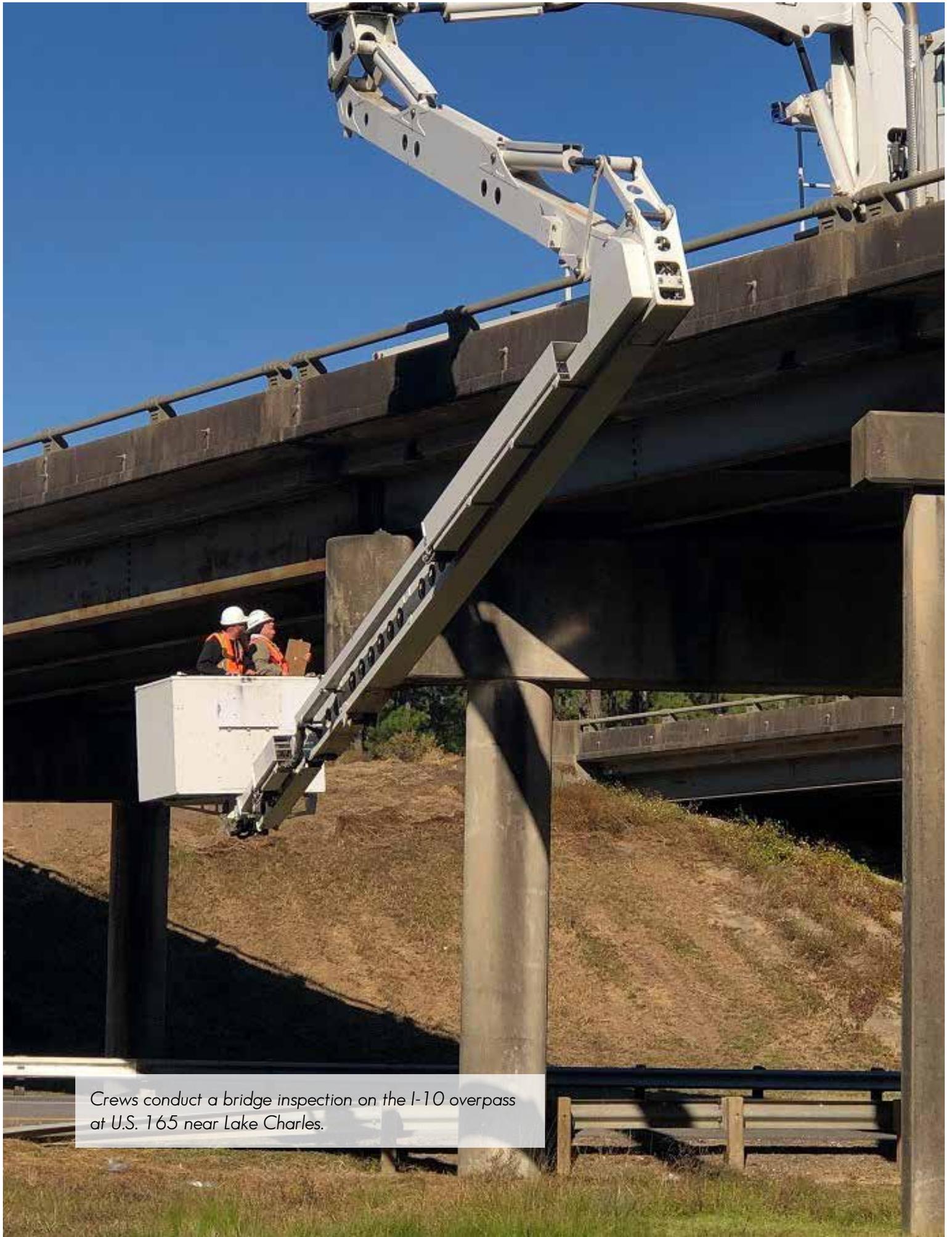
*This compilation of accomplishments is dedicated to Johnny Cole and Jeff Curry, two DOTD employees who lost their lives in 2019, and to Dwayne Pitre, an employee who was severely injured in 2020. These employees were serving the people of Louisiana by performing their duties in work zones when they were struck by vehicles.*

# DOTD STATS

2019



Projects let: .....	<b>291</b>
Project investment:.....	<b>\$945,910,522.54</b>
Project miles:.....	<b>837.84</b>
Guardrails repaired: .....	<b>695</b>
Potholes patched:.....	<b>466,037</b>
Drainage structures repaired/cleaned/installed:.....	<b>35,215</b>
Miles of restored shoulders: .....	<b>2,443</b>
Acres of herbicide sprayed: .....	<b>109,385</b>
Miles of striping:.....	<b>8,248</b>
Signs repaired/replaced: .....	<b>115,242</b>
Bridges replaced: .....	<b>7</b>
Bridge inspections: .....	<b>7,766</b>
Cubic yards of litter removed:.....	<b>53,064</b>
Acres mowed: .....	<b>~360,000</b>



*Crews conduct a bridge inspection on the I-10 overpass at U.S. 165 near Lake Charles.*

# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY



*Contract signing for the Belle Chasse Bridge replacement project, the state's first public-private partnership (P3). The authority granted to solicit a P3 was given to DOTD in 2016.*



## Comite River Diversion Canal Groundbreaking

**E**arly in his administration, Governor John Bel Edwards traveled to Washington, DC, to meet with Major General Todd Semonite to stress the importance of funding for the Comite River Diversion Canal in East Baton Rouge Parish.



On April 17, 2019, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), United States Army Corps. Of Engineers, City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge, and the Amite River Basin Commission held a groundbreaking ceremony to signify the start of construction on the Comite River Diversion Project. Gov. Edwards and DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., were joined by state, local, and federal officials on U.S. 61 in Zachary to commemorate this historic event.

This \$353 million project will consist of constructing a 12-mile long diversion channel from the Comite River to the Mississippi River, in addition to guide levees, a control structure at Lilly Bayou, and four drop structures at intersections of the diversion channel at McHugh Road, Bayou Baton Rouge, Cypress Bayou, and White Bayou.

New bridges will be built along LA 964, 19, and 67 where they meet the diversion channel, as well as the reconstruction of the Geaux Geaux Bridge near Zachary.

Preliminary work began in February 2019 and construction is estimated to be completed summer 2021, weather dependent.



"It is a tremendous aid to the mission out at Barksdale for this interchange to be completed as soon as is feasible."

- Bossier City Mayor Lo Walker



## I-20/I-220 BAFB Interchange Groundbreaking

**O**n May 15, 2019, Gov. Edwards joined Sec. Wilson and numerous local and state leaders for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of the I-20/I-220 Barksdale Air Force Base (BAFB) interchange project in Bossier City. The \$71.8 million project will create a new access road into BAFB, extending southward from the existing I-20/I-220 interchange.

With the support of Gov. Edwards, DOTD pursued approval of the Joint Transportation Committee to utilize the design-build method of project delivery. The design-build method can expedite project delivery by combining the design and construction phases.

The new road and gate will take into account projected population growth and increased traffic counts, serve to greatly enhance security, and will alleviate traffic congestion at other base entrance points. It will also improve access times for Barksdale employees and their families, providing easier commutes to schools and other local attractions.

The project has been a part of the state's Transportation Master Plan for many years, and until recently, had no environmental clearance or funding source identified.

Following the January 2018 announcement of the state's intention to utilize Grant Anticipation Revenue (GARVEE) bonds for the first time, the interchange project progressed at a rate not often experienced in the project development process. Over the course of a year and a half, seven phases in the process of moving this project from funding identification to contract signing were completed.

James Construction Group, LLC. was identified on February 5, 2019, as the successful proposer, with a notice to proceed issued on April 24, 2019, marking the official start of the project.

Funding commitments have been made by the City of Bossier, Bossier Parish, and the Bossier Metropolitan Planning Organization, as well as public support from economic development groups in the region. The project was listed as the number one priority mega project by the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, noting the urgency and need for an improved access point for BAFB due to the base's status as a critical asset.



*Pictured are DOTD District 03 Administrator Bill Oliver, Sec. Wilson, Gov. Edwards, and Senate Transportation Chair Page Cortez.*

## Albertson Parkway Ribbon Cutting

**O**n August 26, 2019, Gov. Edwards joined Sec. Wilson, as well as local and state officials, to celebrate the completion of the Albertson Parkway widening project in Lafayette Parish.

“As Chairman of Senate Transportation and the district Senator for this project, I am happy to see the completion of this project as a sign of progress on the important I-49S corridor.”

- State Senator Page Cortez

This \$63.7 million project consisted of widening U.S. 90 from four to six lanes from Albertson Parkway to north of the Ambassador Caffery intersection. Additionally, an overpass was constructed along U.S. 90 above Albertson Parkway, as well as a new railroad overpass,

and modifications to the adjacent frontage roads, which included the reconstruction of LA 182 from Albertson Parkway to LA 96.

