



NEW ORLEANS
RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Railroad Administration

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project Jefferson Parish

State Project No. H.005168
F.A.P. No. DE-9208(500)

Summary of Alternatives Public Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2025

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

**Ochsner Medical Center Campus
Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor, Ballroom
1512 Jefferson Highway
New Orleans, LA 70121**



Table of Contents

Public Notices

Newspaper Ads

Public Mailers

MyDOTD Email Announcement

Press Releases

Media Advisory

Media List

Technical Presentation

Exhibits

Handouts

Sign-In Sheets

Comment Form

Written Comments Received

Individual Verbal Comments

PUBLIC NOTICES

Newspaper Ads

Notification Type	Publication / Issue Date(s)
The Louisiana Weekly Newspaper	10/27/2025 and 11/3/2025
The Times-Picayune The New Orleans Advocate (Crescent City Picayune)	10/29/2025 and 11/5/2025
The Times Picayune The New Orleans Advocate (East Jefferson Picayune)	10/29/2025 and 11/5/2025

Trump administration mulls transfer of Special Ed from Education Department according to report

By Shauneen Miranda
Contributing Writer

(States Newsroom) —

The U.S. Education Department is looking to move the \$15 billion Individuals with Disabilities Education Act program outside of the agency, the Washington Post reported last Tuesday (Oct. 21).

In a statement to *States Newsroom*, department spokesperson Madi Bie-

dermann did not explicitly confirm the report, but said the department is generally looking for ways to move its operations to other agencies. President Donald Trump has pledged to eliminate the Education Department.

The agency "is exploring additional partnerships with federal agencies to support special education programs

without any interruption or impact on students with disabilities, but no agreement has been signed," Biedermann wrote.

Biedermann said Education Secretary Linda McMahon "has been very clear that her goal is to put herself out of a job by shutting down the Department of Education and reuniting education to the states" and that McMahon is "fully committed

to protecting the federal funding streams that support our nation's students with disabilities."

Trump's administration moved to lay off 465 department employees, including 121 at the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, earlier this month amid the ongoing government shutdown.

A federal judge has temporarily blocked the ad-

ministration from carrying out the layoffs, but the ruling provides only short-term relief as legal proceedings unfold.

The department's many responsibilities include guaranteeing a free public education for students with disabilities through IDEA.

Trump has already suggested rehusing special education services under the Department of Health and Human Services.

HHS secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said on social media in March that the agency is "fully prepared" to take on that responsibility.

Fully transferring responsibility for IDEA would require an act of Congress — a significant undertaking given that at least 60 votes are needed to break a Senate filibuster and Republicans hold just 53 seats.

No Kings rally brings thousands to Lafitte Greenway

Continued from Page 1

and pedestrian park that cuts across the several neighborhoods in New Orleans were there to protest what many described as Trump's burgeoning authoritarianism.

The New Orleans No Kings rally started on the Lafitte Greenway between North Galvez and North Prieur streets around 3:30 p.m. on Saturday (Oct. 18) as part of a nationwide demonstration against federal policies and governance that experts have described as authoritarian in advance of midterm elections in 2026. New Orleans was one of more than 2500 places set to host a No Kings rally.

Beth Davis, the press liaison for Indivisible NOLA, the group organizing the New Orleans event, said she hoped the gathering would achieve "awareness and motivation for people to get out and vote for whomever they think is in their best interest."

Davis said roughly 10,000 people showed up for the protest.

Among them were some New Orleans residents already involved in some sort of political action.

Laura Langdon, 70, said

she joined a regular protest in the evenings on Magazine Street and Napoleon Avenue after Trump returned to office. For her, being at the rally made her feel a sense of collective energy.

"We all have our little groups, and then we all come together and get ideas," Langdon said.

Langdon was there with her friend Melinda Early, 71, who said she was inspired by a podcast where she learned about observing immigration courts. Early said she decided to get involved doing that after Trump took office. She said she felt like she was being active and more American by attending the rally with her friend.

Sabrina Foster, who said she is active in Black Lives Matter political organizing in the city, also spoke with *Verite News* at the rally. She said she became more politically active after losing her son, former Saints player Glenn Foster, Jr., who died while in police custody in Alabama, but that this was her first No Kings rally. Foster said she was happy that white people were finally waking up to a reality that Black Americans have always faced in the country — having to fight for

their democracy. She said she's standing in solidarity for that democracy, but wishes others would have heeded the warnings of Black Americans earlier.

"I'm pissed off, because it took him to come back into office to wake them up," Foster said.

Eric Gabourel, a co-organizer with Critical Mass NOLA, organized a bike ride to the event. He said that he thinks people are hungry for change, but that creating a shift in conditions for working class people in Louisiana can only be achieved through grassroots organizing that sustains beyond the midterm elections.

"The South is ripe to be organized, but we have to put in the work," he said.

Among the crowd were also people who came out to serve the community, like Julie Ray, 72, and her team of medics.

A retired nurse, Ray was the lead medic for the event's standing medic team. She said she grew up in Opelousas, Louisiana and moved to New Orleans first in 1972 before moving to California and returning in 2004, making New Orleans her home. Ray spoke with *Verite News* on the phone on Thursday ahead



The no Kings rally in New Orleans on October 18, 2025.

Photo by Christiana Botic/Verite News and Catchlight Local/Report for America

of the rally.

"It gets in your soul," Ray said about the city. "It's the food, it's the music and it's the people. The people of New Orleans are like none other, and they're the best ever."

Ray was leading a group of approximately thirty individuals who wanted to be present to ensure that the rally had people who could provide first aid in case it was

needed. Her team consists of nurses, physicians, veterinarians and ER nurses.

A stage positioned at the edge of the field held a wide range of speakers including human rights lawyers and student and community activists. The speakers called for the rally goers to become politically engaged in a variety of issues ranging from supporting immigrants, the

LGBTQIA+ community and Palestinian liberation.

"We must stop illegal detentions, voter suppression, censorship, cruelty and corruption to protect the rights and the dignity of every person, you know why?" asked one of the speakers, Alanah Odoms, executive director of ACLU Louisiana.

"Because we have a constitution, not a king."

La.'s child poverty rate

Continued from Page 1

age 18 to rise across the country to 13 percent in 2024.

To account for the smaller sample size of states, the study measured rates across three years rather than annually. Louisiana has seen one of the steepest rises in child poverty rates, jumping from 11 percent measured from 2019-21 to 19 percent from 2022-24, tied for highest in the nation

with Washington, D.C.

Data for 2024 from the U.S. Census Bureau ranks Louisiana 49th with a child poverty rate of 24.8 percent. Only Mississippi's rate was worse at 25 percent, and New Mexico was third worst at 21.4 percent.

"Poverty poses a serious threat to children's development and long-term well-being, with far-reaching consequences for our economy," foundation vice president Leslie

Boissiere said in a news release. "The data unequivocally show that public programs have a direct positive impact on our nation's children."

Over the past three years, 45 states and Washington, D.C., saw increases in child poverty. Regionally, states in the Southeast had the highest average child poverty rates in the country, while Midwestern states had the lowest.

Louisiana's 19 percent child poverty rate from 2022-24 represented about 200,000 Louisiana children, according to the study.

SNAP is among the public programs the foundation credits with helping alleviate child poverty rates. Without federal food assistance, child poverty rates across the U.S. could rise 15 percent and affect an additional 1.42 million children, according to the report.

The metrics used for the report capture local cost variations, tax credits and costs of essential expenses for families such as health care and housing to calculate whether or not a child is in poverty. The results also show that access to quality, well-paying jobs for family members and lowering the cost of household essentials like health and child care also play a large role in reducing the rate of child poverty.

You should know ...

Continued from Page 1

Constitution and therefore could not bring suit in federal court. Justice Taney proclaimed: "We think [people of African ancestry]...were not intended to be included, under the word 'citizens' in the Constitution...They had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery. . . . He was bought and sold, and treated as an ordinary article of merchandise and traf-

fic, whenever a profit could be made by it. This opinion was [at the time of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution] fixed and universal in the civilized portion of the white race...."

In spite of the United States Supreme Court's decision that Dred Scott was a slave, he did finally receive his freedom. The wife of his deceased enslaver agreed to transfer his ownership to a Missouri abolitionist on the condition that she receive the wages the Scott family earned over the last seven years. The wages amounted to about \$750. There is speculation that, in 1857, Dred and Harriet Scott were worth about \$350 each on the slave market.

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Federal Aid Project No. DE-9208 (500)
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P.O. Box 56845, New Orleans, LA 70156

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Both parties lose public confidence as Americans grow angry and disillusioned

By **Stacy M. Brown**
Contributing Writer

(Black Press USA) — With the 2026 midterm elections still a year away, Americans are growing increasingly weary of both major political parties. According to a new Pew Research Center survey, neither the Republican nor the Democratic Party is widely viewed as governing ethically or honestly.

The survey of 3,445 adults, conducted from September 22 to 28, just before the monthlong government shutdown, found that only 39 percent of Americans describe the Republican Party as governing honestly, while 42 percent say the same about the Democrats. Most

Americans view both parties as too extreme, with 61 percent saying that about Republicans and 57 percent about Democrats. Frustration dominates the national mood. About half of Americans say both parties make them angry, and only 36 percent say the Republican Party makes them feel hopeful. Even fewer, 28 percent, say that about the Democrats. "Majorities continue to view both parties as too extreme in their positions," Pew researchers wrote in the report released Thursday. "And both are viewed by majorities as not governing honestly and ethically."

The discontent is particularly intense within the Democratic Party. Sixty-seven percent of Democrats say

their own party makes them feel frustrated, a sharp increase from previous years. Among those who are frustrated, 41 percent say the main reason is that the party has not pushed back hard enough against the Trump administration. Others cite weak leadership, lack of a clear message, and an absence of unity. Republicans express far less frustration than Democrats, though they are not entirely satisfied either. Forty percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say they are frustrated with their party, while nearly seven in ten say the GOP makes them feel hopeful. The study also found that Americans remain deeply divided on policy. The Repub-

lican Party continues to hold an edge on crime and immigration, while the Democrats lead on health care, abortion, environmental policy, and issues of race. Forty-five percent of Americans say they agree with the GOP on crime policy compared with 28 percent who side with Democrats. Republicans also lead by nine points on immigration, but their advantage on the economy has nearly disappeared, falling to only three points. Democrats maintain a wide lead on health care, with 42 percent siding with them and 29 percent with Republicans. Even on foreign policy, large shares of Americans reject both parties. Forty-six percent say

they agree with neither on the Israel-Hamas conflict, and 36 percent say the same about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The survey shows that confidence in democratic values is fading. A narrow majority of Americans, 53 percent, say the Democratic Party respects the nation's democratic institutions and traditions, while only 44 percent say that about the GOP. Democrats are more often described as tolerant of different types of people, with 56 percent saying that applies to the party, compared with 40 percent who say that about Republicans. Nearly a third of respondents, 31 percent, say both parties are too extreme, and one in four say neither governs honestly. About a quarter say neither represents their interests well. Even when Americans agree, their expectations reveal the di-

vide. Most people in both parties say it is important for the opposing side to compromise, but fewer than half say their own party should do the same. Only 46 percent of Democrats and 39 percent of Republicans say it is very important for their party's elected officials to reach across the aisle.

According to Pew, "Most Americans are frustrated with both parties, and about half say each makes them angry." The Center concluded that, "Neither the Republican nor Democratic Party is widely seen as having good ideas." The survey's margin of error is plus or minus 1.9 percentage points. But the deeper error may lie in how far the public's faith has fallen in a system that no longer inspires hope. "All in all," the authors concluded, "Americans don't see many good ideas from either political party."◇

Trump 'regulatory relief' to boost greenhouse, toxic emissions

Continued from Page 3

employees varied \$3.6 million to various campaigns during the 2024 election cycle.

The HON Rule is expected to cost the industry more than \$190 million a year to meet the new requirements.

Trump: Chemical industry is 'critical infrastructure'

The HON Rule requires more than 200 facilities across the country to monitor their emissions for certain high-risk emissions including ethylene oxide, chloropene, benzene and vinyl chloride — which have been linked to cancer and other health-related problems. The rule also ends loopholes that exempted facilities from the Clean Air Act during start-ups, shutdowns and plant malfunctions.

When the rule was finalized in 2024, the Biden administration said it would reduce elevated cancer risk by 96% in fenceline communities. Taylor's father, Robert, was one of the environmental advocates from Louisiana promoted when the HON Rule was signed by then-EPA Administrator Michael Regan.

"We always want any petrochemical industry to be regulated," Tish Taylor says. "That's all we ask: That they be good neighbors, that they not kill us in the process of making billions of dollars and maybe pay some taxes to help us have economic development."

CIEL argues the Trump administration cited a never-before-used provision of the law to grant the exemptions, allowing the president to suspend hazardous air pollutant regula-

tions if he "determines that the technology to implement such standard is not available and that it is in the national security interests of the United States to do so."

In his July proclamation granting the two-year exemptions, Trump characterized petrochemical facilities as "critical infrastructure" vital to safeguarding the country's supply chains and reducing its dependence on foreign minerals crucial to the nation.

Trump also wrote that the HON Rule "imposes substantial burdens on chemical manufacturers already operating under stringent regulations" and that the monitoring and air quality testing being mandated were not "practically available" and could not be implemented "safely or consistently under real-world conditions."

CIEL expects the exemptions to be legally challenged as were the ones Trump issued a month prior for the coal industry. The coal exemptions are the subject of a lawsuit filed in June by a coalition of environmental groups.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," Feit says. "At some point, the short term becomes the long term."

Fear, confusion grip communities

Jane Patton, the Fossil Economy Campaign manager with CIEL, says environmental advocates were stunned by how quickly the Trump administration handed out the exemptions — with no community notice. She also notes that the list of exempted facilities released by the Trump administration in some cases did not match the names of existing facili-

ties, leading to confusion.

She says CIEL's initial calls with environmental leaders in fenceline communities were riddled with questions: How do the exemptions affect the lives of people living in fenceline communities? Which facilities are affected?

"How are families supposed to keep their children safe if they don't know what's in the air?" Patton says. "Folks are trying to come to us for answers, and we don't have answers. Like, it's not even just that we don't have answers because we haven't investigated. It's that there may not be answers to be had right now, and that is very scary and confusing for communities."

In 2019, Diane Wilson reached a \$50 million settlement against Formosa Plastics, one of the exempted companies, in what was called the largest payout in U.S. history for a citizen environmental suit. The petrochemical giant was found liable for illegally dumping toxic waste — including plastic beads and powder — in waterways along Texas' Gulf Coast. The settlement funds are being used to remediate affected land and water, boost environmental education and research and revitalize the local fishing industry.

As part of that settlement, the company also agreed to eliminate all plastic waste at its Point Comfort plant in Calhoun County, Texas, and pay penalties until discharges from the facility stopped. But since June 2021, Wilson says her organization has documented 859 violations and \$34.1 million in fines, which the company is required to pay under a consent decree.

The company plans to

expand its Point Comfort plant, which is projected to raise greenhouse gas emissions the most of any of the expansions — equivalent to about 670,000 gas-

powered vehicles.

"It's really outrageous that they can get permits when you have a serial polluter and it's documented," says Wilson,

leader of the San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper. "I have a real problem about them getting all of those exemptions — like they need it easier."◇



Plans to expand production at BASF's TDI plant in Geismar, La. have been projected to increase toxic air emissions for the nearby community by 18,969 tons annually due to exemptions President Donald Trump granted recently that would have forced the company to adhere to stricter air quality monitoring. Photo courtesy Louisiana Economic Development

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

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Advertiser: Hawthorne Agency
No. of Sect(s): 1 of 1
Page No.: 13

Client Name: NORG Program
Page No.: 13

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SCHOOL NOTES

MORRIS JEFF COMMUNITY SCHOOL: Morris Jeff, a Baccalaureate Programme public charter school, will host an open house for prospective Orleans Parish students in grades PK-12 at its campuses on Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m. Open house for pre-K-7 will be held at the Lopez campus, 211 S. Lopez St. in Mid-City. Open house for 8-12 will occur at the Frantz campus, 3811 N. Galvez in New Orleans. www.morrisjeffschool.org.

WARREN EASTON CHARTER HIGH: Warren Easton will host an open house for prospective students and their families on Nov. 4, 5-7 p.m., at the Ninth Grade Academy, 3030 Canal St. in New Orleans. Guests can tour the campus, meet teachers and current students and learn more about Warren Easton's academic and extracurricular programs. warreneahtoncharterhigh.org.

THE WILLOW SCHOOL: The Willow School will hold a series of open houses to learn more about arts-integrated, inquiry-based approach to education in K-12. Lower School open house for grades K-4 is Nov. 5, 6 p.m., at the Everett Williams Campus, 7315 Willow St. High School open house for grades 8-12 is Dec. 4, 5-7 p.m., at the Elijah Brimmer Campus, 5624 Freret St. Tours run every 15 minutes 5 p.m. willowschoolnola.org.

DISCOVERY SCHOOLS: Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy and Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy will hold open houses for prospective students and families. The open house for Kenner middle/high grades 5-12 will be Oct. 29, 5:30 p.m., at the Loyola/Vintage Campus, 3837 Loyola Drive. The open house for Kenner lower grades PK-4 will be Jan. 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at the Maine Campus, 2504 Maine Ave. in Metairie. The open house for Ochsner Discovery grades PK-8 will be Jan. 14, 5:30 p.m., at D100, 1108 Shrewsbury Road in Jefferson. All Jefferson Parish residents are eligible to apply. Admission is open enrollment and does not require testing. www.apply.avia.org.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH: An admissions open house for interested Orleans Parish residents will be held Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m., at the school, 2001 Leon C. Simon Drive in New Orleans. www.bfhsia.org.

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH: Dominican's Spend-A-Day registration is open to prospective students in grades 5-8. The fall dates are Oct. 31 and Nov. 4 and 11. Visits are 7:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m., and guests will meet the students, faculty and staff and experience what it means to be a Dominican student. Registration is required. stmarysdominican.fsenrollment.com.

NEW ORLEANS MILITARY AND MARITIME ACADEMY: Registration is open for open houses for grades 8-12 in the cafeteria, 425 O'Bannon St. in New Orleans. Dates are Nov. 6 and 18 and Jan. 8 and 22, 2026. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with presentations at 6 p.m. Attendance is required to apply for the 2026-27 school year. Parents or legal guardian(s) must attend. Parent or guardian identification is required at check-in. nomma.net/admissions.

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN: A benefit tennis tournament will be held Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Privateer Tennis Center at University of New Orleans, 6801 Franklin Ave. Registration is open until Nov. 10, with entry fees at \$90 per team, \$45 per clinic entry and \$30 per spectator. www.stmarysdominican.org.

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH REUNION: The 50th reunion of the graduating class of 1976 will be held April 10. The reunion committee is seeking contact information from class members. Details are available on the JFK Class of '76 Facebook page. cby.fskj@acol.com.

SCHOEFFNER SCHOLARSHIP: Applications are open through Dec. 1 for full-time college students who meet the criteria and are graduates of Destrehan High School or Hahnville High School. For details, go to www.wareascpps.org/resources/etel-schoeffner-scholarship.

Dominican team a winner in chalk-painting competition



PROVIDED PHOTO

St. Mary's Dominican High School's National Honor students received second place honors among 12 schools at the New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation's annual Chalk Painting: Our Hispanic Heritage contest held in City Park. The Dominican students created a 10-foot by 10-foot square chalk mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with orange marigolds to represent Mexico. The annual contest gives students three hours to complete the chalk drawing. The Dominican team, under art teacher Angelle Caffery, was, from left, Leah Johnson, Brianna Teran and Xuan-Anh Hoang.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Former LSU football coach Ed Orgeron stands with a Children's Hospital patient.

Ex LSU coach Ed Orgeron brings tablets to hospitalized children

Bringing iPads and good cheer to Manning Family Children's Hospital

BY ANNETTE SISCO
Staff writer

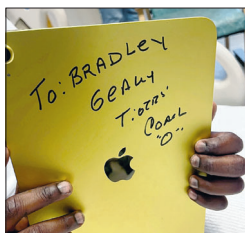
Children hospitalized for cancer and other serious illnesses have to put up with poking, prodding and tests. Days can be long and lonely.

