



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program




Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

SPN H.005168

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages Appendix (Volume 2 of 2)

Michael Baker International, Inc.

in association with

 Vectura Consulting Services, LLC
 AECOM Technical Services, Inc.
 The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.

August 12, 2025

Appendix N – Solicitation of Views

August 9, 2021

«Name_1» «Name_2»

«Affiliation_1»

«Affiliation_2»

«Address_1»

«Address_2»

«City», «State» «Zip_»

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
F.A.P. No. DE-9208(500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Solicitation of Views

Dear «Salutation» «Name_2»:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area (Norfolk Southern, Kansas City Southern, Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Canadian National, and CSX) represented by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), New Orleans Public Belt Railroad (NOPB), and Amtrak (the "Partnership"), are conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/environmental studies for a New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program (Program). The goal of the Program is to improve the existing and future flow of rail traffic through the New Orleans Rail Gateway while reducing vehicle congestion at crossings, improve emergency evacuation procedures, improve the reliability of marine traffic passing through the Industrial Canal under the Almonaster Bridge, and improve environmental quality.

Studies dating back to 1975 have been conducted by the DOTD, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (NORPC) and the Class 1 railroads to identify ways to reduce rail congestion, highway crossing delays and improve rail service. The most recent study, a 2007 Infrastructure Feasibility Assessment (2007 Study) identified a "Program of Projects" to reduce vehicle delay and improve rail service.

Each day on average, 45 freight and passenger trains traverse the Avondale Garden Road, George Street, Willwood Lane, and Live Oak Boulevard at-grade crossings (the railroad tracks and crossed roads intersect at the same level or grade). These at-grade crossings were identified as Projects W10 through W13 respectively in the 2007 Study (see attached Study Area Map).

«Salutation» «Name_2»

August 9, 2021

Page 2

The DOTD is conducting a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study to evaluate the feasibility of closing these four public crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. The location and number of grade separation(s) will be evaluated as part of this study.

The goals of this study could include:

- Improving safety by eliminating public at-grade railway-highway crossings,
- Reducing vehicle delay by eliminating crossing blockages due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations,
- Eliminating truck traffic from roadways posted as "No Truck Route" with a 5-Ton Limit, and
- Improving intermodal connectivity on the roadway network.

Public involvement initiatives will include virtual scoping and alternatives public meetings; newsletters; postcard, e-mails and door hangers notifying the public of upcoming virtual meetings and a webpage on DOTDs website. Alternatives carried forward for further evaluation and the documentation necessary to complete the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be determined at the conclusion of this study. Jefferson Parish concurrence will be requested.

Early in the planning stages of a transportation project, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups assists with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance in this regard is appreciated.

Due to the earliness of this request for your views, very limited data regarding the study exists. We have, however, attached a Study Area Map showing the general location of the project within Jefferson Parish.

Please review the Study Area Map and provide us with your views and comments by September 10, 2021. Replies should be addressed to Christopher G. Gesing, P.E., at the address listed at the bottom of this letter or can be emailed to NORG@mbakerintl.com. Please reference the Avondale PEL Study and State Project Number (H.005168.2) in your reply.

Sincerely,

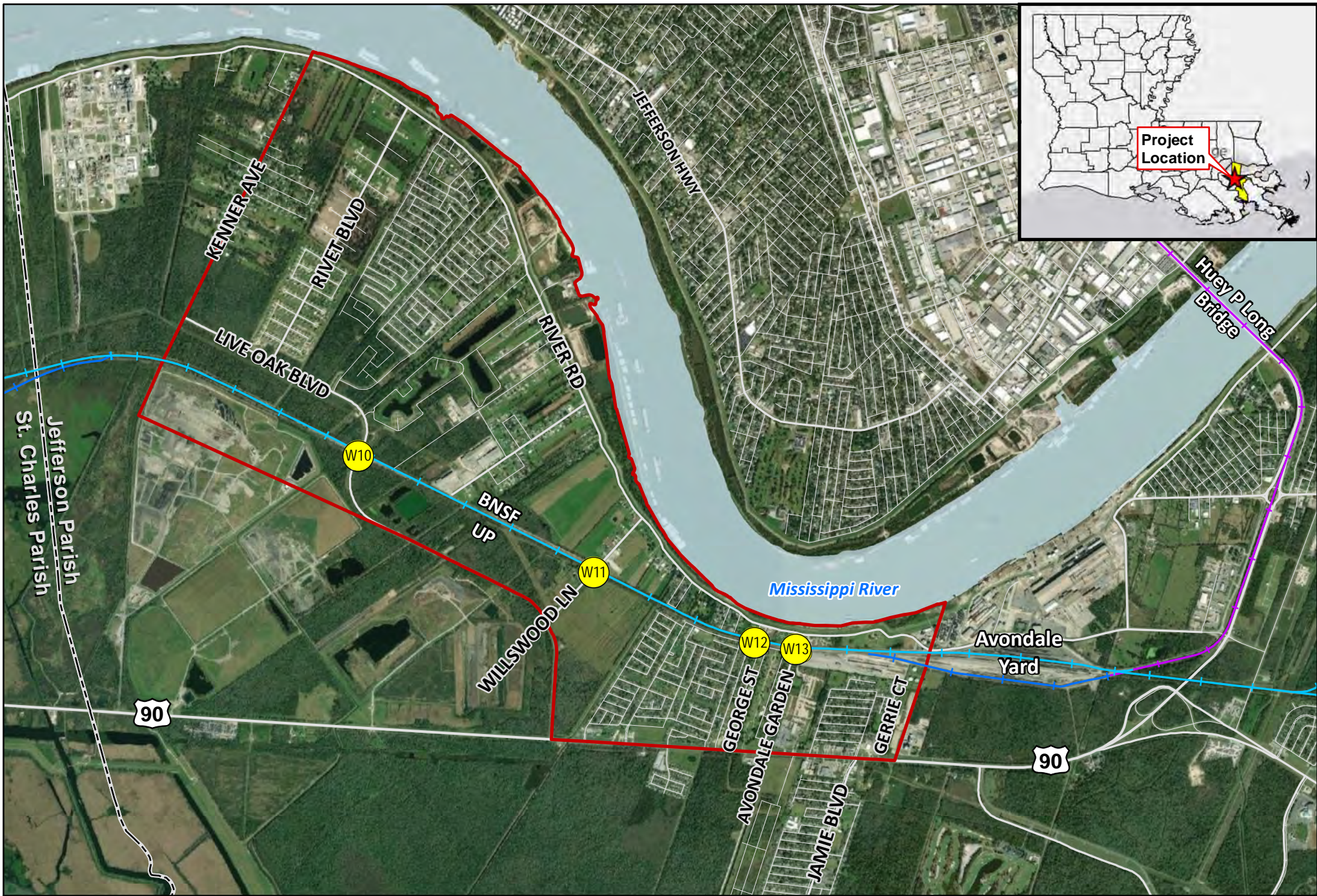
MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.



Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dean Goodell, DOTD



Legend

- Avondale Study Area
- + Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)
- Existing At-Grade Crossing
- + New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)
- + Union Pacific (UP)

0 1,750 3,500
Feet



**New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Avondale Study Area**

EMAIL SOV	Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Email SOVs : linda.piper@la.gov	Ms.	Linda	Piper	LA Department of Environmental Quality	602 N 5th Street			Baton Rouge	LA	70802
stephen.d.pfeffer@usace.ARMY.MIL	Mr.	Stephen	Pfeffer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	CEMVN-ODR, DOTD Liaison	7400 LEAKE AVENUE		New Orleans	LA	70118-3651
www.fws.gov/southeast/layette/project-review/	Mr.	Joshua	Marceaux	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge	209 Nature Rd.		Lake Arthur	LA	70549
	Sir or Madam			8th Coast Guard District NO	District Commander	Hale Boggs Federal Building	500 Poydras St, Suite 1313	New Orleans	LA	70130-3310
	Ms.	Danika	Gorrondona	City of Gretna Building Official		P.O. Box 404		Gretna	LA	70054
	Ms.	Deborah C.	Foshee	City of Kenner	Chief Administrative Officer	1801 Williams Boulevard	Building B, Suite 200	Kenner	LA	70062
	Mr.	Wendel P.	Dufour Jr., Director	City of Kenner	Planning Department	1801 Williams Boulevard	Building “B”, 1st Floor	Kenner	LA	70062
	Sir or Madam			City of Westwego		1100 4th Street		Westwego	LA	70094
	Ms.	Kimberly	Reyher	Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana		3801 Canal Street	Suite 400	New Orleans	LA	70119
	Sir or Madam			Crescent Soil & Water	Conservation District	P.O. Box 1782		Luling	LA	70070
	Sir or Madam			Department of Agriculture & Forestry	Office of Soil/Water Cons	5825 Florida Blvd	Suite 7000	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
	Sir or Madam			Department of Agriculture & Forestry	Office of Forestry	5825 Florida Blvd	Suite 6000	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
	Ms.	Abigail	Bleichner	Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism	Division of Archaeology	P.O. Box 44247		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
	Sir or Madam			Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism	Office of State Parks	P.O. Box 44426		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
	Sir or Madam			Department of Economic Development	Office of Business Development	P.O. Box 94185		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
	Sir or Madam			Department of Public Safety	Highway Safety Commission	P.O. Box 66336		Baton Rouge	LA	70896
	Ms.	Yuanda	Zhu	Dept of Health and Hospitals	OPH Engineering Svcs (Bin 10)	628 North 4th Street		Baton Rouge	LA	70802
	Sir or Madam			Dept of Health and Hospitals	ATTN: Chief Sanitarian Director	P.O. Box 629		Baton Rouge	LA	70821-0629
	Sir or Madam			Division of Administration	State Land Office	P.O. Box 44124		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
	Sir or Madam			Division of Administration	Facility Planning & Control	P.O. Box 94095		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
	Sir or Madam			Federal Transit Admin	Region VI	819 Taylor Street	Room 14A02	Fort Worth	TX	76102
	Sir or Madam			FEMA Region VI		FRC 800 North Loop 288		Denton	TX	76209
	Sir or Madam			Floodplain Management Program	DOTD Section 64	P.O. Box 94245		Baton Rouge	LA	70804-9245
	Sir or Madam			Harahan Planning & Zoning Commission		6437 Jefferson Hwy		Harahan	LA	70123
	Ms.	Peggy	Bourgeois	Harvey Canal Industrial Assoc		P.O. Box 215		Harvey	LA	70059
	Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish	Civil Defense Director	910 3rd Street		Gretna	LA	70053
	Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Community Action Program		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd #402		Harahan	LA	70123

EMAIL SOV	Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
	Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Council Members		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd		Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
	Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Council Members		200 Derbigny Street	6th Floor	Gretna	LA	70053-5850
	Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Office of the Councils		200 Derbigny Street	6th Floor	Gretna	LA	70053
	Ms.	Annalisa	Kelly	Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO)	Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy	700 Churchill Parkway		Avondale	LA	70094
	Ms.	Juliette	Cassagne	Jefferson Parish Planning Dept	Director	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd	Joseph S. Yenni Building, Suite 601	Jefferson	LA	70123
	Ms.	The Honorable Cynthia	Lee-Sheng	Jefferson Parish President		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd.	10th Floor	Jefferson	LA	70123
	Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish President		200 Derbigny Street	Suite 6100	Gretna	LA	70053
	Sheriff			Jefferson Parish Sheriff		P.O. Box 327		Gretna	LA	70054
	Mr.	Pat	Johnson	Jefferson Parish Transit Admin	Exec. Dir	21 Westbank Expressway		Gretna	LA	70053
	Sir or Madam			Jefferson School Board		4600 River Rd		Marrero	LA	70072
	Sir or Madam			LA Dept of Natural Resources	Office of Conservation	P.O. Box 94275		Baton Rouge	LA	70804-9275
	Sir or Madam			LA Dept of Natural Resources	Office of Mineral Resources	P.O. Box 2827		Baton Rouge	LA	70821
	Ms.	Carolyn	Michon	LA Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries	Wildlife Diversity Program	P.O. Box 98000		Baton Rouge	LA	70898
	Sir or Madam			LA Forestry Association	ATTN: Executive Director	P.O. Box 5067		Alexandria	LA	71307
	Sir or Madam			LA Good Roads Association		P.O. Box 3713		Baton Rouge	LA	70821
	Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Orgergone	LA House of Representatives	(District 54)	13259 East Main Street		Larose	LA	70373
	Representative	The Honorable Mack	Cormier	LA House of Representatives	(District 105)	P.O. Box 518		Belle Chase	LA	70037
	Representative	The Honorable Kyle M.	Green, Jr.	LA House of Representatives	(District 83)	6641 WESTBANK EXPWY, SUITE D		Marrero	LA	70072
	Representative	The Honorable Laurie	Schlegel	LA House of Representatives	(District 82)	3238 Metairie Road	Suite B	Metairie	LA	70001
	Representative	The Honorable Stephanie	Hilferty	LA House of Representatives	(District 94)	3331 Severn Ave	Suite 206	Metairie	LA	70002
	Representative	The Honorable John "Big John"	Illg, Jr.	LA House of Representatives	(District 78)	9523 Jefferson Hwy	Suite A	River Ridge	LA	70123
	Representative	The Honorable Timothy P	Kerner	LA House of Representatives	(District 84)	799 Jean Lafitte Blvd		Lafitte	LA	70067-4102
	Representative	The Honorable Rodney	Lyons	LA House of Representatives	(District 87)	2100 Woodmere Blvd	Suite 130	Harvey	LA	70058
	Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Marino III	LA House of Representatives	(District 85)	200 Derbigny Street	General Government Building	Gretna	LA	70053
	Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Stagni	LA House of Representatives	(District 92)	1201 Williams Blvd		Kenner	LA	70062
	Representative	The Honorable Polly	Thomas	LA House of Representatives	(District 80)	3100 Ridgelake Drive	Suite 201	Metairie	LA	70002-4938
	Representative	The Honorable Debbie	Villio	LA House of Representatives	(District 79)	4203 Williams Blvd	Suite 200	Kenner	LA	70065

EMAIL SOV	Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
	Senator	The Honorable Gary L.	Smith	LA State Senate	(District 19)	P.O. Box 189		Norco	LA	70079
	Mr.	Kent	Mitchell	LA Transit Company	President	118 David Drive		Metairie	LA	70003
	Sir or Madam			Louisiana State Police	Troop B	2101 I-10 Service Rd		Kenner	LA	70065
	Sir or Madam	Director LA Sea Grant		Louisiana State University	Sea Grant Legal Advisory Svc.	277B Sea Grant Building		Baton Rouge	LA	70803
	Sir or Madam			Mississippi River Trail, Inc.		858 North Jackson Drive		Fayetteville	AR	72701
	Mr.	Steven	Wright	National Park Service	Southeast Regional Office	Atlanta Federal Ctr, 1924 Bldg	100 Alabama St, SW	Atlanta	GA	30303
	Sir or Madam			Natural Resources Conservation SVC	ATTN: State Conservationist	3737 Government St		Alexandria	LA	71302
	Sir or Madam			New Orleans Regional Transit Authority	ATTN: Director	2817 Canal St		New Orleans	LA	70119-6301
	Ms.	January	Murray	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	Habitat Conservation Division	5757 Corporate Blvd	Suite 375	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
	Sir or Madam			Office of Comm, Tribes & Env. Association	U.S. EPA Region 6	1201 Elm Street	Suite 500	Dallas	TX	75270-2102
	Sir or Madam			Port of New Orleans	ATTN: Managing Director	P.O. Box 60046		New Orleans	LA	70160
	Mr.	Jeff	Roesel	Regional Planning Commission		10 Veterans Memorial Blvd		New Orleans	LA	70124-1162
	Senator	The Honorable Joseph "Joe"	Bouie	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 3)	6305 Elysian Fields Avenue	Suite 400	New Orleans	LA	70122
	Senator	The Honorable Gary	Carter	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 7)	2401 Westbend Parkway	Suite 3071	New Orleans	LA	70114
	Senator	The Honorable Patrick	Connick	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 8)	5201 Westbank Expressway	Suite 315	Marrero	LA	70072
	Senator	The Honorable Cameron	Henry, Jr.	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 9)	2573 Metairie Road	Suite C	Metairie	LA	70005
	Senator	The Honorable Karen Carter	Peterson	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 5)	1409 Oretha Castle Hayle Blvd	Suite C	New Orleans	LA	70113
	Senator	The Honorable "Kirk"	Talbot	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 10)	9523 Jefferson Hwy	Suite B	River Ridge	LA	70123
	Sir or Madam			U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6	Sole Source Aquifer Coordinator	1201 Elm Street, Suite 500	Mail Code: WDDG	Dallas	TX	75270
	Sir or Madam			US Geological Survey		3535 S Sherwood Forest	Suite 120	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
	Representative	The Honorable Julia	Letlow	US House of Representatives	(District 5)	P.O. Box 539		Rayville	LA	71269
	Representative	The Honorable Garret	Graves	US House of Representatives	(District 6)	2351 Energy Drive	Suite 1200	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
	Representative	The Honorable Troy A.	Carter	US House of Representatives	(District 2)	650 Poydras Street	Suite 2435	New Orleans	LA	70130
	Senator	The Honorable Bill	Cassidy M.D.	US Senate		5555 Hilton Avenue	Suite 100	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
	Senator	The Honorable John	Kennedy	US Senate		P.O. Box 80418		Baton Rouge	LA	70898
	Sir or Madam			USEPA	Region 6	1445 Ross Ave	Suite 1200	Dallas	TX	75202-2733
	Mr.	Rick	Jones	Westside Transit Lines Inc.	General Manager	90 First St		Gretna	LA	70053

EMAIL SOV	Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
	Sir or Madam			Dept of Natural Resources	State Conservationist	3737 Government St		Alexandria	LA	71302
	Representative	The Honorable Clay	Higgins	US House of Representatives	(District 3)	600 Jefferson Street	Suite 808	Lafayette	LA	70501
	Representative	The Honorable Mike	Johnson	US House of Representatives	(District 4)	2250 Hospital Drive	Suite 248	Bossier City	LA	71111
	Ms.	Maggie	Talley	Director of Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation	Jefferson Parish	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd	Suite 310	Jefferson	LA	70123
	Sir or Madam			Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 73		160 Modern Farms Rd		Westwego	LA	70094
	Sir or Madam			Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 72		404 Azalea Dr		Westwego	LA	70094
	Sir or Madam			Herbert Wallace Volunteer Fire Department		4040 Highway 90 W		Westwego	LA	70094
	Sir or Madam			Avondale Volunteer Fire Company		500 S Jamie Blvd		Avondale	LA	70094
	Sir or Madam			Avondale Container Yard		101 Avondale Garden Rd		Westwego	LA	70094
	Sir or Madam			Cherbonnier-Rillieux Elementary		700 Dandelion Dr.		Westwego	LA	70094
	Sir or Madam			Emmett Gilbert School of Excellence at Ford		435 S. Jamie Blvd.		Westwego	LA	70094
	Sir or Madam			Strehle Community School		178 Millie Dr.		Westwego	LA	70094

August 17, 2021

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E., Project Manager
Michael Baker International, Inc.
100 Airside Drive
Moontownship, PA 15108

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2; F.A.P. No. DE-9208(500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program; Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Solicitation of Views

Dear Mr. Gesing:

I have reviewed the above referenced project for potential requirements of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) and potential impact to Natural Resource Conservation Service projects in the immediate vicinity.

Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

The map and narrative submitted with your request indicates that the proposed project area will not impact prime farmland and therefore is exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549. Furthermore, we do not predict impacts to NRCS work in the vicinity. For specific information about the soils found in the project area, please visit our Web Soil Survey at the following location: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Please direct all future correspondence to me at the address shown below.

Respectfully,

Michael R. Lindsey

Dr. Michael Lindsey
State Soil Scientist

Attachment



Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Office
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
Voice: (318) 473-7751 Fax: (844) 325-6947

Helping People Help the Land

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request			
Name Of Project		Federal Agency Involved			
Proposed Land Use		County And State			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %			
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS			
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site					
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)					
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))		Maximum Points			
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160			
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100			
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160			
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260			
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
Reason For Selection:					



Office of Public Works and Water Resources
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245
ph: 225-379-3005 | fx: 225-379-3002

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary

September 7, 2021

STATE PROJECT NO.: H.005168.2
F.A.P. NO: DE-9208(500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Solicitation of Views

Michael Baker International
Christopher Gesing
Project Manager
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108

Subject: Solicitation of Views

Dear Mr. Gesing:


Enclosed is a copy of Jefferson Parish's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) indicating the proposed project site.

During the improvements and construction, especially in the instance of placing bedding material in the stream, there must be allowance for the adequate flow of water and assurance that there will be no back up of water. There must be no instance of the creation of flooding where there was no flooding prior to construction. At this time, consideration must be given to the responsibility for cleaning debris and keeping the surrounding area clear so as not to interfere with its function.

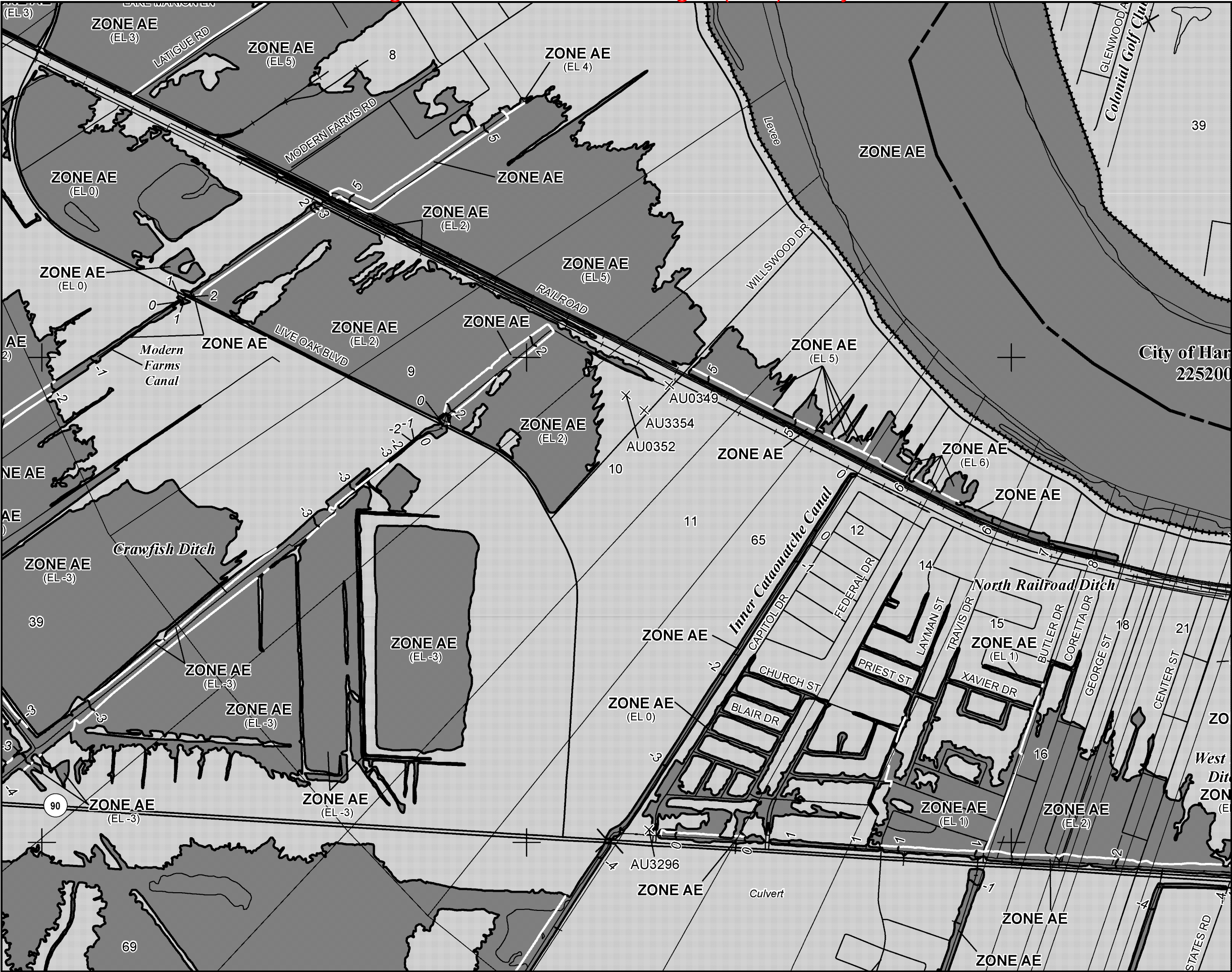
In order to assure compliance with the Parish's requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and ensure that appropriate permits are obtained, please contact the floodplain administrator for Jefferson Parish. The contact person is: Maggie Talley, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd, Ste 801, Jefferson, LA 70123, and telephone no. (504) 736-6541.


In addition to local requirements, please be advised that additional permits may be required from other government agencies.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you need additional information, please contact our office, (225) 379-3005.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Clark
Floodplain Management Program Coordinator

H.005168.2 Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study SOV - Jefferson and Orleans Parishes





MAP SCALE 1" = 1000'

500 0 1000 2000 FEET

METER

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0190F

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA

AND INCORPORATED AREAS


PANEL 190 OF 600

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
HARAHAN, CITY OF	225200	0190	F
JEFFERSON PARISH	225199	0190	F

Notice to User: The Map Number shown below should be used when placing map orders; the Community Number shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.



MAP NUMBER
22051C0190F

MAP REVISED
February 2, 2018

Federal Emergency Management Agency

This is an official FIRMette showing a portion of the above-referenced flood map created from the MSC FIRMette Web tool. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For additional information about how to make sure the map is current, please see the Flood Hazard Mapping Updates Overview Fact Sheet available on the FEMA Flood Map Service Center home page at <https://msc.fema.gov>.

August 9, 2021

Abigail Bleichner
Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism
Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
F.A.P. No. DE-9208(500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
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Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Solicitation of Views

The SHPO has received your SOV. At this time, our office cannot offer an opinion concerning effect determinations. However, we are not aware of potential concerns at this time. This opinion could change once we receive additional information concerning this project.



Kristin P. Sanders
State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 09/09/2021

Dear Ms. Bleichner:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area (Norfolk Southern, Kansas City Southern, Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Canadian National, and CSX) represented by the Association of American Railroads (AAR), New Orleans Public Belt Railroad (NOPB), and Amtrak (the "Partnership"), are conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/environmental studies for a New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program (Program). The goal of the Program is to improve the existing and future flow of rail traffic through the New Orleans Rail Gateway while reducing vehicle congestion at crossings, improve emergency evacuation procedures, improve the reliability of marine traffic passing through the Industrial Canal under the Almonaster Bridge, and improve environmental quality.

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Ms. Bleichner
August 9, 2021
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We Make a Difference

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Please review the Study Area Map and provide us with your views and comments by September 10, 2021. Replies should be addressed to Christopher G. Gesing, P.E., at the address listed at the bottom of this letter or can be emailed to NORG@mbakerintl.com. Please reference the Avondale PEL Study and State Project Number (H.005168.2) in your reply.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.



Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dean Goodell, DOTD



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



**Agricultural &
Environmental
Sciences**

Suite 3000
(225) 925-3770
Fax: 925-3760

**Agro-Consumer
Services**

Suite 5000
(225) 922-1341
Fax: 923-4877

**Animal Health
& Food Safety**

Suite 4000
(225) 925-3962
Fax: 925-4103

Forestry

Suite 6000
(225) 925-4500
Fax: 922-1356

**Management
& Finance**

Suite 1000
(225) 922-1255
Fax: 925-6012

**Soil & Water
Conservation**

Suite 7000
(225) 922-1269
Fax: 922-2577

September 9, 2021

Michael Baker International
Attention: Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108

RE: Avondale PEL Study
State Project Number H.005168.2

Dear Mr. Gesing,
I have no objection or further comment at this time regarding the above
referenced project.

Sincerely,

Joey Breaux
Assistant Commissioner,
LDAF/Office of Soil & Water Conservation
Director, LA Soil & Water Conservation Commission
225.922.1269

JCB: CB



JEFFERSON PARISH
DEPARTMENT OF
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND HAZARD MITIGATION

CYNTHIA LEE SHENG
PARISH PRESIDENT

MAGGIE O. TALLEY
DIRECTOR

September 10, 2021

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker International, Inc.
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108

RE: State Project No.: H.005168.2
F.A.P. No. DE-9208(500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Dear Mr. Gesing:

With consideration given that there will be no instance of the creation of flooding where there was no flooding prior to construction, Jefferson Parish Floodplain Management has no objection to this project. Attention must be given to the responsibility for cleaning debris and keeping the surrounding area clear so as not to interfere with natural floodplain functions. Please ensure that all of the proper permits are obtained for this project.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 504-736-6541.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Talley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maggie Talley, CFM



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

August 27, 2021

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108

**Re: Solicitation of Views; State Project Number H.005168.2; F.A.P. No.: DE-9208 (500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes**

This office is in receipt of a Solicitation of Views regarding the above referenced project(s).

Based upon the information received from your office we have no objection to the referenced project(s) at this time. The applicant shall be aware of and comply with any and all applicable Louisiana State Sanitary Code regulations (LAC 51, as applicable). Furthermore, should additional project data become available to this office that in any way amend the information upon which this office's response has been based, we reserve the right of additional comments on the referenced project(s).

In the event of any future discovery of evidence of non-compliance with the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 (Public Health-Sanitary Code) and the Title 48 (Public Health-General) regulations or any applicable public health laws or statutes which may have escaped our awareness during the course of this cursory review, please be advised that this office's preliminary determination on this Solicitation of View of the project(s) shall not be construed as absolving the applicant of responsibility, if any, with respect to compliance with the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 (Public Health-Sanitary Code) and the Title 48 (Public Health-General) regulations or any other applicable public health laws or statutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yuanda Zhu".

Yuanda Zhu, P.G., Ph.D.
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health Engineering Services
Telephone: (225) 342-7432
Electronic mail: yuanda.zhu@la.gov

From: Linda (Brown) Piper <Linda.Piper@LA.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Gesing, Chris <Cgesing@mbakerintl.com>
Cc: Vivian (Aucoin) Johnson (DEQ) <Vivian.Johnson2@la.gov>; Clinton Twilley <Clinton.Twilley@LA.GOV>
Subject: EXTERNAL: DEQ SOV#210813/0735 NO Rail Gateway Program Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages Study

September 14, 2021

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker International, Inc.
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15109
Cgesing@mbakerintl.com

RE: 210813/0735
H.005168

NO Rail Gateway Program Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages Study
DOTD Funding
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Dear Mr. Gesing:

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the Department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

- Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit is required. An application or Notice of Intent will be required if the sludge management practice includes preparing biosolids for land application or preparing sewage sludge to be hauled to a landfill. Additional

information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 9371.

- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.
- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

Currently, Jefferson and Orleans Parishes are classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and have no general conformity determination obligations.

Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3954 or by email at linda.piper@la.gov.

Sincerely,

Linda (Brown) Piper

Environmental Scientist Manager

LDEQ Office of the Secretary

Outreach and Small Business Assistance

225-219-3954 • linda.piper@la.gov

Small Business/Community Assistance Program(SB/CAP) services are provided as a courtesy of the LDEQ. The SB/CAP claims no responsibility for any omissions or inaccuracies in values or information presented to the LDEQ Administrative Authority by small businesses seeking compliance with state environmental regulations. The LDEQ Administrative Authority alone determines when compliance is achieved, and small businesses are ultimately responsible for satisfying all requirements of such Authority.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

9/15/2021

Regulatory Division
Special Projects and Policy

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker International, Inc.
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, Pennsylvania 15108

Dear Mr. Gesing:

Reference is made to your solicitation of views request for the improvements to rail crossings, **State Project No. H.005168.2**, located in Avondale, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (enclosed map). More specifically, the project proposes to improve and/or combine four at-grade crossings located along Avondale Garden Road, George Street, Willswood Lane and Live Oak Boulevard.

Information and signatures obtained from recent maps, aerial photography, information provided with your request, and local soil surveys concerning this site are indicative of the occurrence of waters of the United States, including wetlands. Department of the Army (DA) permits are required prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional wetlands or waters. If an approved delineation is needed, please furnish us with the detailed field data concerning vegetation, soils, and hydrology that we require for all jurisdictional decisions. The fact that a field wetland delineation/determination has not been completed does not alleviate your responsibility to obtain the proper DA permits prior to working in jurisdictional wetlands or waters occurring on this property.

Please be advised that this property is in the Louisiana Coastal Zone and a Coastal Use Permit may be required prior to initiation of any activities on this site. For additional information, contact Ms. Christine Charrier, Office of Coastal Management, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources at (225) 342-7953.

You are advised that you must obtain a permit from the West Jefferson Levee District for any work within 1,500 feet of a federal flood control structure such as a levee. Performance of all subsurface work within this area is usually restricted when the stage of the Mississippi River is above elevation +11.0 feet on the Carrollton gage, at New Orleans, Louisiana. As a consequence, subsurface work should be scheduled for performance during the low-water period (typically June through November) to avoid delays in performance of the proposed work. You must apply by letter to the West Jefferson Levee District including full-size construction plans, cross sections, and details of the proposed work. Concurrently with your application to the West Jefferson Levee District, you must also forward a copy of your letter and plans to Operations Division, Operations Manager for Completed Works of the Corps of Engineers and to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) office in Baton Rouge for their review and comments concerning the proposed work. The West Jefferson Levee District will not issue a permit for the work to proceed until they have obtained letters of no objection from both of these reviewing agencies. For further information regarding permit requests affecting federal flood control levees and structures, please contact Ms. Amy Powell, Operations Manager for Completed Works at (504) 862-2241.

Should there be any questions concerning these matters or questions specific to the regulatory permit process, please contact Mr. Stephen Pfeffer at (504) 862-2099 and reference our Account No. MVN 2021-00952-MS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Pfeffer", written in a cursive style.

Stephen Pfeffer
Environmental Resources Specialist

Enclosure



PO BOX 98000 | BATON ROUGE LA | 70898

Date September 21, 2021
Name Christopher Gesing
Company Michael Baker International
Street Address 100 Airside Drive
City, State Zip Moon Township, PA 15108
Project New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
State Project No. H.005168.2
Project ID 912021
Invoice Number 21092104

Personnel of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project.

Our records indicate that a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest is located adjacent to the study area. This species is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and is protected by the State of Louisiana. All Bald Eagle nests (active, inactive, or seemingly abandoned) should be protected, and no large trees should be removed. No major activities should occur within the nesting period (September 1 – June 1). Please refer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bald Eagle Management Guidelines for more information on avoiding impacts to this species including suggested buffer distances: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/> & <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/our-services/eagle-technical-assistance/>

After careful review of our database, no other impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. The Wildlife Diversity Program (WDP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. WDP reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the WDP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. WDP reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. WDP requires that this office

be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time WDP tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the WDP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

for Carolyn Michon
Nicole Lorenz, Program Manager
Wildlife Diversity Program



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

THOMAS F. HARRIS
SECRETARY

RICHARD P. IEYOUB
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

October 14, 2021

TO: Michael Baker International, Inc.
Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108

RE: Solicitation of Views
F.A.P. DE-9208(500)
SPN. H.005168.2
New Orleans Rail Gateway System
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, LA

Dear Mr. Gesing:

In response to your letter dated August 9, 2021, concerning the referenced matter, please be advised that the Office of Conservation collects and maintains many types of information regarding oil and gas exploration, production, distribution, and other data relative to the petroleum industry as well as related and non-related injection well information, surface mining and ground water information and other natural resource related data. Most information concerning oil, gas and injection wells for any given area of the state, including the subject area of your letter can be obtained through records search via the SONRIS data access application available at:

<http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov>


A review of our computer records for the referenced project area indicates that there are oil, gas or injection wells located in the project area. The DNR water well database indicates that there are also registered water wells located in the vicinity of the project area. Additionally, it is possible that unregistered water wells may be located in the area.

The Office of Conservation maintains records of all activities within its jurisdiction in paper, microfilm or electronic format. These records may be accessed during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, except on State holidays or emergencies that require the Office to be closed. Please call 225-342-5540 for specific contact information or for directions to the Office of Conservation, located in the LaSalle Building, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For pipelines and other underground hazards, please contact Louisiana One Call at 1-800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations. Should you need to direct your inquiry to any of our Divisions, you may use the following contact information:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Engineering	Carrie Wiebelt	225-342-9380	carrie.wiebelt@la.gov
Pipeline	Steven Giambrone	225-342-2989	steven.giambrone@la.gov
Injection & Mining	Byron Ebner	225-342-4286	byron.ebner@la.gov
Geological	Reid Bohlinger	225-342-0362	reid.bohlinger@la.gov
Environmental	Gary Snellgrove	225-342-7222	gary.snellgrove@la.gov

If you have difficulty in accessing the data via the referenced website because of computer related issues, you may obtain assistance from our technical support section by selecting Help on the SONRIS tool bar and submitting an email describing your problems and including a telephone number where you may be reached.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Ieyoub
Commissioner of Conservation

RPI:RWB

Appendix O – Scoping Meetings

February 8, 2022

«Name_1» «Name_2»

«Affiliation_1»

«Affiliation_2»

«Address_1»

«Address_2»

«City», «State» «Zip_»

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Local Officials Scoping Meeting

Dear «Salutation» «Name_2»:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the 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 Linkages (PEL) study for improvements to four (4) at-grade highway-rail crossings of Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) track in Waggaman and Avondale, Jefferson Parish. This study is a continuation of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program. An August 9, 2021 letter was previously sent to you soliciting your views about the study.

This study will evaluate the feasibility of closing the Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale Garden Road crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. A Study Area Map is included for reference.

The location and number of grade separation(s) will be evaluated as part of this study. These at-grade crossings were identified as Projects W10 through W13 respectively in the 2007 New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis and are being advanced because of their strong public benefit.

«Salutation» «Name_2»

February 8, 2022

Page 2

The goals of this study could include:

- Improving safety by eliminating public at-grade railway-highway crossings,
- Reducing vehicle delay by eliminating crossing blockages due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations,
- Eliminating truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Limit, and
- Improving intermodal connectivity on the roadway network.

