

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

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION PROJECT

Jefferson Highway (US 90) is classified as a Major Arterial and is part of the national highway network. It is also a key route for hurricane evacuation and is used by the police, fire and ambulances for delivery of emergency services. In 2018, an average of 25,000 vehicles per day travel this portion of Jefferson Highway. New Orleans Regional Transit Authority's Tulane (39) and Jefferson Transit's Jefferson Highway (E-3) bus routes also traverse this corridor.

Two at-grade highway-rail crossings are less than 700 feet apart between the Ochsner Health Foundation Hospital and Monticello Avenue. A median of 10 trains per day operate 24-hours per day, seven days a week across these two crossings. Train lengths vary from single locomotives to unit trains approaching almost three miles in length. Over fifty percent of the trains are one mile in length or longer.

This study will evaluate combining these two crossings into a single crossing at either crossing location. The study will also evaluate grade separating the combined crossing at these two locations with a roadway overpass.



PROJECT GOALS

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

State, Federal, and Local Sponsors



OPEN HOUSE FOR THE NORG JEFFERSON HIGHWAY RAIL CROSSING RELOCATION PROJECT

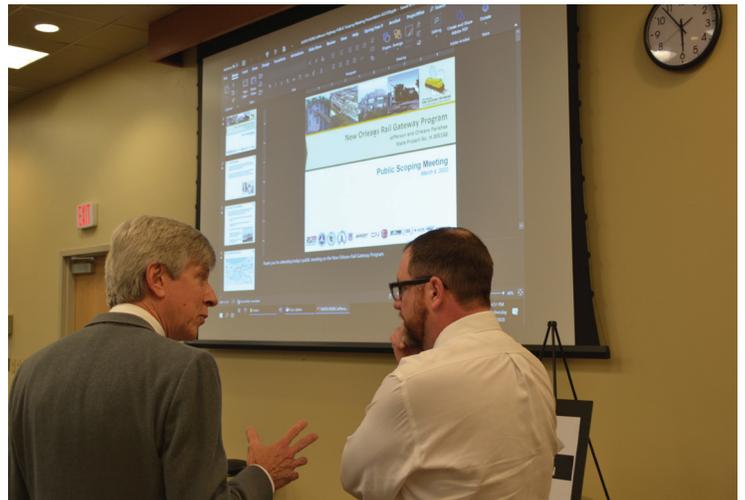
The first public meeting for the New Orleans Rail Gateway (NORG) Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project was held on March 4, 2020 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in the Caldwell Room of the Ochsner Medical Center Campus Brent House Hotel. The NORG Program is an on-going study to evaluate rail and roadway improvements, or “Program of Projects”, to upgrade the NORG and infrastructure in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes to increase Regional competitiveness and enhance economic growth.

The meeting was advertised in local papers, in press releases distributed to local media outlets, and in notices distributed to contacts on the NORG mailing list. An open house meeting format provided attendees the opportunity to watch a 15-minute presentation, view exhibit boards, and discuss the study with the Project Team. Attendees were encouraged to complete a comment form with their thoughts about the study.

The presentation repeated throughout the meeting and provided:

- An overview of the NORG Program
- The status of the 2011 Gateway-wide environmental study
- An overview of the Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project
- How to stay involved and participate in the decision-making process

The presentation, exhibit boards, comment form and meeting summary are available on the NORG Program webpage (http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/administration/public_info/projects/home.aspx?key=50).



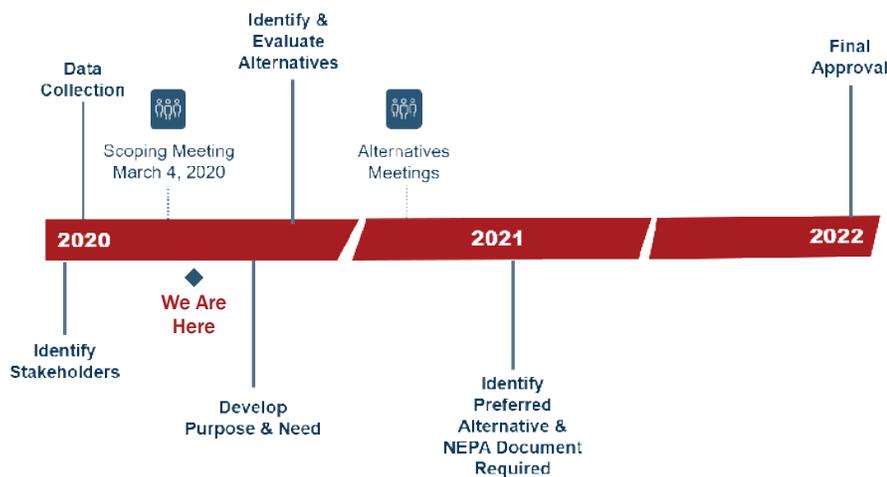
COMMENTS

Twenty-four people attended the meeting and 11 comment forms were received during the March 4 - March 18, 2020 public comment period. The comments included:



NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to present Alternatives is anticipated to be held Spring 2021, but may be delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This meeting will be announced through newspaper notices, mail and email notices, press releases, on the NORG Program webpage, and direct mailings to contacts on the mailing list.



STAY INFORMED

If you would like to be added to the contact list for the Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation Project, please contact the Project Team at:

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