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# New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

## Avondale Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study Jefferson Parish

State Project No. H.005168.2

# Summary of Virtual Public Scoping Meeting

**March 9 through April 15, 2022**

On-line via DOTD Web Page ([www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy](http://www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy))  
or Hard Copy by Request



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Louisiana Weekly - Newspaper Ad	03/07/2022; 03/14/2022
New Orleans Advocate - Westbank Newspaper Ad	03/09/2022; 03/16/2022
New Orleans Advocate - East Jefferson Newspaper Ad	03/09/2022; 03/16/2022

## US plans new safety rules to crack down on carbon monoxide poisoning from portable generators

By Mike Hixenbaugh, Perla Trevizo and Lexi Churchill ProPublica

The U.S. agency responsible for protecting consumers announced this week that it intends to recommend new mandatory rules to make portable generators safer, saying manufacturers have not voluntarily done enough to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning deaths caused by their products.

The announcement, part of a 104-page staff report by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is a key step toward regulating gas-powered generators, which can emit as much carbon monoxide as 450 cars and which kill an average of 80 people in the U.S. each year.

The commission's move comes more than two decades after U.S. regulators identified the deadly risks posed by portable generators and two months after an NBC News, ProPublica and Texas Tribune investigation found that federal efforts to make portable generators safer have been stymied by a statutory process that empowers manufacturers to regulate themselves, resulting in limited safety upgrades and continued deaths.

Portable generators, which are often used to power life-saving medical equipment, air conditioners, furnaces and refrigerators after major storms, emit enough carbon monoxide to kill within minutes when operated in enclosed spaces or too close to exterior openings. Carbon monoxide deaths caused by generators occur after nearly every major power outage, including 10 fatalities in Texas tied to generators during last year's winter storm and power grid failure.

Generator manufacturers say that their products are not dangerous when users follow the safety guidelines in instruction manuals, which include keeping the machines outside, away from doors and windows. But safety advocates say

those instructions aren't always easy to follow, because the machines can't be operated in rain or snow. And a review of user manuals by the news organizations found that they can provide conflicting messages. Some manuals suggest keeping generators a shorter distance from windows or doors than the 20-foot minimum recommended by the CPSC, while others provide more general guidance such as keeping the machines "far away" from homes.

The new push for mandatory rules has been years in the making. In 2016, after concluding that generator manufacturers could save lives by making machines that emit less carbon monoxide, the CPSC announced plans to make the modification mandatory.

But before the CPSC could impose the rule, industry-friendly federal law required the agency to first allow generator manufacturers to come up with their own safety upgrades and to study whether those voluntary measures were enough to protect consumers.

Industry representatives instead proposed a cheaper safety upgrade: switches that would automatically turn the devices off when carbon monoxide builds up to an unsafe level. They said the shut-off switches would prevent 99 percent of deaths, but safety advocates argued that claim was exaggerated.

Three years after the industry unveiled the voluntary standard, many manufacturers still had not adopted the change, the NBC News, ProPublica and Texas Tribune investigation found. This week's CPSC report echoed those findings. The commission found that too few manufacturers had adopted voluntary changes, clearing the way for it to continue the process of developing and implementing mandatory regulations.

"Think how many lives could have been saved had the CPSC gone forward with a mandatory standard in 2016," said Marietta S. Robinson, who served as a CPSC commissioner from 2013 to 2018

and supported mandatory generator safety standards.

The CPSC report concluded that voluntary changes implemented by some manufacturers did reduce the risk to consumers, but not to the degree that industry officials had promised.

Based on tens of thousands of simulations of common generator carbon monoxide accidents, CPSC staffers found that the industry's preferred solution of adding shut-off sensors without reducing carbon monoxide emissions would prevent about 87 percent of generator deaths, while still leaving some consumers exposed to CO levels toxic enough to require hospitalization.

CPSC staffers also tested a more stringent approach of equipping the machines with both shut-off sensors and engines that emit far less carbon monoxide, and found that the combination would eliminate "nearly 100 percent" of generator deaths and the vast majority of hospitalizations.

The agency's staff will urge the CPSC's five commissioners, who have the final say, to make the recommended mandatory standard a priority in the next fiscal year, which begins in October.

