

# Railroad Safety Project along the KCS Line in Baton Rouge

East Baton Rouge Parish

State Project: H.012449

Federal Aid Project: H012449



# Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of this project is to improve safety of the railroad crossings along the KCS railroad tracks by upgrading the warning devices and rehabilitating ten (10) of the crossings and by eliminating five (5) crossings along the railroad in the City of Baton Rouge.



# Brief History

- In 2016, the FRA awarded a Grant to DOTD, Baton Rouge, & KCS to improve the safety of crossing on the KCS line between City Park and the KCS yard.
- This Grant allows DOTD to upgrade the warning devices in this corridor much sooner than possible through the normal process.



# Brief History (cont.)

- Three Public Meetings were held between November 2018 and January 2019.
- The Project has been updated based on feedback from the public and discussions with the project team.



# Objective of this Public Meeting

- This is the final Public Meeting in the series committed to by the Project Team and will present the updated project scope with changes based on feedback from the public and additional information received.
  - This is the scope that will be progressed into design.
- Solicit comments about the project from public and other interested parties.



# Project Description

- Maintenance and rehabilitation of ten (10) railroad crossings and upgrade of the warning devices along the Kansas City Southern (KCS) railroad in the City of Baton Rouge.
  - North Street, Main Street, Laurel Street, Florida Boulevard, Convention Street, Wisteria Street, South Boulevard, Myrtle Walk Street, Terrace Avenue, and Louise Street.
  - Any detours necessary will be coordinated with the City and State.



# Project Description (Cont.)

- Permanent closure of five (5) railroad crossings along the KCS railroad in the City of Baton Rouge.
  - Gayosa Street, Julia Street, Smith Street, Orange Street, and Apple Street.
  - Sidewalks at these crossings would be removed; however, pedestrian crossings will be created at several of the other crossings where maintenance and rehabilitation is proposed.



# Project Description (Cont.)

- Connector roads will be constructed between Smith St., Orange St., Apple St., and Louise St. paralleling the railroad tracks. The connector roads will maintain access for the residents. Crossings will not be closed until the connector roads are completed and open for traffic.

Clarification- A wide sidewalk or multi-use path will be constructed between Apple and Louise on the west side of the tracks. A connector road on the east side of the tracks will depend on right of way. If right of way is not available, a wide sidewalk or multi-use path will be proposed.





# Major changes based on information received

- South Blvd. was initially planned to be closed. Based on feedback and information received from the City, it will be upgraded.
- The project now proposes to construct connector roads between Apple St. and Louise St. on both sides of the railroad tracks.
- The upgrades to the Government Street crossing are being completed as part of the Road Diet project.



The project proposes connector roads between Smith, Orange, and Apple. A wide sidewalk or multi-use path will be constructed between Apple and Louise on the west side of the tracks. A connector road on the east side of the tracks will depend on right of way. If right of way is not available, a wide sidewalk or multi-use path will be proposed.



# Preliminary Scope at crossings

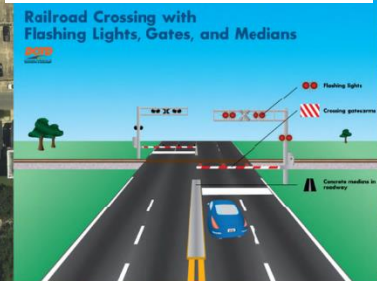
North St.:  
Improve steepness of crossing.  
Upgrade flashing lights and gates  
(2 gates on east side of tracks).



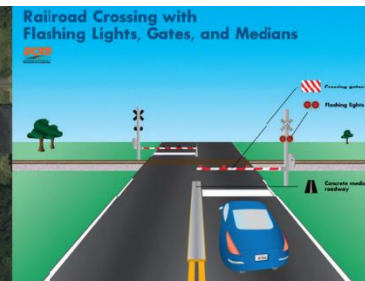
Main St.:  
Improve steepness of crossing.  
Upgrade flashing lights and gates  
(2 gates on west side of tracks).  
Add gate to N. 15<sup>th</sup> St.



