

ROADSTER



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"Paving the Way"

MINISTER MORGAN TOURS THE ROAD FROM HARBOUR VIEW TO HECTORS RIVER.

SCHIP the first major project to be visited as the new Works Minister



Minister Morgan (centre) being flocked by NWA's CEO, E.G. Hunter (right) and MP for St. Thomas Eastern Michelle Charles (left). To the left of Mr. Hunter are members of the project team representing the Government of Jamaica, while to the left of Michelle Charles are representatives of China Harbour Engineering Company Limited.

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Robert Morgan takes the Works Baton

The National Works Agency (NWA) now has a new Minister. Robert Nesta Morgan took over the reins in May, when he was appointed as Minister Without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) with responsibility for Works.

Minister Morgan as part of his first assignment met with the NWA senior management team, where he outlined his vision and mission in the new role. He says that part of his mission was to ensure that the government's programme of works through the SPARK was seamlessly implemented across both main and parochial roads as outlined by the government.

The Minister also used the opportunity to introduce himself as one with an open door and opened communication links, through which he hopes to build a better understanding with the public through the NWA and its work.

Minister Morgan in his new role took to the road and toured the St. Thomas section of SCHIP, where he got firsthand looks at the progress being made along sections of the corridor. The Minister also used the opportunity to visit the Danvers Pen community, where several residents had complained about the likelihood of being flooded due to the erosion of a section of the Johnson River.

BUT WHO IS ROBERT NESTA MORGAN?

Robert Nesta Morgan was born in 1981 and grew up in the hills of North Central Clarendon. The Woodhall native attended the Garvey Maceo High School and Clarendon College. From high school he went on to the University of the West Indies where he graduated with a BA in History in 2004. Minister Morgan has an LLB with Honours from the University of London, England and his professional career has spanned over 14 years in media and communications.

Minister Morgan, from 2016 to 2019 served as Director of Communications at the Office of the Prime Minister and was a Senator and Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister between May 2019 and August 2020. He was appointed Minister of State in the then Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, a post he held until 2022.

He served thereafter as the Minister without Portfolio with responsibility for Information in the Office of the Prime Minister and is the current Minister with responsibility for Works and Member of Parliament for Clarendon North Central. Given the great honour of serving the very same communities in which he spent his formative years, Minister Morgan has focused on education, infrastructure development and social enterprise both at a local and national level. His mission is to create through his contributions, a better Jamaica for future generations.



Minister Morgan engages the team about the project at the CHEC site office

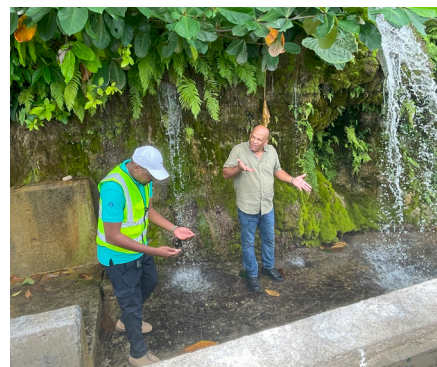
Minister Morgan in his new role took to the road and toured the St. Thomas section SCHIP, where he got firsthand looks at the progress being made along sections of the corridor.



Minister Morgan being briefed on Tour



E.G. Hunter (right) emphasises some project details to Minister Morgan. MP Charles looks on



Minister Morgan and MP for St. Thomas, James Robertson at Roselle Falls



'Let me have a quick drink'



Hearty conversations continued throughout the Tour



Snr. Director, Project Implementations - Varden Downer (left) and Minister Morgan in discussion



Minister Morgan meeting with the project team at the CHEC site office



Minister Morgan being interviewed by the Media, left is MP Charles and at right is Stephen Shaw

Multimillion Dollar Repairs of the Burnt Ground roadway in Hanover



Drainage improvement works along a section of the Burnt Ground roadway in Hanover.

Work is now in high gear along the Burnt Ground to Ramble and the Ramble to Mackfield roadways in Hanover. This as a \$36.5 million road improvement project is now underway along the corridor.

This development has been welcomed by the hundred of commuters who traverse the corridor daily. The roadway is the main link to the city of Montego Bay for commuters travelling from Savanna la Mar, Westmoreland and surrounding areas.

