



ST. TAMMANY PARISH GOVERNMENT
2022 Annual Report



Michael B. Cooper
Parish President

P.O. BOX 628 | COVINGTON, LA | 70434 | 985.898.2513

A Message from the President



2022 was a year of tremendous growth and opportunity for St. Tammany Parish. With the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Ida effectively in our rearview, my administration was able to focus our efforts on moving forward with our planning initiatives and major infrastructure improvements.

Proper planning for the future is the most effective measure to ensure we do not repeat the mistakes of our past. For too long, St. Tammany Parish was developed without proper guidance and constraints. My administration has established multiple 'first of their kind' initiatives to ensure that our community's expected quality of life is preserved for generations to come.

In 2022, we budgeted \$27 million for our roadways and drainage systems, the most in our parish's history! These much-needed infrastructure improvement projects will improve the flow of our traffic and fortify our defenses against storm waters. We were also successful in our applications for competitive funding opportunities to upgrade and expand our water systems on the east side of St. Tammany. The award totaled \$23 million of state and federal funding coming back to St. Tammany Parish!

As we look forward to the future of St. Tammany Parish, this administration has well positioned our community to preserve the values that led us to choose St. Tammany as our home and to anticipate the needs of generations to come. We know that St. Tammany Parish is special; it's our job to keep it that way.

Despite the obstacles we've faced, our hard-working employees continue to focus their efforts on improving our quality of life through upgrading roads, drainage, water quality and the multitude of other services we provide. This 2022 Annual Report is a look back on accomplishments and important initiatives we've set in motion.

We appreciate the opportunity for transparency and open communications between residents and Parish Government. Please email my office at president@stpgov.org, and we will be happy to communicate directly with you. Please stay up-to-date on happenings in Parish Government through our website: www.stpgov.org; our Public Educational and Government Access Television station: STPG-TV; our Social Media Channels: Facebook - @sttammany-parish, Twitter - @stpgov, Instagram - sttammany, and LinkedIn - St. Tammany Parish.

Serving as your Parish President remains one of my most humbling honors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Michael B. Cooper
Parish President

A Message from the Chairman



I am proud to have led the Parish Council as Chairman in 2022 as we faced increased infrastructure and development challenges. The Council, working with our Simple Solutions Committee, amended the Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance to limit its application and to significantly slow the approval of any new overly dense residential developments. Residential building permits are down to levels not seen since 2011. However, St. Tammany Parish continues to grow in population. Without development that encompasses good planning, including putting infrastructure in place prior to building, we will not ultimately solve this problem. The Council is committed to working toward a solution. We will continue to work with the Parish President, his staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission, to reform the Uniform Development Code. Reforming the Code and related initiatives are necessary to ensure sustainable development which will create a place for our families to live, work and stay.

As Council Chairman I am also proud of our achievements in 2022, encouraging economic development to broaden our tax base and create good jobs. This work included: clearing road blocks, permitting of commercial business expansion, and furthering plans for the Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics corridor.

St. Tammany Parish, however, finds itself at a crossroads. There is an unprecedented budget shortfall looming. The State has mandated funding for agencies, including all the agencies that make up our Justice System. Those agencies were funded \$6 million less than requested for 2023 due to funding shortfalls. Budget reductions for these agencies in 2024 and beyond will be significantly more.

The only recurring funding source to fund these mandates are general fund revenues. All other revenues are dedicated by law to specific purposes which do not include the Justice System. The Parish general fund is inadequate to pay for all costs submitted by the Justice System agencies. In order to pass a balanced budget not all funding requests can be approved.

Therefore, Parish Government and the leaders of our Justice System agencies must come together to agree on a plan to sustainably fund the Parish Justice System. While numerous attempts have been made to obtain passage of a funding source, the citizens of this Parish have declined to pass one. We must continue to work together to find a solution which is acceptable to the people we serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Binder". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jerry Binder
Council District 12



PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works deploys crews throughout our Parish’s communities to repair roadways and improve drainage systems. In 2022, crews successfully completed **over 150 capital projects** and **18,500 work order requests**. This year, the Department of Public Works procured a **marsh buggy** which allows our crews to clear creeks, rivers and hard to reach areas of our vast drainage system. Completing this work “in-house” allows Public Works to **efficiently** and **cost-effectively** clear our waterways.

2022 by the Numbers

1,123 <i>Ditches Cleaned</i>	774 <i>Asphalt Patches</i>	750 <i>Sign Repairs</i>
504 <i>Culvert Repairs</i>	177 <i>Catch Basin Repairs</i>	131 <i>Tree Removals</i>



Engineering

The Department of Engineering manages the design and construction of major roadway, recreation, bridge and drainage projects across our Parish. In addition to overseeing these important upgrades to our community's infrastructure, Engineering plays a pivotal role in improvements to our Safe Haven Campus, coordinating with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Regional Planning Commission, as well as working closely on coastal protection and restoration projects.

Infrastructure Statistics



130
Projects
Managed



114
Projects in
Design Phase



145
Bridge
Inspections



20
Traffic
Evaluations

Coastal Protection

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Manager works closely with the Department of Planning and Development to lead efforts in enhancing our Parish's coastline. As a result of President Cooper's administration bonding out federal funding, **19 coastal improvement projects** are currently in development.

