



DOWNTOWN MAINTENANCE

REPORT - 11/2018





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MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

DOWNTOWN MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The mission of the DDD Maintenance Committee is to enhance the built and natural environment by increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of maintenance resolutions through the development of ordinances, educational campaigns, enforcement procedures, and volunteer/funding activities compatible with the current dynamic and condition of the Downtown Development District.

CLUTTER REMOVAL PHASE I

The DDD documented locations of maintenance related items and worked with the City-Parish Department of Transportation & Drainage (Traffic Engineering) and City-Parish Department of Maintenance to fix problems. The recorded issues were resolved in 2016.

- Removed Old Signs/bands
- Removed and/or Replaced Missing/Damaged Parking Meters/Posts
- Cleaned Graffiti on Public Property



SIDEWALK CAFE ORDINANCE

The 2016 update to the Downtown Sidewalk Cafe Ordinance addressed ADA Compliance, Fire and Traffic Codes, Allowable Items (Chairs, umbrellas, a-frame signs, etc), Defining Dimension and Layout Requirements, the Requiring of a Maintenance Plan, and Requiring Liability insurance. Violations to the ordinance can be reported to the City-Parish 311 report system.



DOWNTOWN OVERLAY

Approved in 2017, the Downtown Overlay replaced the previously existing Arts & Entertainment District Overlay established in 2008. The Downtown Overlay boundaries align with the Central Business District boundaries defined as North Street (northern), I-110 (east), North Boulevard (south), and River Road (west). The new/updated overlay includes allowable uses, building placement & design, signage, building materials, site design, and lighting.



WASTE ORDINANCE

Waste receptacles are remaining on the public right of way and sidewalks, cluttering the environment, impeding ADA access, and creating unsanitary conditions. The proposed ordinance will limit the amount of time that cans, dumpsters, and other waste receptacles are allowed to remain on the public right of way and sidewalks for collection in the Central Business District to between the hours of 10pm and 8am, or between 2pm and 4pm. Waste collections taking place on private property would not be impacted, only those placed in the public right-of-way. The ordinance was approved by the Metropolitan Council on October 24th.



UTILITY PAINT ORDINANCE

Downtown has seen a lot of construction recently, and with this work, utility paint is a necessary component. Several utility companies have committed to utilizing water-based paint to minimize the long-term impact on our streets and sidewalks. The success of this initiative will be evaluated in June 2019 to determine whether or not an established ordinance requiring the use of water-based paint is necessary to pursue.



VOLUNTEER CLEAN UPS

In partnership with the Mayor's Office, Visit Baton Rouge, Keep Baton Rouge Beautiful, and Downtown Business Association the Downtown Development District has coordinated several volunteer clean-up days focused on removing litter from downtown's core. Several businesses, hotels, residents, and other volunteers have participated.



WE LIVE IT CAMPAIGNS

The Downtown Maintenance Committee developed several educational, anti-litter and clean-up campaigns all under the "We Live It: Downtown, Baton Rouge" brand. The "We Live It" motto and brand is intended to indicate and recognize our downtown citizens, workers, and visitors desire to live and act in ways that contribute to community pride and the beautification of downtown. The general public has been awarded for appropriately disposing of their own or other's trash. In addition, a monthly campaign recognizes a business for their efforts maintaining their exterior by awarding them with a 'Downtown Distinction' Award.

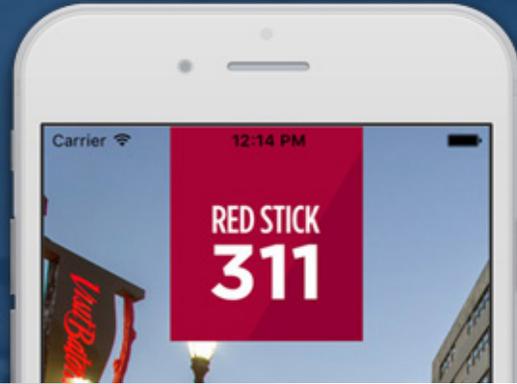


WE LIVE IT
— DOWNTOWN BR —



RED STICK 311

A new way for Baton Rouge citizens to request services and report issues while “on the go.”



PUBLIC MAINTENANCE

COORDINATION WITH CITY PARISH SERVICES

REDSTICK 311 REPORTING

Several maintenance issues can be reported on the City-Parish 311 system either by dialing 311 or downloading the Redstick 311 app. The app records the users location via GPS and allows users to upload pictures. Since the implementation of the app and restructuring of the 311 database, issues have been addressed more efficiently.

