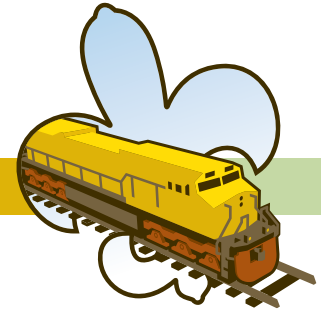


the RIGHT TRACK



**NEW ORLEANS
RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM**
AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION PROJECT

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with the USDOT Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area are conducting a planning and environmental study to evaluate 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.



Legend

- Study Area
- ⊗ At-Grade Highway Rail Crossing

PROJECT GOALS FOR THE STUDY

- 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 New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) and the Port of New Orleans.

State, Federal, and Local Sponsors







A six-step process was used to develop and evaluate alternatives.

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 to carry forward

FHWA guidance identifies warrant conditions (Step 3) to be considered in evaluating whether an at-grade crossing is a candidate for grade separation. Only one of FHWA's warrant conditions is applicable to these Jefferson Highway crossings, the daily vehicle delay due to blocked crossings. Both Jefferson Highway crossings exceed this warrant condition and were retained for further study.

The No-Build and four (4) Build alternatives were considered.

BUILD ALTERNATIVE DISPLAY
(scan the QR codes or follow the links below to view)

NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE	No improvements, only normal maintenance activities and planned safety improvements	
BUILD ALTERNATIVE 1	Realign the Canadian National (CN)/New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB) track to the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) At-Grade Crossing location and remove the existing CN/ NOPB At-Grade Crossing. Jefferson Highway remains unchanged.	 https://www.dotd.la.gov/media/0ted45do/norg-jefferson-highway-build-alternative-1.pdf
BUILD ALTERNATIVE 2	Realign the CPKC track to the CN/NOPB At-Grade Crossing location and remove the existing CPKC At-Grade Crossing. Jefferson Highway remains unchanged.	 https://www.dotd.la.gov/media/1ubhlofp/norg-jefferson-highway-build-alternative-2.pdf
BUILD ALTERNATIVE 3	Grade separate Build Alternative 1 with a road over rail overpass and provide frontage road access to the local road network.	 https://www.dotd.la.gov/media/v3jdr4f/norg-jefferson-highway-build-alternative-3.pdf
BUILD ALTERNATIVE 4	Grade separate Build Alternative 2 with a road over rail overpass and provide frontage road access to the local road network.	 https://www.dotd.la.gov/media/ydfd5utb/norg-jefferson-highway-build-alternative-4.pdf

PURPOSE & NEED	NO BUILD	ALTERNATIVE			
		1	2	3	4
Improve Safety	-	-	-	+	+
Improve Mobility					
Level of the service during train crossing event	-	-	-	+	+
Daily AM and PM peak period delay	-	-	-	+	+
Queuing	-	-	-	+	+
Emergency response	-	-	-	+	+
Improve Multimodal Connectivity	-	-	-	+	+
Support Economic Development	-	-	-	+	+
Improve/Encourage a Shared-Use Environment	-	-	-	+	+

The No Build and four Build Alternatives were evaluated against the Project’s Purpose and Need.

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

The No-Build and Build Alternatives 3 and 4 were evaluated against 21 different environmental resources and other criteria. Build Alternatives 3 and 4 would, to varying degrees, achieve the stated goals

and would similarly impact land use, roadway network, commercial and residential properties, noise and vibration and other environmental resources. The No Build Alternative would not result in any impacts to environmental resources or require any relocations, and would have zero cost, but would not correct any of the stated goals. Build Alternative 4 is the only alternative supported by CN, CPKC and NOPB.

Therefore, the No-Build and Build Alternative 4 were retained for further study.

ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC MEETING

A second public meeting for the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project was held on November 13, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Ochsner Medical Center Campus, Brent House Hotel, 2nd Floor, Ballroom, 1512 Jefferson Highway, New Orleans, LA.

The public meeting was advertised in local newspapers, in press releases and media advisories distributed to local media outlets, postcard mailers to study area residences and businesses, in DOTD MyDOTD Email announcements, and on the NORG Program webpage.

NORG Webpage
<https://dotd.la.gov/about/office-of-multimodal-commerce/rail/freight-and-passenger-rail/new-orleans-rail-gateway-program/>



The technical presentation included an overview of the existing at-grade crossings, project goals, the six step alternatives development and evaluation of the alternatives developed, and the project timeline. Exhibits were available for review and comment forms were available to receive public comments.

The technical presentation, exhibits, and comment form were also posted on the DOTD NORG Program webpage at <https://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/> for access via personal computer, cell phone or tablet. The presentation with scripted narrative was available in both written (PDF) and audio (YouTube) formats. Those without Internet access could request hardcopies of the meeting materials.

A Summary of the Alternatives Public Meeting is posted on the NORG Program webpage and is also available for review at:

Jefferson Parish Library
 Rosedale Library
 4036 Jefferson Hwy.
 Jefferson, LA 70121

New Orleans Public Library
 Main Library
 219 Loyola Ave.
 New Orleans, LA 70112

New Orleans Public Library
 Nix Library
 1401 S. Carrollton Ave.
 New Orleans, LA 70118

COMMENTS

16 comment forms were received at the meeting or post-marked/emailed by the November 24, 2025 close of comments. The comments included:

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
50%	12.5%	37.5%

Do you believe constructing an overpass on Jefferson Highway to carry roadway traffic and pedestrians over the railroad tracks would be beneficial considering the impacts of adjacent commercial properties?

YES	NO
33.3%	66.7%

Alternatives Ranking Preference (most preferred to least preferred)

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

The alternative descriptions can be found on page 2.

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

YES	NO
50%	50%

NEXT STEPS

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

STAY INFORMED

If you are not already on the Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project contact list and would like to be added, please contact the Project Team at:

- Information Line: (504) 488-6196
- Email: NORG@mbakerintl.com
- Mail: P.O. Box 56845, New Orleans, LA 70156-6845