Access to an iPad helps the time go by thanks to games, movies, chats with family and schoolwork. That's why the nonprofit Miracle Children's Foundation has made it their mission to distribute the handheld devices to hospitalized children, with help from celebrities and heroes who have the unique ability to brighten up a sick kid's day.

On Oct. 2, former LSU football coach Ed Orgeron spent several hours at Manning Family Children's Hospital, giving out personal iPads, signing autographs and posing for photos with young patients.

The coach's famously big personality went into teddy bear mode as he was surrounded by kids who were, for the moment, distracted from their ordeal.

"We believe every child deserves to feel



Patients received iPads that will help them stay connected to family and friends, play games, watch movies and otherwise stay busy during their hospitalization.

connected and supported, even during their hardest moments," said Rick Newman, founding board member and president of the New Orleans-based Miracle Children's Foundation.

The Miracle Children's Foundation supports children with cancer and life-threatening illnesses. Learn more at miraclechildrens.org.

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Bingle's beginnings: Hear Mr. Bingle's life story from daughters of his creator

The daughters of the man who created Mr. Bingle will discuss the history of the iconic New Orleans snowman from the Maison Blanche department store on Nov. 13.

Jeryllyn Alline Faulstich and Denise Alline Gurtner will speak about the beloved Christmas tradition at 7 p.m. at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie.

Mr. Bingle was conceived in 1948 by Emille Alline Sr., the store's display manager. Initially named "Snow Doll," he was renamed Mr. Bingle to align with the store owner's preference for the initials "MB."

Puppet shows and radio and television commercials made Mr. Bingle, a little snowman with an ice-cream cone hat, holly-leaf wings and Christmas ornaments for eyes, became holiday staple.

Local puppeteer Oscar Istenstrout was hired to bring Mr. Bingle to life for passers-by on Canal Street through regular marionette shows in the store's front window.

WWII DISCUSSION GROUP: John Curatola, author of a new book titled "Armies Afloat: How the Development of Amphibious Operation in Europe Helped Win World War II," will speak at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie.

American forces storming the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, is one of the most famous moments in U.S. military history. But behind this iconic assault is the long-overlooked history of learning and innovation.

Significantly, the amphibious forces taken ashore that day were overwhelming



Chris Smith
LIBRARIAN
LAGNIAPPE

Army soldiers, with sailors and airmen in support. Before the Army could launch such an endeavor, however, it had to learn how to conduct amphibious operations against a contested shore.

CONCERT: Pianist Richard Dowling and cellist Evan Drachman will perform at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, as part of the Piatigorsky Series.

Since 1990, the Piatigorsky Foundation has presented more than 4,000 performances, introducing the joy of live classical music in communities throughout the country. Piatigorsky artists play for audiences including seniors, schoolchildren, the economically disadvantaged, and those living in geographically remote areas.

READ ALL ABOUT IT: Pat Bedenbaugh will present a brief history of the newsboys of New Orleans at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie.

The 1870s in New Orleans were a time of loss and suffering following the end of the Civil War. Yellow fever epidemics and mass immigration of the poor filled New Orleans with orphans and half-orphans. The newsboys were among those numbers.

Many of those newsboys became family breadwinners. Bedenbaugh's grandfather was among them. His obituary said he was cast "upon the streets" at age 4 and lived in the newsboys' home until he married. That obituary started her search to learn about the home.

HOMESCHOOL SERIES: The Homeschool Series at Terrytown Library, 680



Families have their photo taken with Mr. Bingle at City Park's Celebration in the Oaks.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY DINAH ROGERS

Heritage Ave., Terrytown, offers lessons for ages 6 and up, though younger students are allowed. Upcoming lessons:

- Native gardening: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 10
- Indigo dyeing: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 17
- Heritage share: 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 24

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This event is part of the 75th anniversary of the Jefferson Parish Library

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cultural institutions, including the Louisiana State Museum's French Quarter properties such as the Cabildo, Presbytere, 1850 House and New Orleans Jazz Museum, along with the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches, and the E.D. White Historic Site in Thibodaux, among other attractions.

Admissions to the New Orleans Museum of Art, The National WWII Museum, The Historic New Orleans Collection and the Pontchartrain Foundation's West End Lighthouse may also be reserved at the same website.

Chris Smith is manager of adult programming at the Jefferson Parish Public Library.

Source material

A trio of national and local authors will talk with New Orleans readers

BY JANE LEGROS
Contributing writer

Three authors will share their work with New Orleans library patrons this week.

On Nov. 5, Indigenous journalist and author Joseph Lee will visit the New Orleans Public Library via Zoom at 1 p.m. to discuss his memoir "Nothing More of This Land."

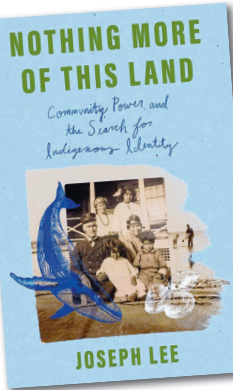
Growing up Aquim Wampanoag, Lee grappled with what it means to be an Indigenous person in the world today, especially as tribal land, culture and community face new threats. Starting with the story of his own tribe, which is from the iconic Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, Lee tackles questions around Indigenous identity and the legacy of colonialism.

Visit nolalibrary.co/joseph-lee to register and submit questions for the author. On Nov. 6, local author Boyce Upholt will speak about his book "The Great River: The Making and Unmaking of the Mississippi" at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 6 at Norman Mayer Library, 3001 Gentilly Blvd.

In this landmark work of natural history, Upholt tells the epic story of the wild and unruly Mississippi River, and the centuries of human meddling that have transformed both the river and America.

On Nov. 7, the New Orleans Public Library's REACH Center team will host a conversation with award-winning author and storyteller Bernice McFadden at 6 p.m. at the Community Book Center, at 2523 Bayou Road. McFadden will discuss her first memoir, "Firstborn Girls," a deeply personal exploration of generational trauma, maternal legacy and spiritual reckoning that traces her own story alongside the lives of the women who came before her.

McFadden is a national bestselling, award-winning author celebrated for her



richly layered novels that center ancestry, memory and the enduring strength of Black women.

She is the author of "Sugar," "The Book of Harlan," "Praise Song for the Butterflies" and other works of fiction. Her writing has earned numerous honors, including the American Book Award and an NAACP Image Award.

FRENCH BOOK FEST: Two free My French Book Fest programs are coming up in partnership with the Alliance Française de La Nouvelle-Orléans.

At 11 a.m. on Nov. 8, illustrator Ilya Green will visit Hubbell Library, 725 Pelican Ave., for a bilingual creative paper workshop where kids and families craft fantastic characters inspired by the magic of cut-outs, transfers, and collages.

Open to children ages 6-12 and their families, this playful workshop sparks imagination and storytelling. Space is limited; visit events.nolalibrary.org to register.

On Nov. 10, My French Book Fest will present a lively dance workshop with Canadian author and performer Micah, inspired by his book "Micah! Let's Go on an Adventure."

Attendees at the Milton H. Latter Memorial, 5120 St. Charles Ave., will discover French-Canadian culture through traditional jig steps, songs, and partner dances in this fun, interactive workshop open to children ages 6-12 and their families.

Space is limited; visit events.nolalibrary.org to register.

For complete details about My French Book Fest, including the schedule of events, visit the website of Alliance Française de La Nouvelle-Orléans.

Both programs will be presented in both English and French.

Jane LeGros is the director of marketing and communications for the New Orleans Public Library.

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SCHOOL NOTES

MORRIS JEFF COMMUNITY SCHOOL: Morris Jeff, a Baccalaureate Programme public charter school, will host an open house for prospective Orleans Parish students in grades PK-12 at its campuses on Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m. Open house for pre-K-7 will be held at the Lopez campus, 211 S. Lopez St. in Mid-City. Open house for 8-12 will occur at the Frantz campus, 3811 N. Galvez in New Orleans. www.morrisjeffschool.org.

WARREN EASTON CHARTER HIGH: Warren Easton will host an open house for prospective students and their families on Nov. 4, 5-7 p.m., at the Ninth Grade Academy, 3030 Canal St. in New Orleans. Guests can tour the campus, meet teachers and current students and learn more about Warren Easton's academic and extracurricular programs. warreneastoncharterhigh.org.

THE WILLOW SCHOOL: The Willow School will hold a series of open houses to learn more about arts-integrated, inquiry-based approach to education in K-12. Lower School open house for grades K-4 is Nov. 5, 6 p.m., at the Everett Williams Campus, 7315 Willow St. High School open house for grades 8-12 is Dec. 4, 5-7 p.m., at the Elijah Brimmer Campus, 5624 Freret St. Tours run every 15 minutes 5 p.m. willowschoolnola.org.

DISCOVERY SCHOOLS: Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy and Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy will hold open houses for prospective students and families. The open house for Kenner middle/high grades 5-12 will be Oct. 29, 5:30 p.m., at the Loyola/Vintage Campus, 3837 Loyola Drive. The open house for Kenner lower grades PK-4 will be Jan. 21, 2026, 5:30 p.m., at the Maine Campus, 2504 Maine Ave. in Metairie. The open house for Ochsner Discovery grades PK-8 will be Jan. 14, 5:30 p.m., at D100, 1108 Shrewsbury Road in Jefferson. All Jefferson Parish residents are eligible to apply. Admission is open enrollment and does not require testing. www.apply.avia.org.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH: An admissions open house for interested Orleans Parish residents will be held Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m., at the school, 2001 Leon C. Simon Drive in New Orleans. www.bfhsia.org.

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH: Dominican's Spend-A-Day registration is open to prospective students in grades 5-8. The fall dates are Oct. 31 and Nov. 4 and 11. Visits are 7:50 a.m. to 3:10 p.m., and guests will meet the students, faculty and staff and experience what it means to be a Dominican student. Registration is required. stmarysdominican.fsenrollment.com.

NEW ORLEANS MILITARY AND MARITIME ACADEMY: Registration is open for open houses for grades 8-12 in the cafeteria, 425 O'Bannon St. in New Orleans. Dates are Nov. 6 and 18 and Jan. 8 and 22, 2026. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with presentations at 6 p.m. Attendance is required to apply for the 2026-27 school year. Parents or legal guardian(s) must attend. Parent or guardian identification is required at check-in. nomma.net/admissions.

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN: A benefit tennis tournament will be held Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Privateer Tennis Center at University of New Orleans, 6801 Franklin Ave. Registration is open until Nov. 10, with entry fees at \$90 per team, \$45 per clinic entry and \$30 per spectator. www.stmarysdominican.org.

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH REUNION: The 50th reunion of the graduating class of 1976 will be held April 10. The reunion committee is seeking contact information from class members. Details are available on the JFK Class of '76 Facebook page. cby.fskj@acol.com.

SCHOEFFNER SCHOLARSHIP: Applications are open through Dec. 1 for full-time college students who meet the criteria and are graduates of Destrehan High School or Hahnville High School. For details, go to www.wareascpps.org/resources/etel-schoeffner-scholarship.

Dominican team a winner in chalk-painting competition



PROVIDED PHOTO

St. Mary's Dominican High School's National Honor students received second place honors among 12 schools at the New Orleans Hispanic Heritage Foundation's annual Chalk Painting: Our Hispanic Heritage contest held in City Park. The Dominican students created a 10-foot by 10-foot square chalk mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with orange marigolds to represent Mexico. The annual contest gives students three hours to complete the chalk drawing. The Dominican team, under art teacher Angelle Caffery, was, from left, Leah Johnson, Brianna Teran and Xuan-Anh Hoang.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Former LSU football coach Ed Orgeron stands with a Children's Hospital patient.

Ex LSU coach Ed Orgeron brings tablets to hospitalized children

Bringing iPads and good cheer to Manning Family Children's Hospital

BY ANNETTE SISCO
Staff writer

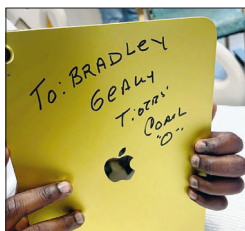
Children hospitalized for cancer and other serious illnesses have to put up with poking, prodding and tests. Days can be long and lonely.

Access to an iPad helps the time go by thanks to games, movies, chats with family and schoolwork. That's why the nonprofit Miracle Children's Foundation has made it their mission to distribute the handheld devices to hospitalized children, with help from celebrities and heroes who have the unique ability to brighten up a sick kid's day.

On Oct. 2, former LSU football coach Ed Orgeron spent several hours at Manning Family Children's Hospital, giving out personal iPads, signing autographs and posing for photos with young patients.

The coach's famously big personality went into teddy bear mode as he was surrounded by kids who were, for the moment, distracted from their ordeal.

"We believe every child deserves to feel



Patients received iPads that will help them stay connected to family and friends, play games, watch movies and otherwise stay busy during their hospitalization.

connected and supported, even during their hardest moments," said Rick Newman, founding board member and president of the New Orleans-based Miracle Children's Foundation.

The Miracle Children's Foundation supports children with cancer and life-threatening illnesses. Learn more at miraclechildrens.org.

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Public Mailers

Notification Type	Distribution Dates
Postcard – Mailed to Stakeholders	10/27/2025
Email – Emailed to Stakeholders	10/30/2025, 11/6/2025, 11/12/2025

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MyDOTD Email Announcement

Notification Type	Distribution Dates
MyDOTD Email Blast	10/27/2025

Emails Sent For Public Meetings PUBLIC MEETING: JEFFERSON HWY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION PROJECT (NORG H.005168)

Count: 533

**Public Meetings
PUBLIC MEETING: JEFFERSON HWY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION PROJECT (NORG H.005168)**

Monday, October 27, 2025 11:03 AM

**Open House Public Meeting
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program (NORG)
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**New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
P.O. Box 56845, New Orleans, LA 70156**

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special accommodations (e.g., sign language) or require translation services, please call 504-488-6196 at least five business days in advance of the meeting.

El lugar de reunión es accesible para personas con discapacidades. Si necesita

adaptaciones especiales (por ejemplo, lenguaje de señas) o necesita servicios de traducción, llame al

504-488-6196 al menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión.

For more information please contact 504-488-6196 or visit www.dotd.la.gov/about/office-of-multimodal-commerce/rail/freight-and-passenger-rail/new-orleans-rail-gateway-program/jefferson-highway-rail-crossing-relocation-study-documents/

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is committed to delivering transportation and public works systems that enhance the quality of life. In addition to more than 16,600 miles of roadway, including over 890 miles of interstate, DOTD supports the development of the state's aviation, marine and rail infrastructures. Through this work, we are able to facilitate economic development, create job opportunities, improve vital evacuation routes, and make critical freight corridors safer and more efficient.

For more information, please visit www.dotd.la.gov, email dotdcs@la.gov, or call DOTD's Customer Service Center at (225) 379-1232 or 1-877-4LADOTD (1-877-452-3683). Business hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please let us know how we may better serve you: [Customer Service Survey](#).

 Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
www.dotd.la.gov



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PUBLIC MEETING: JEFFERSON HWY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION PROJECT (NORG H.005168)
Monday, October 27, 2025

Open House Public Meeting
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program (NORG)
Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
State Project No. H.005168
Federal Aid Project No. DE-9208 (500)

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Railroad Administration, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area will host an open house public meeting for the Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project.

The public meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025** from **6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.** at the following location:

Ochsner Medical Center Campus Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor, Ballroom
1512 Jefferson Highway, New Orleans, LA 70121
Complimentary parking: Ochsner Medical Center Parking Garage, 2nd Floor and above

This project is evaluating combining the two at-grade highway-rail crossings on Jefferson Highway (US 90) between the Ochsner Medical Center and Monticello Avenue into a single crossing and grade separating the combined crossing with a roadway overpass.

The open house meeting will consist of a repeating recorded presentation of the alternatives developed, exhibits for viewing, the opportunity to speak with DOTD and Study Team representatives, provide comments, and join the study distribution list to receive future notices.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the open house. Comments received at the open house and written comments post-marked by November 24, 2025 will become part of the meeting record. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may mail your comments to the address listed below.

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
P.O. Box 56845, New Orleans, LA 70156

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adaptaciones especiales (por ejemplo, lenguaje de señas) o necesita servicios de traducción, llame al

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For more information please contact 504-488-6196 or visit www.dotd.la.gov/about/office-of-multimodal-commerce/rail/freight-and-passenger-rail/new-orleans-rail-gateway-program/jefferson-highway-rail-crossing-relocation-study-documents/

Press Release

Notification Type	Distribution Dates
Press Release – Issued to media outlets	11/6/2025

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
State Project No. H.005168 / Federal Aid
Project No. DE-9208 (500)
Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2025

Media Contact: Karimah Stewart
kstewart@hawthorneagency.com | 504-488-6100

Public Invited to Open House Meeting for Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project

New Orleans, LA — The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Railroad Administration, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area, will host an open house public meeting to present updates and gather feedback on the Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project. The open house will take place Thursday, November 13, 2025 from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. at Ochsner Medical Center Campus – Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor Ballroom, 1512 Jefferson Highway, New Orleans, LA 70121. There will be complimentary parking on the 2nd floor and above of the Ochsner Medical Center Parking Garage.

This project is evaluating combining the two existing at-grade highway-rail crossings on Jefferson Highway (U.S. 90), located between the Ochsner Medical Center and Monticello Avenue, into a single crossing. The goal is to enhance safety and traffic flow with a grade-separated overpass at the new consolidated crossing.

The open house will include:

- A repeating recorded presentation of the alternatives developed
- Informational exhibits available for public viewing
- Opportunities to speak directly with DOTD and project study team representatives
- A chance to provide comments and join the study distribution list to receive future notices

All interested residents, commuters, and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and share their input. Comments collected during the open house, as well as written comments postmarked by November 24, 2025, will be included in the official public record.

Those unable to attend may mail comments to:

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
P.O. Box 56845
New Orleans, LA 70156

The meeting venue is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations (e.g., sign language interpretation) or translation services are encouraged to call **504-488-6196** at least five business days prior to the meeting.

For additional information, please call **504-488-6196** or visit: www.dotd.la.gov/about/office-of-multimodal-commerce/rail/freight-and-passenger-rail/new-orleans-rail-gateway-program/jefferson-highway-rail-crossing-relocation-study-documents/

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Media Advisory

Notification Type	Distribution Dates
Media Advisory – Issued to media outlets	11/12/2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2025

Media Contact: Karimah Stewart
kstewart@hawthorneagency.com | 504-488-6100

Public Invited to Open House Meeting for Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project

WHAT: An open house public meeting to present project updates and gather public feedback on the Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project.

WHEN: Thursday, November 13, 2025
6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

WHERE: Ochsner Medical Center Campus – Brent House Hotel
2nd Floor Ballroom
1512 Jefferson Highway
New Orleans, LA 70121
Complimentary parking available on the 2nd floor and above of the Ochsner Parking Garage.

WHO: The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Railroad Administration, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area will host the meeting.

WHY: This project is evaluating combining the two existing at-grade highway-rail crossings on Jefferson Highway (U.S. 90), located between the Ochsner Medical Center and Monticello Avenue, into a single crossing. The goal is to enhance safety and traffic flow with a grade-separated overpass at the new consolidated crossing.

DETAILS:

The open house will include a repeating recorded presentation of the alternatives developed, informational exhibits available for public viewing, opportunities to speak directly with DOTD and project study team representatives, and a chance to provide comments and join the study distribution list to receive future notices.

All interested residents, commuters, and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and share their input. Comments collected during the open house, as well as written comments postmarked by November 24, 2025, will be included in the official public record. Those unable to attend may mail comments to: **New Orleans Rail Gateway Program, c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc., P.O. Box 56845, New Orleans, LA 70156**. The meeting venue is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations (e.g., sign language interpretation) or translation services are encouraged to call **504-488-6196** at least five business days prior to the meeting.