*This development has been welcomed
by the hundred of commuters who
traverse the corridor daily.*

The project involves extensive drainage improvement and the reshaping and asphaltting of the targeted sections of the roadway.

When complete, the project will complement earlier works completed in February along another section of the Burnt Ground roadway. This project involved drainage improvement, the removal of soft spots, the reshaping of sections of the roadway and overlay using Asphaltic Concrete.



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Restoration of the Connection Between Papine and Bull Bay in St. Andrew



An overall view of Dallas Castle breakaway, showing foot path used by residents and project team

The roadway from Papine to Bull Bay in St. Andrew is a significant link for many communities in rural St. Andrew. In fact, in prior years, if you lived in the hills surrounding the Blue Mountain Range and wanted to travel to the Norman Manley International Airport, or to enjoy the cool waters of Cane River Falls, or the Bath attraction in St. Thomas, it was a road that many used.

On the one hand, it took you away from the congestion that plagues the roadways from Papine to Downtown Kingston, and to Half Way Tree in St. Andrew. On the other hand, it carried you through picturesque mountainside areas with a rich history and cooler temperatures.

The topography and soil type in much of rural St. Andrew is a major factor in the natural occurrence of landslides and breakaways. The soil is mainly shale that breaks easily when there is drought and moves even easier when heavily saturated.

As is customary for roadways in the general rural St. Andrew hills, there were several breakaways, and the occasional land slippage along sections of the roadway. The corridor is very narrow in sections and traversable by mostly smaller vehicles. For some years though, this roadway has been separated

by a breakaway and this proved to be a significant loss for, especially, residents of the area who now had to suffer long detours in crazy traffic.

Fast forward to the beginning of 2024, where there is a buildup of anticipation as the roadway is now getting attention in the form of multiple road rehabilitation and restoration projects, being monitored by the National Works Agency (NWA). In fact, the chasm that travellers now travel to, and have to gaze longingly at the other side that they couldn't reach, is being repaired.

The rehabilitation of the Papine to Bull Bay main road is getting attention through three contracts, that focus on retaining wall construction and road rehabilitation works. The contracts valued at a total cost of J\$80,853,480 are focusing on two locations where breakaways existed and which had drainage issues. The combined scope of the projects saw the cleaning and construction of drains, the construction of retaining walls, with the relevant drainage features, and the repair of the road surface.

Two of the projects - a retaining wall and road rehabilitation – were done at Lindos Gap, along the roadway, while the third is now underway at Dallas Castle.

Continued on page 6

Restoration of the Connection Between Papine and Bull Bay in St. Andrew: Continued from page 5

LINDOS GAP

The works began on January 8, with the construction of a retaining wall which was a fix for a breakaway at Lindos Gap. The project, which was valued at \$14.6 million saw the site being cleared and damaged concrete structures being removed. A rubble masonry retaining wall was constructed at the location, completed with a parapet and coping as well as weepholes. A concrete splashpad was also constructed to protect the area of outfall and the structure.

The project lasted for 8 weeks and was completed in early March.

A road rehabilitation project then commenced at the location at the beginning of May. This project valued at \$19.5 million also lasted for 8 weeks and focused on road rehabilitation and drainage improvement. This project was important as it addressed perennial drainage issues in an area where water tended to flow along the roadway often resulting in scouring or breakaways.

As part of this project, existing side drains and outlets were cleaned. A lengthy concrete u-drain, as well as concrete v-drains and concrete and asphaltic concrete cross drains were constructed. The surface of the roadway was scarified and refilled with approved material and primed. The final surface was 4,500 square metres of asphaltic concrete.



Photo taken of roadway (Lindos Gap) prior to start of works



Lindos Gap retaining wall during and after construction



Photo taken of Lindos Gap following substantial completion of both projects.

Continued on page 7

Restoration of the Connection Between Papine and Bull Bay in St. Andrew: Continued from page 6

DALLAS CASTLE

The section of roadway at Dallas Castle was affected by a massive breakaway that completely separated the roadway and the communities in the area. Works to repair this damage was initially slated to begin on February 12, but was unavoidably delayed, eventually starting on March 18. The project, valued at \$46,723,630, was given a timeline of six (6) months but faced several challenges, initially, as it related to site access.