A **Virtual** Local Officials Scoping Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. CST on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the study, its goals and schedule, and identify key issues to be considered. Your participation in providing current, relevant information will ensure the development of a comprehensive study that can be carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

An appointment containing a link to the virtual meeting will be sent via email. If your organization is planning on participating, please respond by email to NORG@mbakerintl.com with your contact information and email address. Please indicate “NORG Avondale PEL Study Local Officials Scoping Meeting” as the Subject. Only one contact per organization is needed. The link provided can be forwarded to other individuals within your organization.

We look forward to your participation and continued input throughout the duration of this study. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this study in more detail, please contact Dean Goodell, DOTDs Freight and Passenger Rail Director at (225) 379-3031 or dean.goodell@la.gov; or me at (412) 551-3503 or cgesing@mbakerintl.com.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

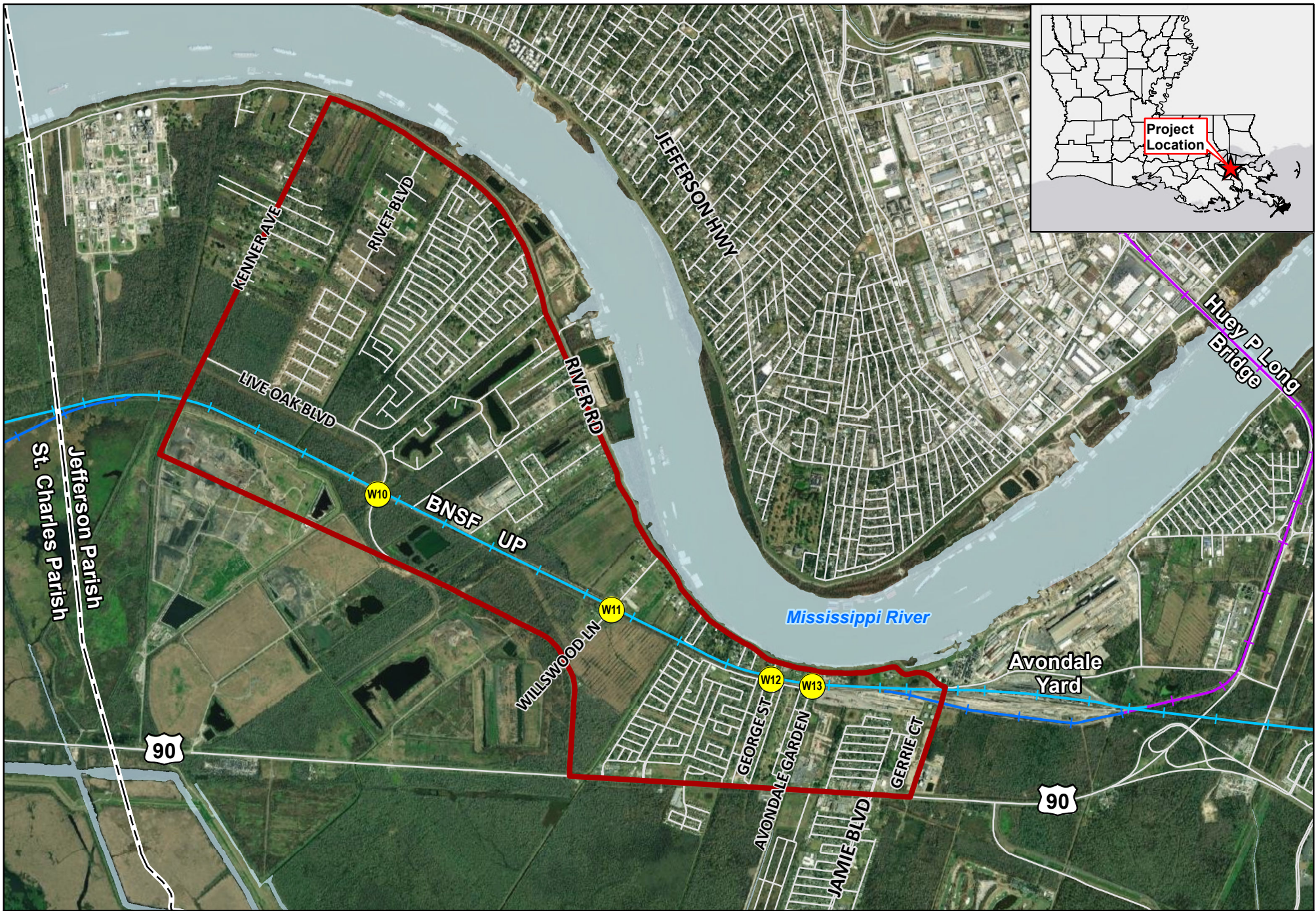


Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager






Attachment


CGG/mew

cc: Dean Goodell, DOTD



Legend

-  Study Area
-  Existing At-Grade Crossing
-  Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)
-  New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)
-  Union Pacific (UP)

0 1,750 3,500
 Feet



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Avondale Study Area

Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Ms.	Kimberly	Reyher	Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana		3801 Canal Street	Suite 400	New Orleans	LA	70119
Sir or Madam			Department of Economic Development	Office of Business Development	P.O. Box 94185		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Ms.	Danika	Gorrondona	City of Gretna Building Official		P.O. Box 404		Gretna	LA	70054
Ms.	Deborah C.	Foshee	City of Kenner	Chief Administrative Officer	1801 Williams Boulevard	Building B, Suite 200	Kenner	LA	70062
Mr.	Wendel P.	Dufour Jr., Director	City of Kenner	Planning Department	1801 Williams Boulevard	Building “B”, 1st Floor	Kenner	LA	70062
Sir or Madam			City of Westwego		1100 4th Street		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Department of Public Safety	Highway Safety Commission	P.O. Box 66336		Baton Rouge	LA	70896
Ms.	Yuanda	Zhu	Dept of Health and Hospitals	OPH Engineering Svcs (Bin 10)	628 North 4th Street		Baton Rouge	LA	70802
Sir or Madam			Dept of Health and Hospitals	ATTN: Chief Sanitarian Director	P.O. Box 629		Baton Rouge	LA	70821-0629
Sir or Madam			Division of Administration	State Land Office	P.O. Box 44124		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Division of Administration	Facility Planning & Control	P.O. Box 94095		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Harahan Planning & Zoning Commission		6437 Jefferson Hwy		Harahan	LA	70123
Ms.	Peggy	Bourgeois	Harvey Canal Industrial Assoc		P.O. Box 215		Harvey	LA	70059
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish	Civil Defense Director	910 3rd Street		Gretna	LA	70053
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Community Action Program		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd #402		Harahan	LA	70123
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Council Members		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd		Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
Councilman	The Honorable Deano	Bonano	Jefferson Parish Councilman, District 2		Joseph S. Yenni Building	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., 10th Floor, Suite	Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
Councilman	The Honorable Byron L.	Lee	Jefferson Parish Councilman, District 3		Joseph S. Yenni Building	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., 10th Floor, Suite	Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Council Members		200 Derbigny Street	6th Floor	Gretna	LA	70053-5850
Ms.	Annalisa	Kelly	Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO)	Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy	700 Churchill Parkway		Avondale	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Office of the Councils		200 Derbigny Street	6th Floor	Gretna	LA	70053
Ms.	Juliette	Cassagne	Jefferson Parish Planning Dept	Director	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd	Joseph S. Yenni Building, Suite 601	Jefferson	LA	70123
Ms.	The Honorable Cynthia	Lee-Sheng	Jefferson Parish President		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd.	10th Floor	Jefferson	LA	70123
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish President		200 Derbigny Street	Suite 6100	Gretna	LA	70053

Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Sheriff			Jefferson Parish Sheriff		P.O. Box 327		Gretna	LA	70054
Mr.	Pat	Johnson	Jefferson Parish Transit Admin	Exec. Dir	21 Westbank Expressway		Gretna	LA	70053
Sir or Madam			Jefferson School Board		4600 River Rd		Marrero	LA	70072
Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Orgergone	LA House of Representatives	(District 54)	13259 East Main Street		Larose	LA	70373
Representative	The Honorable Mack	Cormier	LA House of Representatives	(District 105)	P.O. Box 518		Belle Chase	LA	70037
Representative	The Honorable Kyle M.	Green, Jr.	LA House of Representatives	(District 83)	6641 WESTBANK EXPWY, SUITE D		Marrero	LA	70072
Representative	The Honorable Laurie	Schlegel	LA House of Representatives	(District 82)	3238 Metairie Road	Suite B	Metairie	LA	70001
Representative	The Honorable Stephanie	Hilferty	LA House of Representatives	(District 94)	3331 Severn Ave	Suite 206	Metairie	LA	70002
Representative	The Honorable John "Big John"	Illg, Jr.	LA House of Representatives	(District 78)	9523 Jefferson Hwy	Suite A	River Ridge	LA	70123
Representative	The Honorable Timothy P	Kerner	LA House of Representatives	(District 84)	799 Jean Lafitte Blvd		Lafitte	LA	70067-4102
Representative	The Honorable Rodney	Lyons	LA House of Representatives	(District 87)	2100 Woodmere Blvd	Suite 130	Harvey	LA	70058
Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Marino III	LA House of Representatives	(District 85)	200 Derbigny Street	General Government Building	Gretna	LA	70053
Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Stagni	LA House of Representatives	(District 92)	1201 Williams Blvd		Kenner	LA	70062
Representative	The Honorable Polly	Thomas	LA House of Representatives	(District 80)	3100 Ridgelake Drive	Suite 201	Metairie	LA	70002-4938
Representative	The Honorable Debbie	Villio	LA House of Representatives	(District 79)	4203 Williams Blvd	Suite 200	Kenner	LA	70065
Senator	The Honorable Gary L.	Smith	LA State Senate	(District 19)	P.O. Box 189		Norco	LA	70079
Mr.	Kent	Mitchell	LA Transit Company	President	118 David Drive		Metairie	LA	70003
Sir or Madam			Louisiana State Police	Troop B	2101 I-10 Service Rd		Kenner	LA	70065
Sir or Madam	Director LA Sea Grant		Louisiana State University	Sea Grant Legal Advisory Svc.	277B Sea Grant Building		Baton Rouge	LA	70803
Sir or Madam			Mississippi River Trail, Inc.		858 North Jackson Drive		Fayetteville	AR	72701
Sir or Madam			New Orleans Regional Transit Authority	ATTN: Director	2817 Canal St		New Orleans	LA	70119-6301
Sir or Madam			Office of Comm, Tribes & Env. Association	U.S. EPA Region 6	1201 Elm Street	Suite 500	Dallas	TX	75270-2102
Sir or Madam			Port of New Orleans	ATTN: Managing Director	P.O. Box 60046		New Orleans	LA	70160
Mr.	Jeff	Roesel	Regional Planning Commission		10 Veterans Memorial Blvd		New Orleans	LA	70124-1162

Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Senator	The Honorable Joseph "Joe"	Bouie	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 3)	6305 Elysian Fields Avenue	Suite 400	New Orleans	LA	70122
Senator	The Honorable Gary	Carter	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 7)	2401 Westbend Parkway	Suite 3071	New Orleans	LA	70114
Senator	The Honorable Patrick	Connick	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 8)	5201 Westbank Expressway	Suite 315	Marrero	LA	70072
Senator	The Honorable Cameron	Henry, Jr.	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 9)	2573 Metairie Road	Suite C	Metairie	LA	70005
Senator	The Honorable Karen Carter	Peterson	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 5)	1409 Oretha Castle Hayle Blvd	Suite C	New Orleans	LA	70113
Senator	The Honorable "Kirk"	Talbot	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 10)	9523 Jefferson Hwy	Suite B	River Ridge	LA	70123
Representative	The Honorable Julia	Letlow	US House of Representatives	(District 5)	P.O. Box 539		Rayville	LA	71269
Representative	The Honorable Garret	Graves	US House of Representatives	(District 6)	2351 Energy Drive	Suite 1200	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
Representative	The Honorable Troy A.	Carter	US House of Representatives	(District 2)	650 Poydras Street	Suite 2435	New Orleans	LA	70130
Representative	The Honorable Clay	Higgins	US House of Representatives	(District 3)	600 Jefferson Street	Suite 808	Lafayette	LA	70501
Representative	The Honorable Mike	Johnson	US House of Representatives	(District 4)	2250 Hospital Drive	Suite 248	Bossier City	LA	71111
Senator	The Honorable Bill	Cassidy M.D.	US Senate		5555 Hilton Avenue	Suite 100	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
Senator	The Honorable John	Kennedy	US Senate		P.O. Box 80418		Baton Rouge	LA	70898
Mr.	Rick	Jones	Westside Transit Lines Inc.	General Manager	90 First St		Gretna	LA	70053



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Local Officials Scoping Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Local Officials Scoping Meeting

Attendees: Dean Goodell – DOTD
Robin Daigle – DOTD
Mark Drewes – Jefferson Parish Public Works Director
Bess Renfrow – Jefferson Parish Planning Director
Patrick Connick – Louisiana State Senator – 8th District
Chris Gasing – Michael Baker International, Inc.
Lu Ann May – Michael Baker International, Inc.
Brandon Pitre – Michael Baker International, Inc.
Geneva Coleman – The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
Karimah Stewart – The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.

Time and Place: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 10:00 a.m. CST
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Purpose: The purpose of the Scoping Meeting was to present a brief overview of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program and Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study; and present the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study and solicit input on issues of concern.

Discussion:

Dean Goodell provided a brief NORG Program overview and then turned the meeting over to Chris Gasing. Chris Gasing utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide a brief overview of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program and Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study; and present the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The presentation with speaker's notes is attached.

Summary of Questions, Comments & Discussion

- Mark Drewes stated that Jefferson Parish is developing the Latigue Road Extension Project (Foundry to Live Oak Boulevard) to create a truck route, noting that the project may affect the footprint of any potential bridge crossing on Live Oak. He indicated that there is a lot of truck traffic that currently uses the local road network to access River Road. Mark asked who he should send the Plans to.

Chris responded to send the Plans to him to share with the Project Team. Chris acknowledged that there are several roads in the Study Area that are marked "No Trucks and a 5-Ton Limit" and that one of the things we're interested in is how the various area trucking companies move between US 90 and River Road.

- Mark asked to receive a copy of the presentation.

Chris responded that a meeting summary will be distributed, adding that materials similar to that presented today are available on DOTD's website starting on March 9, 2022.

- Dean concluded that if anyone has any questions or comments, they should not hesitate to let us know.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Local Officials Scoping Meeting

March 8, 2022 | 10:00 am | Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Remarks Dean Goodell

Program Background & Study Approach..... Dean Goodell & Chris Gesing

- NORG Program Overview
- Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study
- Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
 - Study Approach
 - Timeline
 - Solicitation of Views (SOV) Responses
 - Public Outreach

Open Discussion..... All

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks Dean Goodell



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program



Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
State Project No. H.005168

Avondale PEL Study

Virtual Local Officials Scoping Meeting


March 8, 2022





Purpose of Today's Meeting

- **Present an overview of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program**
- **Describe the Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study**
- **Solicit input on issues of concern regarding this Study**
- **Learn how to receive Study information and participate in the decision-making process**



The purpose of today's scoping meeting is to:

- Present a brief overview of the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program,
- Describe the Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, and
- Solicit input on issues of concern.



The New Orleans Rail Gateway is shown in bright yellow highlight.

- It begins on the West Bank near the St. Charles/Jefferson Parish line,
- Proceeds through Waggaman and Avondale easterly to the Avondale Yard.
- It then crosses the Mississippi River on the Huey P. Long Bridge (HPLB) then along the Back Belt through Old Metairie, and
- Enters the City of New Orleans at the 17th Street Canal.
- It then proceeds through the City, through the CSX Gentilly Yard and through New Orleans East to its terminus near Industrial Parkway.

A network of rail lines, shown in orange, connect the numerous rail yards and the Port of New Orleans to the Gateway.



Previous Studies



- **Analysis of Alternatives in Alleviating Railroad – Community Conflicts in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (FRA 1975)**
- **Old Metairie Railroad Project Final EIS (FHWA 1989)**
- **A Comprehensive Study of Problems in the Old Metairie Railroad Corridor in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes in Louisiana (FRA 1996)**
- **New Orleans Rail Gateway & Regional Rail Operations Analysis (DOTD 2002)**



Studies dating back to 1975 have been conducted by the Louisiana DOTD, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and the Class 1 railroads to identify ways to reduce rail congestion, highway crossing delays and improve rail service.



A Public Private Partnership was formed 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 possible solutions to that could reduce highway crossing delays and improve rail service.



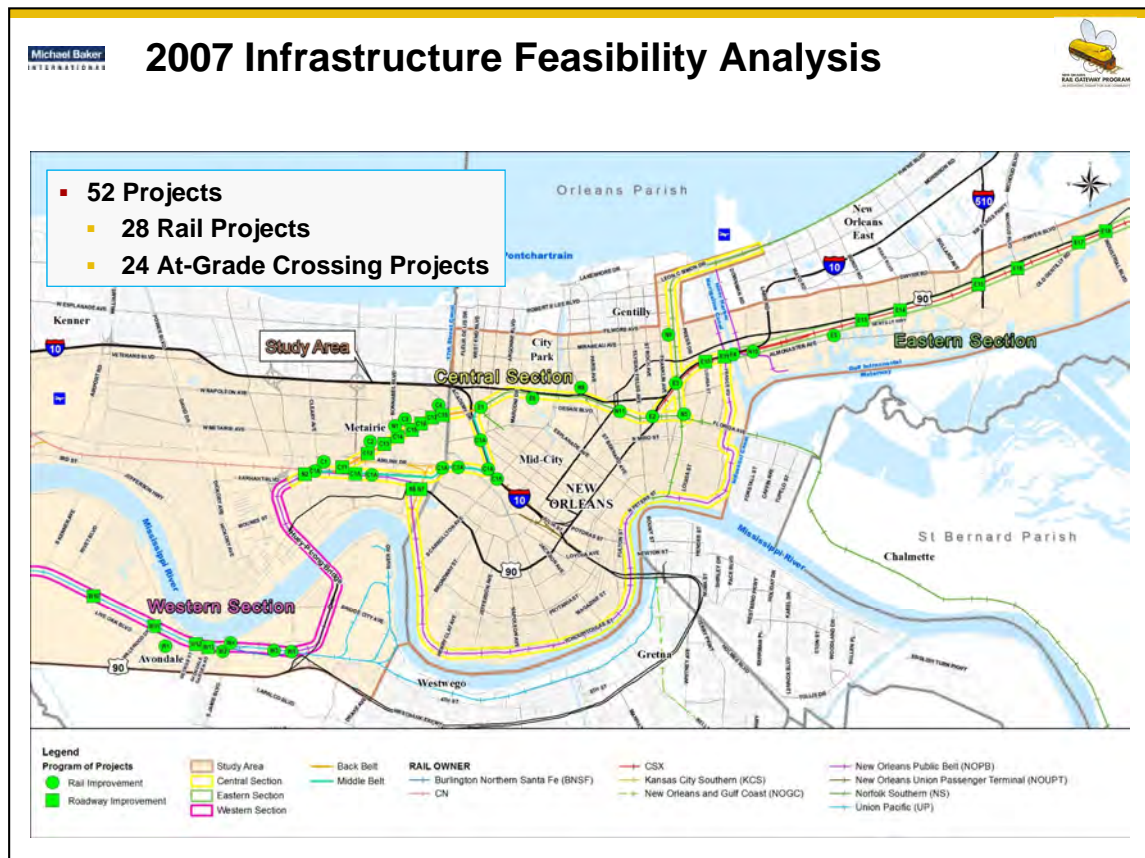
Previous Studies

- Analysis of Alternatives in Alleviating Railroad – Community Conflicts in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (FRA 1975)
- Old Metairie Railroad Project Final EIS (FHWA 1989)
- A Comprehensive Study of Problems in the Old Metairie Railroad Corridor in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes in Louisiana (FRA 1996)
- New Orleans Rail Gateway & Regional Rail Operations Analysis (DOTD 2002)
- **New Orleans Rail Gateway Infrastructure Plan (AAR 2004)**
- **New Orleans Rail Gateway Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis (2007 Study)**
- **New Orleans Rail Gateway Benefits Report (AAR 2008)**

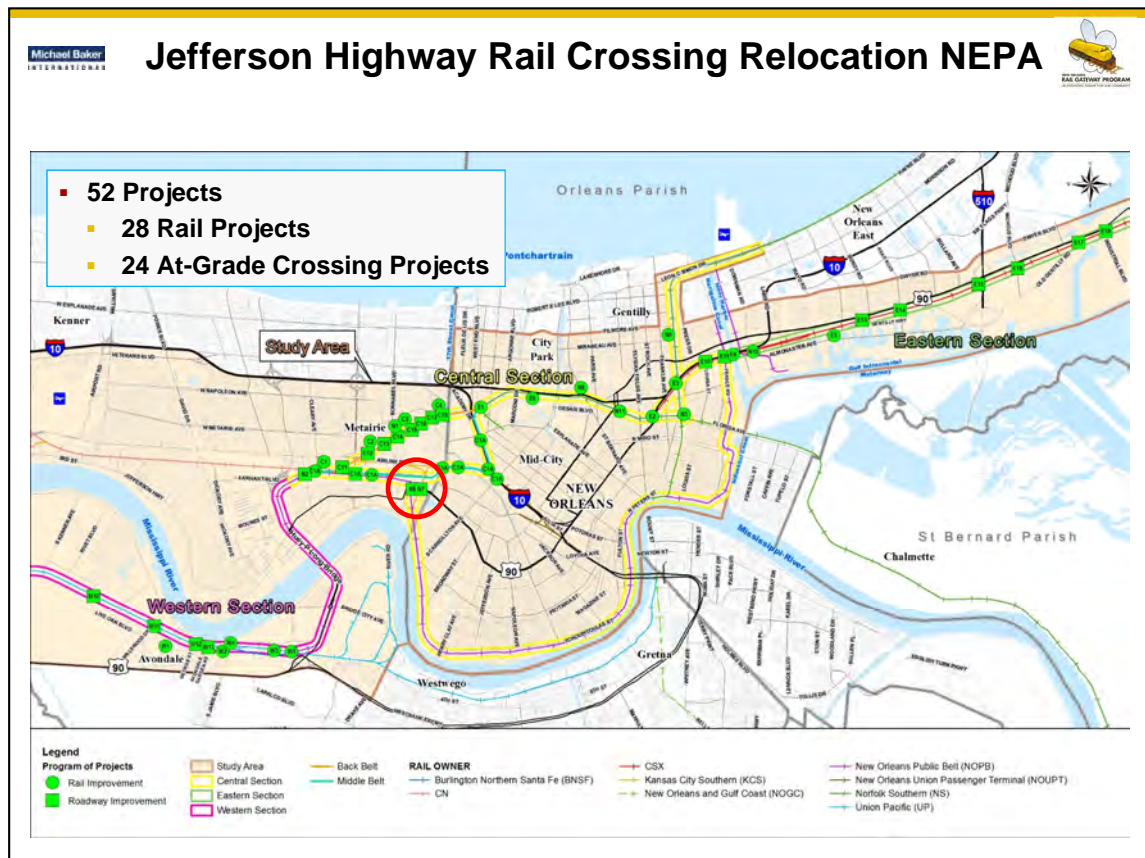


The Partnership conducted studies in 2004, 2007 and 2008.



The 2007 Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis (2007 Study) evaluated the Gateway and potential Gateway-wide rail and roadway improvements.



In all, 52 individual rail and roadway improvement projects (28 rail, 24 roadway) were identified throughout the Gateway and connecting rail lines.

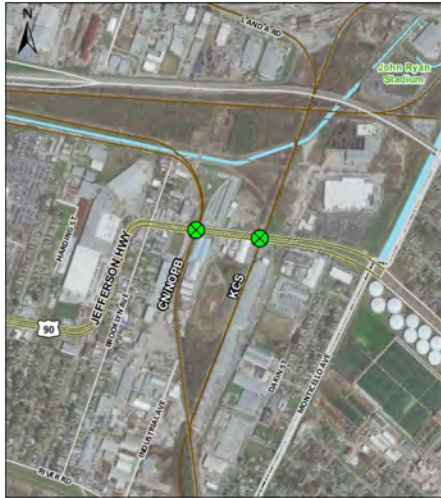



Engineering and environmental studies are already underway for improvements to Jefferson Highway (US 90) in Jefferson.



Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation NEPA

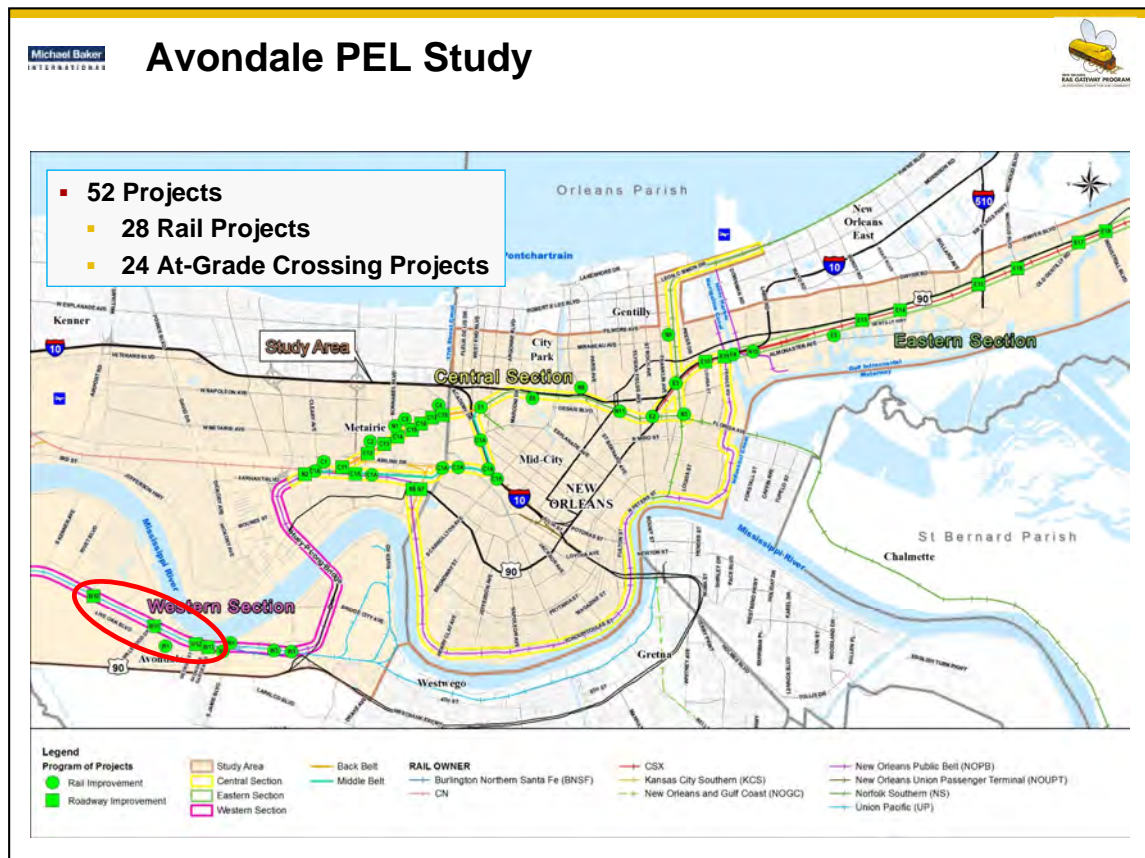
- **Consolidate the two (2) crossings to a single location and possibly grade separate the consolidated rail crossing**
- **Goals**
 - Reduce vehicle congestion and delay
 - Support Hospital expansion and Regional economic development
 - Improve safety
 - Increase freight fluidity through the NORG and the Port of New Orleans



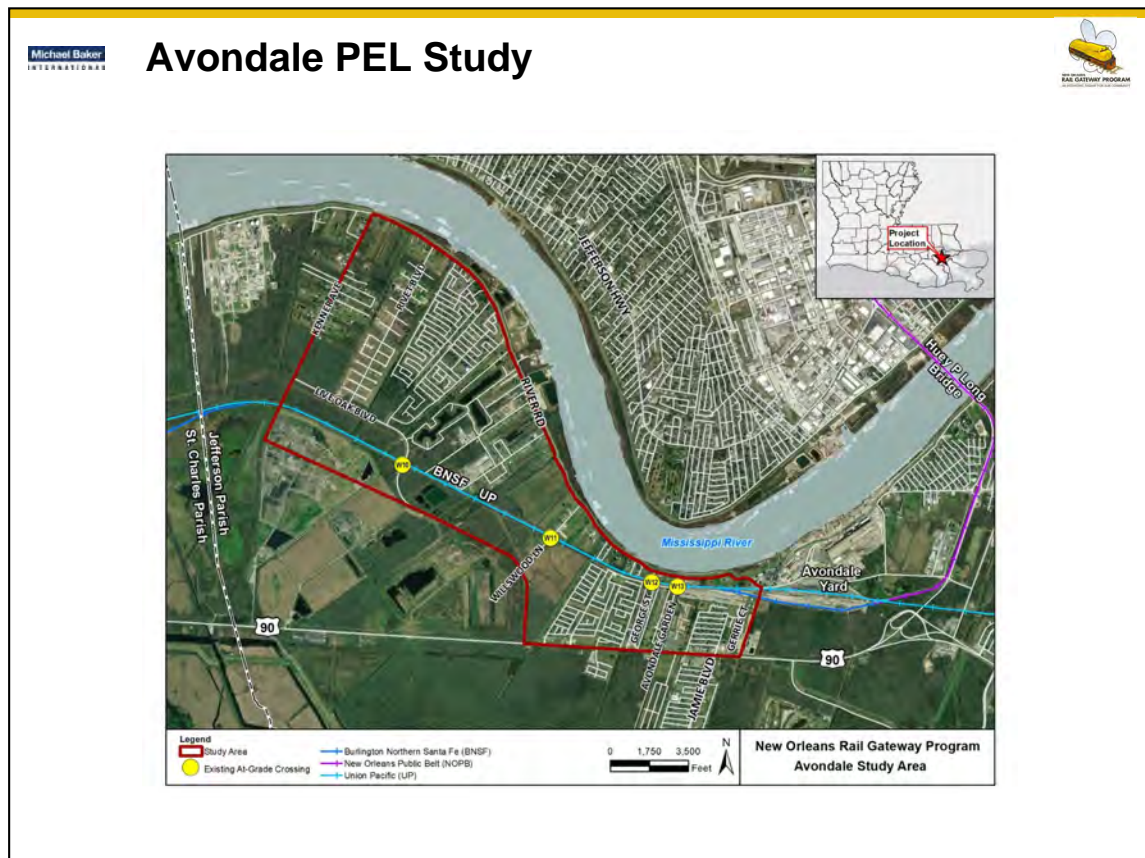
The Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation study is evaluating consolidating the two at-grade highway-rail crossings between the Ochsner Health Foundation Hospital and Monticello Avenue to a single location and possibly grade separating that consolidated rail crossing.

The study goals include:

- Reducing vehicle congestion and delay,
- Supporting hospital expansion and regional economic development
- Improving safety, and
- Increasing freight fluidity through the Gateway and the Port of New Orleans.





DOTD is initiating a similar study in the Avondale and Waggaman area.



The Avondale PEL Study will evaluate the at-grade highway-rail crossings at Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale-Garden Road.

These crossings were identified as Projects W10 through W13 in the 2007 Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis.



What is a PEL Study?

- **PEL – Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)**
 - **Study approach used to identify transportation issues, along with environmental considerations;**
 - **Used to make planning-level decisions such as identifying and prioritizing future projects, developing the purpose and need for a project, determining project size or length, and/or developing and refining a range of alternatives; and**
 - **Study information is carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. NEPA is the next phase of study.**



So what is a PEL Study?

PEL is an acronym for Planning and Environmental Linkages.

It is a study approach:



- Used to identify transportation issues, along with environmental considerations,
- Make planning-level decisions such as identifying and prioritizing future projects, developing the purpose and need for a project, determining project size or length, and/or developing and refining a range of alternatives

The study information is carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. NEPA is the next phase of study.





Live Oak Boulevard Crossing

- 3-track crossing
- 2 sets of crossbucks and lights
- 1 set of gates





The Live Oak Boulevard crossing is a 3-track crossing with two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.





Willswood Lane Crossing

- 4-track crossing
- 2 sets of crossbucks and lights
- 1 set of gates





The Willswood Lane crossing is a 4-track crossing. It also has two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.





George Street Crossing

- 4-track crossing
- 2 sets of crossbucks and lights
- 1 set of gates





The George Street crossing is also a 4-track crossing. Like Live Oak and Willswood, it has two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.





Avondale Garden Road Crossing

- **6-track crossing**
- **1 set of crossbucks, lights and gates**
- **Adjacent to the Avondale Rail Yard & Intermodal Terminal**




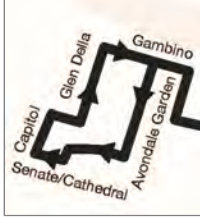

The crossing at Avondale Garden Road increases to 6-tracks as it approaches the Avondale Rail Yard and Intermodal Terminal.

There is only one set of crossbucks, lights and gates at this crossing.



Avondale PEL Study

- **On average, 31 freight and passenger trains cross these roadways each day**
- **Vehicle delays of possibly 10 minutes or longer for trains to clear the crossings**
- **Busing for Area Schools**
 - Cherbonnier-Rillieux Elementary
 - Emmett Gilbert School of Excellence at Ford
 - Strehle Community School
- **Jefferson Transit – Avondale W1 Bus Route**
- **Safety**
 - **Train-Vehicle Crashes (1977 – 2007) (FRA)**
 - 27 crashes (9 injury, 2 fatality)
 - No train-vehicle crashes since 2007
 - **Vehicle-Vehicle Crashes (2017 – 2019) (DOTD)**
 - 4 crashes (no injury or fatality)





On average, 31 freight and passenger trains cross these roadways each day resulting in vehicle delays of possibly 10 minutes or longer for trains to clear the crossings.

The picture at the top shows a bus crossing the tracks at George Street. At least one of the three area schools use these crossings.

Jefferson Transit's Avondale – W1 buses travel through the Kennedy Heights neighborhood with a stop at Capitol & Cathedral, but their route does not cross the tracks.


As report by the FRA, there have been 27 crashes are these four crossings since 1977, with 9 being injury and 2 being fatality crashes. There have been no other train-vehicle crashes since 2007.

DOTD crash data for the 3-year period from 2017 - 2019 recorded 4 vehicle-vehicle crashes at the crossings. Vehicle to vehicle crashes are not recorded in the FRA data.





Avondale PEL Study Goals

- **Reduce vehicle delay due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations**
- **Improve safety**
- **Eliminate truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Limit**
- **Improve intermodal connectivity**




The goals identified for the study include:

- Reducing vehicle delay due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations,
- Improving safety,
- Eliminating truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Limit, and
- Improving intermodal connectivity.



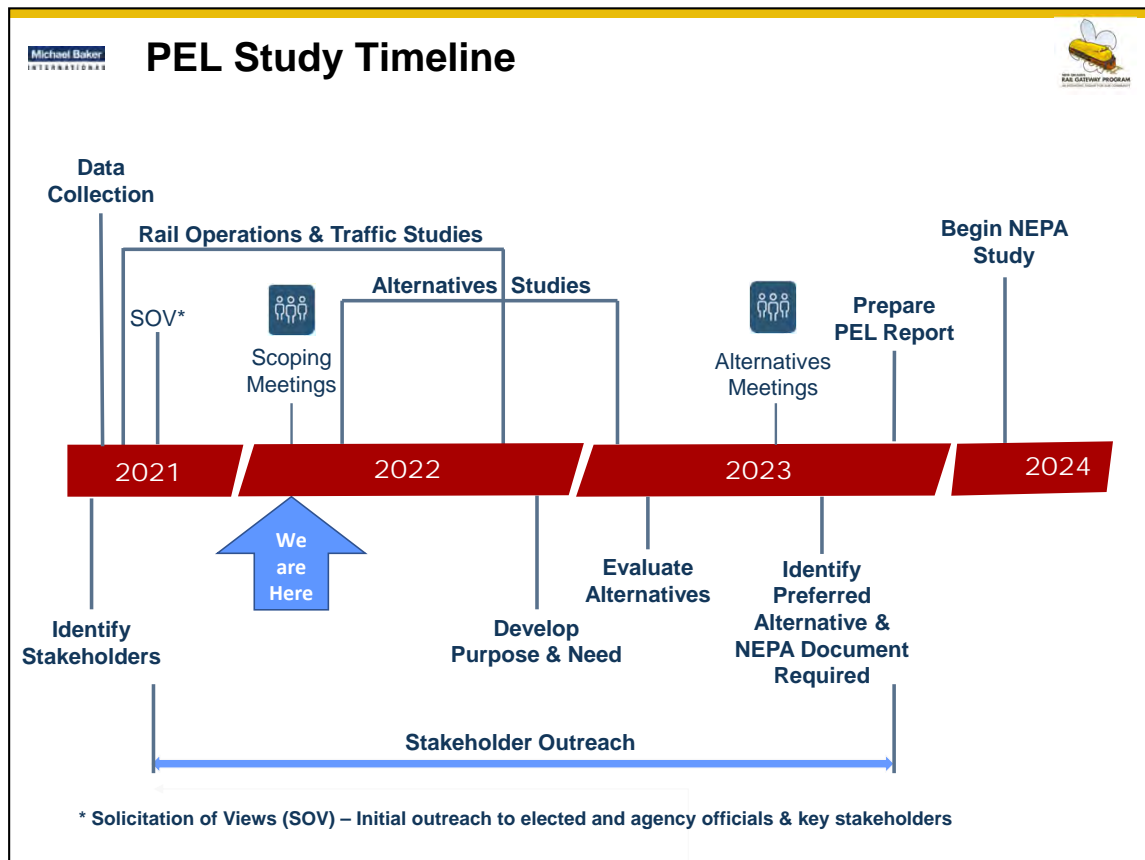
PEL Engineering & Environmental Studies

- **Study closing all four (4) at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, bridges (road-over-rail grade separations)**
 - Rail Operations Analysis
 - Traffic Studies
 - Road-over-Rail Alternatives Studies
 - Environmental Inventory
- **Location and number of bridges will be evaluated as part of the study**
- **These studies will be presented at a future meeting**



The Avondale PEL Study will evaluate the feasibility of closing these four public crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, overpass (road-over-rail) grade separations. A rail operations analysis, traffic and alternative studies and an environmental inventory will be performed.

