

ROADSTER



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“Paving the Way”

Heavy Rains Wreak Havoc In Some Parishes



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NWA's Staff Social 2016 - Highlights



The National Works Agency's End of Year Function 2016 featured a Rewards and Recognition Ceremony. Presentations were made to several staff members. Categories included the CEO Award, Employee of the Year, Employee of the 4th Quarter and Retiree Recognition.

The Employees who were awarded are from left to right, top row:

Office Attendant, Donna Benjamin, Employee of the Year; Driver, Mr. Michael Richards, Employee of the 4th Quarter-Corporate Office; Parish Manager, Douglas Moodie, and Assistant Parish Manager, South East Region, Rohan Robinson, ; Assistant Parish Manager, Mr. Rayondo McBean, South Region; Assistant Parish Manager, Mr. Richard Lunan, North East Region; Part-time Cleaner, Greetel Freebourne, North-East Region, CEO Award; Service Technician, Marlon Campbell, 4th Quarter Nominee - Corporate Office.



From left: Driver/Operator, Errol Jones 15 years of service; Parish Manager, Douglas Moodie, 15 years of service; Flood Control Officer, Leslie White, 15 years; Parish Manager, Norris Richards, 15 years of service; Senior Clerk of Works, Gordon Spence, 15 years of service.

Absent were Senior Communication Officer, Colin Morrison, 14.5 years; Assistant Parish Manager, Lenford Lowers, 15 years; Administrative Assistant, Ionie Budram, 15 years; Senior Finance Officer, Sonia Wilson-Stewart, 15 years.



Registration team from left: Miguel Campbell, Audrey Jones, Ashiba Spence-Glaves and Monique Brown



Comedian, Dalton Shepard (holding mic) engaged Senior Accounting Officer, Wayne McTavish with a question about the Agency

An October to Remember

October 2016 was an October like no other in recent memory. First, there was to be a massive weather system in the form Hurricane Matthew bearing down on the island on or about October 1. This however, did not happen and the island was spared major damage, the like of which we had not had since 2008, when Tropical Storm Gustav left many communities inaccessible. Well, that was the thought until later in the month, when sections of the eastern part of the island seemed to have come under relentless attack from rain bombs, as roads became severed, trees and light-poles toppled and at least one community being inaccessible for over a week.

Between October 20 and 28, the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Andrew, Kingston, St. Catherine, St. Ann, St. Mary, Portland, Trelawny and St. James were all impacted by heavy rainfall. At the end of the period, the damage done was estimated at just under \$600 – million.

Among the communities that were badly affected were Rosemount, Chovey, Camberwell and Georges Hope in St. Mary. Communities in the Rio Grande Valley, to include Seamans Valley, Moore Town, Ginger House and Alligator Church were all left with silt and debris in many areas. The troubles in these communities, however, pale to that of the district of Bellevue, which was inaccessible for more than a week. Not only was there heavy siltation, but entire mountain sides came down onto the corridor, streams flowed where vehicles once travelled and trees stood in areas where people, including children, once played. The government through the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) had to airlift food into the community. The lone school in the area had its doors closed for two weeks, while children who attended institutions in other sections of the parish, and who were brave enough, had to walk miles to catch a taxi.



Agualta Vale - Martins, St. Mary



Evondale - Iteboreale, St. Mary



Water Valley - Islington, St. Mary

Barbican Road Improvement Project and Compulsory Acquisition



Work being carried out along Barbican Road. Boundary walls are being replaced in order to facilitate the planned widening

The community of Barbican forms part of what is referred to as the “Golden Triangle.” Situated in the lush environs of the St Andrew plateau, the community, has over the years, seen major developments leading to an increase in residential occupation, which in turn has led to more vehicular traffic. This increase in traffic has resulted in severe congestion, which then triggers the loss of critical production hours for many commuters.

Barbican Road is the main artery in the road network in this area. Commuters travelling from areas such as Russel Heights, Graham Heights and Jacks Hill use this corridor to connect with all other arterial roads. This sometimes results in major traffic pile up and severe challenges for commuters on this single lane roadway. It is against this background that the NWA is embarking on a project to improve a key section of Barbican Road.

The Barbican Road Improvement Project will see the corridor being improved from the current two lanes to a four lane carriageway with a median.

This project, like many others, comes at considerable cost, as there are many factors to be addressed. One critical factor is the acquisition of property to facilitate the construction of the additional lanes. The usual practice is to identify the area of take and then negotiate with the land owner as to price. This is usually quite straight forward. The challenge often comes where there is a refusal to sell, or to settle on the price for the property.

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Heavy rains left many residents marooned in St. Ann

For many residents of St. Ann, Saturday, December 10, 2016 was a normal day. Some sections of the parish had overcast skies, others had a little rain, while there was sunshine in many places, enough for locals and visitors to enjoy the beach. So it was, to many, a big surprise when only a few hours later on December 11, nature unleashed its fury, leaving some persons completely marooned, others scampering to save personal belongings, while some had to be rescued from motor vehicles that had become submerged in floodwaters.

