

ROADSTER



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"Paving the Way"

ROAD SAFETY: NWA PAVING THE WAY



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\$86M Road Safety Enhancement Programme Coming

The National Works Agency (NWA) is gearing up to roll out a major road safety enhancement programme along several corridors across the island. The programme which is valued at over \$86 million dollars will target six (6) heavily trafficked roadways.

The programme will involve lane markings, installation of guard rails and repainting of pedestrian crossings and is expected to commence in the latter half of the year.

Manager of Communication and Customer Services at the NWA, Stephen Shaw says that the effort is part of the NWA's thrust to enhance safety along the main road network. He says the works will include the re-painting of lines, as well as the installation of Raised Pavement Markers (RPMs).



Road markings recently completed along the Mineral Heights to Sandy Bay Clarendon corridor

The roadways to be targeted under the programme are: Ferris Cross to Savanna-la-Mar in Westmoreland; Municipal Boulevard in Portmore, from Mandela Highway to Hellshire; Old Harbour Roundabout to Caymanas Crossing; Spur Tree to Williamsfield in Manchester; Whitney Turn to Trinity in Clarendon and Buff Bay to Hope Bay Police Station in Portland. Once completed, it is expected that motorists will be better able to maneuver these major corridors safely.

Mr. Shaw says that the NWA will be embarking on an extended programme later this year, as it seeks to make the road network safer for the travelling public.

The new road marking program will definitely be welcomed, not only by motorists and pedestrians but also by other stakeholders such as the Road Safety Unit, who see the undertaking as a much-needed step toward improving road safety across the country. Many believe that the new markings will be particularly beneficial especially on the busier thoroughfares and intersections.

The program is set to begin later this year, with installations and markings taking place across the country over several months. Overall, the new program is an important step toward improving road safety and reducing the number of accidents on our roads. With better visibility and clear markings, drivers will be better equipped to navigate our roads safely and confidently.

“the NWA will be embarking on an extended programme later this year”

NWA Completes Repair of Pinnock to Shaftson Roadway in Eastern Westmoreland



Marked improvement! A view of the Pinnock Shaftson roadway before (left), and after(right) a major effort to upgrade the roadway.

Residents of the small rural community of Pinnock Shafston are now breathing a sigh of relief as the National Works Agency (NWA), through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), has completed repairs to a section of the roadway.

Pinnock Shafston is a small rural community located in the quiet hills of Eastern Westmoreland. The roadway had deteriorated over several years to a state that many residents found unbearable. The road surface was heavily pitted, and devoid of an asphalt surface.

Such was the state of the roadway that many public transport operators refused to traverse the corridor, instead only opting to take their clients to a point, leaving them to find alternative solutions to undertake the remainder of the journey. This forced residents to navigate the steep terrain with their bags and small children in tow, which proved quite a burdensome undertaking for many.

It was therefore no surprise that the Roadster team was met with expressions of jubilation, when they visited the area in October 2022, ahead of the start of the project. Residents at that time welcomed an initiative that, for them, was 30 years in the making. Now, five months later, the project is complete and residents are happy with the repairs.

Though grateful for the works undertaken thus far along a portion of the corridor, many residents are now looking