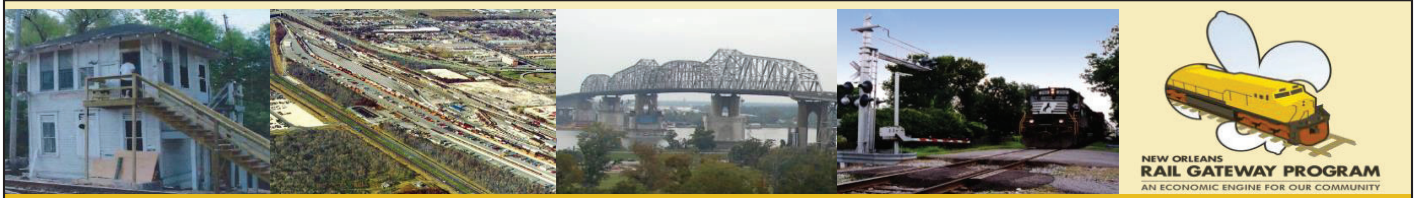
For additional information, please call **504-488-6196** or visit: www.dotd.la.gov/about/office-of-multimodal-commerce/rail/freight-and-passenger-rail/new-orleans-rail-gateway-program/jefferson-highway-rail-crossing-relocation-study-documents/

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Media List

Media List
Television
WWL TV 4 (CBS)
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WVUE TV 8 (Fox)
WNOL TV 38 (CW) / WGNO TV 26 (ABC)
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New Orleans Advocate
Gambit Weekly
Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans City Business / New Orleans Publishing Group
New Orleans Tribune Magazine
Radio
KGLA 1540 AM
KTIB 97.9 FM
WBOK 1230 AM
WGSO 990 AM
WRBH 88.3 FM
WWOZ 90.7 FM
WWNO 89.9 FM
WQUE 93.3 FM / WYLD 98.5 FM / WRNO 99.5 FM / WNOE 101.1 FM / KVDU 104.1 FM / WYLD 940 AM
KMEZ 102.9 FM / KKND FM 106.7 FM
WZRH 92.3 FM
WRKN 106.1 FM
WEZB 97.1 FM / WLMG 101.9 /WKBU 95.7 FM / WWL 105.3 FM / 870 AM
Online News Publications
The New Orleans Agenda
Verite News
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City of New Orleans Communications Department
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TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
State Project No. H.005168

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Alternatives Meeting

November 13, 2025



Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Thank you for attending today's public meeting for the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study.

We hope you find this meeting interesting and informative.

Special Assistance



- **If you require special assistance due to a disability in order to participate in today's public meeting, please see a Study Team representative at the Welcome Table.**
- **Si usted necesita ayuda especial debido a una discapacidad con el fin de participar en la sesión pública de hoy, consulte a un representante de nuestro equipo en la mesa de bienvenida.**



If you require special assistance due to a disability in order to participate in today's public meeting, please see a Study Team Representative at the Welcome Table.

Alternatives Meeting Format



- **The meeting follows an informal, or “open house” style format**
 - **Present an overview of the Alternative’s Development**
 - **Discuss the Alternatives developed with Study Team Representatives**
 - **Solicit input on the Alternatives developed**
 - **Learn how to receive Study information and participate in the decision-making process**



Tonight’s public meeting is an informal, open-house style or open forum format.

The meeting consists of:

- A video presentation of the alternatives developed,
- The opportunity to speak with Study Team Representatives,
- Obtain your comments on the alternatives developed, and
- Let you know how to stay informed and involved.

To get the most out of this presentation, please refer to the materials that were handed out at the Welcome Table.

After you’ve listened to this presentation, review the project exhibits, talk with Study Team representatives, and give us your comments.

This public meeting is an important part of the transportation decision-making process, and your input is encouraged and appreciated.

THIS IS A PLANNING STUDY



- This Study is evaluating possible transportation improvements
- The information presented at today's meeting is for **Public Review**
- **No decisions have been made** on the study outcomes
- The Study will take **another year to complete**
- At the end of the Study, if a decision is made to move the Project forward, **it will take several years to complete**

This is a Planning Study

This Study is evaluating possible transportation improvements

The information presented at today's meeting is for Public Review

No decisions have been made on the study outcomes

The Study will take another year to complete

At the end of the Study, if a decision is made to move the Project forward, it will take several years to complete



The New Orleans Rail Gateway Program, and this Study are being advanced through a Public Private Partnership between the:

- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development,
- Federal Railroad Administration,
- Federal Highway Administration,
- New Orleans Regional Planning Commission,
- Association of American Railroads representing the six Class 1 Railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area,
- New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, and
- Amtrak

to collectively investigate solutions to reduce highway crossing delays and improve rail service.

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Goals



- **Increase economic competitiveness and improve air quality by reducing vehicle congestion and delay**
- **Support Hospital expansion and Regional economic development**
- **Improve safety by eliminating one or both at-grade crossings**
- **Decrease crossing maintenance costs**
- **Increase freight fluidity through the NORG and the Port of New Orleans**



The goals identified at the beginning of this study included:

- Increase economic competitiveness and improve air quality by reducing vehicle congestion and delay,
- Support Hospital expansion and Regional economic development,
- Improve safety by eliminating one or both at-grade crossings,
- Decrease crossing maintenance costs, and
- Increase freight fluidity through the NORG and the Port of New Orleans.



The Study Area is roughly bounded on the west by Deckbar Avenue; on the north by the Earhart Expressway (LA 3139); on the east by Monticello Avenue; and on the south by River Road (LA 611).

Alternatives Development Process



- **Process Involved Six (6) Major Steps**
 - **Step 1 – Determine Existing and Forecast Future Roadway Traffic Volumes**
 - **Step 2 – Determine Existing and Forecast Future Railroad Traffic Volumes and Resultant Roadway Traffic Delay**
 - **Step 3 – Evaluate if Conditions warrant grade separating the crossings**
 - **Step 4 – Establish the Project's Purpose and Need**
 - **Step 5 – Develop Alternatives**
 - **Step 6 – Screen the Alternatives against the Purpose and Need and Environmental Features to identify a Build Alternative carried forward**

The process for developing the alternatives followed six basic steps:

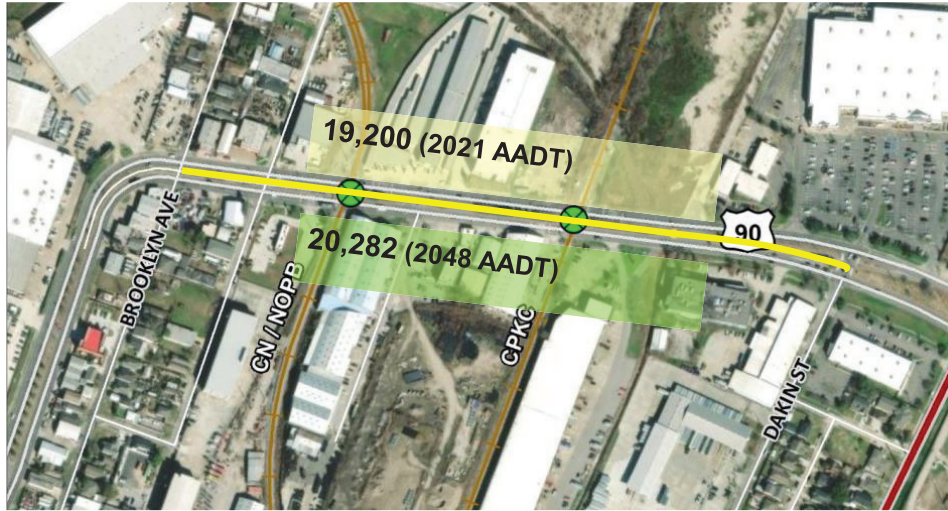
- Step 1 – Determine existing and forecast future roadway traffic volumes
- Step 2 – Determine existing and forecast future railroad traffic volumes and the blocked crossing roadway traffic delay
- Step 3 – Evaluate if conditions are met to grade separate the crossings
- Step 4 – Establish the Project's Purpose and Need
- Step 5 – Develop Alternatives, and
- Step 6 – Screen the Alternatives to identify alternatives carried forward



Step 1 – Existing and Future Roadway Traffic Volumes



- Existing (2021) Traffic Volumes – consistent with other area planning studies
- Future (2048) Traffic Volumes – Projected 5.6% growth

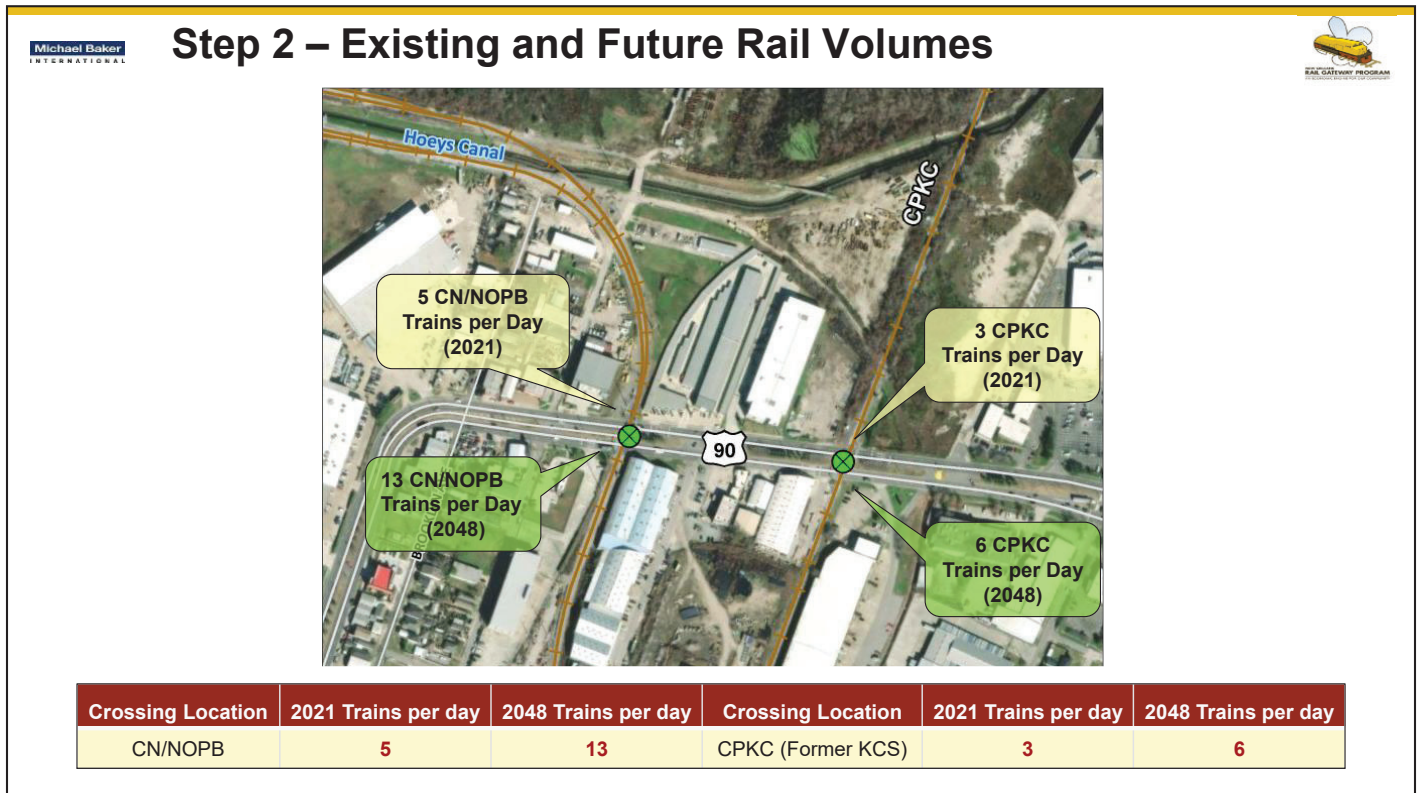


NOTE: AADT – Average Annual Daily Traffic

Jefferson Highway between Brooklyn Ave and Dakin St	
Functional Classification	Principal Arterial
Speed Limit	35 mph
2021 AADT	19,200
2048 AADT	20,282

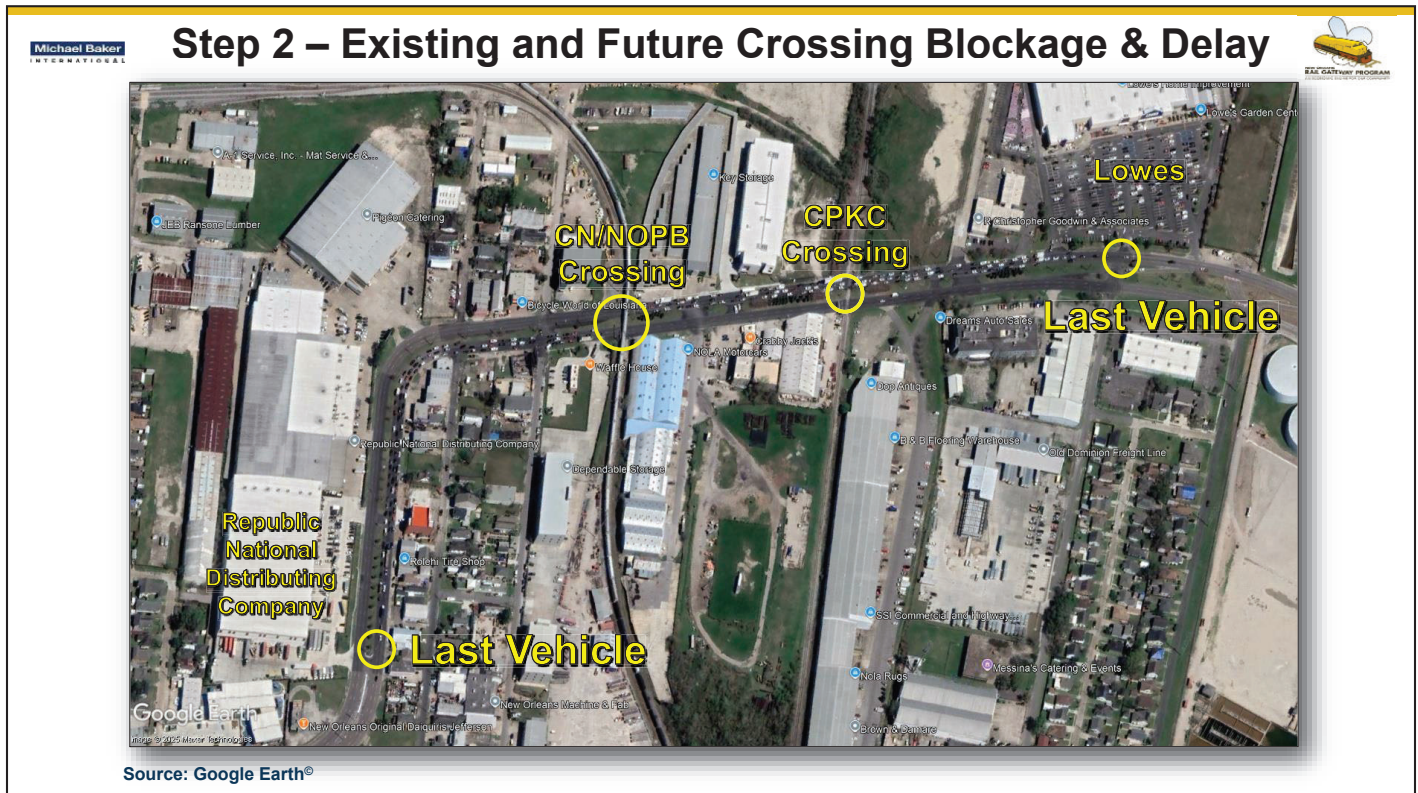
In 2021, the average annual daily traffic along Jefferson Highway within the Study Area was 19,200 vehicles per day.

By the 2048 forecast year, average annual daily traffic is expected to increase to 20,282 vehicles per day.



On average, in 2021 there were 5 trains per day at the CN/NOPB crossing and 3 trains per day at the CPKC crossing.

By 2048, the daily train crossings are expected to increase to 13 trains at the CN/NOPB crossing and 6 trains at the CPKC crossing.



This March 23, 2022, Google Earth image shows the traffic backed up while a train is blocking the CN/NOPB crossing. The train is approximately 2 miles long and traveling at perhaps 5 to 7 miles per hour.

The east bound traffic is backed up approximately 1,500 feet - around the bend, extending back to the Republic National Distributing Company.

The westbound traffic is backed up approximately 1,600 feet across the CPKC crossing and extending back to Lowes.



Step 2 – Existing and Future Crossing Blockage & Delay



- Existing (2021) Train Volumes – Train Car data
- Future (2048) Train Volumes – Forecast at 3.0% compound growth rate based on Port of New Orleans growth forecasts

Crossing Location	Mean Train Speed (mph)	Mean Train Length (feet)	Existing Year 2021			Year 2048 No Build		
			Trains Daily	Total Crossing Blockage (mpd)	Total Vehicle Delay (vhpd)	Trains Daily	Total Crossing Blockage (mpd)	Total Vehicle Delay (vhpd)
CN/NOPB (West) Crossing	6.5	3,738	5	45.1	40.8	13	118.6	52.6
CPKC (formerly KCS) (East) Crossing	6.5	4,768	3	33.6	59.7	6	68.0	69.9

NOTE: mpd – minutes per day | vhp – vehicle hours per day

Blocked crossings due to train movements were calculated using train car data.

On average, the number of hours vehicles are delayed at these crossings varies from approximately 41 hours each day in 2021 at the CN/NOPB crossing to approximately 70 hours each day in 2048 at the CPKC crossing.



Step 3 – Grade Separation Warrants



- **FHWA Warrant Guidance – when grade separation should be considered**

Warrant Condition	CN/NOPB Crossing		CPKC Crossing	
Vehicle delay exceeds 30 vehicle hours per day (vhpd) with consideration for cost effectiveness	+	40.8 (52.6)	+	59.7 (69.9)
Other Warrant Conditions	-	Not Met	-	Not Met

NOTE: Values 2021 (2048)

Federal Highway Administration guidance identifies warrant conditions to be considered in evaluating whether an at-grade crossing is a candidate for grade separation.

Only one of FHWA's warrant conditions are applicable to these Jefferson Highway crossings, the daily vehicle delay due to blocked crossings.

Both crossings exceed these warrant conditions.

Step 5 – Alternatives Considered



The No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives were considered:

- **No-Build Alternative** – No improvements, only normal maintenance activities and planned safety improvements
- **Build Alternative 1** – Realign the CN/NOPB track to the CPKC At-Grade Crossing location
- **Build Alternative 2** – Realign the CPKC track to the CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing location
- **Build Alternative 3** – Grade separate Build Alternative 1
- **Build Alternative 4** – Grade separate Build Alternative 2

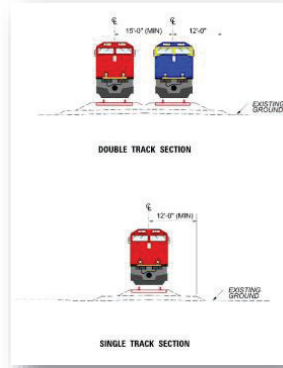
The No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives were considered:

- No-Build Alternative – No improvements, only normal maintenance activities and planned safety improvements,
- Build Alternative 1 – which realigns the CN/NOPB track to the CPKC At-Grade Crossing location,
- Build Alternative 2 – which realigns the CPKC track to the CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing location,
- Build Alternative 3 – which grade separates Build Alternative 1, and
- Build Alternative 4 – which grade separates Build Alternative 2.



