



Office *of the* Governor
JOHN BEL EDWARDS



CHALLENGES MET. PROGRESS DELIVERED.

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development,
2016–2023

Contents

- 01 Introduction 4
- 02 Progress Delivered 6
- 03 Challenges Met 20
- 04 Leaving Louisiana Better 22
- 05 Stories of Our Success 24
- 06 By the Numbers 27



01

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To say that DOTD has made tremendous progress since the beginning of 2016 is an understatement.



Introduction

Message from DOTD Secretary Eric Kalivoda

To say that DOTD has made tremendous progress since the beginning of 2016 is an understatement. With over \$5.4 billion invested in our state's infrastructure during the Edwards administration, our department has been working tirelessly to continuously improve Louisiana's infrastructure. Despite major funding issues alongside a global pandemic during several of those years, we have nonetheless achieved major victories in delivering a world-class transportation system to our state's residents and visitors. We have discovered many innovative funding mechanisms to compensate for a fuel tax that hasn't been increased in over 30 years, and we will continue researching new ways to find money for our roads and bridges. One of the major victories for our state during the Edwards administration has been the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), later known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Thanks to the BIL, our state is receiving nearly \$6 billion over the course of five years, the largest dedicated highway and bridge investment since the Interstate Highway System.

DOTD thanks Gov. Edwards for his unwavering support for infrastructure ever since he took office. Thanks to him, our job at DOTD has been much easier. And this has ultimately benefitted every resident of Louisiana, as well as the countless visitors who pass through our state.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to Shawn Wilson, who recently retired as secretary of DOTD. Shawn was a dedicated public servant who worked nonstop and with great passion to make the quality of life for Louisianans better than it's ever been, thanks to his vision for our state's transportation system.

We look to the future with great optimism.

Progress Delivered

2016



Governor's Task Force on Transportation Infrastructure Investment

On June 10, 2016, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson announced the formation of the Governor's Task Force on Transportation Infrastructure Investment. Gov. Edwards signed an executive order officially creating the task force.

Louisiana's \$60 Million FASTLANE Grant

On July 5, 2016, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson announced that Louisiana would receive \$60 million in FASTLANE (Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies) grant funding from the United States Department of Transportation. The funding will allow the state to complete a nearly 15-mile pavement replacement and lane addition project on Interstate 10 between the I-49 interchange and the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge.

Permanent Operation of Second Plaquemine Ferry

On September 29, 2016, DOTD announced that the department will permanently operate a second morning ferry at the Plaquemine landing. The second morning ferry was added on August 29 in response to the unprecedented flood and the influx of commercial and personal vehicle traffic throughout the region. During that time period, it carried an additional 230 vehicles each day. The ferry's hours of operation were extended a half hour each weekday in response to additional demand which was identified during the prior period of operation. The ferry now operates on weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The second ferry had previously operated only until 8:30 a.m. each weekday.

Enhancements to Louisiana's 511 and Permit Systems

On September 8, 2016, DOTD announced upgrades that made Louisiana's 511 travel information system even more powerful. Advancements in the 511a.org system have allowed travelers to create customized routes and include traffic data from Waze, a community-based traffic and navigation application, and Google. Updates also included a mobile application that allows users to get hands-free, eyes-free audio notifications, plus additional features, on their iOS and Android smart phones. Additionally, the 511 phone system was upgraded. In December 2018, DOTD made additional upgrades to the 511 system with complete redesigns of 511a.org and the mobile app.

Realizing the need for faster, better service in issuing oversize/overweight permits, DOTD developed a new web-based computer permit program. A new requirement is that all customers must create a company or personal profile with DOTD's permit office before obtaining permits. To assist customers, the new permit program contains an online help feature.

02

2017

Port Priority Program Funding Doubled and Receives National Recognition

For the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget, Gov. Edwards nearly doubled the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program (PCDPP) from \$20 million to \$39.4 million. This amount hadn't been increased since the PCDPP was first created in 1989. In a November 2016 publication "The State of Freight II—Implementing the FAST Act and Beyond," the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recognized this achievement and applauded Gov. Edwards.

Fastlane Projects

On January 26, 2017, DOTD let two of the three projects partially funded by the \$60 million FASTLANE grant.

On April 6, 2017, DOTD broke ground on the first project. The \$124.7 million project involves pavement replacement within the existing lanes and the construction of one additional lane in each direction for 6.48 miles along I-10 from I-49 to LA 328. This project is expected to be complete in 2023.

On August 3, 2017, the groundbreaking was held for the second widening project. This \$54.7 million project involved pavement replacement within the existing lanes in each direction for 2.7 miles along I-10 from LA 347 to the base of the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge. An additional lane was added in the westbound direction. This project was completed in December 2020.

On October 8, 2019 the groundbreaking was held for the third phase of the project. This \$87.7 million project is widening I-10 from four to six lanes between LA 328 in Breaux Bridge to LA 347 near Henderson. This also includes removing the two existing I-10 bridges over Melvin Dupuis Road and replacing them at ground level. A two-lane bridge serving as Melvin Dupuis Road is being constructed over the interstate. Additionally, 54-inch concrete median barriers are being installed in portions of the project corridor, as well as raised markers and rumble strips. This project is anticipated to be complete in the spring of 2024.

Opening of Award-Winning Reconstructed Rest Area

On April 7, 2017, DOTD marked the grand opening of the new Tremont Rest Area facility in Lincoln Parish. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the newly constructed rest area on eastbound I-20 at mile post 95 near the town of Choudrant, and was attended by DOTD architects and district staff, elected officials and contractors.