Of note, the contractor had challenges getting the equipment to the location, as the roadway leading to the site had breakaways along the corridor, that were not wide enough to allow for the passage of the equipment. The contractor had to resort to accessing the site via the river that runs parallel to the roadway. That too had some problems as the excavator had to make its own path in the river to get to the location. This piece of equipment traversed approximately 6.8 km in the river. This greatly affected the commencement of the actual works. The condition of the roadway to the site was also adversely affected by weather events subsequent to the award of contract.

The project will see the construction of a rubble masonry retaining wall and the restoration of the roadway, and essentially the connection of the communities. It includes site clearance, excavation for the foundation of the retaining wall, the construction of the retaining wall and the reinstatement of the roadway.

Construction works are currently in progress on the rubble masonry wall which boasts 200mm thick belt beams, weep holes with 100mm diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes and back filling behind the retaining wall with engineering material. The construction of the rubble wall is being done in two phases, where a 27m long section will be built (phase one) followed by phase two where a section of 37m in length will follow. commence at the end of phase one.

Like every other project in Jamaica, the works were halted by the passage of Hurricane Beryl on July 3. The work has since resumed with the work site being re-established and the works progressing. The construction continues to be affected by periodic rainfall, which hampers progress because the works are parallel to the river, but the contractor is moving to ensure that this significant symbol of connectivity is completed at the earliest.

The recent hurricane and its aftermath, in addition to being in the midst of a hurricane season, has somewhat weakened the optimism of residents who looked forward to being able to access both sides of the roadway. The fact that the work is progressing and the creative use of resources by the project team have soothed their anxiety, to some extent, but for all concerned the day when the drive from Papine to Cane River is possible is one that is greatly anticipated.



Excavation for the foundation of retaining wall at Dallas Castle, St. Andrew



View of a section of Phase One of retaining wall construction at Dallas Castle



Concrete being applied to a section of retaining wall at Dallas Castle



A section of newly reinstated roadway at Dallas Castle provides access to work site

Multi million Dollar Repairs for the Holland to Bounty Hall roadway in Trelawny



Asphalting works along a section of the Holland to Bounty Hall roadway in Trelawny.

Residents and stakeholders in Trelawny are heaping praises on the government's effort to repair the stretch of roadway between Holland and Bounty Hall in Northern Trelwany.

The corridor is an important one for residents and stakeholders in North Trelawny as it links several communities to the town of Falmouth. Additionally there are several educational facilities including the Bounty Hall Primary School and other places of interest along the corridor.

For residents the project is a welcomed one, having become frustrated with the deteriorating conditions along the corridor. A \$145 million dollar road rehabilitation project is now in full force along the corridor. The project targets 2.2-kilometres and involves extensive drainage improvement and the reshaping and asphalting of the targeted section of the roadway.

The project represents the second phase of a targeted approach to the repair of the Falmouth to Springvale corridor. The first phase involved the repair of the Wakefield to Deeside corridor. This project was completed in 2023 and involved the complete rehabilitation of some 4 kilometres of roadway.

Rehabilitation of Vauxhall to Arcadia Nearing Completion

The journey from Northern St. Elizabeth to St. James, through the Jointwood community is now nearly a 100% safer. Jointwood is actually a community located along the road section from Vauxhall to Arcadia. This road takes one from the Maggoty/Appleton to South St. James areas such as Niagra, Flamstead, Point and Montego Bay.

In November 2020, following heavy rainfall, four sections of the corridor failed, making the road unsafe for the motoring public. Strong advocacy on the part of the community and the Member of Parliament for the area, JC Hutchinson, saw visits to the area by then Minister without Portfolio with responsibility for Works, Everard Warmington. The Minister made a commitment to having the road repaired.

The rehabilitation of the four breakaways in the vicinity of Jointwood started on May 1, 2023. The scope of work includes site clearance and demolition of existing structures and the cleaning of side drains. Rubble retaining walls constructed with parapets and the installation of additional drainage features, including HDPE pipe culverts and the construction of catch basins.

The works were contracted to Brentwood Construction limited.

The Vauxhall to Arcadia main road is crucial to many small business people in St. James and St. Elizabeth. Farmer Dawn Dunn of Cedar Spring, a community close to the projects, said that she was comfortable with the progress of the work. She stated that "the motorists were not used to the section of the roadway and did not know they have to travel single lane at times, and when they speed, they might end up over in the gully. The road work now ends this stress," she told the ROADSTER.



