



St. Mary Levee District

Michael Brocato, Jr.
Executive Director

August 19, 2026



Mission

The mission of the **St. Mary Levee District** is to protect the people and Property of **St. Mary Parish** from flooding threats posed by riverine waters and hurricane storm surges. The district works to strengthen regional resilience through coordinated flood protection, proactive planning, and responsible stewardship of critical infrastructure.



Background

Established in 2007, the **St. Mary Levee District** was created to unify flood protection efforts across the parish. Prior to its formation, flood control responsibilities were divided among four local sponsors:

- Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
- St. Mary Parish Government
- Town of Berwick
- City of Morgan City

By bringing these entities under one coordinated voice, the district enhances efficiency, improves emergency response, and ensures consistent, parish-wide protection from both river and coastal flooding hazards.

3 Major Watersheds

Completed Projects

BAYOU CHEN



BA



YOKELY LEVEE EXTENSION



YELLOW BAYOU FLOODGATE & PUMP STATION



Bayou Chene Flood Protection Structure

The **Bayou Chene Flood Protection Structure** was developed to prevent flooding in multiple Louisiana parishes caused by high water events in the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya Basin. The project evolved from temporary emergency measures in 2011, 2016, and 2019 into a **permanent flood protection structure** funded through **GOMESA** and an **EDA grant** for the St. Mary Levee District. Completed in **April 2024** for approximately **\$66.5 million**, the project includes a steel receiving structure with a **403-foot clear opening**, a large **steel swing barge gate**, braced **steel sheetpile floodwalls**, raised roadways, sheetpile floodwalls to **Elevation 10.0 feet**, and earthen levees extending Avoca Road to Tabor Canal, all designed to **stop backwater flooding**.



Bayou Teche Flood Control Structure

The **Bayou Teche Flood Protection Structure** was constructed to close the final gap in St. Mary Parish's regional flood protection system and reduce flooding risks for the City of Franklin and surrounding unincorporated areas. Completed in February 2021 for approximately **\$11.7 million**, the project was funded through a combination of **SMLD matching funds** and the **LaDOTD Statewide Flood Control Program**. The project includes an **84-foot by 40-foot steel floodgate**, a **7-foot-high floodwall**, braced steel sheet-pile floodwalls, an access road, and levee improvements to **Elevation 12.0 feet**. Designed to withstand a **25-year rainfall event** and a **10-foot storm surge**, the structure complements previously completed flood control projects and provides a fully integrated system that enhances long-term community resilience and flood protection throughout the region.



Franklin Canal Flood Protection System

The **Franklin Canal Flood Protection System & Pump Station** project provides critical flood protection in Franklin and along U.S. Highway 90 (an evacuation route) by addressing **storm surge** and reverse flow issues in the Franklin Canal. Completed in October 2015 for approximately **\$6.1 million**, the project was funded through the **Louisiana Community Development Block Grant program**. The project included the construction of approximately 700 feet of earthen levee, a 46-foot by 24-foot steel swing barge floodgate with associated **floodwalls**, and a **four-bay drainage pump station**. These features were designed to **reduce flood risk** while **maintaining drainage capabilities** during high-water events.



Yellow Bayou & Hanson Canal Floodgates, Pump Station & Levee Upgrades

The **Yellow Bayou and Hanson Canal Floodgates, Pump Station and Levee Upgrades** project in St. Mary Parish aimed to **prevent levee overtopping** and storm surge flooding affecting US Hwy. 90, residential, and agricultural areas south of Franklin and Centerville. Yellow Bayou, a partly natural and man-made canal, and Hanson Canal, a man-made channel, both historically allowed storm surges from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to inundate surrounding lands, notably during Hurricane Ike when saltwater flooding impacted farmland and infrastructure, leading to levee breaches and prolonged water retention in fields. Completed in **February 2016** for approximately **\$6.4 million**, the project was funded through the **Louisiana Community Development Block Grant program**.



Yokely Levee Extension

The **Yokely Levee Extension** ties into the far West end of the federal Yokely Levee along the Charenton Canal. It consists of earthen levee and removable floodwall in the 2 ships yards on the canal. This allows for day-to-day access to the water with the ability to protect during storm surge events. Completed in September **2022** for approximately **\$4.5 million**, the project was funded through **GOMESA**.