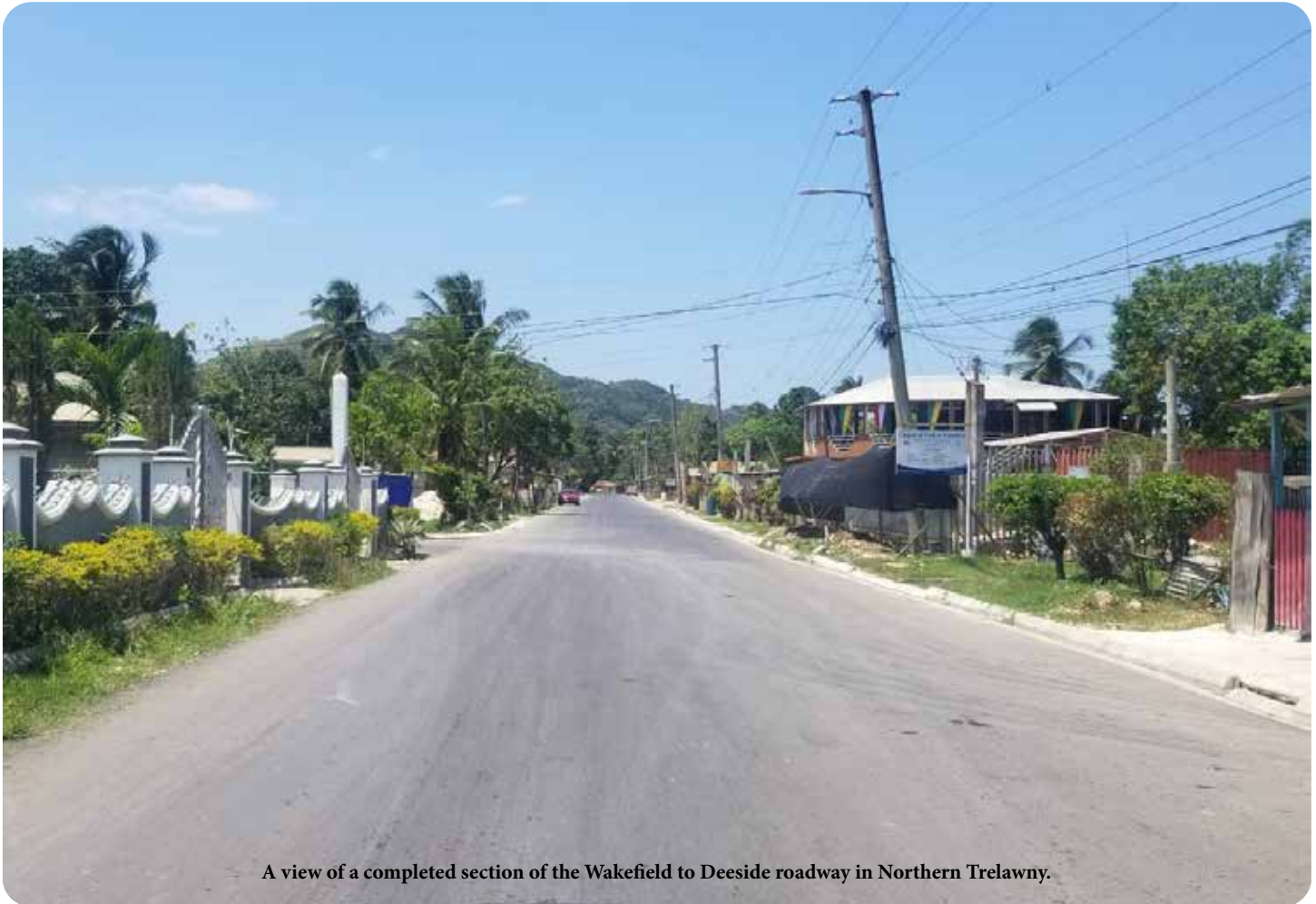
Final Inspection!

At left, Parish Manager – NWA Westmoreland, David Clarke, peruses contract documents for the Pinnock Shaftson roadway, on site, with Quality Assurance Officer – Western Region NWA, Bobbeth Morris, (middle) and Senior Quality Assurance Officer - NWA, Noel Cover.

forward to further work to rehabilitate the full length of the corridor. For them, the completed project, is a small step in the right direction.

The project was valued at \$ 4.7 million and involved the rehabilitation of approximately 800 metres of roadway to include drainage improvement and the reshaping and asphaltting of the road surface.

Major Road Repairs for the Falmouth to Springvale Corridor in North Trelawny



A view of a completed section of the Wakefield to Deeside roadway in Northern Trelawny.

The governments' push to improve the quality of roads in Northern Trelawny continues with more work being undertaken along the Falmouth to Springvale main road. This is welcomed news for residents and other stakeholders who have, over time, loudly voiced their concern regarding the state of the roadway.

The government in February 2023, commenced another phase of improvement to this very busy corridor that spans some 20 kilometres. The new phase targets approximately 500 metres of roadway, between the Martha Brae and Holland communities. Approximately \$15 million has been devoted to this effort and work is now well underway. The project involves drainage improvement, base improvements, and road resurfacing.

The corridor has been the source of numerous protests over the years, as residents grew angry at the state of disrepair. Among the strongest cries were those of taxi operators who complained of the toll that the road condition was taking on their vehicles and the negative impact of same on their profit margin.

The corridor is a major thoroughfare, linking several communities to the town of Falmouth and beyond. Among the communities whose residents utilize this corridor are Martha Brae, Holland, Bounty Hall, Wakefield, Dromily and Deeside. These are well established communities which continue to grow as more persons are drawn to the developing parish of Trelawny. There are also several businesses, schools, churches spanning the full length of the corridor.

Major Road Repairs for the Falmouth to Springvale Corridor in North Trelawny ... Continued from page 4

Over the years there have been several initiatives to repair the corridor, but it was evident that there was the need for major repairs, a costly undertaking, which required some amount of preparation and financial maneuvering. It is against this background that a phased approach was conceptualized and is now underway.

The first phase of this repair effort commenced in August 2022, with the repair of the Wakefield to Deeside corridor. The project which is now substantially complete is valued at approximately \$145 million and involves significant drainage improvement, and paving. A number of additional safety features including a pedestrian crossings, sidewalks and road markings will also be installed.

The Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC), through the NWA, is now actively exploring financing options for the rehabilitation of the remaining sections of the road from Falmouth to Springvale.

