



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT A COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO III



Dear Lakefront Neighbors,

The primary issue of concern for my lakefront neighbors is public safety. Before the DA forum on Tuesday night, I wanted to give an infrastructure update. The lake parts of my district -- Lakeview and Lakewood -- have some of the worst streets in District A. They have been that way since I was a little boy.

It is important to me that you are updated as the Administration continues to work and completes projects in this area. This update will discuss completed work, the alley paving pilot project, and upcoming work. I am also including our work with the Sewerage and Water Board (SWBNO) to fix their billing system.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at [Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov](mailto:Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov) or 504.658.1010.

Best,

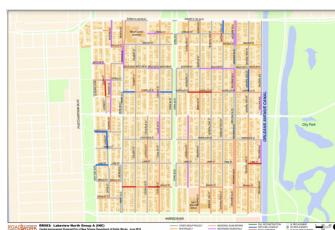
Joe

### Street Improvements

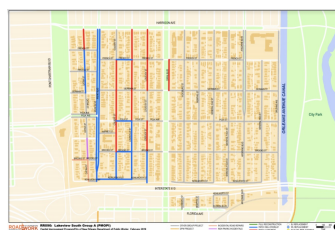
Infrastructure projects are funded either with FEMA dollars through the Joint Infrastructure Recovery Response (JIRR) or with bond money. We now meet monthly with the Department of Public Works to discuss roadwork in District A. Some roadwork projects also include water line and catch basin repairs.

Below are a list of three completed projects and five projects underway.

#### PROJECTS COMPLETED:



**Lakeview North Group A**  
Estimated value: \$4.6M

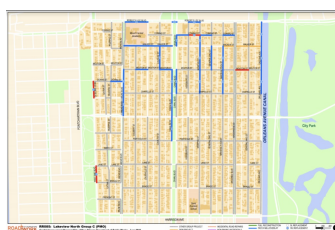


**Lakeview South Group A**  
Estimated value: \$7.2M

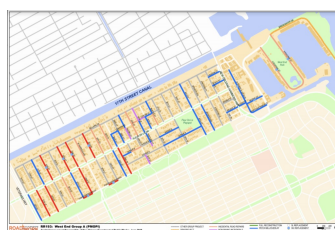


**Lakewood Group A**  
Estimated value: \$3.7M

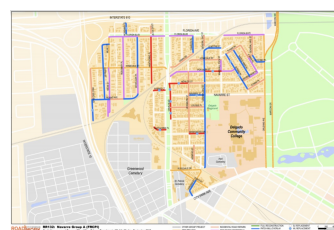
#### PROJECTS UNDERWAY:



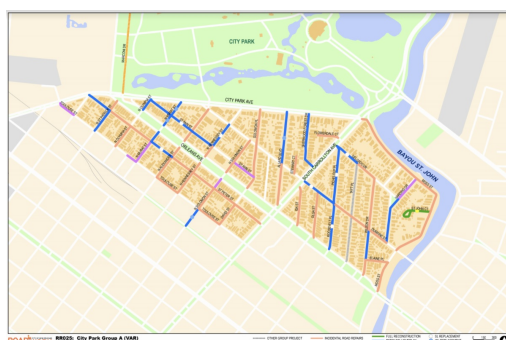
**Lakeview North Group C**  
Completion date: Q3 2021  
Estimated value: \$9.6M



**West End Group A**  
Completion date: Q1 2021  
Estimated value: \$8.4M



**Navarre Group A**  
Completion date: Q2 2021  
Estimated value: \$9.8M



**City Park Group A**  
Completion date: Q2 2021  
Estimated value: \$12.8M



**Breakwater Drive**  
Completion date: Q4 2021

That is a total of \$15.5M in completed street upgrades with another \$40.6M underway. If you want to see if your street is included in the JIRR program, visit [roadwork.nola.gov](http://roadwork.nola.gov).

