



Brookhaven Public Works

Annual Report Card

2020

LOWE
ENGINEERS

Introduction



Over the past eight years, the City of Brookhaven (the City) and Lowe Engineers (Lowe) have partnered in the start-up and operation of municipal services. Together, the City and Lowe initiated, established, and performed the myriad of services required of a Public Works Department, including adjusting and adapting to changing priorities, new projects, and more. This report looks at the work activity and accomplishments the City and Lowe have achieved together since 2012.

Lowe prides itself on being more than just your Public Works engineers. We are part of your team in providing critical services to your community. Lowe's distinctive approach and singular perspective responsively deliver high-quality Public Works services with knowledgeable, skilled, and professional staff.

Through our established relationship with Brookhaven, we have immersed our team in the City's unique culture and utilize this knowledge in our proactive, solution-driven approach. No matter the scale, each service task is met with a budget-conscious, intentional, and thoughtful response. Our sensitivity to the values of Brookhaven citizens enable our top-notch customer service and accountability. We are a collaborative partner that supports and works with other City staff to keep the City operating smoothly. The success of our public-private partnership continually generates fresh perspectives on how to better serve all stakeholders while producing innovative and cost-effective solutions to further benefit the City of Brookhaven and its citizens.

Success Through the Valued Partnership of Brookhaven and Lowe

Success In Pavement Management

Lowe has effectively executed the Pavement Management Program since incorporation of the City. To date, the total expenditure for the program is over \$17 million for resurfacing City-owned streets. The following table illustrates the success in terms of centerline miles and lane miles in relationship to annual program cost.

YEAR	NUMBER OF STREETS	CENTERLINE MILES	LANE MILES	COST
2014	27	8.65	20.81	\$1,740,000
2015	24	9.62	20.20	\$2,510,000
2016	18	4.40	9.37	\$1,050,000
2017 Phase I	58	10.39	20.78	\$3,300,000
2017 Phase II	9	2.64	5.27	\$1,225,000
2018 Phase I	17	2.21	4.42	\$1,075,000
2018 Phase II	23	3.88	9.37	\$1,870,000
2019	20	3.43	6.85	\$2,271,000
2020	15	2.46	4.92	\$2,288,000
TOTAL	211	47.68	101.99	\$17,329,000

The City added the Capital Improvement Manager position in 2017 and Lowe subsequently set a City paving record for number of roads paved (67) and total lane miles paved (26.05) that same year.

As a result, the City was able to bring its PCI number up from 60 in 2014 to 70.43 at the end of 2019, which is very aggressive by any municipality standard.

Lowe's ambitious approach to implementing the Five-Year Pavement Program also resulted in the completion of the City's first five-year paving program in just four years. It also allowed the City to complete its third Pavement Inspection and Analysis one year ahead of the scheduled year.

Success in Capital Projects – Intersection Improvements

Lowe is successfully completing complex intersection improvement projects for the City with multiple components requiring experienced management. From pre-concepts through construction, Lowe has demonstrated its first-rate expertise in the organization and administration of these operations.

Specifically, Lowe has completed the following Ashford Dunwoody intersection improvement projects:



Success in Major Corridor and Other Studies

Lowe has effectively managed major corridor studies for the City of Brookhaven. Its Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trail Plan was adopted by the City Council in April 2016. The Ashford Dunwoody Corridor Study was adopted by the City Council in April 2017, and the North Druid Hills Corridor Study was adopted by the Council in April 2019.

Lowe is proud of the City's success in implementing these council-adopted corridor studies. One notable example is the Ashford Dunwoody Corridor Study, which recommended ten short-term projects, six mid-term projects and one long-term project. With support from Mayor, Council and the City Administration, Lowe implemented nine of the ten short-term projects, and two of the six mid-term projects. Engineering design is currently underway for the last short-term project (ST-08) and one mid-term project (MT-05). Construction is set to begin on one mid-term project (MT-01). Lowe is also implementing phases of another mid-term project (MT-03).

Success in Capital Projects – Sidewalk And Multi-Use Path Construction

Lowe has been successful in implementing the Council-adopted Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trail Plan since adoption in April 2016. Sidewalk and multi-use path construction has also progressed from only a single sidewalk at Briarwood Way in 2013 to a record-setting year in 2018 with 15 sidewalk projects totaling 2.63 miles. Thus far in 2020, 0.23 miles of sidewalk and multi-use path were constructed at a construction cost of over \$1 million. The table below shows the progress in sidewalk construction since inception of the City.

YEAR	NUMBER	LENGTH, LF	COST
2013	1	990	\$50,300
2014	8	4,240	\$409,800
2015	6	3,260	\$287,100
2016	4	4,070	\$344,000
2017	11	4,810	\$820,600
2018	15	13,900	\$1,055,400
2019	5	1,387	\$126,300
2020	1	1,400	\$282,200
TOTAL	52	35,057	\$3,375,700

Success in Stormwater Utility Operation

Lowe has effectively overseen stormwater utility operations since incorporation of the City. In the beginning, the utility rate was \$60. Lowe has since provided essential technical support that contributed to administrative rate adjustments in 2017 and 2020. These critical rate adjustments thus helped the City successfully implement much-needed stormwater capital improvement projects.

In addition, Lowe continually meets or exceeds the City’s NPDES permit requirements, and reliably meets all deadlines for completing and submitting Annual MS4 Reports to Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

Brookhaven’s aggressive approach to the completion of Priority 1 and Priority 2 repair work derived from annual MS4 inspections has made the City singular in its stormwater infrastructure repair and maintenance—an achievement Georgia EPD staff have pointed out in past MS4 reviews.

