

The capacity of the sewer collection infrastructure is also an area of focus as the City grows. New lift station facilities, force mains and gravity sewer lines are being planned to accommodate existing and future growth. Existing lines are also being cleaned to maintain capacity and to reduce grease build-up.

Reducing sewer overflows caused by rainwater I&I, as well as failing septic tanks will protect the environment and allow a healthy habitat for plants, fish and wild life, and will also provide a clean, safe and enjoyable environment for recreational uses. To this end, the City has partnered with Jackson County to receive grant money under the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) to install individual grinder station at approximately 60 homes in the Old Shell Landing Area to replace existing septic tanks. This project is an effort to clean, improve and protect Graveline Bayou.

## Transportation

The City maintains all streets, street signs and traffic signals within the City limits, with the exception of Highway 90 and Highway 57, which are maintained by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). The City does, however, maintain the grass and plantings along these two highways.

The safety of the City's streets is the number one transportation priority. Also of high importance is the ability of the streets to adequately service traffic capacity, motorist comfort, adequate access to commercial, residential and public use areas, as well as providing an aesthetically pleasing roadside. Safe pedestrian access along the roadways is also a concern.

The City is currently planning several projects to increase motorist safety, to provide adequate access and capacity for commercial development, intersection improvements to increase safety of the travelling public, sidewalks to provide pedestrian access, parking facilities at public buildings, and a regional parking facility to encourage carpooling for energy efficiency.

## Drainage

The City maintains all drainage facilities within City Limits, including ditches, culverts and drainage boxes. Keeping these facilities clean and free from obstructions, structurally sound and properly sealed is of utmost importance.

The majority of drainage pipe and structures in the City have been in the ground for many years. The corrugated metal pipe which was used in the past is failing due to rust. This allows for sediment to travel through the pipe, leaving voids

which cause sink holes. When sink holes form below roadways and adjacent to structures, repairs become very expensive. The City has identified several culvert crossings of roadways in need of replacement. These repairs are targeted in current and future budgets.

Drainage problems also arise from maturing trees along City streets and drainage channels, as well as on private property. Commercial and residential expansion can also create blockages or increase drainage flows beyond the existing capacity of the drainage. The City has identified several locations needing tree removal, channel improvements, culvert replacement and drainage structure improvements. These needs are also being addressed in current and future budgets.

Most of the rainfall in Gautier eventually finds itself through the upper reaches of the drainage system to bayous connecting to the Pascagoula River and the Gulf of Mexico. These bayous can be subject to sediment and other solids carried downstream through the system. These bayous are also tidally influenced, which can deposit and trap sediment in the bayous, reducing their capacity to convey storm water flows. Hurricanes and Tropical Storms only compound these issues. The City of Gautier is working with several funding agencies in an effort to improve the City's bayous through cleaning and widening projects.

## Solid Waste

The City of Gautier provides a yard debris and small household goods pick-up service for the residents of Gautier. City workers also pick up litter along the City streets, as well as illegal dump sites throughout the City. The City does not pick up garbage. This service is contracted out.

## Maintenance

As much as is economically feasible, the City of Gautier maintains all public buildings, vehicles and equipment in-house, with the exception of some specialty craft items and major equipment repairs.

The current shop and warehouse facilities housing the Maintenance Department are old and in need of upgrades or replacements. The Public Works Shop on Gautier-Vancleave Road was damaged beyond reasonable repair by Hurricane Katrina, but FEMA would not allocate appropriate funds to replace this building. The building is currently being used despite missing roofing, leaking walls, and inadequate heating and air conditioning.

The City of Gautier has appealed FEMA's decision to deny the funding of a new maintenance facility to replace the damaged Public Works Shop.

