



TOWNHALL MEETING

Canal Boulevard Bridge Replacement

City of Thibodaux · Mayor Kevin Clement

Office of Louisiana Highway Construction (OLHC) ·
Executive Director Archie Chaisson, III

9/23/2026

PROJECT PARTNERS



Louisiana Office of Highway Construction
City of Thibodaux

MEETING OVERVIEW



THE SHORT VERSION

The bridge will be fully closed to traffic during construction.

Jan 4 – Jun 30, 2027

Approximately 6 months, with crews working 24 hours a day

- 1 Existing Bridge Condition
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- 3 Proposed Improvements
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EXISTING BRIDGE CONDITION



1966

Year built
60 years in service

60+

Spalls with exposed steel
On the deck slabs, both bridges,
2025

100%

Bulkhead section loss
Over ~40% of the south bank wall,
2024

56 in.

Erosion hole, south bank
Behind the timber bulkhead, 2024



Deck slabs

Concrete has broken away along the deck edge and panel joints, leaving reinforcing steel exposed and rusting at nearly every span.



Timber piles

110 timber piles from 1966. One is hollow-sounding with 4 feet of decay; others are checked and split.



Weight limit

Posted at 10 tons, 15 for tractor-trailers. Fire trucks currently not allowed.



Sluice gate

The existing gate no longer works, so flow between the box culvert and Bayou Lafourche cannot be controlled.



Timber bulkhead

South bank timber wall has moderate to severe decay with up to 100% section loss. Repair recommended by inspectors.

Sources: LADOTD routine inspections, June 2025, and underwater inspections, March 2024 (findings; deck and pile photos). Weight limit photo: LADOTD inspection, June 2021. Sluice gate and bulkhead photos: project site visit, August 2022.

PROJECT HISTORY & TIMELINE



2017

Bridge placed on the state's needing-repair list. City begins pursuing state funding.



2020

Early planning and design begins for bridge replacement.



2026

\$6 million in state appropriation fully secured. Cooperative Endeavor Agreement signed between the City and OLHC for construction.



2027

Construction to commence in January 2027 and last through June 2027.

PROJECT TEAM

Engineer of Record
Duplantis Design Group

General Contractor
Sealevel Construction

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS: BRIDGE STRUCTURE



Rendering: Duplantis Design Group

BRIDGE STRUCTURE



Higher load capacity

No posted weight limit, so fire trucks can cross. Proposed Bridge designed for HL-93/LADV-11



Concrete piles

Replace the 1966 14"x 70' long timber piles with 18"x 95' long square Pre-Stressed Pre-Cast Concrete Piles



Concrete bridge barriers

Built to current safety standards



Wider center spans

Two Center spans grow from 19 ft to 23 ft for better boating and maintenance access – as coordinated with Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District (BLFWD)



Additional 2 feet of vertical clearance

Estimated 9' of Vertical Clearance based on the BLFWD modeled high-water elevation



New timber guide walls

To protect the bridge foundations from on-coming marine traffic

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT: ROADWAY, BAYOU ACCESS, & UTILITIES



Rendering: Duplantis Design Group

ROADWAY AND PEDESTRIAN PATH



New left-turn lane
Southbound onto LA-1



Wider pedestrian crossing
On the southbound bridge.
Increased from 6' wide to 8' wide



New decorative lighting
Along the bridge and approaches

BAYOU BANKS, DRAINAGE AND UTILITIES



Steel sheet piles on the south side
Replace the deteriorating timber bulkhead



Steel sheet piles on the north side
New wall at the north bridge abutment



Box culvert extension
Gives City maintenance crews easier access for maintenance



New working sluice gate
Electric motor for easier operation



Gas line bored under the bayou
Today's exposed gas line goes beneath Bayou Lafourche



Overhead utility line already buried
Bored underground on the north side ahead of this project so all staging and construction can work from the north bank

CONSTRUCTION APPROACH: FULL CLOSURE



	Full closure BOTH BRIDGES AT ONCE	One bridge at a time KEEPING A LANE OPEN EACH WAY
Time under construction	6 months	14 months
Construction cost	\$9 million	\$13 million
Safety	No traffic next to the work zone	Traffic within 15' of active pile driving and construction
Construction Logistics	Bridge, box culvert and bulkhead built concurrently	New bridges overlap sheet pile and box culvert work
Additional Hours of Traffic Delay over Course of Project (Modeled)	6,329 hours	14,904 hours

A full closure completes the project in 6 months rather than 14, at approximately \$4 million less, with fewer than half the modeled hours of traffic delay and no traffic adjacent to active construction.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE



CLOSED

Jan 4, 2027

REOPENED

Jun 30, 2027

HELD TO THE DATE

The construction contract includes financial penalties for each day the contractor exceeds the construction duration (weather permitting).



24 hour construction

Crews work around the clock, six days a week (with the exception of pile driving). Sundays reserved for make-up work as needed.



Precast concrete

Piles and concrete panels are built offsite and arrive ready to install prior to beginning bridge demolition



Local contractor

Sealevel Construction's yard, crews and materials are in Thibodaux.



End-On Construction & Work on both banks at once

Bulkhead and box culvert work continues on one side while the bridge is built from the other.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN



Police at three bridges

Officers directing traffic at La 308 & La 1 Canal, Jackson Street and Audubon intersections during peak hours: 6–9 am, 11 am–1 pm, 3–6 pm.



No left turns from St. Patrick Street to Hwy 308

Keeps traffic flowing onto Jackson Street Bridge instead of backing up on St. Patrick Street



Signals retimed

Both Canal Blvd intersection signal timings will be adjusted to optimize traffic flow during construction. The City has also coordinated with LADOTD to adjust other affected intersections as needed.



Trucks stay on the LA-20 route

LA-20 and truck traffic follow the same signed route they use today.



Emergency Service Coordination

The City has coordinated with EMS and Fire Departments ahead of the start of Construction



Adjustments During Construction

The City will monitor traffic throughout construction and will be ready to make changes as needs arise.

Questions?

Thank you for your time, and for your patience during construction.



STAY INFORMED

ci.thibodaux.la.us/canal-blvd-bridge-replacement