



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rebuilt N.O. bridge will reopen at 10 a.m. Friday**

*Hurricane floodproofing completed on R.E. Lee at Orleans Canal*

NEW ORLEANS – A four-lane bridge in New Orleans' lakefront area will reopen for traffic Friday, Sept. 7, following one year of construction for hurricane floodproofing, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Thursday.

The bridge spans the Orleans Avenue Canal on Robert E. Lee Boulevard. The Corps of Engineers and the Orleans Levee District shared the \$2.1 million cost 70-30. Construction was done by Shavers-Whittle Construction Inc. of Mandeville.

Lt. Col. Michael R. Burt, deputy district engineer, New Orleans District, will represent the Corps of Engineers in a brief ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Commissioner Vic Landry will represent the Levee District. Traffic will resume shortly thereafter.

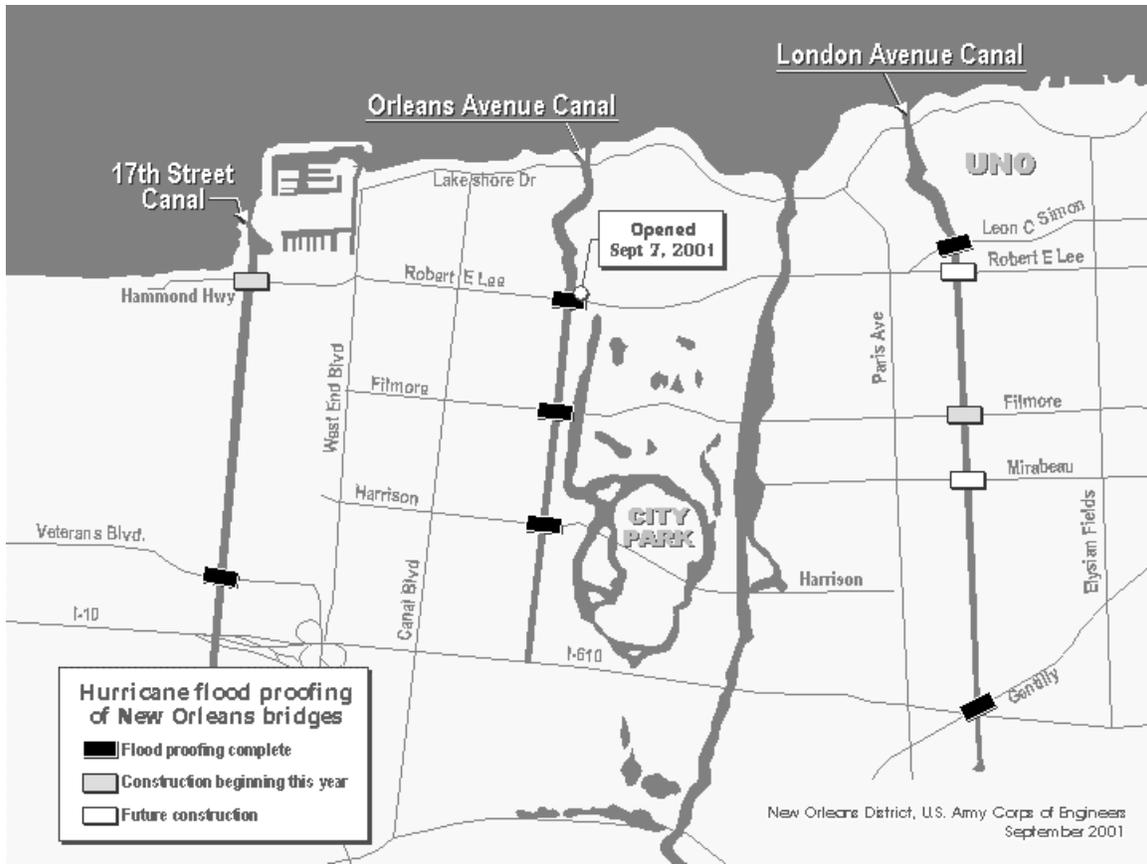
The Robert E. Lee bridge was completed on schedule. It is the sixth of 10 bridges to be flood proofed. This requires replacing each bridge in its entirety. The new bridges are sealed on the bottom and both sides, effectively closing a gap in the hurricane floodwall. The total cost is about \$28 million.

In addition to keeping storm surges out of New Orleans, floodproofing permits vital roadways to remain open. It eliminates the need for sandbagging, which must be accomplished well before a tropical storm reaches the city.

Next to be floodproofed will be the Hammond Highway bridge over the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal. A contract award is expected soon after bids are opened this month for a four-lane bridge to replace the present two-lane structure. Construction is expected to begin by late November, and will take two years. Two lanes will remain open throughout construction.

### **Hurricane Protection Glossary:**

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/response/glossary.asp> What is meant by parallel protection (includes floodproofing), sector gates and floodwalls?



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