With the consolidation of the Planning Department to City Hall, the building formerly used by the Planning Department is available to house the administrative offices of the Public Works Department. Building renovations are necessary prior to the occupation of the building by Public Works staff.

| Actions  | Deliverable/Completion Metric | Responsible Department | Benchmarks/Completion Date |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Water 1. Improve water efficiency by purchasing and installing an automated meter reading system.</b> |                               |                        |                            |
| W.1.1. Reducing the employee hours necessary to read the meters each month                               | Project completion            | Public Works Water     | Spring 2014                |
| W.1.2. Reducing vehicle and energy costs of driving to each meter  | Project completion            | Public Works Water     | Spring 2014                |
| W.1.3 Capturing low flow usage such as drips and small leaks   | Project completion            | Public Works Water     | Spring 2014                |
| W.1.4 Allowing customers to view usage tables and graphs of their accounts                               | Project completion            | Public Works Water     | Spring 2014                |
| W.1.5 Detecting customer leaks and notifying them of the problem   | Project completion            | Public Works Water     | Spring 2014                |
| W.1.6 Providing usage data for trending and analysis   | Project completion            | Public Works Water     | Spring 2014                |
| W.1.7 Providing new, more accurate meters  | Project completion            | Public Works Water     | Spring 2014                |

| Actions   | Deliverable/Completion Metric              | Responsible Department | Benchmarks/Completion Date        |
|---|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Potable Water 2. Provide safe, affordable and clear drinking water for the citizens of Gautier.                 |  |                        |                                   |
| PW.2.1. Construct Drinking Water Treatment Plants For color removal plant                                       | A 3-phase project                          | PW                     | Spring/Summer 2014, 2016 and 2018 |
| PW.2.3 Construct new Water Wells and Elevated Storage Tanks   | HWY 57 Tank/well<br>Martin Bluff Tank/Well | PW                     | Summer 2014<br>Summer 2016        |
| Actions   | Deliverable/Completion Metric              | Responsible Department | Benchmarks/Completion Date        |
| Sewer 3. Provide an efficient and sound infrastructure for collecting and transporting the City's sewage flows. |  |                        |                                   |
| S.3.1 Reroute gravity sewer on Bemis Ave. to Stone Gate Lift Station  | New gravity system and extended force main | PW                     | Summer 2013                       |
| S.3.2 Expand the City's current SCADA monitoring system for lift stations                                       | Operating units                            | PW                     | Spring 2023                       |
| S.3.3 Clean and TV main sewer lines   | Ongoing in-house and contracts             | PW                     | Fall 2023                         |
| S.3.4 Line sewer mains in problem areas   | Ongoing programs                           | PW                     | Fall 2023                         |
| S.3.5 Line sewer manholes   | Ongoing programs                           | PW                     | Fall 2023                         |
| S.3.6 Purchase and install microbiological units at key manholes to decrease grease buildup                     | Pilot unit                                 | PW                     | Spring 2013                       |
| S.3.7 Complete the design and bidding for the Old Shell Landing CIAP sewer project                              | Design construction                        | PW                     | Fall 2012<br>Summer 2013          |
| S.3.8 Raise sewer lift station above BFE  | Grant dependent                            | PW                     | Fall 2018                         |

|  |                                      |                               |                                   |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| S.3.9 Create a grease control program  | Ordinance                            | PW                            | Spring 2013                       |
| <b>Actions</b>   | <b>Deliverable/Completion Metric</b> | <b>Responsible Department</b> | <b>Benchmarks/Completion Date</b> |
| <b>Transportation 4. Provide safe, comfortable and aesthetically pleasing transportation facilities.</b> |                                      |                               |                                   |
| T.4.1 Improve Allen Road to accommodate future commercial establishments                                 | New boulevard                        | PW                            | Fall 2013                         |
| T.4.2 Town Center infrastructure projects  | TBD                                  | PW                            | -----                             |
| T.4.3 Widen Martin Bluff Road – Gautier-Vancleave Road to Roy's Road                                     | New road and pedestrian facilities   | PW                            | Spring 2014                       |
| T.4.4 Intersection Improvements along Old Spanish Trail  | Safer intersections                  | PW                            | Summer 2017                       |
| T.4.5 New access road at Highway 90 and City Park  | Visible and convenient access road   | PW                            | Spring 2016                       |
| T.4.6 New access road at Highway 90 and Mary Walker Drive  | Visible and convenient access road   | PW                            | Spring 2018                       |
| T.4.7 Construct bridge and raise road at Old Spanish Trail and Graveline Road                            | Safer roadway                        | PW                            | Spring 2018                       |
| T.4.8 Elevate old Spanish Trail at Magnolia Tree drive   | Safer roadway                        | PW                            | Spring 2018                       |