New Ouachita River Bridge

On August 18, 2017, DOTD celebrated the official opening of the new Ouachita River Bridge in Harrisonburg, Catahoula Parish. The \$37 million project encompassed the replacement and eventual removal of the old Ouachita River Bridge on LA 8 that serves Harrisonburg and surrounding communities. The new bridge was officially opened to traffic on July 11, 2017.

Construction Begins on Arkansas Road

On September 6, 2017, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson marked the beginning of a major project to improve LA 616 (Arkansas Road). A groundbreaking ceremony was held in West Monroe, Ouachita Parish. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 19, 2022.

Construction Begins on I-20/Tarbutton Interchange

On October 11, 2017, DOTD celebrated the groundbreaking of the Tarbutton Road and I-20 interchange project in Lincoln Parish. The \$25.5 million project was awarded in February 2017 to JB James Construction, LLC., and included removing the existing Tarbutton Road overpass. A new overpass and associated interstate ramps were built, as there was formerly no access to I-20 from Tarbutton Road. The project was completed in June 2020.

I-10 Expansion in East Baton Rouge and Ascension Parishes

On January 11, 2018, DOTD broke ground on the design-build project that widened I-10 from four to six lanes east of Highland Road to LA 73 in East Baton Rouge and Ascension parishes. The governor and secretary were joined by state and local officials at Blue Bayou Water Park for the ceremony. The project was completed in October 2020.

Approval for Use of GARVEE Bonds

On January 31, 2018, the Joint Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committee approved the state's request for Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Bonds, also known as GARVEE bonds. With the up-to-\$650 million bond, Sec. Wilson laid out a plan that will lead to the construction of major infrastructure projects in Louisiana. These projects have been part of the state's Transportation Master Plan for decades.

Louisiana's First Public-Private Partnerships

On February 20, 2018, DOTD announced plans to move forward with soliciting a potential public-private partnership (P3) for the Belle Chasse Bridge and Tunnel Replacement project. This is the first project on which DOTD will use this innovative and significant contracting method to deliver infrastructure to the traveling public. The P3 arrangement is intended to close the funding gap for this decades-old project. The project is currently underway.

Louisiana Awarded \$45 Million in Infrastructure Funding

On June 5, 2018, Gov. Edwards received notice of an advance grant announcement that the U.S. Department of Transportation approved Louisiana's application for a \$45 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America, or INFRA, grant for the Belle Chasse Bridge and Tunnel Replacement project.

I-110/Terrace Avenue Interchange

On July 23, 2018, Gov. Edwards, Sec. Wilson, and several other state and local officials held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on the I-110 Terrace Avenue Interchange project in East Baton Rouge Parish. The \$8.8 million project added a new left-side exit ramp for Terrace Avenue on I-110. Construction of the ramp extended from I-110 over Myrtle Avenue, over Julia Street, and intersecting with Terrace Avenue. The ribbon cutting was held on October 11, 2019.

2018

FAA Awards \$25.6 Million in Grants for Louisiana Airports

On July 24, 2018, DOTD announced that \$25.6 million in grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be used for improvements at 13 airports statewide. The FAA will award the \$25.6 million in fiscal year 2018 Airport Improvement Program grants as part of \$3.18 billion in funding provided by Congress for airports across the country. Additionally, the state of Louisiana will invest over \$2.8 million in matching funds for these grants.

Federal Certification for Rail Transit Program

On July 27, 2018, DOTD announced that it is one of four states recently issued certification for its State Safety Oversight (SSO) program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration. SSO programs oversee the safety programs at all rail transit systems, which in Louisiana, includes the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority streetcar system.

Opening of I-49 North Interchange

On October 17, 2018, Gov. Edwards joined Sec. Wilson and numerous local and state leaders for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the official opening of the I-49 North Segment K Phase 2 project in Shreveport. The \$142 million project that began in 2014 created a new interstate interchange with I-220. It also put into place another segment of the nearly 40-mile I-49 corridor in northwest Louisiana. The total project cost from the Arkansas state line to I-220 was approximately \$650 million.

Innovations Showcase

On October 24, 2018, DOTD hosted its first Innovations Showcase on the Lawn at DOTD headquarters. The event featured nearly 40 booths displaying some of the innovative projects that state DOTD employees from across Louisiana have developed to help DOTD complete its tasks as infrastructure needs grow and resources continue to shrink. Because of their innovations, the DOTD workforce has the opportunity to work safer, faster, and more affordably.

New Oversize/Overweight Permitting System

On 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. 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.

Comite River Diversion Canal Groundbreaking

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 Sec. Wilson, 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. The project is currently under construction.

I-20/I-220 BAFB Interchange Groundbreaking

On 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 created a new access road into BAFB, extending southward from the existing I-20/I-220 interchange. The ribbon cutting for the project was held on February 8, 2023.

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 is expected to go to bid in 2024.

\$700 Million Infrastructure Investment Bill

On 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.

Highway Dedication to Governor Blanco

On 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 designated 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.

DOTD Commences Statewide Regulation of Transportation Network Companies

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 Sec. Wilson, 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. The project is currently under construction.

Albertson Parkway Ribbon Cutting

On 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. 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.

Prien Lake Road Relocation & Contraband Parkway Project

On 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.

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.

Pecue Lane/I-10 Interchange Project Phase II

On 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 consisted 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. The new bridges are complete, but work on the entire interchange project is expected to be finished in 2026.

