

Engineering Department

It's been an extremely busy year for the Engineering Department. Work on the Hurricane Katrina Infrastructure Project continued. Effort focused on close out of the \$129 Million Dollar North contract. At the same time, Lane Construction began work south of the railroad and at year end a third contract was begun by Neicase Brothers. As the year ended, a fourth Katrina project was awarded for the area along highway 90 from Debuys Road to Veterans Avenue. These projects included replacement of old water, sewer, and drainage structures along with new pavement.

In the wake of Hurricanes Zeta and Ida the Engineering Department completed detailed damage assessments. This generated more than 40 separate FEMA reimbursable projects that had to be designed, estimated, ordered and inspected. Much of this work involved repairs to our City piers and harbors. The Biloxi Visitors Center is getting a new roof and the lighthouse pier will be built back better and differently to mitigate future storm damage. Most other hurricane damage, including removal of nearly \$5 Million in debris had been completed.

The Engineering Department has over 50 capital projects in concept, design, construction or closing out in addition to the FEMA infrastructure work. The City's program to increase access to our beautiful waterfront continued with board walk or side walk project along the back bay at Bayview Avenue and the front beach between Oak Street and the Small Craft Harbor. An extension of the west Biloxi boardwalk was also completed between Restaurant Row and Treasure Bay. A new parallel roadway along the railroad tracks between Nixon Street and Oak Street was completed which enabled the closure of two dangerous CSX crossings.

Throughout the year work continued on the new Keesler Gate and Division Street Boulevard entrance to the new gate which is scheduled to open in March 2022. Engineering also managed nearly \$2M of street and sidewalk paving during the year.

With the potential of funding thru the American Rescue Plan Act for Water and Sewer improvements, the engineering department, working with local architectural and engineering firms were able to fast track design of \$29 Million water/sewer replacement or extension of service projects that are now prepared for construction in 2022.

In addition to managing all of the on-going projects in the City, the Engineering Department completed more than several thousand service requests. Your city engineers also completed more than 1000 work orders for various items of work such as videoing sewer and storm drain lines, inspecting ditches, concrete/asphalt repairs, roadway paving, and drainage issues.