|  |   |    |             |
|--|---|----|-------------|
| T.4.9 Purchase computer and software for traffic signal maintenance                          | Satisfy state requirements                | PW | Fall 2016   |
| T.4.10 Beasley Road Improvements   | Safer roadway                             | PW | Fall 2012   |
| T.4.11 Frontage Road Improvements  | Safer roadway                             | PW | Fall 2015   |
| T.4.12 Dolphin Drive Improvements  | New boulevard for town center             | PW | -----       |
| T.4.13 Graveline Road Improvements   | Safer roadway                             | PW | Summer 2020 |
| T.4.14 Construct Park and Ride at Gautier-Vancleave Road and Frontage Road                   | Public convenience efficiency             | PW | Summer 2016 |
| T.4.15 Construct alternate access to Hickory Hills area – Frontage Road to Martin Bluff Road | Emergency access alternate ingress/egress | PW | Fall 2023   |
| T.4.16 Construct alternate exit to Westgate Parkway  | Emergency access alternate ingress/egress | PW | Spring 2017 |
| T.4.17 Construct Bridge on Martin Bluff Road at Brookside Drive                              | Commercial access                         | PW | Summer 2013 |
| T.4.18 Construct connector road – Beasley Road to Gautier-Vancleave Road                     | Emergency access alternate ingress/egress | PW | Fall 2015   |
| T.4.19 Purchase tractors with finishing mower decks  | Improve workforce efficiency              | PW | Spring 2014 |

| T.4.20 Purchase a mini excavator   | Improve workforce efficiency                 | PW                     | Fall 2014                  |
|--|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| T.4.21 Purchase Scagg mowers   | Replace aged equipment                       | PW                     | Spring 2015                |
| T.4.22 Purchase a Bobcat with front mounted mowing deck  | Improve channel maintenance program          | PW                     | Fall 2013                  |
| T.4.23 Provide additional parking at City Hall   | Public access to facilities                  | PW                     | Fall 2014                  |
| Actions  | Deliverable/Completion Metric                | Responsible Department | Benchmarks/Completion Date |
| <b>Drainage 5. Provide adequate drainage facilities and clean and accessible bayous and waterways for wildlife, recreation and drainage.</b> |  |                        |                            |
| D.5.1 Clean and remove sediment from City bayous   | Improve storm water system                   | PW                     | Fall 2015                  |
| D.5.2 Construct Detention Pond/Parks upstream of outfalls into bayous  | Mitigate sediment transport to bayous        | PW                     | Fall 2015                  |
| D.5.3 Perform Channel Improvements to City channels  | Improve storm water system—reduce flooding   | PW                     | Spring 2013                |
| D.5.4 Replace failing pipe under roadways  | Public safety/storm water system maintenance | PW<br>Drainage         | Fall 2015                  |
| Actions  | Deliverable/Completion Metric                | Responsible Department | Benchmarks/Completion Date |
| <b>Solid Waste 6. Provide for planned pick-up of yard debris as well as cleaning of roadside litter and illegal dump sites.</b>              |  |                        |                            |
| SW.6.1 Strengthen the Garbage Pick-up ordinance to eliminate commercial debris   | Improve aesthetics and staff efficiencies    | PW                     | Summer 2013                |

|   |   |                        |                            |
|---|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| SW.6.2 Create a litter control program  | Improve aesthetics promote economic development | PW                     | Summer 2013                |
| SW.6.3 Post "No Dumping" signs  | Defer litter                                    | PW                     | Summer 2014                |
| Actions   | Deliverable/Completion Metric                   | Responsible Department | Benchmarks/Completion Date |
| <b>Maintenance 7. Maintain public facilities, vehicles and equipment to provide for safe use and prolonged usable life.</b> |   |                        |                            |
| M.7.1 Renovate the old Planning Department Building   | Improved efficiency and public access           | PW                     | Fall 2012                  |
| M.7.2 Construct a new Maintenance Facility  | Improved efficiency                             | PW                     | Fall 2014                  |

## 4. Economic Development/Planning

The Economic Development and Planning Department oversees economic development, neighborhood services, planning, code enforcement, building inspections, flood plain management, and events and civic engagement activities for the City of Gautier.