Step 5 – Build Alternative 1

- Realigns the CN/NOPB track to the CPKC At-Grade Crossing location with a two-track crossing
- Removes the existing CN/NOPB At-Grade crossing
- CPKC At-Grade Crossing remains
- Jefferson Highway remains unchanged



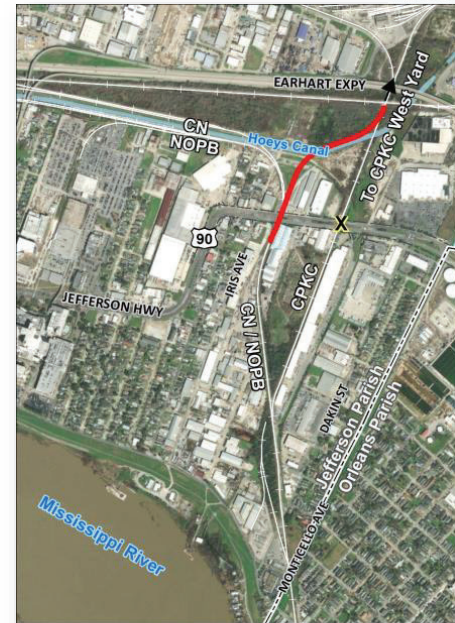
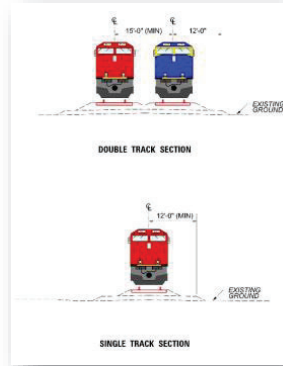
Build Alternative 1:

- Realigns the CN/NOPB track to the CPKC At-Grade Crossing location with a two-track crossing, and
- Removes the existing CN/NOPB At-Grade crossing.
- The CPKC At-Grade Crossing remains, and
- Jefferson Highway remains unchanged.

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Step 5 – Build Alternative 2

- Realigns the CPKC track to the CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing location with a two-track crossing
- Removes the existing CPKC At-Grade crossing
- CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing remains
- Jefferson Highway remains unchanged



Build Alternative 2:

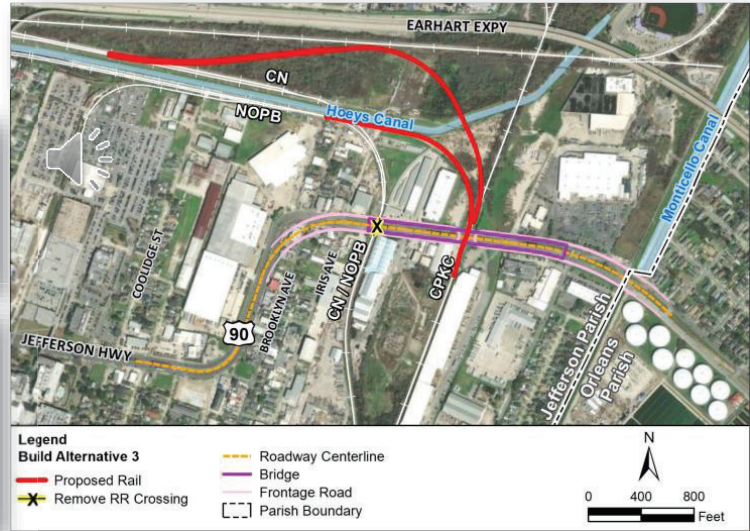
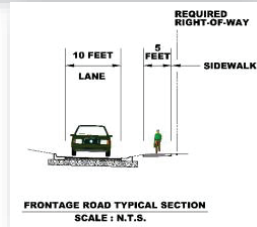
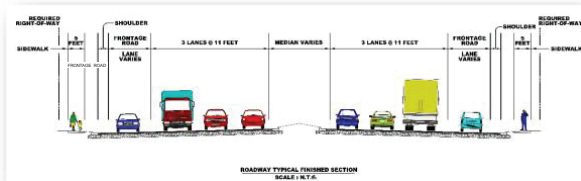
- Realigns the CPKC track to the CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing location with a two-track crossing, and
- Removes the existing CPKC At-Grade crossing.
- The CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing remains, and
- Jefferson Highway remains unchanged.



Step 5 – Build Alternative 3



- Realigns the CN/NOPB track to the CPKC At-Grade Crossing location and removes the existing CN/NOPB at-grade crossing
- Grade separates Jefferson Highway (road over rail overpass) and provides frontage road access to the local road network
- Provides bicycle/pedestrian access
- Eliminates all access across the tracks



Build Alternative 3:

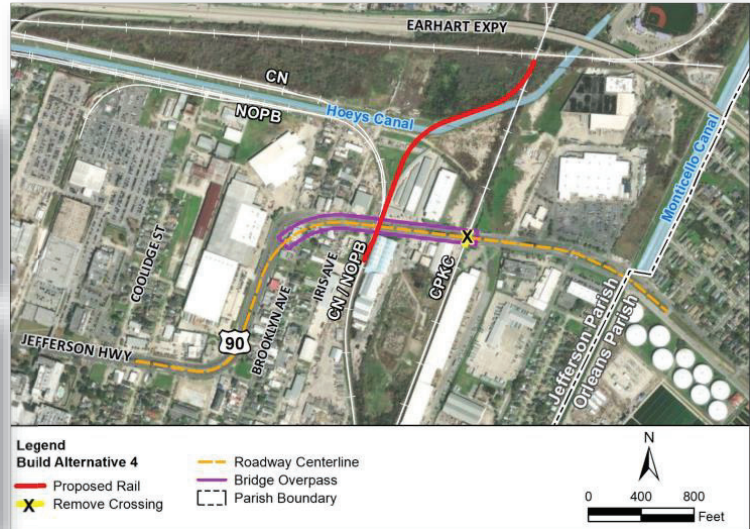
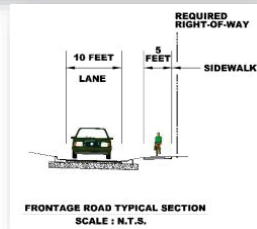
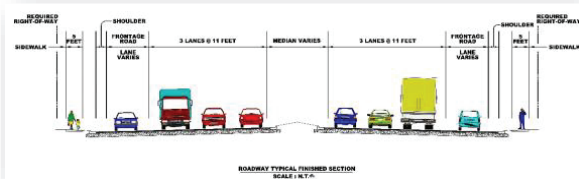
- Grade separates Build Alternative 1 with a road over rail overpass and provides frontage road access to the local road network.
- It provides bicycle/pedestrian access consistent with the Jefferson Parish Bicycle Master Plan by providing sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes.
- It eliminates all access across the tracks.



Step 5 – Build Alternative 4



- Realigns the CPKC track to the CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing location and removes the existing CPKC at-grade crossing
- Grade separates Jefferson Highway (road over rail overpass) and provides frontage road access to the local road network
- Provides bicycle/pedestrian access
- Eliminates all access across the tracks



Build Alternative 4:

- Grade separates Build Alternative 2 with a road over rail overpass and provides frontage road access to the local road network.
- It also provides bicycle/pedestrian access by providing sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes.
- It also eliminates all access across the tracks.



Step 6 – Alternatives Screening



Purpose and Need	No Build	Alternative			
		1	2	3	4
Improve Safety	-	-	-	+	+
Improve Mobility					
Level of Service during Train Crossing Event	-	-	-	+	+
Daily AM & PM Peak Period Delay	-	-	-	+	+
Queueing	-	-	-	+	+
Emergency Response	-	-	-	+	+
Improve Multimodal Connectivity	-	-	-	+	+
Support Economic Development	-	-	-	+	+
Improve/Encourage a Shared-Use Environment	-	-	-	+	+

Build Alternatives 1 and 2 were both eliminated from further consideration

The display board in the Exhibits Area presents the evaluation in detail

The No Build and four Build Alternatives were evaluated against the Project's Purpose and Need – improving safety, mobility and multimodal connectivity; supporting economic development, and improving/encouraging a shared-use environment.

Build Alternatives 1 and 2 were both eliminated from further consideration because neither alternative satisfied the Project Purpose nor addressed the Project Need.

Display boards in the Exhibits Area present the evaluation in detail.



Step 6 – Alternatives Screening



Environmental Resources Impacts & Other Criteria	No Build	BUILD ALTERNATIVE Grade Separated	
		3	4
		Realign CN/NOPB to CPKC and Grade Separate	Realign CPKC to CN/NOPB and Grade Separate
Land Use			
Right of Way Acquisition (acres)	0.0	9.7	5.3
Rezoning from Industrial to Transportation Use (acres)	0.0	4.9	4.7
Future Tulane University Athletic Fields (acres) – Is future development impacted?	0.0	4.8 Trisects parcels	0.6 Parcel boundary take
Transportation			
Roadway Network – Is crossing related congestion and delay eliminated?	–	+	+
Rail Transportation – Are rail traffic operations impacted?	+	less maintenance	less maintenance
Transit – Are NORTA and JP Transit bus delays eliminated?	–	+	+
Pedestrians & Bicyclists – Are bikelped opportunities enhanced?	–	+	+
Potential Property Impacts			
Commercial (each) – Displaced Partial	0 0	10 5	11 7
Residential (each)	0	1 partial	2 partial
Vacant Property (each)	0	2 partial	2 partial
Community Facilities (each) – Are Parks, Hospitals, Schools, Fire Stations, etc. impacted?	0	0	0
Public Safety – Is crossing safety and delivery of emergency services improved?	–	+	+
Noise & Vibration – Will there be noise or vibration impacts?	+	Potential impacts	Potential impacts
Railroad Support	N/A	–	+
Estimated Cost (x \$1,000,000)	\$ 0.0	\$ 99.5	\$ 98.6

N/A – Not applicable

Environmental Resources Impacts & Other Criteria	No Build	BUILD ALTERNATIVE Grade Separated	
		3	4
		Realign CN/NOPB to CPKC and Grade Separate	Realign CPKC to CN/NOPB and Grade Separate
Other Environmental Resources			
Water Wells (each) – Active Abandoned	0 0	1 5	0 2
Cultural Resources (each) – National Register Listed or Eligible Sites	0	0	0
Hazardous Materials Sites	0	No known sites	No known sites
Wetlands (acres)	0.0	0.3 (NWI)	0.0 (NWI)
100-Year Floodplains	0	Potential impacts	Potential impacts
Navigable Waterways Crossed	0	0	0
Coastal Zones	0	Potential impacts	Potential impacts

NWI – based on National Wetland Inventory

The No-Build and Build Alternatives 3 and 4 were evaluated against 21 different environmental resources and other criteria.



Step 6 – Alternatives Screening



Environmental Resources Impacts and Other Criteria	No Build	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Potential Property Impacts			
Commercial (each) – Displaced Partial	0 0	10 5	11 7
Residential (each)	0	1 partial	2 partial
Vacant Property (each)	0	2 partial	2 partial
Landuse			
Right-of-Way Acquisition (acres)	0.0	9.7	5.3
Rezoning from Industrial to Transportation Use (acres)	0.0	4.9	4.7
Future Tulane University Athletic Fields (acres)	0.0	4.8 (Trisects parcels)	0.6
Railroad Support	N/A	Not supported	Supported

The No-Build and Build Alternative 4 were retained for further study

The impacts to commercial properties along Jefferson Highway are due to the roadway realignment and addition of the frontage roads, and are for the most part, nearly identical.

- Build Alternative 3 would displace 10 businesses and partially impact 5 others
- While Build Alternative 4 would displace 11 businesses and partially impact 7 others
- Build Alternatives 3 and 4 only differ in landuse and railroad support.
- Build Alternative 3 would have a greater impact to, and trisect vacant parcels purchased by Tulane University for future athletic fields.
- Build Alternative 4 is the only alternative supported by CN, CPKC and NOPB.

The No-Build and Build Alternative 4 were retained for further study.



Step 6 – Potential Property Impacts

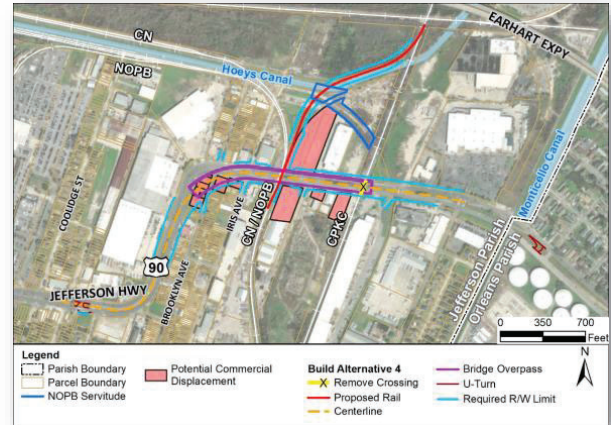


Displaced Businesses (11)

- Available Lighting
- Lowe's Radiator Shop
- Bohnenstiehl Electric
- Shades of Light
- Jenbo International
- Blest Auto
- Jefferson Battery
- Key Storage
- NOLA Motorcars
- Crabby Jack's
- Building Specialties

Partially Impacted Businesses (7)

- R&A Auto
- B&B Automotive
- Rolehi Tire Shop
- Bicycle World of Louisiana
- BB Commercial Solutions
- The Storage Center
- Crescent City Industrial Services



Final displacements and partial impacts won't be fully known until Final Design

The impacted businesses are listed here.

Final displacements and partial impacts won't be fully known until the Project advances to Final Design.

DOTD Right-of-Way Representatives are available this evening to answer property impact questions.



Build Alternative 4



Video is for illustrative purposes only

Build Alternative 4 would look similar to this.

Display boards can be viewed in the Exhibits Area.



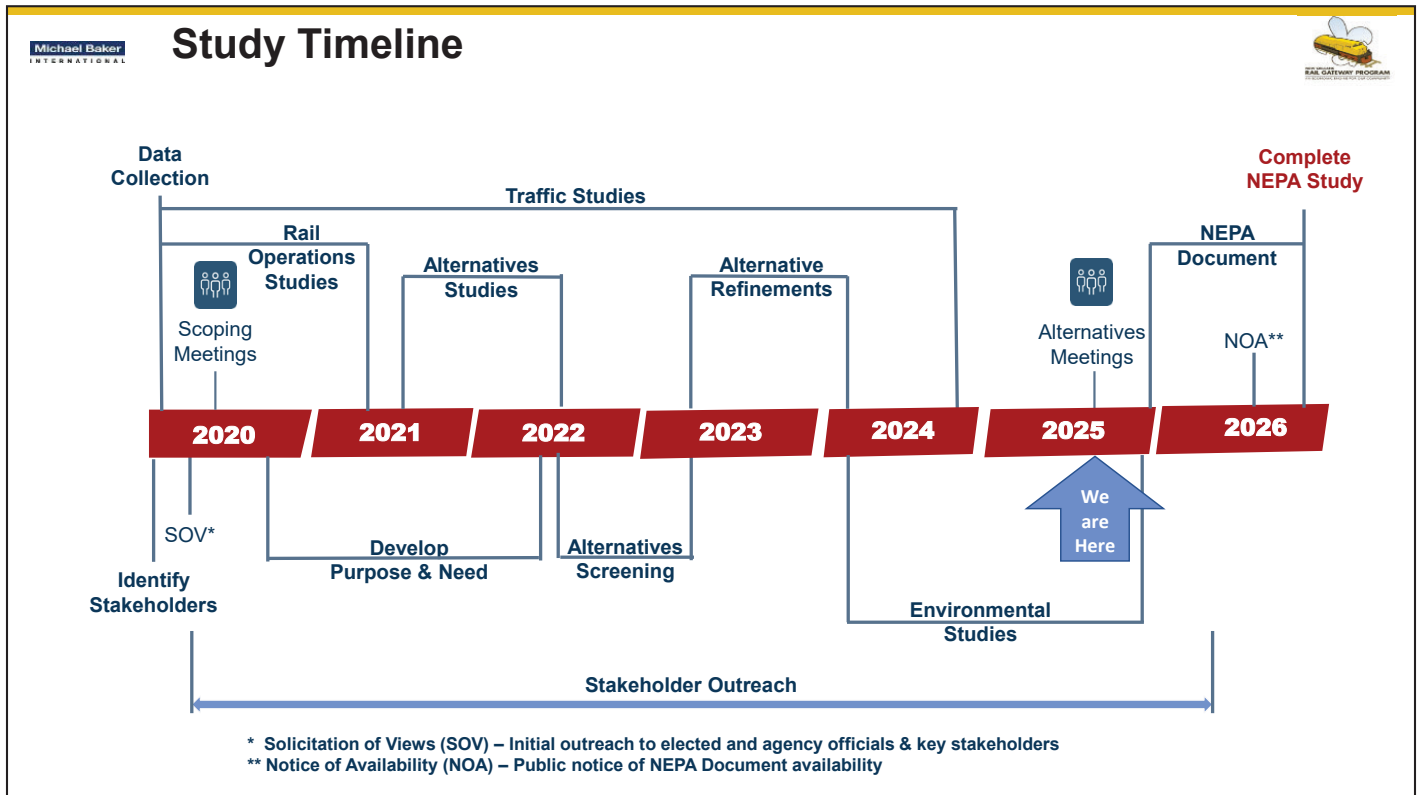
Build Alternative 4 Environmental Studies




- **Noise & Vibration**
- **Threatened & Endangered Species**
- **Wetlands and Water Resources**
- **Hazardous Materials**
- **Historic Properties and Archaeological Resources**

Environmental studies are underway for Build Alternative 4, including:


- Noise & Vibration
- Threatened & Endanger Species
- Wetlands and Water Resources
- Hazardous Materials, and
- Historic Properties and Archaeological Resources



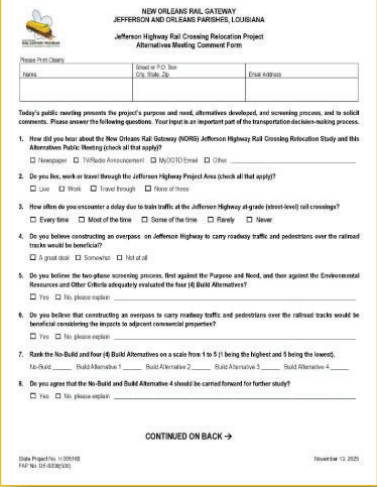
The study will take at least another year to complete the on-going studies and NEPA document. The study is anticipated to be completed in late-2026.



We Want to Hear From You!



- **Comment Forms are available at Tonight's Meeting or at www.dotd.la.gov/about/office-of-multimodal-commerce/rail/freight-and-passenger-rail/new-orleans-rail-gateway-program/jefferson-highway-rail-crossing-relocation-study-documents/**



- **Submit at this meeting**
- **USPS Mail to:**
 - NORG – Jefferson Highway Rail Study
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
P.O. Box 56845
New Orleans, LA 70116
- **Email to: NORG@mbakerintl.com**
(Subject: *NORG Jefferson Highway Rail Study Comment Form*)
- **Include your contact information to receive future study notices**
- **Comment forms received at this meeting or post-marked/emailed no later than **November 24, 2025**, will be included in the public record**

We want to hear from you!

If you want to comment about the study or this presentation, please complete the Comment Form you received at the Welcome Table. The comment form is also available on DOTD's Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation webpage and can be downloaded and printed for sending via USPS mail or email.

Comment forms must be received or postmarked no later than November 24, 2025, to become part of the public record.

Please complete your full name and contact information. Anonymous comments cannot be fully considered.

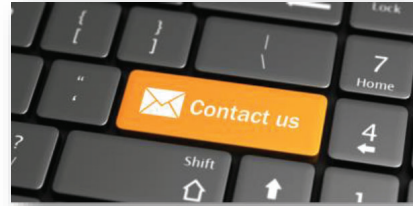
Stay Involved!



- Provide your contact information to receive:
 - Newsletters
 - Future Study Notices

- Contact us:

- Telephone - (504) 488-6196
- Email - NORG@mbakerintl.com
 - Subject: Jefferson Highway Rail Study
- USPS Mail
 - New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson Highway Rail Study
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
P.O. Box 56845
New Orleans, LA 70116



- Visit the DOTD Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study web page
www.dotd.la.gov/about/office-of-multimodal-commerce/rail/freight-and-passenger-rail/new-orleans-rail-gateway-program/jefferson-highway-rail-crossing-relocation-study-documents/

Please provide your contact information to receive newsletters and future notices.

You can contact us any time during the study by telephone, email and USPS Mail as listed here.

This contact information and study information are posted on DOTD's Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation webpage.

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Thank you for Watching!



THANK YOU



This public meeting is an important part of the transportation decision-making process, and your input is encouraged and appreciated.

After this presentation, please review the project exhibits, talk with Study Team and DOTD Right-of-Way representatives, and give us your comments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask one of the Study Team representatives. We're all wearing name badges. **Remember, the only bad questions are the ones not asked!**

Thank you again for attending today's public meeting!

