

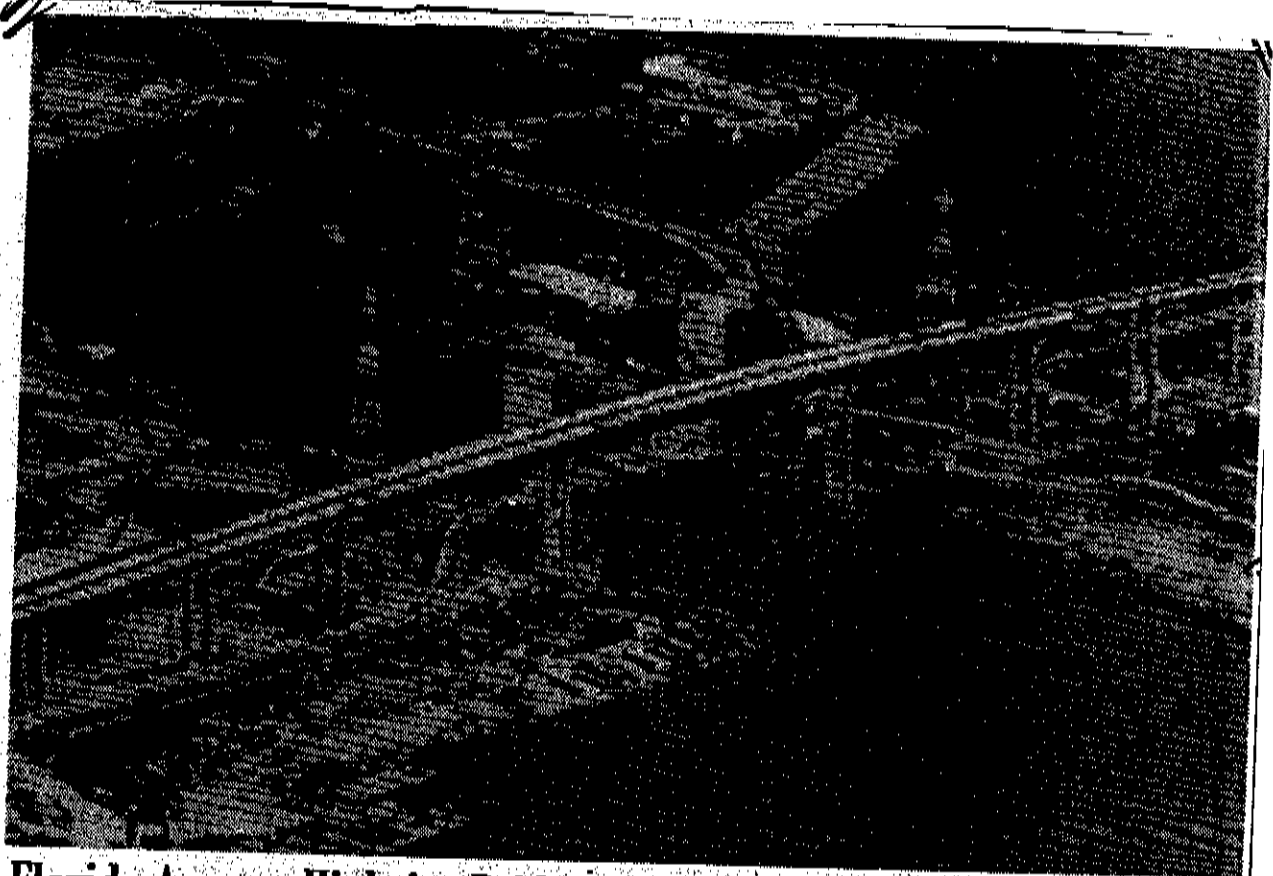
ST. BERNARD VOICE

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Florida Avenue Highrise Bridge Construction Will Begin Next Year

According to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), construction of the \$180 million high rise Florida Avenue bridge over the Industrial Canal is projected to begin in the spring of 2006.

DOTD officials reported on the status of the project at a public meeting held Wednesday, February 16 at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex. It was announced that the

final design of the fixed span should receive Coast Guard approval in summer 2005.

The contract for construction of the bridge is expected to be awarded in early 2006.

The bridge is one of 16 transportation projects to be funded by a four cents per gallon fuel tax. It is "... part of Louisiana's TIMED Program, a statewide economic development focused transportation pro-

gram."

The four lane bridge roadway will have on and off ramps on the west side of the Industrial Canal at Poland Avenue/Alvar Street. It will hit ground level on the east side near Caffin Avenue and Tupelo Street, where there will be traffic lights, and then continue as two elevated lanes through St. Bernard marshlands, ending at Paris Road.

The anticipated completion of the entire project is 2010.