The location and number of grade separation(s) will be evaluated as part of this study and presented at a future meeting.



The study is anticipated to take about 2½ years to complete. A virtual meeting, like this one, is planned for mid-2023 to present the alternatives developed and solicit comment.

Regulatory/Resource Agency Responses	
Affiliation	Comment
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The birds listed (list provided) are of particular concern because they appear on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in the project location.
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	The proposed project area will not impact prime farmland and therefore is exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	The site is indicative of the occurrence of waters of the United States, including wetlands. Several potentially required permits were identified.
Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)	Our office cannot offer an opinion concerning effect determination. However, we are not aware of potential concerns at this time. This opinion could change once we receive additional information concerning this project.
Louisiana Dept of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)	No objections based on the information provided. General comments provided for information.
Louisiana Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF)	A Bald Eagle nest is located adjacent to the study area. No other impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated.
Louisiana Dept of Natural Resources (LDNR)	There are oil, gas or injection wells in the project area. The DNR water well database indicates that there are also registered water wells located in the vicinity of the project area.
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF)	No objection or further comment at this time.
Louisiana Office of Public Health	No objection at this time.


Over 100 letters were sent to Federal-, State- and Local- officials, regulatory & resource agencies, transit agencies, and other interested parties to inform them of the study and solicit their initial comments.

Eleven responses were received from Federal-, State- and Jefferson Parish regulatory & resource agencies. Several agencies identified required permits or identified environmental resources in the area.


None indicated any objections or concerns with the project at this time.

Solicitation of Views (SOV) Responses	
Regulatory/Resource Agency Responses (cont'd)	
Affiliation	Comment
DOTD Office of Public Works and Water Resources	Coordinate with the Jefferson Parish Floodplain Administrator to assure compliance with the Parish's requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and ensure that appropriate permits are obtained.
Jefferson Parish Dept of Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation	No objection provided there is no flooding created where there was previously no flooding prior to construction.
Local Officials and Interested Parties Responses	
Affiliation	Comment
Jefferson Parish	Resolution No. 138145, expressing support for the Avondale PEL Study, was adopted August 25, 2021.




Jefferson Parish adopted a Resolution on August 25th supporting the study.



Virtual Public Scoping Meeting



- **Extended 38-day Public Review**
 - March 9th through April 15th
 - “Self-serve”, not live and no monitoring
 - Provisions for special assistance needs
 - Vision-impaired
 - Hearing-impaired
 - Lack of Internet access
- **Public Scoping Meeting Notice**
 - Newspaper Display Ads
 - PSAs
 - Press Releases
 - Door Hangers
 - MyDOTD Email
- **DOTD NORG Webpage**
www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy


An extended Virtual Public Scoping Meeting will be available on-line for 38 consecutive days from March 9th through April 15th. The meeting is “self-serve”, not live and there will be no monitoring.

The scoping meeting presentation will be available with both written and audio narrative for the vision- and hearing-impaired. Hard copy of the meeting materials will be mailed to those stakeholders without Internet access.


The meeting will be advertised using:

- Newspaper Display Ads
- PSAs
- Press Releases
- Door Hangers within the study area
- DOTDs MyDOTD Email


The notice and meeting materials will also be available on the DOTD NORG Avondale PEL Study Webpage.



Public Outreach



- **Proactive Public Engagement**
 - **Meeting Notices**
 - Newspaper Display Ads
 - PSAs
 - Press Releases
 - Door Hangers
 - MyDOTD Email
 - USPS Mail & Email
 - Scoping Public Meeting
 - Alternatives Public Meeting
 - Comment Forms
 - Newsletters
 - Phone, USPS Mail & Email Contact
 - DOTD NORG Webpage Updates




Project information and opportunities for public participation will be announced using the methods listed on the previous slide and will also include USPS Mail and Email notices for those that provide their contact information.

The Comment Form shown was prepared for the Scoping Meetings. A copy was included in this meeting appointment.


Newsletters summarizing each round of meetings will be prepared and distributed.


The public can also contact the Study Team by telephone, USPS Mail and Email.

The DOTD Avondale PEL Webpage will be updated as study information is prepared and approved.



Open Discussion





February 8, 2022

«Name_1» «Name_2»

«Affiliation_1»

«Affiliation_2»

«Address_1»

«Address_2»

«City», «State» «Zip_»

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Agency Scoping Meeting

Dear «Salutation» «Name_2»:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the 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 Linkages (PEL) study for improvements to four (4) at-grade highway-rail crossings of Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) track in Waggaman and Avondale, Jefferson Parish. This study is a continuation of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program. An August 9, 2021 letter was previously sent to you soliciting your views about the study.

This study will evaluate the feasibility of closing the Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale Garden Road crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. A Study Area Map is included for reference.

The location and number of grade separation(s) will be evaluated as part of this study. These at-grade crossings were identified as Projects W10 through W13 respectively in the 2007 New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis and are being advanced because of their strong public benefit.

«Salutation» «Name_2»

February 8, 2022

Page 2

The goals of this study could include:

- Improving safety by eliminating public at-grade railway-highway crossings,
- Reducing vehicle delay by eliminating crossing blockages due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations,
- Eliminating truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Limit, and
- Improving intermodal connectivity on the roadway network.

A Virtual Agency Scoping Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. CST on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the study, its goals and schedule, and identify key issues to be considered. Your participation in providing current, relevant information will ensure the development of a comprehensive study that can be carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

An appointment containing a link to the virtual meeting will be sent via email. If your agency is planning on participating, please respond by email to NORG@mbakerintl.com with your contact information and email address. Please indicate “NORG Avondale PEL Study Agency Scoping Meeting” as the Subject. Only one agency contact is needed. The link provided can be forwarded to other individuals within your agency.

We look forward to your participation and continued input throughout the duration of this study. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this study in more detail, please contact Dean Goodell, DOTDs Freight and Passenger Rail Director at (225) 379-3031 or dean.goodell@la.gov; or me at (412) 551-3503 or cgesing@mbakerintl.com.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

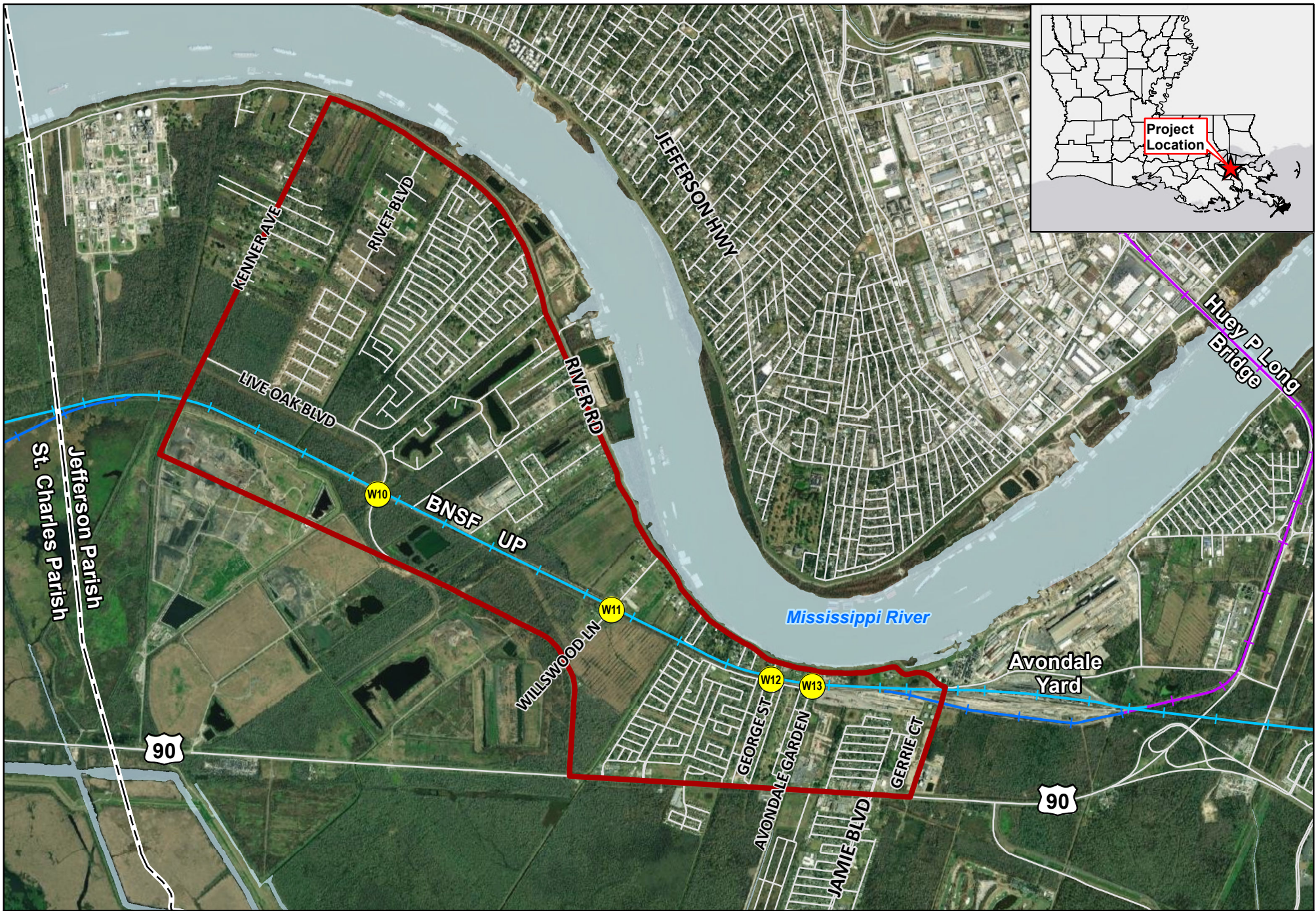


Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment

CGG/mew

cc: Dean Goodell, DOTD



Legend

- Study Area
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)
- New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)
- Existing At-Grade Crossing
- Union Pacific (UP)

0 1,750 3,500
Feet



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Avondale Study Area

Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Sir or Madam			8th Coast Guard District NO	District Commander	Hale Boggs Federal Building	500 Poydras St, Suite 131	New Orleans	LA	70130-3310
Sir or Madam			Crescent Soil & Water	Conservation District	P.O. Box 1782		Luling	LA	70070
Sir or Madam			Department of Agriculture & Forestry	Office of Soil/Water Cons	5825 Florida Blvd	Suite 7000	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
Sir or Madam			Department of Agriculture & Forestry	Office of Forestry	5825 Florida Blvd	Suite 6000	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
Ms.	Abigail	Bleichner	Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism	Division of Archaeology	P.O. Box 44247		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism	Office of State Parks	P.O. Box 44426		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Federal Transit Admin	Region VI	819 Taylor Street	Room 14A02	Fort Worth	TX	76102
Sir or Madam			FEMA Region VI		FRC 800 North Loop 288		Denton	TX	76209
Sir or Madam			Floodplain Management Program	DOTD Section 64	P.O. Box 94245		Baton Rouge	LA	70804-9245
Ms.	Linda	Piper	LA Department of Environmental Quality	602 N 5th Street			Baton Rouge	LA	70802
Sir or Madam			LA Dept of Natural Resources	Office of Conservation	P.O. Box 94275		Baton Rouge	LA	70804-9275
Sir or Madam			LA Dept of Natural Resources	Office of Mineral Resources	P.O. Box 2827		Baton Rouge	LA	70821
Ms.	Carolyn	Michon	LA Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries	Wildlife Diversity Program	P.O. Box 98000		Baton Rouge	LA	70898
Sir or Madam			LA Forestry Association	ATTN: Executive Director	P.O. Box 5067		Alexandria	LA	71307
Sir or Madam			LA Good Roads Association		P.O. Box 3713		Baton Rouge	LA	70821
Mr.	Steven	Wright	National Park Service	Southeast Regional Office	Atlanta Federal Ctr, 1924 Bldg	100 Alabama St, SW	Atlanta	GA	30303
Dr.	Michael	Lindsey	Natural Resources Conservation SVC	ATTN: State Conservationist	3737 Government St		Alexandria	LA	71302
Ms.	January	Murray	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	Habitat Conservation Division	5757 Corporate Blvd	Suite 375	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
Mr.	Stephen	Pfeffer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	CEMVN-ODR, DOTD Liaison	7400 LEAKE AVENUE		New Orleans	LA	70118-3651
Sir or Madam			U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6	Sole Source Aquifer Coordinator	1201 Elm Street, Suite 500	Mail Code: WDDG	Dallas	TX	75270
Mr.	Joshua	Marceaux	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge	209 Nature Rd.		Lake Arthur	LA	70549
Sir or Madam			US Geological Survey		3535 S Sherwood Forest	Suite 120	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
Sir or Madam			USEPA	Region 6	1445 Ross Ave	Suite 1200	Dallas	TX	75202-2733
Sir or Madam			Dept of Natural Resources	State Conservationist	3737 Government St		Alexandria	LA	71302
Ms.	Maggie	Talley	Director of Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation	Jefferson Parish	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd	Suite 310	Jefferson	LA	70123
Sir or Madam			Avondale Volunteer Fire Company		500 S Jamie Blvd		Avondale	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Cherbonnier-Rillieux Elementary		700 Dandelion Dr.		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Emmett Gilbert School of Excellence at Ford		435 S. Jamie Blvd.		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Herbert Wallace Volunteer Fire Department		4040 Highway 90 W		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 72		404 Azalea Dr		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 73		160 Modern Farms Rd		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Strehle Community School		178 Millie Dr.		Westwego	LA	70094



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Regulatory & Resource Agency Scoping Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Agency Scoping Meeting

Attendees: None

Time and Place: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m. CST
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Purpose: The purpose of the Scoping Meeting was to present a brief overview of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program and Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study; and present the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study and solicit input on issues of concern.

Meeting Summary:

A February 8, 2022 Scoping Meeting invitation letter was sent to 32 regulatory and resource agencies inviting them to participate in a March 9, 2022 project scoping meeting. Agencies were invited to respond by email to receive an appointment containing a link to the virtual meeting.

No regulatory or resource agency invitees responded to the virtual meeting invitation.

Eleven agencies responded to the August 9, 2021 Solicitation of Views (SOV) letter, identifying required permits or environmental resources in the area. No responding agencies indicated any objections or concerns with the project at this time.

The Zoom meeting was canceled.

Appendix P – Travel Surveys

March 8, 2022

«Affiliation_1»

«Attention»

«Address_1»

«City», «State» «Zip»

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
F.A.P. No. DE-9208(500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Travel Survey

Dear «Salutation»:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the 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 Linkages (PEL) study to evaluate the feasibility of closing the Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street, and Avondale Garden Road at-grade public crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. The Avondale Area PEL Study is an element within the larger New Orleans Rail Gateway Program.

Each day on average, 31 freight and passenger trains traverse these crossings. The location and number of grade separations will be evaluated as part of this study. Closing and grade separating these at-grade crossings would eliminate the roadway delay caused by train traffic but will require changes to the local roadway network and alter area traffic patterns, including access to and between US 90 and River Road (LA 18).

Our preference would be to meet with you to discuss the study and your business. Unfortunately, during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is best to maintain social distancing. Instead, we have attached a travel survey that we hope you will complete. Your input will help us better understand travel patterns through the Avondale-Waggaman area. A Study Area Map is also included for reference. Additional information about the study is available on DOTD's website at www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy.

«Salutation»
March 8, 2022
Page 2

We Make a Difference

Please return the travel survey using the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. You can also contact us at (504) 488-6196 or NORG@mbakerintl.com with questions about the survey or the study.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gesing".

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment

CGG/mew

cc: Dean Goodell, DOTD

Avondale Container Yard
Attn: Owner/Manager
101 Avondale Garden Road
Westwego LA 70094

Jefferson Parish Sheriff
Attn: Sheriff
P.O. Box 327
Gretna LA 70054

Avondale Volunteer Fire Company
Attn: Fire Chief
500 S Jamie Blvd
Avondale LA 70094

Herbert Wallace Volunteer Fire Department
Attn: Fire Chief
4040 Highway 90 W
Westwego LA 70094

Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 72
Attn: Fire Chief
404 Azalea Drive
Westwego LA 70094

Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 73
Attn: Fire Chief
160 Modern Farms Road
Westwego LA 70094

Cherbonnier-Rillieux Elementary
Attn: Transportation Director
700 Dandelion Drive
Westwego LA 70094

Emmett Gilbert School of Excellence at Ford
Attn: Transportation Director
435 S. Jamie Blvd.
Westwego LA 70094

Strehle Community School
Attn: Transportation Director
178 Millie Drive
Westwego LA 70094

Union Pacific Avondale Intermodal Terminal
Attn: Sir or Madam
100 Avondale Garden Road
Avondale LA 70094

Westwego Auto Transport
Attn: Owner/Manager
125 Dorothy Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Andres Vega
Attn: Owner/Manager
2120 Hwy 90 W
Avondale LA 70094

Armant Logistics LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
124 Coretta Dr
Avondale LA 70094-2642

C & F Trucking Inc
Attn: Owner/Manager
109 Winnona Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Charles Jacob Jakes
Attn: Owner/Manager
5901 Hwy 90
Avondale LA 70094

Christopher Johnson C Johnson Trucking
Attn: Owner/Manager
289 Capitol Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Dependable Solutions LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
4905 Hwy 90
Avondale LA 70094

Evans Transport Services LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
305 District Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Hard Eight Enterprises LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
341 Dome Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Honest Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
344 Deacon Street
Avondale LA 70094

Joc Hauling Transportation Service LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
160 Madeira Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Lt Trucking Express LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
236 Bishop Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Pallet Solutions Guru LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
145 Julia Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Peerless Logistics LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
145 Julia Drive
Avondale LA 70094

Westbank Container Services Inc
Attn: Owner/Manager
101 Avondale Garden Road
Avondale LA 70094

Willie Earl
Attn: Owner/Manager
157 Prairieview Court
Avondale LA 70094

H & A Sons Truck Service
Attn: Owner/Manager
34 Lucille Street
Waggaman LA 70094

Williams Transportation Solutions
Attn: Owner/Manager
44 Goldenrod Lane
Waggaman LA 70094

Artberry Logistics LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
881 Smolkin Lane
Waggaman LA 70094

B&B Freight Broker LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
629 Sweet Olive Lane
Waggaman LA 70094

Balling On Budget Transportation Service LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
52 Cynthia Street
Waggaman LA 70094

CLP Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
10137 Chenevert Road
Waggaman LA 70094

David Phillips Colbys Truck Service
Attn: Owner/Manager
8229 River Road
Waggaman LA 70094

Dream Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
160 Latigue Road
Waggaman LA 70094

Ebenezer Quayson
Attn: Owner/Manager
39 Iris Lane
Waggaman LA 70094

Got R Dun Transport LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
46 Duffy Street
Waggaman LA 70094

James H Cole V Trucking
Attn: Owner/Manager
35 Judith Street
Waggaman LA 70094

JP & Sons Dredging LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
8229 River Road
Waggaman LA 70094

Keenos Trucking Service LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
301 Modern Farms Road
Waggaman LA 70094

Paper Chaser Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
9504 Laurel Oak Lane
Waggaman LA 70094

Smudchie Trucking Co LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
39 Cynthia Street
Waggaman LA 70094

Tommy's Heavy Hauling
Attn: Owner/Manager
440 Dandelion Drive
Waggaman LA 70094

LWJ Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
444 Liska Street
Westwego LA 70094

Odoms Transport LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
13 Primrose Lane
Westwego LA 70094

American River Transportation Company
Attn: Owner/Manager
8400 River Road
Westwego LA 70094

Otwell's Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
8149 River Road
Westwego LA 70094

Liv Transport LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
189 Modern Farms Road
Westwego LA 70094

Lovell Landry Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
155 Waggaman Road
Westwego LA 70094

Cte Transportation LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
609 Avondale Garden Road
Westwego LA 70094

Yellow Boy Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
133 N Betty Ln Ste 70094
Avondale LA 70094



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Travel Survey

Dream Trucking LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
160 Latigue Road
Waggaman LA 70094

Please Print Clearly

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on area travel to assist designers in assessing the local roadway network and developing and evaluating the location and number of grade separation alternatives (road-over-rail overpass). Please respond to the following questions **for your typical business operations prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

1. Describe your business or the services you provide. Transportation of hazardous chemicals, fuel, propane, and butane

2. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

3. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Local Access ☒ Access to River Road ☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

4. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take River Rd to Hwy 90

5. Do roadways posted "No Truck Route - 5-Ton Limit" impact your travel route decisions?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

6. Would you benefit from direct access between River Road (LA 18) and U.S. 90?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Reduce travel time

7. Do you have any other comments or concerns about travel access and this study?

8. What is the best way to contact you if we have follow-up questions? 504-232-2446

Thank you for taking time to complete the survey!



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Travel Survey

Herbert Wallace Volunteer Fire Department
Attn: Fire Chief
4040 Highway 90 W
Westwego LA 70094

Please Print Clearly

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on area travel to assist designers in assessing the local roadway network and developing and evaluating the location and number of grade separation alternatives (road-over-rail overpass). Please respond to the following questions **for your typical business operations prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

1. Describe your business or the services you provide. Local Fire Dept, Fire, First Aid,
HAZ MAT, Rescue

2. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

3. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Local Access ☒ Access to River Road ☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) Respond to calls on River Rd

4. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take HWY 90

5. Do roadways posted "No Truck Route - 5-Ton Limit" impact your travel route decisions?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

6. Would you benefit from direct access between River Road (LA 18) and U.S. 90?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain _____

7. Do you have any other comments or concerns about travel access and this study?

We respond on Fire calls and send manpower units to Fire calls
in Waggaman, Bridge City using Rail crossings in important
to our response times

8. What is the best way to contact you if we have follow-up questions? 504-239-5686 FD Cell on

Thank you for taking time to complete the survey!

2417/365
Chief Tom Berggren



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Travel Survey

Jefferson Parish Sheriff
Attn: Sheriff
P.O. Box 327
Gretna LA 70054

Please Print Clearly

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on area travel to assist designers in assessing the local roadway network and developing and evaluating the location and number of grade separation alternatives (road-over-rail overpass). Please respond to the following questions for your typical business operations prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Describe your business or the services you provide. Chief of Operations with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. I also live in Waggaman on W. Velvet off of River Rd.

2. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

3. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Local Access ☒ Access to River Road ☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

4. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take River Rd & Gerrie St to get to Eastbank (Huey P. Long Bridge)

5. Do roadways posted "No Truck Route - 5-Ton Limit" impact your travel route decisions?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

6. Would you benefit from direct access between River Road (LA 18) and U.S. 90?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain _____

7. Do you have any other comments or concerns about travel access and this study?

8. What is the best way to contact you if we have follow-up questions? 504-616-8591

Thank you for taking time to complete the survey!

JPSO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SHERIFF JOSEPH J. CROUSE III
2022 MAR 15 A 8:36

March 8, 2022

Jefferson Parish Sheriff
Attn: Sheriff
P.O. Box 327
Gretna LA 70054

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
F.A.P. No. DE-9208(500)
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Travel Survey

Dear Sheriff:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the 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 Linkages (PEL) study to evaluate the feasibility of closing the Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street, and Avondale Garden Road at-grade public crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. The Avondale Area PEL Study is an element within the larger New Orleans Rail Gateway Program.

Each day on average, 31 freight and passenger trains traverse these crossings. The location and number of grade separations will be evaluated as part of this study. Closing and grade separating these at-grade crossings would eliminate the roadway delay caused by train traffic but will require changes to the local roadway network and alter area traffic patterns, including access to and between US 90 and River Road (LA 18).

Our preference would be to meet with you to discuss the study and your business. Unfortunately, during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is best to maintain social distancing. Instead, we have attached a travel survey that we hope you will complete. Your input will help us better understand travel patterns through the Avondale-Waggaman area. A Study Area Map is also included for reference. Additional information about the study is available on DOTD's website at www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy.



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Travel Survey

Smudchie Trucking Co LLC
Attn: Owner/Manager
39 Cynthia Street
Waggaman LA 70094

Please Print Clearly

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on area travel to assist designers in assessing the local roadway network and developing and evaluating the location and number of grade separation alternatives (road-over-rail overpass). Please respond to the following questions for your typical business operations prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Describe your business or the services you provide. @ Getting to UP - Avondale to
Pick up Loads
- How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
- Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?
☒ Local Access ☒ Access to River Road ☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?
☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____
- Do roadways posted "No Truck Route - 5-Ton Limit" impact your travel route decisions?
☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____
- Would you benefit from direct access between River Road (LA 18) and U.S. 90?
☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____
- Do you have any other comments or concerns about travel access and this study?
Please Leave the Rail Crossings a Long. We need
them to get to the City of Avondale and get to
Waggaman. The Traffic is already a problem on Hwy 90
- What is the best way to contact you if we have follow-up questions? 504-915-0281

Thank you for taking time to complete the survey!

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL
PHONE CALL REPORT

PROJECT/LOCATION: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program S.O.No.: 184001
Avondale PEL Study DATE: April 13, 2022
CONTRACT NO.: H.005168.2

To: Chris Gesing From: Brandon Lovell – Route Coordination Technician
Repres.: Michael Baker International, Inc. Repres.: Jefferson Parish School District
Phone No.: (412) 551-3503 Phone No.: (504) 349-8536
Subject: Waggaman/Avondale Area School Bus Routing

Brandon followed up on the school bus routing inquiry email I sent to Lynn Alello and Levette Divinity at Jefferson Parish Schools. I briefly explained that we are studying the feasibility of closing all four crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail overpasses, I added that the study was not to replace all four at-grade crossings with overpasses. Brandon provided the following school bus routing information.

- Live Oak Boulevard – 17 bus crossings each school day
- Willswood Lane – 12 bus crossings each school day
- George Street – 14 bus crossings each school day
- Avondale Garden Road – 9 bus crossings each school day

From the School District's perspective, a grade separation at Live Oak is the most important as it is the western-most school bus route on the West Bank. Willswood Lane buses divert to Live Oak when the Willswood Lane crossing is blocked.

Brandon added that if a second grade separation was considered, it should be at Avondale Garden Road.

Prepared by Chris Gesing Title Project Manager Page 1 of 1

cc:

Appendix Q – Civic Association Meetings



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Waggaman Civic Association MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Small Group Meeting Presentation

Study Representative

Attending:

Dean Goodell, DOTD
Chris Morvant, DOTD
Nelson Mathews, Jr., Jefferson Parish
Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency
Paris Jackson, The Hawthorne Agency

Time and Place:

Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 7:00 p.m. CDT
Waggaman Playground Meeting Room
516 Dandelion St, Waggaman, LA

Purpose:

State Senator Patrick Connick requested that the Avondale PEL Study be presented at the Waggaman Civic Association Wednesday, April 6, 2022 monthly meeting.

Meeting Summary:

The meeting was moderated by Landry Camardelle.

Dean Goodell gave the presentation of the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, including the background of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program, the Avondale PEL study, its goals, and the feasibility of closing the at-grade rail crossings at Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale Garden Road and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. The location and number of grade separations will be evaluated as part of this study. Comment forms and a sign-in sheet were available for attendees wanting to provide comments or be added to the stakeholder list.

Dean responded to several questions were asked during the presentation:

Will the crossings be permanently closed? The study will evaluate the feasibility of permanently closing all four crossing and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade overpasses.

Will residents need to travel a different way? Yes. Overpasses can't be constructed at every crossing location due to cost and other constraints such as the proximity to levy and residential development.

Will additional meetings be held before a decision is made? Yes, additional meetings will be held to present the alternatives developed and to solicit comments.



MEETING SUMMARY

By Louisiana Law, the roadways are not supposed to be blocked for more than 10 minutes. Why aren't the railroads being fined? The railroads are governed by the Surface Transportation Board, a federal agency and are not required to follow state law.

If the railroads can block the crossing, why are we having this discussion? The proximity of the Avondale Rail Yard and "building" the trains causes the crossing blockages. The purpose of the study is to see what can be done to mitigate the vehicle delays cause by the crossing blockages.

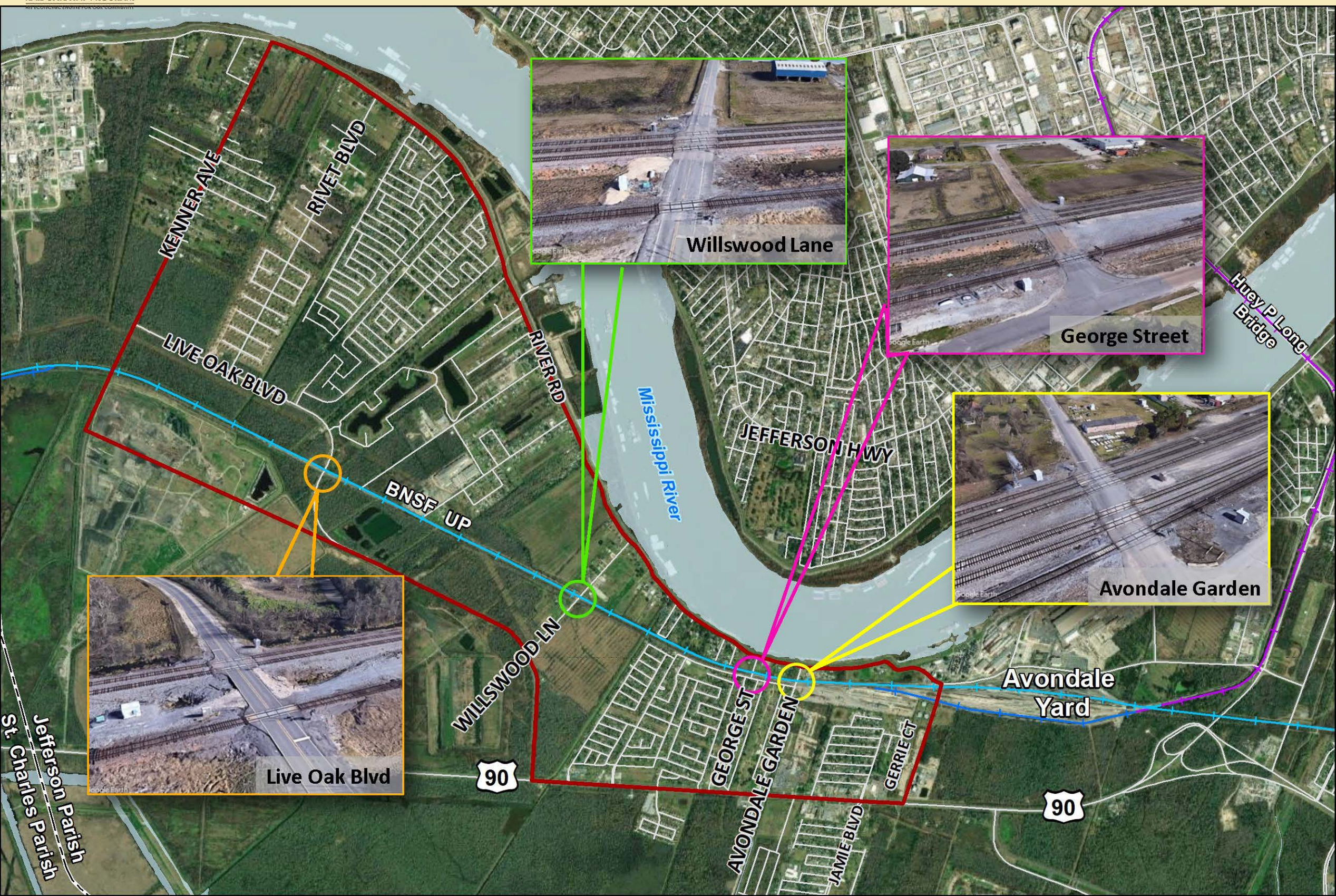
Nelson Mathews, Jr., District Coordinator for Councilmember Byron Lee, added that this issue or concern was brought to the Jefferson Parish Council. Councilman Lee drafted a Resolution to address the problems with the railroad and it was sent to the officials in Washington, D.C. The FRA, DOTD and the railroads, in coordination with the FHWA and the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission already had these projects identified as part of the NORG Program.

The Avondale PEL Study discussion ended, and the Association moved on to other business at 8:00 p.m. CDT.

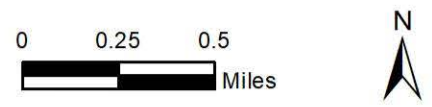


New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

STUDY AREA EXHIBIT



- Legend**
- Study Area
 - Existing At-Grade Crossings**
 - Live Oak Blvd
 - Willwood Lane
 - George Street
 - Avondale Garden Road
 - + Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)
 - + New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)
 - + Union Pacific (UP)





Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
S.A.P. No. H.005168.2 / Avondale PEL Study

Waggaman Civic Association Meeting
Location: Waggaman Playground Meeting Room
516 Dandelion St.
Waggaman, LA 70094

Date: 4/6/22
Time: 7:00 PM

NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
Sandra LaRue	633 Dandelion Dr.	Phone
		Email slarue96@yahoo.com
Jerry Leicher	178 Helch Dr	Phone 504 - 491-1355
		Email
Margaret Clare	8609 River Rd trlr J	Phone 504 - 300 - 2710
		Email maggiee00@gmail.com
Redena BURAS	342 AZALEA DR	Phone 504 915 5303
		Email redenaann@gmail.com
Schlumberger	7515 River Rd	Phone
		Email JSchlumberger@yahoo.com
Neil Whitney	118 WAGGAMAN Rd	Phone 504 201 - 2019
		Email handdwhitney@att.net
		Phone
		Email
		Phone
		Email



Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
S.A.P. No. H.005168.2 / Avondale PEL Study

Waggaman Civic Association Meeting

Location: Waggaman Playground Meeting Room
516 Dandelion St.
Waggaman, LA 70094

Date: 4/6/22
Time: 7:00 PM

NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
BETH BONVILLAIN	329 JEFFER DR. WAGGAMAN, LA 70094	Phone 504-813-4879 Email buzzbb@cox.net
DORIS ADAMS	14 Dolores Dr WAGGAMAN LA 70094	Phone 504-250-9237 Email dorass55@yahoo.com
Mindy Punch	30 Halle Pl Waggaman, La 70094	Phone 504-452-3402 Email mpunch16071@gmail.com
Johnny Chauvin	340 Helis Dr Waggaman La 70094	Phone 504-431-7654 Email
Ann Prestenbac	10161 ^N Kelly Ln Waggaman, LA 70094	Phone 504-329-6865 Email agb2@bellsouth.net
Diana Fonseca	205 Azalea Dr. Waggaman, La. 70094	Phone (504) 431-9256 Email dfonseca1122@yahoo.com
Michelle Tesvich	9547 River Rd Waggaman La 70094	Phone (504) 722-0909 Email michelletesvich@att.net
ALB ERTDUSS	112 Dandelion Ln Waggaman	Phone Email



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

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Schlumbrecht	10094 1515 River Rd	YAHOO.COM JSchlumbrecht@

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

- ☒ Live ☒ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Live Oak Blvd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Williswood Ln | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| George St | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Avondale Garden Rd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

- ☒ Commute to work ☐ Shopping ☐ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

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

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 45 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
 At which crossing(s)? Avondale

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take ST CHARLES PARISH

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain NO EMERGENCY ACCESS TO WAGGAMAN

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☒ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale 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**

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>Harold Whitney</u>	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip <u>118 WAGGAMAN RD</u> <u>WAGGAMAN LA 70094</u>	Email Address <u>ALBC_KidTutor@yahoo.com</u>
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The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☒ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☐ Other _____

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willwood Ln	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☐ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 20-30 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? Avondale + George

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take LA 18

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Emergency First Aid

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Tim Firmin	10141 Reynolds	

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☐ Other Civic meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☐ Live ☐ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☐ Shopping ☐ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☐ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 10-20 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take I go for the next one

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain emergency vehicles can't pass

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Elizabeth Hickman	16 Evergold LN	ehickman42@gmail.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☒ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willwood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☐ Most of the time ☒ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 30 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>CARL RUTEN</u>	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip <u>5500 West</u>	Email Address <u>EXDUCKES@yahoo.com</u>

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☒ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☐ Other _____

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☐ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☒ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 20 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
 At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Reduce Road by switching P. - 1/2 mile on any RAIL

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☒ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

THE 5 TURNS BY AVONDALE SHIPYARDS
NEED TO BE WIDEN & MARK ~~BE~~ RV
SIDES

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
CORY A. PARKER	1206 STREET BELLE CHASSE	CParker@Jeffparish.net

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Door Hanger
 ☐ Newspaper
 ☐ TV/Radio Announcement
 ☐ MyDOTD Email
 ☐ Other WAGGAMAN CIVIC MEETING

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Live
 ☒ Work
 ☒ Travel through
 ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Live Oak Blvd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Willwood Ln | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| George St | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Avondale Garden Rd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

- ☒ Commute to work
 ☐ Shopping
 ☐ School
 ☒ Visiting family/friends
 ☐ Entertainment
 ☐ Access to River Road
 ☐ Access to U.S. 90
 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

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

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 5-10 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ less than 1 minute
 ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes
 ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes
 ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? LIVE OAK / RIVER ROAD

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☒ No
 ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☒ No
 ☐ Yes, please explain THOUGH I DO SEE ~~MANY~~ PEOPLE ZIP AROUND

THE RAILROAD ARMS PRETTY OFTEN TO ATTEMPT TO BEAT THE TRAIN BEFORE IT PASSES. HUGE SAFETY ISSUE IN MY OPINION.