Alex Hoehn-Saric, the group's newly appointed chair, said in a statement that the new CPSC staff report on portable generators "demonstrates the need to move forward as quickly as the law permits with mandatory rulemaking designed to address this invisible killer."

A ProPublica, Tribune and NBC News analysis of CPSC data showed that more than 300 people died from carbon monoxide poisoning from generators in the four years after CPSC proposed its rule lowering emissions.

"It's about time," said Sheletta Brundidge, a Houston native who lost five family members in 2020 when they left a portable generator running inside an attached garage after Hurricane Laura knocked out power across Louisiana. "You

can't expect these companies to police themselves. And, you know, I gladly and I'm sure most Americans would pay some additional money to have some safety measures in place."

The CPSC previously estimated that reducing generators' carbon monoxide emissions would add about \$115 to the manufacturing cost of most units, which typically sell for \$500 to \$1,500.

Joseph Harding, technical director at the Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association, the trade group that developed the voluntary shut-off switches standard, said in an email that the group was still in the process of reviewing the CPSC's report. Harding reiterated the industry's belief that shut-off switches alone would eliminate 99 percent of deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning, and disputed the agency's conclusion that too few companies had adopted the safety measure.

"Compliance with the standard is already at a high level and is projected to grow substantially in the next year," Harding wrote. The industry group declined to provide data supporting that contention to the news organizations, saying it was confidential.

Rachel Weintraub, general counsel for the advocacy group Consumer Federation of America, said this moves the CPSC closer to establishing a mandatory standard for portable generators.

The lack of widespread compliance, she said, provides the CPSC with direct evidence that refutes the industry's claims that voluntary measures are enough to protect consumers. "There are less levers that they can pull to slow the process," Weintraub said, referring to the industry.

Brundidge said she hopes the latest effort to mandate safety upgrades moves more quickly.

"It shouldn't have taken all of these people to die and get sick for somebody to come and say, 'Hey, wait a minute, we need to do something,'" she said. "And so I'm glad that finally something is being done to police the manufacturers, because we've

been putting it on the consumers, and that's not right."

ProPublica is a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power. This article was co-pub-

lished with The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan local newsroom produced in partnership with NBC News. Mike Hixenbaugh is with NBC News, Lexi Churchill with The Texas Tribune. ◊

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTICE

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Jefferson and Orleans Parishes  
State Project No. H.005168.2

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## Health Care firms were pushed to confront racism. Now some are investing in Black startups.

By Blake Farmer  
Contributing Writer

(Special from Nashville Public Radio via [khn.org](http://khn.org)) — Marcus Whitney stands out in Nashville's \$95 billion health care sector as an investor in startups. In addition to co-founding a venture capital firm, he's organized an annual health tech conference and co-founded the city's professional soccer club. And, often, he's the only Black man in the room.

So in summer 2020, as Black Lives Matter protesters filled city streets around the country following George Floyd's murder, Whitney pondered the racial inequalities that are so obvious in his industry — especially locally.

"I sat at the intersection of two communities — one that I was born into and one that I had matriculated into," he said.

On a quiet Sunday morning after the protests died down, he pounded out a long letter to his peers that pointed out those making the most money from Nashville's for-profit health care industry are still almost all white men.

Whitney hit publish on Monday, leading to weeks of intense conversations.

The racial reckoning of the past couple of years has inspired many

industries to take a look at their histories and practices. In health care, there are long-standing and well-documented disparities in care for Black and white patients.

Those disparities have carried over into who gets funding for research and health startups. Of the nation's more than 900,000 health care and social assistance companies, which include home health and other health services, roughly 35,000 — or fewer than four percent — are Black-owned, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Whitney wrote that this problem isn't his to fix, but he realized he's in a unique position as one of the few Black venture capitalists in health care. So his firm, Jumpstart Foundry, launched a dedicated fund to get behind Black entrepreneurs in health care. The letter was "pretty key" to pulling in investors, he said.

The fund is called Jumpstart Nova. It's a tiny slice of the estimated \$42 billion of venture funding invested last year in health tech. But it did exceed its initial goal, raising \$55 million from the likes of pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly, medical supplier Cardinal Health, and the hospital chain that started Nashville's health care industry, HCA.