EXHIBITS



Welcome

to this Alternatives Meeting for the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.

Today's meeting is an informal, open-house style format.

To obtain the most out of today's public meeting please:

- ✦ **Sign in** at the front welcome table and take a copy of the handout materials. By signing in your name will be placed on the mailing list to receive future public announcements.
- ✦ **Watch the slide presentation** for an overview of the Alternative's Development process.
- ✦ **Review the exhibits** displayed around the room to learn more about the Project and results of the Alternative Development process.
- ✦ **Ask questions** of the Project Team members (we're all wearing name tags). Remember, there are no foolish questions. The only bad questions are the ones not asked.
- ✦ **Give us your comments** by completing a Comment Form that is included with the handout materials and place it in the box at the Written Comments Station. Written comments will also be accepted by email sent to NORG@mbakerintl.com or postal mail provided they are emailed/postmarked no later than **November 24, 2025**.

This meeting is an important part of the transportation decision-making process and your input is encouraged and appreciated.

Thank you for attending!



Welcome

Special Assistance

If you require special assistance due to a disability in order to participate in today's public meeting, please see a Study Team representative at the Welcome table.

Bienvenida

asistencia especial

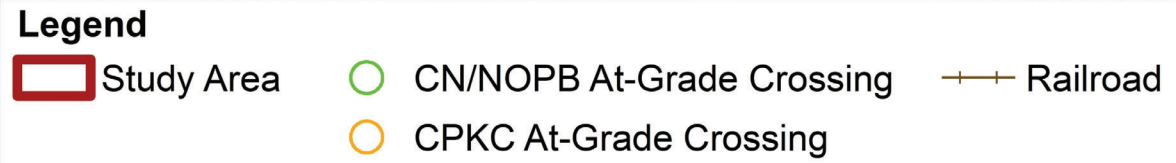
Si usted necesita ayuda especial debido a una discapacidad con el fin de participar en la sesión pública de hoy, consulte a un representante de nuestro equipo en la mesa de bienvenida.



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: STUDY AREA



PURPOSE AND NEED

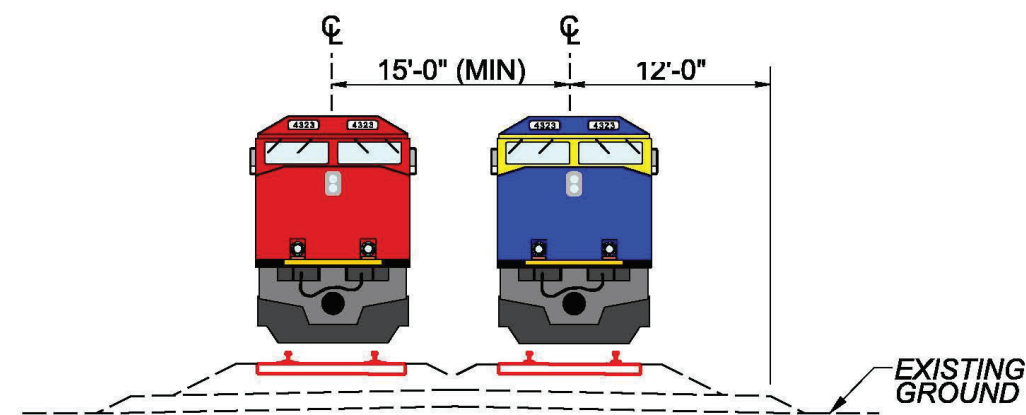
The **Purpose** is to enhance safety, mobility, and multi-modal connectivity, support regional economic development, and improve/encourage a multi-use/shared use environment within the Jefferson Highway corridor by addressing the following **Needs**:

- ❖ Improving **Safety**
- ❖ Improving **Mobility**
- ❖ Improving **Multimodal Connectivity**
- ❖ Supporting **Economic Development**
- ❖ Improving/Encouraging a **Shared-Use Environment**

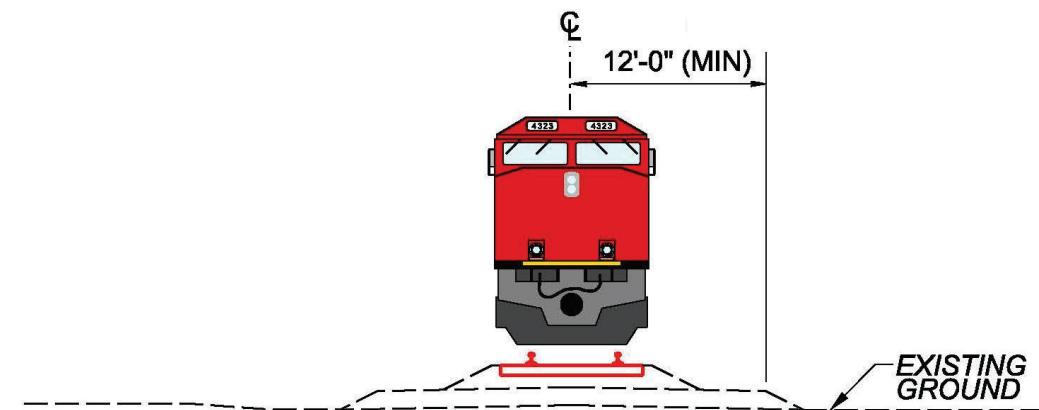
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: TYPICAL SECTIONS

BUILD ALTERNATIVES 1, 2, 3, & 4 - RAIL TYPICAL SECTIONS

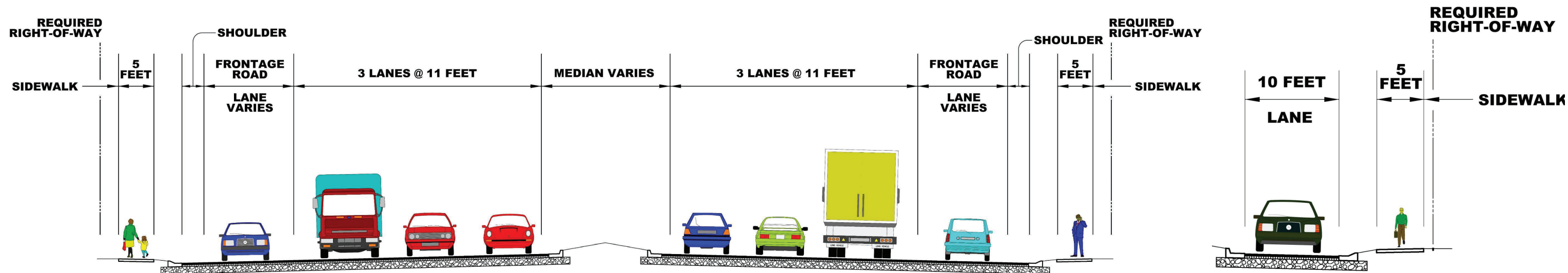


Double Track Section



Single Track Section

BUILD ALTERNATIVES 3 & 4 - ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTIONS



Roadway

Frontage Road



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION



Screening Against Purpose & Need

Project Purpose & Need	No Build	BUILD ALTERNATIVES			
		At-Grade		Grade separated	
		1	2	3	4
		Realign CN/NOPB to CPKC	Realign CPKC to CN/NOPB	Grade separate Build Alternative 1	Grade separate Build Alternative 2
Improve Safety	– Crossing conflict points remain	– Crossing conflict points remain	– Crossing conflict points remain	+ Removes all crossing conflict points	+ Removes all crossing conflict points
Improve Mobility					
Level of Service (LOS) during Train Crossing Event	– LOS F	– LOS F	– LOS F	+ LOS B or Better	+ LOS B or Better
Daily AM & PM Peak Period Delay	– > 30 hours	– > 30 hours	– > 30 hours	+ 0 hours	+ 0 hours
Queueing	– Excessive queueing impacting area traffic and first responder mobility	– Excessive queueing impacting area traffic and first responder mobility	– Excessive queueing impacting area traffic and first responder mobility	+ No queueing (Free flow)	+ No queueing (Free flow)
Emergency Response	– Restricts delivery of emergency services	– Restricts delivery of emergency services	– Restricts delivery of emergency services	+ Enables unrestricted delivery of emergency services	+ Enables unrestricted delivery of emergency services
Improve Multimodal Connectivity	– Limits fluidity with the Port by restricting train lengths	– Limits fluidity with the Port by restricting train lengths	– Limits fluidity with the Port by restricting train lengths	+ Enhances fluidity with the Port by enabling longer train lengths	+ Enhances fluidity with the Port by enabling longer train lengths
Support Economic Development	– Restricts ease of access	– Restricts ease of access	– Restricts ease of access	+ Increases ease of access	+ Increases ease of access
Improve/Encourage a Shared-Use Environment	– Does not accommodate shared-use environment	– Does not accommodate shared-use environment	– Does not accommodate shared-use environment	+ Accommodates planned shared-use environment	+ Accommodates planned shared-use environment

Build Alternatives 1 and 2 were both eliminated from further consideration because neither alternative satisfies the Project Purpose nor addresses the Project Need.



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION



Screening Against Environmental Resources & Other Criteria

Environmental Resources Impacts & Other Criteria	No Build	BUILD ALTERNATIVE	
		Grade Separated	
		3	4
		Realign CN/NOPB to CPKC and Grade Separate	Realign CPKC to CN/NOPB and Grade Separate
Land Use			
Right of Way Acquisition (acres)	+ 0.0	- 9.7	+ 5.3
Rezoning from Industrial to Transportation Use (acres)	+ 0.0	+ 4.9	+ 4.7
Future Tulane University Athletic Fields (acres) – Is future development impacted?	+ 0.0	- 4.8 Trisects parcels	+ 0.6 Parcel boundary take
Transportation			
Roadway Network – Is crossing related congestion and delay eliminated?	-	+	+
Rail Transportation – Are rail traffic operations impacted?	+	+ less maintenance	+ less maintenance
Transit – Are NORTA and JP Transit bus delays eliminated?	-	+	+
Pedestrians & Bicyclists – Are bike/ped opportunities enhanced?	-	+	+
Potential Property Impacts			
Commercial (each) – Displaced Partial	+ 0 0	- 10 5	- 11 7
Residential (each)	+ 0	+ 1 partial	+ 2 partial
Vacant Property (each)	+ 0	+ 2 partial	+ 2 partial
Community Facilities (each) – Are Parks, Hospitals, Schools, Fire Stations, etc. impacted?	+ 0	+ 0	+ 0
Public Safety – Is crossing safety and delivery of emergency services improved?	-	+	+
Noise & Vibration – Will there be noise or vibration impacts?	+	+ Potential impacts	+ Potential impacts
Railroad Support	N/A	-	+
Estimated Cost (x \$1,000,000)	\$ 0.0	\$ 99.5	\$ 98.6

N/A – Not applicable

The No Build and Build Alternative 4 were retained for further study.



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION



Screening Against Environmental Resources & Other Criteria

Environmental Resources Impacts & Other Criteria	No Build	BUILD ALTERNATIVE	
		Grade Separated	
		3	4
		Realign CN/NOPB to CPKC and Grade Separate	Realign CPKC to CN/NOPB and Grade Separate
Other Environmental Resources			
Water Wells (each) – Active Abandoned	+ 0 0	- 1 5	+ 0 2
Cultural Resources (each) – National Register Listed or Eligible Sites	+ 0	+ 0	+ 0
Hazardous Materials Sites	+	+ No known sites	+ No known sites
Wetlands (acres)	+ 0.0	+ 0.3 (NWI)	+ 0.0 (NWI)
100-Year Floodplains	+	+ Potential impacts	+ Potential impacts
Navigable Waterways Crossed	+ 0	+ 0	+ 0
Coastal Zones	+	+ Potential impacts	+ Potential impacts

NWI – based on National Wetland Inventory

The No Build and Build Alternative 4 were retained for further study.

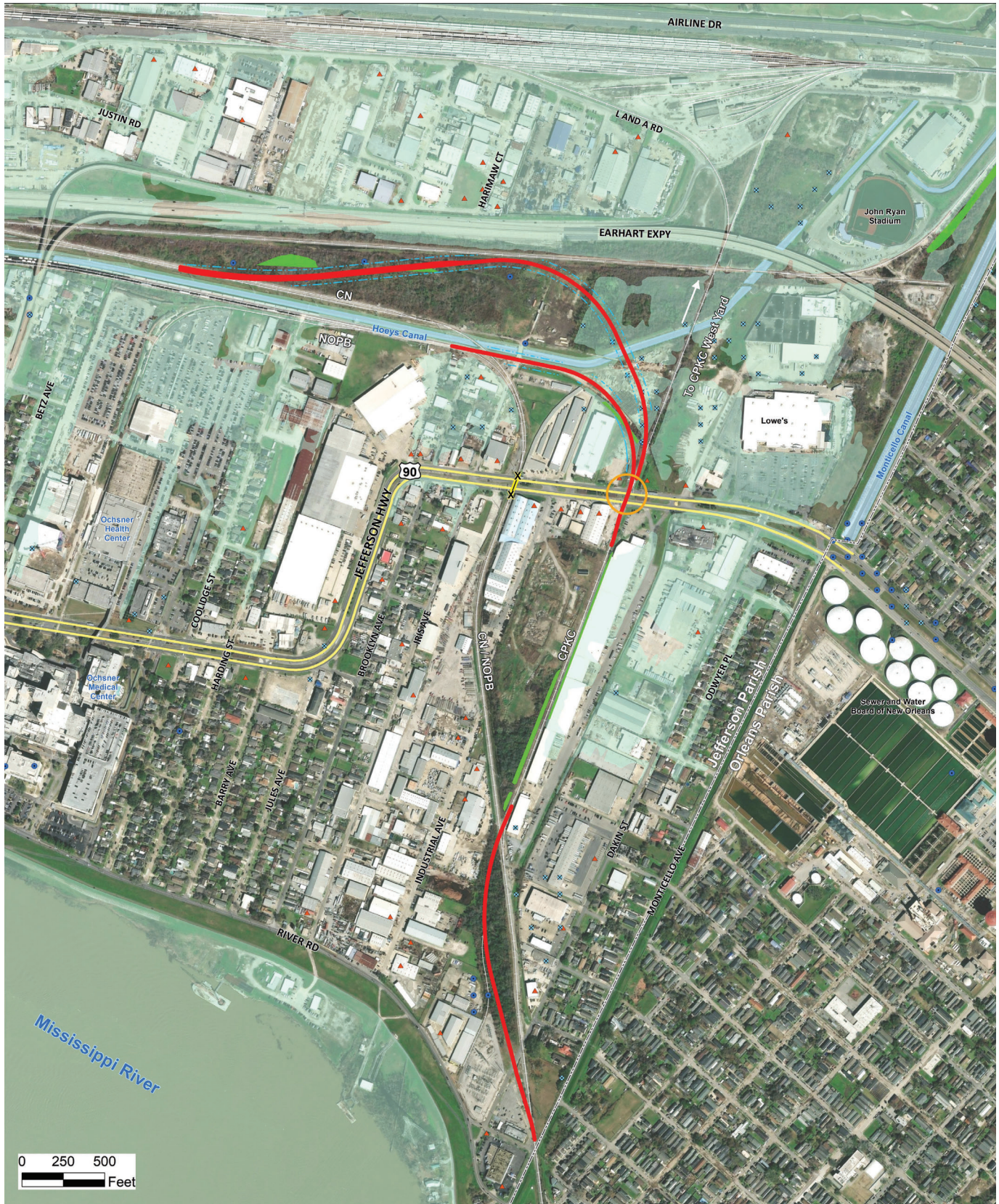


New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION



BUILD ALTERNATIVE 1



Legend

Build Alternative 1

- Proposed Rail
- Remove RR Crossing
- - - Required Right-of-Way

- CPKC At-Grade Crossing
- Parish Boundary

- Wetland (Field Identified)
- 100-Year Floodplain

- ▲ Potential Hazardous Site
- Active Water Well
- × Plugged/Abandoned Water Well



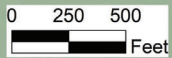
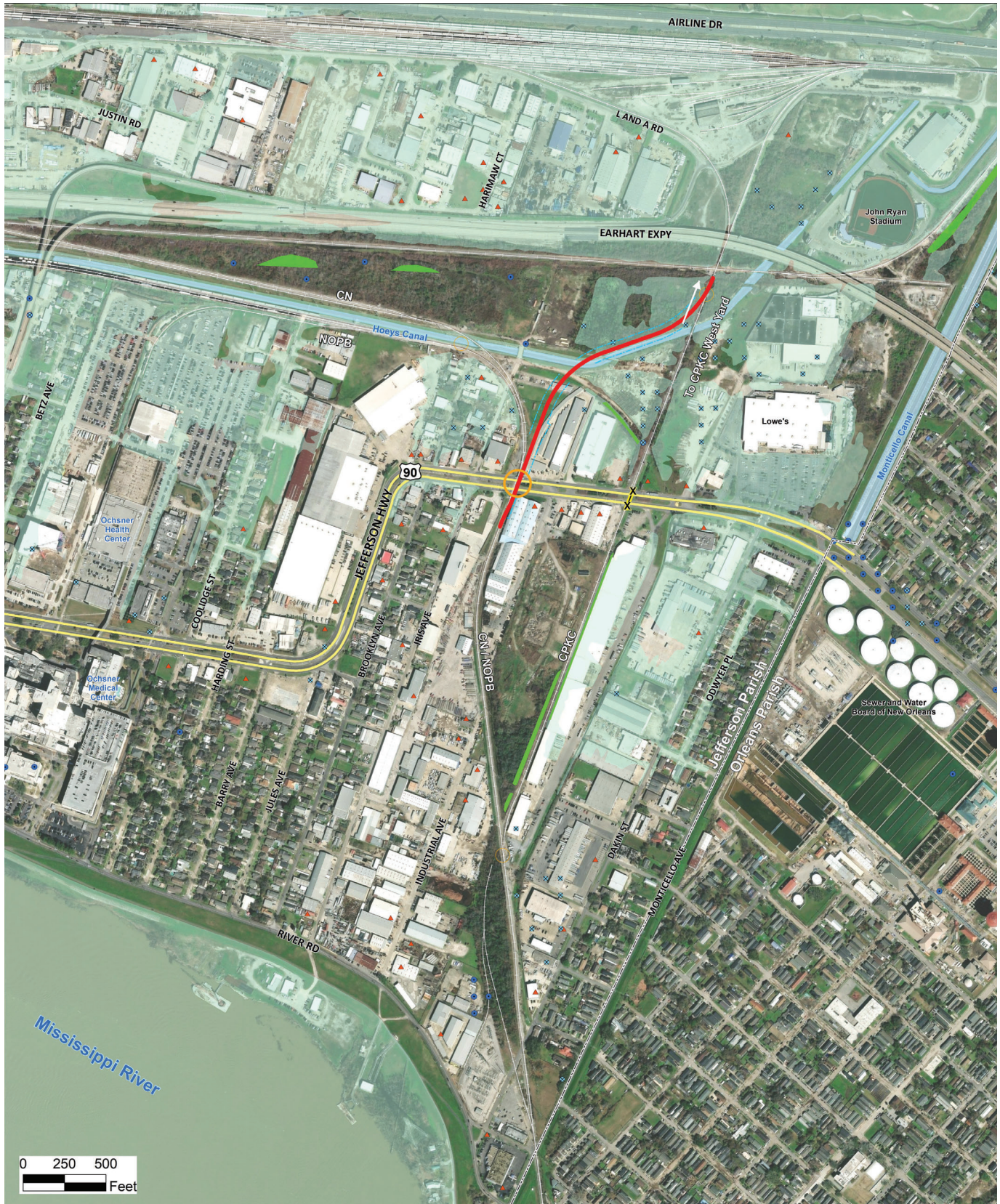