One of the retaining walls with parapet and road embankment recreated and prepared for oiling and Asphaltic Concrete.



Parapet wall being completed

Multimillion-Dollar Hurricane Mitigation Programme for Western Parishes.



South Gully Silt Basin being cleaned

In preparation for the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the National Works Agency (NWA) is undertaking a major drain cleaning programme across the Western parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James and Trelawny. Approximately \$16 million was being spent to clear several critical drains in flood-prone areas. The project forms part of the Agency's Island-wide Hurricane Mitigation Programme.

Among the roadways which are being targeted for drain cleaning are the Peggy Barry roadway in Westmoreland; the Haughton Grove corridor in Hanover; the Barnett to Adelphi roadway in St. James; and the Wakefield to Hampden main road in Trelawny.

These are all low-lying areas that have experienced flooding and which the NWA hopes to mitigate through these works.

This latest effort by the NWA to clear critical drains will augment major drainage improvement works which have been undertaken in the Western Region since the start of 2024.

These works were undertaken at a cost of over half a billion dollars and include major road and drainage improvements works along the Jackson Town to Sawyers main road in Trelawny, the Withorn to Darliston corridor in Westmoreland, the Welcome to Cacoen Castle roadway in Hanover, and the Blue Diamond Gully in St. James.

HURRICANE BERYL - A PICTORIAL



Retrieve to Marchmont - Westmoreland at
Marchmont- Fallen Trees and limbs



Oak to Lookout break away



Corner Road off Kellits - Colonels Ridge



Quarshie Bridge approached is eroding at
Retrieve



Chapelton By-Pass blocked by fallen trees



Albany to Moreland Hills Westmoreland



Cleanup in progress on Ferris to Mackfield,
Westmoreland



Dry Hill road off Bella's Gate



St. Johns - Pedro River Light pole propped up
by residents, to allow vehicular access



Howard Cooke Blvd in St. James



Hagley Gap to Mahogany Vale, St. Thomas



Land slippage in vicinity of Mystic mountain, St. Ann

HURRICANE BERYL - A PICTORIAL



Duncans - Longpond, Trelawny
after flood water receded



Clearing blockages at Highgate Hall (Border with
Manchester and Trelawny) towards Stettin



Main Street Ocho Rios, in the vicinity of Sandals
Hotel St. Ann



North Coast Highway, in the vicinity of
Salem St. Ann



Alexandria - Greenock Bridge re-opened



Marcus Garvey drain in front of Petrojam
after cleaning



Mountainside to Watchwell, St. Elizabeth



Negril to Parish Border, Westmoreland



Negril to Parish Border, Westmoreland #2



New Green (Mandeville to Mark Post)



New Market to Carmel, St. Elizabeth



Papine - Bull Bay
St. Andrew

HURRICANE BERYL - A PICTORIAL



Papine to Redlight, St. Andrew



Peters Rock, East Rural St. Andrew



Williamsfield to Whitney Turn, Manchester



Spanish Town - Bog Walk - Bog Walk Gorge (Flat bridge) after reopened



Bog Walk to Santa Maria which was blocked with trees and land slides being open to single lane.



Tranquility to Bangor Ridge, Portland



Vanity Fair-Tavern Hill Road which was completely blocked at several sections



Utility poles and lines blocking Skyline Drive, St. Andrew #1



Utility poles and lines blocking Skyline Drive, St. Andrew #2



Clean up work in progress on Torrington to Galloway, Westmoreland



BEFORE: Frankfurt to Gayle, St. Mary



AFTER: Frankfurt to Gayle, St. Mary

HURRICANE BERYL - A PICTORIAL



Bethel Town to Lambs River,
Westmoreland



Ginger Ridge to Barton (Bell Field to Connors)
St. Catherine, massive landslide #1