In the meantime, work is also underway along the Deeside to Dromily roadway. This roadway is located off the Falmouth to Springvale main road. Currently, \$18 million is being spent to upgrade some 700 metres of roadway, to include drainage improvement and the resurfacing of the targeted section. The project which commenced in March is expected to be completed by the end of May 2023.



Wakefield – Deeside, Trelawny.

Drainage improvement was an important component of the repairs to the Wakefield to Deeside corridor. Pictured here, is a Concrete Cross Drain which was constructed along a section of the roadway. Several other drainage features were installed along critical points along the corridor.



Martha Brae to Holland, Trelawny

Excavation works being carried out ahead of the installation of a Concrete Cross Drain.



A view of a section of the Martha Brae to Holland roadway where a concrete drain was recently installed.

Lady Musgrave Dualization Coming



In recent years, the city of Kingston, Jamaica, has seen a significant increase in traffic congestion. The government has been exploring various measures to mitigate this issue, and one of the solutions proposed is the dualization of both East Kings' House Road and Lady Musgrave Road. This project, which is expected to commence before the end of the calendar year, has been met with both excitement and concern from residents and commuters.

East Kings' House Road and Lady Musgrave Road are two of the busiest thoroughfares in St. Andrew. They connect major residential areas to the central business district, government offices, and tourist attractions. The roads are also used by many commuters who work in the Central Business District of New Kingston but live in neighbouring parishes. As a result, the roads are often congested, especially during peak hours. The East Kings' House Road/Paddington Terrace/Halifax Avenue intersection for example carries a traffic count of over 40,000 motorists on an average 12 hour day, while the Hope Road/Lady Musgrave Road/ East Kings' House Road Intersection sees over 70,000 vehicles over the same time frame.

The proposed dualization project aims to widen the roads, create additional lanes, and install traffic signals to improve the flow of traffic.

Director, Planning and Research at the NWA, Patrick Rose says the works to be undertaken will not only reduce congestion but also make the roads safer for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. He says the over \$2-Billion project will provide turning

Lady Musgrave Dualization Coming ... Continued from page 6

lanes at the intersections of :

- Halifax Ave/Paddington Terrace
- Sandhurst Crescent (Southern end)
- Linstone Crescent
- Hopefield Avenue
- Montrose Road
- Argyle Road/Fairway Avenue

There will also be the Installation of surveillance cameras and license plate recognition cameras at signalized intersections, as well as the widening of existing box culverts to improve drainage capacity.

The project has received support from various stakeholders, including the government, business owners, and some residents who have been affected by the traffic congestion. They believe that the dualization will lead to economic growth, improved productivity, and a better quality of life for residents.

Some residents and environmentalists have however expressed concerns about the impact of the project on the environment and the surrounding communities. They argue that the project will lead to the loss of green spaces, trees, and wildlife habitats. Additionally, they fear that the project will worsen air pollution and noise levels in the area.

To address these concerns, the government has assured residents that the project will be carried out in an environmentally friendly manner. The government through

the NWA's parent Ministry, the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) has pledged to plant new trees, create green spaces, and install noise barriers along the roads. The Ministry has also promised to have additional consultation with the community and stakeholders throughout the project to ensure their concerns are heard and addressed.

The dualization of East Kings' House Road and Lady Musgrave Road is a significant project that has the potential to improve traffic flow, safety, and access to some of the most utilized spaces in Kingston.

While there are concerns about its impact on the environment and communities, the government's commitment to carrying out the project in an environmentally friendly manner and consulting with stakeholders is a positive step toward addressing these concerns. Ultimately, the success of the project hinges on effective planning, execution, and ongoing monitoring, all of which the NWA is committed to ensuring as it seeks to guarantee that the needs of all stakeholders are met as best as possible.

Manager, Communication and Customer Services at the NWA, Stephen Shaw says the public engagement in respect to the project commenced some time ago. He explained that small plenary type meetings have been held with selected community representatives. The engagements to date include notices in respect to the acquisition of lands and meetings to discuss some of the deliverables under the proposed project.



HIGHLIGHT!

The Agency hosted its Annual Health Fair on March 24, 2003. The fair is usually a welcomed change to both staff and any member of the public who wishes to participate. There were many displays from corporate entities such as Hyundai; Leasure for Pleasue, Facey Commodity etc, and a Farmers' Market. Some prizes such as Day passes and Hotel Accomodations were also won. Patrons were also able to get their eyes checked and partake in an exercise session.

Photo Captions:

Patrons engaging with vendors at the Farmers' Market (far left) and Exercise Session in full swing!

The implementation of traffic changes in Mandeville in full gear



Intersection at Manchester Shopping Centre and North Race Course

After years of lobbying and technical reviews, the long-standing issue of the traffic congestion in Mandeville, Manchester is now set to be distant memory. This as the Greater Mandeville Traffic Management System is now being implemented in this central township.

The scope of work includes the widening of the selected roads under the programme, the opening of medians and the implementation of a one-way flow.