Residents from communities such as Runaway Bay, Dumbarton, Discovery Bay, among others, were all significantly impacted. In fact,

due to the flooding of a section of the North-coast Highway, the impact of nature's ferocity was felt by many others, including visitors who were either on their way to the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, or were just arriving into the island to enjoy the hospitality of Ocho Rios.



Assistant Parish Manager for St. Ann, Omari Whilby surveys the damage at Dumbarton in the parish. The road was cut in two, after a bridge collapsed during the heavy rain.

The impact of several hours of heavy rain resulted in sink holes being clogged, waterways overflowing, trees toppling over, powerlines buckling and one bridge structure collapsing. Even the police who usually run to the rescue of citizens, were, themselves, looking for same, as the Runaway Bay Station was not spared. Flood waters covered several motor vehicles on the compound and threatened to wash through the station building which luckily sits at a higher elevation.

The NWA's parish team had to spring into action even as it rained to get several critical drains reopened. Resources were diverted from elsewhere in the parish in order to have normalcy restored to the areas. Priority was given to having the blocked section of the North-coast Highway re-opened. This was done within a couple hours of the rains subsiding. Then, the team had to ensure that traffic was once again able to use the corridors that were affected by downed trees, power lines and heavy siltation. This was accomplished in record time; however, there was a major issue: The Dumbarton road could not be re-opened as the floodwaters had ensured that the bridge that links this major road leading from Browns Town to Discovery Bay was severed.

Following a report from the parish team, a high level technical team, headed by Director of Technical Services, Roger Smith, went to the parish. The charge was to have a design completed for a new bridge to be constructed in the area, along with limited amount of river training works. The design, when completed, will provide an indicative cost for the project.

In the meantime, leading up to the Christmas holidays, the parish team carried out drain cleaning and mitigation works in several areas that were impacted by the downpour. This included the main gully leading into the Runaway Bay area.

One resident who claims to have lived in the Runaway Bay area for over 40 years told the Roadster that though some persons were surprised by the flooding, he was not. He explained that since October 2016, it rained in that section of the parish daily and that sink holes that usually take the storm-water were filled. He said his theory was grounded in the fact that he had not seen so much rainfall over this period in all his adult life.

Mandela Highway Widening and Realignment Project: A Journey in More Ways than One.

Work along the Mandela Highway is progressing steadily and for the most part, reviews from the public have been mixed. That is obvious to all discerning road users. What is not that obvious though, to many persons, is the approach being used to construct a significant section of the road. A relatively new methodology, which is referred to as deep pile foundation is being used on the project.

The piling technique (drill piles) that is being used along the Mandela Highway involves the injection of cement into holes drilled deep beyond topsoil and the loose subsoil to a firm strata capable of bearing the loads that the road's foundation is expected to carry.

This type of pile foundation is used when suitable foundation conditions are not present at or near ground level. This is the case along sections of the Mandela Highway where there is a high water table, especially in the swampy areas, and which may subject the subsoil to movement or failure.

The widening of the Mandela Highway is a critical undertaking by the government. The roadway is occupied by some 65,000 vehicles on a daily basis. The road links every section of the island east to west, east to north, east to south. The widening project seeks to alleviate the traffic and flooding problems that have long become features of the thoroughfare.

As per the design, the Mandela Highway will be raised above the flood level, which should remedy the perennial problems



One of the Drills used to create holes to facilitate the deep pile foundation



Graded material being used to fill and heighten a section of new roadway



A section of the abutment of the new Fresh River Bridge

Mandela Highway Widening ... Continued from page 6

of flooding that often occur whenever there is consistent rainfall in the area. The driving lanes will be increased from four (4) lanes to six (6), which is expected to improve travel times. There will also be the construction of a new bridge at Fresh River and an Overpass Bridge to take traffic and pedestrians from one side to the other, with a parallel service road that will be created to provide access / egress to persons who do business along the roadway. A box culvert will, also, be installed at Salt River (also known as Duhaney River).

As at December 2016, the project was 25% completed. Completed road works included the cutting and removal of close to 500 trees; the removal of 24,880 m² of topsoil in preparation for base works; the construction of 793 m³ of rubble concrete wall; 32,087 metres of cement mixing pile foundation and 50,000 m³ of subgrade fill. At the Fresh River Bridge location all pile foundations have been completed, one abutment pile cap was completed while another was 50% completed. For the Overpass Bridge pile foundations are 100% completed.

Works currently underway or that is expected to be completed in January 2017 include: the dredging and filling of 5,000 m² of roadway; 7,000 metres of cement mixing piles; 9,000 m³ of sub-grade fill and some concrete works at the box culvert. Also, at the Fresh River Bridge works are underway on the remaining abutment pile cap as well as on the abutment bearing platform and the pier pile cap. Pile foundations continue at the overpass bridge.