The Geaux South program is a major construction initiative that will transform the U.S. 90 corridor into Interstate 49 South. The 160-mile interstate highway will stretch from the I-10/ I-49 North junction in Lafayette to the Westbank Expressway in New Orleans. All planned projects and phases in the Geaux South program represent an approximate \$2 billion investment in upgrading and improving Louisiana's transportation infrastructure.

Currently this corridor sees more than 42,000 motorists a day, though this is expected to increase to 67,000 vehicles in the next 20 years.

James Construction, CH Fenstermaker, Huval & Associates, Terracon, Urban Systems, AECOM, and ATC were the quality and design-build team on this project, which began in August 2014.



## Prien Lake Road Relocation/Contraband Parkway Project

**O**n August 27, 2019, DOTD and the City of Lake Charles held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion the Prien Lake Road Relocation Project/Contraband Parkway in Lake Charles. DOTD District 7 Administrator Donald Duberville was joined by state and local officials, including City of Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter, at the newly constructed roadway for the ceremony.

The \$10 million project consisted of constructing a four-lane divided roadway from the Holly Hill roundabout to the Nelson Road and L'Auberge Avenue intersection. Additionally, a 10-foot multi-use pathway and a 6-foot sidewalk were installed to provide multiple safe transportation methods.

This project also provides an alternative route for motorists to access Nelson Road and the Holly Hill Roundabout. Additionally, this route includes four access points, which will allow connections for future residential and commercial growth.

Ownership of the new roadway will transfer to the City of Lake Charles after final acceptance.

SIEMA Construction was the build team on this project, which began in April 2017.



*Pictured are DOTD District 07 Administrator Don Duberville, Lake Charles City Administrator John Cardone, CPPJ Vice President Shelly Mayo, Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter, and Lake Charles Councilman John Ieyoub.*



*There have been no cross-median collision deaths along stretches where cable barriers have been installed.*

## Continued Cable Barrier Installation

**O**n September 3, 2019, DOTD announced a project that will install median cable barriers along I-49 north of Shreveport in Caddo Parish.

The contract was awarded in June 2019 to Simmons Erosion Control, Inc. at a cost of \$7 million.

The project to install the lifesaving barriers stretches from Dr. Martin Luther King Drive (LA 3194) in Shreveport to the Arkansas state line, a 35-mile stretch of interstate.

Cable barriers are made of three or four high-tension steel cables strung on posts. The barriers are designed to absorb the impact of an automobile, redirecting the vehicle along the median and helping to prevent a potentially fatal crossover crash.

This type of median cable barrier is much less expensive than permanent concrete barriers and can typically be repaired quickly by DOTD maintenance crews after damage from a crash.

DOTD has invested over \$50 million since 2008 in roadway safety improvements through projects to install cable barriers across the state. The department's goal is to complete the installation of median cable barriers on all interstates in Louisiana by 2022.

This project on I-49 north in Caddo Parish is expected to wrap up in spring 2020, with progress always dependent on weather conditions.





## Pecue Lane/I-10 Interchange Project Phase II

**O**n September 13, 2019, Gov. Edwards joined Sec. Wilson, as well as local and state officials, for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on phase II of the Pecue Lane/I-10 interchange project in Baton Rouge.

The second phase is a \$13.6 million project that consists of building mechanically stabilized earth walls on both sides of I-10 and replacing the existing two-lane bridge with two multi-lane bridges. This is part of a multi-phase interchange project in East Baton Rouge City-Parish government's Green Light Plan, a transportation improvement program designed to construct road projects throughout the parish.

Currently, there are roughly over 41,000 motorists who travel Pecue Lane, with over 92,000 vehicles on this section of I-10 daily. In the next 20 years, this is projected to increase to 63,000 vehicles daily on Pecue Lane and over 136,000 on I-10.

Phase III of the project, which is currently in the pre-construction phase, will widen Pecue Lane from two to

four lanes between Perkins Road and Airline Highway, reconstruct the KCS railroad crossing, replace the Ward Creek Bridge, construct I-10 on/off ramps to Pecue Lane, and open the diverging diamond interchange, which is one of the first interchanges of its kind in Louisiana. Additionally, a connector road, Reiger Road, will be fully constructed to connect Industriplex Boulevard to Pecue Lane.

The contractor, James Construction, began work on this project in August 2019. Construction is estimated to be completed in late 2020, weather dependent.

"Construction of the interchange at I-10 and Pecue Lane is a great example of what can be accomplished through federal, state, and local cooperation, and will offer a solution to part of the crushing, daily traffic problems in fast-growing southeast Baton Rouge."

- State Representative Paula Davis



## I-10 Widening and Improvements in Lake Charles

On October 3, 2019, DOTD announced a project to improve the roadway and capacity on I-10 in Calcasieu Parish. The \$45.5 million project was awarded to Gilchrist Construction and stretches from just west of the LA 108 interchange (Exit 23) to the I-210 interchange (Exit 25).

“The things we’ve done this past year aren’t just DOTD accomplishments; they are infrastructure investments for the citizens, businesses, and visitors of our great state.”

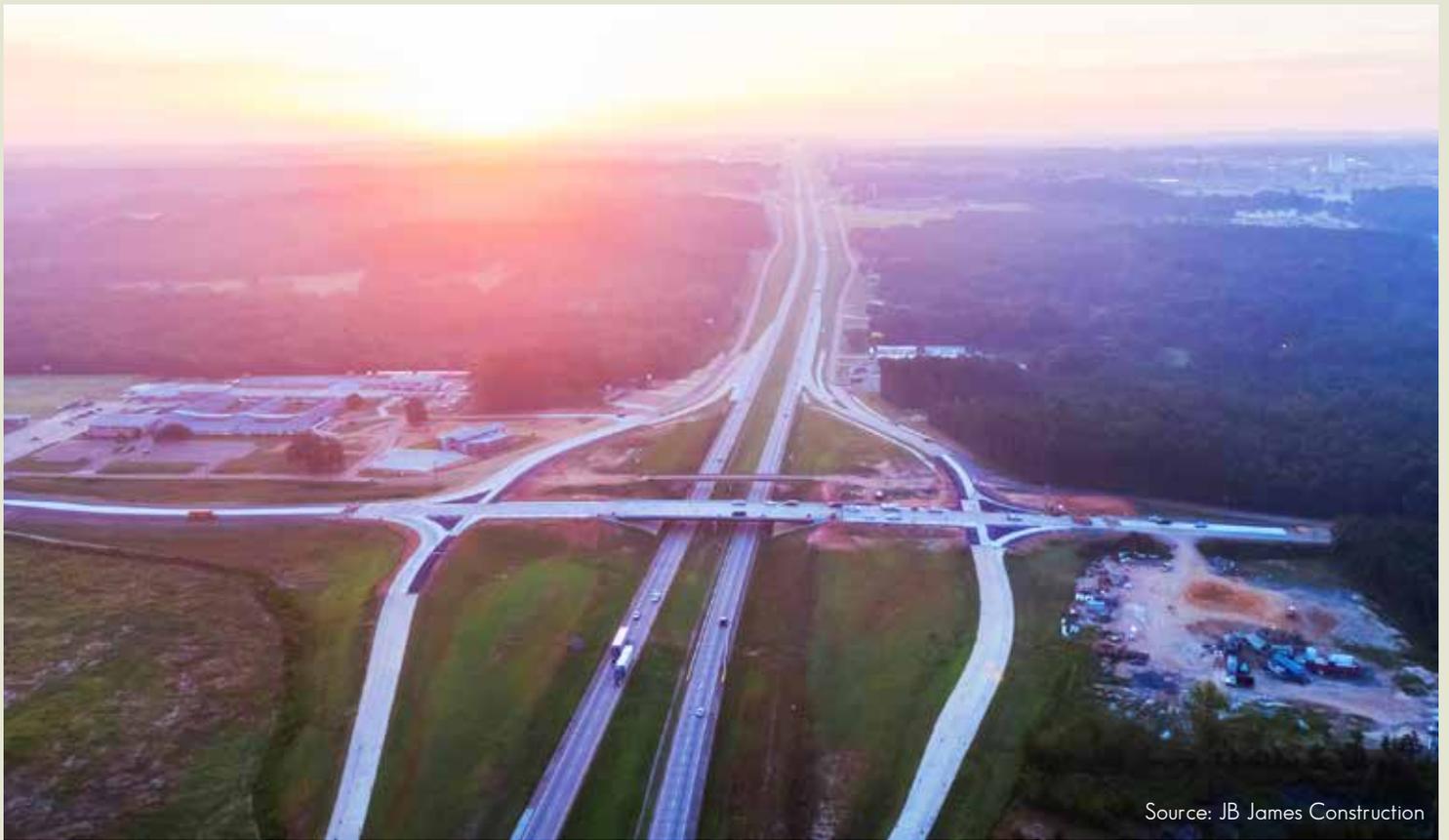
- DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.