Projects In Construction and Under Design



TE-168 Pump Station Rehab Project



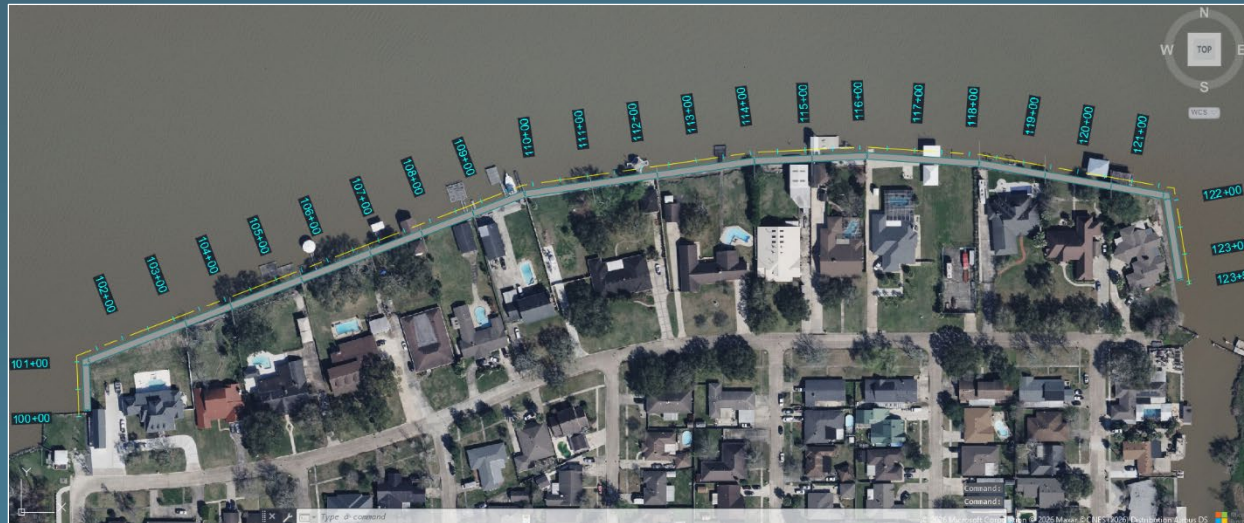
During Hurricane Francine, hundreds of homes in Morgan City were inundated due to insufficient pumping capacity in the city. With the help of CPRA and utilizing GOMESA funds, 3 pump station rehabs, 2 weirs and one inlet enlargement are being completed.



Morgan City – Lakeside Flood Protection Project (Priority 1)

The northern section of the Morgan City Backwater Levee System along the Lakeside Subdivision is one of the final levee reaches needed to complete the city's flood protection system. Project components will consist of approximately 2,465 linear feet of flood protection utilizing deployable floodwall barriers along the Lakefront bulkhead, along with sheet pile walls to tie into the Justa St. Levee/I-wall to the west and the Siracusaville Levee to the East.

Estimated Cost: \$30M



Franklin – Bayou Teche Culverts (Priority 1)

The potential Bayou Teche Culverts project is located immediately upstream of the Hanson Canal Flood Control Structure (Exhibit V-II) and aims to connect Bayou Teche to the Franklin and Centerville pump stations through the installation of culverts through the Teche Ridge Franklin and Centerville levee segments. These culverts would allow for Bayou Teche to be pumped down prior to a storm / rainfall event and/or allow for water to drain out of Bayou Teche into uninhabited storage areas located to the immediate west and east of the Hanson Canal Flood Control Structure.