Barbican Road Improvement ... Continued from page 4

The response of the NWA and the government is usually done through the Land Acquisition Act. This critical piece of legislation indicates that land may be acquired for a public purpose, such as the construction of a road. The Act outlines the conditions and procedures that must be followed for the proper acquisition of property.

The authority to acquire all land required by the government for public purposes vests in the Commissioner of Lands. The Commissioner has the power to acquire land by:

- Private treaty; or
- Compulsory acquisition after a Declaration is published in the Gazette giving notice of the intent to acquire the land

There are other pieces of legislation that permit the compulsory acquisition of property. These include the:-

1. Main Roads Act;
2. Telecommunications Act;
3. Forestry Act;
4. Land Utilization and Development Act;
5. Civil Aviation Act;
6. Natural Resources and Conservation Act; and
7. National Water Commission Act

In the past, land has been acquired for the purposes of irrigation, the building of schools, the construction of inner city housing, and of course the construction of roadways.

In many instances the property is acquired by private treaty, but when this fails the land has to be acquired through compulsory acquisition. When this procedure is applied

then all necessary steps must be followed due to the legal ramification associated with the transaction.

When it is certain that the land is to be used a declaration of intent has to be made by the Minister and a notice under section 5 of the Act is drafted. The section 5 Notice is then forwarded to the relevant Minister responsible for lands for signing. The signed section 5 Notice is forwarded to the Government Printing Office for publishing otherwise called "gazetting". Once published in the Gazette, a copy of the Notice is usually served on the owner of the property.

The Barbican Road Improvement Project is one of many projects over the years for which land acquisition is a major deliverable. It is expected that the NWA will spend some \$300-Million on this item. The capital investment is justified by the Return on Investment (ROI) over the long term. The efficient safe and timely movement of traffic is the major benefit from the capital injection.

The acquisition of lands for project development can be seen as the first phase in the road construction process. The Barbican Road Improvement Project is now at this stage. This phase is being done in tandem with the construction of boundary walls which represent the limits of the project.

When all the acquisition issues have been dealt with, the corridor between the intersections of Russell Heights and Jacks Hill Road will be widened. The Barbican Road and East Kings House Road intersection will be realigned to form a major T- junction. This Junction will be signalized as will the intersection of Bird Sucker Lane and Barbican Road.

Plans Now in the Pipeline for Bypass Road for Montego Bay, St. James

The Government of Jamaica in June 2016 announced that priority was being given to plans to construct a \$200 million dollar Bypass for the city of Montego Bay. This announcement was welcomed by residents and other stakeholders who had long lobbied for a bypass roadway for this the bustling city centre.

It has been proposed that the bypass would commence in the vicinity of the Ironshore community, located some 4 kilometres from the Sangster's International Airport and end in the vicinity of the Fairfield roadway.



Sam Sharpe Square, Montego Bay, St. James.

The resort city of Montego Bay is plagued by traffic congestion. The situation has worsened overtime, despite interventions such as the signalization of the roadways in the city centre and the widening of corridors such as the Bogue and Rosehall roadways. These interventions have achieved good results; however the traffic volumes have increased exponentially, creating a virtual gridlock in the city, especially when it rains. In recent times, the congestion which was normally associated with morning and afternoon peak hours has now extended to various hours throughout the day. This has taken away from the productivity of the city which is the hub of business activities for not only residents and business operators, but for countless others who work, attend school and conduct business in the city.

Plans for the Bypass are now in the preliminary stages. Recently, the government conducted a comprehensive survey in the resort town. The study was conducted at several points in and around the city. This survey was conducted in November 2016 and involved electronic traffic counts and interviews with motorists to determine their travel patterns. This data collected from the survey is currently being evaluated and will be used to inform the decision making process for the much anticipated Bypass.

The Surveys were executed by the National Road Operating and Construction Company (NROCC), Stanley Consultants Incorporated and the National Works Agency with the support of police personnel.



A motorist being interviewed as part of the data collection exercise for design and construction of a Bypass for the city of Montego Bay.

Opening Soon...New Kupius Bridge



A section of the newly completed Kupius Bridge

The new Kupius Bridge is to be opened soon to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The bridge which is one of twenty seven to be constructed under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP) was 98% complete at the end of December 2016.

The project agreement for the construction of Kupius Bridge was signed on December 16, 2015 in a negotiated amount of US\$5,537,200.87 between Ministry of Transport, Works & Housing and China Harbour Engineering Company Limited the Main Contractor.

The scope of works comprised the construction of a two span 67 meters long pre-stressed concrete bridge on reinforced concrete bored piles and abutments, 12.51 meters wide to accommodate two (2) lanes of traffic and two (2) sidewalks. The project started on January 11, 2016 and is to be completed by the end of March 2017.

Senior Director, Project Implementation at the National Works Agency (NWA), Earl Patterson said that the multi-million dollar project was on schedule and will be completed ahead of the 14 month timetable. Among the list of things that have already been completed are the construction of the abutments, the launching of the girders and the approach roads. Though not yet officially open, the new structure can accommodate motor vehicles.

