

Largest Road Project in St. Tammany

History Begins

Construction has started on the largest roadway project in St. Tammany Parish history, a \$34 million new road in the Mandeville area, President Mike Cooper announced Monday.

The long-awaited project will alleviate traffic concerns and increase safety for thousands of commuters by constructing a 3.5-mile, two-lane divided roadway that will connect LA 1088 and U.S. 190. The roadway will also feature entrances to Pelican Park, a multiuse pedestrian path connecting to the Tammany Trace and provide easier access to Fontainebleau State Park and the Safe Haven campus.



“The groundbreaking of this new roadway delivers on my administration’s commitment to providing real traffic solutions to our citizens. Our Parish needs new roads to ease traffic and boost safety, not just repaving existing roads,” said Parish President Mike Cooper. “The citizens of St. Tammany have awaited this project for a very long time, and this new roadway is the perfect example of how effectively we can serve our citizens when we work together.”

The new roadway provides relief and an alternate route for motorists

using LA 1088, LA 59 and U.S. 190, as well as other roadways. Traffic studies forecast that more than 3,500 vehicles will use the road daily, with peak daily trips totaling more than 14,200 from Pelican Park visitors.

“I have long advocated for this bypass road to be prioritized, as it was one of my top priorities while campaigning for my Council seat,” said Council Chairman Joe Impastato, who represents the area. “I am thankful for the close collaboration between the Council and President Cooper’s administration on this project. I look forward to seeing the benefits this road will bring to our community.”

The residents of St. Tammany Parish have chosen the name for the new road connecting LA 1088 and U.S. 190 in Mandeville: Adrien Rouquette Parkway.



Rouquette was a renowned poet-priest and missionary to the Choctaw in St. Tammany Parish. He received a law degree from a French university and was recognized for his eloquent sermons in St. Louis Cathedral, yet he longed for the piney woods of St. Tammany.

He begged the Choctaw for a place to live, and they gave him an abandoned log cabin, which would become his first cabin-chapel. Before long, he had retreats between Slidell and Mandeville and was soon recognized by the Choctaw as “Chahta-Ima” – one who

resembles a Choctaw. The spirit of Rouquette remains prevalent today, nearly 140 years after his death, as many sites are named after him: Chahta-Ima Elementary School in Lacombe, Rouquette Lodge, a retirement community in Mandeville, Rouquette Library at St. Joseph's Abbey, and now Adrien Rouquette Parkway.