

## CITY OF PALMS FLOURISHES WITH NEW CONCRETE STORMWATER SYSTEM



Built 1915, McGregor Boulevard enjoyed varying degrees of maintenance and upgrades over the years by the FDOT. In 1999 when the FDOT transferred ownership of McGregor Boulevard within the Fort Myers city limits, the pipe used in the original stormwater system was replaced with corrugated high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic pipe. Post-installation inspection video records starting in 2000 revealed immediate and future structural distress in the stormwater system. As a result, the City had to repair and replace numerous sections of the HDPE pipe and subsiding pavement over the next decade and a half. This ongoing time-consuming exercise was costly to the City and disruptive to its residence.

Spurred by a series of super-tidal events that surcharged the stormwater system in the coastal impacted zones, City officials ultimately decided to replace the entire plastic pipe system rather than continue with the periodic repairs. Through successful coordination with the FDOT, officials at the City of Fort Myers found a way to secure funding and restore the infrastructure, officially known as



the McGregor Boulevard Flexible Pavement Restoration. The \$5.4 million project was designed by in-house engineer Saeed Kazemi, P.E with underground preparation by Andrews' Site Work and installation by Wright Construction Group.

Nearly 18,000 feet of existing HDPE was replaced by 232 feet of elliptical reinforced concrete pipe (ERCP) and 11,440 feet of 18-inch through 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP). In addition to replacing the HDPE, the project required the milling and resurfacing of 51,400 square yards of asphalt, the installation of 18,350 square yards of pavement base and subgrade material, 8,600 yards of asphalt, and 350 tons of asphalt leveling course.

During construction, it was discovered that utilities were not relocated in the previous construction and HDPE drainage pipe bore holes right through it. The HDPE was bent outside of allowable tolerances, which caused the pipe to restrict stormwater flow. The existing HDPE was also crushed underneath the pavement do to traffic loading that cannot be supported by the pipe causing the dips and depressions along in areas of the roadway.

A truly unified effort between the FDOT and the of Fort Myers, the much-appreciated new stormwater system on McGregor Boulevard ensures visitors are welcomed to the “City of Palms” regardless of weather conditions.