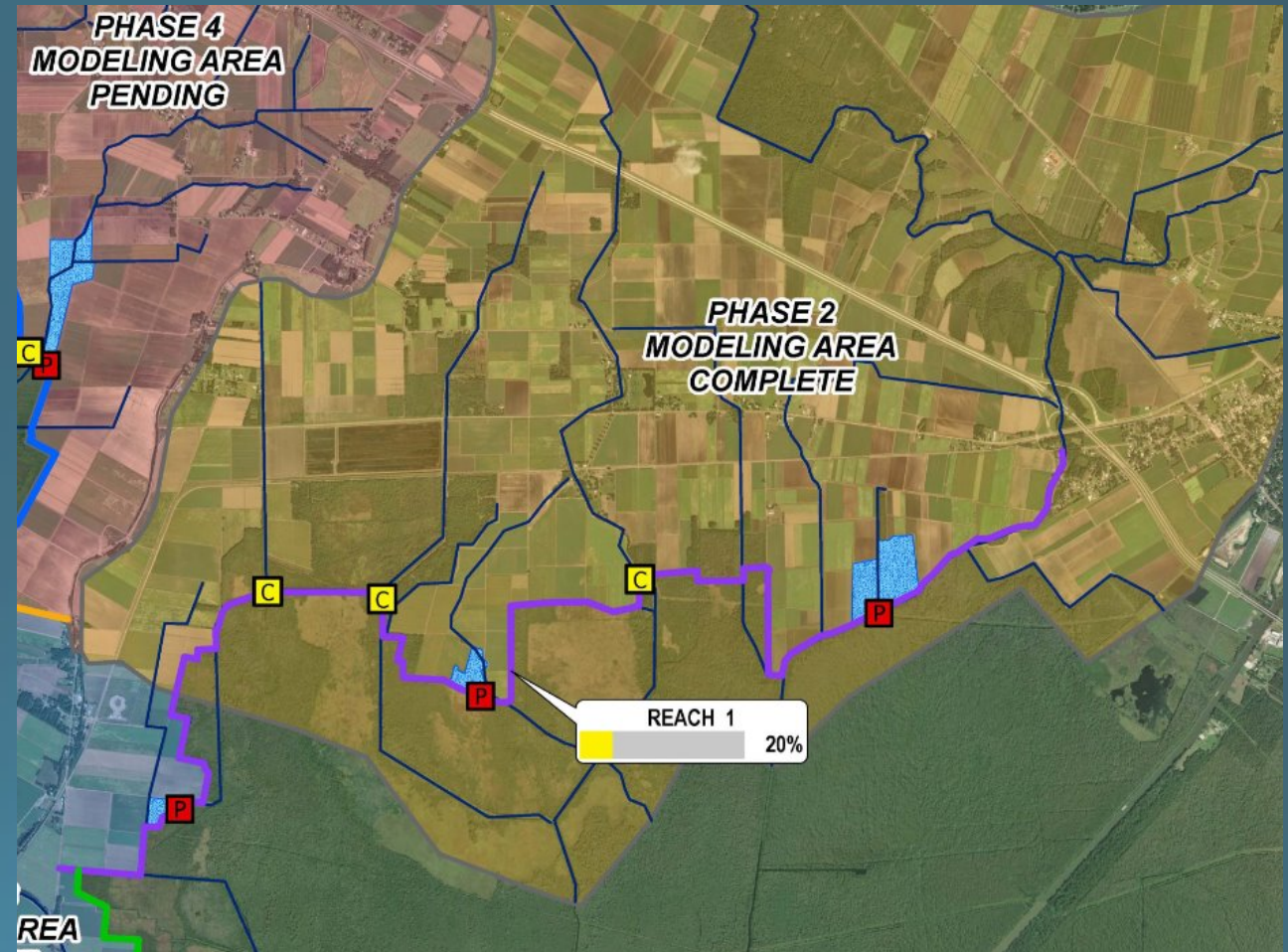
Estimated Cost: \$1.8M



Vacherie Levee (Priority 2)

The Vacherie Levee project (Reach 1) is anticipated to include approximately 10.3 miles of earthen levee, two (2) closure structures, four (4) sluice gates, two (2) to three (3) detention ponds, and two (2) to three (3) pump stations with accompanying flap gates.