The project will increase capacity by widening I-10 eastbound and westbound to four lanes between LA 108 and I-210. This will create an auxiliary lane between the LA 108 and I-210 interchanges. Twelve-foot shoulders will also be installed in both directions on the inside and outside lanes. The Maple Fork bridges will be replaced and raised above the 100-year flood elevation. The concrete sections west of the Maple Fork bridges will be

fully reconstructed and replaced, and the existing asphalt pavement east of the Maple Fork bridges will be milled and overlaid, which will improve the service of the roadway.

Major construction work is anticipated to begin in early 2020. Two lanes in each direction will be maintained on I-10 throughout the project.

The entire project is expected to be complete in summer 2021, with progress dependent on weather.



Source: JB James Construction

## Tarbutton Road Overpass Milestone

**O**n October 7, 2019, DOTD announced a milestone in the Tarbutton Road overpass and I-20 interchange project in Ruston.

The newly constructed Tarbutton Road overpass over I-20 was opened to traffic following the removal of the old bridge. Tarbutton Road approaching each end of the overpass is being built on an adjusted alignment to greatly improve traffic flow in the area.

“This has been a true partnership between the federal government, the state government, and the City of Ruston. We appreciate Dr. Wilson and DOTD always being available to take our calls and working to make this project a reality.”

- Ruston Mayor Ronny Walker

Additionally, the new Tarbutton/I-20 interchange ramps were constructed, providing congestion relief on the

other I-20 interchanges in Ruston, as well as promoting development along the Tarbutton corridor.

Final work will include guardrail installation around the overpass columns, median cable barrier replacement where gaps were created during the project, and grading, seeding, and dressing of slopes, along with permanent signage and striping.

The entire project is expected to wrap up in late spring/early summer 2020, weather permitting.





## I-10 Widening Project Phase III

**O**n October 8, 2019, Gov. Edwards, along with Sec. Wilson and state and local officials, broke ground on the third phase of the I-10 widening project in St. Martin Parish.

“This expansion will not only bolster the region’s ability to handle the heavy traffic but will also help grow the economy of this area and the state.”

- Governor John Bel Edwards

This \$87.7 million project will widen I-10 from four to six lanes between LA 328 in Breaux Bridge to LA 347 near Henderson. This will also include removing the two existing I-10 bridges over Melvin Dupuis Road and replacing them at ground level. Once completed, a two-lane bridge serving as Melvin Dupuis Road will be constructed over the interstate. Additionally, 54-inch concrete median barriers will be installed in portions of the project corridor, as well as raised markers and rumble strips.

Currently, there are over 70,000 motorists who travel

this stretch of I-10 daily. By 2035, this is projected to increase to over 105,000 vehicles daily.

This 4.5-mile widening project is the final phase of the I-10 widening in Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. The construction of I-10 from the I-49 junction to LA 328 and from LA 347 to the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge began in 2017 and is anticipated to be completed in 2020.

The contractor, Gilchrist Construction, will begin work in November. Construction is estimated to take three years, weather dependent.

“This is a crucial step in improving this area’s economy, as this stretch of I-10 is heavily traveled by the public, as well as the freight industry.”

- House Transportation Committee Chairman  
Terry Landry



## I-10/Loyola Drive Interchange Project Groundbreaking

**O**n October 10, 2019, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction for the I-10/Loyola Drive interchange project in Kenner. State and local officials were in attendance for the ceremony on the new airport access road.

“Residents and visitors alike can now look forward to a more modern and secure interchange with enhanced ease of routine transportation.”

- Congressman Cedric Richmond

This \$125.6 million project will improve traffic flow at the intersection of Loyola Drive and I-10 by utilizing a diverging diamond interchange (DDI), which eliminates the needs for left turn signals at the intersections. Additionally, the project will reconfigure the elevated on- and off-ramps from New Orleans to a single structure in the median of Airport Access Road south of Veterans Boulevard. The project will also provide aesthetic enhancements, including color, creative lighting, and landscaping, which would be a first for the region.

This project will be integrated into the entrance for the airport’s new north terminal. In order to accommodate

the traffic demands from the airport expansion, a four-lane divided highway was built to connect motorists from Loyola Drive to the new terminal. This \$6.8 million project, which began in January 2018, was completed in advance of the earlier anticipated opening.

The I-10/ Loyola Drive interchange project is part of four priority projects that will be constructed using GARVEE bonds, special bonds that will be repaid over 12 years using federal funds allocated to Louisiana. Other projects that are utilizing these bonds include the widening of I-10 in Baton Rouge, the Barksdale Air Force Base/I-220- entrance in Bossier City and the Belle Chasse bridge and tunnel replacement.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2020, with an estimated completion time of late 2022.

“I appreciate the efforts of this administration and our local government partners for the progress and economic development this interchange provides, while also balancing the need for the improvement and the impact to our city.”

- State Representative Joseph Stagni



## I-110/Terrace Avenue Interchange Opening

On October 11, 2019, DOTD held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the I-110/Terrace Avenue interchange in East Baton Rouge Parish. Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson were joined by state and local officials on the new exit ramp to make the announcement.

This \$9.3 million project added a new exit ramp on I-110 that begins over Myrtle Avenue, extends over Julia Street, and connects with Terrace Avenue.

This project began in August 2018 and was open for traffic on October 11.



“This new Terrace off-ramp will not only help alleviate traffic issues, but also provide safe, easy access to residents of Old South Baton Rouge while setting the stage for future improvements to Baton Rouge’s interstate system.”

- Louisiana State Representative Ted James





## U.S. 80 Bridge Replacement

On November 7, 2019, Gov. Edwards joined Sec. Wilson, along with a number of state and local officials, to celebrate the completion of a bridge replacement on U.S. 80 near Minden in Webster Parish.

This replacement work was announced in October 2019 as part of a larger commitment to investing in infrastructure and workforce training to benefit several industries in the region, including Fibrebond Corporation, which is based in Minden.

The U.S. 80 westbound bridge replacement over Boone Creek in Dixie Inn was completed in approximately half the time originally scheduled, using DOTD in-house resources. The 3-span bridge was replaced with a 4-span pre-cast concrete structure, which will no longer be weight-limit posted. This factor is key in the efficient movement of goods, giving manufacturers like Fibrebond access to a heavy-haul route.

DOTD, with support from Louisiana Economic Development (LED), will also lower U.S. 80 at the I-20 overpass between Dixie Inn and Goodwill Road in Webster Parish in order to allow custom-built loads to utilize the route with adequate overhead clearance. LED is contributing \$2.5 million in Rapid Response Funds to assist with fast-tracking the project, which is in development and is expected to go to bid soon.

The infrastructure upgrades will accommodate vehicles transporting Fibrebond's oversized and heavy manufactured products, along with other industries that need to utilize the heavy-haul route for their loads.



"Like they do always, the DOTD crews that built this bridge worked with the intensity that they would if they were saving their family. They feel duty bound to give it their all. Agile, mobile, and versatile!"

- DOTD District 04 Administrator David North



## I-20 Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation

**O**n November 15, 2019, DOTD announced that the nearly 50-year-old I-20 interstate crossing over the Mississippi River would be receiving a facelift and modern structural improvements.

Built in 1973, the bridge connects Madison Parish to Warren County, MS, and provides one of the few interstate roadway crossings over the river.

The \$27.7 million project will provide a number of significant repairs, including the bridge deck, electrical system, and roadway lighting components.

The old deck will be resurfaced with new concrete to improve traction and preserve the structural aspects of the bridge flooring. The current electrical circuits will be replaced, in addition to the replacement of nearly 100 roadway lighting fixtures with a modern LED system.

Roadway fiber optics will also be replaced with new cameras and radar, which will integrate the system into Mississippi's IT network.