Ongoing Projects

Carr Drive Hydrology Restoration
Comprehensive Wetlands Plan
Davis Canal Restoration
Lacombe Trace Trails & Nature Park
Lake Pontchartrain Barrier Project
Local Coastal Plan Update
Lock 1 Boat Launch Restoration
Lower Tchefuncte Breakwater Restoration
Mandeville Lakefront Wetlands Restoration
Materials of Opportunity Study
Northshore Living Shorelines
Pearl River Diversion Canal Restoration
Pearl River Study
Salt Bayou Marsh Creation
Slidell Breakwater Restoration
St. Tammany Parish Coastal Strategic Action & Resiliency Plan
St. Tammany Parish Feasibility Study
Tchefuncte Habitat Restoration
Tchefuncte West Bank Marsh Restoration

Grants



Grants

The Department of Grants secures external funding resources and operates programs that assist members of our community in need. This year, several new grant programs, including **Home Elevation** and **Creative Aging**, were initiated.

The Home Elevation Grant program assisted **31 properties** in 2022 with grant awards totalling **\$29.7 million**. The Creative Aging program provided enrichment classes for our seniors in art and painting skills utilizing state grant funding. Due to the program's success, additional funding was awarded for more classes in 2023.

\$45.8 Million
Grants Awarded

\$47 Million
Expenditures Managed

138
Grant Funded Programs

Animal Services

Animal Services has become one of the top performing open-admission shelters in Louisiana with a **97% live release rate** for the **second consecutive year**. The Best Friends Animal Society, a national leader in the no-kill movement, honored our shelter by awarding the prestigious **Touchstone Award**.



"Pawrific" Progress



4,000

Animals Sheltered



1,021

Animals Adopted



97%

Release Rate
(2nd Consecutive Year)



Health & Human Services

After a successful relaunch in 2021, Health & Human Services continues to provide vital social services to those in need. The Safe Haven Campus has proven to be a valued mental health resource for our community. Several new buildings were added to the campus, with many more being renovated to provide improved services. Partnerships with NAMI St. Tammany and Tri-Parish Works have continued to flourish with new community gardens and the “Career Exploration Program for Youth in STP” providing industry opportunities for the next generation.

14,000 Individuals
Helped at Safe Haven

3,800 Households
*Assisted by Community
Action Agency*

3,000
Narcan Kits Acquired

REVENUES

12/31/2022

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	General Fund	Restricted Funds			Total (unaudited)
		Special Purpose	Grants/Capital Projects	Outside Agencies	
Sales and use tax: 2% for roads, drainage, and bridges 3/4% for economic development districts	\$ 29,228	\$ 43,223,316	\$ 33,460,000	\$ -	\$ 76,712,544
Federal and state grants	2,750,000	1,265,671	41,389,776	-	45,405,447
Ad valorem taxes/parcel fees: Library Coroner General alimony Council on Aging/STARC Public health Drainage Animal services Lighting districts	6,108,805	7,323,784	4,814,465	26,248,549	44,495,603
Licenses and permits: Occupational licenses Environmental inspections and licenses Insurance licenses	4,645,673	2,659,902	-	-	7,305,575
Fees and charges for services: Impact fees Court costs and fees Sale of capital assets Rental and program income	489,930	1,117,431	1,650,760	433,360	3,691,481
Other taxes: Cable franchise tax Hotel/motel tax Contributions government access television Interest on ad valorem Severance taxes Off-track betting/bingo fees Cigarette paper tax Alcohol tax	2,805,494	524,019	9	67,786	3,397,308
Parish transportation funds	-	1,705,182	-	-	1,705,182
Fines and forfeitures: Court fines Asset/bond forfeitures	-	100	-	949,797	949,897
State revenue sharing	120,306	236,166	-	504,007	860,479
Other grants and contributions	-	37,996	157,621	-	195,617
Other intergovernmental revenues	61,499	57,242	-	-	118,741
Miscellaneous	17,965	21,302	-	650	39,917
Investment earnings	(347,295)	(1,788,611)	(3,840,600)	(144,148)	(6,120,654)
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	\$ 16,681,605	\$ 56,383,500	\$ 77,632,031	\$ 28,060,001	\$ 178,757,137

BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES

Utility operations	\$ 16,688,198
Development	\$ 4,757,937

EXPENDITURES

12/31/2022

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	General Fund	Restricted Funds			Total (unaudited)
		Special Purpose	Grants/Capital Projects	Outside Agencies	
Public safety:	\$ 6,031,174	\$ 3,600,048	\$ 26,724,543	\$ 7,212,163	\$ 43,567,928
Hurricane Ida debris removal					
Coroner					
Parish Jail					
Hazard mitigation					
Homeland security and emergency preparedness					
Capital infrastructure and assets	36,952	2,049,358	29,816,477	1,335,349	33,238,136
Highways and streets	-	25,869,613	4,628,636	-	30,498,249
Health and welfare:	116,803	4,231,019	9,731,927	4,582,672	18,662,421
St. Tammany Rental Assistance Program					
Public health					
Council on Aging/STARC					
Community Action Agency					
Animal services					
Veterans Affairs					
Cultural and recreation:	32,852	240,857	269,918	12,576,465	13,120,092
Library					
Tammany Trace					
Camp Salmen					
Arts Commission					
Fishing Pier					
Judicial:	10,140,270	232,817	157,662	1,440,500	11,971,249
District Attorney's office					
22nd Judicial District Court					
Justice Center					
Criminal Court					
Ward courts					
Juror expenditures					
Public Defender's building					
Debt service:	-	7,943,273	73,764	1,136,200	9,153,237
Sales Tax District No. 3					
GOMESA					
Coroner					
Library					
Crossgates Utilities					
General government:	2,501,704	-	222,876	-	2,724,580
Parish administrative departments					
District Attorney's office-civil division					
Fairgrounds Arena					
Registrar of Voter's office					
Greater St. Tammany Airport					
General buildings					
Assessor's office					
Transportation	114,134	-	2,204,010	-	2,318,144
Conservation	-	673,252	1,265,503	-	1,938,755
Sanitation	-	974,043	457,436	-	1,431,479
Economic development	-	388,872	176,366	-	565,238