Each corporation measures its annual profits in the billions of dollars, so the fund represents only a sliver of their investments. But Jumpstart is also just one part of their broader diversity investment initiatives. For example, Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly has committed \$92 million to Black-led venture capital firms since December 2020, according to company spokesperson Carrie Martin Munk.

Whitney said he didn't have to convince those blue-chip firms that investing in Black founders was a wise move, but he did have to make the case that they would have enough promising startups from which to choose.

"That was really emblematic of the fact that there was a disconnect between the communities. These investors simply did not know enough Black people to know whether or not there were enough deals out there," Whitney said. "This is not like an indictment of them. This is the reality of our country."

Jumpstart Nova is the lead investor in three of the four companies it's working with so far. That means Whitney's team scrutinizes the business plan, vouches

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# Orleans Parish school board member John Brown Sr. resigns

By Marta Jewson  
The Lens

Orleans Parish School Board member John Brown Sr. announced that he was resigning from the board after learning his daughter is among a group of candidates being considered to replace outgoing NOLA Public Schools Superintendent Henderson Lewis Jr.

In a statement, Brown said he was taking the step of resigning to avoid a conflict of interest because the board is guiding the search process — along with a contracted search firm — and members will ultimately have to vote on Lewis' replacement.

"I have been informed by my daughter, Dr. Jawan Brown-Alexander, that her application for superintendent was recommended by the search firm assisting OPSB to move on to the interview phase of the superintendent search," Brown said in the emailed statement.

"While I had previously recused myself from the process and have been advised that I could continue to do so, I personally believe that as my daughter is now a formal candidate for the superintendency of our schools, it is now only appropriate that I step aside from my position."

The retired 30-year educator



BROWN-ALEXANDER

has represented District 1, covering a large portion of New Orleans East and the Lower 9th Ward, since he was appointed to



BROWN

take over the vacant position in 2015, replacing Ira Thomas, who resigned after being charged in a bribery scheme. Brown won the

seat in the 2016 election and was reelected in 2020.

The board's search for a superintendent has been underway since Lewis announced in June that the 2021-22 school year would be his last.

Last week, the board held a special meeting to learn about candidates from the search firm. Brown did not attend. The board voted to invite "one or more" candidates for an interview but did not name any of the recommended candidates.

"I have dedicated my entire adult life to my family, community, and the youth of New Orleans," Brown said in the

statement. "It has been a great honor to work on behalf of our young people as a teacher, coach, principal, mentor, and education leader."

Brown served as board chair for three consecutive years.

"Serving on the Orleans Parish School Board has been an incredible milestone in my service and I am so proud of many things we accomplished together, including during my time as School Board President."

The above article originally appeared in *The Lens* on its website ([www.thelensnola.org](http://www.thelensnola.org)). *The Louisiana Weekly* enjoys a partnership with *The Lens*.

## Louisiana museum in Baton Rouge plans: Professor Longhair's life, legacy exhibit

(AP) — An exhibit about the life and legacy of the New Orleans pianist known as Professor Longhair will open next month at a state museum near the Louisiana state Capitol.

Henry Roeland Byrd was a great influence on New Orleans music. His hits include "Tipitina," "Mardi Gras in New Orleans," and "Big Chief."

"Professor Longhair was the baddest," said David Kunian, curator of the exhibit opening April 19 at the Capitol Park Museum, said in a news release from the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. "All pianists in New Orleans and beyond bowed down to his feet, worshipped at his altar, smoked his peace pipe, ate his gumbo, and saw



Me Got Fiya: The Professor Longhair Centennial Exhibit on display at the old U.S. Mint in New Orleans in 2019.



A bust of Professor Longhair

his Zulu Queen on Rampart and Dumaine."

The exhibit, running through Aug. 6, will explore Byrd's early life and development, his first hits, 1970s comeback, untimely death and musical legacy.

Kunian, music curator at the New Orleans Jazz Museum, created the exhibition in 2018 to commemorate the centennial of Professor Longhair's birth on Dec. 19, 1918, in Bogalusa. The exhibit has been updated for display at Capitol Park Museum, the department said. It's titled "Me Got Fiyo: The Professor Longhair Centennial."

The museum will host a variety of programs in conjunction with the exhibition, including a "Women in the Blues" panel discussion on April 21.

The Capitol Park Museum was founded in 2007 as part of the Louisiana State Museum. It's across the park from the Capitol building and houses 500,000 artifacts that showcase the state's history and culture.

