



**US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMENDED

New closure date

Orpheum Street to close on Monday

Weather conditions have postponed construction of hurricane protection features on Orpheum Street until Monday.

Orpheum Street closed as hurricane protection project continues

NEW ORLEANS – Beginning tomorrow, Orpheum Street, north and south of Hammond Highway, will be closed to traffic. A new detour road about 300 feet west of II Tony's Restaurant on Hammond Highway can be used to access Sid Mar's Restaurant and other establishments on north Orpheum. The detour will remain in place until the early part of 2004.

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District contractor, Gulf Group Inc. out of Panama City, FL, will build a hurricane protection floodgate across north Orpheum. The gate is part of a \$4.9 million hurricane protection project whose main feature is replacing and floodproofing the Hammond Highway Bridge, to be completed in 2004. The floodgate and bridge will become an integral part of the Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity Hurricane Project.

The existing traffic light at Orpheum and Hammond Highway will be removed during construction but will be replaced once Orpheum is reopened. Orpheum on the south side of Hammond Highway will also be closed so that heavy equipment can move into place to begin work on a bridge abutment.

The Hammond Highway Bridge is still closed to truck traffic and Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office deputies will be ticketing violators.