New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION



BUILD ALTERNATIVE 2



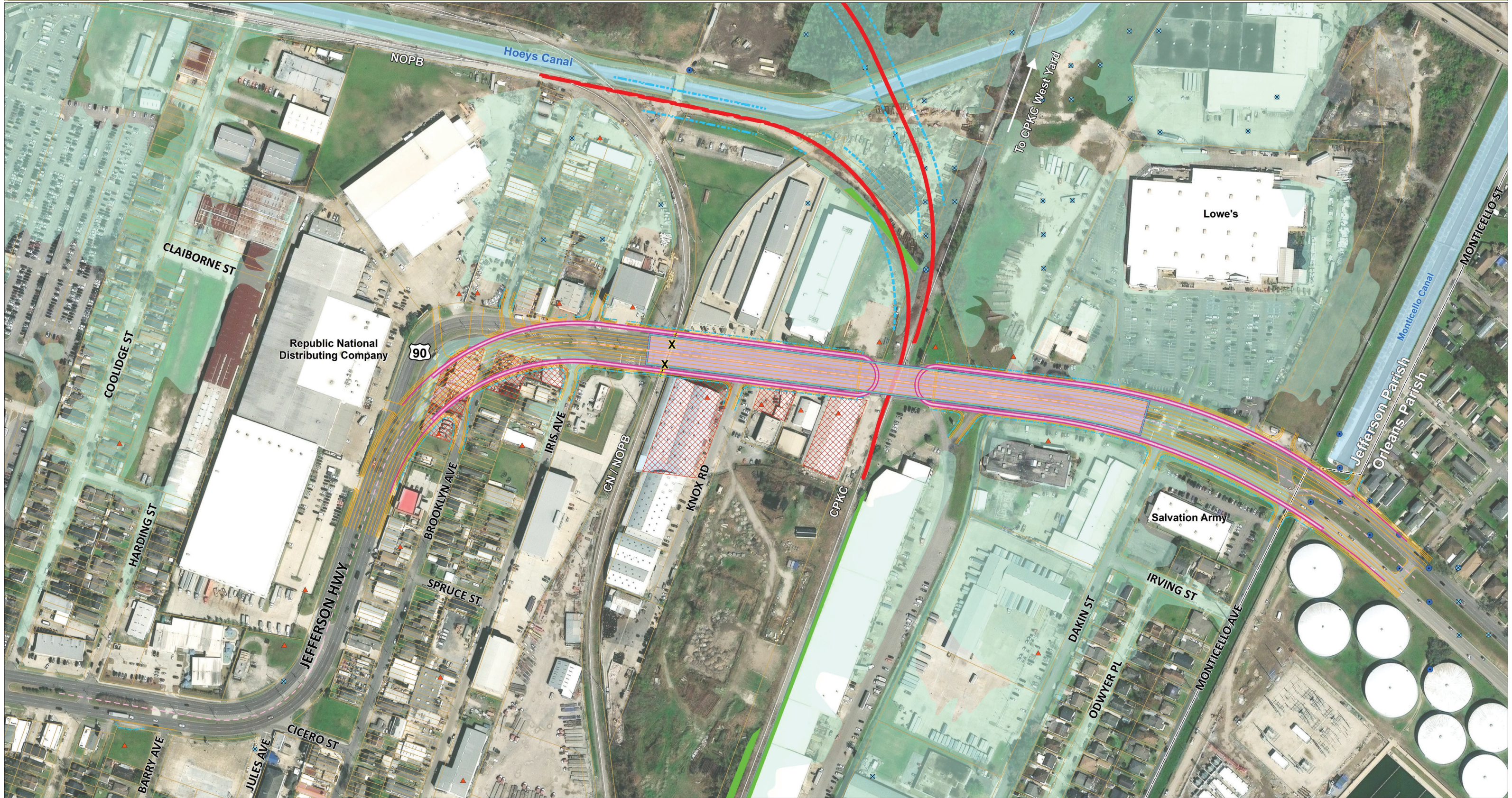
- Legend**
- Build Alternative 2 Proposed Rail
 - Remove RR Crossing
 - Required Right-of-Way
 - CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing
 - Parish Boundary
 - Wetland (Field Identified)
 - 100-Year Floodplain
 - ▲ Potential Hazardous Site
 - Active Water Well
 - ✖ Plugged/Abandoned Water Well





New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: BUILD ALTERNATIVE 3



Legend

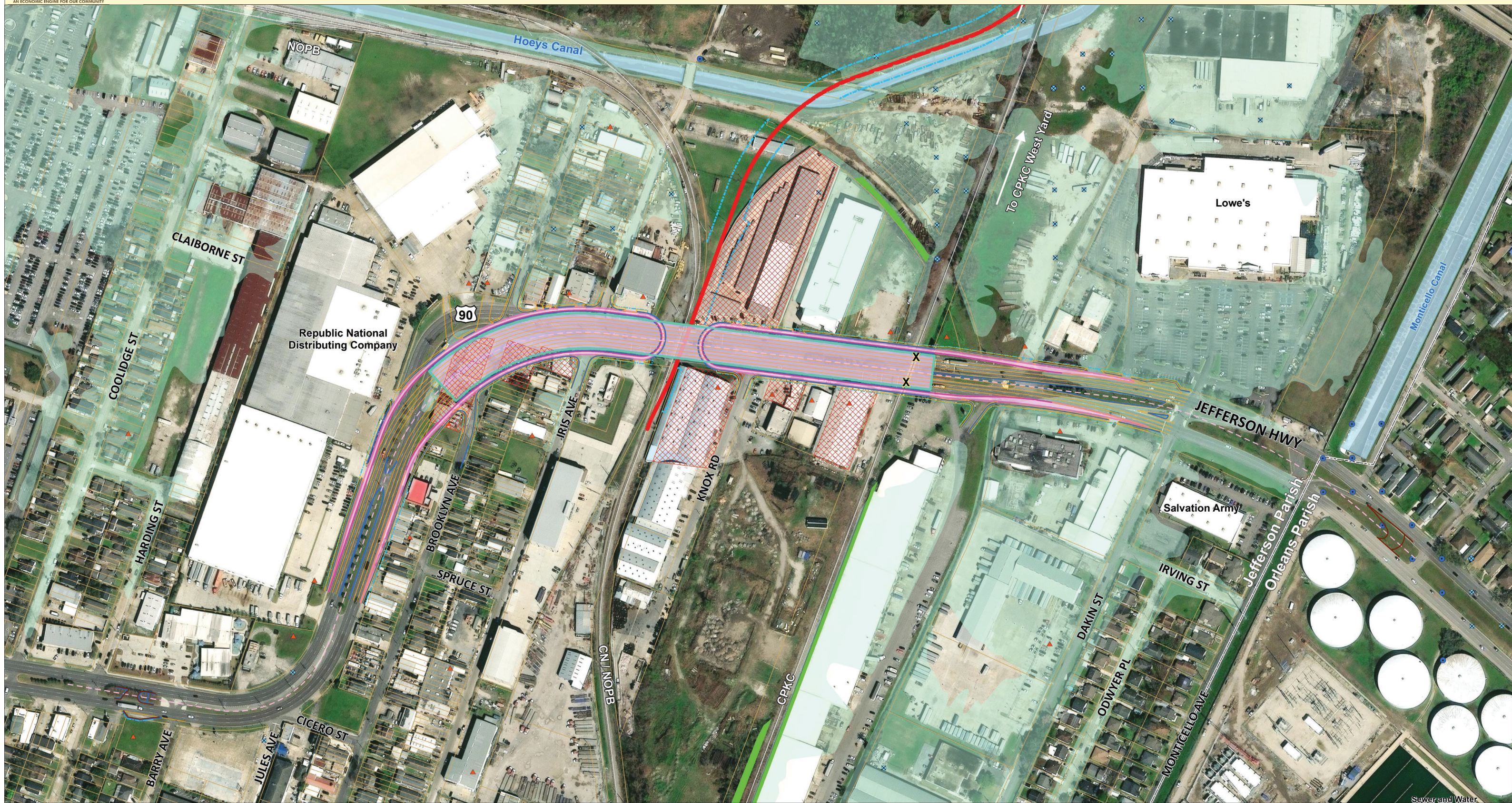
Roadway Centerline	Potential Commercial Displacement	Parish Boundary	Potential Hazardous Site	Parcel Boundary
Proposed Rail	Bridge	Wetland (Field Identified)	Active Water Well	
Remove RR Crossing	Frontage Road	100-Year Floodplain	Plugged/Abandoned Water Well	
Required Right-of-Way				

0 100 200 Feet



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: BUILD ALTERNATIVE 4



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Build Alternative 4 | Roadway Centerline | Potential Commercial Displacement | Parish Boundary | Potential Hazardous Site | Parcel Boundary |
| Remove RR Crossing | Frontage Road | Bridge | Wetland (Field Identified) | Active Water Well | |
| Required Right-of-Way | U-Turn | Frontage Road | 100-Year Floodplain | Plugged/Abandoned Water Well | |



Sewer and Water



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: BUILD ALTERNATIVE 4



- Legend**
- Build Alternative 4**
 - Proposed Rail
 - Remove RR Crossing
 - Anticipated Right-of-Way

- Parcel Boundary
- Potential Commercial Displacement

Note:
Final displacements and partial impacts won't be fully known until the Project advances to Final Design.

Sheet 1 of 4



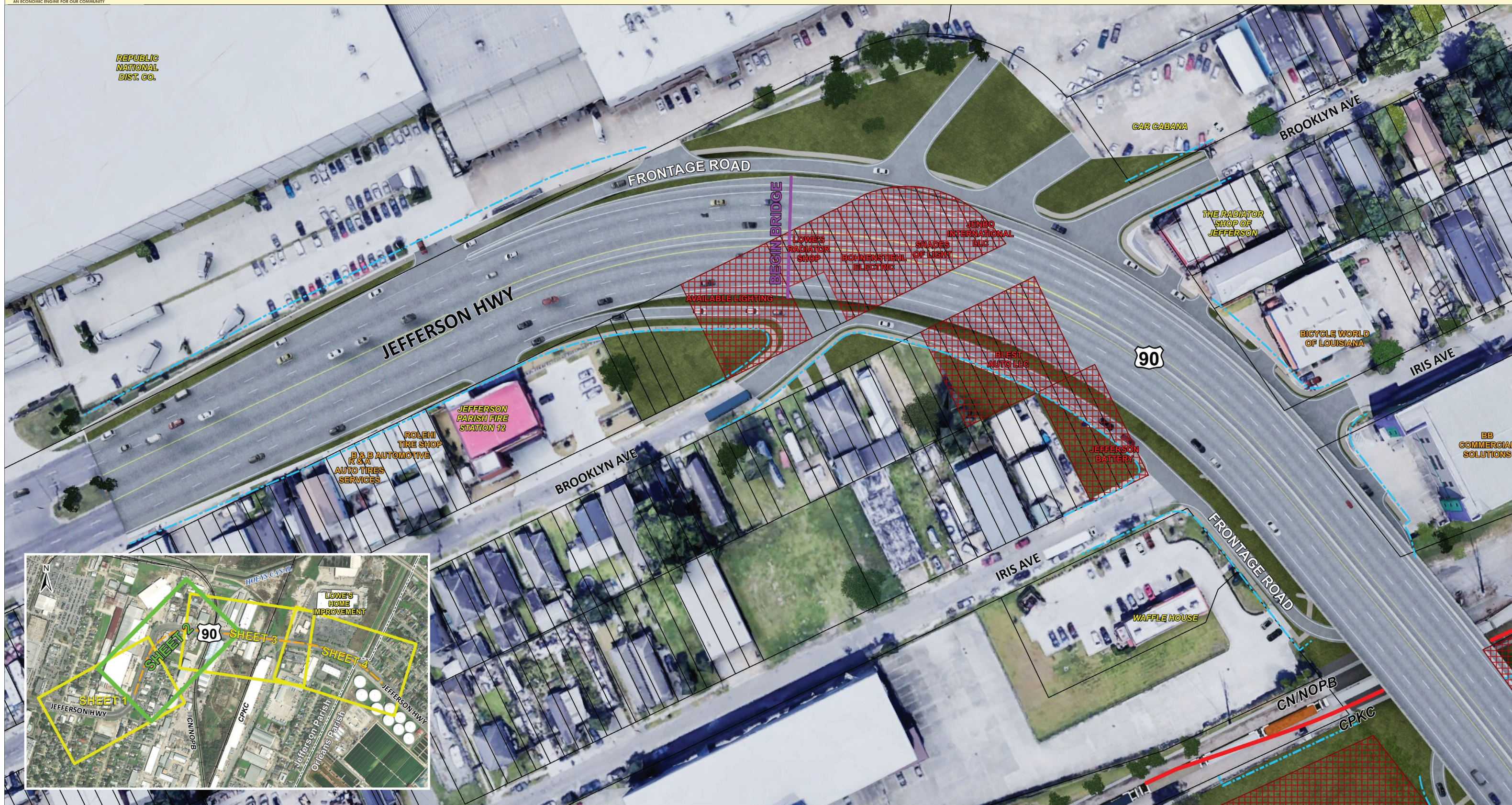


New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: BUILD ALTERNATIVE 4



REPUBLIC NATIONAL DIST. CO.



- Legend**
- Build Alternative 4
 - Proposed Rail
 - Remove RR Crossing
 - - - Anticipated Right-of-Way

- Parcel Boundary
- Potential Commercial Displacement

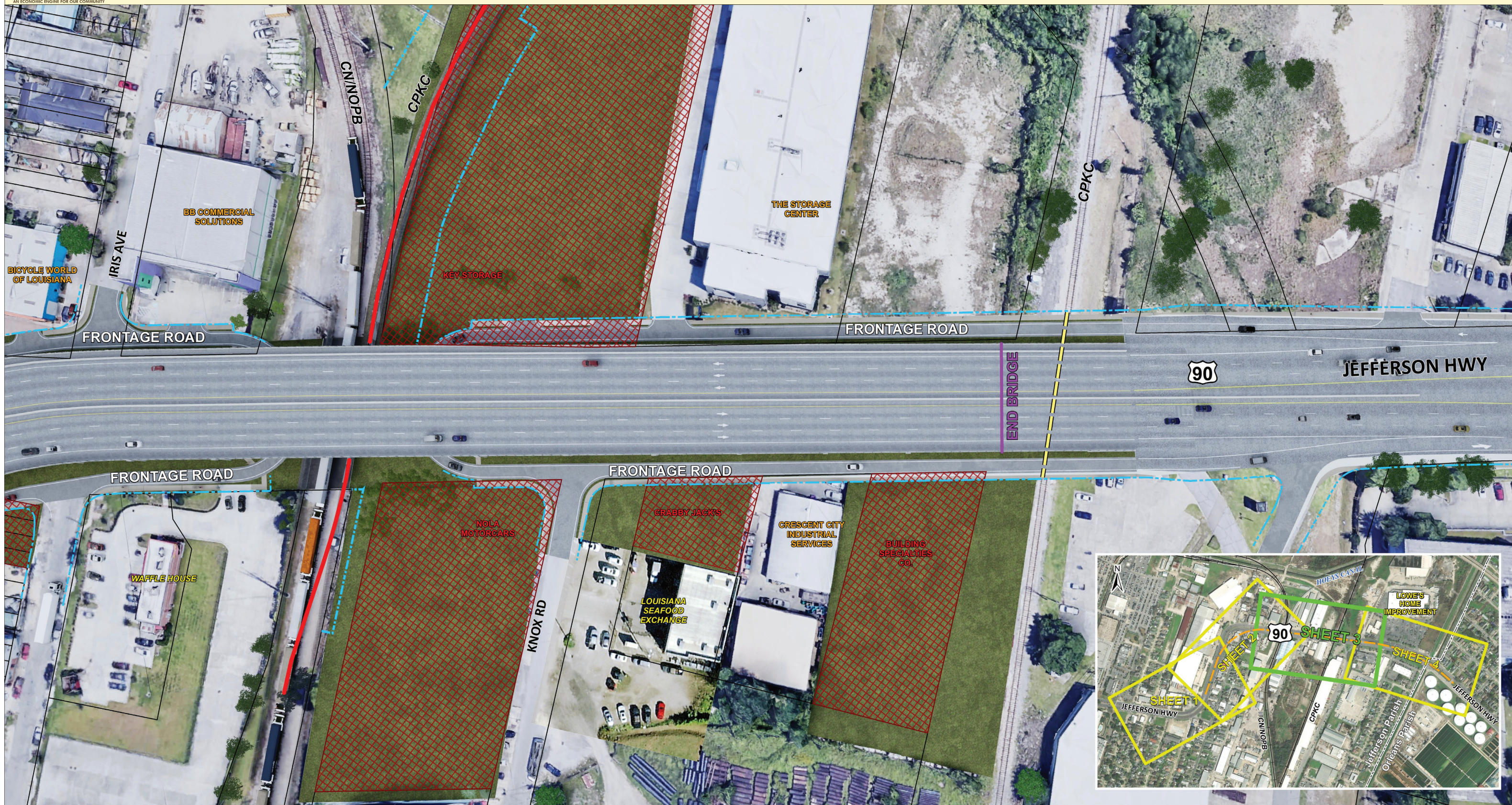
Note:
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Sheet 2 of 4



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: BUILD ALTERNATIVE 4



- Legend**
- Build Alternative 4
 - Proposed Rail
 - Remove RR Crossing
 - - - Anticipated Right-of-Way

- Parcel Boundary
- Potential Commercial Displacement

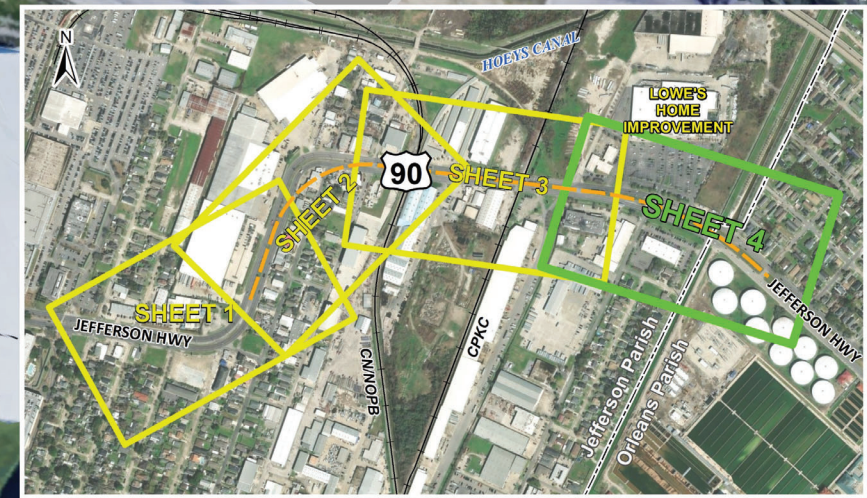
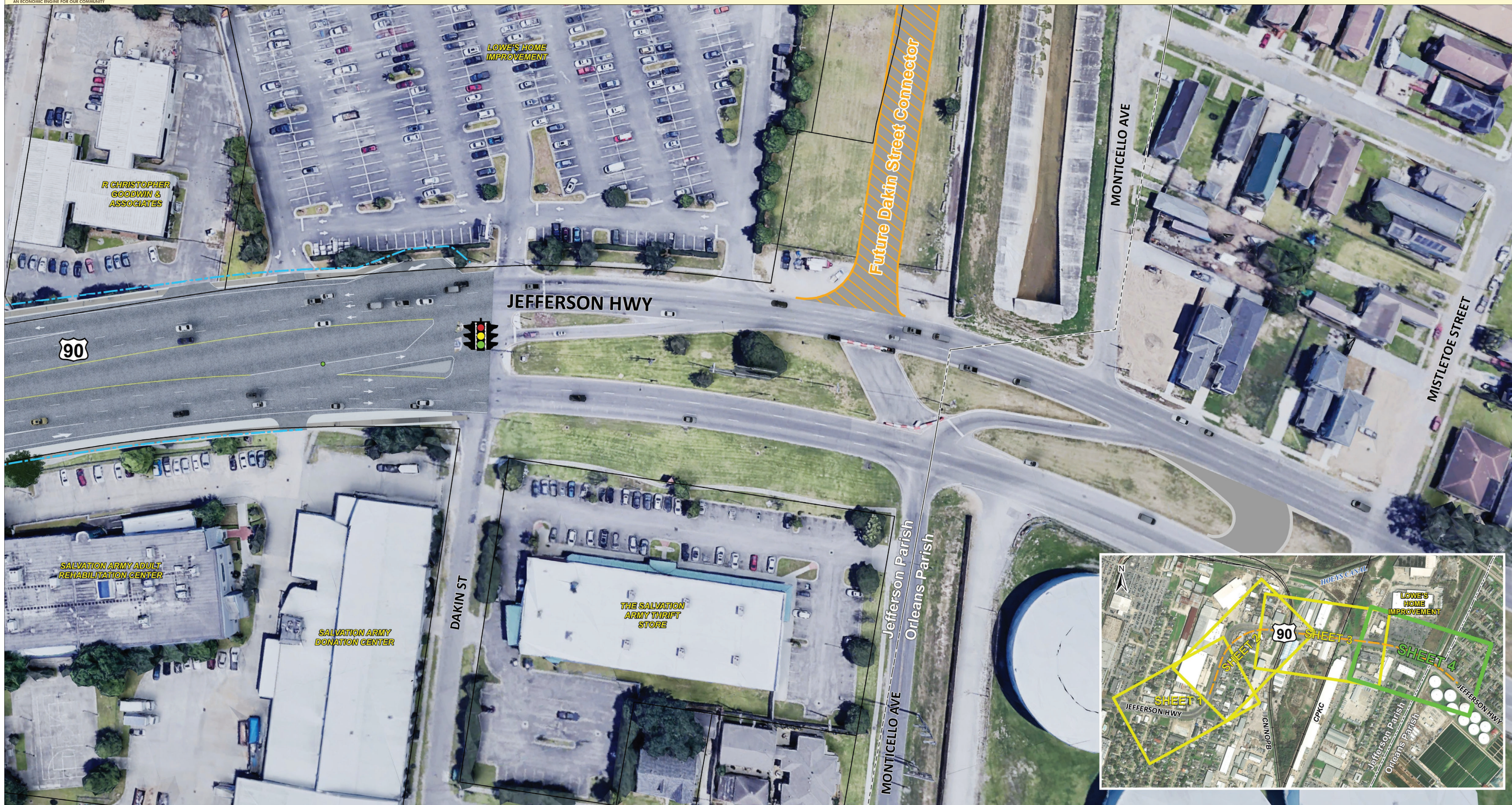
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New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: BUILD ALTERNATIVE 4



