

# Plum Orchard Neighborhood Recovery Roads

New Orleans, LA

Completed – 2014 (anticipated)

\$781,000 total project

\$200,000 firm fee

**Owner** City of New Orleans

**Prime consultant – Pinnacle Engineering, LLC**

Reference James R. Kapesis, Asst. FEMA Program Manager/Project Manager, Department of Public Works  
504-329-9265, jrkapesis@nola.gov

Josh Hartley, Project Manager, Department of Public Works  
504-658-8042, 504-606-0707, jwhartley@nola.gov

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the infrastructure of the city of New Orleans suffered major damage. The damage included street and buried utility breakage from flood waters, as well as from disaster recovery operations (heavy trucks, demolition equipment, debris cleanup equipment, etc.). Therefore, the initial damage estimate and the corresponding FEMA reimbursement estimates required to be amended to account for these 'additional' damages. **MSMM was a key player** in this effort in several



neighborhoods of the city and was **able to substantiate significant additional damages eligible for FEMA reimbursement**. This project required working under continually changing requirements and a short timeline, which MSMM adhered to successfully via **adaptability and continuous communication** among all parties.

## Objectives

- Develop Project Scoping Report, including analysis of constructability, cost, and time schedule relative to the initial items of work identified as eligible for reimbursement in the FEMA Project Worksheets (PW). This work involved field investigations, GIS mapping, photographic documentation, and CAD drafting.
- Environmental study per FHWA guidelines to complete NEPA documentation.
- Preliminary Design of street and utility repairs, prepare plans and specifications, prepare line and grade analysis, prepare Preliminary Design Report.
- Final Design of street and utility repairs, plans and specifications, bid documents, cost estimates, bid tabulation, award recommendation.

## Work Elements

- Assembled a team of project managers, project engineers, technicians and two-person field crews.
- Review of available information (FEMA project work sheets or PWs, and GIS shapefiles)
- Created sheet layouts with eligible damages and additional damage data points.
- Reviewed Pictometry and Google satellite mapping; identified pre- and post-Hurricane Katrina conditions to substantiate damage calculations.
- Organized relevant images, incorporated titles onto images to facilitate FEMA review, and calculated damage quantities.
- Prepared maps and forms to facilitate field visits, laid additional damage items on each plan sheet, updated spreadsheets, and prepared image records.
- Drafting to prepare plan sheets that were utilized during field surveys in the identification of eligible and additional damages.
- Showed adaptability to changing conditions by incorporating revisions to report format as necessitated by revisions to standards and sheet layout formats. These revisions were incorporated while field work was under way.
- Coordinated with the surveyors assigned to the subject streets and incorporated survey line work into the Scoping Report as the data became available.
- Scoping Report included drawings reflecting FEMA requirements, images, historical Google satellite map backdrops on damage identification, updated Excel spreadsheets, etc.