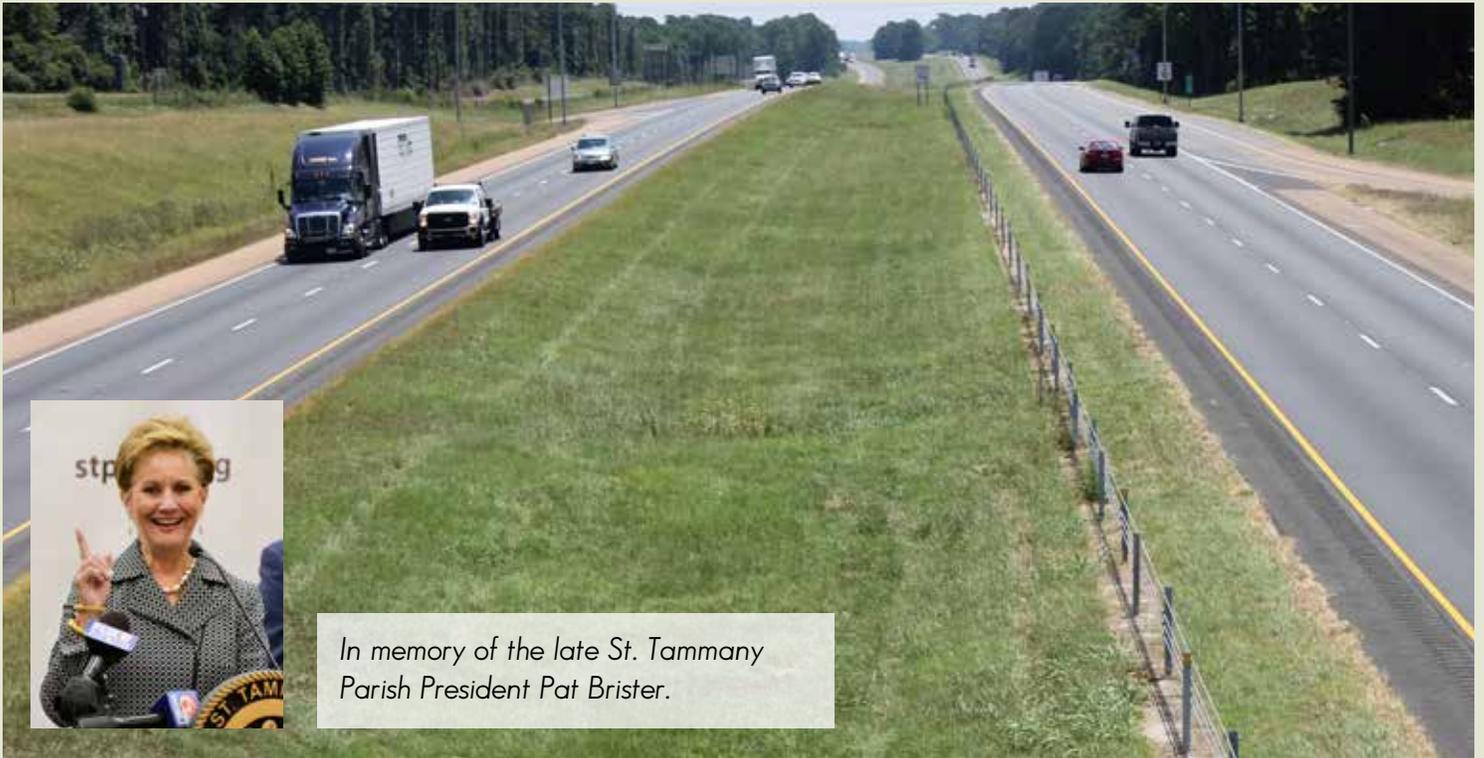
Additionally, the steel structural connections at certain locations on the bridge will be modified to improve resilience against all loads and conditions.

"This project will extend the service life of this bridge for decades to come, an example of strategically investing in our existing infrastructure with our available funding and maximizing the use of those dollars."

- DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.

New navigational lighting and aerial beacons will also be installed, along with improvements to the bridge monitoring system and enhancements to the inspection access walkways.

Work on the project is anticipated to wrap up in early 2021, with progress dependent on weather conditions.



*In memory of the late St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister.*

## Upcoming Widening of I-12 in St. Tammany Parish

**A**t the letting on November 25, 2019, James Construction Group, LLC, was the apparent low bidder for a widening and overlay project on I-12 between U.S. 190 and LA 59. The construction, which is estimated to cost \$55 million, will also include widening six existing bridges along I-12.

DOTD is completing construction plans for the second phase of I-12 improvements in St. Tammany Parish, a future project that will widen the interstate between LA 21 and U.S. 190, scheduled for bid in spring 2020. For this phase, the parish received a \$25 million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation in December 2018, combined with a \$7.2 million commitment from St. Tammany Parish and a \$5 million contribution from DOTD. In addition, and in an effort to maximize the project's impacts and minimize future costs, DOTD plans to include a third lane eastbound in the bid for this phase. The original grant application called for an extra lane westbound with the eastbound addition to take place when funding became available.

DOTD is also preparing plans for a third phase of I-12 improvements from LA 1077 to LA 21.

The U.S. Department of Transportation redistributes federal funding each year from budgeted funds that were

not used by other states or national programs to those states that successfully obligated their full federal highway funding allotment during the fiscal year. In August 2019, DOTD received \$76.2 million of those federal funds, the 19th year in a row the state has received redistributed funds.

*"It is an exciting day when we can move forward with a mega infrastructure project that is crucial for the state. I sincerely appreciate President Brister's partnership on this project."*