Legend

- Build Alternative 4
- Proposed Rail
- Remove RR Crossing
- Anticipated Right-of-Way

- Parish Boundary
- Parcel Boundary

- Potential Commercial Displacement

- Future Dakin Street Connector

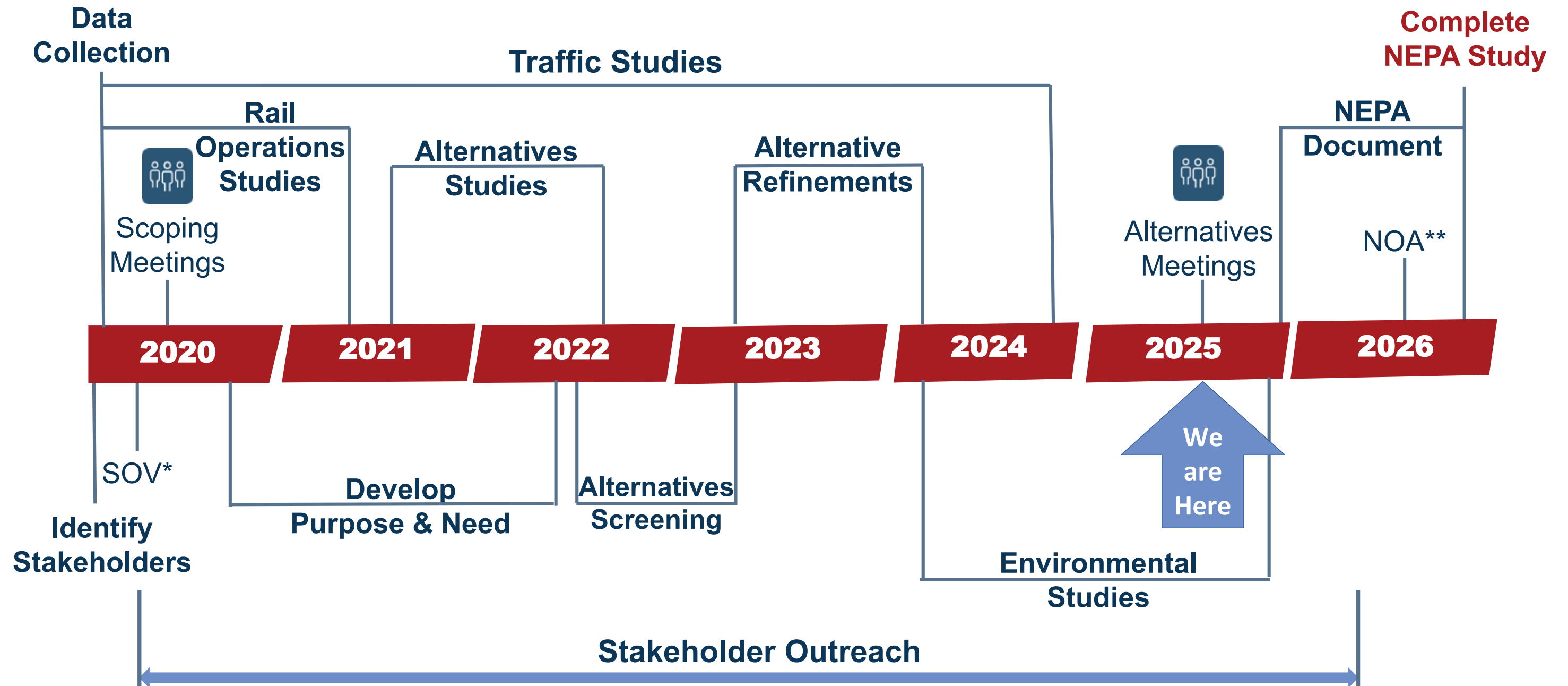
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Sheet 4 of 4



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION: STUDY TIMELINE



* Solicitation of Views (SOV) – Initial outreach to elected and agency officials & key stakeholders

** Notice of Availability (NOA) – Public notice of NEPA Document availability

HANDOUTS



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation ALTERNATIVES MEETING



Welcome

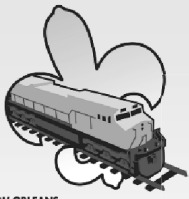
to this Alternatives Meeting for the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.

Today's meeting is an informal, open-house style format.

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 - Complete a Comment Form and place it in the box at the Written Comments Station.
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 - Email Comment Form to: NORG@mbakerintl.com
(Subject: *NORG Jefferson Highway Study Comment Form*)

Comments must be received no later than **November 24, 2025.**



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation ALTERNATIVES MEETING

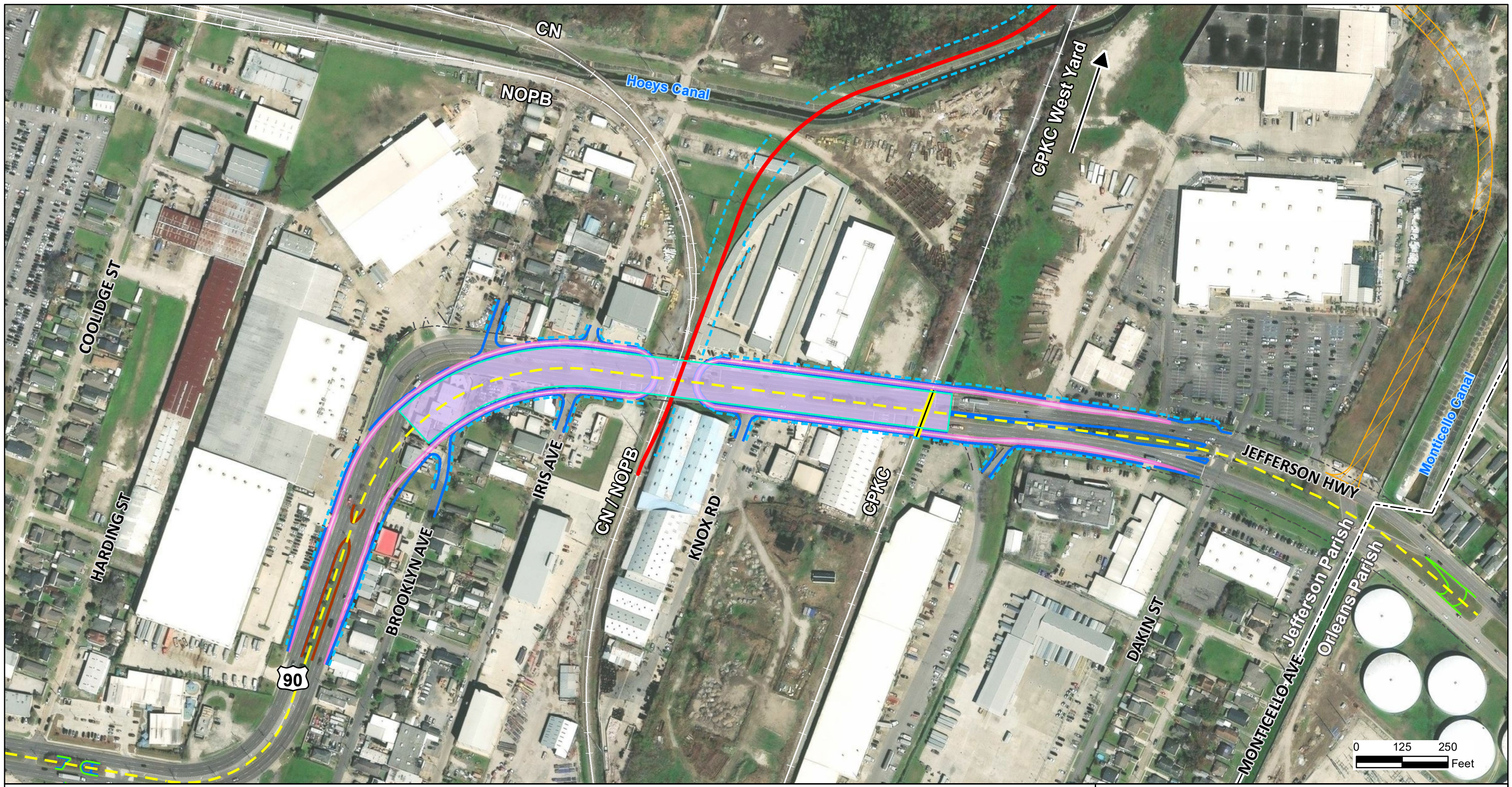


Welcome Special Assistance

If you require special assistance due to a disability in order to participate in today's public meeting, please see a Study Team representative at the Welcome table.

Bienvenida asistencia especial

Si usted necesita ayuda especial debido a una discapacidad con el fin de participar en la sesión pública de hoy, consulte a un representante de nuestro equipo en la mesa de bienvenida.



Legend

Build Alternative 4

- Proposed Rail
- Remove RR Crossing
- Required Right-of-Way
- Roadway Centerline
- Curb and Gutter
- Median
- U-Turn
- Frontage Road
- Bridge
- Future Dakin Street Connector
- Parish Boundary

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation

Build Alternative 4



**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address

Today's public meeting presents the project's purpose and need, alternatives developed, and screening process, and to solicit comments. Please answer the following questions. Your input is an important part of the transportation decision-making process.

- 1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study and this Alternatives Public Meeting (check all that apply)?**
 Newspaper TV/Radio Announcement MyDOTD Email Other _____
- 2. Do you live, work or travel through the Jefferson Highway Project Area (check all that apply)?**
 Live Work Travel through None of these
- 3. How often do you encounter a delay due to train traffic at the Jefferson Highway at-grade (street-level) rail crossings?**
 Every time Most of the time Some of the time Rarely Never
- 4. Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial?**
 A great deal Somewhat Not at all
- 5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?**
 Yes No, please explain _____
- 6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?**
 Yes No, please explain _____
- 7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).**
No-Build _____ Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 _____ Build Alternative 4 _____
- 8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?**
 Yes No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

(Fold)-----(Fold)-----(Fold)

**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION
P.O. BOX 56845
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70156-6845**

SIGN-IN SHEETS



Public Alternatives Meeting

Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

State Project No.: H.005168.2

F.A.P. No.: DE-9208(500)

Date: November 13, 2025

Location: Ochsner Medical Center Campus Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor

Time: 6:00 PM

NAME	AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
Renee & Robert Brayden	136 Coolidge St. Old Jefferson Community Assoc.	Phone 504-388-0548 Email reneebrayden@yahoo.com
Monica Brady	144 Coolidge St. Jefferson, LA 70121	Phone SA 358-7476 Email 7thavenue@gmail.com
Bennet M. Her	428 Jefferson Hwy Jefferson	Phone 509-481-6239 Email b.m.11er@hoisinn-sec.foodexchange.net
John Dunn	111 5th Hors Avb 5th LA 70121	Phone 504-416-7736 Email Squatly Clean Press washing 504 644
Shirley Ritter	3612 Audubon Trace Jefferson, LA 7021	Phone Email
William James	5803 Audubon Trace Jefferson, LA 70121	Phone Email
RICHARD SPERAN	135 HANG St. PUBLIC RELATIONS SECT COMMUNITY ASSN	Phone 504-289-6707 Email rasperan@yahoo.com
Tom Behman	810 JEFFERSON 147	Phone 504 834 0351 Email TBohn3572a@gmail.com



Public Alternatives Meeting

Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

State Project No.: H.005168.2

F.A.P. No.: DE-9208(500)

Date: November 13, 2025

Location: Ochsner Medical Center Campus Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor

Time: 6:00 PM

NAME	AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
Margaret Riess	ASCA 221 Rivoli Ave Jefferson	Phone Email mriessnola@gmail
Tim Deano	379 Orchard Rd. River Ridge 70123	Phone Email timdeano@hotmail
Kate Siemens	625 Gelpi Ave Jefferson, LA 70121	Phone Email KatesiemensRN@gmail.com
Benson Zowels	908 Jefferson Hwy JEFFERSON LA 70121	Phone 504-236-3983 Email BOWERS@BINGEYS.COM,COM
Carl Kocur	NOPB RR 4822 Tchoupitoulas St. 70115	Phone Email CARL.KOCUR@rail.usla.com
MARC Dwyer	701 Jefferson Hwy Bicycle World	Phone Email _____
Delphine Gilly	13 Forest Ave. Met, Lt 70005	Phone Email bayoukxy@yahoo.com
Bert Brubacher, Jr	300 Jefferson Hwy Suite 304 Jefferson, LA 70121	Phone 504-838-0009 Email bert@bbwarehousellc.com
BBB Warehouse, LLC		



Public Alternatives Meeting

Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

State Project No.: H.005168.2

F.A.P. No.: DE-9208(500)

Date: November 13, 2025

Location: Ochsner Medical Center Campus Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor

Time: 6:00 PM

NAME	AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
ROSARIO DeCORTÉ	101 BARRY AVE	Phone 504-452-3217
Djano Seilogi	PTA	Email rjd123@gmail.com
SETTY SPECTOR	135 HARDING ST 70124	Phone 504-414-9901
Tyson Pannelle	Old Dominion Fresh Lane	Email DSeilagi@Proforward.org
Rory O'Shields	1112 DAKOTA STREET JEFFERSON	Phone 225-229-9196
Tom Siemens	Available Lighting 826 Jefferson Hwy	Email Tyson.Pannelle@DDPL.com
Bert Brupbacher Sr.	SWBNO 625 Gelpi Ave, Jefferson LA	Phone 504-831-5214
	300 Jefferson Hwy #304	Email availablelighting.rentals@gmail.com
	JEFFERSON LA 70121 B7B	Phone 504-508-6007
		Email tsiemens@swbno.org
		Phone 504-938-0009
		Email Bert@B3WarehouseLLC.com
		Phone
		Email



Public Alternatives Meeting

Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
 Date: November 13, 2025

State Project No.: H.005168.2

F.A.P. No.: DE-9208(500)
 Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Ochsner Medical Center Campus Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor

NAME	AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
LARRY HECKER	400 Jefferson Hwy	Phone 504-8950322 Email LHecker@BSCNOLA.COM
CHRIS BRADWELL	8922 Green St NOLA 70118 Ochsner	Phone 464-794 6951 Email christopher.blackwell@ochsner.org
Stephen Hecker	460 Jefferson Hwy	Phone 504-874-1055 Email heck46@jmail.com
Matt Catoir	810 Jefferson Hwy	Phone 504-628-6371 Email matt.catoir504@gmail.com
Ed Ernewein	717 Dodge Ave. retired FRA - AAP	Phone 504-319-2983 Email CERNEWEIN@cox.net
		Phone Email
		Phone Email
		Phone Email



Public Alternatives Meeting

Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

State Project No.: H.005168.2

F.A.P. No.: DE-9208(500)

Date: November 13, 2025

Location: Ochsner Medical Center Campus Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor

Time: 6:00 PM

NAME	AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
Juliette Cassegru	238 Rio Vista Ave	Phone
	Jefferson LA 70121	Email
		Phone
		Email
		Phone
		Email
		Phone
		Email
		Phone
		Email
		Phone
		Email
		Phone
		Email
		Phone
		Email

COMMENT FORM



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address

Today's public meeting presents the project's purpose and need, alternatives developed, and screening process, and to solicit comments. Please answer the following questions. Your input is an important part of the transportation decision-making process.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study and this Alternatives Public Meeting (check all that apply)?

- Newspaper
- TV/Radio Announcement
- MyDOTD Email
- Other _____

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Jefferson Highway Project Area (check all that apply)?

- Live
- Work
- Travel through
- None of these

3. How often do you encounter a delay due to train traffic at the Jefferson Highway at-grade (street-level) rail crossings?

- Every time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Rarely
- Never

4. Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial?

- A great deal
- Somewhat
- Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes
- No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes
- No, please explain _____

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build _____ Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 _____ Build Alternative 4 _____

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes
- No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION
P.O. BOX 56845
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70156-6845**

WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
MARC DUCOTE	701 JEFFERSON HWY JEFFERSON, LA 70121	marc @ bicycle world la .com

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- Newspaper TV/Radio Announcement MyDOTD Email Other _____

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- Live Work Travel through None of these

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- Yes No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain Would put Businesses out of work

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build _____ Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 _____ Build Alternative 4 _____

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain only with options to businesses

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

This would remove my parking and make it extremely difficult to get to my business

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

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Tape

Tape



**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Old Dominion Freight Line Tyson Panvelle	1112 DAKIN STREET	Tyson.Panvelle@ODFL.com

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 TV/Radio Announcement
 MyDOTD Email
 Other EMAIL

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- Yes
 No, please explain _____

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- Yes
 No, please explain _____

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build 2 Build Alternative 1 4 Build Alternative 2 3 Build Alternative 3 5 Build Alternative 4 1

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes
 No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

ALTERNATE 4 IS THE BEST OPTION, ALTERNATE 3 IS NOT GOOD, IT WILL CAUSE CONGESTION IN THE UTURNS WITH BIG TRUCKS. I SUPPORT ALTERNATE 4

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

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**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Rory Oshields Available Lighting	826 Jefferson Highway New Orleans, LA 70121	availablelighting-rentals@gmail.com

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 Other mail

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- A great deal
 Somewhat
 Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes
 No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes
 No, please explain _____

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build 1 Build Alternative 1 2 Build Alternative 2 3 Build Alternative 3 5 Build Alternative 4 4

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes
 No, please explain Highly approve of "No build"

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Bert Brubacher, Jr. B+B Warehouse, LLC	300 Jefferson Hwy Suite 304 Jefferson, LA 70121	bert@bwarehousellc.com

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- A great deal Somewhat Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain The astronomical cost of this project plus the devastating impacts to businesses, including our own, makes this one of the worst ideas possible for us

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest). *personally.*

No-Build 1 Build Alternative 1 5 Build Alternative 2 5 Build Alternative 3 5 Build Alternative 4 5

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain This project is unnecessary and should be cancelled.

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

Why has access been restricted to the 300 Jefferson Highway - Mid City Business Park? There seems to be ample room for access and yet it has been cut off.