### Ryan C. Hamilton

Attorney at Law

**Ryan C. Hamilton** is an attorney in the New Orleans area. He is a New Orleans native and a St. Augustine grad. He opened his law practice in 2010. His practice largely consists of Successions, Wills, Donations and Personal Injury. Ryan will stop at nothing to help the members of his community receive the proper legal consultation by assisting them with any challenges that come their way.

SUCCESSIONS	WILLS	DONATIONS
A Succession is the court-supervised process of transferring a deceased person's assets to his/her heirs. A Succession may be testate or intestate. For more information contact our office.	A Will, sometimes called a "last will and testament," is a document that states your final wishes. It is read by the court after your death, and the court makes sure that your final wishes are carried out.	Donation inter vivos refers to donation of personal property made by the donor made during his/her lifetime, delivered to the donee with the intention of irrevocably surrendering control over the property.

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# Harriet Tubman Charter School gets new fitness equipment



PROVIDED PHOTOS  
New Orleans Saints players Payton Turner, No. 98; Nick Vannett, No. 81; and Will Clapp, No. 64; and Sara Licht, of the Saints Cheer Krewe, welcome Harriet Tubman Charter School students to their new Get Fit youth fitness zone donated by United Healthcare and the New Orleans Saints.



Norah Dupre checks out the school's new fitness equipment with pointers from defensive end Payton Turner.



Student Caiden Dyer checks out the school's new fitness equipment.

## Harvey Golden Age Club presents lifetime membership certificates

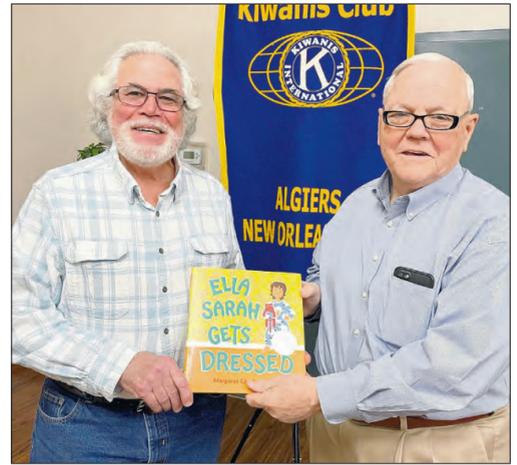


Dolores Jeandron, right, who joined the Harvey Golden Age Club in May 2009, recently accepted a lifetime membership certificate in recognition of her services to the club.



PROVIDED PHOTOS  
Betty Fauchoux, right, who joined the Harvey Golden Age Club in August 1995, recently accepted a lifetime membership certificate in recognition of her services to the club.

## Kiwanis Club of Algiers gets update on Jefferson Performing Arts Society



PROVIDED PHOTO  
Dennis Assaf, left, artistic director of the Jefferson Performing Arts Society, discussed the group's plans during a recent meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Algiers. With Assaf is David Whiddon, president of the club, which presented a book to the Algiers Regional Library in Assaf's name.

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### Staff report

The New Orleans Saints and United Healthcare introduced a Get Fit youth fitness zone this month at Harriet Tubman Charter School in Algiers.

Designed as part of the NFL's Play 60 initiative, students now have access to new fitness equipment helping them increase physical activity and fight childhood obesity.

About 80 students toured and tried the new fitness zone Feb. 3, while learning about the importance of physical activity and healthy nutrition from New Orleans Saints players and staff, and United Healthcare volunteers.

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**AROUND**

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**Foundation.** High school students who will graduate this spring are eligible to apply, with varying residency requirements focusing on St. Bernard Parish and the east bank of Plaquemines Parish. For applications, visit high school counselors or www.StBernardKiwanis.org.

**FESTIVALS**

**NEW ORLEANS BOURBON FESTIVAL:** A bartending competition, seminar series and two grand tastings will be part of the New Orleans Bourbon Festival March 23-26 at various New Orleans locations. Festival events include:

■ A free Bourbon Brawl bartending competition from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. March 23 at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum 1504 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.

■ A seminar series from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 24-25 at the New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal St. Tickets are \$129 for both days or \$59 for one day at tix.wrstbnd.com/e/event/bourbonfest22.