Contractors, China Harbour Engineering Company Limited recently hosted a social for the residents and employees on the project. The residents who stand to benefit from the new structure told the ROADSTER that they were delighted at having the bridge completed as the soon to be retired bridge was over 100 years old and therefore unreliable.

The bridge is located along one the country's main North/South links – May Pen to Discovery Bay. The corridor facilitates thousands of persons who live in Northern Clarendon, sections of St. Ann, St. Catherine and Trelawny.

Multi-Million Dollar Upgrade of the Sign to Virgin Valley Roadway

Several residents who traverse the Sign to Virgin Valley roadway in St. James will soon receive a well needed reprieve from the poor road conditions which they have been experiencing. This as the National Works Agency (NWA) is currently undertaking a \$26 million dollar effort aimed at improving the worst sections of the roadway which is located in the rural climbs of East Central St. James.

This corridor has been a source of angst for the thousands of residents who traverse it daily. The roadway is of critical importance as it is the main arterial link to the city of Montego Bay for communities such as Lottery, Guilsbro, Blackshop, Latium and Mount. Industry. For these residents the commute was not a pleasant one, as the heavily rutted road surface made for a rather bumpy ride.

When the Roadster visited the community recently, many residents complained of how difficult it was to secure public transportation, as many bus operators either withdrew their services or refused to venture beyond certain points, especially at nights. This left many residents with no other option than to complete their commute by foot, which for some meant walking for several miles. "Lord mi walk till mi foot bottom cry," recounted Pansy Gray a resident of Lottery. "The road a come little now, and mi can wait till it finish," Ms Gray added.

The project which got underway in December 2016, targets the Pearline Stream to Guilsbro section of the corridor. It involves bushing of verges and the trimming of overhanging trees, scarifying and reshaping the roadway, and the patching and local rehabilitation of sections of the roadway.

The project which is expected to be completed before the end of February 2017 is being executed by one of the NWA's Force Account Teams, with funding made available from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF). This project serves as an intermediary intervention, aimed at alleviating the poor road conditions until a major project, which is planned for the corridor is finalized. This project will see the complete rehabilitation of the Sign to Virgin Valley corridor.



A section of the Sign to Valley roadway in St. James, prior to the commencement of the project.



A Motor-Grader scarifying a section of the road.

Manchester Roadways Undergo Critical Patching

Road patching is a critical and important investment in any economy. This is because it, not only, ensures easier access to our towns and communities but it also reduces transportation costs associated with the movement of people, goods and services. In November and December 2016, several roadways in Manchester benefitted from a much needed patching exercise that made movement along the main roads less challenging for many.

The project which commenced on November 4 was done under the Routine Maintenance component of the Road Rehabilitation (Manchester) programme funded by the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF). Under the programme, 650 square metres of roadway was patched at a cost of \$600,000. Roadways that were targeted, under the programme, include the Williamsfield to Greenvale via Mandeville roadway, Newleigh Road and Mandeville to Rudd's Corner. The job was completed by November 14, 2016.



Patching along Mandeville to Rudd's Corner

Several communities in Manchester were impacted by this project, such as Royal Flats, Bellfield and Mandeville as, with the improved surface, residents can now travel much quicker to their destinations.

The programme was continued in December 2016, and under this phase Williamsfield to Whitney Turn, Greenvale to Spur Tree and Mandeville to Mark Post were patched. This segment of the project started on December 12 and was completed by December 15, 2016. The task was completed by the NWA Force Account work team costing approximately two million dollars. This time, 737 square metres of material was used to provide better road conditions for motorists, resulting in less wear and tear on their vehicles. Motorists traversing New Green, Mandeville and Porus benefitted directly from this phase of the works.



Patching along Whitney Turn to Williamsfield



Williamsfield to Greenvale

Richard Lunan: Humble, Talented and Exemplary Assistant Parish Manager

It is said that "first impressions last" but with Richard Lunan this is not the case. In his case, what easily comes to mind is "silent river runs deep". This is because this man is in no way defined by his apparent personality traits but embodies a work ethic that can only be described as "exemplary".

Richard Lunan, due to his soft spoken and unassuming persona, many persons, when they first meet him, might believe that he is reticent. Far be it from the fact, though, as this man, when it comes to his work, is committed, organized and decisive. Tucked away, as a National Works Agency's (NWA) Assistant Parish Manager in the sleepy parish of Portland, Richard can easily be overlooked but his attitude to his work as an Assistant Parish Manager cannot be ignored. This is an individual who, when he is assigned a task or project, takes charge, pushes forward and executes as much as possible within his area of authority.

Born in St. Andrew in the seventies, Richard was exposed to the field of Construction from an early age. His late father, Percival, who is his role model, was a builder, among other things, and young Richard was fascinated by his work and the construction process. In his own words, Richard describes the process as the "transformation of a piece of land from rocks and vegetation into a beautiful structure". It was the appeal of creating 'something from nothing' that inspired the drive within him to enter this field.