### Economic Development

Stakeholder Comments: Comments regarding Economic Development and Job Creation received much attention from stakeholders during the priority voting process. These comments are outlined below:

#### Job Creation

- Increase efforts to bring jobs; more professional jobs are needed, not just big box, technical
- Encourage entrepreneurial opportunities
- Increase small business resources
- Ensure existing companies remain
- Provide better opportunities—better jobs, better education

#### Economic Development

- More retail and commerce.
- Improve infrastructure.
- Construct a town green for festivals and for people to have a place to gather.
- Encourage more tourism opportunities

| Actions   | Deliverable/Completion Metric              | Responsible Department | Benchmarks/Completion Date (start, end)              |
|---|--|------------------------|--|
| <b>EDP1: Town Center revitalization through the encouragement of redevelopment and the elimination of blight.</b> |  |                        |  |
| EDP.1.1. Mall Redevelopment   | New mall constructed at Singing River Mall | EDP                    | 2012, 2014   |
| EDP.1.2. Plan and construct urban park north of new mall  | New park constructed                       | EDP                    | 2013 and ongoing (due to limitations of grant funds) |

| <b>EDP2: Promote healthcare industry cluster strategy at I-10 / SR 57 corridor to increase jobs and tax base.</b> |  |                               |                                   |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Actions</b>  | <b>Deliverable/Completion Metric</b>                                 | <b>Responsible Department</b> | <b>Benchmarks/Completion Date</b> |
| ED.2.1. Plan and construct Town Center interconnected street grid with service alleys north of the mall           | New roads constructed  | EDP, PW                       | 2013, 2015                        |
| EDP.2.2. Cultivate medical / commerce park at I-10/57 interchange   | Reconstruct Allen Road as boulevard from Robinson Still Road to Lake | EDP                           | 2013, ongoing                     |
| EDP.2.2. Cultivate medical / commerce park at I-10/57 interchange   | Medical buildings constructed  | EDP                           | 2013, ongoing                     |
| <b>EDP3: Foster efforts for business recruitment and expansion.</b>   |  |                               |                                   |
| EDP.3.1. Provide incentives to encourage restaurants  | Number of restaurants  | EDP                           | 2013, ongoing                     |
| EDP.3.1. Explore ways to leverage economic and quality of life value of MGCCC                                     | Economic report  | EDP                           | Winter 2013                       |
| EDP.3.2. Support business-focused organizations   | Participate in local business organizations                          | EDP                           | Ongoing                           |
| EDP.3.3. Research economics of waterfront tourism and opportunities for expansion                                 | Economic report  | EDP                           | Summer 2013                       |

## Planning

How do we protect the neighborhoods we love and plan for inevitable growth and change? While some want to preserve a snapshot of today's Gautier, we know that change is a given. Where should new businesses locate? How should they be built? The City recently adopted a Unified Development Ordinance and new Zoning Map to address many planning issues. Over the next five years, we will further calibrate our laws and regulations to advance a prosperous and safe Gautier that strengthens neighborhoods.

How and where a community grows impacts a City's finances, economy and quality of life. The places we live, work, shop and play shape our lives and who we are. One's experience in a place helps form us as individuals and a community. Proper planning ensures that in our quest for economic prosperity and jobs, we don't shortchange either long-term commercial opportunities or residential growth.

| Actions  | Deliverable/Completion Metric          | Responsible Department                | Benchmarks/Completion Date (start, end) |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>EDP4: Ensure policies encourage sustainability and provide for future growth.</b> |  |                                       |   |
| EDP.4.1. Develop a parks and recreation master plan                                  | Parks and Recreation report to Council | EDP, PW, CM                           | Fall 2012, Winter 2012                  |
| EDP.4.2. Develop a walking, bicycling and paddling master plan                       | Council Adoption                       | EDP                                   | Fall 2014, Spring 2015                  |
| EDP.4.3. Develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan  | Council Adoption                       | Jackson County, EDP, FD, PD, PW et al | Underway, Winter 2012                   |
| EDP.4.4. Revisory ordinance to the UDO, Phase 1                                      | Council Adoption                       | EDP                                   | Underway, Winter 2012                   |
| EDP.4.5. Commercial, industrial, and multifamily architectural guidelines            | Council Adoption                       | EDP                                   | Underway, Winter 2012                   |