■ Grand tastings from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. March 24-25 at the Contemporary Arts Center, 900 Camp St. Tickets are \$109 for full participants, or \$59 for food only, at tix.wrstbnd.com/e/event/bourbonfest22.

Proceeds will be donated to Kids Can NOLA, the permanent charitable beneficiary of the New Orleans Bourbon Festival. For a complete schedule, visit www.neworleansbourbonfestival.com. The executive director of the festival is Tracy Napolitano.

**CONGO SQUARE RHYTHMS FESTIVAL:** The Tremé Creole Gumbo Festival and the Congo Square Rhythms Festival will happen concurrently March 25-27. The festivals will be throughout Louis Armstrong Park, with multiple performance stages from 10:45 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 26-27 and a large food and arts markets. The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation will open the festivities with a performance by John Boutté and Family, featuring Tanya Boutté and Arsène DeLay, at 8 p.m. March 25 at the George and Joyce Wein Jazz & Heritage Center, 1225 N. Rampart St. Tickets for that show are \$10 at EventBrite.com.

**GATESFEST:** The pop band X Ambassadors will be the headline for the Gatesfest Music & Art Festival, benefiting Congregation Gates of Prayer, from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 27 at the Jewish synagogue, 4000 W. Esplanade Ave., Metairie. Along with four stages of music, there will be an art village, food trucks and a beer garden. Tickets are \$54 at www.gatesfest.org/tickets.

**JEAN LAFITTE SEAFOOD FESTIVAL:** Live music, Louisiana food, swamp tours and kayak rentals will be featured during the Jean Lafitte Seafood Festival, which will be June 10-11 at the Jean Lafitte Auditorium and Grounds, 4953 City Park St, Jean Lafitte.

**FUNDRAISERS/GALAS**

**HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS:** Housing, education and

community outreach projects will be the beneficiaries of a golf tournament organized by the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans. After lunch and registration, the tournament will have a shotgun start at noon Monday, March 21, at English Turn Golf & Country Club, 1 Clubhouse Drive, New Orleans. The cost for a team is \$150. To register, contact Ashlyn Hemingway at (504) 837-2700 or ashlyn@home-builders.org.

**COALITION TO RESTORE COASTAL LOUISIANA:** The Lost Bayou Ramblers will perform during the Shell-A-Bration event benefiting the oyster shell recycling program of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 25 at Crescent Park in New Orleans. The \$45 tickets include food, including oysters, and drink. For tickets, visit www.crcl.org/shell-a-bration.

**NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** The Pelicans and Pearls fundraiser benefiting Nunez Community College scholarships will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 26 at Docville Farm, 5124 E. St. Bernard Highway, Violet. Tickets are \$55 from Katherine Lemoine at (504) 278-6491 or klemoine@nunez.edu.

**JEFFERSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** The Black & Gold Gala benefiting the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce will be from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, April 8, at the Ochsner Sports Performance Center, 5800 Airline Drive, Metairie, home of the New Orleans Saints. Tickets are \$125 at jefferson.chambermaster.com/events. To become a sponsor, contact Alex Zarookian at alex@jeffersonchamber.org.

**CLASSES**

**NEW ORLEANS CULINARY & HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE:** Enthusiast classes led by Liz Thorpe (fundamentals of cheese), Adolfo Garcia (empanadas) and Hieu Than (ramen) will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 24, May 6 and May 21, respectively, at the New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute. Tickets are available at www.nochi.org/enthusiast or by contacting Rémy Robert at remy@nochi.org or (504) 635-0017.

**HEALTH CAREER EXPLORATION:** Ochsner Health is accepting applications through March 31 for its free STEM Pathfinder program for Louisiana high school students. The education outreach program features hands-on clinical skills training sessions, science labs, virtual hospital tours and professional development. There will be two sessions for students in New Orleans East ZIP codes 70129, 70128, 70127 and 70126, from June 20 to 24 and from July 11-15. For information, email educationoutreach@ochsner.org or visit Ochsner.org/EducationOutreach.