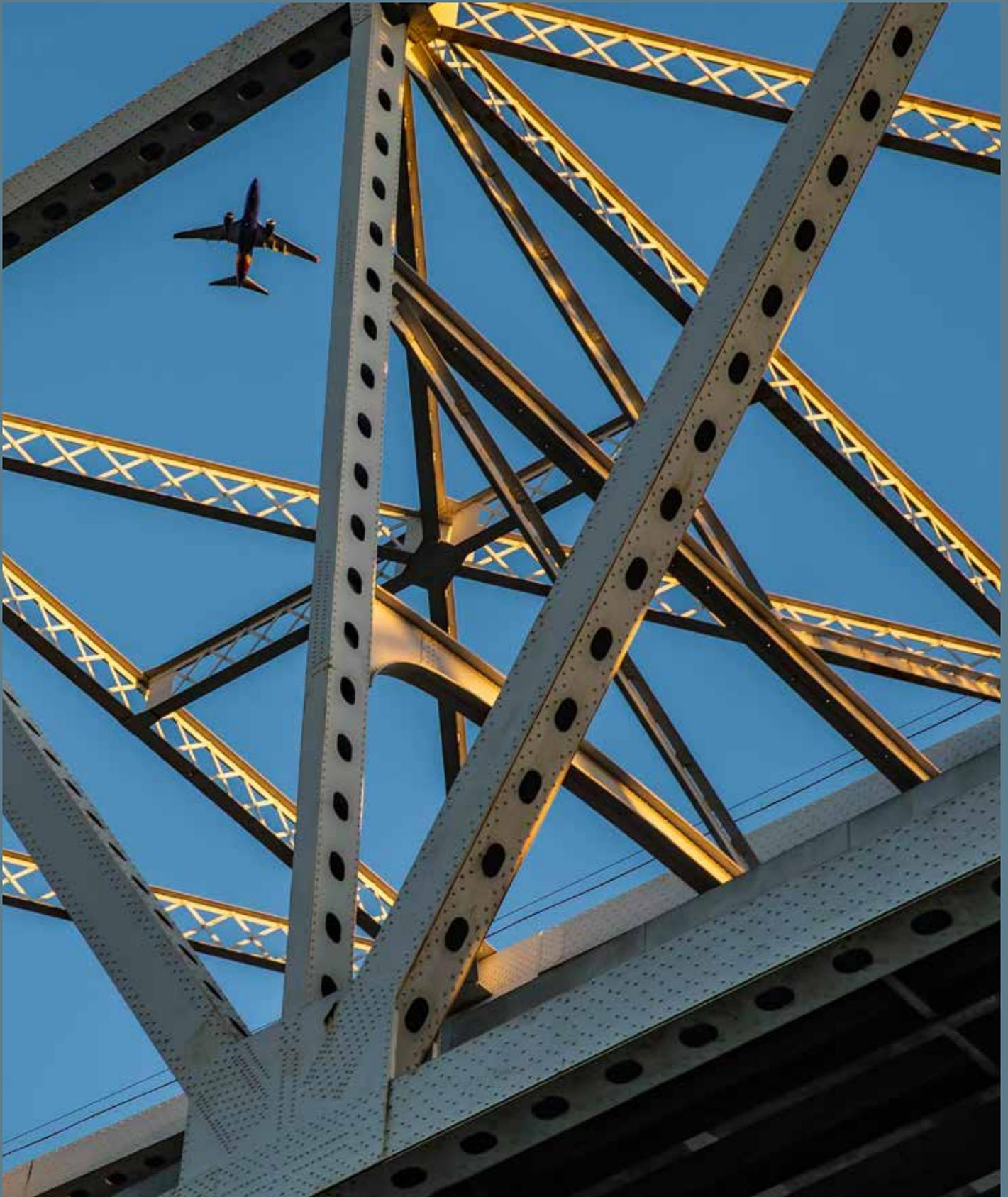
*- Governor John Bel Edwards*

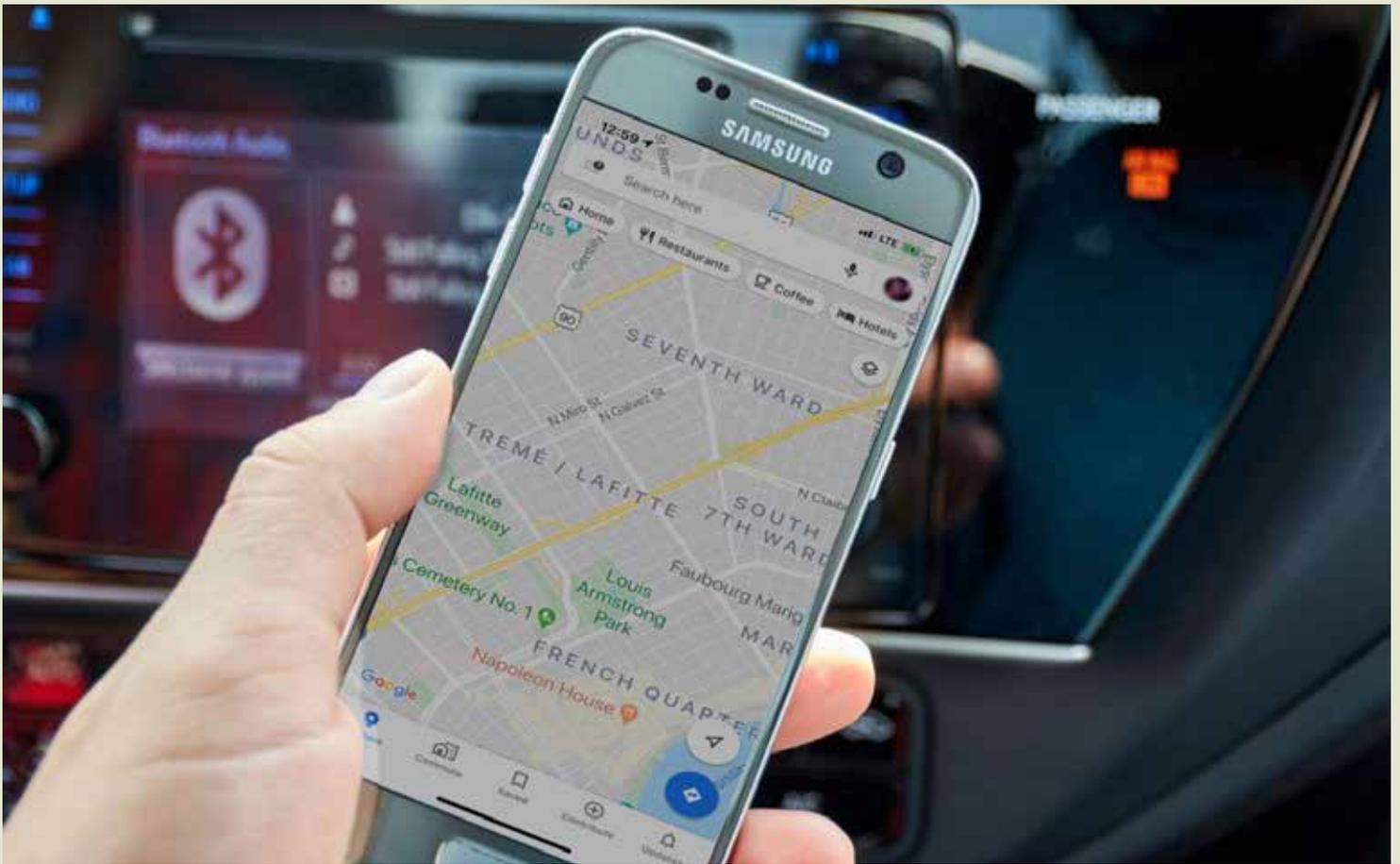
The stretch of I-12 between U.S. 190 and LA 59 sees over 76,000 vehicles per day. The project will add a third lane in each direction and include widening the existing bridges over U.S. 190, Ponchitolawa Creek, and Tammany Trace. Construction will begin in early 2020 and is expected to last approximately 2.5 years, weather permitting. St. Tammany Parish is contributing \$8 million to the project.



Site of the future Barksdale Air Force Base access road at the I-20/I-220 interchange.

# MULTIMODAL





## DOTD commences statewide regulation of transportation network companies

On July 2, 2019, DOTD announced that its regulation of transportation network companies (TNCs) throughout the state had begun. Act 286 from the legislature's 2019 regular session establishes TNCs in Louisiana. The legislation grants TNCs the ability to operate without a permit until rules and regulations are promulgated by the department. However, as the state's regulator, DOTD determined that TNCs should provide the state assurance that the basic requirements of the statute are being met. As a result, the department has provided an opportunity for a conditional permit to allow TNCs to launch statewide immediately.

DOTD began working with municipalities concerning the governance of TNCs during special events. Most notably, the department worked with the city of New Orleans to ensure that there was mobility around the city during the ESSENCE Festival weekend. DOTD issued a special emergency order allowing TNCs to adapt to the city of New Orleans's transportation plan for the festival.

DOTD will continue to work with municipalities and TNCs to ensure fairness and optimal mobility for Louisiana's citizens and tourists during the many festivals and special events held statewide.

"The overall success of ESSENCE Fest every year is due to the broad network of support from our public safety agencies and our local, state and federal partners."

- New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell

TNCs are also known as ridesharing companies and include services such as Uber and Lyft. Ridesharing gives citizens and visitors more transportation options for their activities, and increases safety by reducing the number of impaired drivers on the roadways.

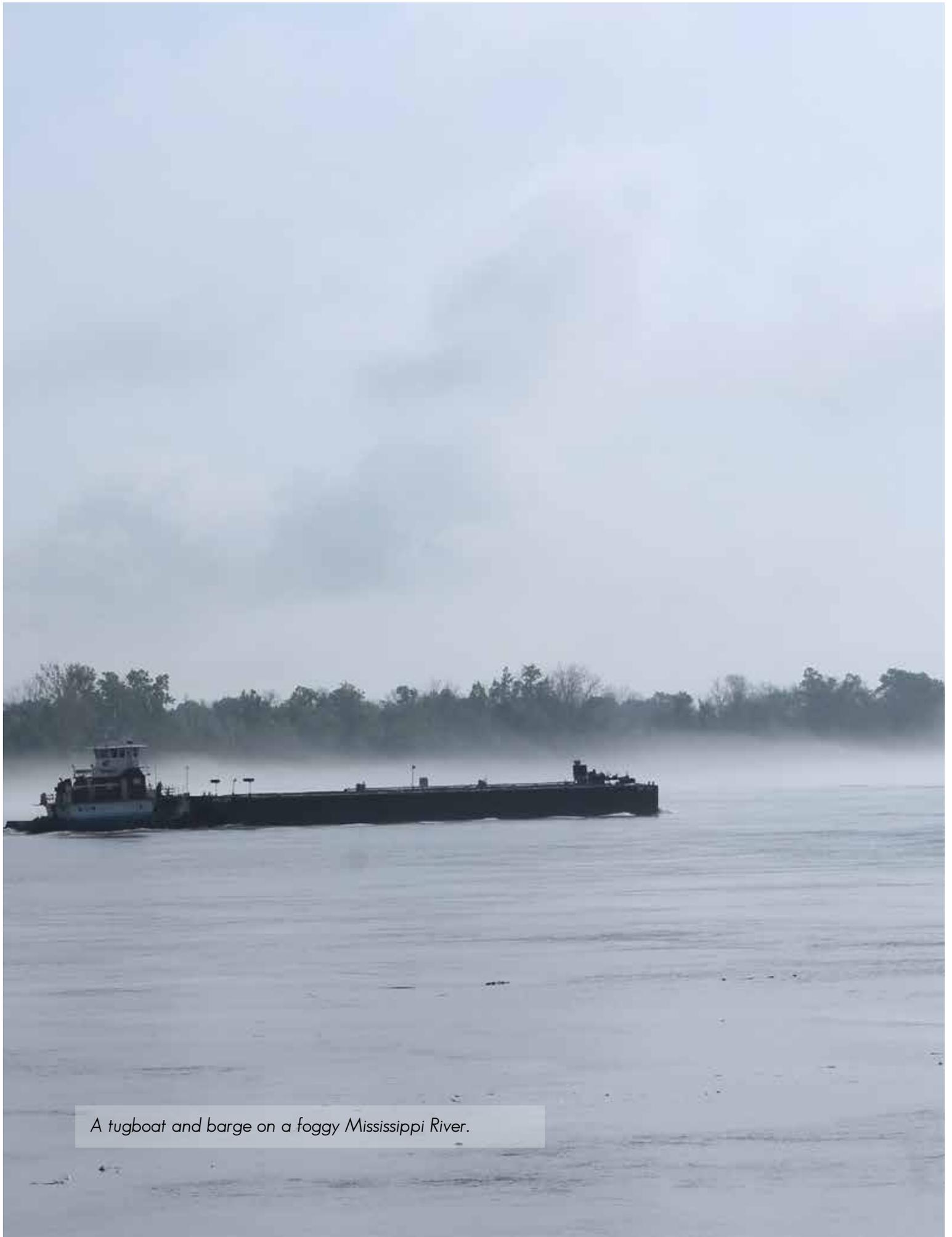


## Louisiana Excellence in Aviation Award

**A**t the 40th Annual Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates Conference held in Lake Charles on October 20-22, 2019, DOTD awarded the inaugural *Louisiana Excellence in Aviation Award* to Yvonne Chenevert, airport manager at the False River Regional Airport located in New Roads, LA.

