

State Flood Control

- 1,495 miles of Mississippi River and tributary levees
- 54% of Louisiana is in a floodplain (approximately 16,769,548 acres)
- 75% of Louisiana's population and 60% of Louisiana's agricultural land is protected by flood control systems
- 379,840 flood insurance policies statewide
- 509,959 structures in the floodplain
- 180,322 flood losses since 1978
- \$15.8 million reduction in flood insurance premiums

DOTD represents the State in all cooperative matters with the US Army Corps of Engineers pertaining to water development planning and management activities, such as flood control, navigation, hurricane protection, drainage, floodplain management and dam safety. Last year, \$65 million was authorized through the capitol outlay program for use as matching funds on seven projects totaling over \$1.6 billion.

In 1988 the Louisiana Legislature designated the DOTD as the coordinating state agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). DOTD staff function as the liaison between the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) and local communities, encouraging the availability of low-cost flood insurance and minimizing losses caused by flooding. Through the assistance of DOTD over 80% of Louisiana's flood insurance policyholders save over \$15.8 million in insurance premiums annually.

DOTD's Floodplain Management Program staff also provide Post-Disaster assistance and support to communities. After a Presidentially Declared Disaster, staff personnel travel the state - visiting, meeting and assisting Parish Officials and Community Floodplain Administrators. They continue to assist communities on a daily basis providing floodplain management guidance and disaster mitigation and are dedicated to the goal of flood loss reduction.

In January 2004, Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 to fund mitigation activities for individual repetitive loss properties. The Louisiana NFIP State Coordinator was one of twelve NFIP State Coordinators nationwide selected to participate on the national team to develop procedures for the distribution of \$40 million annually for the next five years.

Flood Control Highlight

New I-10 Pump Station in New Orleans

In June 2004, DOTD celebrated the opening of a new Pump Station on I-10 in New Orleans. The opening was planned to coincide with the beginning of Hurricane Season.

The new pump is capable of pumping up to 390,000 gallons per minute and is designed to drain flood water from the lowest spot on the I-10 evacuation route, at the Southern Railroad Underpass, an area that dips 14 feet below sea level.

The project consisted of construction of the new 60 foot-tall pump station, the widening of I-10 from the Southern Railroad Underpass to Tulane Avenue, the installation of new drainage at the Underpass and Metairie Road, and the addition of soundwalls. The roadway work was completed in April of 2004. The pump station became functionally operational as of June 1, 2004 and was completed in August 2004.

James Construction Group, of Kenner, was the contractor for the project. The DOTD Project Engineer was Larry Langenstein.



Atchafalaya Welcome Center

On June 18, 2004, DOTD, along with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT), hosted the grand opening of Louisiana's newest tourist information facility, the Atchafalaya Welcome Center.

The new center, located in St. Martin Parish at the I-10/ Butte La Rose exit, was funded by DNR's Atchafalaya Basin Program and DOTD.

CRT staffs, operates, and maintains the facility while DOTD maintains the surrounding grounds. It operates seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is expected to attract over 1,000 visitors a day. The public restrooms are connected to the center by a covered walk and are accessible 24 hours a day.

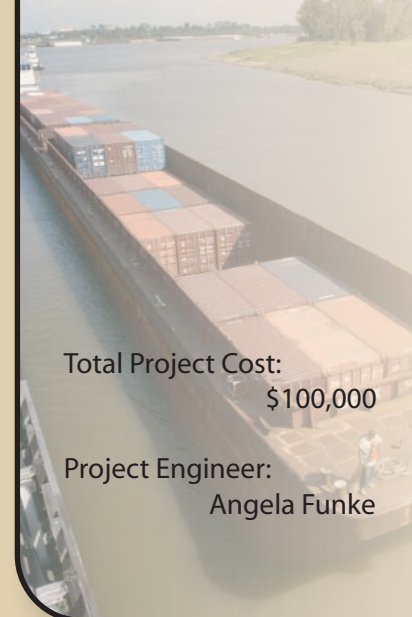
The 5,856 square foot facility, designed by architects John J. Capdevielle and Stephen C. Losavio, also serves as a cultural history museum. It includes three main exhibit areas that symbolize the water levels in the Atchafalaya Basin throughout the year, as well as animatronics and a video presentation featuring unique photography of the Atchafalaya Basin. Here, visitors can enjoy museum-quality exhibits that focus on the Basin swamp, South Louisiana culture and tourist attractions all across the state.



Project Cost:
\$5.5 million

Project Contractor:
Arrighi Simoneaux, LLC

Containers on Barges



Through the Ports Construction and Development Priority Program, DOTD provided money and guidance to the Port of Greater Baton Rouge for the completion of a 10-acre container marshalling and storage yard at the Inland Rivers Marine Terminal. This project is part of the port's intermodal facility built specifically to handle containers-on-barge. The marshalling and storage yard is used primarily to transport polyolefins produced at the Dow Chemical Company facility in Plaquemine, Louisiana. Empty and loaded containers are then transported by barge to marine dockside container terminal facilities at the Ports of New Orleans and Houston and loaded onto ocean-going vessels for export.

Total Project Cost:
\$100,000

Project Engineer:
Angela Funke

Efficiency, as well as an alternative mode to truck transportation, was cited as one of the major advantages of this container-on-barge terminal. Using this mode of transportation, containers can be loaded with 15% more cargo than if moved on highways due to highway weight restrictions. Moving cargo on water is also expected to reduce highway congestion and ozone levels.

Construction contracts totaled \$8.1 million with \$4.6 million from the Port Construction and Development Priority Program (DOTD) and the remainder from Louisiana