Florida Blvd.:  
Construct raised median &  
improve steepness of crossing.  
Rehabilitate crossing surface.  
Upgrade flashing lights and gates.



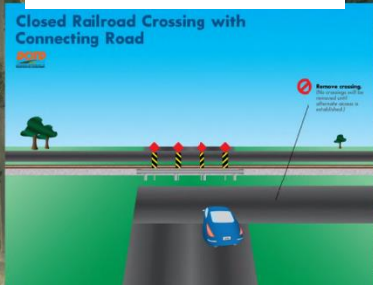
Laurel St.:  
Construct raised median, improve  
pavement markings and improve  
steepness of crossing. Upgrade flashing  
lights and gates.



Convention St.:  
Construct raised median & improve  
steepness of crossing. Upgrade flashing  
lights and gates and connect sidewalks.



Gayosa St.:  
Close Crossing



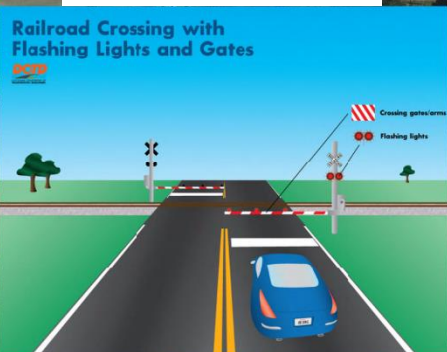


# Preliminary Scope at crossings

Government St.:  
Construct a raised median with flashing lights. Install new flashing lights and gates and connect sidewalks (this work is part of Road Diet project).



Wisteria St.:  
Install flashing lights and gates..

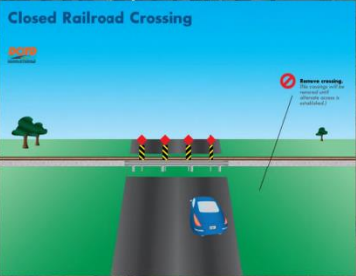
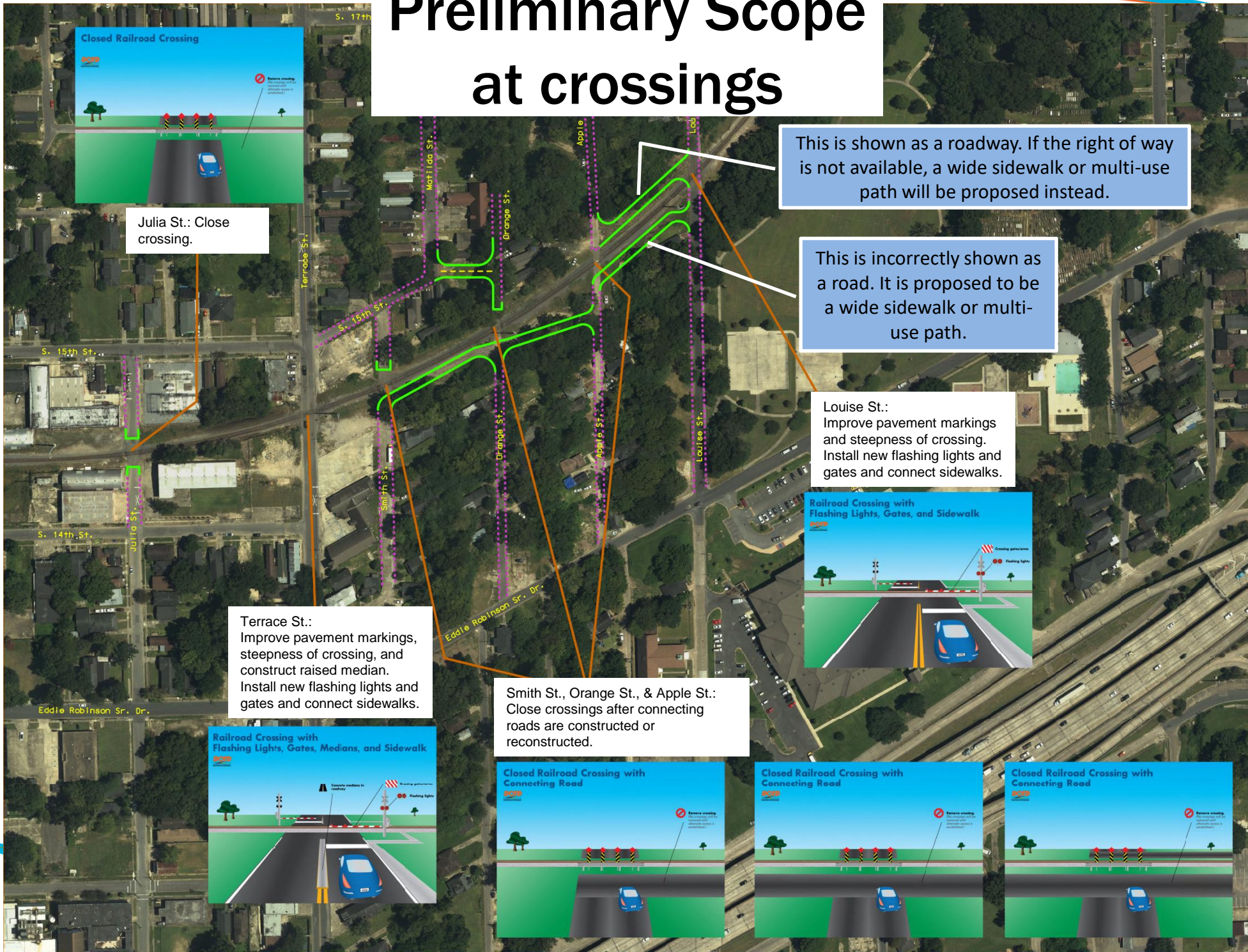