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 stretched from just west of the LA 108 interchange (Exit 23) to the I-210 interchange (Exit 25). The project increased capacity by widening I-10 eastbound and westbound to four lanes between LA 108 and I-210. This created an auxiliary lane between the LA 108 and I-210 interchanges. Twelve-foot shoulders were also be installed in both directions on the inside and outside lanes. The Maple Fork bridges were replaced and raised above the 100-year flood elevation. The concrete sections west of the Maple Fork bridges were fully reconstructed and replaced, and the existing asphalt pavement east of the Maple Fork bridges was milled and overlaid, which improved the service of the roadway. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the project was held on August 19, 2022.

2019

I-10/Loyola Drive MSY Interchange Project Groundbreaking

On 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. This \$125.6 million project improves 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 reconfigures 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 also provides aesthetic enhancements, including color, creative lighting, and landscaping, which would be a first for the region.

This project is being 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 expected to be complete in 2024.

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.

I-20 Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation

On 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 project was completed in June 2021.

I-10 Widening Between Texas State Line & Coone Gully

Let in 2020, this \$152 million project will widen I-10 to six lanes and replace 10 bridges between the Texas state line and Coone Gully in Calcasieu Parish. This will create six lanes of I-10 from the state line to the west I-210 interchange. The project is expected to be complete in 2025.

I-20/Tarbutton Road Interchange in Ruston

In June 2020, DOTD completed a \$25.5 million interchange project at I-20/Tarbutton Road in Ruston. Traffic is now utilizing the new interstate interchange, along with a new Tarbutton Road overpass and a reconstructed Tarbutton Road at I-20.

I-12 Widening Between LA 21 & U.S. 190

Construction work on the second project to widen I-12 began in fall 2020. The project, which costs \$59.1 million, is widening I-12 between LA 21 and U.S. 190 in St. Tammany Parish. Construction is expected to be complete in 2023.

2020

I-10 Drainage Canal Bridge Replacement in New Orleans

Let in 2020, this \$28.8 million project replaced four flat deck bridges on I-10 between New Orleans and the twin spans over Lake Ponchartrain in Orleans Parish. The project was completed in 2023.

I-10 Widening Completion Between Highland & LA 73

The design-build construction project was completed in October 2020 on I-10 between Highland Road and LA 73 in East Baton Rouge and Ascension parishes. The \$72 million project widened this stretch of I-10 to six lanes and installed new interstate bridges above Highland Road and Bayou Manchac.

I-20 Repair in Bossier, Webster, & Bienville Parishes

Let in 2020, this \$152 million project will widen I-10 to six lanes and replace Completed in 2020, this \$14.4 million project improved the travel experience on nearly 16 miles of I-20 with patching, milling, and overlay work in Bossier, Webster, and Bienville parishes.

DOTD's Centennial Year

Beginning its life as the Louisiana Highway Commission in 1921, DOTD celebrated its centennial with several events throughout 2021. The department hosted four panel discussions of various topics, and each included different participants from various transportation-related fields. The panels took place at DOTD's headquarters in Baton Rouge, and they were also streamed on Zoom. The first panel featured a discussion with former DOTD secretaries, the second with general contractors and former DOTD chief engineers, the third with general contractors, and the fourth with contractors discussing concrete and asphalt.

On May 14, DOTD employees gathered at headquarters and the district offices to simultaneously celebrate United for Infrastructure Week and DOTD's century of progress and achievements.

Also in 2021, the department designed an agency flag. Six designs were offered and employees voted on and chose their favorite design. The flag will fly at all DOTD locations statewide.

Airport Connector Road & Bridge in Lafourche Begins Construction

On February 10, 2021, a project was let that will directly connect the South Lafourche Leonard J. Miller, Jr. Airport with LA 3235. The project will construct a new roadway and movable bridge that will connect Airport Road/LA 308 to LA 3235. The new roadway, which is expected to be complete in 2025, will provide the airport with direct, safe connectivity to Port Fourchon and the statewide highway network.

Federal Approval for I-10 Widening Project in Capital Region

In June 2020, DOTD completed a \$25.5 million interchange project at I-20/Tarbutton Road in Ruston. Traffic is now utilizing the new interstate interchange, along with a new Tarbutton Road overpass and a reconstructed Tarbutton Road at I-20.

"Take 10" Litter Pickup Pledge

On March 30, 2021, DOTD implemented a new policy for field crews to pick up trash in the footprint of where they're working for the day. This has resulted in dozens of bags of litter and other debris cleared, even in small areas, on a daily basis. The campaign is called Take 10 and DOTD crews that are out on a site will take 10 minutes to pick up litter daily. DOTD spends approximately \$9 million per year picking up over 50,000 cubic yards of litter. That \$9 million includes mowing/litter contracts, sweeping contracts, municipal agreements, sheriff's office agreements, and in-house removal costs. This money could be used to overlay dozens of miles of roadway.

Belle Chasse Bridge & Tunnel Replacement Virtual Groundbreaking

On April 12, 2021, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson held a virtual groundbreaking ceremony for the Belle Chasse Bridge and Tunnel Replacement project. This project is the first public-private partnership (P3) that DOTD has undertaken. The \$180 million project will replace the existing tunnel and movable bridge on LA 23 with a fixed four-lane bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. The project is expected to be complete in 2026.

Groundbreaking for New College Drive Exit in Baton Rouge

On May 11, 2021, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson were joined by state and local officials to celebrate the beginning of construction on the highly anticipated new I-10 College Drive exit in East Baton Rouge Parish. This \$52.3 million design-build project will eliminate the need for an additional structure by realigning the existing I-12 westbound traffic to more closely follow that of the I-12 eastbound alignment, and spanning both I-12 eastbound and I-12 westbound with a new I-10 westbound bridge.