Work will be done at a cost of just over \$40-Million at the following locations:

Main Street to Ville Road
South Race Course to Caledonia
South Race Course Road to Main Street
North Race Course Road to Main Street
North Race Course Road to Caledonia Road
Main Street to Caledonia Road
New Green Road to Main Street
Perth Road

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The implementation of traffic changes in Mandeville in full gear ...Continued from page 8

The works commenced at the end of February and at the end of the quarter (March 2023), some 50% of the activities had been completed. This include the relocation of Jamaica Public Service Company (JPSCo) poles and widening work at some locations. These aspect of the works are being done by J and L Construction Company Limited. Another firm – Cenitech Engineering Solutions Limited have been contracted to undertake work to install underground conduits which will facilitate the new traffic lights that are to be installed, as part of the overall plan.

In preparation for the works, the NWA undertook several stakeholder meetings. These meetings were staged over the last five years, the last two of which took place between October 2022 and February 2023. Stakeholders invited to participate in the most recent meetings include the current Member of Parliament Rhoda Moy Crawford, His Worship the Mayor, Donovan Mitchell, Representatives from the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Manchester Parish Council, Fire Department, Taxi Association, Flow Communications, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the Manchester Parish Development Committee, and the National Water Commission, among others. Participants were given the opportunity to discuss segments of the project in detail and their suggestions were noted for consideration.

President of the Manchester Parish Development committee, Mr. Anthony Freckleton was confident that the approach taken to address to the traffic congestion in Mandeville would make the transition as seamless as possible. The work, he remarked, will definitely make life a little bit easier for the motorists, which is the intention behind the project.

The Mayor of Mandeville Mr. Donavon Mitchell said that the changes will significantly reduce travel time in the town especially where motorists travelling on Villa Road will be able to turn right at the intersection with Hargreaves Avenue.

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Simone Spence Johnson indicated that congestion needs to be eased but that some businesspeople were worried that they will lose customers because of the planned changes. She says that she was awaiting the completion of the project to see the benefits. She was however excited at the prospects of the project being completed in tandem with the opening of the May Pen to Williamsfield leg of highway 2000. She retorted that this work would be a game changer for the town of Mandeville.



Intersection of North Race Course and Hargreaves Drive



North Race Course Road and Caledonia Road intersection



Sidewalk at intersection of main Street and Caledonia Road

Tips for Increasing Productivity in the workplace



High productivity at the workplace is a sign of a healthy business and work culture. Productivity will increase when your employees are happy, supported and have the right equipment to perform their work tasks.

When a company is productive, it increases profitability, lowers production costs and improves customer service and business relationships. The more productive a company is, the easier it is to establish organizational growth and create a healthy work environment.

Making minor changes to habits and equipment can drastically improve your business's productivity and work efficiency. For this reason, here are five tips to increase productivity in the workplace.

1. LIMIT UNPRODUCTIVE MEETINGS.

Limit the number of meetings (if you can) since many meetings can become quite time-consuming and unproductive. Only scheduling meetings around topics that demand people to be present, such as business strategy and important announcements, will save you valuable time that can be spent on operational work.

However, meetings can strengthen bonds and improve communication between teammates, so don't remove conventional meetings altogether. The community of a group can strengthen work morale, and in that way, boost productivity.

2. ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS.

A recipe for disaster is to look at your employees as faceless robots that clock in and out. This attitude will make your employees fatigued and cause burnout before you know it. They will soon feel miserable and lose the urge to do a good job. But to be understanding of their humanity and instead encourage them to take regular breaks increases productivity. Frequent breaks will allow employees to recharge and approach work with more energy and "fresh eyes."

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Tips for Increasing Productivity in the workplace ... continued from page 10

For instance, the best ideas often come when taking a short walk outside to clear your head. Let your team know it's OK to go out in the fresh air and get away from the work desk for a while. Allowing time to recuperate can significantly boost productivity.

3. LIMIT PERSONAL DISTRACTIONS.

We all check our social media networks to see what's going on from time to time, but for some employees, this can easily consume too much of their time that should be spent on work tasks. Also, personal phone calls can be a distracting factor that reduces productivity for many workers.

However, it wouldn't be practical to ban cell phones and social media altogether. So, a better way is to encourage employees to check their social media and make personal phone calls on their breaks instead. This prevents the unpleasant factor of restricting the employee's freedom and privacy, which will do more harm than good in the long run.

4. USE TIME-TRACKING SOFTWARE.

Time-tracking software can help monitor the productivity of your employees. Time-tracking software makes it easy for your team members to plan their day and know how long each task takes to complete. As a result, they will have more control over their schedule, which could lead to a boost in productivity.

As an employer, you can use these time-tracking reports to see how your business is currently operating and if you need to change things to make it run more efficiently.

