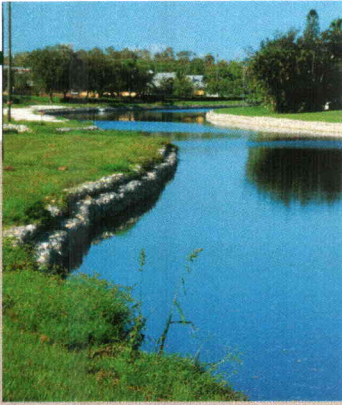


## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



This fiscal year the Transportation Services Division completed four major road construction projects that added 55 lane miles to the county's roadway network along with sidewalks and bike lanes for pedestrians and bicyclists. The projects were: Collier Boulevard, widened from two lanes to six lanes from Golden Gate Boulevard to Immokalee Road; Collier Boulevard widened from four lanes to six lanes from U.S. 41 to Davis Boulevard; Santa Barbara Boulevard widened from four lanes to six lanes from Davis Boulevard to Copper Leaf Lane along with Radio Road widened from two lanes to four lanes from Santa Barbara Boulevard to Robin Hood Circle; and Vanderbilt Beach Road widened from two lanes to six lanes from Airport-Pulling Road to Collier Boulevard. In addition, the Santa Barbara Boulevard Extension kicked off construction in December 2008. When completed in summer 2010, there will be a six lane roadway from Davis Boulevard to Rattlesnake Hammock Road that will add 12 lane miles to the county's roadway network.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Oct. 6, 2009 for Freedom Park, formerly known as the Gordon River Water Quality Park. This major stormwater improvement project at 1515 Golden Gate Parkway is a 50-acre natural water quality treatment facility, providing flooding relief and tertiary treatment of stormwater runoff from the Gordon River Extension Basin. Residents and visitors delight in the nearly two miles of hiking paths where a variety of wildlife can be discovered including a family of otters, great blue herons, little blue herons, snowy egrets, red-shouldered hawks, white ibis, anhingas, and pileated woodpeckers. In building the park, exotic species were removed and many indigenous plants were added including 8,000 golden canna, 600 bald cypress, 1,300 water lilies and more than 600 leather ferns. Park hours are 8 a.m. to sunset daily. Several entities provided the needed funding of \$31.5 million to make the concept of Freedom Park a reality that is providing an invaluable benefit to Southwest Florida. South Florida Water Management District/Big Cypress Basin provided \$12.3 million that went toward the purchase of the vacant land, design and construction and Florida Communities Trust provided \$6 million for the construction of the park. The remainder of the funds needed for the real estate, design and construction was allocated from Collier County ad valorem taxes.

Segments of the Lely Area Stormwater Improvement Project were completed at a cost of approximately \$3.6 million. The on-going

project is a long-term effort to improve drainage and decrease flooding in East Naples.

Maintaining existing roadways, bridges and roadside drainage swales is handled by the Road Maintenance Department. Crews resurfaced approximately 97 lane miles of roadways and converted about nine lane miles of limerock roads to asphalt. In addition the department refurbished more than 212 lane miles of pavement markings.

Ridership for Collier Area Transit (CAT), the county's eight-year-old transit system was approximately 1.1 million, a slight decline from the previous year. CAT has been awarded \$1.3 million in state funding for a new transfer facility at the main Government Complex at US 41 and Airport-Pulling Road and \$2.96 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for two hybrid buses and intelligent transportation system improvements which will include automated passenger counters and electronic fare boxes.

In addition, the Transportation Planning Department was instrumental in working with the state to obtain \$6 million in grant funds that were awarded to the widening of Oil Well Road. That project is expected to start in early 2010 and the first two segments scheduled to be widened will add 25 lane miles to the county's road network. The department also assembled an \$8.25 million developer contribution agreement through a public-private partnership for capacity improvements to the US 41/Collier Boulevard intersection. The design of the project is scheduled to begin next year.

Finally, to continue to assist traffic flow, the Traffic Operations Department has developed new timings for 50 intersections utilizing a state grant. The department also changed 18 roadway lighting circuits to lower costs. In addition, in coordination with the Collier County Sheriff's Office, photo enforcement equipment for red light running cameras was installed at 12 intersection approaches.