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☒ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Renny Palmisano	10129 Reynolds Rd Waggoner LA 70094	

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Door Hanger
 ☐ Newspaper
 ☐ TV/Radio Announcement
 ☐ MyDOTD Email
 ☒ Other Civic meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggoner areas (check all that apply)?

- ☒ Live
 ☐ Work
 ☐ Travel through
 ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Live Oak Blvd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Willwood Ln | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| George St | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Avondale Garden Rd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

- ☒ Commute to work
 ☒ Shopping
 ☐ School
 ☒ Visiting family/friends
 ☒ Entertainment
 ☒ Access to River Road
 ☒ Access to U.S. 90
 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

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

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 10-20 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ less than 1 minute
 ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes
 ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes
 ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? Live Oak

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ No
 ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take I turn around and go to next closest to try to beat it

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ No
 ☒ Yes, please explain Emergency vehicles may not be able to pass

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Sandra LaRue	633 Dandelion Dr.	slarue96@yahoo.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

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☒ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☐ Other _____

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☐ Most of the time ☒ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 45 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? all

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take River road to Hwy 90

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

NO

12. Would you like your name added to the NORGE Avondale 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

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Jason Punch, Jr	30 Halle Pl Waggaman, La 70094	mpunch16071@gmail.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Civic meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☒ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☒ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 20-45 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? all of them

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take It doesn't matter there is train tracks every where

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Emergency's having to wait for the train to pass

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

We should not be trapped with no way out.

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Mindy Punch	30 Halle Place Waggaman, La 70094	mpunch16091@gmail.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Civic meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☒ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☒ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ Every time ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 15-30 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? Avondale Garden Rd / Live Oak

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take No matter which way you go you have to cross a rail crossing

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Cars going over the tracks - tried of waiting

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

We should have a way to get in and out without having to wait for the train.

12. Would you like your name added to the NORGE Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Jason Punch	30 Halle Pl Wagman, La 70094	punchj10@gmail.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Civic meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Wagman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☒ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willwood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☒ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 25+ minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? Whichever one I try to cross

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take if don't pay to get in and out you have to cross train tracks

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Trying to get help Ems, Cops, etc

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

There should be a way for us not to have to cross over train tracks.

12. Would you like your name added to the NORGE Avondale mailing list? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
DUDLEY HARTZ	WAGGAMAN LA 70094 7525 RIVER RD.	TALLYHO@COX.NET

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other CIVIC MEETING

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☐ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☐ Most of the time ☒ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 15 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? George St. , Avondale Garden Rd.

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take Williswood

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☒ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Diana Fonseca	205 Azalea Dr - 20094 Waggaman, La.	d.fonseca1122@yahoo.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☐ Other meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☒ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willswood Ln	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 30 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Any time there is a rail crossing it's dangerous!

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

I think ^{this} is a waste of time. I been living here all my life (75 years). And enough has been done yet.

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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Diana Fonseca
205 Azalea Dr.
Bogalusa, La.
70094

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY
JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

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Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Shawn Gervais	386 Azalea Dr. Waggaman, LA 70094	Shawnger11@yahoo.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

- How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?
☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Waggaman Civic Meeting
- Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?
☒ Live ☒ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these
- How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
- Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?
☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☐ Access to River Road
☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____
- How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?
☐ Every time ☐ Most of the time ☒ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never
- When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 20-30 mins minutes
- What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?
☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? 20-30 mins
- Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?
☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take take roads that do not have railroad crossings
- Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?
☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

To have less wait for trains - best times are early AM, not @ lunch time or late afternoon.

12. Would you like your name added to the NORGE Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Thomas D. Gainey	Waggoner/La. 70094 329 Mitchell St.	GaineyT30@att.net t30@att.net

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Civic meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☒ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 5 to 15 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? At Garden - Avondale Garden, George & Williswood

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take Go to Benton Ave. OR LA 18 to US 90

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Emergency for medical or fire/rescue
Due to weather issues

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

Many times on weekends 2 or 3 crossings are blocked at some time. Why? At times there are less than 6 cars from clearing 1 or 2 crossings simultaneously.

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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329 MITCHELL ST
WAGGAMAN LA.
70094

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Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

S1 Civic Association MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Small Group Meeting Presentation

Study Representatives

Attending: Dean Goodell, DOTD
Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency
Karimah Stewart, The Hawthorne Agency
Paris Jackson, The Hawthorne Agency

Time and Place: Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 7:00 p.m. CDT
Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Station
160 Modern Farm Road, Waggaman, LA

Purpose: Present the Avondale PEL Study at the S1 Civic Association Wednesday, April 20, 2022 monthly meeting.

Meeting Summary:

The meeting was moderated by Mike Boudreaux, S1 Civic Association President.

Dean Goodell gave the presentation of the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, including the background of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program, the Avondale PEL study, its goals, and the feasibility of closing the at-grade rail crossings at Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale Garden Road and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. The location and number of grade separations will be evaluated as part of this study. Comment forms and a sign-in sheet were available for attendees wanting to provide comments or be added to the stakeholder list.

Dean responded to several questions asked during the presentation:

We don't need another study. We need an emergency number and dispatcher when the crossings are blocked and for the police/EMS/first responders to use before someone dies or gets harmed when people are trying to get in and out of the area. Dean stated that the Union Pacific and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe both have websites that have emergency numbers that you can call for those situations. The 800-number for each railroad on their website. When you call you need to have the correct rail crossing number that can be found on a rail crossbar.

Timing is an issue. The crossings can all be blocked, and everyone is at a stop. Dean acknowledged that the crossings can all be closed during train-building operations at the Yard and that the George Street and Avondale Garden Road crossing would take the longest to clear.

If you're going to build an overpass and it gives people an alternative, why close the other crossings because when those crossings are unblocked, they allow people to cross at a shorter distance versus making circles



MEETING SUMMARY

all the way around. Dean indicated that the number one goal on any of these projects, especially rail crossings is to improve safety. The best way to improve rail crossing safety is to remove the at-grade crossings.

What about building an overpass at each of the four crossings? The proximity of the levee presents major challenges with some of the crossing locations. There are also cost considerations to consider.

Are you anticipating taking a lot of property? Some property will be taken with a focus on industrial areas, but we hope to not take a lot of property or take any houses.

How long will the study take? The first phase of this study will take about two years. Then, after that it would take another year to prepare the documents for the Federal Railroad Administration acceptance. After that is done, we will need to identify the construction funding. Once the funding is secured, we can start right away. An overpass will take a while, about three years. The crossings won't be closed before the overpass is completed.

What's the response time for the railroad emergency number? Dean indicated that he did not know. He indicated that when someone calls the emergency number, the call goes to a dispatcher who is controlling the train. The dispatcher then calls the engineer to stop them or any other announcement that needs to be given.

Will the train stop or separate to clear a crossing? Dean indicated that decoupling a train is an involved process and that the best way is to use the emergency number to get in touch with that dispatcher.

Can a study be conducted on when there is the least amount of traffic and/or rescheduling of train deliveries to resolve the issues with residents and the crossings being blocked? Dean indicated that the railroad's schedule is based on their customers. If a customer wants their delivery by 8:00 a.m., that's when they'll get it. If they want their cars picked up at 4 p.m. in the evening, that's when they'll be picked up.

The Avondale PEL Study discussion ended, and the Association moved on to other business at 8:00 p.m. CDT.



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

STUDY AREA EXHIBIT





NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Kennedy Heights Civic Association

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Small Group Meeting Presentation

Study Representatives

Attending: Dean Goodell, DOTD
Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency
Karimah Stewart, The Hawthorne Agency
Paris Jackson, The Hawthorne Agency

Time and Place: Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 6:30 p.m. CDT
J.C. Simmons Community Center
4008 US-90, Westwego, LA 70094

Purpose: Present the Avondale PEL Study be presented at the Kennedy Heights Civic Association Wednesday, May 4, 2022 monthly meeting.

Meeting Summary:

Dean Goodell gave the presentation of the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, including the background of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program, the Avondale PEL study, its goals, and the feasibility of closing the at-grade rail crossings at Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale Garden Road and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. The location and number of grade separations will be evaluated as part of this study. Comment forms and a sign-in sheet were available for attendees wanting to provide comments or be added to the stakeholder list.

Dean responded to several questions asked during the presentation:

Is there a way to limit the time that the trains are blocking a crossing or can one crossing be blocked and one open, and not both at the same time? Dean indicated that this would be difficult, particularly at the Avondale Garden Road and George Street crossing because of their proximity to the Avondale Yard.

On Jefferson Highway in New Orleans, they have limited the time that the train runs across Jefferson Highway to keep the traffic moving. Can that happen here as well? Dean stated that the Legislature passed a bill years ago to not have trains block crossings for more than 20 minutes. Dean added that railroad operations are governed by the Federal Surface Transportation Board and are not subject to state laws.

Does the engineer on the train coming from Luling send a signal before getting to Avondale that a switch is about to happen? Dean indicated that the sensors measure the train's speed and activate the crossing gates in advance of the train's crossing.



MEETING SUMMARY

When the engineer comes down on the train, is there a signal to let them know to stop at a particular crossing like Avondale Garden? Dean stated that there are signals that indicate track conditions ahead. There is nothing that tells the engineer prior to him seeing the intersection that there might be someone on the track.

Is it possible to build a bridge over the crossing? Dean indicated that building a bypass over the crossings is an option that is being studied.

Are you building a bypass for the cars or the train? The bypass would be built for vehicular traffic, not the trains.

Is the train track a parking lot? The trains sit on those tracks for hours in one spot. At the same time another train sits on the opposite side of the track. I have seen workers stop by the entrance of George Street, get in a van, and drive off while those trains sit on the track. At 2 a.m., the train is moving. Dean indicated that the rail yard operates 24 hours a day, every day.

How long it will take to build an overpass? Dean indicated that it could take five to six years to complete.

Attendee: I am a retiree, so I never said anything. If the crossing is blocked, I just learned to go around, but to hear the trains blowing all night, that is really aggravating. No matter the distance, you can still hear the horns blowing. I hope something will be done. Dean indicated that the trains would no longer be required to blow their horns once the overpass(es) are constructed, and the crossings closed.

Will there be four overpasses? No. There are four crossings, and we will be studying consolidating them.

The Avondale PEL Study discussion ended, and the Association moved on to other business at 7:15 p.m. CDT.



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

STUDY AREA EXHIBIT





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

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>Marshall Wayne Smith</u>	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip <u>216 Compress Drive Avondale, LA 70094</u>	Email Address <u>marshallsmiths@yahoo.com</u>
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The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Call from Councilman office

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☐ Commute to work ☐ Shopping ☐ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☒ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? _____ minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? George Street, Live Oak Blvd

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain Crossing tracks

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☒ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Michele Holmes	204 Chapel Lane	holmemichel@att.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other Community meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☐ Shopping ☐ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☐ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

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

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 45 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☐ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take You would go around.

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain If some one get sick and the train is on the track you have to go around and hope you make it to the doctor

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

How do you guys will make the cross is going to be for the train or for the cars. It would be better for the the train to have the crossing

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

Why would it take so long for it to get started. This have been going on for year in this community.

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Trine Hewison	267 Delta Ln Avondale, LA 70008	trinehewison@yahoo.com

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Door Hanger
 ☐ Newspaper
 ☐ TV/Radio Announcement
 ☐ MyDOTD Email
 ☒ Other Community Meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

- ☒ Live
 ☒ Work
 ☐ Travel through
 ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Live Oak Blvd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Willwood Ln | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| George St | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Avondale Garden Rd | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Commute to work
 ☐ Shopping
 ☐ School
 ☐ Visiting family/friends
 ☐ Entertainment
 ☒ Access to River Road
 ☒ Access to U.S. 90
 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

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

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 40 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ less than 1 minute
 ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes
 ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes
 ☒ 10 minutes or longer
- At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ No
 ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take Back down River Rd - 90

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☒ No
 ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORGE Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>WILLIE MAE SMITH</u>	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip <u>504 PAT DR.</u> <u>AVONDALE, LA 70094</u>	Email Address
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The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other MEETING

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☐ Commute to work ☐ Shopping ☐ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? (10 10MB) 20 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? CRAIGEN ROAD

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take GO BACK TO 90

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>DAISY M. BROWN</u>	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip <u>349 TRAVIS DR AVONDALE, LA 70094</u>	Email Address <u>browndaisy1212@gmail.com</u>
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The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other AVONDALE MEETING

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☐ Live ☐ Work ☒ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☐ Commute to work ☐ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☐ Access to River Road
☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☐ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☒ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 10 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? AVONDALE GARDEN ROAD

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take Highway 90

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>EMMA BYRD</u>	Street or P.O. Box <u>116 Conet St</u> City, State, Zip <u>Avondale La 70004</u>	Email Address

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☐ Other _____

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☐ Commute to work ☐ Shopping ☒ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☐ Access to River Road
☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 10 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
 At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>HELENA HADON</u>	Street or P.O. Box <u>328 District Rd</u> City, State, Zip <u>AVONDALE 70094</u>	Email Address

The purpose of today's virtual scoping meeting is to present the Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study and to solicit your input concerning important transportation issues. Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study and this Virtual Scoping Meeting (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other _____

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Willwood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☐ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 20-25 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take Hwy 90

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☒ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed in the virtual scoping meeting presentation?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORGE Avondale 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 and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Waggaman Civic Association

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Small Group Meeting Presentation

Study Representative

Attending: Dean Goodell, DOTD
Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency
Paris Jackson, The Hawthorne Agency

Time and Place: Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m. CDT
Waggaman Playground Meeting Room
516 Dandelion St, Waggaman, LA

Purpose: Present an update on the Avondale PEL Study

Meeting Summary:

DOTD's Dean Goodell gave a presentation of the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study and progress made since last year's meeting presentation. The presentation was followed by a brief question and answer session. Attendees were encouraged to review project information on the DOTD website and to submit comment forms.

Dean responded to several questions were asked during the presentation:

If there is a derailment around here, how will we get out? Depending on what crossings we close, we will consolidate the crossings to an overpass. No decisions have been made.

Does the study include members of the community? We are working with Jefferson Parish on this study. Currently, community outreach is by updates at these association meetings. Completing the comment form provides valuable feedback. And the DOTD Avondale PEL Study webpage contains project information.

When is the study expected to be completed? The study will take approximately another year to complete. The Parish owns the roads. The study will be turned over to the Parish and the Parish will decide what action to take next, so it is important to speak with your Parish Representatives.

There is one major area that is not in the study and that is where Hostess is. That area is near the port and there will be traffic more than ever. That area is near the front of our subdivision. The community concerns about that crossing had been passed to the DOTD Highway Safety Section to be included in their list of possible crossing improvements.

The Honorable Jennifer Van Vrancken, Jefferson Parish Councilwoman, District 5 was in attendance and informed attendees about rail crossing cameras the Parish installed at seven sites, include Avondale Garden Road, George Street, Willswood Lane, and Live Oak Boulevard. The Jefferson Parish News Release follows.

One comment form (attached) was turned in following the discussion.



MEETING SUMMARY

NEWS RELEASE JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA

November 2, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REAL-TIME RAILROAD CROSSING CAMERAS NOW LIVE AT SEVEN SITES ACROSS JEFFERSON PARISH

JEFFERSON, LA – Starting today, motorists traveling through Jefferson Parish can check on the status of [seven railroad crossings](#) located on both the East Bank and West Bank. Cameras are now live at Little Farms, Central Avenue, Metairie Road, George Street, Willswood Lane, Live Oak Boulevard, and Avondale Garden Road.

The real-time cameras will allow motorists to see if a train is crossing or stopped so that they can plan their route accordingly. The Jefferson Parish Information Technology Department, Traffic Engineering, and SCADA worked with various councilmembers on this initiative in an effort to help residents avoid any delays due to trains crossing during their commute.

“My office has been working diligently to get real-time cameras installed at some of the busiest railroad crossings in District 2,” said Jefferson Parish Councilman Deano Bonano (District 2). “In addition to Little Farms, Central Avenue is now live. Hopefully this will allow drivers to divert to a different route and not be delayed by trains.”

“The addition of the railroad crossing cameras will help drivers on the West Bank avoid what can be lengthy delays caused by trains,” said Jefferson Parish Councilman Byron Lee (District 3). “I recommend that those needing to cross the tracks check out the cameras ahead of time and plan their routes accordingly.”

“We’re excited that those passing through the Metairie Road crossing are now able to check on potential delays before going out,” said Jefferson Parish Councilwoman Jennifer Van Vrancken (District 5). “In addition to the cameras, a new predictive app called Move Metairie is in its final phase of testing. The app will provide an estimated arrival time for a train at the Metairie Road crossing. These resources will be helpful for anyone who lives or commutes to and from the area.”

To view the live feeds at each crossing, visit www.JeffParish.net/RailCams.

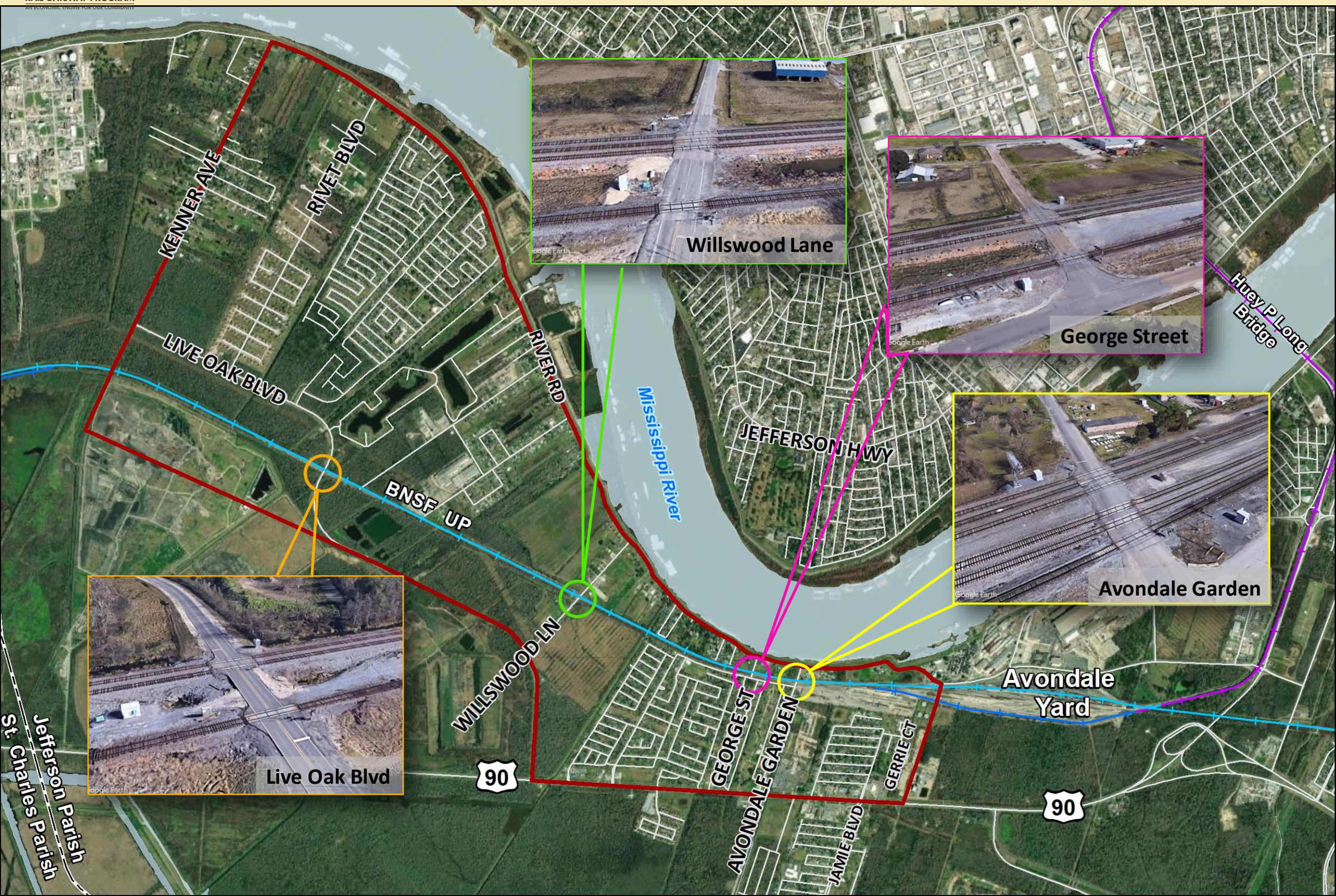
For more information about Jefferson Parish, visit www.JeffParish.net. Residents can also receive regular updates by following the Parish on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (@JeffParishGov) or by texting JPALERT or JPNOTICIAS to 888-777.

###



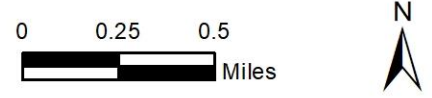
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

STUDY AREA EXHIBIT



Legend

- Study Area
- Existing At-Grade Crossings**
 - Live Oak Blvd
 - Willwood Lane
 - George Street
 - Avondale Garden Road
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)
- New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)
- Union Pacific (UP)





NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Jose Carmota	30 Sarah St Wagman LA 70094	jrc sola@gmail.com

Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Door Hanger
 ☐ Newspaper
 ☐ TV/Radio Announcement
 ☐ MyDOTD Email
 ☒ Other WCA meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

- ☒ Live
 ☒ Work
 ☒ Travel through
 ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Live Oak Blvd | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Willswood Ln | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| George St | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |
| Avondale Garden Rd | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month |

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Commute to work
 ☒ Shopping
 ☐ School
 ☒ Visiting family/friends
 ☒ Entertainment
 ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90
☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

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

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 15-20 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ less than 1 minute
☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes
☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes
☒ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? LA 18 / River Road

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ No
☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take LA 18 River Road + Willswood + Live Oak

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

- ☐ No
☒ Yes, please explain uneven Road surfaces + R.R tracks

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☒ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

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

on existing crossings will the level of Road surfaces & RR tracks
will the ones that remain, How soon will they be repaired

12. Would you like your name added to the NORGE Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

S1 Civic Association MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Small Group Meeting Presentation

Study Representative Attending: Dean Goodell, DOTD
Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency
Paris Jackson, The Hawthorne Agency

Time and Place: Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m. CDT
Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Station
160 Modern Farms Road, Westwego, LA

Purpose: Present an update on the Avondale PEL Study

Meeting Summary:

The meeting was moderated by Mike Boudreaux, S1 Civic Association President.

DOTD's Dean Goodell gave a presentation of the Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study and progress made since last year's meeting presentation. The presentation was followed by a brief question and answer session. Attendees were encouraged to review project information on the DOTD website and to submit comment forms.

Dean responded to several questions were asked during the presentation:

For the past two weeks, Avondale Road and George Street have been blocked for hours. We understand that. That is normal because the crossings are so close to the yard. This study is looking at ways to alleviate this problem.

What control does DOTD have over the railroad? DOTD has no legal control over the railroads. All we can do is give them information or send a request.

Is it possible to inform the railroads that the trains block the George Street and Avondale Garden Road crossings between 5 and 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday? I will mention it to the railroads, but I don't know what they can do about it because they have schedules, they must meet.

Is there a no horn zone? There is a Quiet Zone. Federal regulation requires that locomotive horns begin sounding 15–20 seconds before entering public highway-rail grade crossings, and no more than one-quarter mile in advance. A quiet zone is a section of a rail line at least one-half mile in length that contains one or more consecutive public highway-rail grade crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded when trains are approaching the crossings. The community should contact Jefferson Parish if they are interested in establishing a quiet zone.



MEETING SUMMARY

With the horn problem, could we not replicate what the East Bank has? What the East Bank has still requires horns. Gates do not eliminate horns. An overpass would eliminate the horns.

Do you have a 3D model of what the overpass(es) would look like? That is what we are looking to provide in July. We will have some ideas about where to put them and what they will look like.

If you start to build, where will traffic go? Any construction project with DOTD, will have a construction plan that includes how to reroute traffic during construction. You will be notified prior to construction on what those plans are, and the highway representatives will attempt to do this in phases, so they aren't shutting off all your access all at the same time.

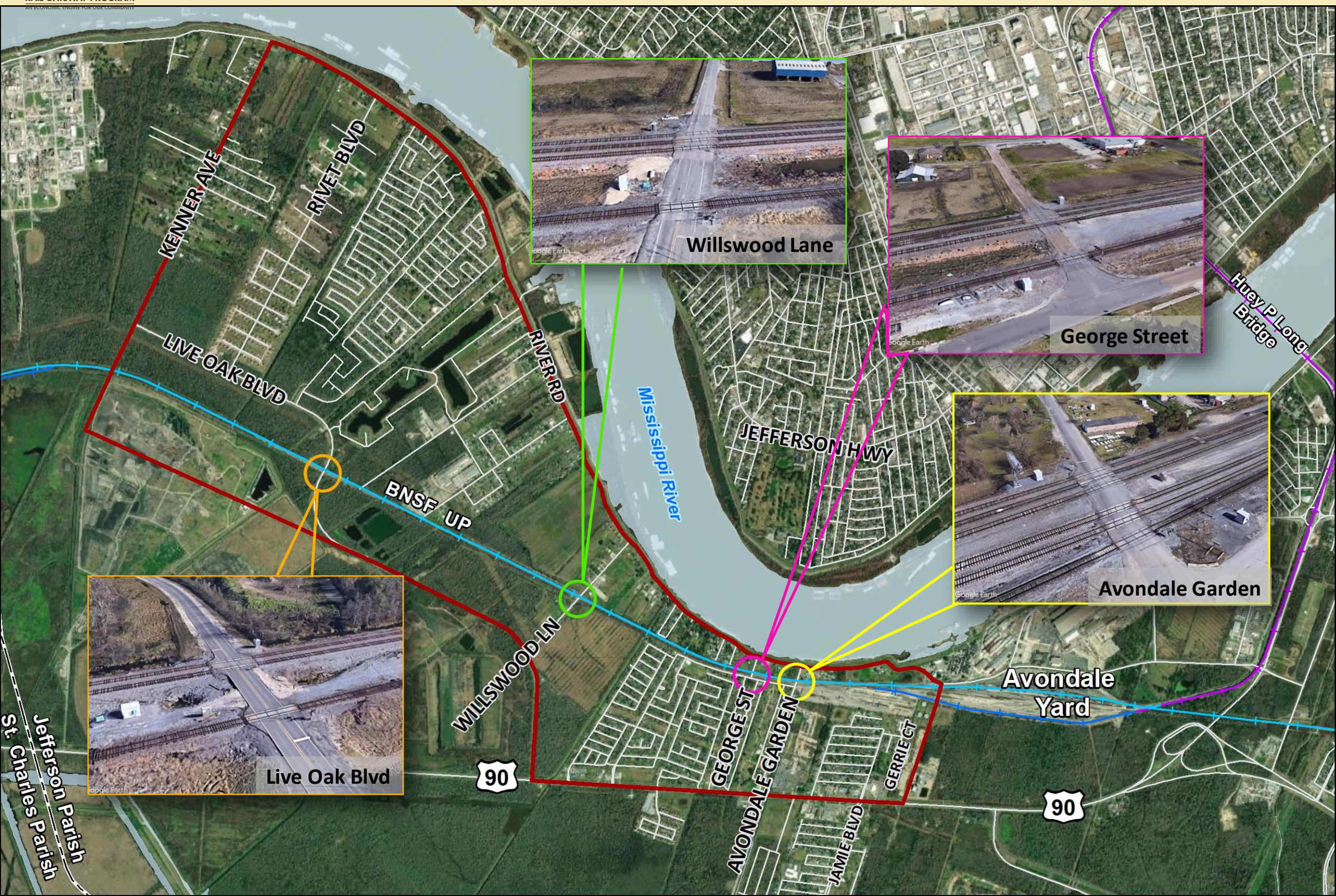
Do you know that Willswood Lane isn't a truck route? Yes. We also know the Parish is doing some connection work in that area as well.

Two comment forms (attached) were turned in following the discussion.

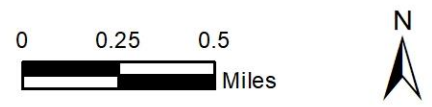


New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

STUDY AREA EXHIBIT



- Legend**
- Study Area
 - Existing At-Grade Crossings**
 - Live Oak Blvd
 - Willwood Lane
 - George Street
 - Avondale Garden Road
 - Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)
 - New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)
 - Union Pacific (UP)





NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY JEFFERSON AND ORLEANS PARISHES, LOUISIANA

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip	Email Address
Raven Armant	812 Calx Lane Waggaman, LA 70094	raybeyb@yahoo.com

Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☒ Other _____

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☒ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☐ Access to River Road
☐ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 10-15 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☒ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☐ 10 minutes or longer

At which crossing(s)? _____

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take _____

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☒ No ☐ Yes, please explain _____

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☐ A great deal

11. Do you have any other comments or questions not addressed during today’s meeting?

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale 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

Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Comment Form

Please Print Clearly

Name <u>Chris Sigler</u>	Street or P.O. Box City, State, Zip <u>9551 Sweet Rd LA</u>	Email Address <u>libra10050@gmail</u>
	<u>Westwego LA 70094</u>	

Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you hear about the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Avondale PEL Study (check all that apply)?

☐ Door Hanger ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV/Radio Announcement ☐ MyDOTD Email ☐ Other meeting

2. Do you live, work or travel through the Avondale or Waggaman areas (check all that apply)?

☒ Live ☐ Work ☐ Travel through ☐ None of these

3. How frequently do you travel across the following at-grade rail crossings (where railroad tracks and motor vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?

Live Oak Blvd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Williswood Ln	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
George St	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month
Avondale Garden Rd	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple times per day	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4 times per week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 4 times per month

4. Why do you travel across these at-grade rail crossings (check all that apply)?

☒ Commute to work ☒ Shopping ☐ School ☐ Visiting family/friends ☒ Entertainment ☒ Access to River Road
☒ Access to U.S. 90 ☐ Other (please specify) _____

5. How often are you delayed due to train traffic at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ Every time ☒ Most of the time ☐ Some of the time ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

6. When you are delayed, on average, how long have you waited for the train to clear the crossing? 15-20 minutes

7. What is the longest amount of time you've been delayed at one of these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ less than 1 minute ☐ between 1 but less than 5 minutes ☐ between 5 but less than 10 minutes ☒ 10 minutes or longer
At which crossing(s)? Live Oak Blvd

8. Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please describe the alternate roads you take River Road by Turning around to go thru River Rd

9. Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?

☐ No ☒ Yes, please explain At night worried someone will come up to my Family car.

10. Would you benefit from closing these at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations?

☐ Not at all ☐ Somewhat ☒ A great deal

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

12. Would you like your name added to the NORG Avondale mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Already on the mailing list

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Appendix R – Alternatives Meetings

March 20, 2024

«Name_1» «Name_2»

«Affiliation_1»

«Affiliation_2»

«Address_1»

«Address_2»

«City», «State» «Zip»

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Virtual Agency Alternatives Meeting

Dear «Salutation» «Name_2»:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the 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 Linkages (PEL) study for improvements to four (4) at-grade highway-rail crossings of Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) track in Waggaman and Avondale, Jefferson Parish. This study is a continuation of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program. An August 9, 2021 letter was previously sent to you soliciting your views about the study.

This study is evaluating the feasibility of consolidating the Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale Garden Road crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. A Study Area Map is included for reference. These at-grade crossings were identified as Projects W10 through W13 respectively in the 2007 New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis and are being advanced because of their strong public benefit.

A **Virtual** Agency Meeting is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024** to present the alternatives developed and solicit comments.

«Salutation» «Name_1» «Name_2»

March 20, 2024

Page 2

If your agency is interested in participating, please respond by email to NORG@mbakerintl.com with the subject "NORG Avondale PEL Study Agency Alternatives Meeting" and your contact information. Only one agency contact is needed. The link provided can be forwarded to other agency individuals.

We look forward to your agency's participation and input for the remainder of this study and as the study is carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this study in more detail, please contact Dean Goodell, DOTDs Freight and Passenger Rail Director at (225) 379-3031 or dean.goodell@la.gov; or me at (412) 551-3503 or cgesing@mbakerintl.com.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gesing".

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.

Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dean Goodell, DOTD



Legend

Study Area

Existing At-Grade Crossing

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)

New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)

Union Pacific (UP)

0 1,750 3,500

Feet



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Avondale Study Area

Agencies

Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Sir or Madam			8th Coast Guard District NO	District Commander	Hale Boggs Federal Building	500 Poydras St, Suite 1313	New Orleans	LA	70130-3310
Sir or Madam			Crescent Soil & Water	Conservation District	P.O. Box 1782		Luling	LA	70070
Sir or Madam			Department of Agriculture & Forestry	Office of Soil/Water Cons	5825 Florida Blvd	Suite 7000	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
Sir or Madam			Department of Agriculture & Forestry	Office of Forestry	5825 Florida Blvd	Suite 6000	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
Sir or Madam			Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism	Division of Archaeology	P.O. Box 44247		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism	Office of State Parks	P.O. Box 44426		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Federal Transit Admin	Region VI	819 Taylor Street	Room 14A02	Fort Worth	TX	76102
Sir or Madam			FEMA Region VI		FRC 800 North Loop 288		Denton	TX	76209
Sir or Madam			Floodplain Management Program	DOTD Section 64	P.O. Box 94245		Baton Rouge	LA	70804-9245
Ms.	Linda	Piper	LA Department of Environmental Quality	602 N 5th Street			Baton Rouge	LA	70802
Sir or Madam			LA Dept of Natural Resources	Office of Conservation	P.O. Box 94275		Baton Rouge	LA	70804-9275
Sir or Madam			LA Dept of Natural Resources	Office of Mineral Resources	P.O. Box 2827		Baton Rouge	LA	70821
Ms.	Carolyn	Michon	LA Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries	Wildlife Diversity Program	P.O. Box 98000		Baton Rouge	LA	70898
Sir or Madam			LA Forestry Association	ATTN: Executive Director	P.O. Box 5067		Alexandria	LA	71307
Sir or Madam			LA Good Roads Association		P.O. Box 3713		Baton Rouge	LA	70821
Mr.	Steven	Wright	National Park Service	Southeast Regional Office	Atlanta Federal Ctr, 1924 Bldg	100 Alabama St, SW	Atlanta	GA	30303
Dr.	Michael	Lindsey	Natural Resources Conservation SVC	ATTN: State Conservationist	3737 Government St		Alexandria	LA	71302
Ms.	January	Murray	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service	Habitat Conservation Division	5757 Corporate Blvd	Suite 375	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
Mr.	Stephen	Pfeffer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	CEMVN-ODR, DOTD Liaison	7400 LEAKE AVENUE		New Orleans	LA	70118-3651
Sir or Madam			U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6	Sole Source Aquifer Coordinator	1201 Elm Street, Suite 500	Mail Code: WDDG	Dallas	TX	75270
Mr.	Joshua	Marceaux	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge	209 Nature Rd.		Lake Arthur	LA	70549
Sir or Madam			US Geological Survey		3535 S Sherwood Forest	Suite 120	Baton Rouge	LA	70806
Sir or Madam			USEPA	Region 6	1445 Ross Ave	Suite 1200	Dallas	TX	75202-2733
Sir or Madam			Dept of Natural Resources	State Conservationist	3737 Government St		Alexandria	LA	71302
Ms.	Maggie	Talley	Director of Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation	Jefferson Parish	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd	Suite 310	Jefferson	LA	70123
Sir or Madam			Avondale Volunteer Fire Company		500 S Jamie Blvd		Avondale	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Cherbonnier-Rillieux Elementary		700 Dandelion Dr.		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Emmett Gilbert School of Excellence at Ford		435 S. Jamie Blvd.		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Herbert Wallace Volunteer Fire Department		4040 Highway 90 W		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 72		404 Azalea Dr		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Live Oak Manor Volunteer Fire Department 73		160 Modern Farms Rd		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Strehle Community School		178 Millie Dr.		Westwego	LA	70094



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Agency Alternatives Meeting MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Agency Alternatives Meeting

Attendees: Dean Goodell – DOTD
January Murray – NOAA Fisheries
Meredith Dennis – National Park Service
Chris Gesing – Michael Baker International, Inc.

Time and Place: Thursday, April 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m. CDT
Teams Virtual Meeting

Purpose: The purpose of the Alternatives Meeting was to present an overview of the PEL Study, the alternatives development process and alternatives developed, and solicit agency comments.

Discussion:

Dean Goodell welcomed the agency participants and led the self-introduction. He then turned the meeting over to Chris Gesing. Chris Gesing utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of the Avondale PEL Study, goals and stakeholder outreach, alternatives development process, operation analyses and warrant conditions evaluation, the alternatives developed, project schedule and public outreach. The presentation with speaker's notes is attached.

Summary of Questions, Comments & Discussion

Of interest to the participating agencies were the presence of any Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Section 6(f) resources or estuary waters that would require an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment.

Chris indicated that Kark Park, as labeled in the presentation is a Section 6(f) resource and that it would not be impacted by the Build Alternatives. Chris noted that the park has been identified by several names. Google identifies the park as Kark Park and Streetview of the building has the sign, Kennedy Heights Playground. Chris recalled a website of Section 6(f) sites nationwide listed the park as Thomas Jefferson Park with Section 6(f) funding dating back to the 1980's.

CLARIFICATION: Upon further review of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition website (www.lwcfcoalition.org), Thomas Jefferson Park in Waggaman, a LWCF Section 6(f) resource, is a different park within the Study Area. Kark Park is not a LWCF Section 6(f) resource. Neither park would be impacted by the Build Alternatives.

Chris indicated that the wetlands shown were from NWI and that pedestrian field surveys would be performed during the NEPA phase of study. January Murray indicated that if estuary waters are present, an EFH would be required.

January also inquired whether written agency responses were required at this time. Chris indicated that responses were not needed at this time. A summary of this meeting would be included with the PEL documents. Chris added that the agencies would again be contacted during the NEPA phase and that written responses, as appropriate, could be provided then.

