

GUEST COLUMN
For the Thursday, December 7, 2017 Edition
From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo

HADLEY STREET IMPROVEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY

If you travel on Winnsboro Road or in the U.S. Highway 165 South corridor, I am sure that you have noticed the construction crews at Hadley Street. That is the short road (by the Now Save store) that connects U.S. 165 South and Winnsboro Road. If not, it will come as welcome news to you to know that Hadley Street improvements are finally underway.

An official groundbreaking will take place 10:30 am Wednesday, December 13th, at the construction site. I will be joined by Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Dr. Shawn Wilson, Monroe City Council Members, NELA Legislators, Ouachita Parish Police Jurors, and city department leaders to officially kick off the project.

We all know that Hadley Street is a shortcut from Highway 165 South to the Winnsboro Road business corridor in south Monroe. Although it is slightly less than one-quarter mile in length, it is one of the most heavily traveled gateways in south Monroe. It also belongs to three jurisdictions – the State of Louisiana (though DOTD), the City of Monroe, and the Ouachita Parish Police Jury.

The scope of the \$754,562 southside project, designed by Lazenby & Associates and built by Amethyst Construction, is to rehabilitate the road from its current rough condition to a full two-lane street with curb and gutter, and subsurface drainage.

Because of the complex ownership, the City of Monroe approached it as a joint project with the Louisiana DOTD through their Urban Systems Program. The *Urban Systems Program* leverages local funds with federal dollars (80% federal and 20% local) for the transportation improvements projects on streets and roads which are determined eligible by the *Uniform Functional Classification* and the *Metropolitan Planning Organization*. The Ouachita Council of Governments (OCOG) is the MPO for Ouachita Parish.

In just a few more weeks, the rough and bumpy ride that you are used to will soon be replaced with a smooth section connecting 165 South and Winnsboro Road.

By working together, we are making a difference!