- Old Signs/bands
- Missing/damaged parking meters
- Continue to support upgraded meters
- Graffiti
- Property blight and litter
- Broken / chipping curbs



CLUTTER REMOVAL AND CLEAN UP PHASE II

The DDD will be inventorying issues in need to addressing as part 2 of the Clutter Removal Program. Documented locations of maintenance related items will be shared with the City-Parish Departments responsible for rectifying the identified issues. Existing maps, inventories, databases, plans, and other sources will be reviewed to create a comprehensive list of issues.

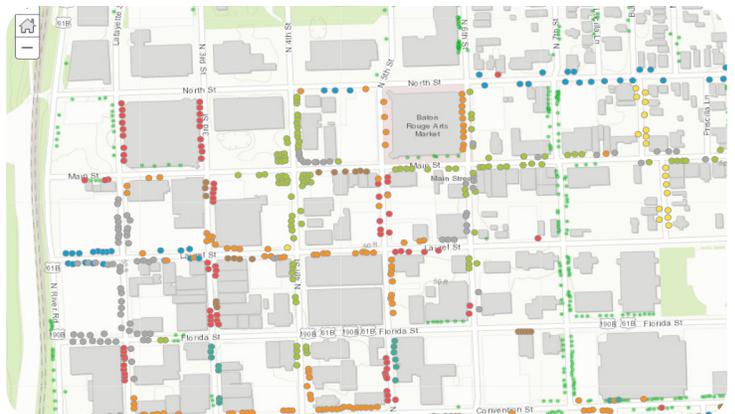


ADA VIOLATIONS

The City-Parish is in the process of developing an ADA Transition Plan that will identify violations throughout the city. The DDD will review the plan to ensure all known violations are included in the report. The DDD will work with the city to prioritize the renovations of the identified violations within the district.

TREE WELL MAINTENANCE

The DDD will be inventorying all tree wells in the DDD and document the condition of each tree. The information generated will be used to develop a tree well maintenance schedule and new plantings.



CITY PARISH DEPARTMENTS AND GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Among the responsibilities of the Department of Buildings and Grounds (B & G) is to maintain the public building facilities for the C/P including lights and built structures. B & G is responsible for emptying the trash cans near City Hall, River Center, and the Mississippi Riverfront as well as pressure washing and cleaning the levees paved surfaces as needed. Usually this occurs once the river has fallen. The department supports over 60 events/runs/parades in the downtown area each year. *Director: Bubba Cashio, 225-389-4615, bcashio@brla.gov*



DEPARTMENT OF MAINTENANCE

The Department of Maintenance is responsible for the maintenance of the tree wells, sidewalk repairs, and the lawns, landscape, and fountains in the public greenspaces. They are responsible for emptying trash cans in the core of downtown excluding the public greenspaces around City Hall and the riverfront. The department is over tree trimming and keeping tree wells and sidewalks free of grass and weeds. *Director: Kyle Huffstickler, 225-389-3158, khuffstickler@brla.gov*



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DRAINAGE

The Department of Transportation and Drainage oversees transportation-related functions including oversight of traffic engineering, traffic analysis, drainage, road construction and maintenance, bridge repair, bike lanes, bike share, approval of public right-of-way permits, and the Green Light Program. The Traffic Engineering Division is responsible for the justification, installation, and maintenance of traffic control devices or equipment throughout the City-Parish, including signs, traffic signals, and roadway markings. Curbs are scheduled to be painted once per year and street light and traffic signals are addressed as needed based on 311 reports. Street closures and construction related traffic permits are also under their purview. *Director: Fred Raiford, 225-389-3158, fraiford@brla.gov*



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Development oversees building permits within East Baton Rouge Parish. It also works to reduce blight in abandoned properties through demolitions and removal of excess vegetation. The Permits & Inspections Division is responsible for permitting residential and commercial developments or projects (building plan review and approval), inspections, and code enforcement. The recently approved Sidewalk Cafe ordinance, as well as other activities conducted in the public right of way are enforced by this department. *Director: Carey Chauvin, 225-389-3160, cchauvin@brgov.com*



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The City-Parish Department of Environmental Services (DES) is tasked with overseeing the delivery of some of the most critical and visible public services provided to Baton Rouge residents — from garbage and recycling collection to management of the East Baton Rouge Parish wastewater system. DES is also responsible for managing the continued implementation and completion of the Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Program. In addition, DES is responsible for enforcing the recently approved waste ordinance limiting time waste receptacles are allowed in right of way within the Central Business District. *Director: Richard Speer, 225-389-4865, rspeer@brgov.com*

