

County road projects almost done

By KATLYNN LANHAM | Posted: Sunday, November 27, 2011 2:00 am

ALVIN — With completion of CR 58, Brazoria County has used most of the \$50 million in mobility bond funds, but they still have a few projects on the horizon.

Of the 22 projects originally planned to be a part of the bond, only 12 projects will be completed, Brazoria County Engineer Gerald Roberts said. The other projects depended on state support that wasn't there, he said.

Still, the majority of the projects completed or still slated to receive the bond money are being done with Texas Department of Transportation financial support, he said.

Dedicated this week, CR 58 north of Highway 6 went from a two-lane to a four-lane road capable of handling the load of the local schools and new subdivisions, Roberts said. It is one of many projects the county started to keep traffic moving.

Since voters approved the \$50 million mobility bond in 2004, county officials have combined those funds with city and state dollars and workers, depending on the project, to complete several projects. Those include an overpass on CR 101, work on CR 40, Highway 288 frontage roads in Pearland and work on Dixie Farm Road and Cullen Boulevard. The mobility funds also have been used for design of CR 48 and CR 220 and to fund several right of way purchases.

Many of these projects are in the northern end of the county, where there has been such extreme growth the larger highways have been needed fast, Commissioner Larry Stanley said.

“The more dense your population, the more dense your thoroughfares,” Roberts said.

At least four more projects still to come include work on Highway 36, Highway 288, CR 48 and CR 220.

The CR 220 project will connect Highway 288 to FM 523 near Angleton, Roberts said. It is likely the next project to begin under the mobility bond funds, he said.

Still, residents likely won't see any work on it until at least 2013.

There are many thoroughfares going from south to north right now, but very few that go east to west, Roberts said. The project would provide one of those connections needed to ease traffic on other roads, he said.

A lot of truck traffic uses FM 523 and will find the new connection useful, Stanley said.

Another project slated for completion under the mobility bonds is improvements to Highway 36 in West Columbia, Brazoria and near Port Freeport, Roberts said. Though it was planned to be finished long ago, it has taken some time to go through channels necessary to ensure state and

federal money remains with the project.

The Highway 36 project will create an overpass over Highway 35 in West Columbia and update the section going through Brazoria from two lanes to four and raise the intersection where Highway 36 meets FM 1495 at Port Freeport, Roberts said. A portion of this project could begin as early as next year, he said.

The Highway 36 project is intended to make it easier for trucks to use Highway 36 to get to I-10 and to create a better hurricane evacuation route, he said.