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Bert Brypbacher Sr.	300 Jefferson Hwy 304 Jefferson, LA 70121	BertBrypbacher@gmail.com

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Newspaper TV/Radio Announcement MyDOTD Email Other _____

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Live Work Travel through None of these

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A great deal Somewhat Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

Yes No, please explain Did not contact Business for input

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

Yes No, please explain you will put a lot of Business ~~out~~ of Business

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build 1 Build Alternative 1 5 Build Alternative 2 5 Build Alternative 3 5 Build Alternative 4 5

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

Yes No, please explain not needed

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

How much did Johnson push to get this done?

How much compensation for the disruption caused by construction?

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Renee Wright Brayden	136 Coolidge St. Jefferson, LA 70121	reneebraayden@yahoo.com

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- Live Work Travel through None of these

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- A great deal Somewhat Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain however, 2 residences will need relocation?

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build _____ Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 1 Build Alternative 4 2

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

traffic

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

How will this impact caused by the railroad on River Road at the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line? Delays can become quite lengthy.

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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Renee Wright Brayden
136 Coolidge Street
Jefferson, LA 70121

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**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
CHRIS BLACKWELL	8922 GREEN STREET NEW ORLEANS LA 70118	Chris@blackwellechseer.org

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- Newspaper
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 Other OCUSJER

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- A great deal
 Somewhat
 Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes
 No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes
 No, please explain NOT SURE THAT THE ELEVATED ROAD REPRESENTS ENOUGH UNDERSTOOD VALUE TO JUSTIFY 100 MILLION DOLLAR COST AND DISPLACEMENT

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build 1 Build Alternative 1 3 Build Alternative 2 4 Build Alternative 3 5 Build Alternative 4 2

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes
 No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THE ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF
THE ROAD ELEVATIONS IN TERMS OF HOW MANY TRAFFIC STOPPAGES
WOULD BE AVOIDED PER DAY/WEEK/MONTH

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>Bennet Miller</u>	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip <u>428 Jefferson High. Jefferson LA (Reov) 70121</u>	Email Address <u>bmiller@parisiaschool.org</u> bmiller@parisiaschool.org
---------------------------	---	---

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- A great deal Somewhat Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain Business Closure due to no Traffic

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain No site Traffic for Retail Business

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build _____ Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 _____ Build Alternative 4 _____

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain Need More explanation

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

Yes. Will my property be harmed unusably from this way pass. My petal business will be unusable to use for ~~road~~ road

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

How will this effect any sale of property before this study is done because my property will be unusable if this goes through

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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Tape

Tape



**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
ROSARIO DELCORTE	101 BARRY AVE JEFF, LA 70121	rjd123@ymail.com

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 MyDOTD Email
 Other OLD JEFFERSON EMAIL

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 Not at all

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- Yes
 No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes
 No, please explain _____

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build _____ Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 _____ Build Alternative 4 _____

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes
 No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

IT WILL BE INCONVENIENCE BUT WHEN DONE IT WILL
BE A GREAT STEP FORWARD.

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

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**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Rory O'Shields Available Lighting	826 Jefferson Hwy Jefferson, LA 70121	AvailableLighting.rentals@gmail.com AvailableLighting.rentals@gmail.com

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 Live Work Travel through None of these
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 Every time Most of the time Some of the time Rarely Never
- Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial?
 A great deal Somewhat Not at all
- Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?
 Yes No, please explain _____
- Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?
 Yes No, please explain Negatively affects my business
- Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).
 No-Build 1 Build Alternative 1 0 Build Alternative 2 0 Build Alternative 3 0 Build Alternative 4 0
- Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?
 Yes No, please explain Negatively affects my business

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION
P.O. BOX 56845
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70156-6845**



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
JETTY SPECTOR	JZSPECTOR@GMAIL.COM	135 HARDING ST JEFF LA 70121

Today's public meeting presents the project's purpose and need, alternatives developed, and screening process, and to solicit comments. Please answer the following questions. Your input is an important part of the transportation decision-making process.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study and this Alternatives Public Meeting (check all that apply)?

- Newspaper TV/Radio Announcement MyDOTD Email Other POST CARD SENT TO OJCA

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Jefferson Highway Project Area (check all that apply)?

- Live Work Travel through None of these

3. How often do you encounter a delay due to train traffic at the Jefferson Highway at-grade (street-level) rail crossings?

- Every time Most of the time Some of the time Rarely Never

4. Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial?

- A great deal Somewhat Not at all

THE COST TO TAXPAYERS WHILE OCHSNER PAYS NO TAXES IS OBSCURE.

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain

NO TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY WAS DONE FOR NEIGHBORING STREETS & RIVER ROAD

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain

THIS IS PURELY BENEFITING OCHSNER ONLY. THEIR AMBULANCES HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE EASIEST EXIT OPTION

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build 1 Build Alternative 1 5 Build Alternative 2 5 Build Alternative 3 5 Build Alternative 4 5

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain

ONLY OCHSNER HAS BEEN IN ON PREVIOUS

5 YEARS DISCUSSIONS LEAVING THE IMPACT FAR TOO GREAT FOR THE REST OF THE AREA WITHOUT NEIGHBOR & BUSINESS INPUT

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Comment forms can be USPS mailed to the address below or emailed to:

NORG@mbakerintl.com (Subject: NORG Jefferson Highway Rail Study Comment Form)

Comment forms post-marked/emailed no later than November 24, 2025, will be included in the public record.

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and USPS Mail to:

(Fold)------(Fold)------(Fold)

SPECTOR
135 HANDING ST.
JEFF LA 70121



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION
P.O. BOX 56845
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70156-6845

**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**



Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
JACKSON HURST	4216 CORNELL CROSSING KENNESAW, GA 30144	gh5071@att.net @jhdoo.com

Today's public meeting presents the project's purpose and need, alternatives developed, and screening process, and to solicit comments. Please answer the following questions. Your input is an important part of the transportation decision-making process.

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- Live Work Travel through None of these

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4. Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial?

- A great deal Somewhat Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain _____

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

No-Build 5 Build Alternative 1 4 Build Alternative 2 3 Build Alternative 3 2 Build Alternative 4 1

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

I approve and support NORGS Jefferson highway rail crossing relocation project. The alternative I support is a verticle 4 because it's simple & has no wetland impacts.

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list?

Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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ATLANTA GA RPDC 302

18 NOV 2025 PM 9 L

 Ms. Rosemarie Hurst
4216 Cornell Xing NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144

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JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION
P.O. BOX 56845
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70156-6845**

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**NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
TOM Bohnstiehl Bohnstiehl Electric Inc	810 JEFFERSON HWY 486 BROOKLYN	Tbohn3572@gmail.com

Today's public meeting presents the project's purpose and need, alternatives developed, and screening process, and to solicit comments. Please answer the following questions. Your input is an important part of the transportation decision-making process.

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2. Do you live, work or travel through the Jefferson Highway Project Area (check all that apply)?

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3. How often do you encounter a delay due to train traffic at the Jefferson Highway at-grade (street-level) rail crossings?

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4. Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial?

- A great deal Somewhat Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain _____

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

- No-Build _____ Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 _____ Build Alternative 4 _____

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →



9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

Three horizontal lines for handwritten comments.

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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810 JEFFERSON HWY
JEFFERSON LA 70121

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Margaret Riess	221 Rio Vista Ave. Jefferson, LA	mriessnola@gmail.com

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- Newspaper TV/Radio Announcement MyDOTD Email Other Old Jefferson Community Assn

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Jefferson Highway Project Area (check all that apply)?

- Live Work Travel through None of these Lived in Old Jefferson since 1985

3. How often do you encounter a delay due to train traffic at the Jefferson Highway at-grade (street-level) rail crossings?

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4. Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial?

- A great deal Somewhat Not at all

5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain Did you include drainage and traffic issues for surrounding neighborhoods?

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain Businesses will close from lack of access.

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

- No-Build 1 Build Alternative 1 0 Build Alternative 2 0 Build Alternative 3 0 Build Alternative 4 0

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain No Build is the only viable plan.

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

How much will it cost and who pays?

Who thinks this is a good idea?

Why were local residents not included in the meeting?

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please email me all relevant information.

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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 Ms. Margaret Riess
221 Rio Vista Ave
Jefferson, LA 70121

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JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION
P.O. BOX 56845
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70156-6845**

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

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Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address

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5. Do you believe the two-phase screening process, first against the Purpose and Need, and then against the Environmental Resources and Other Criteria adequately evaluated the four (4) Build Alternatives?

- Yes No, please explain _____

6. Do you believe that constructing an overpass to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts to adjacent commercial properties?

- Yes No, please explain OUT OF SITE OUT OF MIND

7. Rank the No-Build and four (4) Build Alternatives on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest).

- No-Build 5 Build Alternative 1 2 Build Alternative 2 3 Build Alternative 3 4 Build Alternative 4 5

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

- Yes No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

NONE NOW.

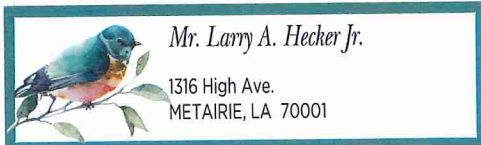
10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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Mr. Larry A. Hecker Jr.

1316 High Ave.
METAIRIE, LA 70001

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
Alternatives Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
RICHARD A. SPECTOR PUBLIC RELATIONS SEC'T. OLD JEFFERSON COMMUNITY ASSOC. INC.	135 HARDING ST JEFFERSON, LA 70121	rspector@yahoo.com

Today's public meeting presents the project's purpose and need, alternatives developed, and screening process, and to solicit comments. Please answer the following questions. Your input is an important part of the transportation decision-making process.

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Newspaper TV/Radio Announcement MyDOTD Email Other DIRECT MAIL

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No-Build 5 Build Alternative 1 _____ Build Alternative 2 _____ Build Alternative 3 _____ Build Alternative 4 1

8. Do you agree that the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 should be carried forward for further study?

Yes No, please explain _____

CONTINUED ON BACK →

9. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today's public meeting?

① YOU MET PRIVATELY WITH "STAKEHOLDER" OCHSNER. YOU OWE THE SAME COURTESY TO NEIGHBORS IMPACTED AND REPRESENTED BY OLD JEFFERSON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC (OJCA), A REGISTERED LA. NEIGHBORHOOD

10. Would you like to be added to the NORG Jefferson mailing list? Yes No Already on the mailing list
ASSOCIATION (JPOJCA.ORG)

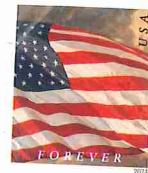
② DOTD OWES AN OBLIGATION TO ADDRESS ANTICIPATED "CUT-THROUGH" TRAFFIC BETWEEN RR OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC ON RIVER ROAD (VEHICLES SPEEDING THROUGH RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS FROM RIVER ROAD, WHEN BLOCKED BY TRAIN, TO FASTER BYPASS ON JEFFERSON HIGHWAY.

③ FIRE STATION NEEDS DIRECT EGRESS ONTO JEFFERSON HWY IN BOTH EAST AND WEST DIRECTION WITHOUT TRAVERSING LONGER ROUTE THROUGH U-TURN TO THE EAST (TO GO WEST)

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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SPECTOR
135 HARDING ST
JEFFERSON, LA 70121



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION
P.O. BOX 56845
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70156-6845

INDIVIDUAL VERBAL COMMENTS

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DOTD
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY
AND
RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

RELOCATION PROJECT

Verbal Comments taken at the Public Meeting
for Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation
Project held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 6:00
to 7:30 p.m. at Ochsner Medical Center Campus, Brent
House Hotel, 2nd floor Ballroom, located at 1512
Jefferson Highway, New Orleans, Louisiana 70121.

1		APPEARANCES
2		
3	1.	TOM SIEMENS
4		625 Gelpi Avenue
5		New Orleans, Louisiana 70121
6		
7	2.	BERT BRUPBACHER, SR.
8		300 Jefferson Highway
9		Suite 304
10		New Orleans, Louisiana 70121
11		
12	3.	MARK DUCOTE
13		701 Jefferson Highway
14		New Orleans, Louisiana 70121
15		
16	4.	BERT BRUPBACHER, JR.
17		300 Jefferson Highway
18		Suite 304
19		New Orleans, Louisiana 70121
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22		
23		
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25		

1 VERBAL COMMENTS

2 MR. SIEMENS:

3 Okay, so I have two concerns. The
4 first is that the Sewerage and Water Board of New
5 Orleans needs to be included as a key stakeholder in
6 this project. They have a massive laydown yard on
7 Knox Road that is going to be impacted by this, and
8 it needs to be something that is accommodated.
9 There's a lot of, like, that's where we keep all of
10 our spare electric equipment, all of our spare pipes.
11 It's a key component to the infrastructure that we're
12 trying to maintain. And no one at the Sewerage and
13 Water Board seems to know that this is even
14 happening. So, they need to be included as a key
15 stakeholder.

16 And I would like to see that all of
17 the presentations going forward more clearly define
18 what displaced business means, because it seems that
19 all of the businesses that are just minorly impacted
20 are going to actually be lost, including a couple
21 that are like names in New Orleans, like for
22 instance, Krabby Jacks. It's gone. And I think that
23 is going to be a huge loss for the community. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. BRUPBACHER, SR.:

1 So, let's see, I feel as though this
2 project is not needed. It's going to cost too much
3 money for the benefit it's going to create, and it's
4 going to be a detriment to our business and a lot of
5 businesses in the area. And we're going to just be,
6 have to just shut down, a lot of small businesses.

7 They just created the Jefferson Parish
8 Design District, which incorporates many of the
9 businesses in there, and just about every business in
10 there is going to be negatively impacted or closed
11 down. So, I'm 100% against it. And I just feel as
12 though it's another thing from Ochsner Hospital, just
13 to get clear access to their facility. They bought
14 up all the -- nevermind. They just, I feel as though
15 they just bought up everything in the neighborhood,
16 and they just wanted to just make it a corridor for
17 them, and that's what it is for. So, that's just my
18 personal thoughts.

19 So anyway, yeah, that's a lot of money
20 just for something -- it's just a five trains a day.
21 I've been there 20 years. We started a small
22 business after Katrina, and there's 20 other
23 businesses in the whole complex we're in. You won't
24 be able to turn in. You're gonna be able, everybody
25 is just going to bypass it, you know. You know how

1 it is. It is, why go through, you know, if it's a
2 hassle to get to, you're not gonna go there unless
3 you need flooring. We sell flooring. You need some
4 flooring, come see us.

5 All right, I'm finished. Thank you.

6 MR. DUCOTE:

7 I guess basically this overpass goes
8 right over us. We're a retail establishment, bicycle
9 store, which we seem to be in the middle of it. And
10 it looks like they're going to remove most of my
11 customers' parking in front, which will be a massive
12 problem, not including the route that people will
13 have to take to get to the store.

14 Basically, it might be shut down for
15 us if this goes into play. I understand the point of
16 it and everything, but I think there's got to be some
17 more discussions about it which I think there is
18 going to be some other meetings. So, contact me if
19 you need, 504-828-1862. Thank you.

20 MR. BRUPBACHER, JR.:

21 My concern with Option 4 is the
22 ingress and egress at 300 Jefferson Highway also
23 known as the Mid City Business Park. It appears that
24 there's ample frontage and servitude and room for
25 access, but yet it seems to have been restricted. I

1 haven't received a satisfactory answer as to why and
2 I'd just like to know why. Has that been considered
3 and if not, then why not?

4 Other than that, I'm okay to go on
5 record that I am firmly against the project. It just
6 seems an unnecessary waste of limited funds. Thank
7 you.

8 (Whereupon verbal comments concluded.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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4

This certification is valid only for a transcript accomplished by my original signature and original required stamp on this page.

5

6

I, TAMMY LeBLANC JOSEPH, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, Certificate No. 91118, as the Officer before whom these verbal comments were taken by me on November 13, 2025, upon authority of R.S. 37:2554; as hereinbefore set forth in the forgoing 6 pages; that these verbal comments were reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared, transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision; and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board and that I am informed about the complete arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition services; that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by LA Code of Civil Procedure, Art 1434, and in rules and advisory opinions of the board;

16

that I have no actual knowledge of any prohibited employment or contractual relationship, direct or indirect, between a court reporting firm and any party litigant in this matter nor is there any such relationship between myself and a party litigant in this matter. I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

21

Dated this 15th day of November, 2025.

22

23



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Tammy LeBlanc Joseph, CCR

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<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>100% 4:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>20 4:21,22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>300 5:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p>4 5:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <hr/> <p>504-828-1862 5:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <hr/> <p>access 4:13 5:25</p> <p>accommodated 3:8</p> <p>ample 5:24</p> <p>appears 5:23</p> <p>area 4:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> <p>basically 5:7,14</p> <p>benefit 4:3</p> <p>bicycle 5:8</p> <p>Board 3:4,13</p> <p>bought 4:13,15</p> <p>BRUPBACHER 3:25 5:20</p> <p>business 3:18 4:4,9,22 5:23</p> <p>businesses 3:19 4:5,6,9,23</p> <p>bypass 4:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> <p>City 5:23</p>	<p>clear 4:13</p> <p>closed 4:10</p> <p>comments 3:1 6:8</p> <p>community 3:23</p> <p>complex 4:23</p> <p>component 3:11</p> <p>concern 5:21</p> <p>concerns 3:3</p> <p>concluded 6:8</p> <p>considered 6:2</p> <p>contact 5:18</p> <p>corridor 4:16</p> <p>cost 4:2</p> <p>couple 3:20</p> <p>create 4:3</p> <p>created 4:7</p> <p>customers' 5:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>day 4:20</p> <p>define 3:17</p> <p>Design 4:8</p> <p>detriment 4:4</p> <p>discussions 5:17</p> <p>displaced 3:18</p> <p>District 4:8</p> <p>DUCOTE 5:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>egress 5:22</p> <p>electric 3:10</p> <p>equipment 3:10</p> <p>establishment 5:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>facility 4:13</p>	<p>feel 4:1,11,14</p> <p>finished 5:5</p> <p>firmly 6:5</p> <p>flooring 5:3,4</p> <p>forward 3:17</p> <p>front 5:11</p> <p>frontage 5:24</p> <p>funds 6:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>guess 5:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>happening 3:14</p> <p>hassle 5:2</p> <p>Highway 5:22</p> <p>Hospital 4:12</p> <p>huge 3:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>impacted 3:7,19 4:10</p> <p>included 3:5,14</p> <p>including 3:20 5:12</p> <p>incorporates 4:8</p> <p>infrastructure 3:11</p> <p>ingress 5:22</p> <p>instance 3:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p>Jacks 3:22</p> <p>Jefferson 4:7 5:22</p> <p>JR 5:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> <p>Katrina 4:22</p> <p>key 3:5,11,14</p>
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<p>Knox 3:7 Krabby 3:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>laydown 3:6 limited 6:6 loss 3:23 lost 3:20 lot 3:9 4:4,6,19</p>	<p>Park 5:23 parking 5:11 people 5:12 personal 4:18 pipes 3:10 play 5:15 point 5:15 presentations 3:17 problem 5:12 project 3:6 4:2 6:5</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>thing 4:12 thoughts 4:18 trains 4:20 turn 4:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>understand 5:15 unnecessary 6:6</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>maintain 3:12 make 4:16 massive 3:6 5:11 means 3:18 meetings 5:18 Mid 5:23 middle 5:9 minorly 3:19 money 4:3,19</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <hr/> <p>received 6:1 record 6:5 remove 5:10 restricted 5:25 retail 5:8 Road 3:7 room 5:24 route 5:12</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>verbal 3:1 6:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>wanted 4:16 waste 6:6 Water 3:4,13</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>names 3:21 needed 4:2 negatively 4:10 neighborhood 4:15 nevermind 4:14</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>satisfactory 6:1 sell 5:3 servitude 5:24 Sewerage 3:4,12 shut 4:6 5:14 SIEMENS 3:2 small 4:6,21 spare 3:10 SR 3:25 stakeholder 3:5,15 started 4:21 store 5:9,13</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>yard 3:6 years 4:21</p>
<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>Ochsner 4:12 Option 5:21 Orleans 3:5,21 overpass 5:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>Parish 4:7</p>		