Dean closed the meeting, thanking the agencies for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Agency Alternatives Meeting

April 11, 2024 | 10:00 am | Teams Meeting

AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Remarks Dean Goodell


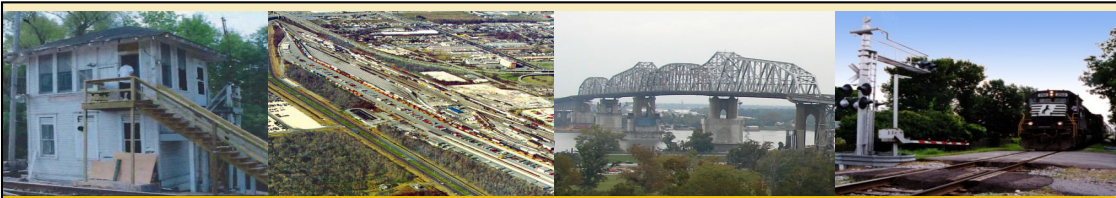
Self-Introductions All

Study Approach & Alternatives Development..... Dean Goodell & Chris Gesing

- PEL Study Overview
- Goals and Stakeholder Outreach
- Alternatives Development Process
- Operations Analyses and Warrant Conditions Evaluation
- Alternatives
- Timeline
- Public Outreach



Open Discussion..... All

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks Dean Goodell




New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
State Project No. H.005168

Avondale PEL Study
Alternatives Meeting
April 11, 2024





DOTD State Project No. H.005168.2

Slide 1



Avondale PEL Study – Agenda





NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Agency Alternatives Meeting
April 11, 2024 | 10:00 am | Teams Meeting
AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Remarks Dean Goodell

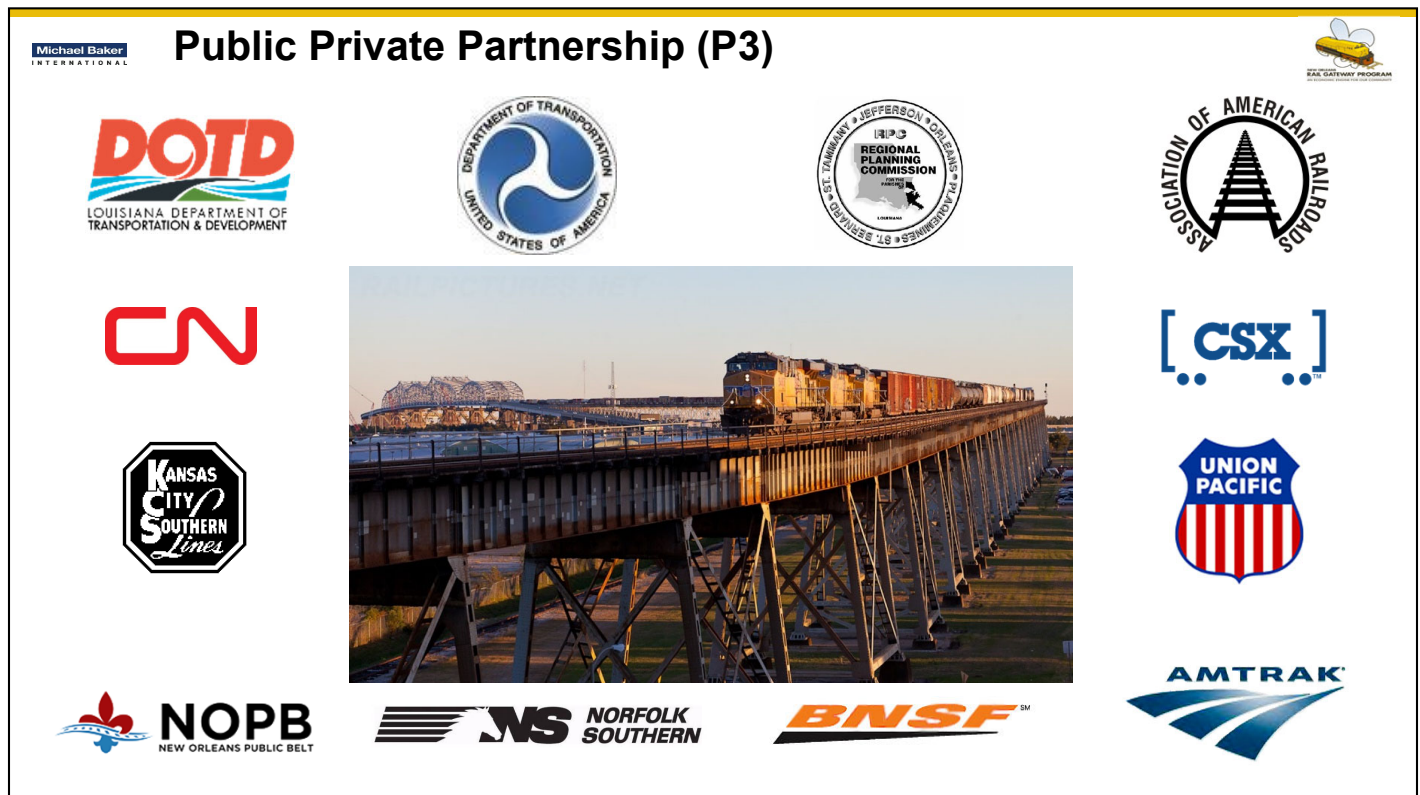
Self-Introductions All

Study Approach & Alternatives Development..... Dean Goodell & Chris Gesing

- PEL Study Overview
- Goals and Stakeholder Outreach
- Alternatives Development Process
- Operations Analyses and Warrant Conditions Evaluation
- Alternatives
- Timeline
- Public Outreach

Open Discussion All

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks Dean Goodell



The New Orleans Rail Gateway Program, and this Avondale PEL 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.



Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Avondale PEL Study

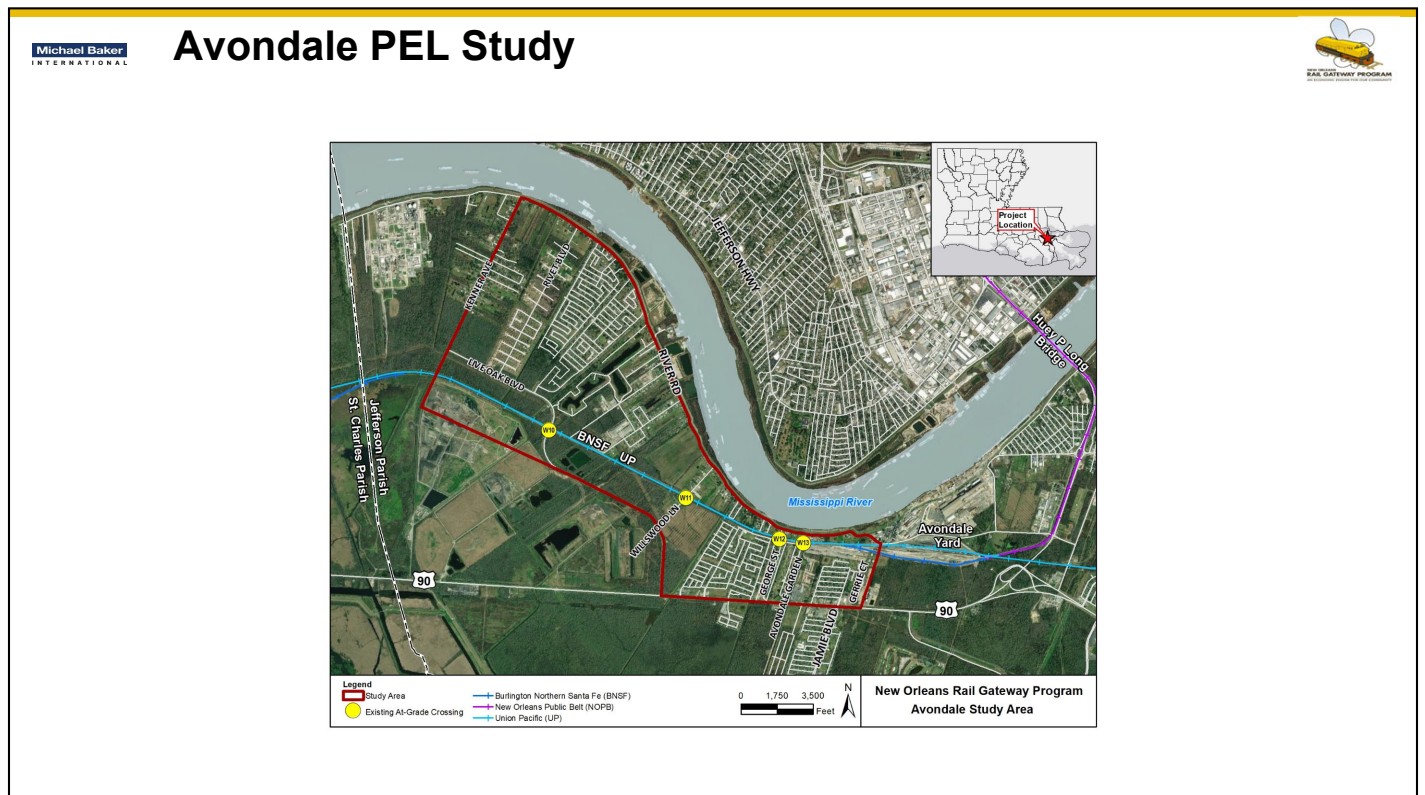
- Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study to **evaluate the feasibility** of consolidating some or all of the roadway-rail at-grade crossings at:
 - Avondale Garden Road,
 - George Street,
 - Willswood Lane, and
 - Live Oak Boulevard
- Replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations



The Avondale PEL Study is evaluating the feasibility of consolidating the roadway-rail at-grade crossings at:

- Avondale Garden Road,
- George Street,
- Willswood Lane, and
- Live Oak Boulevard

And replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations.



The Study Area encompasses the Waggaman and Avondale areas. These four at-grade crossings were identified as Projects W10 through W13 in a prior New Orleans Rail Gateway study.

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Avondale Garden Road and George Street Crossings



- **6-track crossing**
- **1 set of crossbucks, lights and gates**
- **Adjacent to the Avondale Rail Yard & Intermodal Terminal**



- **4-track crossing**
- **2 sets of crossbucks and lights**
- **1 set of gates**



The Avondale Garden Road crossing is a 6-track crossing departing the Avondale Rail Yard and Intermodal Terminal.

There is one set of crossbucks, lights and gates at this crossing.

The trackage reduces to a 4-track crossing at George Street, which has two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.

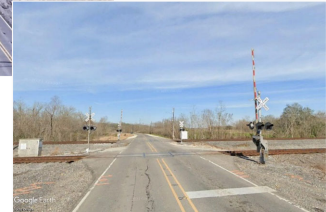
Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Willswood Lane and Live Oak Boulevard Crossings



- 4-track crossing
- 2 sets of crossbucks and lights
- 1 set of gates

- 3-track crossing
- 2 sets of crossbucks and lights
- 1 set of gates



The Willswood Lane crossing is also a 4-track crossing.

The trackage further reduces to a 3-track crossing at Live Oak Boulevard.

Like George Street, the Willswood and Live Oak crossings have two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.

Avondale PEL Study Goals




- **Reduce vehicle delay due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations**
- **Eliminate truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Weight Limit**
- **Improve intermodal connectivity**




The goals identified at the beginning of the study included:


- Reducing vehicle delay due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations,
- Eliminating truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Limit, and
- Improving intermodal connectivity.




Stakeholder Outreach




- **Scoping Meetings**
 - Local Officials – March 8, 2022
 - Virtual Public – March 9 thru April 15, 2022
- **Business & Trucking Interests**
 - Travel Survey – March 8, 2022
- **Jefferson Parish School District**
 - Bus Routes – April 2022
- **Civic Association Meetings**
 - Waggaman Civic Association – April 6, 2022 & April 5, 2023
 - S1 Civic Association – April 20, 2022 & April 19, 2023
 - Kennedy Heights Civic Association – May 5, 2022




Crossing Delays



Safety Concerns



Emergency Services Access



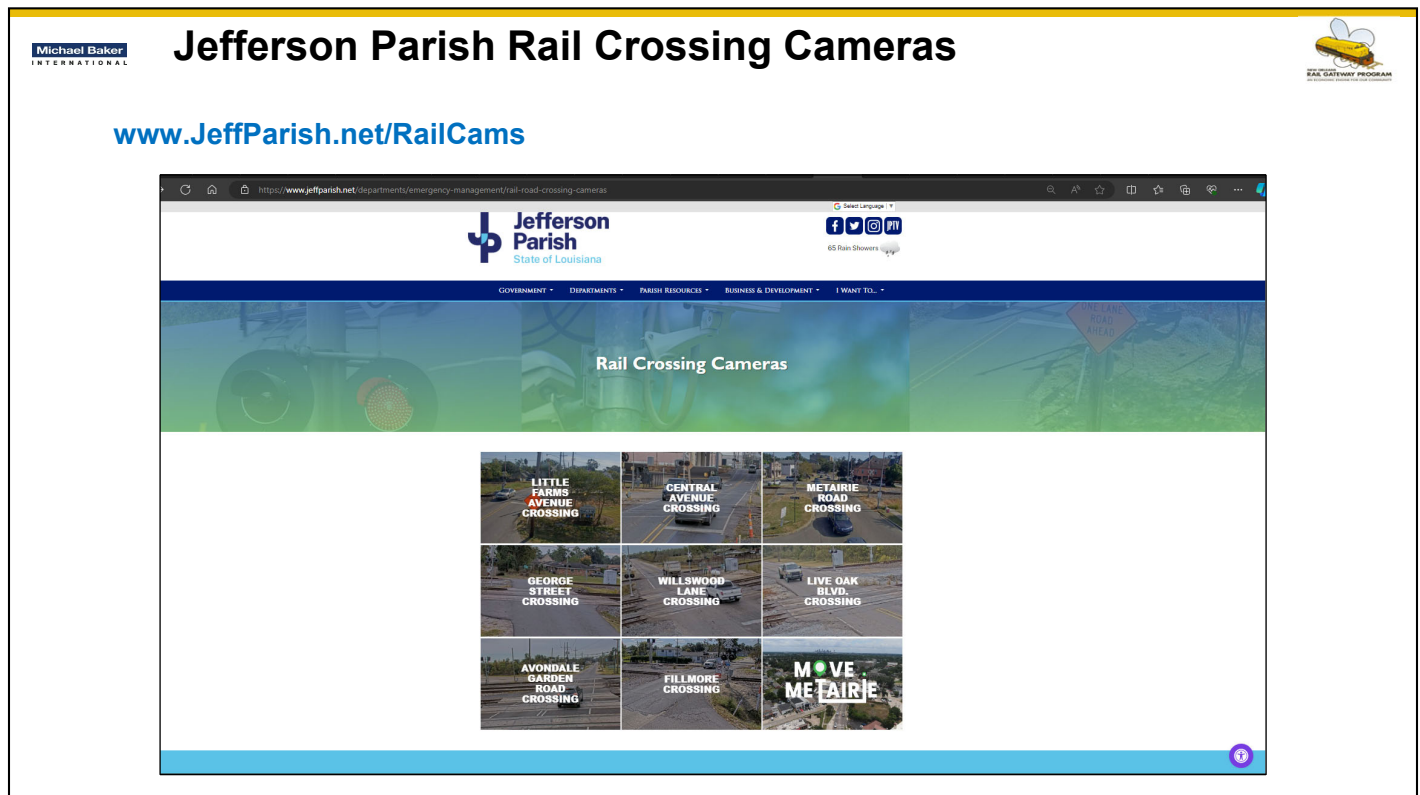
Train Horn Noise

These Study Goals were introduced during Local Officials and virtual Public Scoping Meetings during March and April 2022.

The study outreach also included:

- Distributing travel surveys to trucking companies to get an understanding of the trucking movements,
- Discussing the number of school bus crossings at the four crossings with Jefferson Parish School District representatives, and
- Providing study updates at multiple Civic Association meetings.

The issues of most importance we heard were crossing delays, safety concerns, emergency services access and train horn noise.



Jefferson Parish recognizes the long vehicle delay at several Jefferson Parish crossings.

In November 2022, real-time cameras were activated at seven crossing locations across the Parish, including these four crossings in Waggaman and Avondale. The cameras enable motorists to see if a train is crossing or stopped, so travel routes can be planned accordingly.

Alternatives Development Process



- **Process Involved Five (5) 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 – Inventory Environmental Features and Develop Grade Separation Alternatives**
 - **Step 5 – Evaluate effect on Environmental Features and Area Traffic and Identify Build Alternative Combinations**

The process for developing the alternatives follows five 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 – Identify the area environmental features and develop the alternatives, and
- Step 5 – Evaluate the effect on environmental features and area traffic, and identify Build Alternative Combinations



Step 1 – Existing and Future Roadway Traffic Volumes



- Existing (2021) Traffic Volumes – August & November 2021
- Future (2048) Traffic Volumes – Forecast at 0.5% compound growth rate

Crossing Location	Functional Classification	Speed Limit (mph)	Trucks (%)	School Buses	2021 AADT	2048 AADT
Avondale Garden Road	Local Road	20	2	9	1,070	1,220
George Street	Local Road	20	2	14	1,910	2,190
Willswood Lane	Local Road	40	10	12	1,210	1,380
Live Oak Boulevard	Minor Arterial	40	6	17	3,610	4,130

NOTE: AADT – Average Annual Daily Traffic

This table shows the truck percentages, number of school bus crossings, and average annual daily traffic at the four crossing locations.

Avondale Garden Road has the least daily traffic and school bus crossing, while Live Oak Boulevard has the most.



Step 2 – Existing and Future Crossing Blockage & Delay



- Existing (2021) Train Volumes – FRA Crossing Inventory Forms
- Future (2048) Train Volumes – Forecast at 1.0% compound growth rate
- Spreadsheet analysis to calculate crossing occupancy times

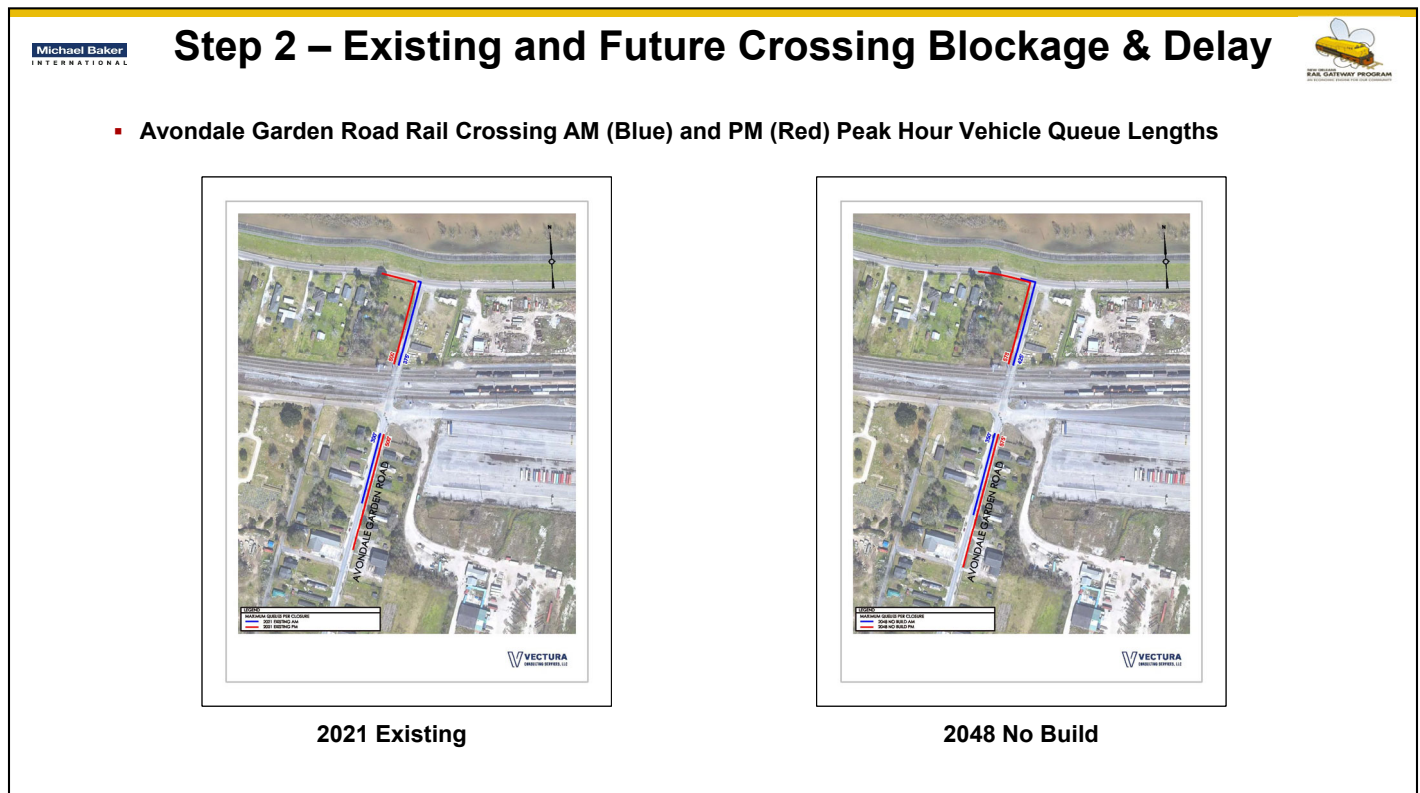
Crossing Location	Existing Year 2021					Year 2048 No Build				
	Trains Daily	Thru Trains (hpd)	Switching Moves (hpd)	Total Crossing Blockage (hpd)	Total Vehicle Delay (vhpd)	Trains Daily	Thru Trains (hpd)	Switching Moves (hpd)	Total Crossing Blockage (hpd)	Total Vehicle Delay (vhpd)
Avondale Garden Road	44	3.46	4.34	7.80	47.98	57	5.60	5.67	11.27	80.26
George Street	32	2.72	2.99	5.71	47.72	42	4.40	3.92	8.32	77.76
Willswood Lane	31	2.48	0.80	3.28	33.30	41	4.22	1.05	5.27	54.22
Live Oak Boulevard	14	1.82	-	1.82	20.96	18	3.17	-	3.17	30.27

NOTE: hpd – hours per day | vhp – vehicle hours per day

Blocked crossings due to thru train and switching moves were calculated using existing and forecast train volume data.

Switching moves exceed thru trains at the Avondale Garden Road and George Street crossings due to their proximity to the Avondale Rail Yard.

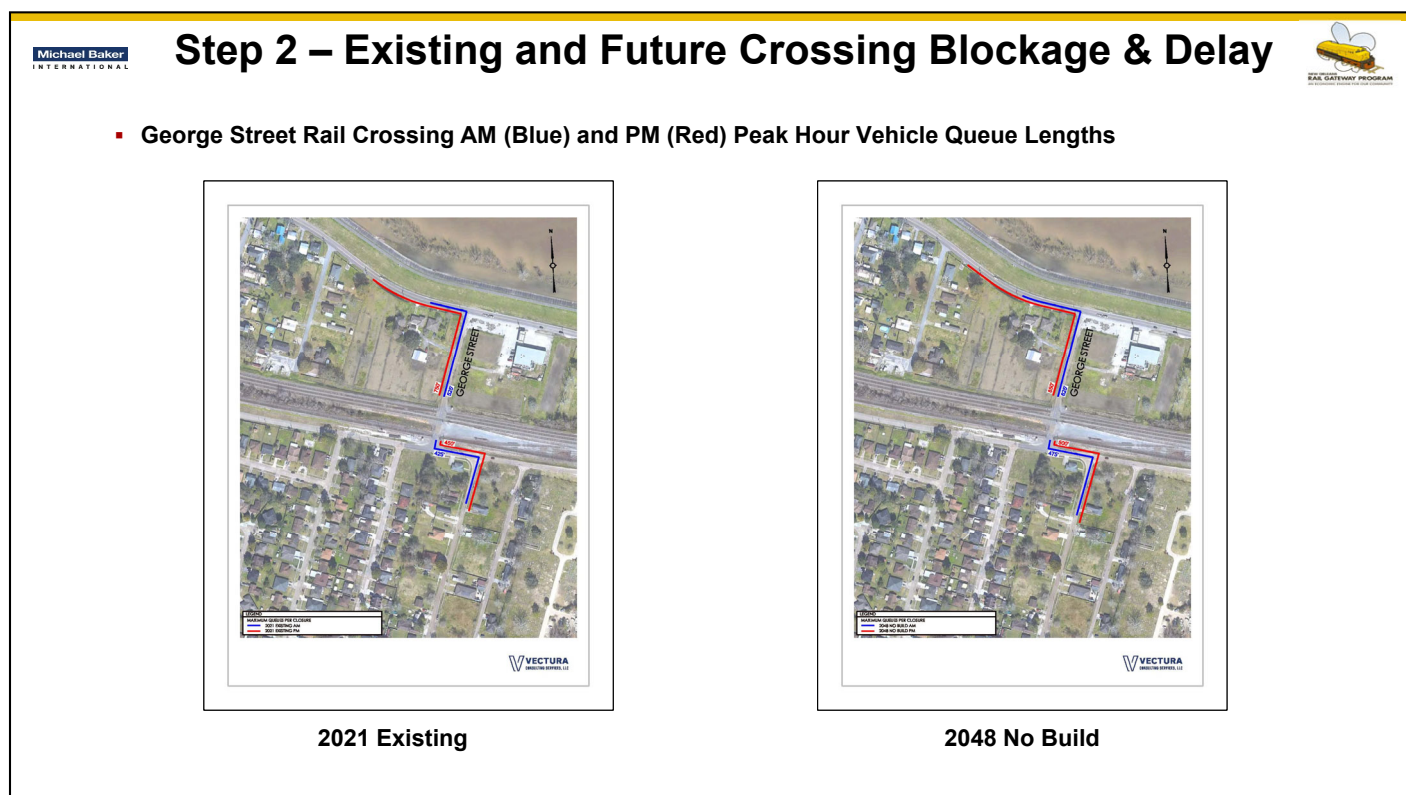
On average, the number of hours vehicles are delayed at these crossings each day varies from approximately 21 hours at Live Oak Boulevard (in 2021) to approximately 80 hours at Avondale Garden Road (in 2048).



The morning and afternoon peak hour traffic was determined, as part of the Step 1 Traffic Analyses, to be from 6:45 AM to 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, respectively.

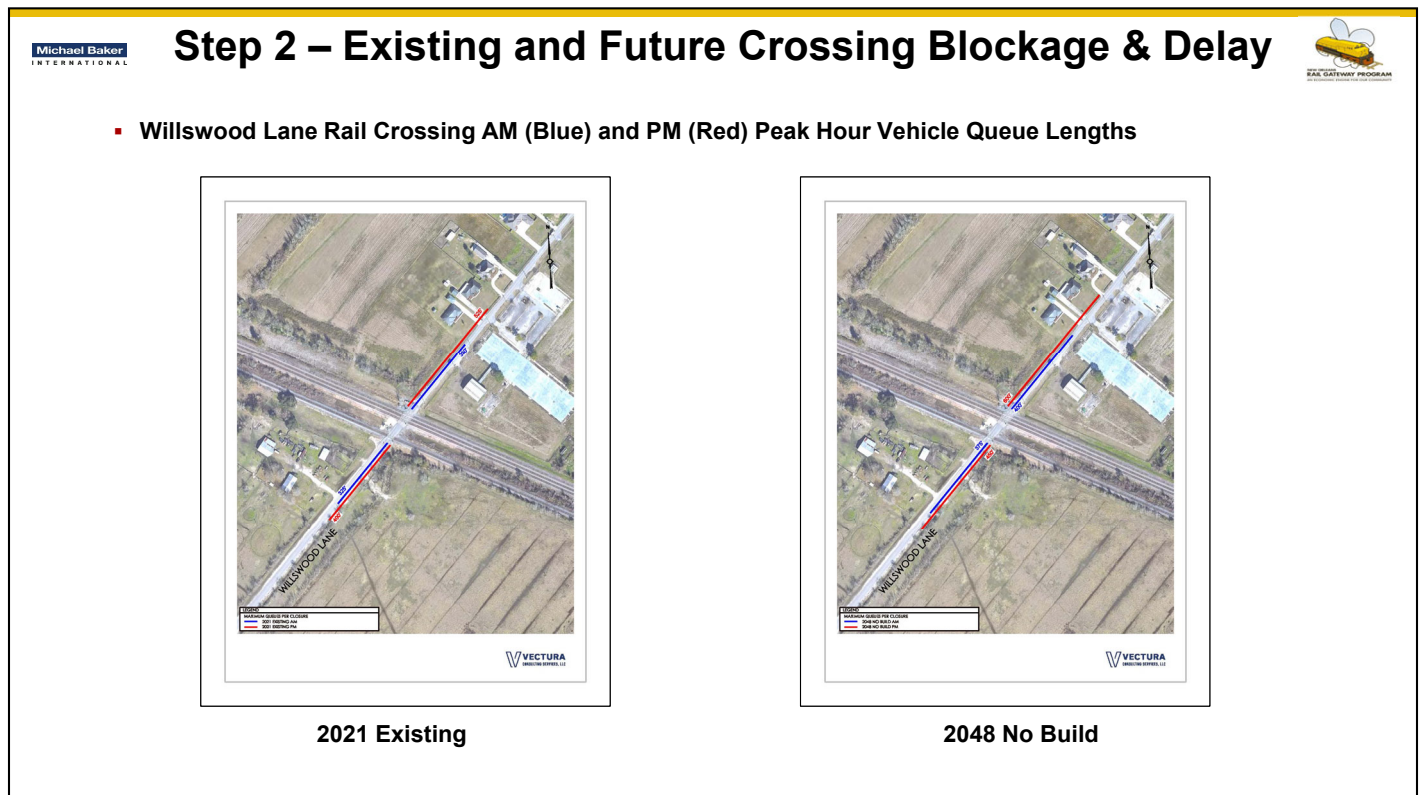
These figures illustrate the maximum length that traffic could back up at Avondale Garden Road in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).

These queues were calculated based on projected traffic volumes. It was noted during field observations that drivers at times altered their travel route upon seeing a train blocking the crossing. Therefore, actual queues in the field may appear less than those shown on this slide due to drivers altering their behavior to avoid congestion.

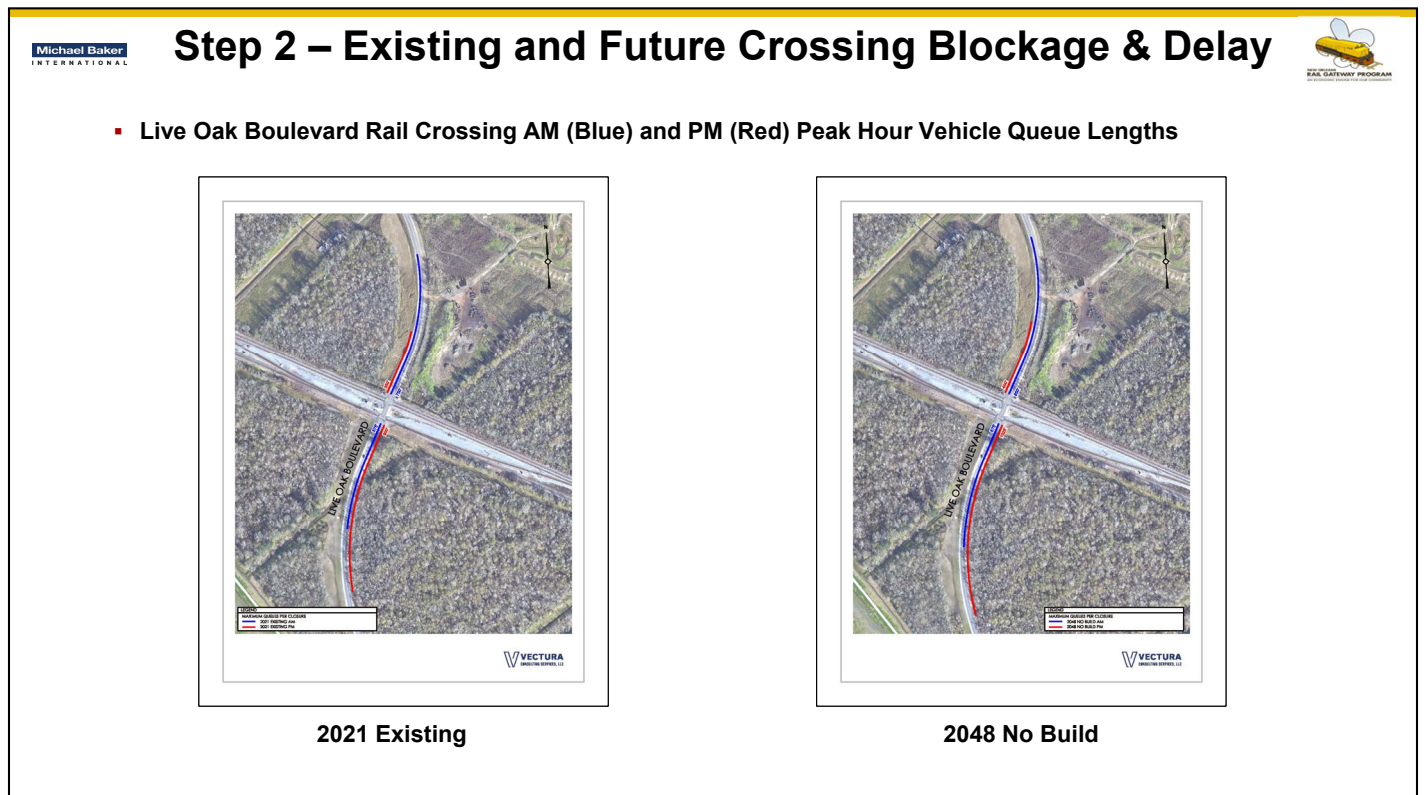


These figures illustrate how far the traffic could back up at George Street in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).



As with Avondale Garden Road, these queues were calculated based on projected traffic volumes. Actual queues may appear less than those shown on this slide due to drivers altering their behavior to avoid congestion.



These figures illustrate how far the traffic could back up at Willswood Lane in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).



These figures illustrate how far the traffic could back up at Live Oak Boulevard in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).



Step 3 – Grade Separation Warrants

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

Warrant Condition	Avondale Garden Road		George Street		Willswood Lane		Live Oak Blvd	
An average of 30 or more trains per day	+	44 (57)	+	32 (42)	+	31 (41)	-	14 (18)
Vehicle delay exceeds 30 vehicle hours per day (vhpd) with consideration for cost effectiveness	+	58.74 (80.26)	+	57.65 (77.76)	+	40.42 (54.22)	-	14.71 (19.37)
Other Warrant Conditions	-	Not Met	-	Not Met	-	Not Met	-	Not Met

NOTE: Values 2021 (2048)

▪ **Whenever a new grade separation is constructed, consideration should be given to the possibility of closing one or more adjacent crossings provided:**

- Acceptable alternate access across the rail line exists within one (1) mile measured along the track
- The median trip length normally made over the crossing would not increase by more than 2.5 miles

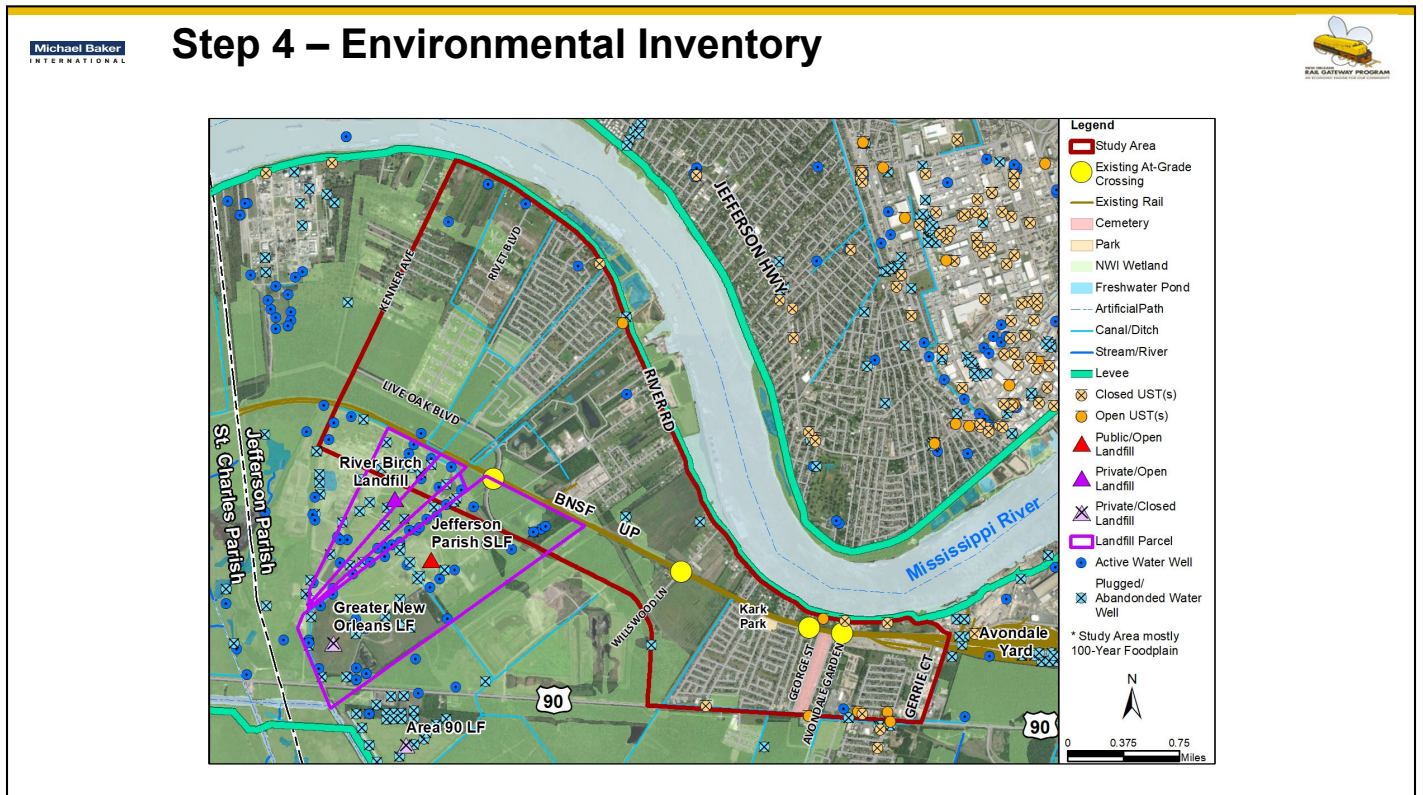
▪ **Avondale Garden Road and George Street crossings both satisfy this Guidance**

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

Only two of FHWA's warrant conditions are applicable to the Waggaman and Avondale crossings, the average number of trains per day and the daily vehicle delay due to blocked crossings.