5. RECOGNIZE AND REWARD YOUR EMPLOYEES.

Recognizing employees when they do an excellent job can boost work morale and make them want to work even harder. Motivating and rewarding your team can cultivate a sense of fulfillment and inspire others to be more productive. Internal communications systems, where leaders and teammates can give praise to each other to announce well-executed work can be considered. Also, offering an individual pay raise or surprising your employee with a gift/token can motivate them to put in the extra effort.



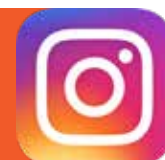
CONCLUSION

Happy and motivated employees are essential for any business that wants to increase productivity. Seeing and rewarding what your employees do on an individual level can boost personal fulfillment and productivity in the workplace.

Source: Forbes Magazine



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MTEU's Open Day 2023!!!!



For the Manager of the MTEU, Vivian Blair, the event was able to achieve its mandate for the event and successfully engaged students and staff from the University of Technology, Tarrant High School, and Herbert Morrison Technical High School. There were a number of presentations, covering a variety of topics related to sustainable development in a time of climate change.

“Sustainable development in an era of unpredictable weather,” was the theme of the Materials Testing and Evaluation Unit’s (MTEU’s) Open Day, held on February 28, 2022. The initiative was aimed at exposing students, educators, and clients to the importance of quality assurance and control at the National Works Agency (NWA) and the operation of the MTEU’s laboratory facilities.

The Materials Testing and Evaluation Unit is a division of the Quality Assurance Directorate of the NWA. This unit was established to support project implementation through quality assurance testing, quality control testing, and the provision of technical support to the project design and implementation team. Currently, the unit operates two testing facilities, one on Maxfield Avenue in Kingston, and the other in Flankers, St. James. The facilities offer a wide range of independent testing services on concrete, soil, aggregate, and paving material.

In preparation for the event, invitations were sent to several clients and institutions of learning in the corporate area as well as in St. James. The uptake was relatively small, as only three schools responded positively; However, the MTEU was able to host over 100 students, who were chaperoned by their teachers.

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Additionally, students were given practical exposure to the variety of tests offered by the MTEU. This was well received by students who actively participated in the demonstrations.

MTEU OPEN DAY PRESENTATIONS

Topics :

The role of Quality Assurance and Quality Control in the construction of roads and bridge infrastructure.

Presented by Manager, Materials Testing Unit – NWA, Vivian Blair

Planning for sustainable development in the era of unpredictable weather conditions.

Presented by: Transportation Planner – NWA, Norman Tai

How climate change will affect the construction environment.

Presented by: Senior Engineer- NWA, Howard Prendergast



Laboratory Technician-NWA, Alecia Myrie-Laman (left), guides students through the execution of a Compressive Strength Test, with the support of fellow Laboratory Technician, Anthoneil Reid



Hard at work!

Students from the Herbert Technical High School try their hands at the Bulk Specific Gravity Test. This test measures the density of the asphalt.

Impact of Wet and Dry Weather on Roads and Other Infrastructure

Wet and dry weather can have significant impacts on infrastructure such as roads, bridges, tunnels, slopes and drainage systems. The effects of these weather patterns can be seen in the form of damage to infrastructure and pose serious threats to the safety and usability of these structures.

Wet weather, for example, can cause erosion, flooding, and landslides which can damage or even destroy infrastructure. Heavy rainfall can lead to the saturation of soil, which can cause landslides on slopes and hillsides. It can also cause flooding which can wash away roads, bridges and other infrastructure. Additionally, excess water can seep into the ground and cause damage to the foundation of buildings and other structures.

Dry weather can also have a significant impact on infrastructure. Prolonged periods of dry weather can cause the soil to shrink and crack, leading to foundation settling and structural damage. This can be particularly problematic for bridges and other structures that rely on stable foundations. Dry weather can also lead to wildfires which can damage or destroy infrastructure in their path. Infrastructure such as roads, bridges and tunnels can also be impacted by changes in temperature and humidity levels. These changes can cause expansion and contraction, leading to cracks and damage over time.



A landslide which occurred during a dry spell and was likely as a result of soil instability

ROAD

Dry periods can lead to the cracking of roads. This is because, during dry periods, the moisture content of the soil decreases, causing it to shrink. The shrinking of the soil beneath the road can cause the road to crack. These cracks can become larger over time and lead to potholes, which can damage vehicles and cause accidents. On the other hand, during wet periods, the water can cause erosion of the road surface and weaken the roadbed, leading to the formation of potholes. Moreover, the water can infiltrate the underlying soil, which can cause the road to sink, creating hazardous conditions.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Dry periods also have adverse effects on drainage systems. The lack of rainfall can cause sediment and debris to

accumulate in the drainage system. Over time, this can lead to the clogging of the system and impede the flow of water, causing flooding during wet periods.