Richard Lunan studied Construction Management at the University of Technology (UTECH) and credits his training for providing him with the skills necessary to be effective at his job. It was this training alongside skill, talent and drive that propelled him into his position as Assistant Parish Manager of the National Works Agency in 2011. Once appointed to this position, Richard set about letting his presence be felt in every aspect of his work and this dedication was noticed because he has been chosen, on more than one occasion, to act in the position of Parish Manager.

Richard takes great pride in his work and in whatever project he is a part of. He gains satisfaction from "seeing (his) work on the ground as well as seeing how these projects of the NWA impact people's lives and how they benefit Jamaica on a whole". He is especially proud of his involvement in the construction of a massive gabion wall and the implementation of proper drainage facilities at a major breakaway at West Hill in Portland. This project was a major undertaking as this roadway which links several communities, to include the maroon communities of Moore Town and Cornwall Barracks, to Port Antonio was one which continued to break away as a result of unstable subsoil conditions. He remembers the project as being fraught with "obstacles and challenges during the construction phase" but despite all these, "the designed solution was implemented and is still standing" to date.

Richard was recently named "Employee of the 4th Quarter, 2016" for the northeastern region, comprised of Portland, St. Mary and St. Ann. His nomination was as a result of his unwavering commitment to his work; his calm and take charge attitude and his pattern of going beyond the call of duty to ensure that the job is done. In his citation for this award, the following was said:

"There is no doubt that this team member is talented. There is, also, no doubt that this colleague is a hard worker."



Richard Lunan displays the award he received for Employee of the 4th Quarter - Northeastern Region

These two things, working together are what truly characterises this team member."

(Citation for Richard Lunan, NWA's Employee of 4th Quarter 2016, Northeastern Region)

'Talented' and 'hardworking' truly describes Richard and he admits that there is so much more he would like to achieve. He says that he continually strives towards making a "sterling contribution to NWA", and as such he wants to gain as much knowledge, as humanly possible, in his field. He also wants to further his studies and be exposed to other areas in his chosen career.

Richard credits several persons for their advice and support during his personal and professional life: His wife and daughter who are his motivation for achieving his best so that he can give them his best. In fact he says his favourite activity is "going on family excursions" as this allows him "to spend quality time" with his family. He also credits his parents and siblings, who he says played an integral role in him becoming who he is, as well as his cousin, Carol, who he believes "contributed positively to (his) development".

At NWA, he lauds Ian Blair, who he says encouraged him to become a part of the NWA team; the KMR team, with special mention to Ms. Audrey Jones, Ms. Sherene Lester, Mr. Warren Wilson and Mr. Denton Moore; and his Portland NWA family who took him in; befriended him and can always be depended upon for their support.

Such is the humility embodied in this character but Richard is not all work and no play. His hobbies are playing volleyball and musical instruments: he plays the keyboard and bass. It is quite interesting to note, also, that he was once a member of a gospel band.

Richard says one of the best compliments he has received is that he "has a good heart", and he is all for maintaining his heart. His personal goals are to practice a healthier lifestyle; to continue to place priority on good family life; maintain a good spiritual life; and to get involved in a mentorship programme that focuses on marginalized youths.

Persons with whom Richard Lunan comes into contact often have positive things to say about him. Adjectives that are consistently used to describe him include: "quiet", "hardworking", "flexible" and "professional". A team leader, when asked, described Lunan as "cooperative, team-oriented, customer-focused and willing to go the extra mile". Another testimonial acknowledges that he is "a hardworking individual who is easy to get along with, carries out his duties in a professional manner, and someone who is a great asset to the National Works Agency".

Based on the numerous accolades coworkers are willing to give it shows that Richard Lunan is a well-respected individual. "Lunan is friendly but he is not one that you will see surrounded by a lot of persons at any one time," one coworker said. "He gets along with everyone but comes off as introverted," stated another. As it relates to his work ethic, another coworker had this to say: "He is very organized, he is dependable and he gets the job done."



Richard Lunan supervises a National Water Commission reinstatement work in front of the Norwich Primary School in Portland



Richard overseeing sidewalk construction works across from the Port Antonio High School

A relief for many, Golden Grove main road rehabilitated...

Golden Grove main road is only about one kilometre, but the level of use and the impact of the corridor, while in disrepair, was a source of major concern to many. First there was the issue of faulty waterlines that ruptured almost every week. This was fixed after the National Water Commission relayed several meters of the faulty line. Then came the dust nuisance that was always present, but exacerbated by the work of the water authority. The result was a period of agitation, even demonstration in order to bring attention to the situation in the community.

Minister with responsibility for Works in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. C. Everald Warmington met with the residents after one such protest action. The request of the eight member delegation from the community was simple: Fix this section of road.

Minister Warmington who explained the economic circumstances of the country gave an undertaking that he would approach the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF) for possible support of this project. This support was received to the tune of 33.6 – million dollars.

