

Works to start on CJIA access road, Sheriff St upgrade in early 2011

Engineers from the Public Works Ministry have finalised designs and are proceeding with two major road projects scheduled to begin early next year: the construction of a four-lane road from the Timehri Police Station to the Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), and the upgrade of Mandela Avenue/Sherriff Street.

Both projects, Works Engineer Ron Rahaman said, are slated to start before the first quarter of next year, and are part of the Guyana Road Improvement Programme, funded with a loan from Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The programme covers the upgrading of other roads, such as those in East and West Canje and Black Bush Polder, where the process has also started.

Rahaman explained that the work for the CJIA access road would be done in two phases, with the IDB funding the upgrade of the existing two lanes and the government facilitating the extension to a four-lane highway. The roadway will have pedestrian walkways and street lighting. Overall, this project will cost an estimat-

ed US\$5 million. The ministry is currently inviting bids from suitable contractors to execute the works.

According to the loan agreement documents, the access road is a rigid concrete pavement, which is approximately three and one half kilometres long and seven meters wide.

It is the only access road to the CJIA and the relatively large Timehri community. The surface provides for relatively rough driving conditions, and several sections of the pavement have failed and were replaced with asphaltic concrete fills.

The scope of works to be carried out include an asphaltic concrete overlay to improve the driving comfort and protect the pavement from further deterioration, as well as the improvement of roadside amenities at key locations to enhance safety.

Around the same time as the CJIA four-lane works begin, the ministry plans to undertake a complete rehabilitation of the Sheriff Street/Mandela Avenue thoroughfare in Georgetown. Mott Macdonald and CEMCO Engineering Inc have designed this project, which

covers the upgrade of the entire stretch from the Sherriff Street/East Coast Demerara Highway to the Mandela Avenue/East Bank Demerara by-pass road. The upgrade will cover repairs to the road, bridges and culverts along the route and create parking facilities, and possibly extended sidewalks for pedestrians.

These two big projects next year will coincide with extension of the East Bank Demerara four-lane highway from Providence to the Diamond Housing Scheme, another massive road upgrade funded by an IDB loan as well.

Further, under the Guyana Road Improvement Programme, road upgrading is proceeding in Berbice at Black Bush Polder and East and West Canje. The works at East and West Canje are scheduled to upgrade some 19 kilometres of roadways to various surfaces, as well as the construction of a brand new stretch at East Canje. The scope of works in these two areas involves the resurfacing of 11 kilometres of roads with asphalt concrete, the construction of 7km of roads, along with rehabilita-

tion of bridges.

Works in these areas started about two months ago, and are moving ahead despite some setbacks caused by rainy weather and shortage of materials, specifically reef sand. According to reports, the current weather is affecting supplies of reef sand.

No major work has started as yet at Black Bush Polder, as only maintenance activities are ongoing. However, the planned upgrade is expected to start by the second week of January. While these works proceed in Berbice and on the East Bank Demerara, engineers are reportedly considering expansion of the East Coast Demerara four-lane highway from Better Hope to Golden Grove.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of vehicles imported and plying the roadways daily, contributing to heavy traffic congestion. This has resulted in the extension of existing roadways, the installation of street lighting, which is proceeding at various locations across the country, as well as other road safety improvement features.

Scotiabank brings cheer to two charitable organisations



Patrick De Groot receives the donation on behalf of Mercy Wings Vocational Centre from Scotiabank's Country Manager, Amanda St Aubyn

It is the most wonderful time of the year, especially for young children who turned up in numbers, decked in Santa hats, elves' outfits and other Christmas attire, to witness and be a part of the Scotiabank's Annual Christmas Carolling through the streets of Georgetown on Thursday evening.

Before the entourage took off from the assembly point at Carmichael Street, two donations were made, of US\$3,000 and US\$2,500 respectively, to the Ruimveldt Children's Centre and the Mercy Wings Vocational Centre respectively. These donations were made possible through the Scotiabank's Bright Future Programme, which benefits the charitable organisations.

Speaking at the hand-over ceremony, Marketing Manager of Scotiabank, Jennifer Cipriani, related that the respective donations are part of a three-year commitment by the bank to assist those institutions with their education and health programs, which will benefit youths and children in the long run. She noted that this is the first of three annual donations to be made to the organisation.

In thanking Scotiabank for its generous contribution, an executive member of the Ruimveldt Children's Centre, Stuart May, disclosed that the centre will use the money wisely to further enhance the capacities of the centre with the basic necessities so that the children in the community can benefit.

May explained that the

organisation is presently providing literacy programmes for the less fortunate and to those who cannot read. There is also a well established library that is being utilised by school children to complete their school work, he added.

Meanwhile, Patrick DeGroot, of the Mercy Wings Vocational Centre also thanked the bank for its tremendous contribution to the organisation, and opined that the Mercy organisation is always ready to help persons between the ages of 15 and 19. Among the skills taught at the centre are carpentry, masonry, plumbing and cooking. DeGroot related that there are also literacy classes and other educational programmes that are conducted on a daily basis that will most definitely benefit the young children.

Immediately after the presentations, the parade moved off from the Scotiabank Carmichael Street branch into Lamaha Street. As the carolling continued throughout Georgetown, the bank donated several hampers filled with goodies to the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre, Joshua House, St Ann's Orphanage, New Nazareth Homestead, St Vincent De Paul Homestead and the Chase's Home for the Indigent.

Staff members were decked out in festive wear depicting Santa Claus, Mary, Joseph, angels and others, and distributed goodies to all those who lined the route.

Digicel's Christmas charity drive brings cheer



Digicel staff and some of the boys from the Bosco Orphanage at the party (Guyanalive.com photo)

Digicel has once again embarked on its annual Christmas charity drive, visiting orphanages and homes for the elderly.

According to Sherwyn Osborne, head of Digicel's Customer Care

Department, the company decided to do it differently this year by bringing the residents of St John's Bosco Orphanage for boys, which is located in Plaisance, to the company's head office for an afternoon of food, fun and games. "We rea-

lise we go every year to visit them and give them gifts, so this year we wanted to do it differently by bringing them out in a different atmosphere."

The boys were given gifts by Digicel's Santa, and enjoyed an afternoon full of

songs, poems, story-telling, and jokes performed by the staff.

The drive is a week full of activities, countrywide, and it is Digicel's way of giving back not only to its customers but to the less fortunate every holiday season.

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