

## Traffic update as of Nov. 17

- U.S. 90 in Biloxi: all lanes scheduled to re-open to traffic Dec. 15
- Popp's Ferry bridge: scheduled to re-open to traffic in about 50 days
- U.S. 90 bridge: wider, improved bridge set to partially open Thanksgiving '06

Construction workers use cranes to repair or replace sections of the Popp's Ferry bridge.

# Roadways set to open in matter of days, weeks

Relief is in sight in some cases for motorists who have been navigating Biloxi's limited number of roadways.

MDOT contractors report that all lanes of U.S. 90 in Biloxi are scheduled to re-open to traffic Dec. 15, and, until then, Biloxi police plan to continue limited access on the roadway, allowing weekday afternoon traffic to access the highway at Veterans Avenue and proceed to the I-110 loop.

Since the storm, the city has refrained from opening U.S. 90 to traffic because neither traffic signals nor street lighting have been installed, and the roadway is at times crowded with repair crews, relief workers, debris-removal teams and emergency vehicles.

Elsewhere, contractors on Oct. 24 began a 100-day project to repair the Popp's Ferry bridge in west Biloxi. The two-lane bridge is expected to re-open to two-lane traffic by February.

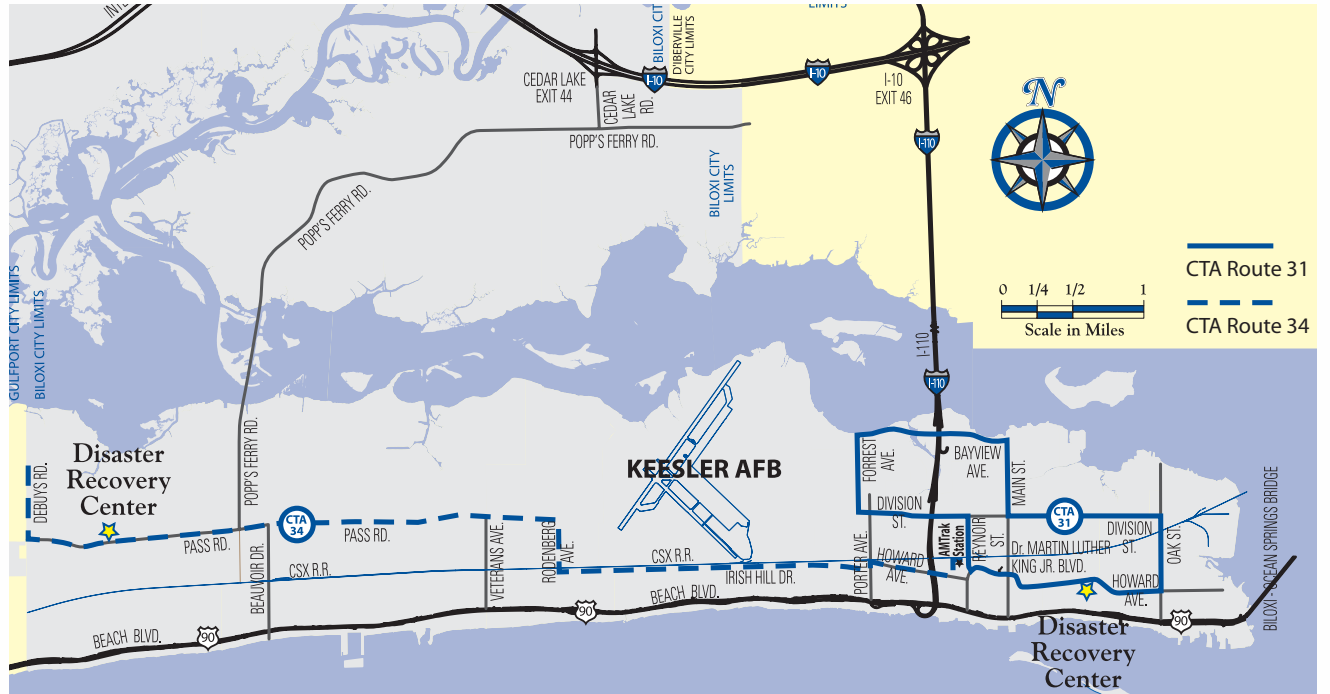
Many of the concrete sections of the bridge shifted and were misaligned during the storm, and the motors that lift its span were destroyed.