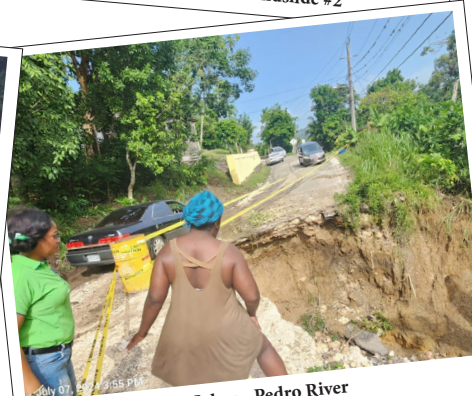
Ginger Ridge to Barton (Bell Field to Connors)
St. Catherine, massive landslide #2



July 6, 2024 2:27 PM
St. Jago-Pass Side- Milk River 1



July 6, 2024 3:18 PM
Gravel Hill Bridge



July 07, 2024 9:55 PM
St. Johns - Pedro River



July 6, 2024 2:32 PM
St. Jago-Pass Side- Milk River
Clarendon



Portland, drain cleaning



Marley Hill to Cedar Mount, St Catherine



Ginger Ridge School Road, St. Catherine #1



Ginger Ridge School Road, St. Catherine #2



Ginger Ridge School Road, St. Catherine #3

Rehabilitation along Junction to Top Hill St Elizabeth Completed

Respite has come for the residents of Southeastern and Southwestern St. Elizabeth. A major corridor that links thousands of residents has been rehabilitated. The main road from Junction to Top Hill, for some time, had been in a state of disrepair. This is no longer the case following an intervention by the National Works Agency (NWA). The road impacts persons from areas such as Southfield, Top Hill, Ballards Valley, Tryall, Junction, Flagaman, Treasure Beach, Cheapside, among others.

The residents' dissatisfaction with the poor state of the road was highlighted during a visit in February 2023 by then Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Everald Warmington. Minister Warmington had direct supervision of the Works portfolio in the Ministry.

The scope of the over 30-million-dollar project included the bushing and trimming of banks and cleaning of outlets. Drainage features have been added, including a concrete 'V' drain in the vicinity of the Top Hill Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses.

It is expected that the 1.5 kilometres of roadway will be able to withstand adverse weather conditions, including hurricanes.

The project was contracted to Morris Hill Limited.

The project started in April and among the persons who sang the praises of the works was Ms Yvonne Burton. Ms Burton operated the Lovers Leap Guest House. Her complaints about the state of the road was often quite loud, especially as her guests were challenged.

Ms Burton was very pleased when the works got underway. Unfortunately, she passed away just before the activities were completed. The Lititz to Pedro Cross corridors serve thousands of residents across communities in South Eastern and South Western St. Elizabeth.



Rehabilitation of roadway



Workmen setting out a V-drain



A partially completed section of the V-drain

Multi Million Sea Defense Works for West End roadway in Negril



Revetment Works underway along a section of the West End main road in Negril.

The long-awaited rehabilitation of the West End main road in Westmoreland is now underway. This has come as a welcomed development for residents, tourism interests and other stakeholders, who have been lobbying for this situation to be addressed.

Over time, sections of this roadway, have been severely undermined due to coastal erosion, resulting in sections of the corridor being reduced to single lane access.

In a bid to stem the erosion along this critical corridor, the National Works Agency, in June, commenced a \$88 million Rock Revetment Project along this stretch of roadway. Rock Revetment prevents shoreline erosion by acting as a buffer between the sea and the coast, and in this instance the roadway. The project involves the systematic packing of large boulders along the targeted section of the coast, the reconstruction of a retaining wall and the repair of sidewalks. Additionally, the project involves the reinstatement of the affected section of the roadway.

The project which is being executed by local contractor, J and L Equipment & Construction Services Ltd. is scheduled to be completed by September 27, 2024.

NWA

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Rehabilitation of Mount Moriah to Bohemia in St. Ann Brings Sustenance to Jamaican Communities

The roadway from Mount Moriah to Bohemia is one which links communities in St. Ann, Trelawny and sections of Clarendon. The area is home to mainly farming communities such as Mount Moriah, Wildcane, Whitesand, Cascade and Bohemia so the repair of this roadway is beneficial to the wider Jamaica as well, as it allows for produce to leave these communities and eventually make it into homes across the island.

Prior to February 2024, the roadway existed in a dire state of disrepair. There were sections of the corridor that were deeply scoured and made travelling a gruesome experience for most motorists. In addition, it is the only means to move produce from the farms to the nearby markets and towns, so it became highly frustrating for persons whose livelihoods depended on it.