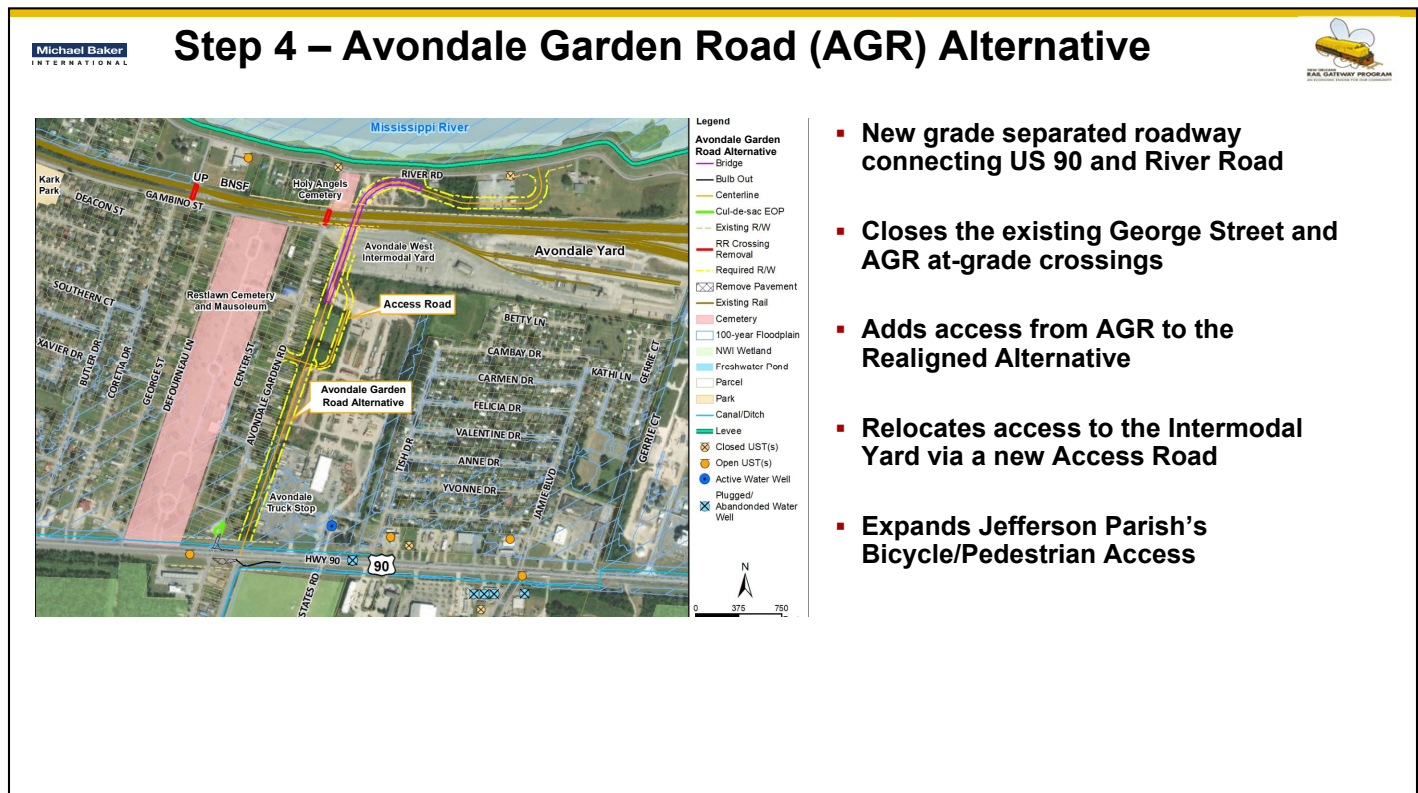
Only the Avondale Garden Road, George Street and Willswood Lane crossings exceed these warrant conditions. The Live Oak Boulevard crossing does not exhibit the number of train crossings or resultant vehicle delay required to consider grade separation.

The Guidance also indicates that consideration should be given to closing adjacent crossings, given certain criteria, when a grade separation is contemplated. The Avondale Garden Road and George Street crossings satisfy the listed distance criteria. The Willswood Lane crossing does not.



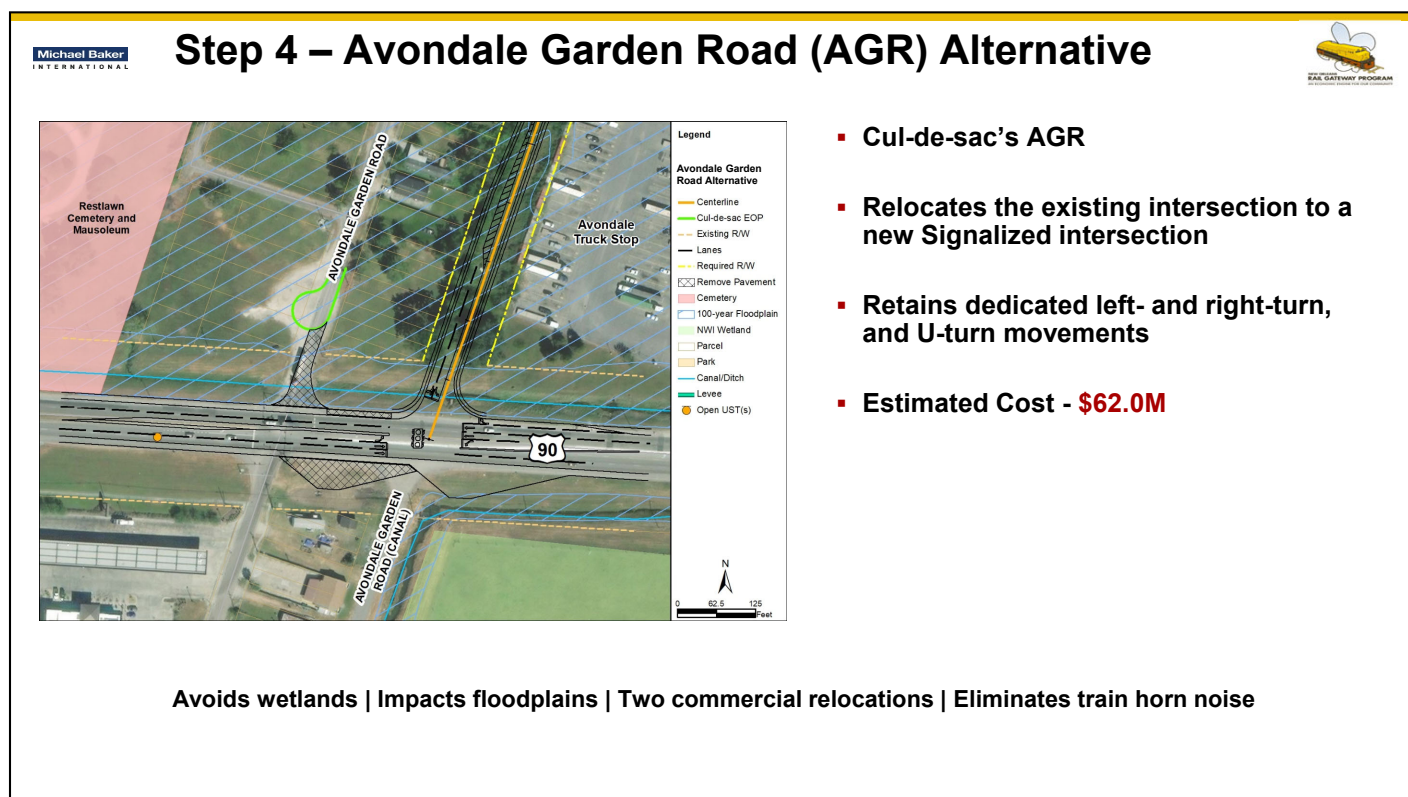
Numerous environmental features are scattered throughout the Waggaman/Avondale area.

The dominant environmental features within the Study Area are residential and commercial development, wetlands, floodplains, and the Greater New Orleans, Jefferson Parish & River Birch landfills south of the railroad tracks.



The Avondale Garden Road Alternative would:

- Construct a new grade separated roadway between the AGR residential properties and the Truck Stop and Container Yard, connecting US 90 and River Road,
- Close both the existing George Street and AGR at-grade crossings,
- Add a new, direct connection from AGR to the Realigned Alternative and relocate access to the Intermodal Yard via a new Access Road, and
- Expand Jefferson Parish's Bicycle/Pedestrian Access.



The Avondale Garden Road Alternative would also:

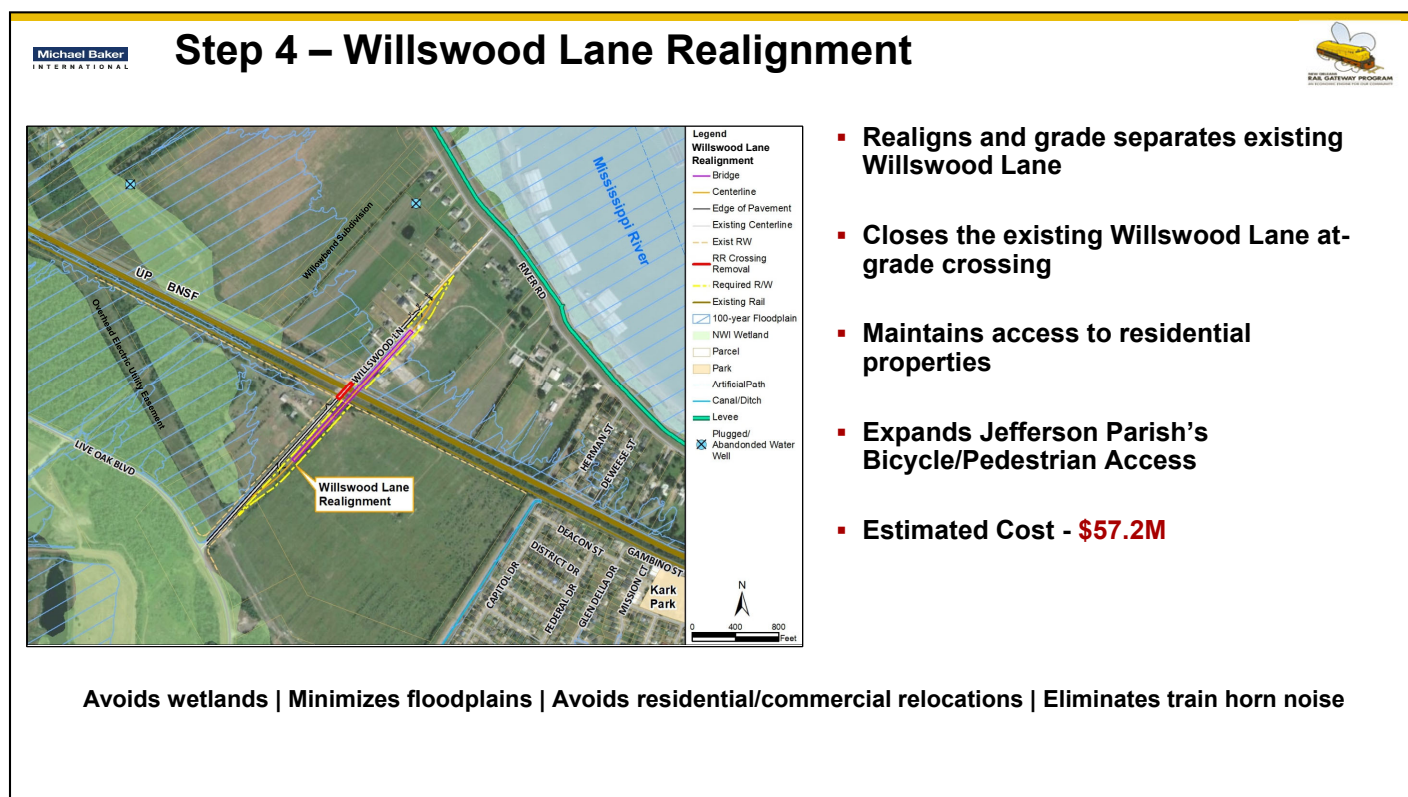
- Cul-de-sac AGR and remove the existing intersection with US 90,
- Relocate the existing intersection to the new signalized intersection, and
- Retain the existing dedicated left- and right-turn and U-turn movements at the new intersection location.

The estimated cost is \$62.0M

This alternative would avoid wetlands but would impact floodplains. It would result in two commercial relocations – Concrete Busters and MTC Trucking. Closing the George Street and AGR crossings would eliminate the required train horn auditory warnings.



The Avondale Garden Road Alternative would look similar to this.



The Willswood Lane Realignment would:

- Realign and grade separate the existing Willswood Lane to the east,
- Close the existing Willswood Lane at-grade crossing,
- Maintain access to existing residential properties via the existing roadway, and
- Expand Jefferson Parish's Bicycle/Pedestrian Access.

The estimated cost is \$57.2M

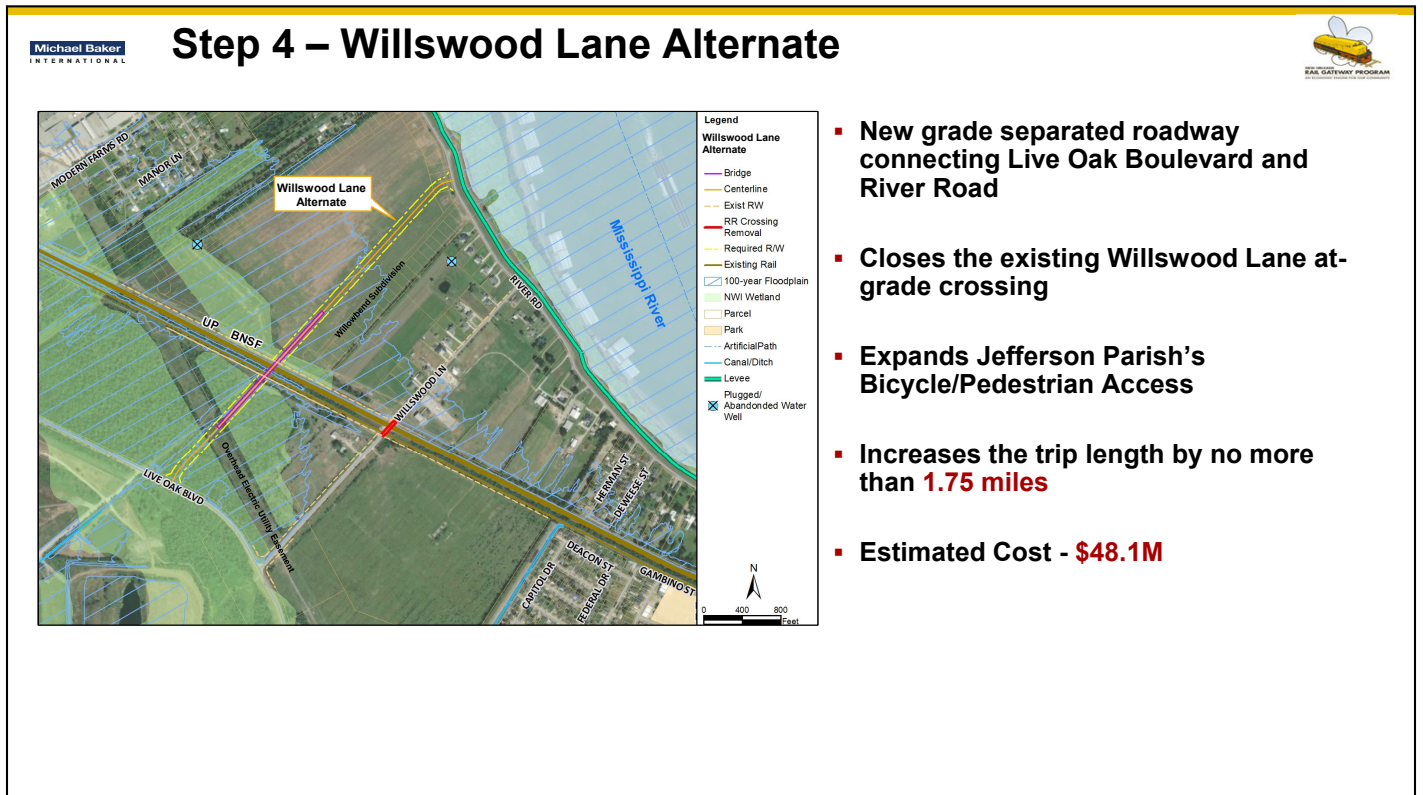
This alternative would avoid wetlands and minimize floodplain impacts. It would also not result in any residential or commercial relocations and would also eliminate the required Willswood Lane train horn auditory warning.

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Step 4 – Willswood Lane Realignment

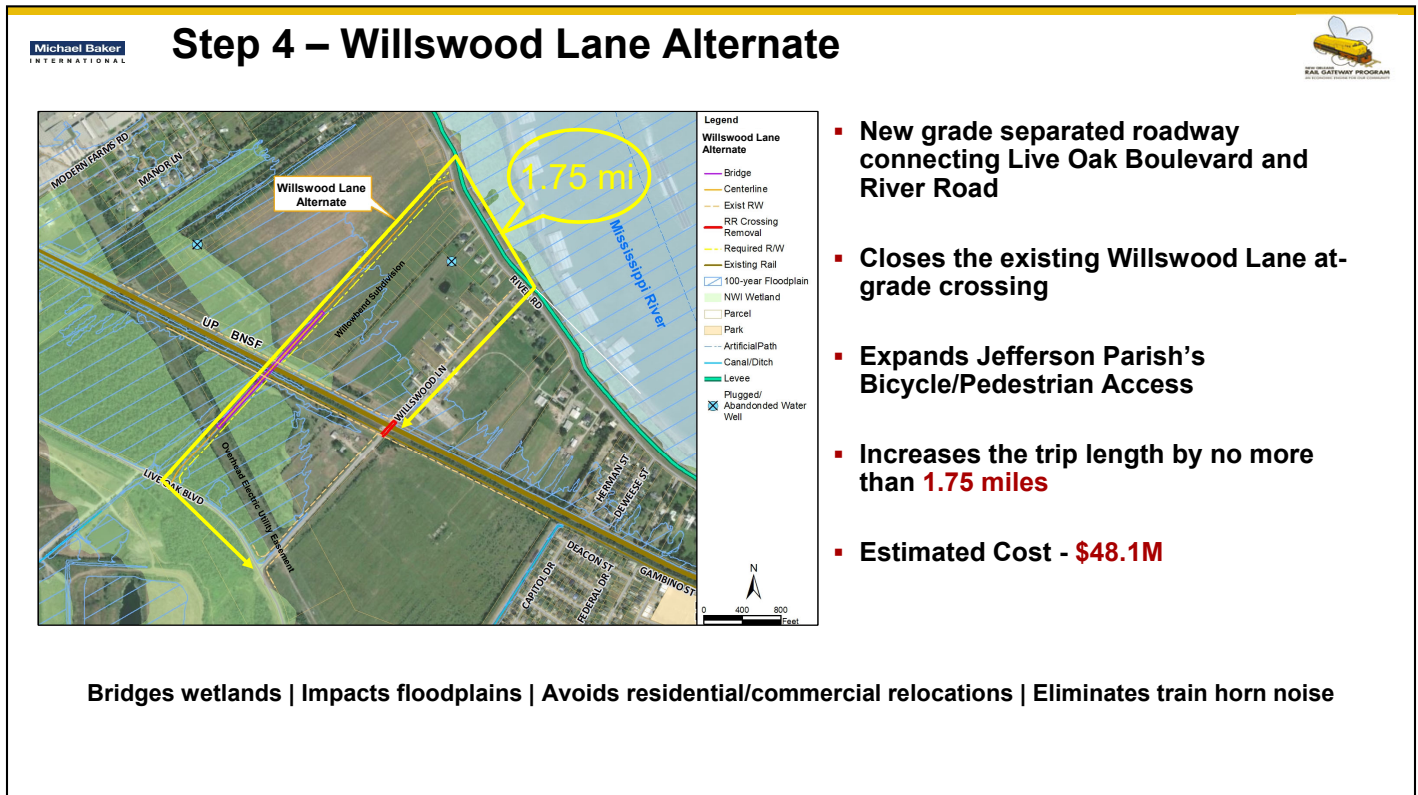


The Willswood Lane Realignment would look similar to this.



The Willswood Lane Alternate would:

- Construct a new grade separated roadway west of Willswood Lane connecting Live Oak Boulevard and River Road,
- Close the existing Willswood Lane at-grade crossing, and
- Expand Jefferson Parish's Bicycle/Pedestrian Access.




It would increase the trip length for Willswood Lane residents by no more than 1.75 miles, depending the travel destination.

The estimated cost is \$48.1M


This alternative would bridge wetlands but would impact floodplains. It would not result in any residential or commercial relocations. Closing the Willswood Lane crossing would eliminate the required train horn auditory warning.



The Willswood Lane Alternate would look similar to this.



Step 5 – Build Alternatives and Environmental Impacts



Description	Build Alternatives					No Build
	1	2	3	4	5	
Avondale Garden Road Alternative						
Willswood Lane Realignment						
Willswood Lane Alternate						
Wetlands Impacts	Avoids	Avoids	Bridges	Avoids	Bridges	None
Floodplain Impacts	Impacts	Minimizes	Impacts	Impacts	Impacts	None
Relocations	Two Commercial	Avoids	Avoids	Two Commercial	Two Commercial	None
Total Estimated Cost	\$62.0M	\$57.2M	\$48.1M	\$119.2M	\$110.1M	\$0

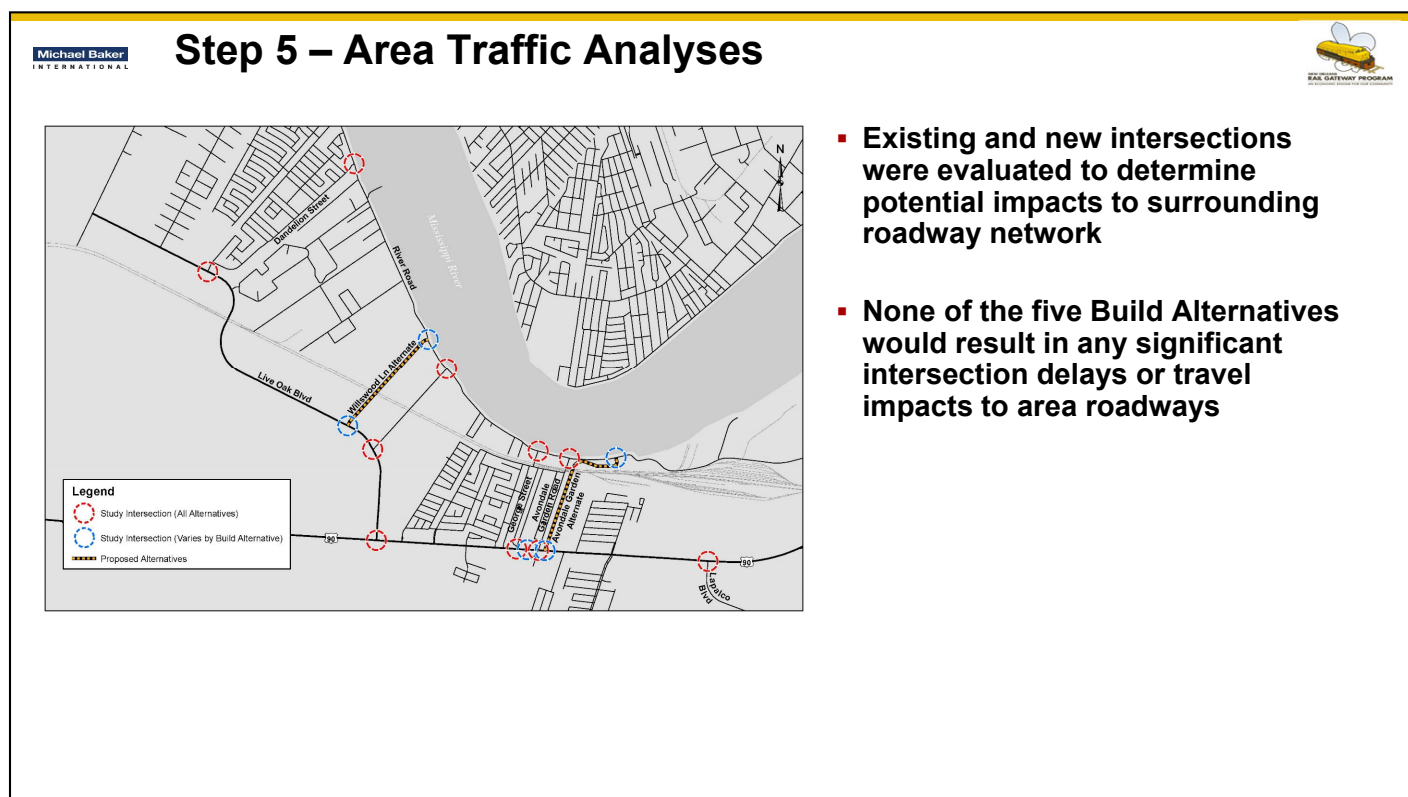
These three alternatives, in various combinations, resulted in five Build Alternatives.

- Build Alternative 1 is the Avondale Garden Road (AGR) Alternative and closes both the existing AGR and George Street crossings
- Build Alternative 2 is the Willswood Lane Realignment and closes the existing Willswood Lane crossing
- Build Alternative 3 is the Willswood Lane Alternate, and also closes the existing Willswood Lane crossing
- Build Alternative 4 combines the Avondale Garden Road (AGR) Alternative (Build Alternative 1) and the Willswood Lane Realignment (Build Alternative 2), closing the existing Willswood Lane, George Street, and AGR crossings
- Build Alternative 5, combines the Avondale Garden Road (AGR) Alternative (Build Alternative 1) and the Willswood Lane Alternate (Build Alternative 3), also closing the existing Willswood Lane, George Street, and AGR crossings

These five Build Alternatives can be viewed in more detail along with rendering of the alternatives in the Exhibits Area.

The potential impacts and estimated costs of the five Build Alternatives are summarized in this table.

The No Build Alternative would not result in any impacts to wetlands or floodplains or require any relocations, and would have zero cost, but would not correct any of the stated goals.

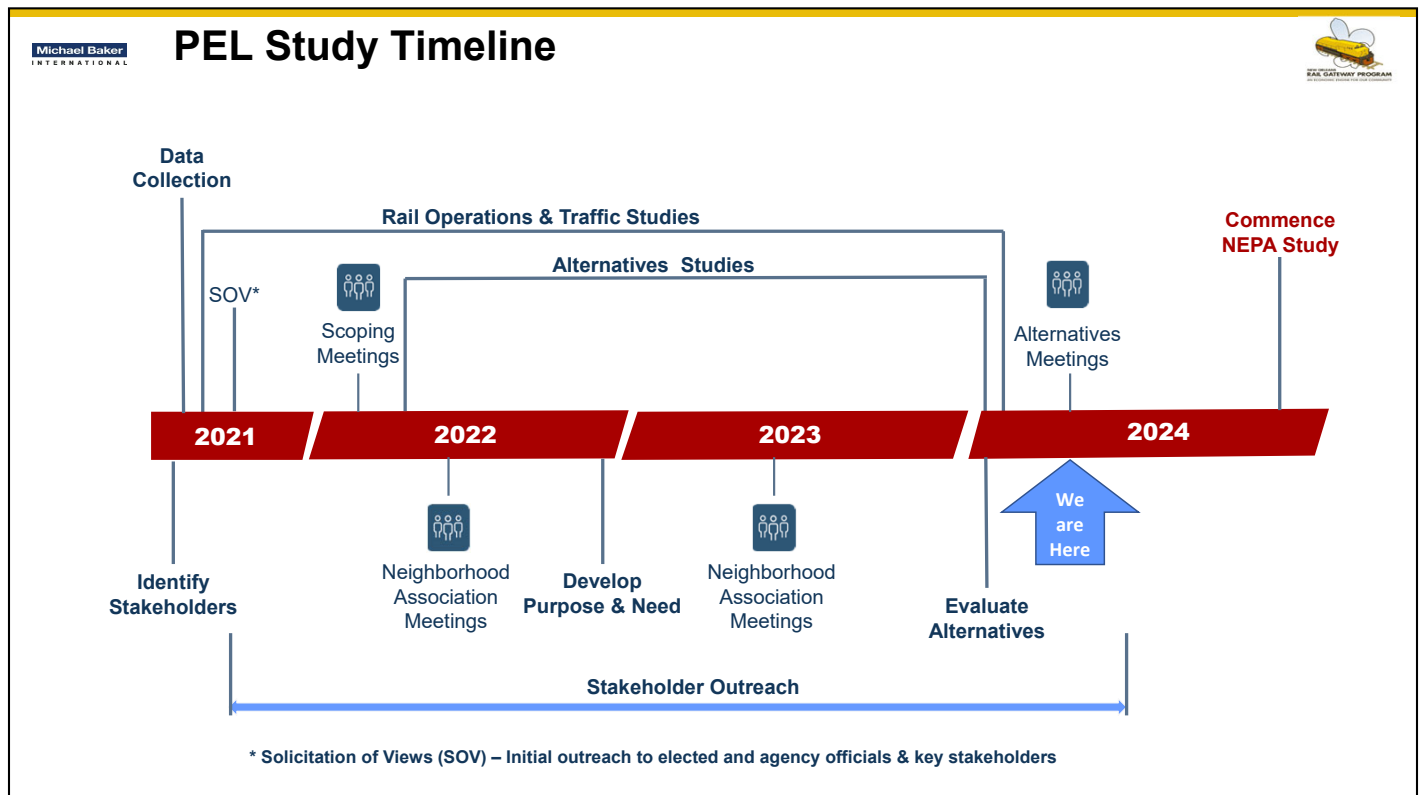


Area intersections were evaluated to determine any impacts of the Build Alternatives on the surrounding roadway network.


The red dashed circles indicate existing intersections where analyses were conducted for the forecast future No Build and all five Build Alternatives.

The blue dashed circles indicate the new intersections that were evaluated for the Build Alternatives. These intersections differ depending on the Build Alternative being evaluated.

None of the five Build Alternatives would result in any significant intersection delays or travel impacts to area roadways.

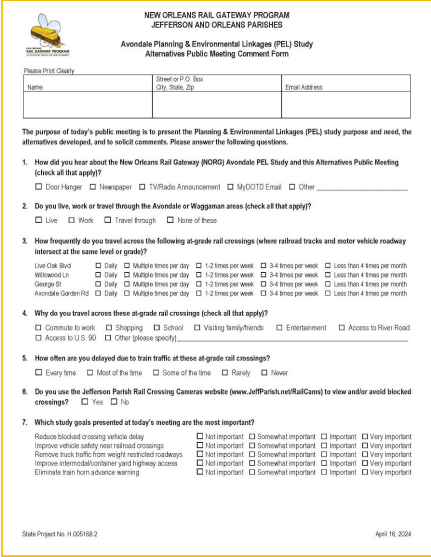



This PEL study is nearing completion. The study will advance to the NEPA study phase later this year. The NEPA phase will further refine the alternatives with a focus on the environmental impacts. The study and NEPA documentation will take at least a year to complete.



We Want to Hear From You!

- Comment Forms are available at Tonight's Meeting or at www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy**



- Submit at this meeting**
- Submit Online**
- USPS Mail to:**
 - NORG – Avondale PEL Study
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
P.O. Box 56845
New Orleans, LA 70116
- Email to: NORG@mbakerintl.com**
(Subject: *NORG Avondale PEL 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 **April 30, 2024**, 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 the Avondale PEL Study webpage and can be submitted online or downloaded and printed for sending via USPS mail or email.

Comment forms must be received or postmarked no later than April 30, 2024, 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: Avondale PEL Study
 - USPS Mail
 - New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
 - Avondale PEL Study
 - c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
 - P.O. Box 56845
 - New Orleans, LA 70116



- Visit the DOTD Avondale PEL Study web page www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy

Please provide your contact information to receive newsletters and future notices as the project moves to the next phase of study

You can contact us any time during the study by telephone, email and USPS Mail as listed here. This contact information is also available on the DOTD Avondale PEL Study Web page.

Study information will also be posted to the DOTD Avondale Webpage.



Thank you for Watching!



THANK YOU



March 20, 2024

«Name_1» «Name_2»

«Affiliation_1»

«Affiliation_2»

«Address_1»

«Address_2»

«City», «State» «Zip»

RE: State Project No. H.005168.2
New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
Local Officials Alternatives Meeting

Dear «Salutation» «Name_2»:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the 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 Linkages (PEL) study for improvements to four (4) at-grade highway-rail crossings of Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) track in Waggaman and Avondale, Jefferson Parish. This study is a continuation of the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Program.

This study is evaluating the feasibility of consolidating the Live Oak Boulevard, Willswood Lane, George Street and Avondale Garden Road crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations. A Study Area Map is included for reference. These at-grade crossings were identified as Projects W10 through W13 respectively in the 2007 New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Infrastructure Feasibility Analysis and are being advanced because of their strong public benefit. An August 9, 2021 letter was sent soliciting views about the study and a March 8, 2022 virtual meeting was held to discuss the scope of the study.

A Local Officials Meeting is scheduled for **9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at the Westbank Council Chambers, General Government Building, 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, Louisiana** to present the alternatives developed and solicit comments.

A public meeting is scheduled for that evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the J.C. Simmons Community Center, 4008 U.S. Highway 90, Westwego, Louisiana, should you wish to attend.

