

The bridge of the future – now

MDOT reports that the work on the new U.S. 90 bridge between Biloxi and Ocean Springs is ahead of schedule. Crews have completed all pile driving as part of milestone one, while foundation work, columns, beam placement and decking are still underway. MDOT expects motorists to be driving on the first two of six traffic lanes by November 2007, with the overall project completed by March 2008.

Photo courtesy of Susan Guice/Wings of Anglers.



New pilings tower over the old draw



A rendering of the completed twin span



A breakdown of the lanes of the twin span



Workers check the section of rebar

MDOT updates Biloxi-area projects

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is engaged in a number of Mississippi Gulf Coast



Wayne Brown, Southern District Transportation Commissioner

Recovery projects, many of which directly impact the City of Biloxi and Harrison County.

Southern Transportation Commissioner Wayne Brown said that each of the construction projects underway in Biloxi and Harrison County are important to overall recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

“Whether it is the replacement of the Biloxi Bay Bridge project or the aesthetics of planting trees along our scenic Highway 90, the overall work of MDOT will hasten and improve recovery efforts on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to provide a vibrant future,” Brown said. “Each one of the projects is proceeding quite well and we appreciate the public’s patience and support as they await completion of these important construction projects, keeping in mind that all funds are made available by the generous people of the United States of America. We owe them a debt of gratitude for allowing MDOT to do its part in rebuilding our transportation system on the beautiful Gulf Coast.”

As part of MDOT’s rebuilding effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the following work is underway or set to begin soon.

- **Biloxi Bay Bridge Replacement Project:** All phases of bridge construction are now active. Crews have completed all pile driving as part of milestone one, while foundation work, columns, beam placement and decking are still underway. The project was awarded to GC Constructors, a joint venture composed of the firms Massman Construction Company of Kansas City, MO, Kiewit Southern Company of Peachtree City, GA and Traylor Brothers, Inc. of Evansville, IN. The \$338.6 million project will be constructed as a high-rise structure with 95 feet of vertical clearance and will include six traffic lanes and a shared use path of biking and pedestrian. The bridge is scheduled to open two

lanes of traffic by November of this year.

- **State Highway 67:** This SR 67 project, from I-110 to State Route 605 at Three Rivers Road near the Tradition community in Harrison County was awarded to Warren Paving of Hattiesburg and Gulfport for approximately \$37.5 million. The 10.5-mile project was awarded through an accelerated bid process, which requires the contractor to estimate the amount of time it will take to complete the project. The completion date for all phases of work is Feb. 21, 2009. The project will be completed in several phases with work to begin along the south end of the project between I-110 and Highway 15. Traffic is scheduled to be moved off of the old highway between Sangani Boulevard and Highway 15 by July 2007, providing for improved drainage in the area. In addition, the section of SR 67 from Three Rivers Road to U.S. 49 at Saucier is currently under contract for \$19 million with Huey Stockstill Inc. of Picayune and Gulfport, and scheduled to be open to traffic in November of this year.
- **Three County Lighting Repair Project:** MDOT has begun comprehensive highway lighting repair projects in Harrison, and Hancock Counties. B & B Electrical Utility Contractors of Brandon has been awarded the contracts to repair highway and interchange lighting to pre-Hurricane Katrina conditions. In Harrison County, the project will involve the following work:
 - Highway 49, Exit 34: Along with repairs to low and high mast lighting, crews will replace the internet traffic cameras that can be viewed at www.mstraffic.com.
 - Interstate 110: Repairs will be made to low and high mast lighting, along with the installation of new secondary power controllers.
- **Highway 90 Reconstruction Project:** In an effort to achieve the highest level of coordination, MDOT will soon combine two proposed U.S. Highway 90 construction projects in Harrison County into one contract. The proposed project involves the rebuilding of Highway 90 starting with the section from



MDOT crews spent weeks vacuuming debris from storm drain lines along U.S. 90.

Rodenburg Avenue to Myrtle Street in Biloxi and continuing throughout the entire county. In addition, the project will now include the permanent installation of signals. A series of contracts will be awarded this summer and will be issued on an accelerated schedule to expedite the construction process. Work to rebuild the highway will include the replacement of curbs, repairs to the drainage systems and sidewalks, resurfacing and the installation of a state-of-the-art traffic signal system with mast arm signal poles.

- **U.S. 90 Median Landscape Project:** MDOT has awarded two U.S. Highway 90 median landscaping contracts in Harrison County. The contracts were awarded to Rotolo Consultants, Inc. of Slidell, Louisiana for a combined total of approximately \$1.4 million. The first project starts at Fort Henry Avenue in Henderson Point and extends to Hewes Avenue in Gulfport. The second project starts at Hewes Avenue and continues to Myrtle Street in Biloxi. The projects target key “gateway” areas along the scenic Gulf Coast highway, and will include several varieties of trees and shrubbery. The gateway areas to be included are Debuys Road on the Gulfport-Biloxi line and Rodenburg Road in Biloxi.

In addition to planting one- to three-inch diameter trees along the highway median areas, the contract includes salvaging several 20 inch diameter live oaks that will be moved from highway construction sites elsewhere in the region. Because of U.S. Highway 90’s designation as a parkway, Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds could be used to pay for the project.