Since February, much has been done as it relates to the rehabilitation of this thoroughfare. Two projects are currently transforming, not only the landscape, but also the way people travel within and between their communities. This, in turn, will ensure that the farmers from the communities touched by the project can continue to bring sustenance to the rest of Jamaica.

ROAD REHABILITATION

The first project commenced on February 27 and is a multimillion-dollar road rehabilitation project that targeted roughly 18 kilometres of roadway. As part of the project, banks were trimmed and overhanging trees and foliage were cut. There was also the clearing of obstructions such as boulders, silt and debris.



A section of the newly rehabilitated Mount Moriah to Bohemia roadway in St. Ann



Concrete cross drain aids drainage of stormwater (Mount Moriah to Bohemia)



Banana crops accentuate the new road surface (St. Ann)

Rehabilitation of Mount Moriah to Bohemia in St. Ann Brings Sustenance to Jamaican Communities: Continued from page 17

Several drainage structures: side drains, blocked culverts, earth drain, u-drain, catch basins, and outlets were cleaned, while new drainage solutions such as cross drains and v-drains were constructed. The project also included the excavation and repair of soft spots, the construction of kerb and channels with the roadway being overlaid with 54,900 square metres of asphaltic concrete as the final surface. The project, which cost J\$ 135,173,200, was given a timeline of six months and was substantially completed by the beginning of July.



Roadway prior to road marking makes travelling better for residents of Mount Moriah to Bohemia



A failed section of roadway at White Sand signalled need for reinforcement

RETAINING WALL CONSTRUCTION

The second project will see the construction of two retaining walls, one each at Wild Cane and White Sand along the Mount Moriah to Bohemia roadway. This project, valued at \$17.3 million officially commenced on May 28 and is scheduled to last for eight weeks.



Excavation for foundation of retaining wall (White Sand), St. Ann

The project will also include the milling of the pavement in the vicinity of the walls, the installation of 400 metres of kerbs, the application of a base course of approved material and the application of a prime (oil) coating. The roadway will then be paved with 4,875 square metres of asphaltic concrete.

SCHIP Moving Apace

The government's push to bring the parishes of St. Thomas and Portland into modern infrastructure experience is well on track. The push has come through the laying down of a new road from Harbour View, St. Andrew to Port Antonio Portland. The work being done through distinct packages has picked up momentum and has seen a rapid push by the contractor China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) to complete the works.

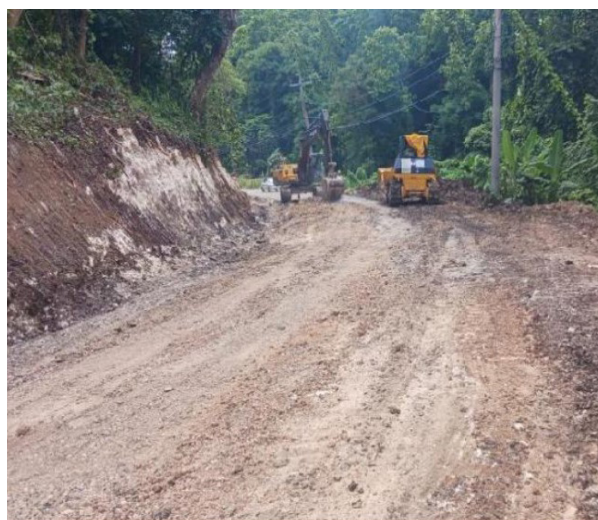
Having substantially completed the work on the first 17 kilometers between Harbour View and Yallahs and making great strides in completing that from Yallahs to Prospect, the CHEC team is now busy cutting, pushing and installing along the stretch from Prospect, St. Thomas to Boston in Portland. These works form part of Tranches one and two of the project.

The project is being managed for the government by Stanley Jamaica Consultants Limited. Head of that team, Andrew Evans told the Roadster that the focus now is completing the roughly 35 kilometers of road that is outstanding by the end of 2024. Contractually, CHEC is expected to complete the works by the end of the 24/25 fiscal year, however, it is working to have the works substantially completed by December.