**MEETINGS**

**REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF JEFFERSON PARISH:** Foreign affairs and the war on drugs will be the top topics during the lunch meeting of the Republican Women's Club of Jefferson Parish at noon March 17 at Chateau Country Club, 3600 Chateau Blvd., Kenner. The guest speakers will be Craig M. Wiles, who left Afghanistan just before the Taliban takeover, and social worker Brandy Klingman. The cost is \$37. To make a reservation, contact Lynn Duvernay at (504) 416-6612 or rwc.jeffparish@gmail.com by March 13.

**VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTICE**

**New Orleans Rail Gateway Program**

**Jefferson and Orleans Parishes**

**State Project No. H.005168.2**

**Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area will hold a Virtual Public Scoping Meeting for the Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the feasibility of closing the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe roadway-rail at-grade crossings at Live Oak Boulevard, Willwood 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.

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**Mail**

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program  
Avondale PEL Study  
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.  
PO Box 56845  
New Orleans, LA 70156

**Phone**

504-488-6196



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**THE ADVOCATE**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
**Publication Date: 03/16/2022**



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- Gordon Russell, Managing Editor of Investigations



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To support that effort, we have created the Louisiana Investigative Journalism Fund. Proceeds from the fund will go entirely to the hiring of additional reporters, their salaries, transportation, plus public records and legal fees. We humbly ask for your contribution to this endeavor as we continue with our mission to root out corruption and wrongdoing in Louisiana wherever it exists.

To learn more and to contribute, please visit [INVESTIGATE.NOLA.COM](http://INVESTIGATE.NOLA.COM)



# Harriet Tubman Charter School gets new fitness equipment



Norah Dupre checks out the school's new fitness equipment with pointers from defensive end Payton Turner.



New Orleans Saints players Payton Turner, No. 98; Nick Vannett, No. 81; and Will Clapp, No. 64; and Sara Licht, of the Saints Cheer Krewe, welcome Harriet Tubman Charter School students to their new Get Fit youth fitness zone donated by United Healthcare and the New Orleans Saints.

The New Orleans Saints and United Healthcare introduced a Get Fit youth fitness zone this month at Harriet Tubman Charter School in Algiers.

Designed as part of the NFL's Play 60 initiative, students now have access to new fitness equipment helping them increase physical activity and fight childhood obesity.

About 80 students toured and tried the new fitness zone Feb. 3, while learning about the importance of physical activity and healthy nutrition from New Orleans Saints players and staff, and United Healthcare volunteers.



Student Caiden Dyer checks out the school's new fitness equipment.

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Jefferson and Orleans Parishes  
 State Project No. H.005168.2

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**March 16, 2022 | 6:00-8:00 PM**

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Dinner will be provided.

Is pain keeping you from activities you love? Then take the first step towards recovery. Attend this educational event with **William Junius, MD**. He will answer your questions and discuss:

- Mako Robotic-Arm Assisted Technology
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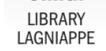
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# Print books found to be keeping edge over e-books

## Jefferson Library can provide both

During the recent pandemic, library patrons across the country indulged their reading habits by using their library's online services. In other words, they checked out e-books and read them with their electronic devices.



**Chris Smith**  
LIBRARY LAGNIAPPE

However, a recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that print books still maintain a strong edge for readers and are likely to remain popular for quite some time.

According to the Pew survey:

- 72% of U.S. adults read a book in some format over the past year
- 65% of respondents read a book in the past 12 months
- 37% of Americans read print books
- 28% read both print books and e-books
- 7% only read e-books
- Other interesting statistics:
  - Print books outsell e-books by a 4 to 1 margin.
  - 191 million e-books were sold in the United States in 2020.
  - Printed book sales amounted to 750.89 million units in 2020.
  - Print book sales increased 13.2% between 2020 and 2021, and 21% between 2019 and 2021.
  - E-book sales grew by 22% in 2020.
  - E-book sales have decreased 8% in 2021 but are still 8% higher than they were in 2019.
  - In 2020, 19% of adult readers

owned an e-reader, a decrease from 32% of adult readers who owned e-readers in 2014.

The Jefferson Parish Library has more than 660,000 books in its 16 libraries.

**TREE CLINIC:** Chris Dunaway, Jefferson Parish extension agent with the LSU AgCenter, will present "Tree Care Tips and Techniques" at 7 p.m. March 23, at the West Bank Regional Library, 2751 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey.

Dunaway will discuss choosing the right kind of tree, selecting a healthy tree, planting the tree, proper mulching, watering and pruning.

