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## **City of Gulfport Receives MDEQ Permits for the Interconnecting Gulfport Road Project**

**GULFPORT, Miss.** – The City of Gulfport continues to advance the 2019 Build Grant – Interconnecting Gulfport Road Project, a federally funded transportation and public safety initiative approved for funding in 2019. On Tuesday, May 12, 2026, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) permit board approved two permits, the Large Construction Notice of Intent and the 401 Water Quality Certifications, a pivotal step in this transformational project.

The Interconnecting Gulfport Road Project is designed to provide a secondary ingress and egress route serving the Premium Outlet Mall area while improving emergency response access for fire, medical, and law enforcement personnel. The roadway will also serve as a critical emergency evacuation corridor, providing an additional route for residents to safely exit the area during hurricane events and other declared emergencies which is a priority need for Gulfport residents who have lived through the realities of Gulf Coast hurricane seasons. Additionally, the roadway will create a supplemental transportation option on the west side of Highway 49, helping to address ongoing traffic concerns along Highway 49 between Airport Road and Landon Road through the construction of an Interstate 10 crossing that reconnects to Daniel Boulevard. This would mirror the access currently provided by Three Rivers Road on the east side of the Highway 49 corridor.

The current estimated project cost is approximately \$48.5 million, and nearly \$20 million of this consists of grant funding active through September 30, 2027.

While there is no specific development currently planned as a direct result of this roadway project, any such development in the future would remain subject to all applicable local, state, and federal permitting and regulatory requirements. The project will connect Highway 49 at Airport Road to Creosote Road and to Highway 49 at Landon Road by way of Daniel Boulevard and ultimately to Canal Road north of Interstate 10.

As part of the lengthy engineering and environmental review process, professional engineers and technical experts conducted extensive drainage, stormwater, and environmental studies with respect to this project, all of which also went into its design. The current design incorporates a wet detention pond to manage any flooding that could possibly occur as a result of worst-case scenario or historic type excessive storm / rainfall associated with this road project and to handle and mitigate such an event in the surrounding area. Due to the redesign and enlargement of this wet detention area, the estimated wetland impacts have increased from approximately 66 acres to 98.3 acres. The City's



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engineering analyses show the project will actually significantly improve overall existing stormwater management in the area while also significantly reducing flooding risks. This is definitely a win-win for the public in addition to relieving traffic congestion, providing a vital north-south connector over the interstate, and improving public safety and enhancing much-needed public access routes.

As part of the continuing regulatory phase on the project, the City will move forward with its application for the wetlands permitting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Interconnecting Gulfport Road Project has been fully designed. Approximately \$3 million has been expended on the project to date. The City looks forward to delivering these critical infrastructure improvements for the residents of Gulfport and the surrounding region.

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