This table lists stormwater projects completed by Lowe:

YEAR	PROJECT	COST	TYPE
2017	Osborne Road Drainage Improvement	\$376,246	CIP
2017	South Bamby Drainage Phase I	\$699,800	CIP
2018	Stratfield Drive Phase I & 2	\$598,100	CIP
2020	Murphy Candler Lakeshore Restoration	\$182,000	CIP
2020	North Fork Nancy Creek Trash Rack	\$222,000	CIP
2020	Sunderland Circle System Replacement	\$106,000	Emergency
2020	Inman Drive / Saybrook Drive	\$187,000	CIP
2020	Murphy Candler Lake Dredging	\$1,796,000	CIP
2020	Apple Valley / Dresden Repair	\$86,000	Emergency
2020	South Bamby Drainage Phase III	\$545,000	CIP

Success in Infrastructure Management

Lowe has executed over 5,000 documented work orders. Our hands-on management approach has given us extensive knowledge of the City’s infrastructure so Lowe can hold maintenance contractors accountable for their performance in completing work orders on time, based on assigned priority.

The following table shows work orders handled by Lowe by year:

YEAR	ROADS	ROW	SIGNAL	SIGN	STORMWATER	TOTAL
2014	181	56	56	95	105	493
2015	209	52	132	292	121	806
2016	263	67	115	118	159	722
2017	280	87	77	122	130	696
2018	191	52	137	97	190	667
2019	339	98	175	105	393	1,110
2020*	222	87	103	121	347	880
Total	1,685	499	795	950	1,445	5,374

Other Notable Lowe Achievements

- Adoption of the City Traffic Calming Program in 2017
- Adoption of the City Rights-of-way Maintenance Policy in 2017
- Adoption of the City Street Light District Policy in 2018
- Adoption of Streetscape Standards in 2018
- Adoption of ADA Transition Plan in 2020
- Adoption of Sidewalk Petition Program in 2020
- Administrative Adjustment of the Stormwater Fee in 2017
- Administrative Adjustment of the Stormwater Rate in 2020
- Establishment of Design Standards for the City of Brookhaven
- Transfer of 30 FEMA Floodplain Buy-out Properties from DeKalb County to the City in 2018
- Implementation of the City Monuments Program and Construction of Six Monuments with Lights
- Sidewalk Conditional Assessment and Inspection in 2019
- Implementation of the Small Cell Wireless Permitting Program and Mapping of Small Cells in the City

Success of Staffing

Finally, Lowe staffs Brookhaven's Public Works Department with outstanding, highly qualified personnel currently bringing to the City a combined 227 years of professional experience. Our personnel and their proven expertise are our strongest asset and we are very happy with the current team we have at Brookhaven. Moreover, Lowe expertly maintains continuity of staff, in its ability to effectively transfer historical knowledge of the City and its infrastructure.

In-House Staff:



Don Sherrill
PE, PLS, PMP
41 Years



Tom Roberts, PE
20 Years



Andy Kennedy, PE
12 Years



Carlos Soler
33 Years



Gerren Francis
17 Years



Sheila Hayes
25 Years

Back Office Support:



Eli Veith, PE, PTOE
21 Years



Jon Drysdale, PE
44 Years



Richard Meehan, PE
30 Years

Building on Our Success - Upcoming Goals

Lowe knows the City better than any other Team and we are prepared to serve Brookhaven for the future.

Listed here are some of Lowe's upcoming goals:

- Continue modern pavement management through coordination with capital paving, stormwater repairs, and paving condition scoring
- Continue utilizing MS4 inspections to identify and schedule proactive maintenance on the City's stormwater utility
- Continue to shape the City's stormwater utility into an industry leader
- Conduct a comprehensive update of the pavement condition assessment every five years and on individual roads, as required
- Competitively re-bid maintenance contracts to ensure the best value for the City and quality workmanship
- Work with the City arborist to remove any diseased or dying trees within City right-of-ways
- Continue to execute the City Council's goal of making Brookhaven more bike and pedestrian friendly through infrastructure improvements and updating the City's website
- Secure additional transportation funding through ARC and GDOT to implement the transportation plan
- Increase community accessibility in the public involvement process
- Continue to improve communication with the public on capital improvement projects throughout each project phase
- Provide a public safety outreach program for drivers and pedestrians
- Improve the work management system and performance measures for maintenance operations

- Improve production times from maintenance contractors while limiting budgetary strains
- Continue increased public outreach to citizens, staff, and Council following repairs
- Continue to maintain website updates on all capital improvement projects
- Begin mapping stormwater drainage easements
- Further improve relationships with outside agencies such as GDOT, ARC, DeKalb County Watershed Management, DeKalb County Sanitation, MARTA, RTOP, PCID and neighboring cities
- Implement a cost-effective replacement program for signs and pavement striping to meet federal standards
- Maintain the signal cabinet maintenance program on an annual basis
- Continue implementation of the long-term capital improvement program for stormwater through testing, investigation, and action
- Evaluate old stormwater culverts serving large drainage basins and upsize or repair inadequate culverts ahead of road repaving work
- Continue coordination of the stormwater utility with adjoining municipalities that share watersheds
- The Stormwater Utility will continue to find innovative, cost-effective, and long-term repairs to address the city's aging infrastructure needs.
- Continue to address water quality in impaired streams
- Improve and expand the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for traffic signals throughout the City, building on significant expansion via 2020 ATMS and ITS projects