A community meeting followed, where it was explained by the NWA and Member of Parliament, Lisa Hanna, how the process would work. The project was subsequently tendered and after a period of robust discussions between the selected contractor and the National Works Agency, works got underway in September.

The scope of the works included site clearance; earthworks, to include the excavation of soft spots, the reinstatement of the NWC trench with suitable material; as well as drainage works. The final surface was to be Asphaltic Concrete.

At the end of December, approximately 7,000m² of Asphaltic Concrete had been put down. A critical Sink Hole which aids in the proper draining of the road had been cleaned and V-drains, along with Kerbs and Channel completed.

There is still another 300 m² of Asphaltic Concrete works to be completed, so too another 22 metres of U-drain and 50 metres of Kerb and Channel. The outstanding works aside, users of the road have been singing the praises of the NWA. "We are very happy to see what has been done. It was a big problem going through this area weekly, as the road was so bad. It made me and my friends worry when it was time to drive there," one trucker told the Roadster recently.

It is expected that the project will be completed during the first quarter of 2017.



Golden Grove during early construction works



Asphaltic Concrete being laid along the Golden Grove roadway



A section of Golden Grove after road works

Multi Million Dollar Expansion of a section of the North Gully

In an effort to increase the capacity of the North Gully, the National Works Agency (NWA) is now targeting a section of the Gully in the vicinity of the Capital Heights roadway. This is the third in a series of targeted approaches to reduce flooding in communities which run along the Gully.

This latest effort got underway in November 2016, and is now in the final stages of completion. The project involves the widening of the channel and the construction of a 12 metre long concrete channel. The first phase of this programme was completed in 2013 and saw approximately \$27 million being spent to construct a 60 metre concrete channel. While the second phase of the project, which was completed in late 2015, involved the construction of a 30 metre channel, extending from the earlier leg.

To date, the carrying capacity of the Gully has been significantly improved in the targeted areas. The project is expected to be completed in January 2017.



A section of the North Gully

SMOOTH SAILING... WELL ALMOST!

Preparations being made to put down Asphaltic Concrete along the road through the town of Chapelton, Clarendon. The township is benefitting under the billion dollar road improvement works underway between Sour Sop Turn and Chapelton.



Rehabilitation Work Progresses along the Tombstone to Gutters Main Road in St. Elizabeth

A major road rehabilitation project along the Tombstone to Gutters main road in St. Elizabeth is now well underway. The project which commenced in August 2016 is just over 70% completed.

The phase of the work between Tombstone and Santa Cruz is far advanced. In fact, vehicles have been moving along this section with relative ease as pavement works are almost completed. In the vicinity of the Park Mountain School road markings and a pedestrian crossing have been already been installed.

Within the commercial hub of Santa Cruz, the contractors are currently widening the intersection of the Santa Cruz Bypass and Main Street, in the vicinity of Manifest House. There have, however, been some delays with works within the town as an important component of the project – the installation of pipes by the National Water Commission (NWC) – is yet to be done. This setback has not hampered the rest of the works, though, as the project which is scheduled to be completed in May 2017 is more than 50% completed at just half way into the contract period.

Drainage improvement is a major part of this project, and this aspect of the work is ongoing in the section from Santa Cruz to Gutters. Most of the culverts, in this segment, are installed, and although there has been some loss of time as the contractors await the installation, by the NWC, of 6 kilometers of pipelines, in Goshen and Pepper, works are underway on the installation of a drain in the center of the town.

Although the project is incomplete, motorists and commuters, alike, are now enjoying some of the benefits of an improved roadway. Former Custos of St Elizabeth, Mr. Wilfred Nembhard, is happy with the removal of the embankment in the vicinity of Manifest House. He stated that trailers will now have easier access to the bypass than driving through the town especially on Fridays and Saturdays. The citizens are patiently awaiting the installation of the pipes so that the road can be rehabilitated in the business district and life can return to normalcy.



Paving in the vicinity of the Pepper Diary Farm



Removal of embankment at Manifest House Santa Cruz



Drain being constructed at the stoplight in Santa Cruz

Junction Boxes installed at locations across Kingston and St. Andrew



Box Junction at the Hagley Park Road, Maxfield Avenue and Eastwood Park Road intersection (file photo)

After being absent for a while, Junction Boxes have once again been installed at selected locations across Kingston and St. Andrew. The National Works Agency and the Police met just before the Christmas holiday, where discussions were held regarding the reduction of congestion at some busy intersections. Resulting from those discussions, 12 locations were selected.

The intersections where the boxes have been installed are:

- Constant Spring Road/Suthermere Road;
- Trafalgar Road/Hope Road;
- Half Way Tree/Oxford Road;
- Maxfield Avenue/Hagley Park Road;
- Hope Road/Lady Musgrave Road;
- Molyne's Road/Washington Boulevard;
- Constant Spring Road/Oliver Road;
- Constant Spring Road/South Avenue;
- Eastwood Park Road/Red Hills Road;
- Half Way Tree Road/Hope Road; and
- Knutsford Boulevard/Oxford Road

The Junction Boxes which have been painted in yellow are comprised of four continuous lines forming a box. Within the larger box are smaller boxes. Motorists have been advised that they should stop when the traffic signals are showing yellow or red and must not proceed beyond the yellow line, until the signals are showing green.