This is one of the highest honors in aviation that is presented by the DOTD. This award represents the integrity, character, and leadership of an individual for their dedication and unwavering commitment to excellence in advancing aviation in Louisiana.





*A tugboat and barge on a foggy Mississippi River.*

# STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
BELLE CHASSE  
BRIDGE & TUNNEL REPLACEMENT  
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT  
PLAQUEMINES PARISH  
STATE PROJECT NO. H.004791  
FINAL EXECUTION VERSION  
VOLUME 1  
COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT





## Additional Funding for I-20 Interchange Connector in Monroe

On June 10, 2019, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson, in an effort to improve infrastructure needs across the state, announced that the additional funding DOTD is receiving through state bonds and other sources will close the gap needed to complete the Kansas Lane - Garrett Road Connector I-20 Interchange Improvement project in Monroe. This is one of the last two multimodal connector projects funded because of the limited transportation trust fund dollars.

The project consists of widening Garrett Road to four lanes from Huntington Drive to LA 594 in Ouachita Parish. Additionally, a new two-lane roadway will be constructed connecting Garrett Road and Kansas Lane. Also to be constructed will be a concrete girder bridge for northbound Garrett Road over I-20, a concrete girder and steel span bridge over LA 594 and the KCS Railroad, improvements to LA 594 and the I-20 ramps at Garrett Road, and the construction of five roundabouts. This nearly \$55 million improvement project is anticipated to go to bid in the summer of 2021.

House Bill 578, signed into law on June 28, 2019, dedicated \$40 million from the Deepwater Horizon settlement to improvements to state-owned bridges on roads that are not eligible for federal highway funds, often referred to as non-federal-aid, or NFA, routes. This funding allows DOTD to advance many bridge projects statewide, with a focus on farm to market roads. With over \$3.5 billion in bridge needs alone, 60 bridges in

need of repair or replacement are on NFA routes in northeast Louisiana. Final decisions cannot be made on these bridges until the state determines what portion of the funds can be bonded.

In working with the members of the northeast delegation in the Louisiana Legislature, the state has committed the first portion of the \$50 million from a special allocation for bridge rehabilitation and replacement for special projects in the region. Repairs or replacements to the following bridges in northeast Louisiana will be funded through this program at a cost of approximately \$8 million:

- LA 151 - Stowe Creek Relief Bridge, Union Parish
- LA 134 - Joe's Bayou Bridge, East Carroll Parish
- LA 132 - Muddy Bayou Bridge, Richland Parish
- LA 132 - Little Creek Bridge, Richland Parish
- Atkins Road - Joe's Bayou Bridge, Madison Parish
- Parish Road 259 - Cypress Creek Bridge, Richland Parish
- Pleasant Ridge Road - Rabbit Branch Bridge, LaSalle Parish

Further, approximately \$80 million has been dedicated for two projects to rehabilitate the I-20 Mississippi River Bridge, a critical route for commerce. DOTD will open bids on the first project later this month; the second project is expected to be let in the spring of 2022.



## \$700 Million Infrastructure Investment Bill

**O**n June 28, 2019, Gov. Edwards joined Sec. Wilson, as well as local and state officials, to sign House Bill 578 into law. The bill appropriates \$700 million from the BP oil spill settlement to transportation projects across the state.

Projects that will receive funding include:

- I-49 North intercity connector in Caddo Parish
- Sugarhouse Road extension in Rapides Parish
- Hooper Road widening in East Baton Rouge Parish
- LA 3241 extension from I-12 to Bush in St. Tammany Parish
- I-49 South through Acadiana
- LA 1 at Leeville improvements in Lafourche Parish.

Additionally, this bill will allocate \$125 million to construct a 2.7-mile connector from the LA 415/ Lodbell Hwy. I-10 exit to LA 1 in West Baton Rouge Parish. This project will consist of the construction of a new four-lane roadway between LA 1 near LA 988 (Beaulieu Lane) and I-10 at the LA 415 interchange, in addition to a bridge over the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Elevated

structures will be required for much of the project, including flyover ramps from northbound LA 1 to southbound LA 1.

This new connector will assist in improving connectivity on I-10 in West Baton Rouge, as well as provide a relief route for local traffic during peak hours, divert traffic from accidents along LA 1, and provide a direct connection for commercial vehicles to intermodal transportation facilities located at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. It will also serve as an additional evacuation route for areas south of I-10.

Construction is estimated to begin in fall 2022.





## Nineteen Consecutive Years of Federal Funding

On August 30, 2019, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson announced that DOTD had received \$76.2 million in federal funds, which will be used to quickly advance highway projects, including bridge replacements and highway expansions. This is the 19th year in a row the state has received these redistributed funds, a validation of the department's efficiency in managing projects and funding. The department qualified for the additional federal funds after successfully allocating the full amount of its available federal funding to construction projects for the 2018-19 federal fiscal year, and having the necessary match dollars available.

The \$76.2 million in additional funding will be used for the expansion of I-12 between U.S. 190 and LA 59 and on five bridge replacement projects around the state.

The bridge projects to be funded include the following:

- Bayou Boeuf Bridge on LA 106 in Avoyelles Parish
- Creek Bridge on LA 507 in Red River Parish
- Three bridges on LA 1042 east of Greensburg in St. Helena Parish

- LA 532 bridge over I-20 in Webster Parish
- Amite River Bridge on LA 16 near French Settlement in Livingston Parish

Each year the U.S. Department of Transportation redistributes federal funding from budgeted funds that were not used by other states or national programs to those states that successfully obligated their full federal highway funding allotment during the fiscal year, which is from October 1 through September 30.

"Under Secretary Wilson's leadership, DOTD has been able to use all the federal resources available, which has allowed us to take advantage of the federal redistribution allocation year after year."

- Governor John Bel Edwards



## Belle Chasse Bridge Replacement Project

**O**n December 20, 2019, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson announced the execution of a comprehensive agreement with Plenary Infrastructure Belle Chasse, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Plenary Group Concessions USA Ltd., to build the Belle Chasse Bridge and tunnel replacement project in Plaquemines Parish.

“Innovation is never easy, but in the absence of sustainable revenue to meet Louisiana’s transportation needs, public-private partnerships and tolling options are the only other means of delivering transportation infrastructure the public is demanding.”

- DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.

The new bridge will be located between the existing vertical lift bridge and tunnel, and will include four lanes with a separated, protected sidewalk in the southbound direction. This proposal was approved on December 18 by the House and Senate Transportation Committee, making this the first transportation infrastructure

public-private partnership (P3) project in the state. The procurement process began in early 2018.

Plenary Infrastructure, an investment firm that specializes in P3s, will manage and oversee construction, maintenance, and operations of the new bridge, and will recoup its investment through tolls paid by motorists. Funding for this project will be combined with funds from the \$45 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant that DOTD received in June 2018, \$26.2 million in federal/state funds allocated to DOTD, \$12 million in federal funds allocated by the Regional Planning Commission, and up to ten percent of the project cost in GARVEE bond proceeds, as this is a toll project.

The tunnel opened in 1956 and the current bridge was built in 1968. The average daily traffic is approximately 35,000, and this route serves as the primary access point to the residents, businesses, and industries of Plaquemines Parish. The new structure will benefit the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station while providing more efficient commute times in daily activities and hurricane evacuations for motorists.

Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2021 with an estimated completion of spring 2024, weather dependent.



*The current Belle Chasse Bridge and tunnel.*

# OPERATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS





## Emergency Repair Work on Two Bridges

In March 2019, DOTD completed emergency repairs on two heavily traveled bridges after accidents caused extensive damage and closed travel lanes.

On October 12, 2018, a crane on a barge collided with the Sunshine Bridge near Donaldsonville. The bridge was immediately closed to all traffic, creating major delays for the over 25,000 vehicles that use the bridge each day. Inspections of the bridge concluded that key load-carrying components suffered significant damage after the collision. Because of the extensive damage, permanent repairs to the bridge were necessary prior to reopening it to vehicular traffic. By December 1, ongoing repairs had made the bridge safe for the westbound side to open to two-way traffic.

After extensive work that took months to complete, the structural repairs were complete in March and the eastbound lanes were opened on March 22. One westbound lane remained closed so crews could resume scheduled maintenance work that was interrupted by the collision. By November, maintenance activity had moved underneath the bridge and all four lanes opened to traffic for the first time in over a year.

On March 19, 2019, just as emergency repairs to the Sunshine Bridge were being completed, a truck collided with the southbound Intracoastal Bridge on LA 1 in Port Allen. After crews assessed the damage, one lane

was closed to traffic. Due to the bridge averaging over 50,000 vehicles per day, the lane closure caused massive backups along LA 1 southbound, as well as on I-10 in Baton Rouge.

The lane closure was expected to last approximately four weeks. Due to around-the-clock work being performed, emergency repairs to the bridge were complete in only ten days, and on March 29, both southbound lanes were opened. As with the Sunshine Bridge, scheduled work on the Intracoastal Bridge was interrupted by the collision and continued once the emergency repairs were finished.

