

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch
For the Thursday, April 11, 2019 Edition
From: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo
City of Monroe, LA

\$34.5M Kansas Lane Connector Project Moving Forward

We are one step closer to the construction of the long-awaited Kansas Lane Connector Project. Monroe City Council Chairwoman Gretchen Ezernack, City Engineer Kim Golden, and officials from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce were there when I recently signed the paperwork for the city to acquire the final piece of right-of-way needed. In fact, we have completed the acquisition of 34 parcels of land from 39 different land owners.

The next step is for utility companies to start relocating utilities along the planned route. We expect that to begin very soon. We hope to be able to bid the construction project out in early 2020.

The estimated \$34.5M Kansas Lane Connector project will extend Kansas Lane from its current end at the intersection of Desiard (U.S. Hwy 80) and Kansas Lane to the Forsythe Avenue Extension at its intersection with U.S. Hwy 165. The project will construct a new bridge across Bayou Desiard near the south end of the project. The entire length of the four-lane project will be approximately 2.5 miles.

City officials have worked tirelessly on this project with support from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and our legislative delegation for the past couple of decades. We are thankful to Governor’s Kathleen Blanco, Bobby Jindal and John Bel Edwards for their important approval, securing and retaining of funds for this long-awaited project.

The Kansas Lane Connector will help provide major relief of traffic congestion along I-20 and U.S. Highway 165. This new corridor will make it much easier for residents and visitors to navigate their way through our city during peak travel hours. We are embracing our people and addressing our challenges through powerful partnerships.

By working together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!