The SCHIP is a highly integrated project, including sewerage (in some areas), telecoms, relocation of utility poles, laying of new water lines, improved drainage works and the building of a modern road, which will include shoulders and sidewalks in select places. To date, CHEC has completed and commissioned into service 109 of the 131 kilometers of new waterline installations, both for transmission and distribution under tranches one and two. Pipelaying works continue along the projects making up Tranche three.

Among the areas where focus is now being placed are the stretch from Prospect to Arcadia, St. Thomas, where sections of the road are being realigned; Arcadia to Amity Hall, where new and improved drainage features are being constructed and that from Fair Prospect to Boston, Portland. These road sections form Tranche three of the project.

Mr. Evans explains that the work in these sections of road in St. Thomas are most important to many persons on the eastern side of the parish, which is highly susceptible to flooding, mainly due to the Plantain Garden River, when it is in spate. He says, while the project will not solve the problem of the widescale flooding that is experienced generally in the area, especially when there is abnormal rainfall, such as that associated with high intensity storms and hurricanes, the features being built will add resilience to the corridor. "More resilience will mean that the public should have less problems using the road when it rains, especially if it is not an abnormal downpour."



Patrick Drive in Kingston Gets New Surface and Sidewalks

Patrick Drive is a well traversed roadway in Kingston that is used to access the communities of Patrick City and Duhaney Park, as well as Perkins Boulevard and environs. It is a well-used access point to a popular patty restaurant in Kingston, as well as home to scores of residents. It is also a designated Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) bus route.



A section of the roadway being widened



Over time with the continued development of the area, this roadway has seen an increase in traffic, especially during peak hours, when it is used to bypass sections of Washington Boulevard. As such, the surface of the roadway, understandably, deteriorated resulting in the need for rehabilitation.



Sidewalk construction done as part of the rehabilitation of Patrick Drive



Patrick Drive in Kingston Gets New Surface and Sidewalks: Continued from page 20

The project targeted the section of roadway from Washington Boulevard to Conway Drive, which is the bus route. The rehabilitation commenced in early May with the widening of its intersection with Washington Boulevard. This section of the roadway was often a source of congestion as motorists exiting at this point often caused conflicts at the junction. The widening is expected to create more space for egress, which will be clearly defined to minimise driver confusion.



Pavement resurfacing works in progress

The project, which was contracted to FSC Construction Works Limited at a cost of \$18.2 million, also included the construction of sidewalks. The deteriorated sections of the roadway were also removed to allow for a new asphaltic concrete pavement.



Views of the newly paved roadway

So far, residents have embraced the rehabilitation of the roadway. For the most part, persons have expressed gratitude for the repairs. Others continue to advocate for more works along the roadway, which passes through a large area of Patrick City, as well as the neighbouring community of Duhaney Park.

The Internship Programme at NWA is in full swing

Written by Bryan Henry (Summer Intern assigned to the Communication Department)

Since inception, the NWA has offered an invaluable work opportunity for students in Jamaica to help them transition into the workforce and gain practical experience. This year, the program has successfully accommodated over 50 students of high potential in 15 offices across the island.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr. E.G. Hunter's unwavering support has been crucial for the program's annual implementation. He also received his career start as a summer intern and has paid the gesture forward.

The Program is partnered with many tertiary institutions like the University of Technology, the University of the West Indies, Caribbean Maritime University, and many high schools in Jamaica. Participants in the program have been placed in several departments including, but not limited to:

- Major Projects
- Information Technology
- Finance and Accounting
- Communication and Customer Services
- Human Resource Management and Administration
- Technical Services.

INTERN EXPERIENCE

Several NWA summer interns were approached and asked to give a synopsis of their internship so far. Their experiences, in their words, are outlined below.

Joshua Foster was assigned to the Information Technology (IT) department. He described his prior expectations and how those were debunked by reality.



Ashlee Jones worked in the Childcare department



Brihanna Brown and Joshua Foster worked in Information Technology Department

"As an intern at NWA, there was a personal expectation of an extremely formal and emotionally stifling workspace, where I would complete repetitively mundane tasks that provided no new knowledge or skills. Fortunately, after almost 3 weeks of working, I am overjoyed to have been proved wrong. On the first day, my fellow interns and I were tense and many seemed shy. Still, the strictly formal environment we had expected was overturned as we were assigned to various departments and eagerly welcomed by staff, workers, and supervisors alike.