«Salutation» «Name_1» «Name_2»

March 20, 2024

Page 2

We look forward to your continued participation and input throughout the remainder of this study and as the study is carried forward into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this study in more detail, please contact Dean Goodell, DOTDs Freight and Passenger Rail Director at (225) 379-3031 or dean.goodell@la.gov; or me at (412) 551-3503 or cgesing@mbakerintl.com.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Gesing', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dean Goodell, DOTD



Legend

Study Area

Existing At-Grade Crossing

Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)

New Orleans Public Belt (NOPB)

Union Pacific (UP)

0 1,750 3,500

Feet



New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Avondale Study Area

Local Officials

Salutation	Name 1	Name 2	Affiliation 1	Affiliation 2	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Senator	The Honorable Gary L.	Smith	LA State Senate	(District 19)	P.O. Box 189		Norco	LA	70079
Senator	The Honorable Patrick	Connick	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 8)	5201 Westbank Expressway	Suite 315	Marrero	LA	70072
Ms.	Kimberly	Reyher	Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana		3801 Canal Street	Suite 400	New Orleans	LA	70119
Sir or Madam			Department of Economic Development	Office of Business Development	P.O. Box 94185		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Ms.	Danika	Gorrondona	City of Gretna Building Official		P.O. Box 404		Gretna	LA	70054
Ms.	Deborah C.	Foshee	City of Kenner	Chief Administrative Officer	1801 Williams Boulevard	Building B, Suite 200	Kenner	LA	70062
Mr.	Wendel P.	Dufour Jr., Director	City of Kenner	Planning Department	1801 Williams Boulevard	Building “B”, 1st Floor	Kenner	LA	70062
Sir or Madam			City of Westwego		1100 4th Street		Westwego	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Department of Public Safety	Highway Safety Commission	P.O. Box 66336		Baton Rouge	LA	70896
Ms.	Yuanda	Zhu	Dept of Health and Hospitals	OPH Engineering Svcs (Bin 10)	628 North 4th Street		Baton Rouge	LA	70802
Sir or Madam			Dept of Health and Hospitals	ATTN: Chief Sanitarian Director	P.O. Box 629		Baton Rouge	LA	70821-0629
Sir or Madam			Division of Administration	State Land Office	P.O. Box 44124		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Division of Administration	Facility Planning & Control	P.O. Box 94095		Baton Rouge	LA	70804
Sir or Madam			Harahan Planning & Zoning Commission		6437 Jefferson Hwy		Harahan	LA	70123
Ms.	Peggy	Bourgeois	Harvey Canal Industrial Assoc		P.O. Box 215		Harvey	LA	70059
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish	Civil Defense Director	910 3rd Street		Gretna	LA	70053
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Community Action Program		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd #402		Harahan	LA	70123
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Council Members		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd		Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
Councilwoman	The Honorable Jennifer	Van Vrancken	Jefferson Parish Councilwoman At-Large, Division A		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., 10th Floor	Suite 1016	Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
Councilman	The Honorable Deano	Bonano	Jefferson Parish Councilman, District 2		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., 10th Floor	Suite 1013	Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
Councilman	The Honorable Byron L.	Lee	Jefferson Parish Councilman, District 3		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., 10th Floor	Suite 1011	Jefferson	LA	70123-2337
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Council Members		200 Derbigny Street	6th Floor	Gretna	LA	70053-5850
Ms.	Annalisa	Kelly	Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO)	Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy	700 Churchill Parkway		Avondale	LA	70094
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish Office of the Councils		200 Derbigny Street	6th Floor	Gretna	LA	70053
Ms.	Juliette	Cassagne	Jefferson Parish President Office	Chief Administrative Assistant	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd	10th Floor	Jefferson	LA	70123
Ms.	The Honorable Cynthia	Lee-Sheng	Jefferson Parish President		1221 Elmwood Park Blvd.		Jefferson	LA	70123
Ms.	Bessie L.	Martin	Jefferson Parish Planning Department	Director of Planning	1221 Elmwood Park Blvd.	Ste 601	Jefferson	LA	70123
Sir or Madam			Jefferson Parish President		200 Derbigny Street	Suite 6100	Gretna	LA	70053
Sheriff			Jefferson Parish Sheriff		P.O. Box 327		Gretna	LA	70054
Mr.	Pat	Johnson	Jefferson Parish Transit Admin	Exec. Dir	21 Westbank Expressway		Gretna	LA	70053
Sir or Madam			Jefferson School Board		4600 River Rd		Marrero	LA	70072
Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Orgergone	LA House of Representatives	(District 54)	P.O. Box 1746		Larose	LA	70373
Representative	The Honorable Jacob	Braud	LA House of Representatives	(District 105)	8114 Hwy 23	Suite 103	Belle Chase	LA	70037
Representative	The Honorable Kyle M.	Green, Jr.	LA House of Representatives	(District 83)	6641 Westbank Expwy.	Suite D	Marrero	LA	70072
Representative	The Honorable Laurie	Schlegel	LA House of Representatives	(District 82)	3238 Metairie Road	Suite B	Metairie	LA	70001
Representative	The Honorable Stephanie	Hilferty	LA House of Representatives	(District 94)	3331 Severn Ave	Suite 206	Metairie	LA	70002
Representative	The Honorable John "Big John"	Illg, Jr.	LA House of Representatives	(District 78)	9523 Jefferson Hwy	Suite A	River Ridge	LA	70123
Representative	The Honorable Timothy P	Kerner	LA House of Representatives	(District 84)	799 Jean Lafitte Blvd		Lafitte	LA	70067-4102
Representative	The Honorable Rodney	Lyons	LA House of Representatives	(District 87)	2100 Woodmere Blvd	Suite 130	Harvey	LA	70058
Representative	The Honorable Vincent E	Cox, III	LA House of Representatives	(District 85)	200 Derbigny Street	General Government Building, Suite 4300	Gretna	LA	70053
Representative	The Honorable Joseph	Stagni	LA House of Representatives	(District 92)	1201 Williams Blvd		Kenner	LA	70062
Representative	The Honorable Polly	Thomas	LA House of Representatives	(District 80)	3100 Ridgelake Drive	Suite 201	Metairie	LA	70002-4938
Representative	The Honorable Debbie	Villio	LA House of Representatives	(District 79)	4203 Williams Blvd	Suite 200	Kenner	LA	70065
Mr.	Kent	Mitchell	LA Transit Company	President	118 David Drive		Metairie	LA	70003
Sir or Madam			Louisiana State Police	Troop B	2101 I-10 Service Rd		Kenner	LA	70065
Sir or Madam	Director LA Sea Grant		Louisiana State University	Sea Grant Legal Advisory Svc.	277B Sea Grant Building		Baton Rouge	LA	70803
Sir or Madam			Mississippi River Trail, Inc.		858 North Jackson Drive		Fayetteville	AR	72701
Sir or Madam			New Orleans Regional Transit Authority	ATTN: Director	2817 Canal St		New Orleans	LA	70119-6301
Sir or Madam			Office of Comm, Tribes & Env. Association	U.S. EPA Region 6	1201 Elm Street	Suite 500	Dallas	TX	75270-2102
Sir or Madam			Port of New Orleans	ATTN: Managing Director	P.O. Box 60046		New Orleans	LA	70160
Mr.	Jeff	Roesel	Regional Planning Commission		10 Veterans Memorial Blvd		New Orleans	LA	70124-1162
Senator	The Honorable Joseph "Joe"	Bouie	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 3)	6305 Elysian Fields Avenue	Suite 400	New Orleans	LA	70122
Senator	The Honorable Gary	Carter	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 7)	2401 Westbend Parkway	Suite 3071	New Orleans	LA	70114
Senator	The Honorable Cameron	Henry, Jr.	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 9)	2573 Metairie Road	Suite C	Metairie	LA	70005
Senator	The Honorable Royce	Duplessis	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 5)	643 Magazine Street	Suite 302	New Orleans	LA	70130
Senator	The Honorable "Kirk"	Talbot	The Senate of Louisiana	(District 10)	9523 Jefferson Hwy	Suite B	River Ridge	LA	70123
Representative	The Honorable Julia	Letlow	US House of Representatives	(District 5)	P.O. Box 539		Rayville	LA	71269

Local Officials

Representative	The Honorable Garret	Graves	US House of Representatives	(District 6)	2351 Energy Drive	Suite 1200	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
Representative	The Honorable Troy A.	Carter	US House of Representatives	(District 2)	650 Poydras Street	Suite 2435	New Orleans	LA	70130
Representative	The Honorable Clay	Higgins	US House of Representatives	(District 3)	600 Jefferson Street	Suite 808	Lafayette	LA	70501
Representative	The Honorable Mike	Johnson	US House of Representatives	(District 4)	2250 Hospital Drive	Suite 248	Bossier City	LA	71111
Senator	The Honorable Bill	Cassidy M.D.	US Senate		5555 Hilton Avenue	Suite 100	Baton Rouge	LA	70808
Senator	The Honorable John	Kennedy	US Senate		P.O. Box 80418		Baton Rouge	LA	70898
Mr.	Rick	Jones	Westside Transit Lines Inc.	General Manager	90 First St		Gretna	LA	70053
Mr.	Sonny	Burmaster	Jefferson Parish Council Chief of Staff		P.O. Box 10242		Jefferson	LA	70181-0241



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Local Officials Alternatives Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Subject: Agency Alternatives Meeting

Attendees: Dean Goodell – DOTD
Honorary Jennifer Van Vrancken – JP Council Division A
Clay Tufts – JP Council Division A
Nelson Matthews – JP Council District 3
Neil Schneider – JP Public Works
Susan Treadway – JP Traffic Engineering
Jeff Roesel – RPC
W. Beau Black – DOTD Office of the Secretary
Karimah Stewart – The Hawthorne Agency
Chris Gesing – Michael Baker International, Inc.

Time and Place: Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m. CDT
Jefferson Parish Westbank Council Chambers

Purpose: The purpose of the Alternatives Meeting was to present an overview of the PEL Study, the alternatives development process and alternatives developed, and solicit comments.

Discussion:

Dean Goodell welcomed the participants and led the self-introduction. He then turned the meeting over to Chris Gesing. Chris Gesing utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide an overview of the Avondale PEL Study, goals and stakeholder outreach, alternatives development process, operation analyses and warrant conditions evaluation, the alternatives developed, project schedule and public outreach. The presentation with speaker's notes is attached.

Summary of Questions, Comments & Discussion

The following is a summary of questions, answers, and comments. Chris Gesing and Dean Goodell answered the attendees' questions and addressed their comments.

Can you explain the purple and yellow colors for the alternatives (referring to the Avondale Garden Road Alternative Slide)? The purple is the anticipated limits of the bridge structure. The yellow is the projected required right of way.

Are there any issues with the access near the RaceTrac gas station? We have coordinated with DOTD District 2 on the relocated intersection improvements. The RaceTrac gas station east driveway will become a right out only to US 90 EB. The west driveway will continue to provide access to from US 90 EB and WB.

Have you reached out to the Fairfield neighborhood? This area may not be near the project area, but we will investigate.

Will there be two-way traffic on the bridge (referring to the Avondale Garden Road Alternative Slide)? Yes, all three grade separation alternatives will carry two-way traffic.



MEETING SUMMARY

Is there a preferred Willswood Alternative? Not at this time.

How would the project be funded? DOTD will discuss with Jefferson Parish on how they would like the project to move forward. These are all parish roads. DOTD will provide assistance in identifying funding opportunities and preparing federal grant applications.

Is traffic safety (crashes) an issue? FRA and DOTD crash data was reviewed and there were relatively few and only minor crashes at the crossings. Vehicular traffic delay is the primary issue for the public, safety is less of an issue than delays.

Who is funding the current study? This current study is funded by DOTD and US DOT(FHWA).

What's the next step? The next step is to conduct environmental studies and prepare a NEPA document (DOTD Stage 1). The steps to follow would be to identify funding and advance the selected alternative(s) to design. DOTD will coordinate with Jefferson Parish officials to determine preferred alternatives.

Dean closed the meeting by stating that copies of the slide presentation would be emailed to attendees upon request and thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.



Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Local Officials Alternatives Meeting

Job Name: New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

State Project No.: H.005168.2

F.A.P. No.: N/A

Date: April 16, 2024

Location: Jefferson Parish Westbank Council Chambers

Time: 9:00 AM

NAME	AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION
NELSON MATTHEWS	COUNCIL	Phone 504 736-6591
		Email
W. BEAU BLICK	DOTD	Phone
	OFFICE OF THE SEC	Email
NEIL SCHNEIDER	JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC WORKS	Phone 504.736.6833
		Email nschneider@jeffparish.net
Jennifer VanVranken	Council At Large	Phone 504-736-6615
		Email jennvanv@jeffparish.net
JEFF ROESEL	EXEC. DIR.	Phone 504-483-9528
	RAC	Email jroese1@nopr.org
Clay Tufts		Phone
	TP Council	Email cltufts@yahoo.com
Susan Treadway	J.P. Traffic Engineering	Phone 504-736-6530
	2100 Dickory Ave Thibodaux, LA 70123	Email streadway@jeffparish.net
		Phone
		Email



NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM

Jefferson and Orleans Parishes

Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Local Officials Alternatives Meeting

April 16, 2024 | 9:00 am | Jefferson Parish Westbank Council Chambers

AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Remarks Dean Goodell


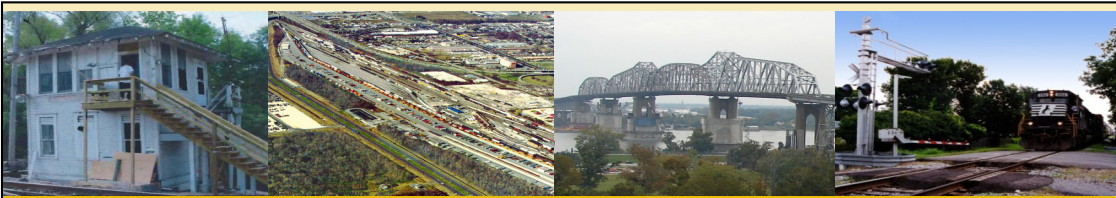
Self-Introductions All

Study Approach & Alternatives Development..... Dean Goodell & Chris Gesing

- PEL Study Overview
- Goals and Stakeholder Outreach
- Alternatives Development Process
- Operations Analyses and Warrant Conditions Evaluation
- Alternatives
- Timeline
- Public Outreach



Open Discussion..... All

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks Dean Goodell




New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
State Project No. H.005168

Avondale PEL Study
Alternatives Meeting
April 16, 2024





DOTD State Project No. H.005168.2

Slide 1



Avondale PEL Study – Agenda





NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes
Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Local Officials Alternatives Meeting
April 16, 2024 | 9:00 am | Jefferson Parish Westbank Council Chambers
AGENDA

Welcome & Opening Remarks Dean Goodell

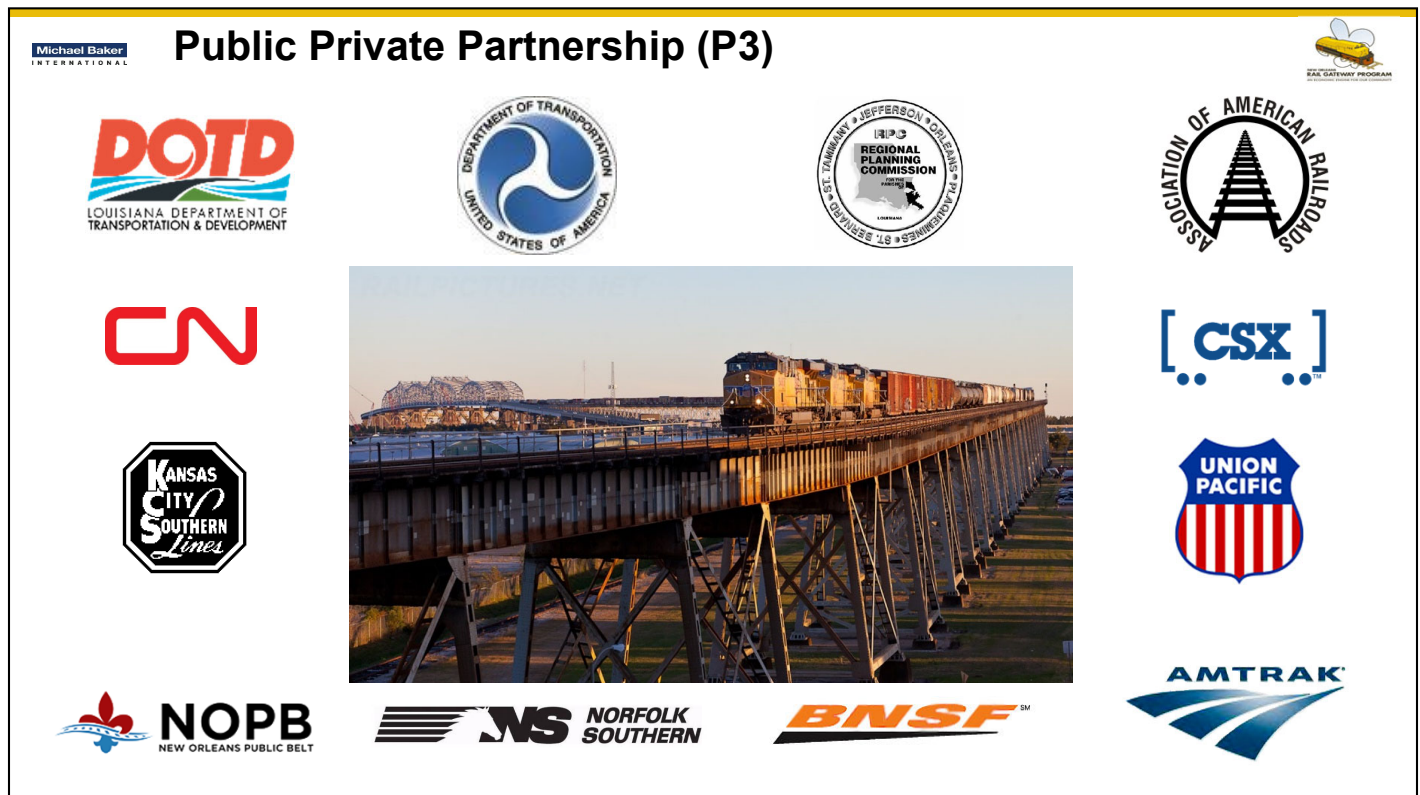
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- Alternatives Development Process
- Operations Analyses and Warrant Conditions Evaluation
- Alternatives
- Timeline
- Public Outreach

Open Discussion..... All

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks Dean Goodell



The New Orleans Rail Gateway Program, and this Avondale PEL 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.

Avondale PEL Study



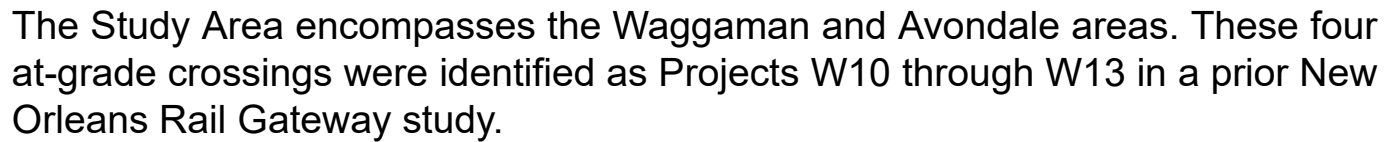
- Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study to **evaluate the feasibility** of consolidating some or all of the roadway-rail at-grade crossings at:
 - Avondale Garden Road,
 - George Street,
 - Willswood Lane, and
 - Live Oak Boulevard
- Replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations



The Avondale PEL Study is evaluating the feasibility of consolidating the roadway-rail at-grade crossings at:

- Avondale Garden Road,
- George Street,
- Willswood Lane, and
- Live Oak Boulevard

And replacing them with one, or possibly more, road-over-rail grade separations.

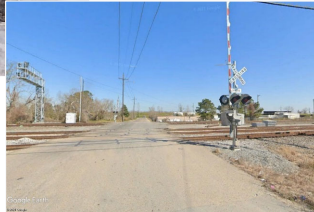


Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Avondale Garden Road and George Street Crossings



- **6-track crossing**
- **1 set of crossbucks, lights and gates**
- **Adjacent to the Avondale Rail Yard & Intermodal Terminal**



- **4-track crossing**
- **2 sets of crossbucks and lights**
- **1 set of gates**



The Avondale Garden Road crossing is a 6-track crossing departing the Avondale Rail Yard and Intermodal Terminal.

There is one set of crossbucks, lights and gates at this crossing.

The trackage reduces to a 4-track crossing at George Street, which has two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.

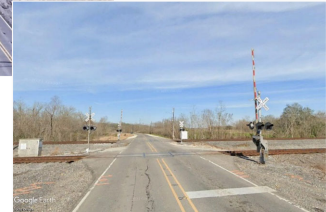
Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Willswood Lane and Live Oak Boulevard Crossings



- 4-track crossing
- 2 sets of crossbucks and lights
- 1 set of gates

- 3-track crossing
- 2 sets of crossbucks and lights
- 1 set of gates



The Willswood Lane crossing is also a 4-track crossing.

The trackage further reduces to a 3-track crossing at Live Oak Boulevard.

Like George Street, the Willswood and Live Oak crossings have two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.

Avondale PEL Study Goals




- **Reduce vehicle delay due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations**
- **Eliminate truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Weight Limit**
- **Improve intermodal connectivity**




The goals identified at the beginning of the study included:


- Reducing vehicle delay due to rail traffic and Avondale Rail Yard switching operations,
- Eliminating truck traffic from roadways posted as “No Truck Route” with a 5-Ton Limit, and
- Improving intermodal connectivity.




Stakeholder Outreach




- **Scoping Meetings**
 - Local Officials – March 8, 2022
 - Virtual Public – March 9 thru April 15, 2022
- **Business & Trucking Interests**
 - Travel Survey – March 8, 2022
- **Jefferson Parish School District**
 - Bus Routes – April 2022
- **Civic Association Meetings**
 - Waggaman Civic Association – April 6, 2022 & April 5, 2023
 - S1 Civic Association – April 20, 2022 & April 19, 2023
 - Kennedy Heights Civic Association – May 5, 2022




Crossing Delays



Safety Concerns



Emergency Services Access



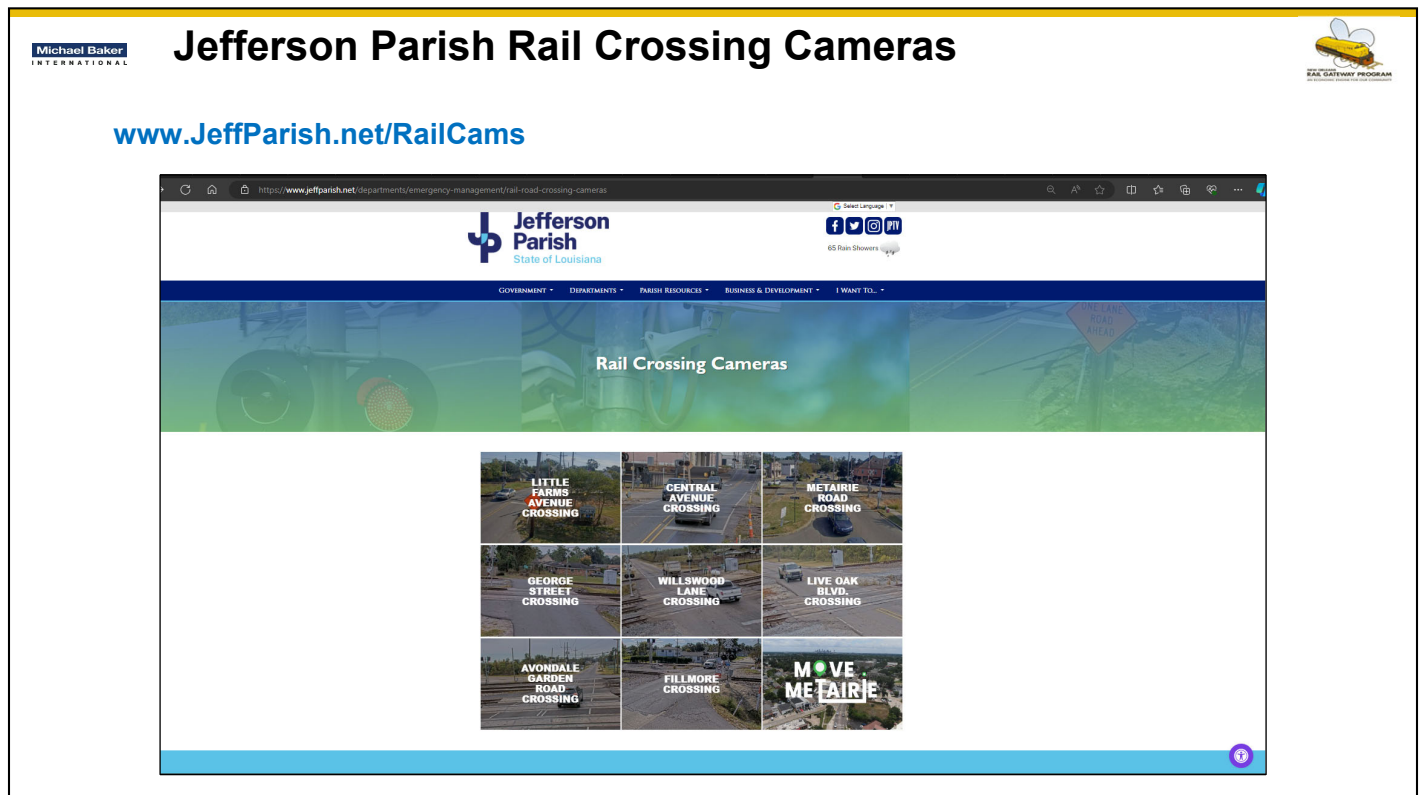
Train Horn Noise

These Study Goals were introduced during Local Officials and virtual Public Scoping Meetings during March and April 2022.

The study outreach also included:

- Distributing travel surveys to trucking companies to get an understanding of the trucking movements,
- Discussing the number of school bus crossings at the four crossings with Jefferson Parish School District representatives, and
- Providing study updates at multiple Civic Association meetings.

The issues of most importance we heard were crossing delays, safety concerns, emergency services access and train horn noise.



Jefferson Parish recognizes the long vehicle delay at several Jefferson Parish crossings.

In November 2022, real-time cameras were activated at seven crossing locations across the Parish, including these four crossings in Waggaman and Avondale. The cameras enable motorists to see if a train is crossing or stopped, so travel routes can be planned accordingly.

Alternatives Development Process



- **Process Involved Five (5) 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 – Inventory Environmental Features and Develop Grade Separation Alternatives**
 - **Step 5 – Evaluate effect on Environmental Features and Area Traffic and Identify Build Alternative Combinations**

The process for developing the alternatives follows five 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 – Identify the area environmental features and develop the alternatives, and
- Step 5 – Evaluate the effect on environmental features and area traffic, and identify Build Alternative Combinations

Step 1 – Existing and Future Roadway Traffic Volumes



- Existing (2021) Traffic Volumes – August & November 2021
- Future (2048) Traffic Volumes – Forecast at 0.5% compound growth rate

Crossing Location	Functional Classification	Speed Limit (mph)	Trucks (%)	School Buses	2021 AADT	2048 AADT
Avondale Garden Road	Local Road	20	2	9	1,070	1,220
George Street	Local Road	20	2	14	1,910	2,190
Willswood Lane	Local Road	40	10	12	1,210	1,380
Live Oak Boulevard	Minor Arterial	40	6	17	3,610	4,130

NOTE: AADT – Average Annual Daily Traffic

This table shows the truck percentages, number of school bus crossings, and average annual daily traffic at the four crossing locations.

Avondale Garden Road has the least daily traffic and school bus crossing, while Live Oak Boulevard has the most.

Step 2 – Existing and Future Crossing Blockage & Delay



- Existing (2021) Train Volumes – FRA Crossing Inventory Forms
- Future (2048) Train Volumes – Forecast at 1.0% compound growth rate
- Spreadsheet analysis to calculate crossing occupancy times

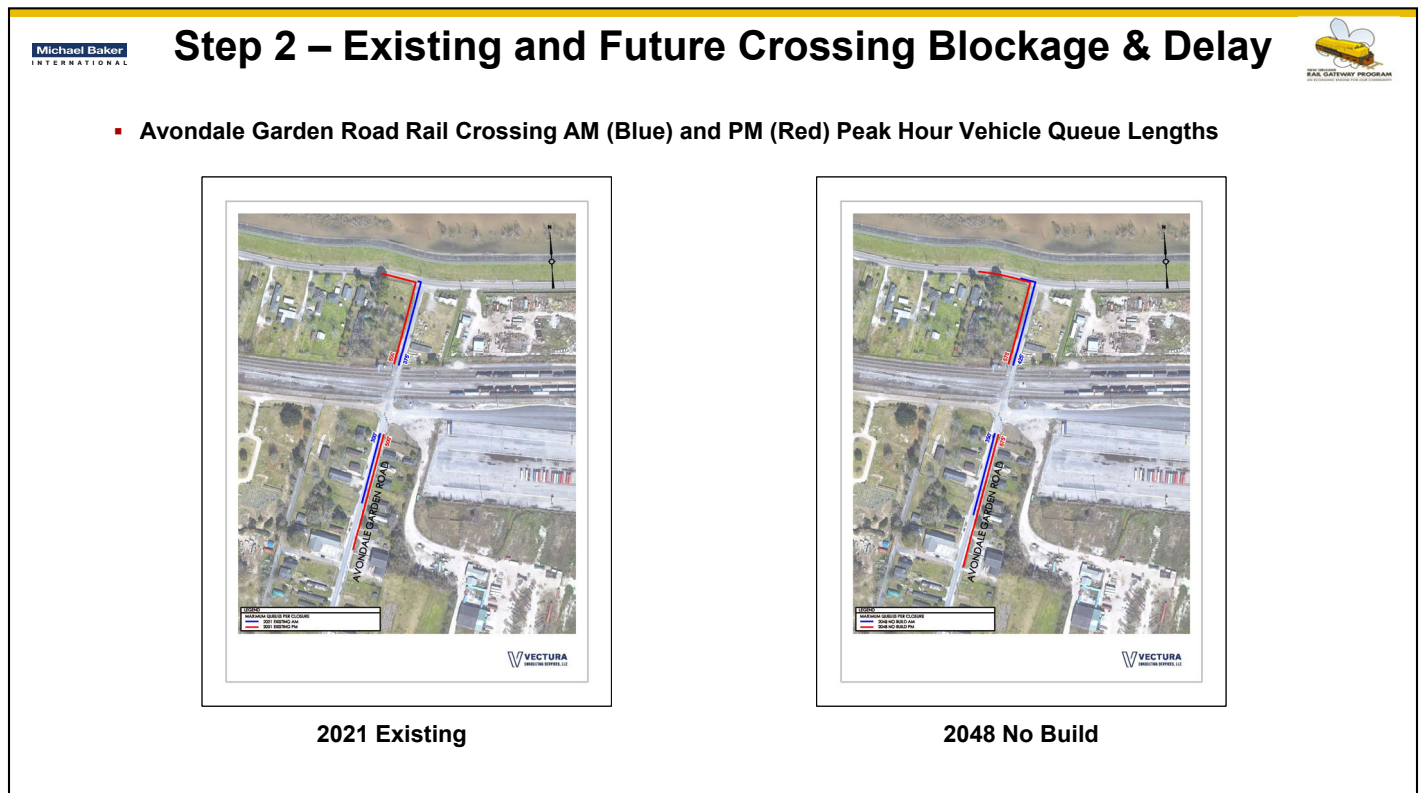
Crossing Location	Existing Year 2021					Year 2048 No Build				
	Trains Daily	Thru Trains (hpd)	Switching Moves (hpd)	Total Crossing Blockage (hpd)	Total Vehicle Delay (vhpd)	Trains Daily	Thru Trains (hpd)	Switching Moves (hpd)	Total Crossing Blockage (hpd)	Total Vehicle Delay (vhpd)
Avondale Garden Road	44	3.46	4.34	7.80	47.98	57	5.60	5.67	11.27	80.26
George Street	32	2.72	2.99	5.71	47.72	42	4.40	3.92	8.32	77.76
Willswood Lane	31	2.48	0.80	3.28	33.30	41	4.22	1.05	5.27	54.22
Live Oak Boulevard	14	1.82	-	1.82	20.96	18	3.17	-	3.17	30.27

NOTE: hpd – hours per day | vhp – vehicle hours per day

Blocked crossings due to thru train and switching moves were calculated using existing and forecast train volume data.

Switching moves exceed thru trains at the Avondale Garden Road and George Street crossings due to their proximity to the Avondale Rail Yard.

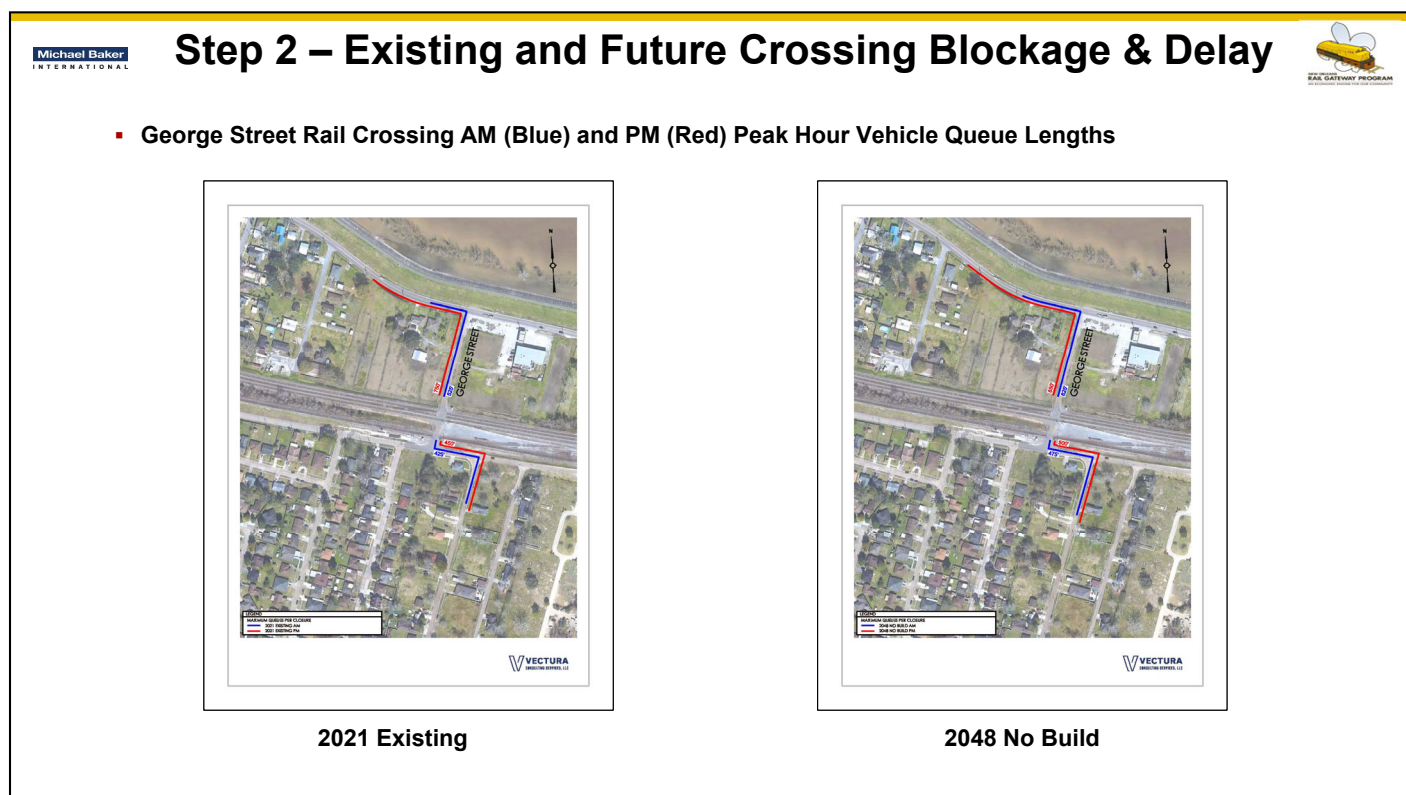
On average, the number of hours vehicles are delayed at these crossings each day varies from approximately 21 hours at Live Oak Boulevard (in 2021) to approximately 80 hours at Avondale Garden Road (in 2048).



The morning and afternoon peak hour traffic was determined, as part of the Step 1 Traffic Analyses, to be from 6:45 AM to 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, respectively.

These figures illustrate the maximum length that traffic could back up at Avondale Garden Road in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).

These queues were calculated based on projected traffic volumes. It was noted during field observations that drivers at times altered their travel route upon seeing a train blocking the crossing. Therefore, actual queues in the field may appear less than those shown on this slide due to drivers altering their behavior to avoid congestion.



These figures illustrate how far the traffic could back up at George Street in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).

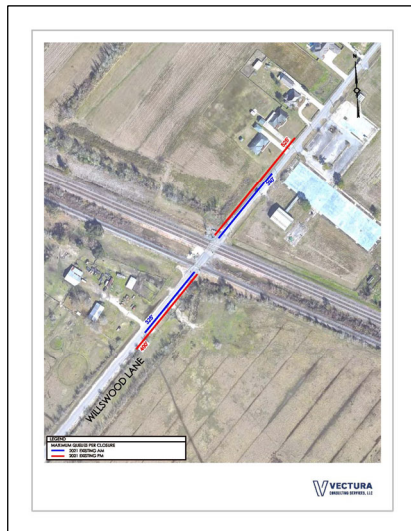
As with Avondale Garden Road, these queues were calculated based on projected traffic volumes. Actual queues may appear less than those shown on this slide due to drivers altering their behavior to avoid congestion.

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

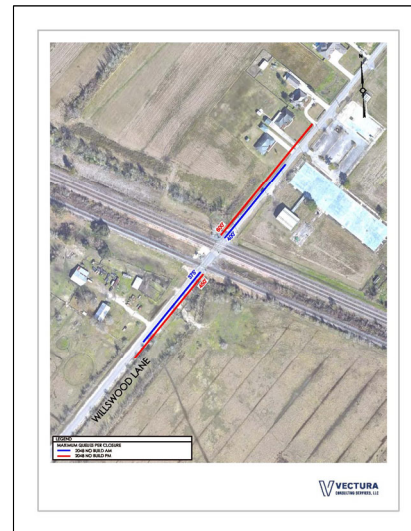
Step 2 – Existing and Future Crossing Blockage & Delay



- Willswood Lane Rail Crossing AM (Blue) and PM (Red) Peak Hour Vehicle Queue Lengths

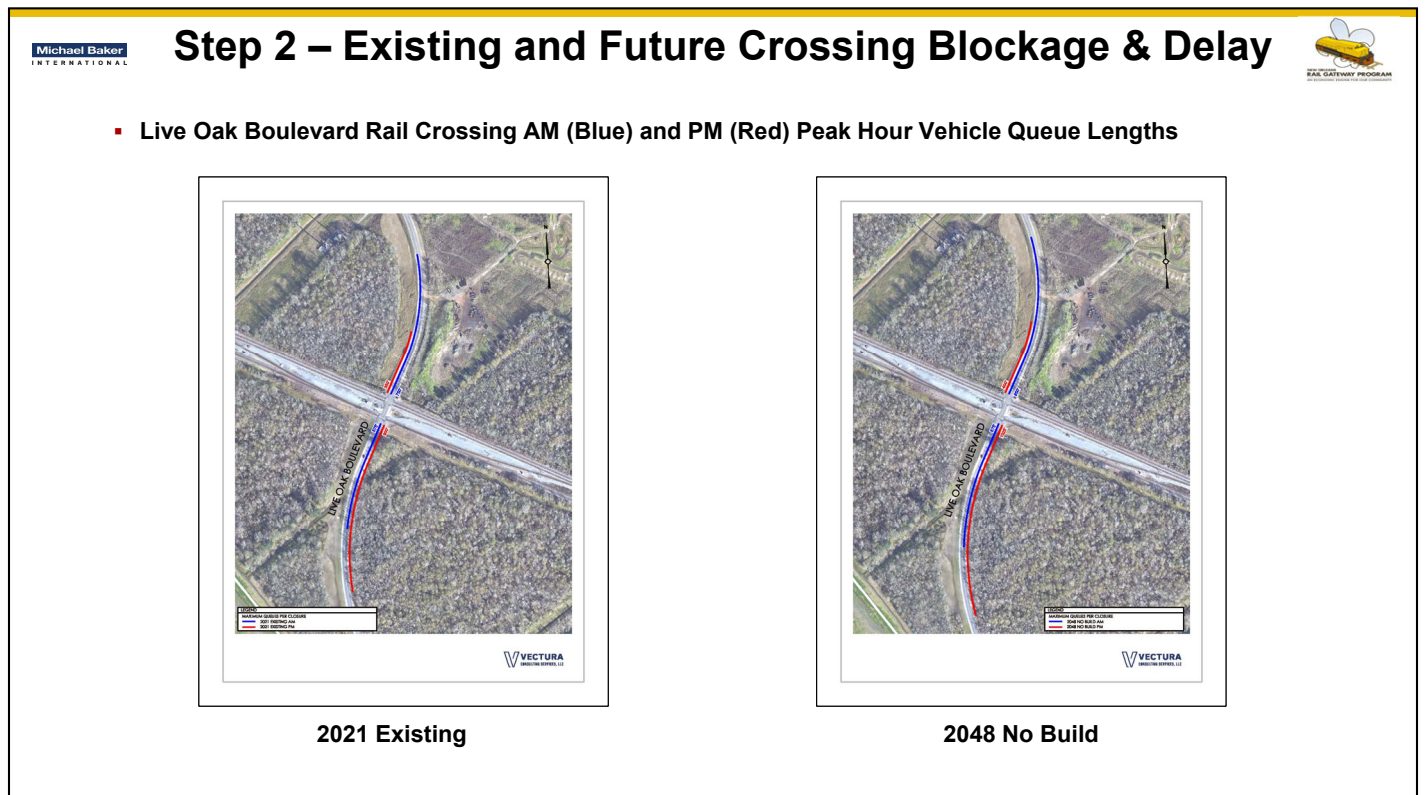


2021 Existing



2048 No Build

These figures illustrate how far the traffic could back up at Willswood Lane in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).



