

BRIDGING THE ROAD TO RENEWAL

KATRINA +10

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

QUOTE BANK

BRIDGING THE ROAD TO RENEWAL: KATRINA+10

National, State and Local Officials



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“I’ll never forget waking up on Saturday morning and seeing what was now a Category 5 storm. Three of the deepest low pressures ever recorded in the Atlantic occurred in 2005: Katrina, Wilma and Rita. The storms were deep, they were powerful and they stayed for long, long periods of time. It was their ocean, and they could do anything they wanted in it.”

--Jim Cantore, Meteorologist
The Weather Channel

“MDOT’s response and redevelopment as part of the extraordinary journey following Hurricane Katrina is an inspirational story of not only reconnecting communities, rebuilding bridges and restoring mobility, but renewing the Gulf Coast’s economy, infrastructure and culture.”

--Tom King, Transportation Commissioner
Southern District

“Restoring mobility along the Gulf Coast was possible because of the efforts and hard work of many. Solutions were found quickly to get first responders to the coast. MDOT workers were on the scene the day of the hurricane, the day after the hurricane and for the days, weeks, months and years following. I am proud and thankful for their work.”

--Melinda L. McGrath, Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Transportation

“To get this bridge open, even to two lanes, makes a lot of difference in a lot of people’s lives.”

--Former Governor Haley Barbour
State of Mississippi

“Seeing these huge concrete and steel structures lying in the water, end over end, was to me as an engineer one of the most graphic displays of the hurricane’s strength.”

--Wayne Brown, Former Transportation Commissioner
Southern District

“The extent of the storm didn’t hit us until the next morning when our public safety personnel, police, firemen and National Guardsmen started to rescue people off their rooftops.”

--Connie Moran, Mayor
City of Ocean Springs

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“We all knew the bridge would be our link to true recovery. It was built for the future, and it has given us hope that we can build our town back for the future. The Gulf Coast will be even better than before.”

--Tim Kellar, Chancery Clerk
Hancock County

“MDOT executives provided the decisive, problem-solving leadership to make these bridge replacements happen within an extraordinary timeframe.”

--Ricky Lee, Former District 6 Engineer
Mississippi Department of Transportation

“Nobody could imagine the destruction Katrina unleashed.”

--Kay Miller, Downtown Services Manager
City of Biloxi

“When the new bridge opened, we felt that a door had opened to make us feel connected—both physically and emotionally.”

--Nancy Moynan, Owner of Maggie May’s
Bay St. Louis

“To have some small part in the rejoining of our community that was separated after these bridges came down is really a remarkable thing. The message given by MDOT officials is that the bridge is not finished until the art is up. This is a scale of public art that is usually seen only in large cities. It is a testament to Mississippi’s commitment to the arts.”

--Greg Moran, Sculptor and Ironworker
City of Biloxi

“The rebuilding of the bridge is a symbol of hope for all of us. When I heard the call for artists, I found it to be an opportunity for me to connect with my community and move forward as an artist.”

--Julie Mello, Artist
City of Biloxi