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Downtown 'Central Green' Implementation Continues North Boulevard Town Square Phase II & Riverfront Plaza Construction Begins

BATON ROUGE, LA (September 28, 2018) – Two components of the Downtown 'Central Green' are beginning construction, adding to over 11 acres of accessible, contiguous public greenspace located in the heart of downtown. North Boulevard Town Square Phase II and the renovation of Riverfront Plaza will include ADA accessibility improvements and enhance overall pedestrian and bicycle circulation, as well as provide an additional event space for users to enjoy. Both components began as a recommendation of the community-driven master plan, Plan Baton Rouge II.

North Boulevard Town Square Phase II

North Boulevard Town Square Phase (NBTS) was designed by the joint venture design team Brown+Danos Land Design and Joseph Furr Design Studio. Construction on Phase I was completed in the spring of 2012 by Arrighi Construction, LLC. Since its completion, it has since been host to over 250 annual special events. In addition, NBTS Phase I has received nine state, national, and international awards since its opening. The construction of NBTS Phase II, beginning October 1st, will include corridor improvements along St. Phillip Street linking Repentance Park with Town Square and North Boulevard between Fourth & Fifth Streets and Lafayette Street & River Road. Constructed by Gulf State Contractors, the \$1.8 million project is funded by a federal transportation grant and has an expected completion date in the early summer of 2019.

Riverfront Plaza

Riverfront Plaza, originally built in 1984 and designed by Lou Faxon AIA, is a classic water garden style public space representative of the particular era in which it was designed. The plaza serves as the welcoming point to thousands of riverboat visitors each year and has an ADA accessible entry to the riverfront near the dock. Approximately \$750,000 of State Sales Tax Rebate funding has been dedicated to revitalize the plaza to create a more inviting experience to the thousands of annual Riverfront visitors. The renovations, currently underway, will rectify numerous maintenance related items as well as include landscape and event related upgrades. Some of the enhancements include wildflower planting areas, River Road tree plantings, additional security and decorative lighting, updated irrigations, concrete repairs, ADA improvements, and a sound system for event use. The redesign was completed by CARBO Landscape Architecture and Rotolo Consultants was selected to construct the project by early spring 2019.

Pedestrian access surrounding the two project sites will be impacted for the duration of construction, but directional signage will be installed to guide users. ADA access to the Mississippi River levee will be limited at Riverfront Plaza; those in need of ADA access should utilize the South Boulevard Trailhead and the Florida Street Riverfront Access Point.

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