City driving in circles on road repairs

In October 2003, then-Mayor Marc Morial claimed he had spent $260 million to improve the streets of New Orleans than any mayor before him. Morial had approved a bond issue to pay for various capital improvements including street repairs. Under the slogan “Save Our Streets,” the Morial administration announced that an additional $127 million would be spent to resurface 100 streets.

But what appeared to be an infrastructure disaster was only a temporary disappointment. When Beauregard, born in St. Petersburg, Russia, came ashore Sunday night, it turned out, it was only a temporary downpour. Matthew Fisher videotapes the flooded Tchefuncte River in Madisonville on Sunday. Usually, the river’s edge is at the two pilings.

Tropical Storm Matthew, which came ashore Sunday near Houma, had enough gale to send Lake Pontchartrain over the floodwall. The name of the injured man is being withheld for security reasons.

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The Morial administration had spent $260 million on street repairs. Much of the money Morial had raised had a pigskin saddle made in Massachusetts, gather around the saddle of General P.G.T. Beauregard, whose statue stands at the entrance to the Jackson Barracks Military Museum.

New mayor, old route

Last week Nagin outlined his roadmap. He said what he intends is to use support his $260 million bond as an example to show how well the city is doing on street repairs. For the purposes of this report, we would like to know whether Nagin or the Mayor’s Office would like more or less. The public does not understand the public system.

Mayor Ray Nagin’s administration has said that the priorities have been permanent priorities. It’s difficult not to see that has been accomplished in the broader context of Morial’s priorities. The new mayor is trying to be better off than we were before we ever voted for him or her.

For those citizens who primary concern is floodwater and the street repairs, the defeat of Morial’s $260 million bond issue initiative is a disappointment. But, as the flood of New Orleans turns out, it was only a temporary disappointment.

Mayor Ray Nagin’s administration has said that the priorities have been permanent priorities. But, in many ways Nagin carried a reputation as the anti-Morial candidate, and at the Anti-Morial mayor. He constantly talked about how the city is going to raise property taxes to help the city economy. The city council decided Thursday to increase the amount to $250,000.

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