**GREAT BOOKS:** The members of the Great Books Discussion Group, which meets the third Tuesday of each month at the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, have announced the books to be read for the re-

mainder of the year. They are:

- **March 15** — "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd" by Agatha Christie
  - **April 19** — "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens
  - **May 17** — "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro
  - **June 21** — "How Green Was My Valley" by Richard Llewellyn
  - **July 19** — "Man in the High Castle" by Philip K. Dick
  - **Aug. 16** — "American Pastoral" by Philip Roth
  - **Sept. 20** — "The White Hotel" by DM Thomas
  - **Oct. 18** — "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" by CS Lewis
  - **Nov. 15** — "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll
  - **Dec. 20** — "Look Homeward, Angel" by Thomas Wolfe
- The group is free and open to the public.

partment of Wildlife and Fisheries will conduct a boating safety class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 19 at the River Ridge Library, 8825 Jefferson Highway, River Ridge. The class lasts between six and eight hours. Preregistration is not required but is recommended by going to the department's website.

The course includes information on choosing a boat, classification, hulls, motors, legal requirements and equipment requirements, navigation rules, trailering, sailboats, and related subjects that include canoeing, personal watercraft and more. Students who complete the course will be issued a vessel operators certification card.

Chris Smith is manager of adult programming at the Jefferson Parish Public Library.

## St. Mary's Dominican Class of 2006 holds reunion



PROVIDED PHOTO

Among the members of the St. Mary's Dominican High School Class of 2006 celebrating their 15th reunion are, from left, Katherine Mulino, Courtney Richard Hatt, Kathryn Mothe Ilig, Sarah Wellman McKay, Jessica Talazac, Kristin Foret Raspanti, Rebecca Gardner, Ashley Kiefer Autrey, Emily Gelpi Toras and Rachael Kinberger Weber.

## SCHOOL NOTES



**BROTHER MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL:** Five seniors at Brother Martin High School in New Orleans have been recognized as National Merit finalists on the basis of their performance on the PSAT exam. They are Kyle Borde, Matthew Lindner, Chase Lormand, Logan Millet and Landin Sanborn.

**IHSNO:** The What a Wonderful World of Languages gala benefiting the International High School of New Orleans will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the campus, 727 Carondelet St., New Orleans. The event will feature international cuisine, entertainment, student artwork and a silent auction. Tickets are \$100 at ihsnola.org.

**JEFFERSON PARISH SCHOOLS FORUMS:** A series of public forums is underway for the Jefferson Parish Schools. At these town hall meetings, Superintendent James Gray will answer questions and hear concerns. The schedule is:

- April 20, 6 to 7:30 p.m., family- and community-focused, East Jefferson High, 400 Phlox Ave., Metairie
  - May 17, 6 to 7:30 p.m., employee-focused, Washington Elementary, 606 Clay St., Kenner
  - May 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m., family- and community-focused, Lincoln Elementary, 1429 Ames Blvd., Marrero.
- Interpreters will be available. To register, visit [jpschools.org/townhalls](http://jpschools.org/townhalls).

**ST. CHARLES CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL:** No registration is required for a Walk-In Wednesday campus visit at St. Charles Catholic High School, 100 Dominican Drive, LaPlace. Walk-ins will be welcomed from 10 a.m. to noon April 13. For information, contact admissions director Carly Flynn at [flynn.carly@stcharlescatholic.org](mailto:flynn.carly@stcharlescatholic.org) or (985) 652-3809.

**DISCOVERY SCHOOLS:** The Discovery Bash Gala to benefit Discovery Schools will be at 7 p.m. April 1 at Chateau Golf & Country Club, 3600 Chateau Blvd., Kenner. The event is hosted by Friends of Discovery benefiting Discovery Schools. General admission tickets are \$100 at one. [bidpal.net/discoverybash](http://bidpal.net/discoverybash).

**ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL:** Registration is open for spend-a-day events for prospective students at St. Mary's Dominican High School, 7701 Walmsley Ave., New Orleans. The events will

run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 25 and 28; and April 20, 21, and 25. Participants will meet students, faculty and staff and get a feel for what it means to be a Dominican student. To register, visit [www.stmarysdominican.org/event](http://www.stmarysdominican.org/event).