Wet periods cause damage drainage systems. Heavy rainfall can cause the system to become overloaded, leading to flooding. Moreover, the force of the water can cause erosion of the soil around the drainage system, or to inverts, leading to the collapse of the system.

SLOPES

Dry periods can cause slopes to become unstable due to soil shrinkage. This can lead to landslides and rock falls. On the other hand, during wet periods, the soil can become saturated, leading to landslides and soil erosion.

Impact of Wet and Dry Weather on Roads and Other Infrastructure...Continued from page 14

To mitigate these issues, it is important to monitor the stability of slopes regularly. This can be done by conducting geotechnical investigations and slope stability analysis. Moreover, measures such as the installation of drainage systems and vegetation can help to stabilise the slope and prevent erosion.

MITIGATING EFFECTS OF WET/DRY WEATHER

Senior Civil Engineer at the National Works Agency, Howard Prendergast underscored the need for planning to bolster resilience of the nation's infrastructure, stating that in order to reduce vulnerability to weather changes it is important "to prepare, plan and understand resilience". This, he believes, will contribute to us being in a position to prevent adverse effects rather than just react to it.

The effects of dry and wet periods on civil infrastructure cannot be understated. Regular maintenance and monitoring of the infrastructure are essential to mitigate the impact of these weather patterns. By implementing preventative measures, we can prolong the safety and ensure the longevity of our civil infrastructure.

Proper design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure can help to mitigate some of the impacts of wet and dry weather. This includes ensuring proper drainage systems to prevent flooding, using materials that are resistant to erosion and weathering, and conducting regular inspections and repairs to identify and address potential issues.



An earth drain blocked by sediment and other debris which can result in flooding



Drain clogged by garbage in Balaclava, St. Elizabeth

Meshia Richards-Davidson *Soft Spoken, Unassuming and Diligent*

Meshia Richards-Davidson, at first glance, may appear to be someone with not much impact but, in reality, she is quite the opposite. Tucked away in the Documentation Centre located in the basement of the National Works Agency (NWA), this Library Assistant is often a main supportive force behind many of the impactful information sessions, health events or endeavours that benefit Team NWA.

For the female employees of the Agency, she is that melodic voice on the other end of the telephone, each October, urging and reminding persons to schedule their pap smears and mammograms; the one who collects health card information to facilitate the visit to the Jamaica Cancer Society, and who organizes transportation for the appointments. She is also that pleasant smile that usually greets you each time you visit the NWA Library in the annals of the Corporate Office, and who is there to guide you whenever you need information and archival services.

As the Library Assistant, her main job functions include classification and cataloguing of library material; organising and storing information; dissemination of that information; guidance in identifying material, as well as locating data for research or educational purposes. Based on her location and title, however, her other contributions are often overlooked. She has been a supporting force, for many years, behind blood drives; Eat and Talk sessions - which were information

and interaction opportunities for corporate entities who want to share their products and services during the lunch-time period; information fairs; Health and Wellness fairs; annual cancer screenings and other such endeavours.

In fact, not much is known about Meshia outside of her substantive duties here at the NWA. She is, however, quite a multifaceted individual, so this is our opportunity to learn more about our colleague - what motivates her, what are her inspirations, aspirations and beliefs.

Let's Get Personal

Meshia is a shy, yet affable, individual who was born a few decades ago in the eastern parish of St. Thomas. She is currently the wife of Oniel Davidson with whom she has two children, Brenae and Jayden. She loves to cook, watch television and do charity work.

She attended Excelsior Community College where she attained an Associate Degree in Library Studies and began studying toward her Bachelor of Arts degree in Librarianship at the University of the West Indies (UWI) before life intervened. She worked in a medical facility for eleven (11) years before settling in her current position at the NWA, a position she has held for the last ten (10) years. She is currently pursuing an Associate Degree in Records and Information Management at the Human Employment and



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Meshia Richards-Davidson ... Continued from page 16



Resource Training - National Service Training Agency Trust (HEART/NSTA Trust) and has great interest in Information Technology (IT), adding that she would like to, one day, specialize in Database Administration.

Meshia is an avid Christian who serves in several capacities at her church. She is the Director of Children's and Adolescent's Ministry, where she endeavours to positively impact the lives of the younger members. She is passionate about planning programmes and activities geared toward enriching the lives of our youths. She is also an Elder-in-training, serves on the evangelistic committee (Personal Ministry), a Sabbath School teacher, a member of her church's prayer team, a Deaconess and an Interest Coordinator.

Work/Life Balance

Though unsure if she is balancing her work and life in a healthy way, Meshia credits God, work colleagues, her church, neighbours and family members for their support in keeping her grounded. Her daily motivation is the Bible verse "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10) and her mantra is "to work smarter not harder."