After being placed in the organization's I.T. department, I have learned and used a great swathe of knowledge regarding networking, maintaining, organizing, repairing, and initiating various technological devices, as well as using different software like Microsoft SQL or Notepad and the various programming languages that govern them. Our supervisors are patient and willing to guide and provide encouragement and aid, where necessary, for us to complete them. In conclusion, the friendly environment, as well as the exciting and new things that are learned and practiced, make the internship experience educationally beneficial and undoubtedly enjoyable." ~Joshua Foster

The Internship Programme at NWA is in full swing : Continued from page 22

Tremaine Grant gave some insight into how the experience shaped him and how he could have benefited more from the experience.

"During my time as a summer worker with the NWA, a government agency, I gained invaluable experience over six weeks. Being placed in the HR department gave me a comprehensive understanding of administrative processes and employee relations.

What I appreciated most was the opportunity to collaborate with fellow summer workers across various departments. This allowed me to enhance my communication skills, build a strong network, and gain insights into the diverse functions of the agency. The experience was both enriching and rewarding, offering a well-rounded perspective on the inner workings of a government organization. My only regret was not having lunch together with more of my colleagues."

~Tremaine Grant

NWA's summer interns were also exposed to more practical and affective roles that will shape their futures and attitudes going forward. Ashlee Jones, who did a lot of her work as a part of the NWA Summer School program expressed the following:

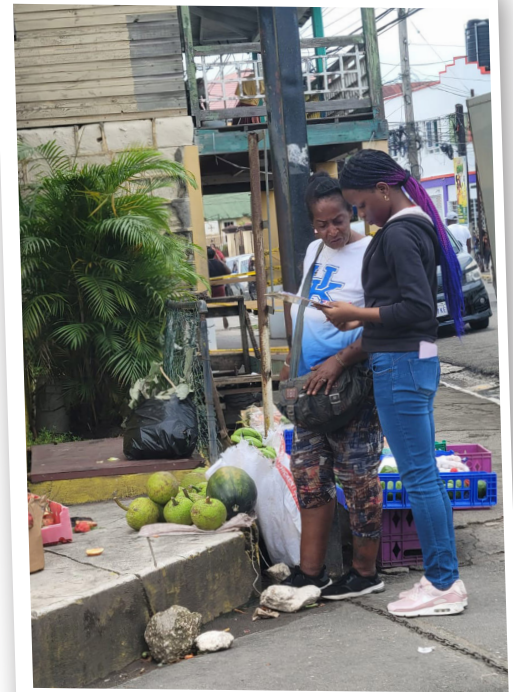
"I work in the Childcare Unit. My time in the department has been lovely. My colleagues have been very kind to me and we have respect for each other.

Working in the childcare department makes me feel connected to the children. It also gave me time to think about what I want to do in life. Although my time is coming to an end I would love to work there again."

~Ashlee Jones

Other interns were asked to sum up their experience using one word.

The responses, though diverse, all had a similar thread which suggests that the experience was rewarding for all.



Tianna Williams doing Customer Satisfaction Survey



Answers given by interns when asked to sum up their experience in one word

JACISERA Fitness Centre - *begin to build a new you!*



Aerobic activity boosts energy and strength training builds muscle.

Members of the Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA), who have joined the JACISERA Fitness Centre, reap these benefits daily. The Fitness Centre is only open to registered members, their spouses and immediate family members.

The costs vary as members pay only \$2,500 per month while all other additional persons pay \$5,000 per month. The gym is located 31 Molyneux Road (right beside Tarrant High School).

The gym comes well equipped with various free weights and aerobic machines such as treadmills and spin bikes. In addition, there are always at least two trainers ready and willing to assist and answer questions.

At the moment the schedule is as follows:

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Saturdays 6:00 a.m.-12 noon.

Classes offered:

Tuesdays: Aerobics at 6:00 p.m.-7 p.m.

Wednesday: Core Workout at 5:40 p.m.-6:40 p.m. &

Yoga: 6:40 p.m.-7:40 p.m.

Thursdays: HIIT Workout (with weights) @ 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: Bootcamp at 6:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.

If you are interested in joining kindly contact the Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA) today at 876 9687087