This will allow I-10 westbound traffic to exit to College Drive without crossing through mainline interstate traffic. Additionally, this alignment avoids additional visual and noise impacts to surrounding businesses and neighborhoods during and after construction. The project is expected to be complete in 2024.

Completion of I-20 Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation Project

On June 2, 2021, DOTD announced the completion of a major project to rehabilitate the I-20 Mississippi River bridge that connects Madison Parish to Vicksburg, Mississippi. The \$30 million project began in January 2019 and involved numerous repairs to the 50-year-old structure, which is one of only a few interstate river crossings in Louisiana.

LA 1 Bridge over Caddo Lake

On June 9, 2021, a project was let that will replace the 81-year-old LA 1 bridge over Caddo Lake near Mooringsport in northern Caddo Parish. The \$18.2 million project involves clearing and grubbing (removal of trees and other growth), utility relocation, asphalt concrete pavement, construction of a new bridge, and removal of the old structure.

The new structure is being built adjacent to the existing bridge on a slightly adjusted alignment. The original plan was to allow motorists to continue using the existing LA 1 bridge throughout construction. However, after an inspection, the bridge was closed to traffic as a safety precaution. Closing the existing bridge will also result in time and cost savings. The project is expected to be complete in 2024.

U.S. 165 Railroad Overpass Replacement in Morehouse Parish

On September 8, 2021, a project was let that will replace the U.S. 165 overpass above the Union Pacific Railroad near Bonita in Morehouse Parish. The existing overpass was built in 1938 over the then Missouri Pacific Railroad. The overpass is a vital link for all surrounding communities and provides easy access between Monroe and Arkansas. The new overpass will enhance economic development in the forestry, farming, and other industries in northeastern Louisiana. The project is anticipated to be complete in 2024.

DOTD Exceeds DBE Goal 2021

On December 7, 2021, DOTD announced that it had exceeded its annual participation goal for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program for the 2020-2021 fiscal year that ended September 30. The goal, determined by DBE Uniform Report formula calculation and approved by the Federal Highway Administration, was set at 15 percent. DOTD exceeded the goal at 15.42 percent.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act a.k.a. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

On November 6, 2021, DOTD announced that the state is slated to receive nearly \$6 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan bill, which was passed by the U.S. Senate in August 2021. The IIJA is the largest dedicated highway and bridge investment since the construction of the Interstate Highway System. In addition, Louisiana is well positioned to compete for billions more with the Bridge Investment Program and other major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities across Louisiana, including broadband, resiliency, ports, and rail.

Statewide, funding from the IIJA will be allocated to highways, bridges, public transportation, airports, electric vehicle infrastructure, and a more resilient transportation system that has the capability to recover from disruptions such as extreme weather.

This is the largest federal investment in public transit and clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in history, as well as the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak. Funding is also provided for power infrastructure, additional protection from droughts and floods, reconnecting communities divided by transportation infrastructure, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric buses, environmental remediation, and high-speed internet.

Second-to-Last TIMED Project: LA 3241

On November 19, 2021, Gov. Edwards and Sec. Wilson held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on the LA 3241 corridor in St. Tammany Parish. State and local officials attended the ceremony celebrating the construction of the new four-lane highway on the Northshore. LA 3241 is a three-phase project, which will create a four-lane highway from the intersection of LA 40/LA 41 in Bush to I-12 in St. Tammany Parish.

The first phase, constructed by Brown Industrial Construction, LLC, will cost nearly \$46 million. Phase I will take place between LA 40/LA 41 and LA 435. The second phase, constructed by James Construction, will cost \$62.5 million. Phase II will be built between LA 36 and LA 435. The third phase between LA 36 and I-12 is fully funded and anticipated to go to bid in 2024. The first two phases of the project are expected to be complete in 2024.

The LA 3241 project is part of the Louisiana Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED) program. It is the 15th TIMED project to move forward.

2022

I-20 Widening in West Monroe

On March 3, 2022, DOTD announced a major project to widen a section of I-20 in West Monroe in Ouachita Parish. The project will add one lane in each direction on I-20 from LA 3249 (Well Road) to the LA 34 interchange (Stella Mill), a length of approximately 3.3 miles, through the heavily traveled interstate corridor in West Monroe. The project will also provide notable improvements to the travel experience through a mill and overlay of the existing lanes and roadway shoulders from the Vancil Road overpass to Well Road, which is over a mile of additional repairs to the interstate. The project is expected to go to bid in 2025.

LA 42 Widening Project Completion

On March 9, 2022, Sec. Wilson was joined by state and local officials to celebrate the completion of the LA 42 widening project in Ascension Parish. This \$27.48 million project, which stretches 3.7 miles between U.S. 61 (Airline Highway) and LA 44 (North Burnside Avenue), increased traffic capacity by widening the highway from two to four lanes. Additionally, an 18-foot wide raised grass median was installed between the eastbound and westbound roadways, as well as multiple J-turns to assist larger vehicles with making U-turns throughout the project limits. Drainage additions were also needed to accommodate the significant development in the area, as well as modifications to the sewer designs that were constructed during utility relocations. In order to meet the needs of pedestrians along this busy corridor, a six-foot sidewalk was constructed on the north side of the roadway, as well as a ten-foot bicycle/pedestrian shared use path on the south side.