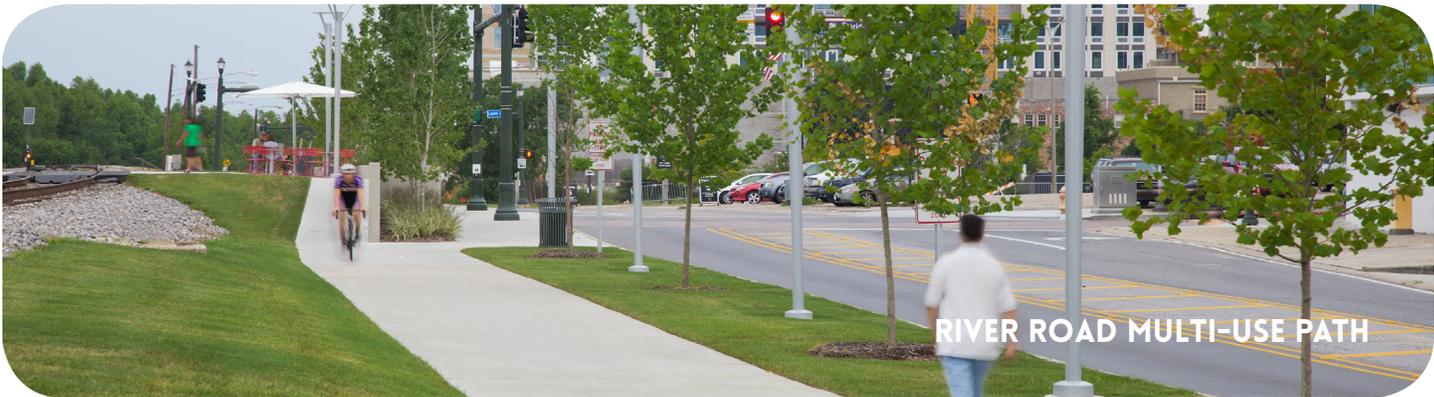




TOWN SQUARE



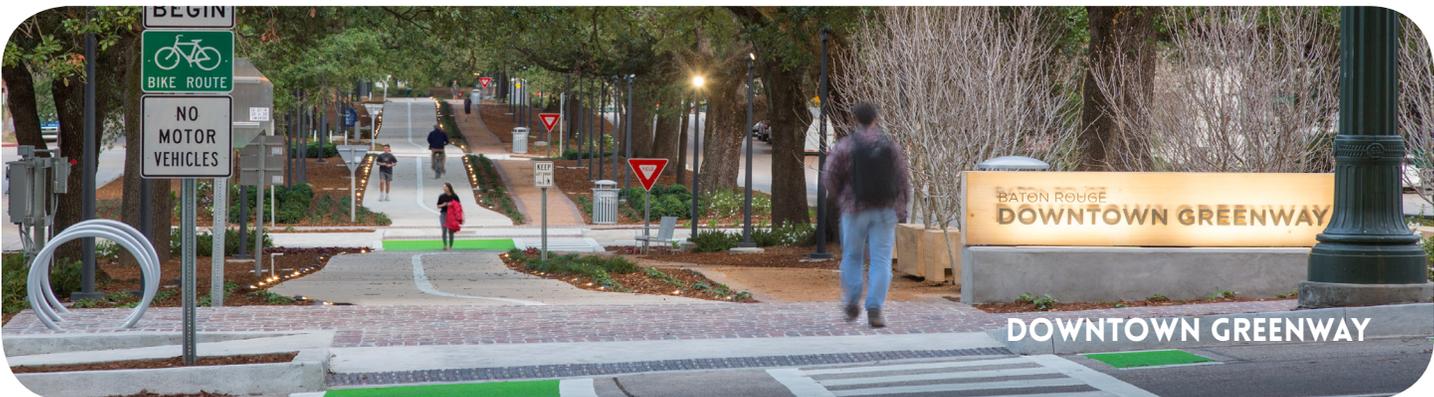
PRIVATE MAINTENANCE IMPLEMENTATION



RIVER ROAD MULTI-USE PATH



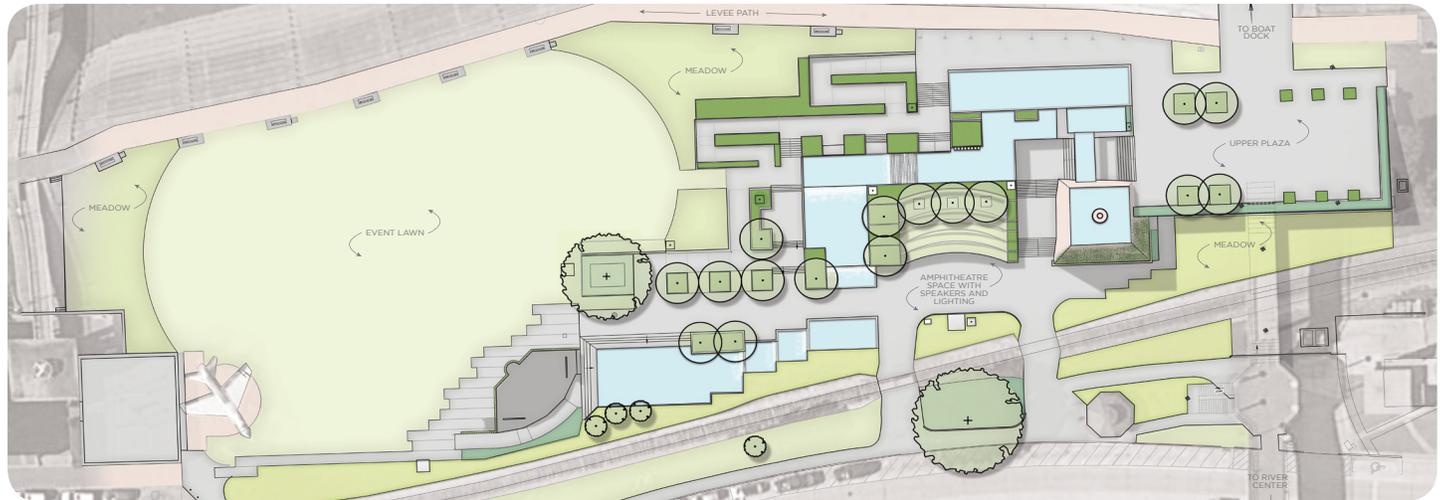
CITY HALL PLAZA



DOWNTOWN GREENWAY

RIVERFRONT PLAZA

CARBO Landscape Architecture has created plans to further enhance the areas within and adjacent to the Riverfront Plaza and dock area. These opportunities include ways to improve aesthetics while decreasing regular maintenance needs, and further defining individual spaces within the gardens that can be used for events and/or riverboat reception. Some of the enhancements include; upgraded event space, all new plantings, 'no-mow' wildflower planting areas, additional security and decorative lighting, sound system, updated irrigation, concrete repairs, and ADA improvements. \$750,000 has been appropriated for this project from the State Sales Tax Rebate funding dedicated to Riverfront Master Plan improvements and Rotolo Consultants has been selected to implement the improvements. The project is expected to be complete by spring 2019.



NBTS PHASE II

\$1.8 million has been allocated for NBTS Phase II and will include corridor improvements along St. Phillip Street pedestrian promenade and North Boulevard. The design was completed by Joey Furr Design Studio and Dana Brown & Associates. Beacon programming, event logistics, and landscape maintenance will continue to be managed by the DDD. Construction of North Boulevard Town Square Phase II is expected to be complete in the summer of 2019 and is being implemented by Gulf States Contractors.



SPECIAL THANKS

The mission of the Downtown Maintenance Committee is to enhance the built and natural environment by increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of maintenance resolutions through the development of ordinances, educational campaigns, enforcement procedures, and volunteer/funding activities compatible with the current dynamic and condition of the Downtown Development District. We thank the residents, businesses, elected officials, City-Parish department representatives, and other downtown stakeholders that participated on the Downtown Maintenance Committee.

