

**ONE MOBILE:** RECONNECTING PEOPLE, WORK AND PLAY THROUGH COMPLETE STREETS

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What's it For?

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the Revitalizing Broad Street Improvement Project's **RECONNECTING** newsletter. In this issue, you will find out what is happening now and what comes next, as well as the history behind creating Broad Street in the mid-19th Century.

## THE HISTORY OF BROAD STREET

A historic artery first platted in 1824, Broad Street borders seven National Register Historic Districts (Oakleigh, Campground, Church Street, Lower Dauphin Street, Oakdale, St. Louis Street Automobile Alley and Old Dauphin Way) and the MLK Heritage Neighborhood. Historic Beauregard Street borders the De Tonti National Register Historic District. Broad intersected the urban grid of these neighborhoods and provided a key north-south route through the heart of early 19th and 20th century Mobile.

In the late 19th century, at its apex, Broad Street was the longest north-south thoroughfare in the City. An original example of a "Complete Street," trolley lines ran alongside the carts and wagons, pedestrians walked between home to store, and fisherman fished the canal that once ran down the middle of Broad Street, north to One Mile Creek. Broad served to connect the three driving commercial sectors of the City's economy: truck farms and shipping to the south, the Downtown commercial center, and the lumber mills and rail yards to the north. By 1938, the federal government established the Brookley Army Air Field at the southern terminus of Broad Street. Over the next 30 years, Broad Street served to connect the neighborhoods to the former Brookley Army Air Field and later the Brookley Air Force base.



Image Credit: McCall Library at University of Southern Alabama.

# WHAT TO EXPECT

- **BROAD STREET:** Crews continue to demo the concrete and place new sewer lines. In the coming weeks, electrical work for new traffic signals will begin. New water and sewer will move towards Government Street.

## BROAD STREET CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



## PROJECT NEWS

- Crews are currently working on replacing the existing sewer and water piping that runs under Broad Street. This includes adding new piping and designing new manholes in the street.

Construction crews have recently removed the sign bridge that hangs over Broad Street. These sign bridges typically label lanes for specific directions, or help drivers understand a busy intersection. With the new layout of intersections being created, these sign bridges are no longer needed.



New water line in place and trench being backfilled.



Crews removing the sign bridge.