U.S. 11 Bridge Reopening

On March 31, 2022, the U.S. 11 bridge over Lake Pontchartrain reopened after a major rehabilitation project. The project included concrete and structural repairs, grid deck replacement, painting, installation of a new fender system, and the rehabilitation of electrical and mechanical systems on the two drawbridges.

LA 1 Intracoastal Bridge Replacement Project

On April 29, 2022, Sec. Wilson was joined by local officials to celebrate the beginning of construction on the highly anticipated LA 1 Intracoastal Bridge replacement project in West Baton Rouge Parish. This \$57.7 million project, which began in early April, will replace the current southbound bridge with a new bridge that will be constructed on the west side of the existing structure. Additionally, Ernest Wilson Drive and LA 1 will be realigned to connect with the new bridge. Once the new southbound bridge is completed, northbound and southbound traffic will be shifted to the new bridge.

The southbound bridge replacement is the first phase of a two-phase project. The second phase, which is scheduled to go to bid in summer 2023, will remove both of the existing original bridges and construct a new northbound bridge, as well as replace frontage roads on the south side of the bridge. Once both phases are completed, there will be a new southbound bridge that has three 12-foot lanes and 10-foot shoulders, and a new northbound bridge with two 12-foot lanes and 10-foot shoulders, as well as a barrier-separated exit lane for I-10 eastbound.

Three Mississippi River Crossing Locations Presented

On May 27, 2022, representatives with DOTD and Atlas Technical Consultants recommended three of the previous ten alternatives for a new Mississippi River crossing between Baton Rouge and the Sunshine Bridge. The three alternatives were presented to the Capitol Area Road and Bridge District (CARB-D). DOTD will now move forward with refined analysis of the three alternatives. This is needed to complete the federally required environmental impact study. The three sites are all in Iberville Parish with connections on the west side of the river south of Plaquemine, and on the east side of the river in St. Gabriel.

Funding for Southern University Ravine Protection Project

On June 1, 2022, Gov. Edwards, along with Congressman Troy Carter, announced funding for the Southern University ravine protection project in East Baton Rouge Parish. Through a grant awarded by the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, DOTD will receive \$7.6 million allocated towards this \$35 million erosion improvement project to preserve Southern University's ravine.

This project will construct permanent erosion control measures to stabilize the ravine, which is the outfall to an approximate 852-acre watershed of Bayou Baton Rouge along the Mississippi River. This project will consist of addressing the retaining wall at the ROTC complex, tying in the emergency work at the Health Services Center, installing a weir system to control river flow, improving erosion mitigation through channel alignment modifications, and covering the entire ravine from F Street to the new weir system with block matting.

Cashless Tolling System on LA 1

On June 7, 2022, DOTD announced that beginning in late summer/early fall, tolling operations on LA 1 in Leeville would resume following repairs made from damage caused by Hurricane Ida in August 2021. Additionally, changes to the tolling system were announced. Vehicles up to 12' wide and 16'5" high will be able to use the cashless all electronic tolling lane in the new right lane. All vehicles exceeding these measurements with the proper required permit and contra-flow escort will use the far left lane on the northbound bridge.

Phase II of LA 1 Improvement Project

On June 24, 2022, Gov. Edwards, Sec. Wilson, the LA 1 Coalition, and area leaders held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on Phase II of the elevated LA 1 corridor. Phase II will elevate 8.3 miles of highway from Golden Meadow to Leeville. Once complete, 19.3 miles of highway will be elevated between Golden Meadow and Port Fourchon. In late 2021, the \$463 million Phase II contract was awarded to James Construction Group. The project is expected to be complete in 2028.

DOTD Enforces Weights and Standards

On June 30, 2022, DOTD announced that commercial weights and standards enforcement within the state will transfer to DOTD from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C). Act 384 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session moved stationary weight enforcement under DOTD's authority effective July 1, 2022. The act also creates the Weights and Standards Stationary Scales Police Force within DOTD.

2022

Arkansas Road Widening Completion

On July 19, 2022, Sec. Wilson celebrated the Arkansas Road (LA 616) project, along with numerous elected officials, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in West Monroe in Ouachita Parish. The \$34 million project transformed the landscape of the busy corridor by vastly increasing vehicle capacity, alleviating prior congestion issues, and enhancing safety.

New Signs Along Atchafalaya Basin Bridge Safety Corridor

On August 2, 2022, DOTD announced that beginning August 5, motorists would notice additional signs placed along the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge between Baton Rouge and Lafayette. These signs are part of a three-phase process in response to Senate Bill 435/ACT 426, which established the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge as a highway safety corridor. The establishment of this highway safety corridor calls for DOTD to install additional signage on the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge, to install camera safety devices to monitor vehicles traveling in excess of the posted speed limit, and to issue warnings and citations.

Substantial Completion of I-10 Widening Project in Calcasieu Parish

On August 19, 2022, Gov. Edwards, Sec. Wilson, and other state and local officials celebrated the substantial completion of the I-10 widening project in Calcasieu Parish. This \$45.5 million project, which stretched from approximately I-210 to LA 108, widened I-10 from three to four lanes. The Maple Fork bridges were replaced, and crews installed new drainage structures, median barriers, permanent striping, guardrails, and cable barriers.

Louisiana Airport Passport Program

On August 29, 2022, DOTD announced that its aviation section was releasing a new program aimed toward driving tourism to Louisiana airports. The Louisiana Airport Passport Program, formerly known as Fly Louisiana, is designed to encourage pilots and aviation enthusiasts to visit airports throughout the state. The Louisiana Airport Passport Program supports general aviation, local businesses, and tourism in the state of Louisiana by promoting safety and education by encouraging recreational flights to all participating public-use airports in the state. Participants who sign up for the app and complete certain incentives have the opportunity to win prizes, such as aviation patches, flight bags, shirts, and even a flight jacket.

