



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Who is the project sponsor(s) and what is their role in the development of this study?

The project sponsors are the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Their roles include project oversight, project reviews, and managing the environmental study process.

2. What role does Ochsner have in this project?

The Ochsner Health Foundation Hospital has no role in the project other than being a community stakeholder, much like other businesses in the area and resident groups in the adjacent neighborhoods.

3. What happened to the previous study?

The DOTD and FRA mutually agreed to temporarily suspend the previous study due to the lack of consensus and polarized public opinion on the feasible alternatives identified and lack of funding to conduct the necessary comprehensive studies needed to evaluate passenger service projections and Gateway-wide improvements.

4. When will the previous study restart?

The previous study will restart when additional funding is secured to conduct the necessary comprehensive studies and there is consensus on feasible alternatives that will garner community support.

5. What is the Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Study?

The study is an engineering/environmental study that will evaluate combining the two at-grade rail crossings located on Jefferson Highway between the Ochsner Health Foundation Hospital and Monticello Avenue into a single rail crossing. The study will also evaluate grade separating the combined crossing with a roadway overpass.

6. Why is the project needed?

Trains operate across the two Jefferson Highway at-grade crossings 24 hours a day, 7 days a week causing traffic delays and impeding delivery of emergency services in the region.

7. How long will this project take to complete?

The current environmental study could take up to 36 months to complete. The project would be constructed when funding is identified.

8. At what points will the community's input be sought on this project?

Public input is an integral part of this study. Public Scoping Meetings will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 to introduce the study. A project webpage, newsletters and a second public meeting will keep the public informed and encourage public input throughout the study.

9. Are the rail improvement projects that have been completed in the area related to the previous study?

They are not. The railroads are continuing to make rail improvements to improve their operations.

10. Whom do I contact with questions or comments?

Questions or comments can be e-mailed to norg@mbakerintl.com or by calling the project information phone line (504) 488-6196. They can be also be asked of the project team members or submitted as comments during a public meeting.

11. How to stay involved?

- *Visit the Program Webpage*
http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/administration/public_info/projects/home.aspx?key=50
- *Call Information Line: (504) 488-6196*
- *E-Mail: norg@mbakerintl.com*
- *USPS Mail: P.O. Box 56845, New Orleans, LA 70156-6845*
- *Meetings will be announced through email notices, postcard mailings, newspaper advertisements, and on the Program Webpage*