Motorists have been further advised that no vehicle shall remain stationary within the Junction Box, except for those vehicles waiting to turn right at an intersection. Failure to obey the markings can result in persons being prosecuted by the police. Senior Superintendent in charge of Traffic at the Jamaica Constabulary Force, Senior Superintendent Calvin Allen, said that motorists who refuse to obey the markings will be prosecuted, if caught. Members of the JCF have been assisting in ensuring that motorists do not block these critical intersections.

More reliable Bridges coming for thousands of residents



Concrete being poured for some of the Girders that will form a critical part of the Hellshire Bridge.

The National Works Agency (NWA), at the end of December, was at varying levels of completion of three critical structures that will mean more reliability and greater efficiency in travel for scores of residents. For one area, it will mean not having to carry two pairs of shoes or boots in order to get from home to work or vice versa.

Bridge structures are underway to the community of Hellshire, St. Catherine, at Rentcombe, also in St. Catherine and Ward River, St. Thomas. Over \$160 – million is being spent on these projects.

Hellshire is one of the larger communities that make up Portmore. It is not only home to many residents, but is also a bustling business area, especially at holiday periods. Access to the area is with the assistance of a bridge which, owing to the very hostile environmental condition of the area, failed. The community is located close to the sea and steel members of the bridge suffered from continuous exposure over the years. It was against this background that the NWA declared the structure unusable some years ago. A detour road was subsequently constructed, which was a precursor to the reconstruction of the bridge.

At the end of December, the structure, which is being constructed at a cost of \$69.4 – million, was 75% complete. Piling works have been completed. In addition, the abutments are in place and work was underway to complete the 12 beams on which the concrete deck will sit.



More concrete being poured



The Pier constructed to facilitate the launch of the new bridge

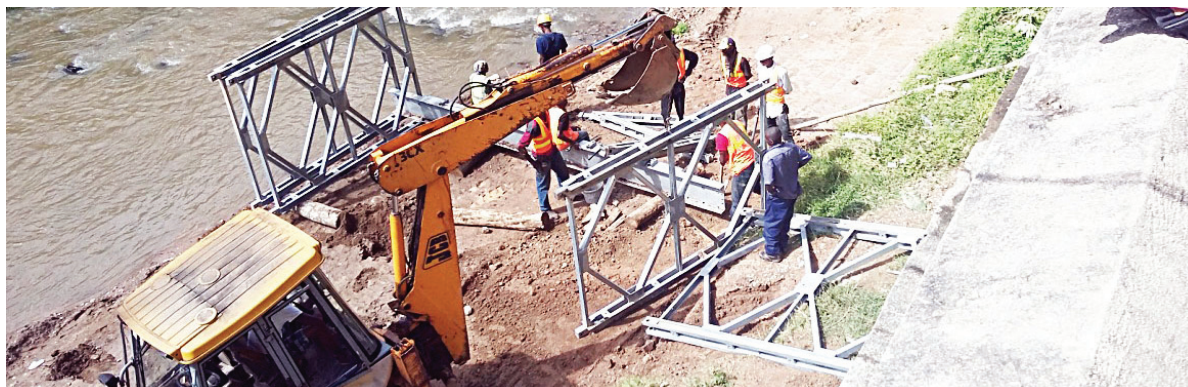
According to Project Manager, Anthony Marquis, the concrete for the beams was poured in December and will take 28 days for curing. Once this is done, these will be lifted into position, after which the concrete deck will be completed. The concrete slab will also take another 28 days for curing. Based on these timelines, he estimates that traffic should be using the new bridge before the end of March 2017.

The Rentcombe Bridge is being constructed in the community with the same name. No structure existed in this community before. In fact, for scores of residents, walking with two shoes and or boots was like a ritual. The only way out of the community was through the river, which sometimes was in spate. As one resident told the Roadster in one visit,

"if di rain fall hard and mi nuh home, mi haffi find suhmaddy fi kotch wid, cause mi kyaa goh a mi yaad."

All this should change soon as, at mid-January, the \$34.8 million project was 85% complete with most of the infrastructural works completed or well advanced. Works yet to be completed at this location include: the launching of the bridge, the assembling of the deck and guardrails, random rubble wall construction and the approach roads. These works are expected to be completed by the end of February and a new bridge will then be a reality.

Over in St. Thomas, work got underway to replace the defective Ward River Bridge. This bridge is located in the community of Port Morant. The new structure is being built along the same alignment as the old. This approach made it necessary for an alternate structure to be constructed. This alternate route was done and opened to vehicular traffic in October 2016. Demolition of the old structure got underway in December. The new bridge is being built at a cost of \$57.6 – million.