In east Biloxi, a new U.S. 90 bridge linking Biloxi and Ocean Springs is expected to be partially open to traffic for Thanksgiving '06, according to MDOT.

Once fully completed, the new bridge will have six lanes of traffic and will stand more than 90 feet at its highest point, eliminating the need for a draw for marine traffic.

Until these major roadways are re-opened for traffic, Biloxi Police are asking motorists to remain patient on roadways.

"We're constantly trying to devise ways to move traffic efficiently," Police Chief Bruce Dunagan said, "and we appreciate the cooperation we're seeing from residents. The fact is, there's only so much you can do when you're putting a huge number of vehicles on a limited number of roadways. We'll get through this, but it's going to take patience on the part of the motoring public."



## Coast Transit continuing free shuttle service

Coast Transit, which launched free bus service in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, is now offering service where Biloxi residents can connect to routes covering from Pass Christian to the west, D'Iberville to the north and Ocean Springs to the east.

More than 1,300 riders a day are taking advantage of the service, according to CTA director Kevin Coggin. Buses in Biloxi run seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Those interested in using CTA's free service can board a bus every 45 minutes on routes serving east and west Biloxi. The east Biloxi route, which covers from Oak Street to Forest Avenue, connects with the west Biloxi, D'Iberville and Ocean Springs routes at the covered platform on Esters Boulevard, between Caillavet and Reynoir Streets.

For more on CTA's routes, call 896-8080, or click on Transportation on the city's web site at biloxi.ms.us.

## Natatorium, Snyder and Farmers Market re-open to public

The city's Parks and Recreation Department has re-opened three of its popular attractions – the Biloxi Natatorium, the Donal Snyder Center and the Biloxi Farmers Market.

At the Natatorium, adult swimming is offered Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and persons 17 and under will be allowed to swim Monday through Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Father Ryan Avenue facility, which is closed on weekends, carries a \$2 fee for adults and \$1 for children. Details: 435-6205 or cdobbs@biloxi.ms.us.

The Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center in west Biloxi has re-opened several of its programs. The fitness center, racquetball courts and walking track are open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center's pool will be open for adults Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. Persons ages 17 and under will be able to swim Monday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission for the pool is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Discount passes also are available, and the expiration date on any pre-storm passes will be extended. The pool is closed Saturday and Sunday. For more information about the Snyder center call 436-5191.

The Biloxi Farmers Market is operating each Tuesday and Thursday at a new location, under the I-110 overpass at Howard Avenue. The market, which will be open each Tuesday and Thursday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., had previously operated at Point Cadet Plaza, which was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Vendors will offer fresh vegetables, fruits and plants at the I-110 location, with free, covered parking for visitors. For more information on the Farmers Market, call 435-6281.

## Tentative re-opening plans for Biloxi casino resorts

(as of Nov. 17, 2005)

Property	Casino	Hotel	Etc.
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino	Aug. 29, on one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina	Aug. 29, on one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina	Fallen Oaks Golf Course expected to open in Autumn '06
Boomtown Casino	Could open new barge within six months		
Casino Magic	No info available		
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino	Originally planned re-opening in summer '06 but plans are on hold	Originally planned re-opening in summer '06 but plans are on hold	
Harrar's Entertainment (Grand Casino)	Timetable forthcoming, will include land-based gaming		
Imperial Palace	Dec. 20 on existing barge	1,088 refurbished rooms available for occupancy by Dec. 20	Buffet and movie theaters open now
Isle of Capri Casino Resort	By Dec. 26 in existing ballroom	500-600 rooms available by Dec. 31	Has future plans for additional meeting space
Palace Casino Resort	Dec. 30, in first and second floor of hotel.	All 234 rooms, expected to re-open Dec. 30	Golf Course opening set for spring '06
Treasure Bay Casino Resort	Late June, in hotel	Plans are to re-design hotel and rooms	

- Of the nearly 20,000 hotel rooms on the Gulf Coast before Hurricane Katrina, only 4,600 are operational as of Oct. 31, but none are available to the public.
- Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, which sustained four to five feet of water, will re-open its arena May 1, in time for high school graduation ceremonies, with total facility re-opening in January 2007.