## Alley Paving Program

The Department of Public Works has completed repaving two alleyways: 6300 block of Argonne and Marshall Foch, and; 6200 block of Marshall Foch and General Diaz. This pilot program corrects elevation issues that create flooding, regrades the alleys, and repaves with permeable pavement.

Assuming this program works, it will eliminate the persistent problems of unavailable or broken alley graders and the uneven surfacing of the alleys. I've asked DPW to provide the total cost to repave all alleyways, the timeline for doing this, and an updated list of alleys next up in the queue.

## Lakeshore Drive Reconfiguration

The Lakeshore Drive Traffic Reconfiguration was initiated to slow vehicular traffic around and on Lakeshore Drive. Traffic studies have shown vehicles traveling the curved road at speeds exceeding 90 mph, endangering the many pedestrians who must cross four lanes of traffic.

As it stands, the project reduces Lakeshore Drive to two travel lanes, a center turning lane/median, a two-way bike lane, angled parking spots, and raised pedestrian crosswalks.

This project is in partnership with the Flood Protection Authority and the New Orleans Department of Public Works. These improvements stretch from Robert E. Lee Blvd to Canal Blvd. My office continues to work with NOPD when there are speeding complaints on Robert E. Lee and West End/Pontchartrain around Lakeshore Drive.

**Lakeshore Drive Improvement Project**

**Estimated Cost**  
\$1,000,000

**Estimated Start**  
December 2020

**Estimated Completion**  
June 2021

**Dedicated Turning Lanes**  
**Protected Bike Lanes**  
**Raised Speed Tables**  
**Enhanced Road Striping**  
**Traffic Calming Measures**  
**Improved Pedestrian Crosswalks**

## Sewerage and Water Board

SWBNO gave its latest quarterly report to the Public Works Committee on Sept. 29. In two years since taking office, SWBNO has provided 8 quarterly reports and 2 annual reports.

We know there is much more work to be done. Billing issues abound. Ratepayers are sent estimated bills more than twice their average amounts; the adjudication process places the burden of proof on the ratepayer, and; SWBNO does not follow their own publicly-posted policies. Ratepayers are tired of being paid lip service – they want improved customer service.

My office is regularly meeting with SWBNO leadership on our top concerns. We're pushing for solutions to create a better billing system. We expect to see appreciable and actual billing progress by the next quarterly report in January 2021.

Last month, the utility presented their progress on canal cleanings and improved power supply, which you can [watch here](#). In total, SWBNO crews have removed 630 cubic yards of debris and 3,903 cubic yards of sediment from canals across the city.

The utility has improved its power supply and redundancy after scrutiny from this Council. As chair of the Public Works Committee, I worked alongside SWBNO leadership to find solutions and to secure funding for SWBNO. SWBNO has generated a plan, timeline, and cost prediction for each step in power improvements. Here is where the power upgrades stand:



Power Source	Plan	Timeline	Approx. Cost	Funding Source*
<b>Turbine 5</b>	Repair before next hurricane season – will provide 20MW of additional power for the rest of service life (5-10 years)	6-8 months	\$5-6M	Insurance Proceeds (less \$1M deductible)
<b>Turbine 6</b>	Winterize and maximize capacity to transform 60Hz into 25Hz power via new frequency changer	February 2021 Completion – bids opening 9.24.20	\$700,000	Fair Share One-time funds
<b>Turbine 7</b>	Procure and install to replace T5 and become cornerstone of modern power generation suite	12-14 months	\$18 - \$20M	\$13M CDBG funds; \$4M Fair Share recurring funds
<b>Frequency Changer</b>	Procure and bring on site for utilization with T6 to maximize machine capacity	8 months	\$16M	\$13M Fair Share/HMPG funds; drainage system funds
<b>Substation Site (C7/C8)**</b>	Development of site necessary for substation construction, placement of frequency changers, and T7	Spring 2021 Completion	\$8.5M	\$7M State Capital Outlay funds

Questions or concerns? Contact my office at (504) 658-1010 or email me at [Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov](mailto:Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov) and continue to follow along on my social media pages below.



**New Orleans City Council**  
Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, District A