

Capitol Street Renaissance

Neel-Schaffer managed a program that included funding, design, and construction engineering services for a \$5.6 million Phase 1 project that transformed Capitol Street in downtown Jackson from a one-way thoroughfare to a two-lane, two-way street that includes roundabouts, new landscaping, and other traffic-calming features.

Our firm helped accelerate the LPA design process, and through careful monitoring of the unit-priced contract, and timely decision making, our management helped bring the project in under budget by \$1 million.

Among the improvements: Urban FHWA mini-roundabouts, improved ADA-compliant sidewalks, a center 6-foot “safety strip” separating the opposing travel lanes, landscaping and lighting improvements. An extensive study of the project area was conducted by Neel-Schaffer. The process included involvement with the public along with special interest groups, City officials and developers. Plans were then developed in a way that considered all traffic needs, enhanced the aesthetics of the area, and provided a detailed traffic control strategy that allowed for the project to be built while traffic continued during the construction phase. The project included modifying the cross section of the street to widen sidewalks and resurfacing the roadway for a four-block area of Capitol Street. Sidewalks were widened to accommodate pedestrians and outdoor areas for cafes. Instead of crosswalks and traffic signals at each corner, three low-impact roundabouts provide traffic calming, while crosswalks at splitter islands were provided for pedestrian needs.

Early in the design phase, Neel-Schaffer was asked to complete the plans earlier than required in the contract in order to utilize federal funding, which could have been withdrawn. The plans were completed approximately 18 months early, including all MDOT LPA reviews and approvals.

Neel-Schaffer managed a parallel program during the reconstruction, modifying the JRA parking garage to remove the garage ramps on Capitol Street and reconstruct them on Farish Street. Coordination with the two programs, and the lease holder and tenants, was imperative to the success of the programs.

City of Jackson, MS

Role

Prime

Project Initiated

April 2012

Scheduled Completion Date

May 2015

Completion Date

May 2015