Downtown Maintenance Committee Chair

Chris Nichols, Downtown Property Owner and Resident

Downtown Maintenance Committee

Ashely Beck, EBR City-Parish, Parish Attorney's Office
Ben Blackwell, Hampton Inn & Suites and Courtyard by Marriott
Ben Taylor, Downtown Property Owner
Billy Wilson, LA Office of State Buildings
Boo Thomas, Center for Planning Excellence
Carey Chauvin, EBR City-Parish, Department of Development
Cheryl McCormick, Downtown Resident, DDD Commission Member
Courtney Humphrey, EBR City-Parish, Parish Attorney's Office
Cyndi Pennington, EBR City-Parish, Department of Transportation and Drainage, Traffic & Engineering Division
David Cobb, EBR City-Parish, Department of Development
Dominic Distefano, Baton Rouge Police Department
Dr. Graysen Walles, Mentorship Academy
Father Pat Mascarella, Downtown Resident
Greg Bivin, EBR City-Parish, Department of Development
Gwen Emick, Keep Baton Rouge Beautiful
Kyle Callihan, Baton Rouge Police Department
Kyle Huffstickler, EBR City-Parish Department of Maintenance
Lauralyn Maranto, Visit Baton Rouge
Lauren Lambert-Tompkins, Downtown Baton Rouge Business Association
Lisa Freeman, EBR City-Parish, Parish Attorney's Office
Mark Drennen, Downtown Stakeholder
Mary Jane Marcantel, Downtown Resident
Melanie Counce Montanaro, Downtown Resident, DDD Commission Member
Michael Petty, Downtown Stakeholder
R. Glenn Frazier, LA Office of State Buildings
Richard Manship, Downtown Stakeholder
Ryan Holcomb, EBR City-Parish, Planning Commission
Sandra Daire, Hotel Indigo
Shannon Dupont, EBR City-Parish, Department of Development
Councilwoman Tara Wicker, District 10 Councilperson