In both situations, DOTD took numerous measures in an attempt to alleviate the major traffic congestion caused by the collisions to the bridges. During the Sunshine Bridge closure, the timing of nearby traffic signals was adjusted and the Plaquemine ferry's hours were extended for both boats. Motorists were also encouraged to use the Veterans Memorial Bridge and to take advantage of Commuter Krewe. While the lane on the Intracoastal Bridge was closed, DOTD again extended the Plaquemine ferry's hours, adjusted signals as needed, and allowed traffic on the I-10 off-ramp to LA 1 to have the right of way.

The assistance of police was greatly appreciated during both closures.



## New Oversize/Overweight Permitting System

**O**n March 14, 2019, realizing the need for faster, better service, DOTD announced the development of a new oversize/overweight web-based computer permit program. The first phase of the new program was activated April 1

A new requirement is that all customers need to create a company or personal profile with DOTD's permit office before they can obtain a permit. The creation of a profile is a one-time event, but it can be edited at a later date. The profile can be created online, by telephone, or in person at the permit office.

One of the new features contained in phase I is a map illustrating the potential route generated from beginning and ending locations within Louisiana. The program offers a number of ways to identify these locations. It provides a safe route avoiding horizontal, vertical, and construction restrictions drivers may not be aware of.

Web applications can be submitted at any hour and issued if auto-approved. The number of web applications

received and the time they are received will dictate when they are processed and returned to the customer.

Customers with limited computer experience are able to navigate through the program with few problems. The benefit of applying online is that many permits will be available at any time. Online training is available.

"The trucking industry appreciates the new permitting system and also DOTD working with us all through the transition. This will serve us all well into the future."

- Louisiana Motor Transport Association  
Executive Director D. Chance McNeely



## Highway Dedication to Governor Blanco

**O**n July 2, 2019, Gov. Edwards joined former Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Sec. Wilson, Rep. Sam Jones, and local officials for the unveiling of the Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Highway.

SB 134 by Sen. Wesley Bishop designates U.S. Hwy 90 from its intersection with I-10 in Lafayette to its intersection with LA 308 in Raceland as the "Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Highway." Four signs were commissioned to mark the highway.

Gov. Blanco served as the 54th governor of Louisiana from 2004 to 2008 and is recognized as the state's first and only female governor. She led Louisiana through the trying times following hurricanes Katrina and Rita during her tenure, which was a capstone in decades of public service.

Prior to being elected governor, Gov. Blanco served in public office for over 20 years. She was elected the first woman legislator from Lafayette in 1983 and spent five years in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

She was elected to the Louisiana Public Service Commission (PSC) in 1988 and held that position for seven years before becoming the first woman chairman of the PSC.

Gov. Blanco then served as the 50th Louisiana lieutenant governor from 1996 until she won the governorship in 2003. Her legislative initiatives focused mainly on providing affordable healthcare, improving the education system, and forging a strong and diverse economy. She was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in 2006.

Gov. Blanco passed away on August 18, 2019 after a courageous battle with cancer.





## I-49/I-220 Interchange Wins Transportation Award

**C**onstruction site demands, bridge design, and concrete strength testing are just a few of the elements that earned the recently completed I-49 interchange with I-220 in north Shreveport, Caddo Parish, the regional award for “Best Use of Technology and Innovation.” The award was presented to Sec. Wilson on August 20, 2019, by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The \$142 million I-49 Segment K Phase 2 interchange was officially opened to the public in October 2018, and it includes the first precast segmental bridge connected with post-tensioned cables that has been built in the state.

The interstate interchange was one of 81 projects from across the nation that was entered into AASHTO’s annual contest highlighting improvements to quality of life, technology and innovation, and construction operations through these infrastructure projects.

AASHTO reviewed contest entries for their use of innovation in this category. For this project, DOTD and the prime contractor, PCL Construction, were able to put the concrete casting yard on site and build all bridge segments there rather than having them trucked in from another location. This was a much more efficient way to

cast the segments and allowed for longer span lengths for the bridges.

Design demands for the project included building an angular interchange to match the curve of I-220, an interstate with active traffic directly under the location of the overpass construction. This required particularly long overpass bridges and straddle bents, all while both directions of I-220 underneath were being completely re-constructed.

Public involvement wasn’t left out, with contest entries required to show how this vital element was included in the project. Over the course of two decades, nearly 30 meetings and outreach efforts were held for the development of the I-49 north corridor in order to ensure communities and stakeholders were informed along every step of the way.

The AASHTO contest was created to showcase the importance of transportation and how these projects make communities stronger, economies more efficient, and quality of life better.

As a regional winner, I-49 Segment K Phase 2 will be considered in the AASHTO’s “Top 12” contest, competing with other projects across the nation.



## Expansion of MAP Program

On August 30, 2019, DOTD announced that the Motorist Assistance Patrol (MAP) program would expand to include parts of Tangipahoa and St. Tammany parishes beginning September 2.

MAP, which offers assistance to disabled interstate motorists, assigned five additional trucks to patrol weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- I-10 from Michoud (Exit 248) to I-10/ I-12/ I-59
- I-12 from LA 1249 (Exit 35) to I-10/I-12/I-59
- I-55 from Manchac (Exit 15) to LA 3234 (Exit 32)
- Support on I-10 between the I-10/I-12/I-59 and the Mississippi state line as needed

This is a free service sponsored by DOTD to aid stranded interstate motorists and reduce traffic congestion caused by vehicle breakdowns. DOTD's MAP service is free to the public and provides one gallon of fuel, a flat tire change, a jump start, water to fill the radiator, and the use of a cell phone for additional assistance if needed.

This program is highly effective in assisting stranded motorists in Louisiana's largest metro areas. MAP reduces traffic congestion caused by stalled vehicles and provides safety and comfort to those stranded.

Service is available primarily along interstates in the Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport/Bossier City, Alexandria, and Northshore areas.





## Safety Enhancements for Field Employees

In 2019, DOTD unfortunately lost two dedicated employees to tragic accidents. Johnny Cole, a sign specialist in the Monroe district was killed on June 18 when an 18-wheeler failed to stop for a DOTD vehicle on the roadway. Jeff Curry, a mobile equipment operator in the Lafayette district, was killed on December 11 when a swamp buggy he was in overturned in Bayou Ramos. Both workers were performing their duties for the department.

“The regular offices of many of our DOTD workers are busy roadways in dangerous conditions, and we take the risks of their jobs seriously.”

- Louisiana First Lady Donna Edwards

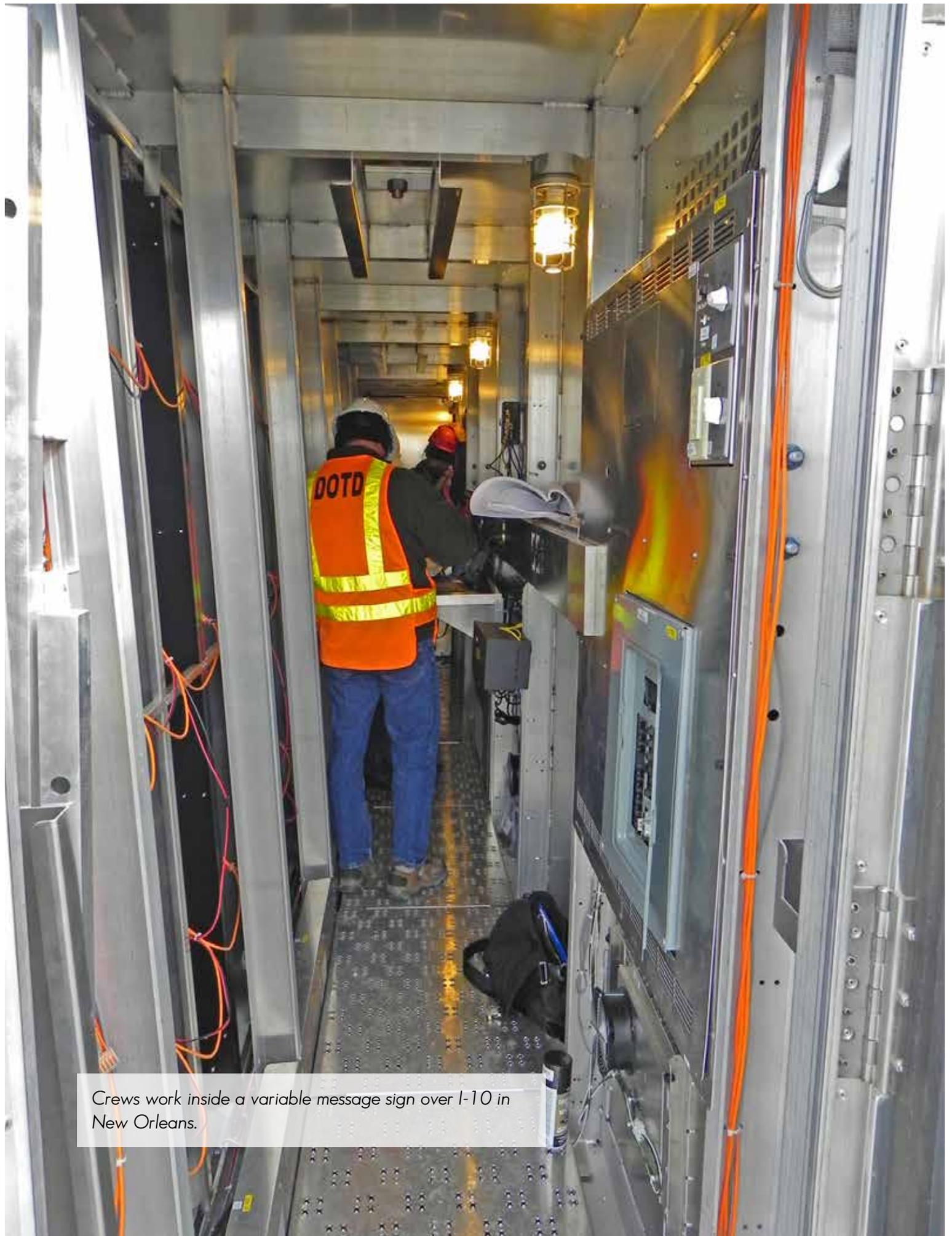
As a result of these fatalities, DOTD announced on December 16 that a variety of new safety measures were in the process of being implemented. These include