It is because of this Meshia doesn't believe her job is difficult. She strives to fulfill her obligations and tasks, acknowledging that there are sometimes limitations and, in situations where information is not readily available to her, she seeks the assistance of technical team members. She admits to having challenging days but she is quite proud of the work that she and her team in the Documentation Centre are doing, citing the recently initiated Youth Empowerment Series as one of the most significant of her career. (The Youth Empowerment Series is an initiative where high school students are invited to the NWA and are educated and exposed to the work of the Agency and its overall contribution to national development.

The students are also made aware of career choices available at the Agency and the courses of study required for each career path.)

On the weekends, she looks forward to going home on a Friday evening "to welcome the Sabbath Day and have worship with family". On Sunday evenings, she enjoys huddling with her children to watch Home and Garden Television (HGTV).

On top of all of that, Meshia still has great plans for both her personal and professional life. Her desire is to finish her degree in the shortest possible time in order to move on to further studies. In fact, within the next five to twenty years (by the grace of God) she is adamant that she will have progressed in her professional pursuits, and have a farm or, at least, be involved in some way farming. In addition, she really wants to work with girls at the Women's Centre and take a few cruise ship vacations as soon as her children are older and independent.

On a Final Note

As we wrapped our conversation with Meshia, she had these words of encouragement for her fellow coworkers:

"Give of your best service in whatever area of work you do. There are several persons who have died since I have been working with the NWA and there are those who have left the Agency; some of whom have made a positive impact on me. Let the younger persons (new team members) among us see good role models in us. A chorus of one of my favourite songs by Steve Green says "O may all who come behind us find us faithful, may the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey". This song is not only fitting for believers but also for any person travelling the journey of life."

Phase 4 of Treasure Beach Canal Project Completed

The Treasure Beach community in St Elizabeth was severely affected by flood waters in 2005, resulting from the passage of Hurricanes Emily and Wilma. Damage to homes and businesses was estimated at several million dollars.

Flooding is not new to this part of the island as residents had a similar experience in 1986, following which, a technical

team from Alcan Jamaica recommended the construction of a canal to the sea. The excavation of this canal to remove excess water from the main pond to the sea is now finally being manifested.

The National Works Agency (NWA) started the fourth phase of drainage improvement works along the Treasure Beach Canal in South Western St Elizabeth on November 17, 2022. The work was completed by Morris Hill Limited along a section of the canal leading from the culvert at Lashing Guest House to another culvert by the entrance of the Women's Centre.

The scope of work for this construction includes earth work where there was excavation of the 'U' drain base, compacting of engineered fill, and the drain base and the disposal of excavated material. Concrete works includes reinforced concrete slab and wall. The project cost \$440,302,300 and was completed within the scheduled six months timeline.



Completed works on the Treasure Beach Canal.



Image of drain before the commencement of work



Steel reinforcement laid in preparation for concrete works.

Phase 4 of Treasure Beach Canal Project Completed ... Continued from page 18

Initial work on the canal started as early as May 7, 2006, on land donated by Mr. Ralph James. The first phase of the work saw the excavation of an earth drain approximately 500 metres in length and a width of 30 metres, between the Great Pond and the Women's centre. A three-cell reinforced concrete Box Culvert was also constructed through an agreement with D.R. Foote Construction Co. Ltd.

Progress was made on the second phase of the canal leading from the Women's Centre, bypassing the Mar Blue Hotel out to sea. This phase was delayed as a result of a lengthy land acquisition process which was necessary to facilitate the construction activity.



Concrete works being done to the base and walls of the canal.

With the channel now well defined, efforts were made to construct the second of two Box Culverts needed to facilitate storm water flows to the sea. The progress of works on this phase of the project was affected by Hurricane Dean, as the easement by the Women's Centre had to be removed to facilitate the flow of water. The project however, restarted during the first week of September 2007.

Other features of the project were the construction of a silt trap between the entrance of the channel and the Great Pond. A special feature has also been included to prevent sea water from re-entering the channel nearest to the Lashing Hotel, whenever there is high tide.

Residents of Great Bay in the Treasure Beach area who were particularly impacted by flooding over the years have been singing the praises of the NWA in completing this aspect of the plan. "We are quite elated with what we see now, compared to the years, when what we had was first, no drain, to an earth drain to now a paved channel", one resident told the ROADSTER.



The Hon. Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and job creation, Everald Warmington (right) on tour in Central St. Mary with Member of Parliament Morais Guy (2nd right) in February 2023.

The member indicated key areas in need of repair/rehabilitation while technical team members looks on.

Penfield in St. Andrew to Get Another New Bridge



Before and after (excavation) photos of bridge launch area. (Photo Credit: Alcar Construction)

In the community of Penfield in St. Andrew there were two derelict bridges, both of which were designed to be pedestrian bridges. This was at a time when transportation in that area was mainly by foot. Over time, with the occurrence of development, these two structures began being used by small motor vehicles as more residents and visitors upgraded their modes of transportation from appendages to wheels.