South Blvd. & Myrtle Walk St.:  
Improve pavement markings, steepness of crossing, and construct a raised median. Install new flashing lights and gates and connect sidewalks.





# Preliminary Scope at crossings

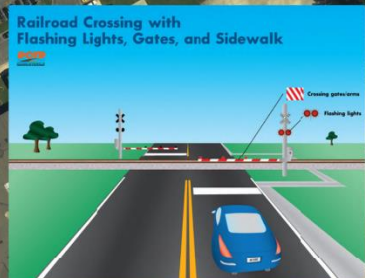


Julia St.: Close crossing.

This is shown as a roadway. If the right of way is not available, a wide sidewalk or multi-use path will be proposed instead.

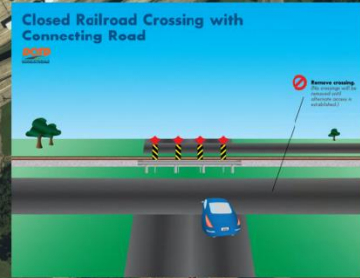
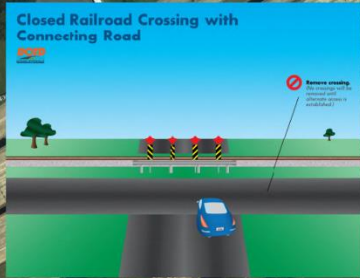
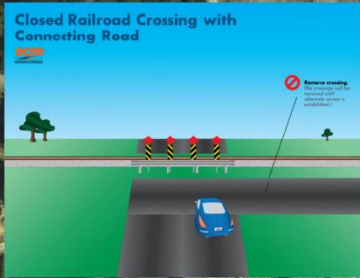
This is incorrectly shown as a road. It is proposed to be a wide sidewalk or multi-use path.

Louise St.:  
Improve pavement markings and steepness of crossing. Install new flashing lights and gates and connect sidewalks.



Terrace St.:  
Improve pavement markings, steepness of crossing, and construct raised median. Install new flashing lights and gates and connect sidewalks.

Smith St., Orange St., & Apple St.:  
Close crossings after connecting roads are constructed or reconstructed.



Thank you for your time.  
Please remember to provide  
comments.