- A required spotter for any two-person operation
- A cone placed farther back from the work zone and equipped with an alarm that sounds when hit

- The purchase of 70 additional trailer-mounted attenuators designed to absorb the impact from a crash
- A change in color for safety vests and uniforms from orange to bright yellow/green
- New green and amber LED emergency lights with new flashing patterns on DOTD vehicles

All new safety measures will be rolled out across district crews over time, with emphasis on magnifying the visibility of employees working in the field. DOTD will also continue its efforts to educate and remind motorists about the importance of driving responsibly and the dangers of driving while distracted.





Crews work inside a variable message sign over I-10 in New Orleans.

# INNOVATIONS





## Innovations Showcase

**O**n May 14-15, 2019, DOTD hosted its second Innovations Showcase. The event featured 19 innovations submitted for the competition. Eleven innovations were in the Tools and Work Processes category, and eight were in the Software/Technical category.



Innovations in transportation have altered the way we move people and goods, and the way we do our work. In 2017, DOTD's Office of Operations created the Innovations Showcase as

a way to give employees a formal platform to perform and implement ideas that would provide a more effective and efficient process while out in the field.

The top finishers in each of the categories in 2019 are the following:

### Tools and Work Processes

- Contraflow signs, Section 45
- Contraflow gates, Section 45
- Truck-mounted magnet, District 62

### Software/Technical

- SCEWD (Superelevated Curves Electronic Workbook Design), District 07
- Traffic operations database, District 08
- Electronic fieldbook generator, District 04

**People's Choice Award:** Asphalt patch leveler, District 61

**Secretary's Safety Award:** METS (Mobile Emergency Traffic Signal), District 07



# RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE





## Tropical Storm Barry

**O**n July 13, 2019, Hurricane Barry crashed into the Louisiana coast at Marsh Island and Intra-coastal City, about 30 miles south of Lafayette, as a Category 1 hurricane. As it moved inland, it was quickly downgraded to a tropical storm, becoming a depression over northwestern Louisiana. The storm's biggest threat to the state wasn't high winds, but heavy rainfall due to slow movement. DOTD was proactive in preparing for the storm.

Before the storm made landfall, crews around the state cleared trash and other debris in ditches and culverts, and also urged residents to clean their yards in order to avoid clogging drains, ditches, and pipes. Barricades were staged around the state. The department also reminded travelers not to drive around barricades and not to drive in high water. DOTD also suspended tolls on LA 1 due to the mandatory evacuation of Grand Isle and ceased operations of the Plaquemine and Cameron ferries.

Sec. Wilson advised Gov. Edwards and discussed the preparations and other transportation information at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP). The secretary also briefed the media, including an interview with The Weather Channel.

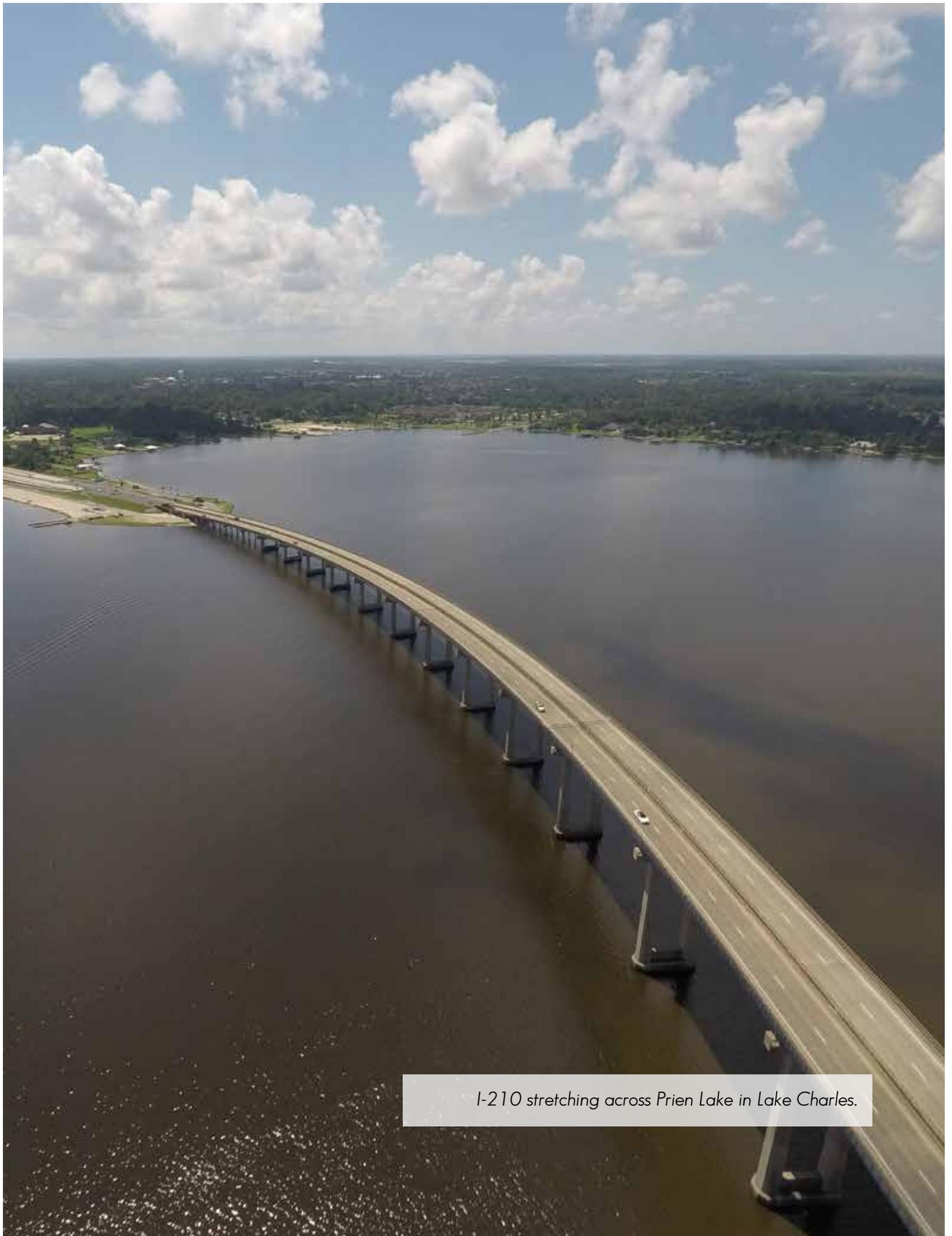
Other preparations, among many others, included the testing of pumps along major roadways, construction of

a small levee to prevent flooding on LA 347 in St. Martin Parish, and removal of traffic arms from the LA 46 Bayou LaLoutre Bridge (Ysloskey Bridge) in St. Bernard Parish. DOTD employees also assisted in bus staging areas for evacuees.

As the storm passed through the state, crews were on standby to barricade roads and remove downed trees as needed.

According to the National Hurricane Center, the heaviest rainfall from Barry occurred over the south-central and southwestern portions of the state where 10 to 15 inches accumulated. Near Ragley, north of Lake Charles, over 23 inches of rain was reported. Once Barry had passed, Louisiana's residents bounced back from the storm's effects quickly and bravely, once again proving their resilience in the face of a potentially deadly storm.





*I-210 stretching across Prien Lake in Lake Charles.*



This public document was published at a total cost of \$\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_ copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$\_\_\_\_. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints is \$\_\_\_\_.

This document was published by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 to inform the public of DOTD's dedication and efforts to improve the state's infrastructure under authority of R.S. 36:504. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.