Re-initiation of Procurement Process for Jimmie Davis Bridge Project

On August 31, 2022, DOTD announced that it will re-issue the notice of intent (NOI) for the Jimmie Davis Bridge (LA 511) capacity project in Caddo and Bossier parishes. The new NOI re-initiates the procurement process in an expedited manner and incorporates changes that address feedback received. This process ensures the necessary level of competitive procurement for the roughly \$150 million project, which will provide a new bridge with expanded traffic capacity across the Red River. Issuing the NOI officially starts the process of eventually entering into a contract with a design-builder equipped to deliver both the bridge design and construction phases simultaneously in order to expedite the project development process. A single design-builder will ultimately be selected for the entire project.

\$73 Million Allocation Funding for EV Infrastructure

On September 15, 2022, Gov. Edwards and DOTD announced that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Deployment Plan and will allocate approximately \$73 million in federal funding to Louisiana over the next five years. This plan, which was submitted on August 1, 2022, to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program, outlines the intent to administer federal funds through a grant program currently under development. The grant program will fund up to 80 percent of EV charging infrastructure with a minimum 20 percent match by grant recipients.

\$270 Million in Local Bridge Projects to be Funded

On October 5, 2022, Gov. Edwards toured a locally owned bridge in East Baton Rouge Parish with DOTD inspectors. The bridge was deemed deficient and load posted in January 2022. This bridge is one of over 500 off-system bridges eligible to receive approximately \$270 million in funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) signed by President Biden earlier in 2022. Off-system bridges are structures that are located on locally owned roadways (city or parish) and are not state highways.

Louisiana is set to receive approximately \$1 billion over the course of five years through the Bridge Formula Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Edwards administration has allocated approximately \$270 million specifically for the purpose of off-system bridge repair and replacement projects. The state of Louisiana has more than 4,700 locally-owned bridges, with 747 in need of rehabilitation or replacement. In 2021, DOTD closed 25 locally owned bridges, and 31 have been closed in 2022 as of October.

Sec. Wilson Joins Other DOT Leaders to Sign Equity in Infrastructure Pledge

On October 11, 2022, Sec. Wilson attended an event hosted by the Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP), along with other state departments of transportation leaders from California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Kansas, and Michigan to sign the EIP Pledge, which is aimed at leveraging infrastructure spending to build wealth in underserved communities. The event also included remarks by Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman of the Small Business Administration.

Through its pledge, EIP works to secure commitments from public agencies to improve public contracting practices by creating more opportunities for historically underutilized businesses (HUBs) to build generational wealth and reduce the racial wealth gap by creating more prime, joint venture, and equity contracting opportunities for these firms. Together with EIP and other pledge signers, agencies work to increase the number, size, and scope of contracts going to HUBs by facilitating access and reducing barriers to compete for business.

Secretary Wilson on Panel at Accelerating Infrastructure Summit at White House

On October 13, 2022, Sec. Wilson, who was also American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) president at the time, served as a panelist at the Accelerating Infrastructure Summit in Washington, DC, where he discussed the impacts on transportation projects from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) with a focus of being on time, on task, and on budget.

The infrastructure summit, hosted by the White House's Infrastructure Implementation Task Force, highlighted ways that collaborative partnerships among government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations can deliver infrastructure on time, on task, and on budget. As the BIL neared its one-year anniversary, officials also discussed accelerating infrastructure delivery by creating better roads, rebuilding bridges, expanding broadband, investing in clean drinking water, and creating a more resilient power grid.

\$30 Million Infrastructure Investment to Preserve Portion of U.S. 90

On October 14, 2022, DOTD announced that construction would soon begin on a \$30 million project on U.S. 90 from LA 14 (Center Street) to LA 83 (Weeks Island Road) in Iberia Parish. The project will include new concrete pavement with shoulders, base construction, temporary concrete barriers, median crossover diversion roads, guard rails, striping, on/off ramp pavement patching, and related work.

Governor Edwards Visits With Record-Breaking DOTD Retiree

On October 14, 2022, Gov. Edwards visited with Mr. Roland Babin, who recently retired from DOTD after a record-breaking 67 years of civil service. Gov. Edwards invited Roland and his family to the Governor's Mansion to personally thank him for his service and to present him with an official proclamation celebrating his accomplishments. Roland served under 11 different governors, but he had never been to the Governor's Mansion until Gov. Edwards extended this invitation.

Ambassador Caffery Interchange

On November 14, 2022, Gov. Edwards was joined by Sec. Wilson, along with state and local officials, to celebrate the start of the Ambassador Caffery interchange project, a future I-49 south project, in Broussard. The \$136 million, 3.08 mile project will involve construction of a fully access-controlled, grade-separated interchange; a six-lane bridge structure over Ambassador Caffery; widening of U.S. 90 to six lanes; one-way northbound and southbound two-lane frontage roads; u-turn lanes; widening and reconstruction of Ambassador Caffery to account for the new interchange configuration; and new drainage structures.

The total I-49 south corridor includes approximately 160 miles of roadway, of which more than 100 miles have been completed or are currently under construction. The I-49 south project will convert U.S. 90 from Lafayette to New Orleans into an interstate-quality roadway, ultimately providing improved travel throughout the state and nation.