Estimated Cost: \$58M



Levees Extending Westward of Vacherie Levee to Parish Line (Priority 2)

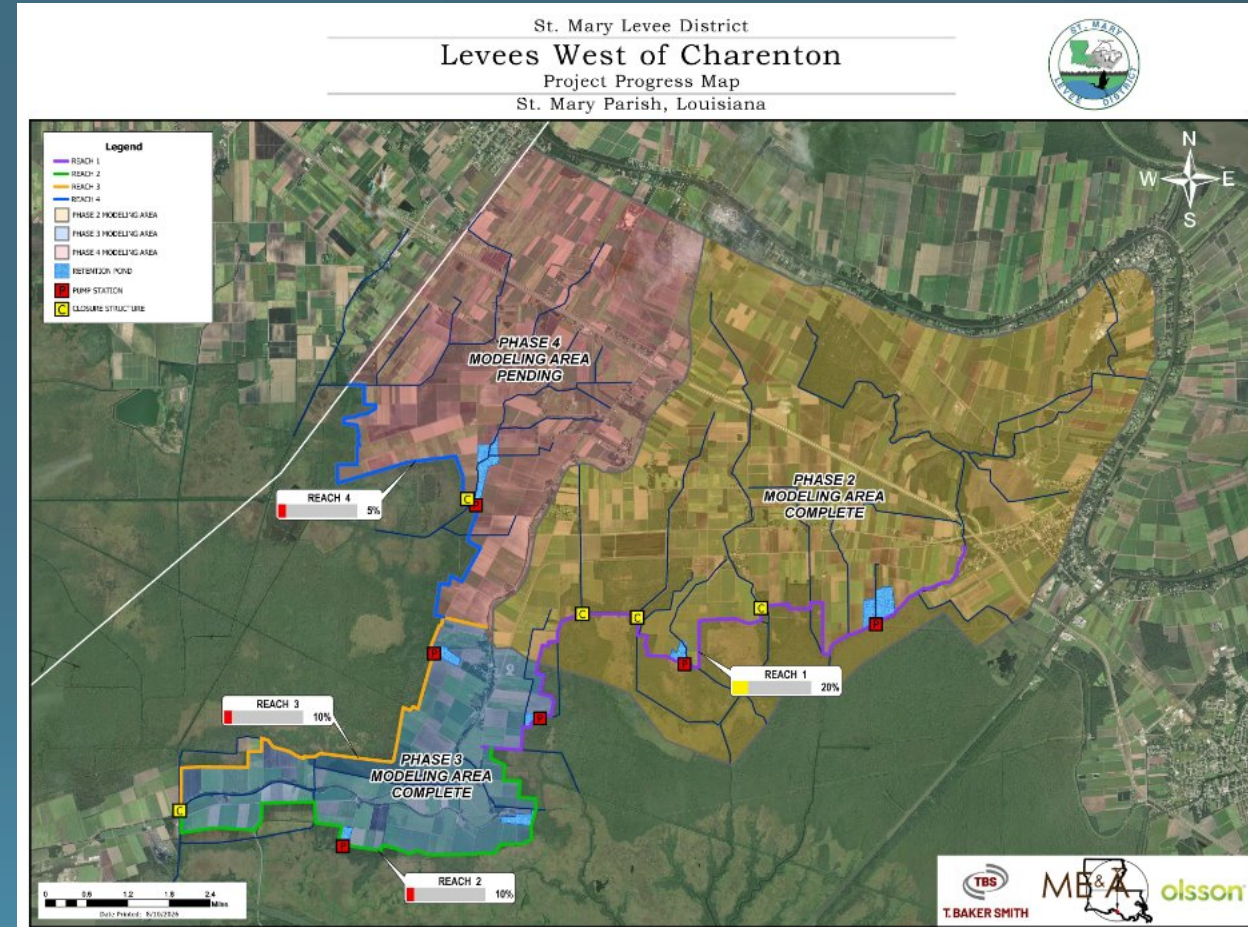
Similar to the proposed Vacherie Levee segment, other levee segments / reaches westward of the Charenton Canal are being explored, in part, through the planning being performed through the West of Charenton Canal Study. These levee segments are to extend westward of the Vacherie Levee until reaching the Parish line separating Iberia and St. Mary Parishes.