With this development came the concern for safety as the structures were not built to carry the added weight of vehicles. This, coupled with the fact that the bridges were made of wood and also the age of the structures, impelled the need for the replacement of the bridges.

As such, the first bridge (Bridge #1) was demolished and replaced, between September and November 2020, with a single lane Compact 200 Modular Bridge which is made of metal. It can now comfortably accommodate motor vehicles. Currently works are underway to replace the second bridge (Bridge #2).



Equipment navigating and modifying the narrow and hilly terrain in preparation for bridge replacement works. (Photo Credit: Alcar Construction)

Penfield in St. Andrew to Get Another New Bridge ... Continued from page 20



Before and after photos of a section of the excavated roadway (Photo Credit: Alcar Construction)

Much legwork was required before the actual start of the current project, as not only was the roadway too narrow to accommodate the equipment required for the job, but residents were literally located in areas that are not accessible by vehicles.

In order to inform them of impending works, the project team had to go to them on foot to issue notices to prepare them for what was to be their reality in coming months.

The project physically commenced on February 28, 2023 with the preliminary widening of the roadway, a section of which was only 2.1 metres wide, to facilitate equipment and vehicles required for work. This activity lasted for four weeks due to difficult terrain, excessive workload and stoppages to allow pedestrian passage, weather conditions and equipment issues. This often prompted the need for manual labour which was slower and more tedious.

To date, foundation works have been done on both sides of the bridge and preparations made for the construction of a rubble retaining wall which will serve as an extension of the abutment of the new structure. Once completed this wall will allow for the launching of a temporary pedestrian bridge and the removal of the existing bridge. The contract period for the project is eight (8) months.

In addition to the aforementioned works, the project will include rock excavation, concrete works, demolition of existing bridge structure, and the assembly and construction of a new single lane modular Compact 200 Bridge. The project is being done by Alcar Construction and Haulage Company Limited at a contract cost of \$24,648,238.80.



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Hurricane Season Preparedness



As the 2023 Atlantic Hurricane season approaches, the relevant agencies and stakeholders are ramping up their preparations to ensure that their crews and equipment are ready to respond to any potential damage, resulting from any associated adverse condition. The Atlantic Hurricane season, which typically runs from June through November, can bring strong winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, and other hazards that can disrupt roadwork projects and create safety risks for workers and the public.

One entity that certainly takes hurricane preparedness very seriously is the National Works Agency (NWA). The Agency has a comprehensive hurricane preparedness plan that includes a variety of measures to protect its workers, equipment, and projects.

One of the key elements of its hurricane preparedness plan is proactive communication with crews and clients. As soon as a hurricane is forecasted to hit an area where the company has ongoing road work projects, alerts are sent to all workers and clients informing them of the situation while providing safety guidelines. This helps to ensure that everyone involved is aware of the potential risks and takes appropriate steps to stay safe.

In addition to communication, the Agency also take steps to secure equipment and construction sites before a hurricane hits. This includes shutting down and securing heavy machinery and moving construction materials where necessary. The Agency also has a designated team of employees who are trained and equipped to respond as needed.

Long before any talks of the hurricane season as well as post close of season in November, the NWA regularly continues its pursuit of disaster mitigation type activities to include drain cleaning, installation of new drains and river training. The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season, having ended in November, the NWA undertook post season works across the country. Some \$58 - Million was spent in undertaking the activities.

In the North Eastern Parishes of St. Mary, Portland and St. Ann, just under \$12 – Million was spent on drain cleaning activities in areas such as the Hope Bay and Folly communities in Portland; Alexandria, Cardiff Hall and Ocho Rios, St. Ann and Highgate, St. Mary.

Continued on page 23

Hurricane Season Preparedness ...Continued from page 22



Cleaning of Catch Basin in Springvale, Falmouth.

As it relates to the Southern region, comprising St. Elizabeth, Manchester and Clarendon, a little over \$16 - Million was spent on drain cleaning in areas such as Black River and Nain, St. Elizabeth; Comfort Hall and Christiana, Manchester; New Bowens and Frankfield in Clarendon.

The expenditure on drain cleaning activities in the Western Parishes of St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland and Trelawny amounted to a little under \$9 – Million. The areas impacted include Adelphi, St. James; Shettlewood, Hanover and Bunkers Hill, Trelawny. In the Kingston Metropolitan Region some \$21 – million was spent in areas such as Hughenden and Majestic Gardens.

Additionally, under the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Programme (SCHIP) now being executed in the parishes of St. Thomas and Portland, significant improvement has been made to drainage features. This includes the construction of box culverts, installation of cylindrical drains and side drains.

In Portland, drainage features along the stretch from Port Antonio to Boston have been improved, while in St. Thomas, resilience is being added along the corridors of Yallahs to Morant Bay, Morant Bay to Prospect, as well as from Morant Bay to Cedar Valley.

The NWA remains committed to its role in the safety of road users especially during times of adverse conditions which pose threats to lives and property.



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