Groundbreaking of I-10 Widening and Overpass Replacement over U.S. 165

On November 15, 2022, Sec. Wilson joined state and local officials to celebrate the groundbreaking of a project to widen and replace the existing I-10 bridges over U.S. 165 in Jefferson Davis and Calcasieu parishes. Work began on this \$75.7 million project on September 13, 2022. It stretches over five miles of I-10 in both directions between Iowa and Lacassine. The interstate is being widened from two to four lanes, and the bridge will include three through lanes and an eastbound on-ramp and westbound off-ramp. These new, longer ramps will allow drivers more time to speed up or slow down when entering or exiting I-10. The existing bridges over U.S. 165 are being replaced with wider concrete slab span bridges in both directions. The new slab span bridges include precast, pre-stressed concrete girders and drilled shaft foundations. Work includes bridges, roadways, concrete and cable barriers, and other related work. All frontage roads, along with four existing ramps, will be improved. Work is expected to be complete in 2025.

\$3 Million in Grant Funding to Improve Louisiana Rail Infrastructure

On November 30, 2022, DOTD announced the first projects selected to receive a total of \$3 million in grant funding under the Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program. The New Orleans Public Belt Railroad (NOPB) received \$1.5 million to construct the NOPB Transloading Industrial Park in New Orleans East. WATCO's Louisiana Southern Railroad (LAS) also received \$1.5 million for track, rail, and bridge upgrades between Hodge and Gibsland in north Louisiana. These improvements will increase fluidity and modernize the respective rail networks, support commerce and the supply chain, and increase resiliency needed to combat climate change issues.

Challenges Met

03

2016 Flood

In March and August 2016, Louisiana experienced record amounts of rainfall across the state, resulting in two catastrophic floods. In March, a storm system dumped up to 22 inches of rain within three days in areas of the state. Most of the state was affected by the resulting floods, with the south-central section of the state largely spared. Most of the major roadways in Louisiana were closed due to flooding. In August, another storm resulted in up to 31 inches of rainfall within a few days. This time the south-central portion of the state was hit the hardest, being soaked by a staggering 7.1 trillion gallons of water. That amount is over three times what Hurricane Katrina left behind in 2005. That amount would also fill Lake Pontchartrain about four times over. Again, almost every major roadway in Louisiana was closed because of extreme flooding.

DOTD was proactive in these situations by clearing drains, ditches, and culverts prior to the storms. The department also issued numerous public notices via press releases, 511 alerts, and social media posts to advise motorists of road closures. Responding to the rapidly changing conditions, crews in the field in every part of the state erected barricades on closed roads and used Aqua Dams along several major roadways to slow the floodwaters and keep the highways open as long as possible. During the August floods alone, DOTD deployed 660 individuals to mitigate rising floodwater, close roadways to traffic, make emergency repairs, and inspect infrastructure before opening to traffic once the water receded.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The department sadly lost eight employees to the virus while 1,500 were positive, causing staffing shortages. Despite the pandemic, DOTD has continued to invest in infrastructure to improve the state and to use innovative funding methods in order to get much-needed projects off the ground.

Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta

In 2020, DOTD removed over 2.5 million cubic yards of debris from Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta. On April 19, 2021, DOTD announced that crews had completed all debris pickup from the devastating hurricanes Laura and Delta that made landfall on August 27, 2020, and October 9, 2020, respectively. The hurricanes made landfall approximately 13 miles apart in the southwestern portion of the state, which received severe damage. Upon completion, crews had removed 3.3 million cubic yards of debris statewide, with 2.2 million cubic yards being removed in southwest Louisiana alone.

DOTD and Hurricane Ida

On August 29, 2021, Category 4 Hurricane Ida smashed into Louisiana near Port Fourchon. With sustained winds of 150 mph, this catastrophic storm was tied with Hurricane Laura in 2020 and the 1856 Last Island hurricane as the strongest on record in Louisiana. In terms of damage and intensity, it was second only to Hurricane Katrina, which hit the state 16 years to the day earlier.

DOTD began preparing for the storm by clearing trash and other debris from ditches and culverts across the state. As with the impending wintry weather earlier in the year, barricades were staged for roadway closures and crews continuously monitored roadway conditions throughout the state, keeping the roads open as long as safely possible. Out of an abundance of caution, DOTD barricaded low-lying roadways that were known to flood easily. The department also encouraged marine traffic to quickly take all necessary precautions. Once again, the department discouraged travel and kept the public advised of roadway closures in real time through its usual channels.

After the hurricane had passed, DOTD crews were immediately in the field repairing and replacing signs and signals on state routes. Crews also began the long and arduous process of clearing debris from state routes in all affected areas, and a debris removal website with daily updates was included on the 511 website. A call center for all debris-related questions was activated in October. Debris removal continued into 2022.

Most importantly, even though contraflow wasn't activated for Hurricane Ida, there were no fatalities on state highways due to evacuation.

04

Leaving Louisiana Better Than We Found It

Continuing to Make Progress

With over 100 years of delivering infrastructure now in the history books, what can the people of Louisiana expect from DOTD in the future? The department has accomplished a tremendous amount over the last century, and even over the past seven years, and if the past is an indicator of the future, DOTD will continue making progress to improve the quality of life for Louisiana's citizens and to enhance economic development.

Through all its challenges, the department has been able to maintain and improve existing infrastructure while starting and completing new projects. DOTD is optimistic that this trend will continue indefinitely, especially with recent federal funding mechanisms such as the Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act. The department will continue to take advantage of every funding opportunity while continuing to discover innovative ways of financing projects.