Bailey Bridge being assembled for launch

Christmas Treat for Chandron Basic School St Elizabeth

Nothing is more transfixing at Christmas than that of smiles and ringing laughter of children. And what more than that of surprised gifts of toys to bring about this heartfelt reaction! Such was that of the children of the Chandron Basic School in Southfield St. Elizabeth. Tuesday, December 13, 2016 saw, what could be described as pure hope at this small institution. Staff members of the National Works Agency's Southern Region (Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth) reached out with much love in the form of a 'Christmas Treat.'

The Agency's Southern Region, have over the past ten years, been selecting basic schools across the three parishes for such attention, each Christmas. Staff members selflessly contribute part of their earnings towards this annual event. The Principal and founder, Miss Sharon Parchment was especially elated at this year's gesture.

Starting on September 1980 with just ten children and a leased plot of land, Miss Parchment was ably assisted by community members to erect a temporary building for the emerging school. The population grew overtime and with the help of Ms. Ionie Ramsay, the then Superintendent of Police, an additional building was erected and the student population rose to a high of eighty two.

The Chandron Basic School can be found in Powell Town, along the Pedro Cross to Lititz corridor. It is a rural farming settlement, and home to mostly subsistence farmers, some of whom are not able, financially, to send their children to other schools.

Having had its fair share of challenges over the years, Chandron, as an institution has however, stood strong. The buildings were destroyed twice, first by Hurricane Dean and then by Hurricane Ivan. The present building was erected with just one bathroom, which is shared by all, as there was insufficient funding to do otherwise. The two other teachers, Mrs. Avonie Bromfield and Miss Careen Blair are committed regardless of only receiving small stipends. Presently, the school has twenty three students.

Miss Raquel Wynter, a parent, believes that this Basic School is a blessing to the community. She shared that her daughter, Daniesha, is now versed in basic mathematics and is well prepared to attend primary school. She expressed the view with the Roadster that the entire community should be contributing more towards the welfare of the school.

Much appreciated, were also the residents of Powell Town and surrounding communities who welcomed the warm lunches for those students, teachers and parents present. In addition, some much needed kitchen utensils were also provided.



Students at the Chandron Basic School enjoying their Ice Cream



The Chandron Basic School



Ms. Ionie Ramsey (Sponsor) and parent, Raquel Wynter

NWA's Staff Social 2016 - Highlights



GIS Manager, Kerry-Ann Mahabeer is all smiles for the camera, while in the company of Senior Data Management and Applications Specialist, Alman Fearon (left) and GIS Officer, Kevol Wilson



NWA's songbirds - (left) Lab Technician, Donovan Bryan; Legal Officer, Susan Gordon; Training and Development Officer, Kaydian Gordon and Personal and Industrial Relations Officer, Audrey Jones



Featured entertainer, Lukie D, croons much to the delight of the audience



Senior Director of Project Implementation, Earl Patterson, engages team members of China Harbour Engineering Company



Director of Human Resource Management, Dr. Jennifer Henry (left) and her Administrative Assistant, Sharon Douglas enjoying the afternoon



Assistant Office Manager, Desmarie Campbell represents in festive colors



Construction Manager, Winston Edwards exchange good tidings with Deputy Director - Regional Implementation, Gervais Lawrence



Telephone Operators/Receptionists - Stephanie Green and Samantha Brooks looking lovely at the occasion



forbes.com/cartoons

New Year Quotes for Business

New Year is all about promise and excitement. This spirit is upheld in New Year Quotes for Business. These let you reflect on what you have achieved in the past, and resolve to make you do better in the upcoming year ...

Whatever you do or dream you can do – begin it. Boldness has genius and power and magic in it. ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

I never perfected an invention that I did not think about in terms of the service it might give others... I find out what the world needs, then I proceed to invent. ~ Thomas Edison

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. ~ Saint Francis of Assisi

Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect. ~ Alan Cohen

In times of great stress or adversity, it's always best to keep busy, to plow your anger and your energy into something positive. ~ Lee Iococca

A business absolutely devoted to service will have only one worry about profits. They will be embarrassingly large. ~ Henry Ford

Whenever you make a mistake or get knocked down by life, don't look back at it too long. Mistakes are life's way of teaching you. Your capacity for occasional blunders is inseparable from your capacity to reach your goals. No one wins them all, and your failures, when they happen, are just part of your growth. Shake off your blunders. How will you know your limits without an occasional failure? Never quit. Your turn will come. ~ Og Mandino

The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret to getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks and then starting on the first one. ~ Mark Twain

The key to winning is poise under stress. ~ Paul Brown

All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them. ~ Walt Disney

If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain. ~ Dolly Parton

Whenever you see a successful business, someone once made a courageous decision. ~ Peter F. Drucker

There is no failure except no longer trying. ~ Elbert Hubbard

<http://www.123newyear.com/new-year-quotes/for-business.html>