Estimated Cost:

Glencoe (Reach 2): \$39.8M

Ivanhoe (Reach 30): \$33.2M

Delahoussaye Canal & St. Mary Canal (Reach 4): \$44.8M



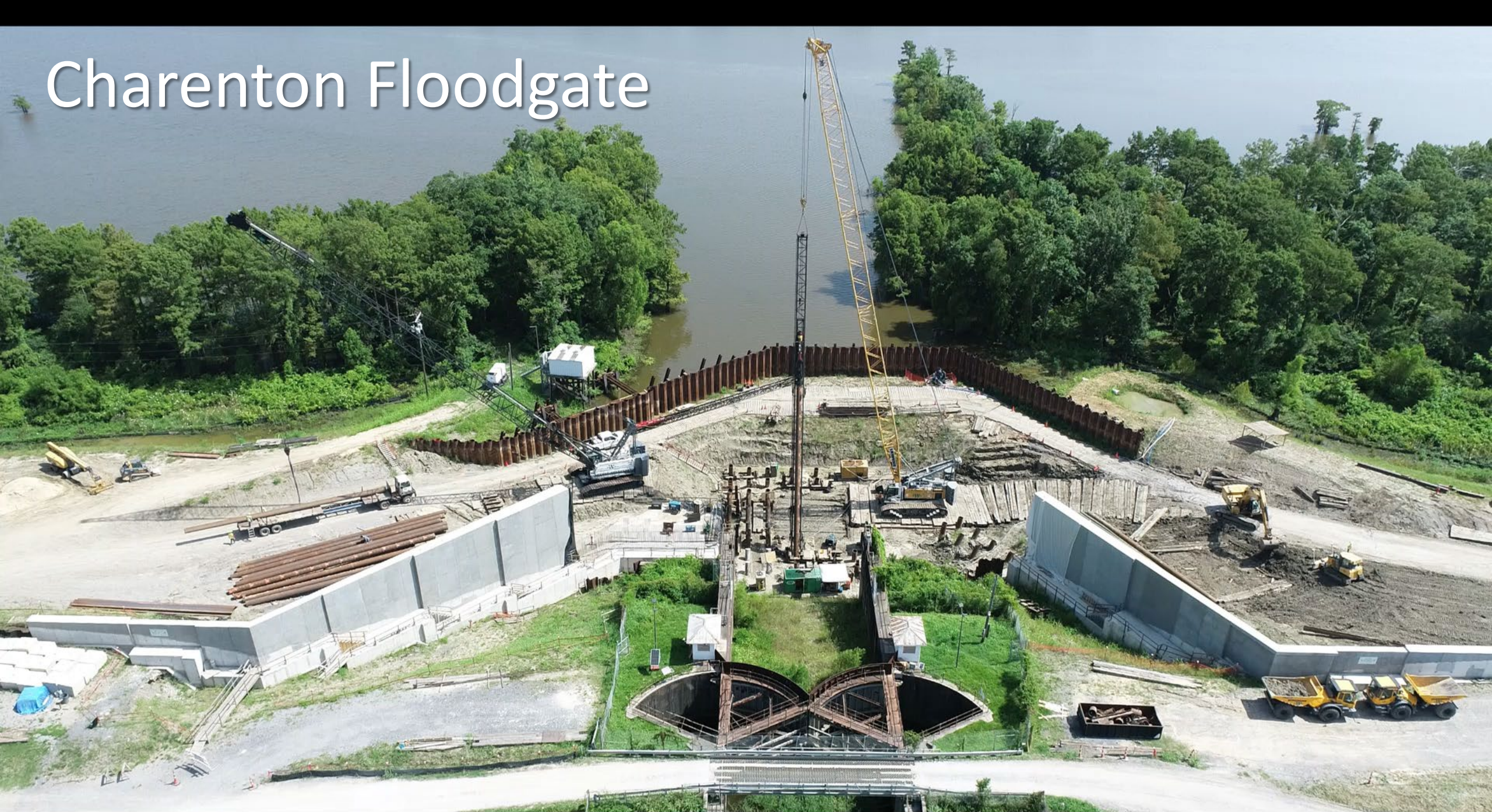
Morgan City – Young Road Levee (Priority 2)

The Youngs Road Levee project is the final piece to create a ring levee around Morgan City. This 0.4 mile earthen, sheet pile, and gated levee system will provide protection by tying in the federal levee along Bayou Shaffer / the Bayou Boeuf lock system to the elevated railroad landform that runs alongside Railroad Avenue.

Estimated Cost: \$2.8M



Charenton Floodgate





Questions / Comments
www.smld.org