Environmental Awareness

DOTD has proven that it can meet new challenges and trends. Environmental awareness across the globe has drastically increased in recent years and the need for industries to reduce carbon emissions has become more critical. DOTD is set to adapt to a changing world. Since its beginnings, the department has depended on fuel taxes as a major source of revenue. As electric vehicles become more commonplace, DOTD will continue its quest in using new ways to fund infrastructure projects. In fact, Act 486 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session will provide DOTD with the first sustainable revenue increase in over 30 years. This legislation will appropriate funds to DOTD from vehicle sales taxes annually beginning in FY 2024. The department estimates it will receive \$150 million the first year and \$260 million in subsequent years.

Future Major and Minor Projects

For the coming decades, DOTD has a wish list of major and minor projects to invest in once funding becomes available. Extending I-49 from Lafayette to New Orleans is slowly happening as continuous improvements bring U.S. 90 to interstate standards. The Baton Rouge region has been in critical need of a new river crossing to ease congestion, and a new Mississippi River bridge will no doubt become a reality.

In the near future, plans for other major infrastructure upgrades will come to fruition. The widening of I-10 in Baton Rouge is already underway with the recent opening of the Terrace Street exit from I-110 southbound and the current construction of a new College Drive exit from I-10 and I-12 westbound. The project to elevate and relocate LA 1 in Lafourche Parish continues. A new I-10 bridge crossing the Calcasieu River in Lake Charles will need to replace the aging Calcasieu River Bridge that was completed in 1952, many years prior to the Interstate Highway System. A feasibility and environmental study is planned in the coming years for this project. And DOTD has issued a notice of intent to enter a design-build contract to replace the Jimmie Davis Bridge in Shreveport.

There's no question that improvements to Louisiana's roads, bridges, ports, airports, and freight and passenger rail, as well as the need for new infrastructure, will continue. DOTD is ready to tackle these challenges. And by doing so, the department will continue its mission for all people of Louisiana: to plan, design, build, and sustain a safe and reliable multimodal transportation and infrastructure system that enhances mobility and economic opportunity.



05

Stories of Our Success

DOTD is an agency that never forgets that improving the quality of life for people is one of its primary goals. Certainly this is accomplished by nonstop improvements to Louisiana's infrastructure, but sometimes special events occur which require the department to focus on assisting specific people or groups of people. Several events stand out from the past several years.

Assistance to Texas after Hurricane Harvey

Beginning August 30, 2017, DOTD used state resources to mobilize buses to help Texan citizens get to shelters in Louisiana. This was done in an effort to assist the state of Texas during their need for additional resources due to the overwhelming devastation brought on by Hurricane Harvey. These assets were utilized as long as needed in assisting our neighbors along the Louisiana/Texas border. DOTD employees worked with state and local partners to assist the citizens taking shelter at Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles. Buses also transported citizens to a shelter in Alexandria.

Employee Dedication

When Gov. Edwards visited with Mr. Roland Babin, the DOTD retiree with 67 years of service, it was a strong reminder of the dedication that DOTD employees have for their careers. Each year DOTD honors its employees at an employee recognition ceremony, and recipients regularly include those with over 30 years of service.

Always Improving Safety on the Roads

As time goes on, DOTD continues its focus on the safety of motorists with ongoing improvements like roundabouts, flashing yellow arrows, cable barriers, and J-turns.

Roundabouts redirect conflicting traffic, such as left turns, which cause crashes at traditional intersections, and they improve safety, operations, and aesthetics of an intersection. Greater safety is achieved primarily by slower speeds and the elimination of more severe crashes, and operation is improved by smooth-flowing traffic with less stop-and-go than a signalized intersection. Aesthetics are enhanced by the opportunity for more landscaping and less pavement.

Flashing yellow arrow traffic signals feature a flashing yellow arrow in addition to the standard red, yellow, and green arrows. When illuminated, the flashing yellow arrow allows waiting motorists to make a left-hand turn after yielding to oncoming traffic. These signals have been shown to help drivers make fewer mistakes. They keep motorists safer during heavy traffic and reduce delays when traffic is light.

Cable barriers deflect vehicles that enter the median, keeping them from potentially crossing over into oncoming traffic. They are designed to absorb the impact of the collision and hold a vehicle in the median to prevent it from moving back into traffic. Cable barriers are an innovative and cost-effective solution to prevent head-on collisions that usually result in fatalities.

J-turns safely and efficiently manage high traffic volumes at intersections with multiple approaches along a divided highway. The J-turn functions by redirecting through and left-turning traffic on the side street to turn right, proceed to the nearby U-turn, and then return to its original course. J-turns reduce the risk of crashes, optimize the capacity of roadways, and reduce wait time for left-turning traffic.

Preventing Disaster After Major Bridge Damage

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.

Working to Prevent Further Fatalities

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.

As a result of these fatalities, DOTD announced on December 16, 2019, 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 were rolled out across district crews over time, with emphasis on magnifying the visibility of employees working in the field. DOTD is also continuing its efforts to educate and remind motorists about the importance of driving responsibly and the dangers of driving while distracted.

06

BY THE NUMBERS

Impact since January 2016:

**2,039
Projects Let**

**Total Project Length
6,895.48 miles**

**Total Investment
\$5,428,868,106.08**

**Bridge
Inspections
61,631**

**Bridges
Replaced
504**

**Cubic Yards of
Litter Removed
361,555**

**Acres Mowed
2,610,000**

**Acres of
herbicide sprayed
791,908**



Office of the Governor
JOHN BEL EDWARDS
2016–2024