These figures illustrate how far the traffic could back up at Live Oak Boulevard in the morning (in Blue) and in the afternoon (in Red).

Step 3 – Grade Separation Warrants



▪ FHWA Warrant Guidance – when grade separation should be considered

Warrant Condition	Avondale Garden Road		George Street		Willswood Lane		Live Oak Blvd	
An average of 30 or more trains per day	+	44 (57)	+	32 (42)	+	31 (41)	-	14 (18)
Vehicle delay exceeds 30 vehicle hours per day (vhp) with consideration for cost effectiveness	+	58.74 (80.26)	+	57.65 (77.76)	+	40.42 (54.22)	-	14.71 (19.37)
Other Warrant Conditions	-	Not Met	-	Not Met	-	Not Met	-	Not Met

NOTE: Values 2021 (2048)

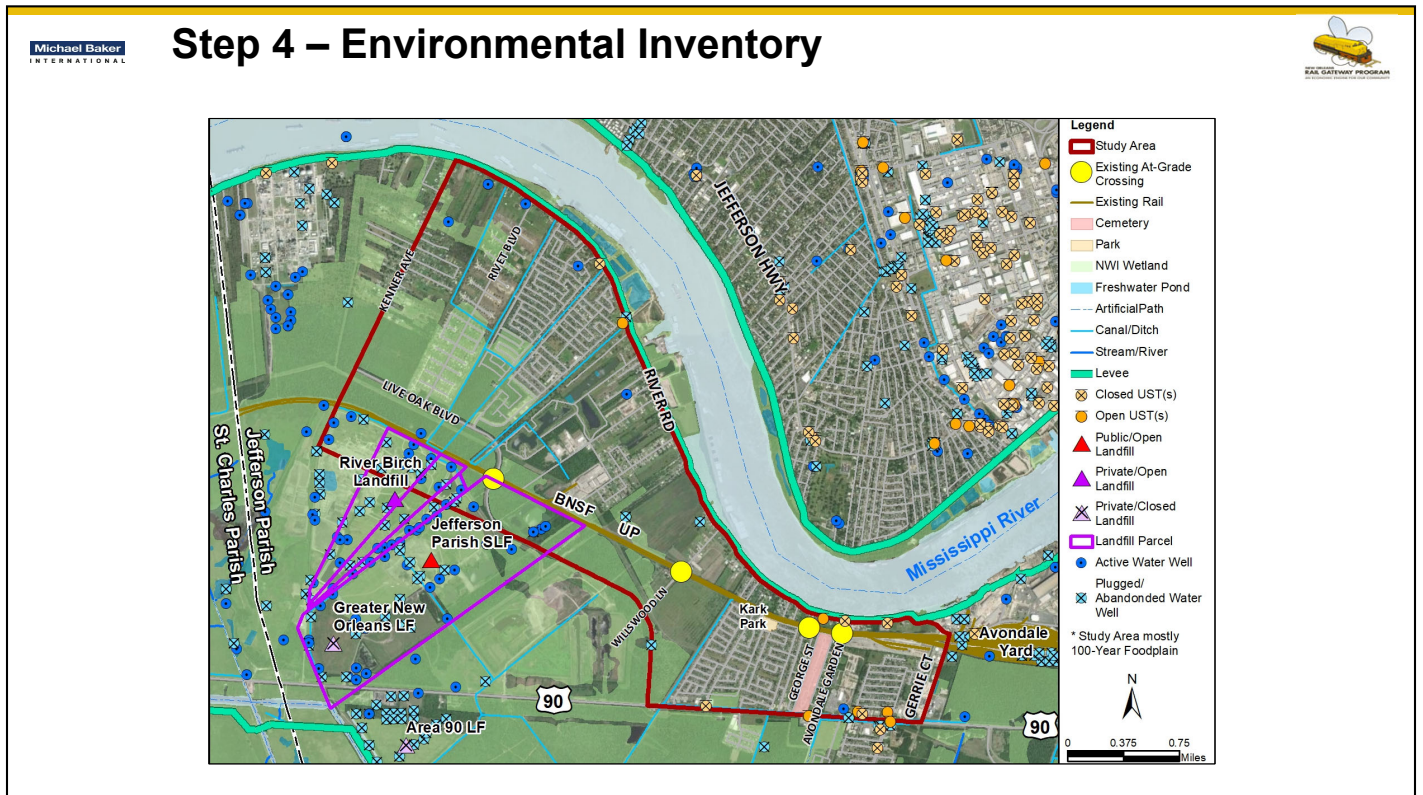
- Whenever a new grade separation is constructed, **consideration should be given to the possibility of closing one or more adjacent crossings provided:**
 - Acceptable alternate access across the rail line exists within one (1) mile measured along the track
 - The median trip length normally made over the crossing would not increase by more than 2.5 miles
- Avondale Garden Road and George Street crossings both satisfy this Guidance

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

Only two of FHWA's warrant conditions are applicable to the Waggaman and Avondale crossings, the average number of trains per day and the daily vehicle delay due to blocked crossings.

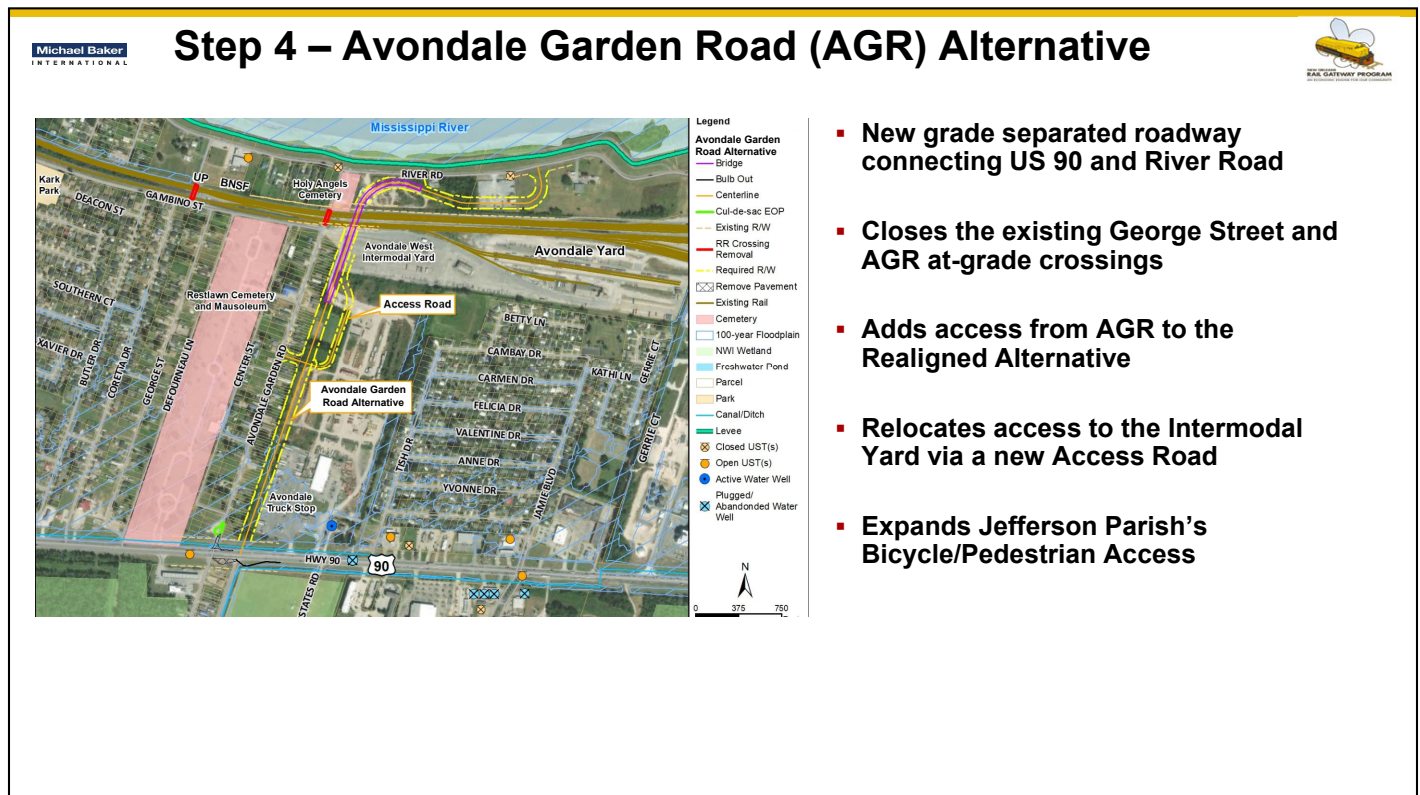
Only the Avondale Garden Road, George Street and Willswood Lane crossings exceed these warrant conditions. The Live Oak Boulevard crossing does not exhibit the number of train crossings or resultant vehicle delay required to consider grade separation.

The Guidance also indicates that consideration should be given to closing adjacent crossings, given certain criteria, when a grade separation is contemplated. The Avondale Garden Road and George Street crossings satisfy the listed distance criteria. The Willswood Lane crossing does not.



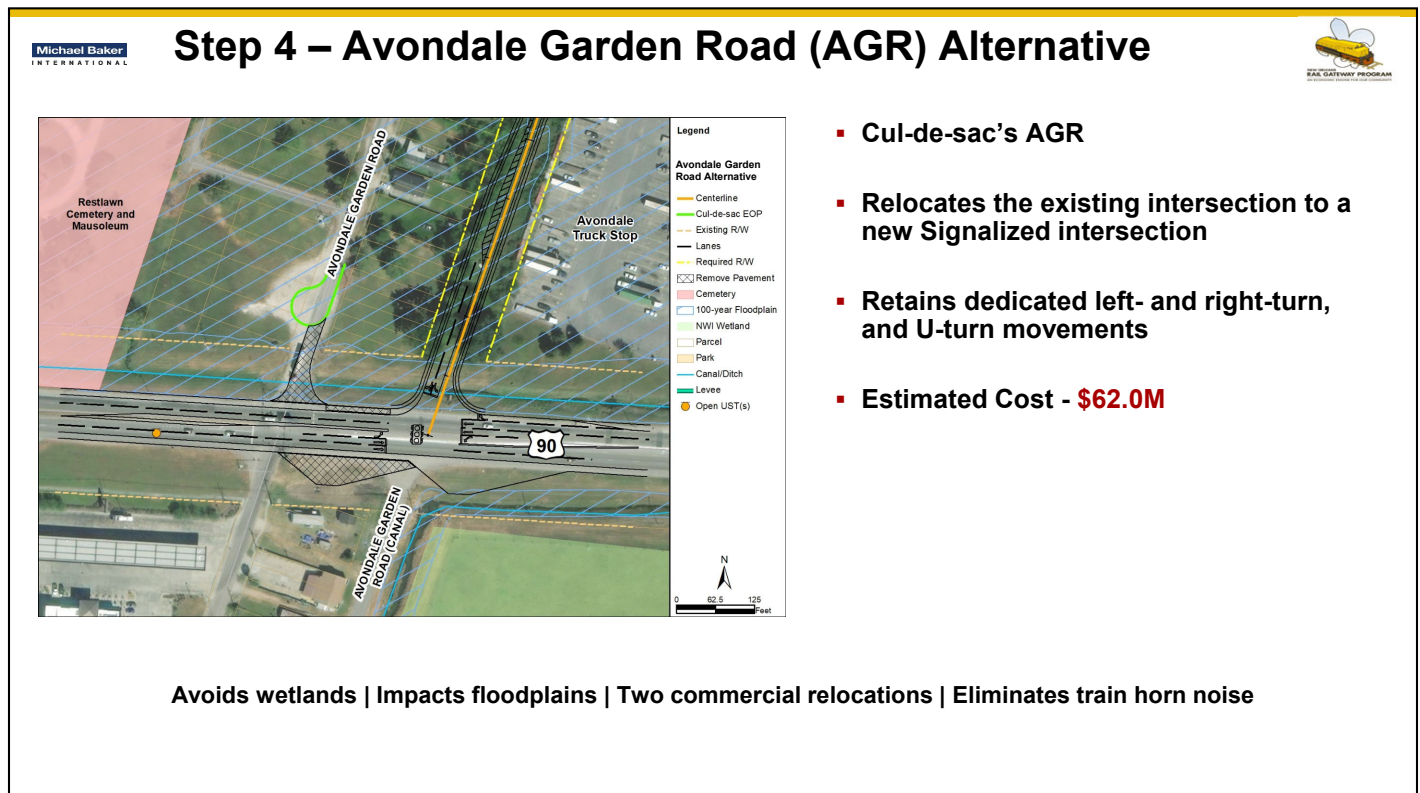
Numerous environmental features are scattered throughout the Waggaman/Avondale area.

The dominant environmental features within the Study Area are residential and commercial development, wetlands, floodplains, and the Greater New Orleans, Jefferson Parish & River Birch landfills south of the railroad tracks.



The Avondale Garden Road Alternative would:

- Construct a new grade separated roadway between the AGR residential properties and the Truck Stop and Container Yard, connecting US 90 and River Road,
- Close both the existing George Street and AGR at-grade crossings,
- Add a new, direct connection from AGR to the Realigned Alternative and relocate access to the Intermodal Yard via a new Access Road, and
- Expand Jefferson Parish's Bicycle/Pedestrian Access.



The Avondale Garden Road Alternative would also:

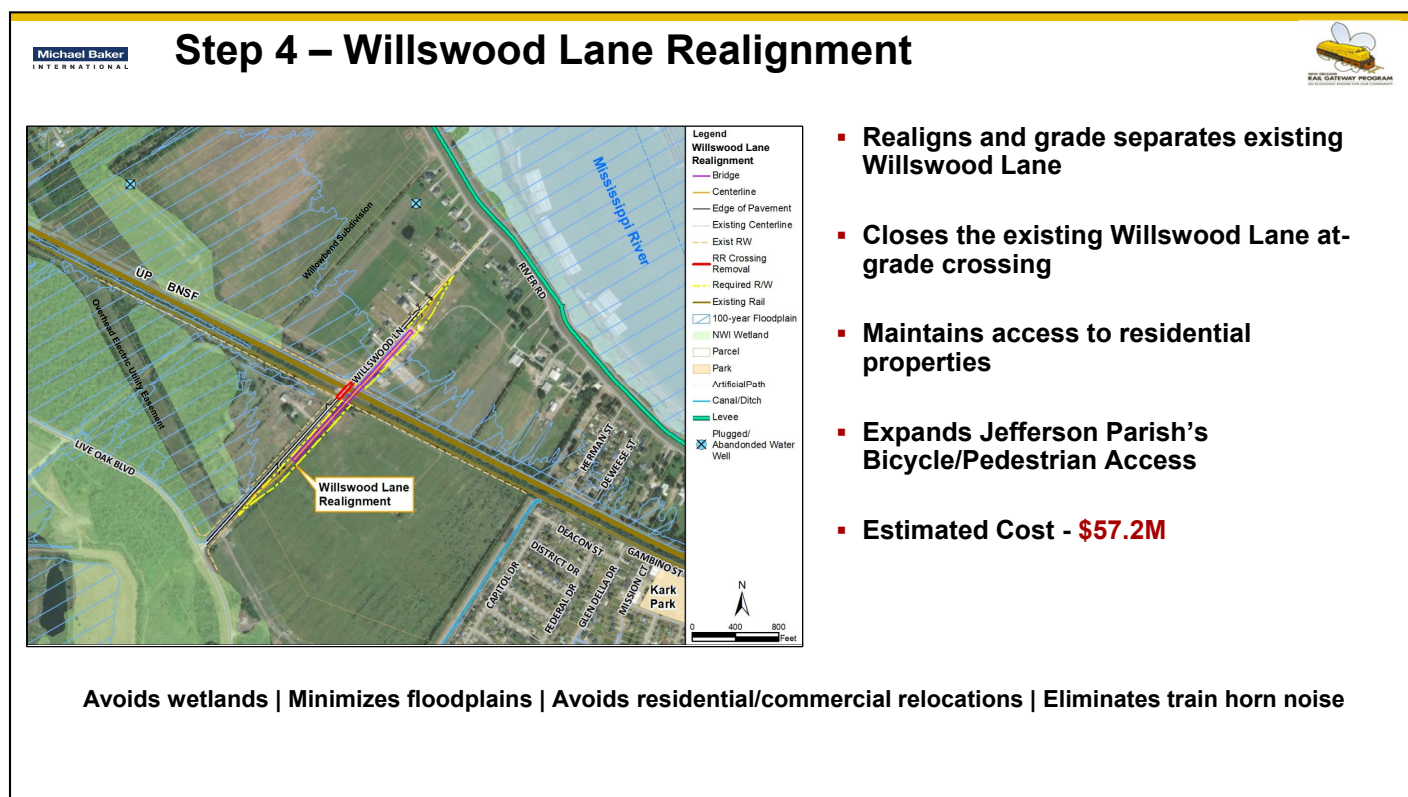
- Cul-de-sac AGR and remove the existing intersection with US 90,
- Relocate the existing intersection to the new signalized intersection, and
- Retain the existing dedicated left- and right-turn and U-turn movements at the new intersection location.

The estimated cost is \$62.0M

This alternative would avoid wetlands but would impact floodplains. It would result in two commercial relocations – Concrete Busters and MTC Trucking. Closing the George Street and AGR crossings would eliminate the required train horn auditory warnings.



The Avondale Garden Road Alternative would look similar to this.



The Willswood Lane Realignment would:

- Realign and grade separate the existing Willswood Lane to the east,
- Close the existing Willswood Lane at-grade crossing,
- Maintain access to existing residential properties via the existing roadway, and
- Expand Jefferson Parish's Bicycle/Pedestrian Access.

The estimated cost is \$57.2M

This alternative would avoid wetlands and minimize floodplain impacts. It would also not result in any residential or commercial relocations and would also eliminate the required Willswood Lane train horn auditory warning.

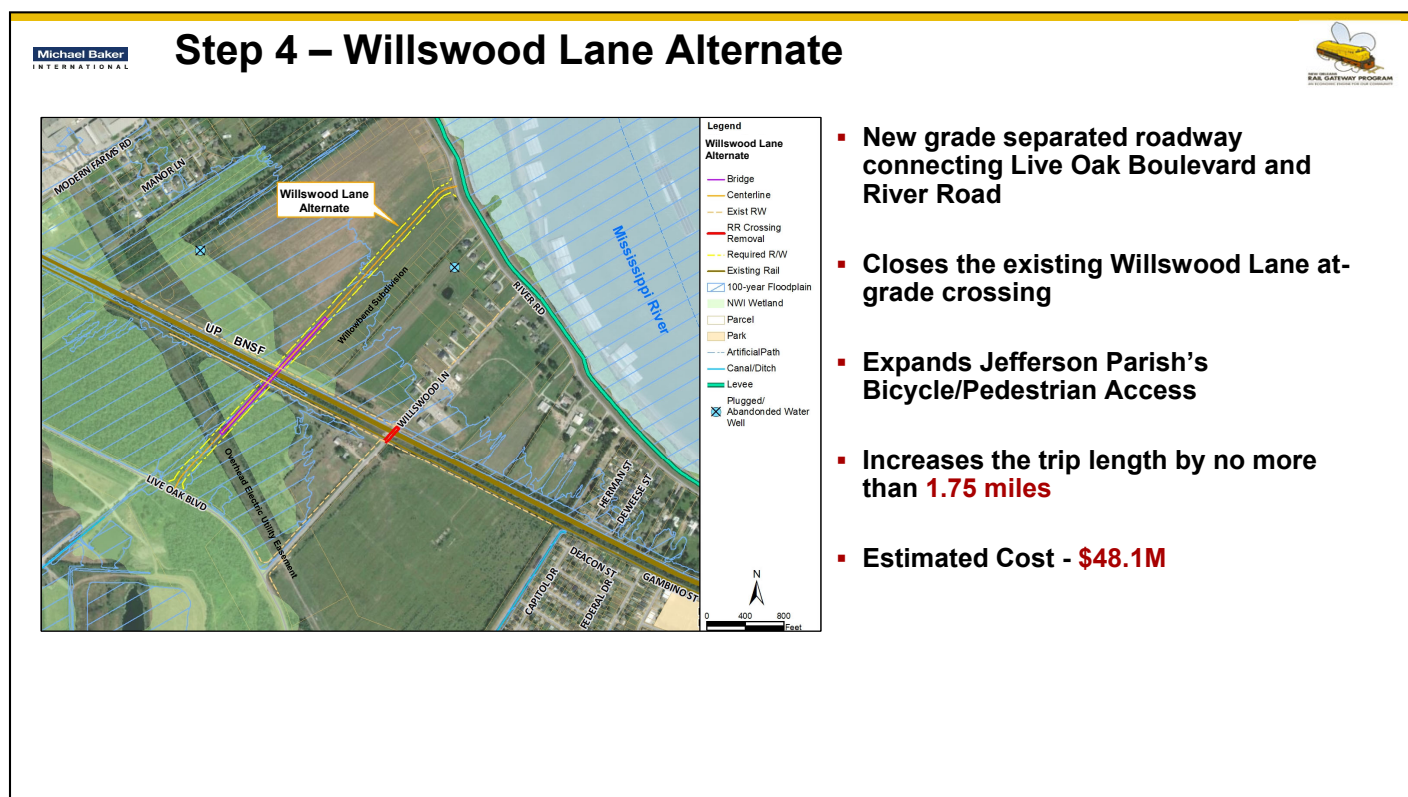


Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

Step 4 – Willswood Lane Realignment

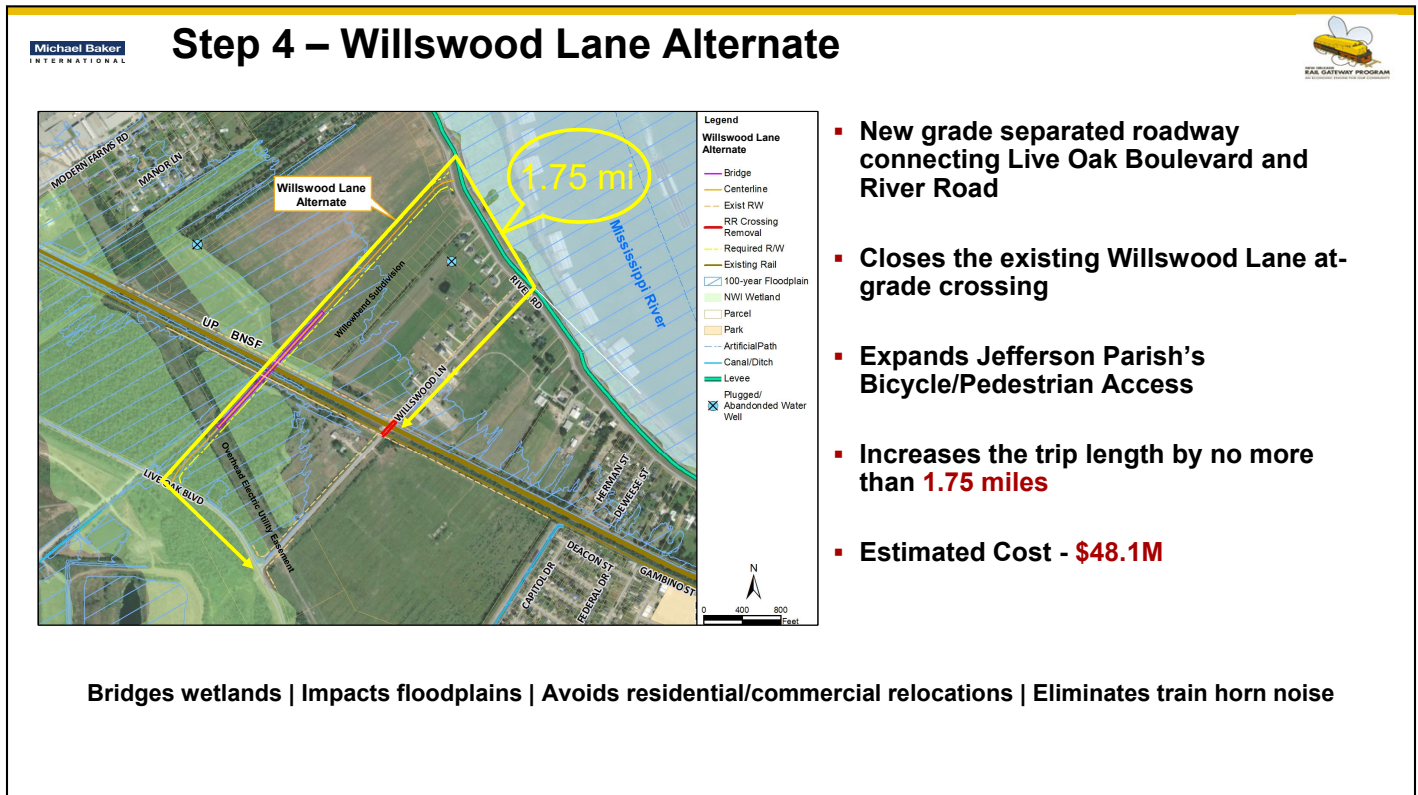


The Willswood Lane Realignment would look similar to this.



The Willswood Lane Alternate would:

- Construct a new grade separated roadway west of Willswood Lane connecting Live Oak Boulevard and River Road,
- Close the existing Willswood Lane at-grade crossing, and
- Expand Jefferson Parish's Bicycle/Pedestrian Access.




It would increase the trip length for Willswood Lane residents by no more than 1.75 miles, depending the travel destination.

The estimated cost is \$48.1M


This alternative would bridge wetlands but would impact floodplains. It would not result in any residential or commercial relocations. Closing the Willswood Lane crossing would eliminate the required train horn auditory warning.



The Willswood Lane Alternate would look similar to this.



Step 5 – Build Alternatives and Environmental Impacts



Description	Build Alternatives					No Build
	1	2	3	4	5	
Avondale Garden Road Alternative						
Willswood Lane Realignment						
Willswood Lane Alternate						
Wetlands Impacts	Avoids	Avoids	Bridges	Avoids	Bridges	None
Floodplain Impacts	Impacts	Minimizes	Impacts	Impacts	Impacts	None
Relocations	Two Commercial	Avoids	Avoids	Two Commercial	Two Commercial	None
Total Estimated Cost	\$62.0M	\$57.2M	\$48.1M	\$119.2M	\$110.1M	\$0

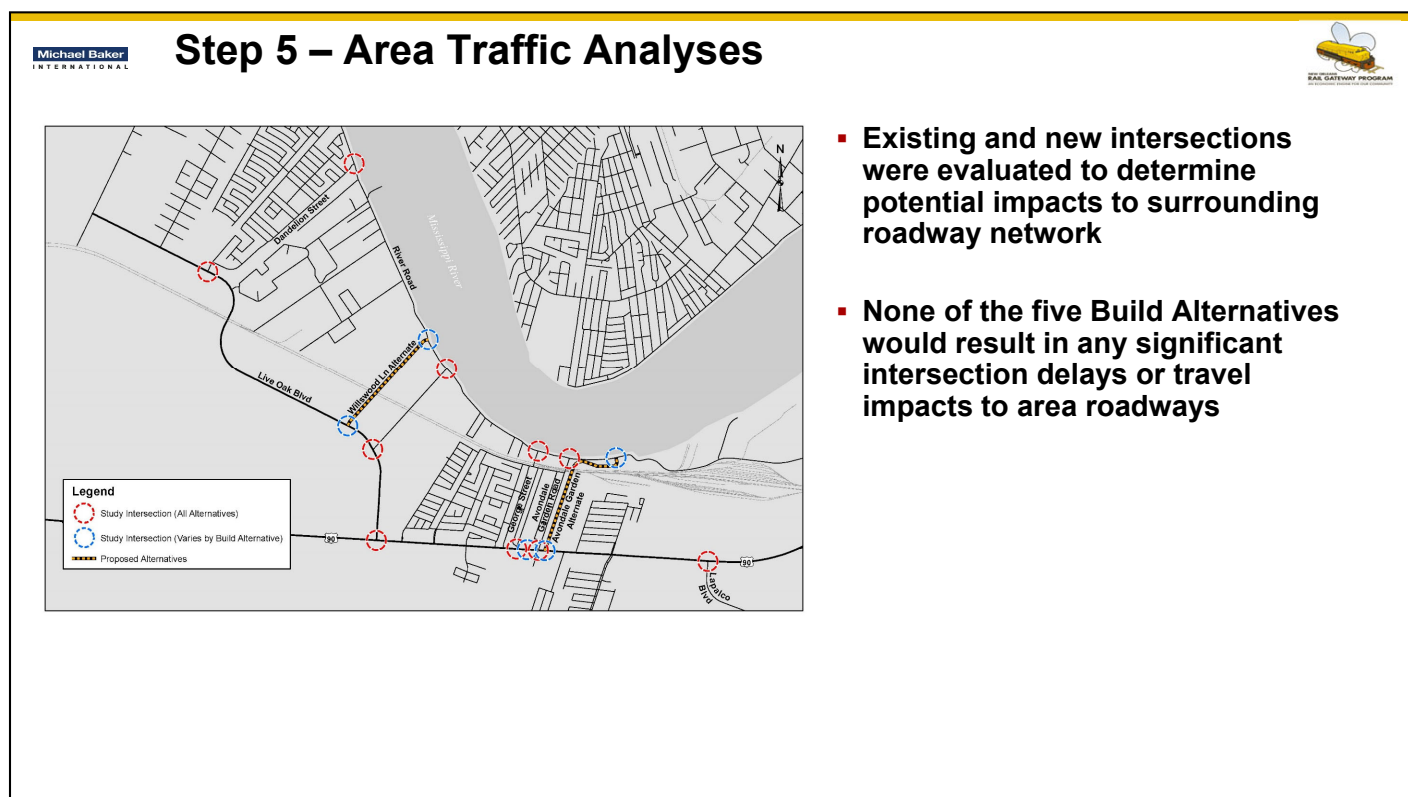
These three alternatives, in various combinations, resulted in five Build Alternatives.

- Build Alternative 1 is the Avondale Garden Road (AGR) Alternative and closes both the existing AGR and George Street crossings
- Build Alternative 2 is the Willswood Lane Realignment and closes the existing Willswood Lane crossing
- Build Alternative 3 is the Willswood Lane Alternate, and also closes the existing Willswood Lane crossing
- Build Alternative 4 combines the Avondale Garden Road (AGR) Alternative (Build Alternative 1) and the Willswood Lane Realignment (Build Alternative 2), closing the existing Willswood Lane, George Street, and AGR crossings
- Build Alternative 5, combines the Avondale Garden Road (AGR) Alternative (Build Alternative 1) and the Willswood Lane Alternate (Build Alternative 3), also closing the existing Willswood Lane, George Street, and AGR crossings

These five Build Alternatives can be viewed in more detail along with rendering of the alternatives in the Exhibits Area.

The potential impacts and estimated costs of the five Build Alternatives are summarized in this table.

The No Build Alternative would not result in any impacts to wetlands or floodplains or require any relocations, and would have zero cost, but would not correct any of the stated goals.

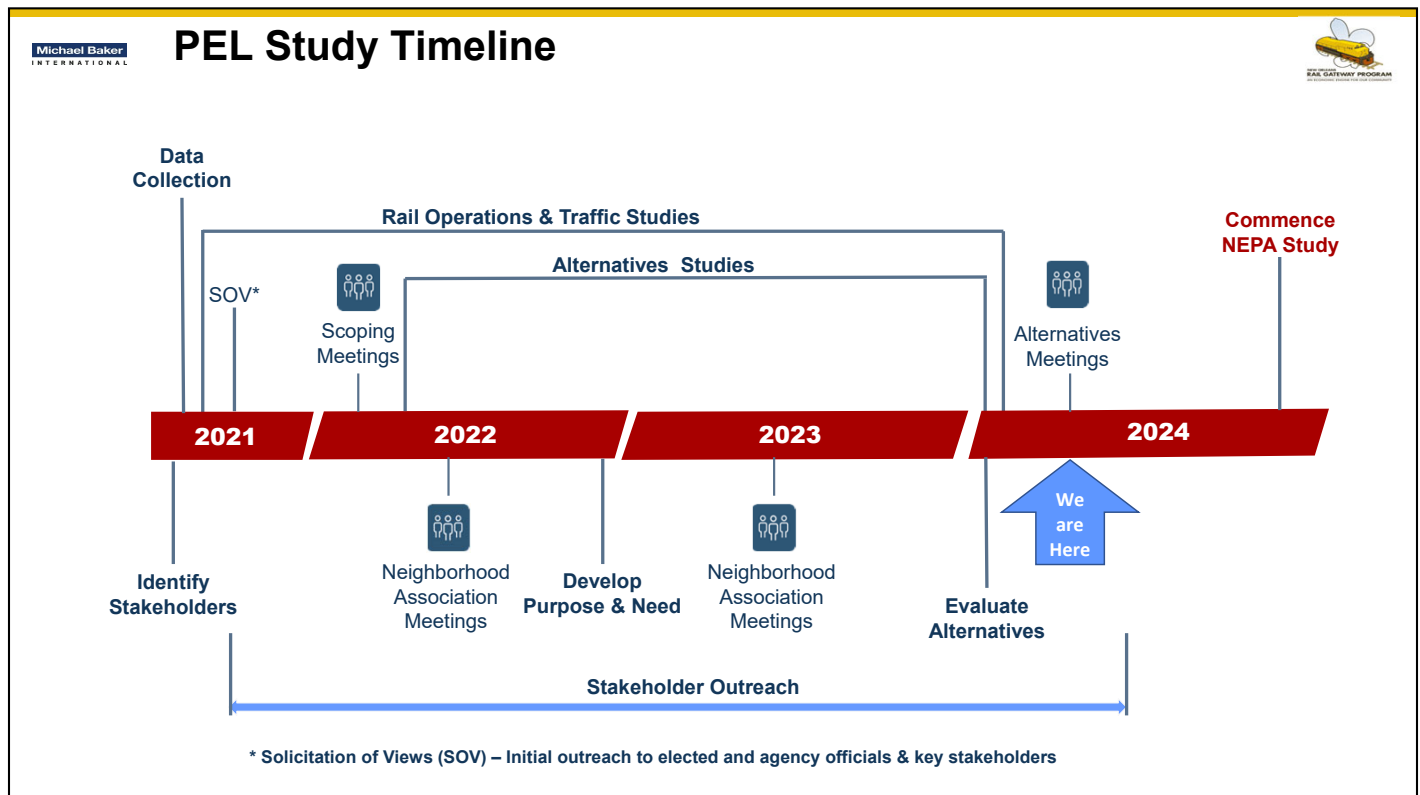


Area intersections were evaluated to determine any impacts of the Build Alternatives on the surrounding roadway network.


The red dashed circles indicate existing intersections where analyses were conducted for the forecast future No Build and all five Build Alternatives.

The blue dashed circles indicate the new intersections that were evaluated for the Build Alternatives. These intersections differ depending on the Build Alternative being evaluated.

None of the five Build Alternatives would result in any significant intersection delays or travel impacts to area roadways.

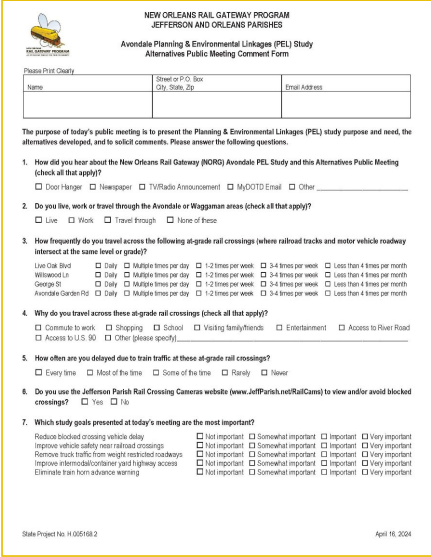



This PEL study is nearing completion. The study will advance to the NEPA study phase later this year. The NEPA phase will further refine the alternatives with a focus on the environmental impacts. The study and NEPA documentation will take at least a year to complete.



We Want to Hear From You!

- Comment Forms are available at Tonight's Meeting or at www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy**



- Submit at this meeting**
- Submit Online**
- USPS Mail to:**
 - NORG – Avondale PEL Study
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
P.O. Box 56845
New Orleans, LA 70116
- Email to: NORG@mbakerintl.com**
(Subject: *NORG Avondale PEL 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 **April 30, 2024**, 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 the Avondale PEL Study webpage and can be submitted online or downloaded and printed for sending via USPS mail or email.

Comment forms must be received or postmarked no later than April 30, 2024, to become part of the public record.

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

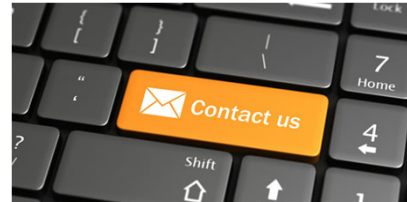


Stay Involved!



- **Provide your contact information to receive:**
 - Newsletters
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- **Contact us:**
 - Telephone - (504) 488-6196
 - Email - NORG@mbakerintl.com
 - Subject: Avondale PEL Study
 - USPS Mail
 - New Orleans Rail Gateway Program
 - Avondale PEL Study
 - c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.
 - P.O. Box 56845
 - New Orleans, LA 70116



- Visit the DOTD Avondale PEL Study web page www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy

Please provide your contact information to receive newsletters and future notices as the project moves to the next phase of study

You can contact us any time during the study by telephone, email and USPS Mail as listed here. This contact information is also available on the DOTD Avondale PEL Study Web page.

Study information will also be posted to the DOTD Avondale Webpage.



Thank you for Watching!



THANK YOU