**N.P. TRIST MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Members of the Beta Club at N.P. Trist Middle School in Meraux had a number of successful performances in the Louisiana State Junior Beta hybrid convention. Top awards included:

- Songfest, second place
- English language arts, Lillian Lai, third place, eighth grade level
- Social studies, Ja'Miya McGill, fourth place, seventh grade level
- Book Battle, Christian Miller and Celine Bioc, fifth place.

Trist's success at the state level means it can compete at the national level this summer in Nashville, Tennessee. School sponsors for the club are Alisha Capstick and Julie Abadie.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Christian Miller and Celine Bioc of the N.P. Trist Middle School Beta Club placed fifth in the Book Battle of the Louisiana State Junior Beta hybrid convention.



Lai McGill

## COLLEGES

**DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Registration is open for spring, May, summer and fall classes at Delgado Community College. Registration is open until April 1 for the four-week spring session, which will be April 4-27. The May session will be May 14-31. The summer session will be June 1-July 28. There will be four, eight, and 16-week classes during the fall semester. For details and registration events March 21-25, visit [www.dcc.edu/future-students](http://www.dcc.edu/future-students).

**SEWANE:** Among those on the fall 2021 dean's list at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, are Karen Ruth Stiegler of Harahan, daughter of Mardelle A. Groome and Michael S. Stiegler Sr. of Harahan; and Annalise Nicole Eiffert of River Ridge, daughter of Bonny

J. Stroud of New Orleans and Rene G. Eiffert of River Ridge.

**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY:** One of the more than 5,000 Baylor University students named to the dean's academic honor list for the summer and fall 2021 semesters is New Orleans native Blake Mire, a business major.

## HEALTH

**OCHSNER HEALTH NETWORK:** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana has awarded Tier 5 status to the Ochsner Health Network. Ochsner achieved the top-tier ranking based on its performance relative to chronic disease care goals. It earned high scores across categories, including hypertension, optimal diabetes care, optimal vascular care, and optimal chronic kidney disease care.

Friends of the Jefferson Public Library

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# Door Hangers

Notification Type	Distribution Date(s)
Door Hangers – Study Area Residences & Businesses	03/05/2022; 03/06/2022

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roberts727@aol.com, copy@thestbernardvoice.com, bao.le@la.gov, rthomas985@aol.com, jrhardson@tweinc.com, lisa.gipson@la.gov, steve.buskie@la.gov, linteriano@wbrplibrary.us, degalloway@nola.gov, dexter@civilsolutionscgl.com, aerovar@la.gov, CARRUTHLBR@AOL.COM, bert\_moore@gspnet.com, ncoladis@n-yassociates.com, jfox@itsanswers.com, sandraslifer@gmail.com, maryk1991@icloud.com, lucy.kimbeng@la.gov, dkspszat@yahoo.com, jane.gonzales@la.gov, ljdeen@hotmail.com, rosebud\_70003@yahoo.com, westbanker@aol.com, miguo1@gmail.com, silsk@coastalbridge.com, vadam@gecinc.com, phillipsle@gmail.com, WCurry@InLine.com, huey.deville@ceresenv.com, bookerm@bossiercity.org, mnicoladis@n-yassociates.com, cajunater1@yahoo.com, connie.porter@la.gov, bwarren@nola.com, jan.evans@volkert.com, jbigfootb@gmail.com, tcoirmier@gotech-inc.com, bgray@jsengr.com, Jpage@pagecotools.com, alphatec4500@aol.com, tdupre@meyer-e-l.com, dapeterson@eatel.net, dszhuartcc@gmail.com, lashaun\_thms@yahoo.com, ben\_pauldesign.build@yahoo.com, cassandra\_53m\_turner@yahoo.com, Tfauch222@yahoo.com, dotd@a-ro.net, zhengzheng.fu@la.gov, jay.timon@gmail.com, chris@wwl.com, adriane.mcrae@la.gov, martigues@jeffparish.net, renee.cambridge@gmail.com, ccrawford@gecinc.com, jhall@elosenv.com, Daniel.Thornhill@mbakerintl.com, jlockhart@npgov.org, office@mrdisposalservices.com, mickelborough@barber-brothers.com, pbarotw@sdive.com, rcasig24@yahoo.com, melb@precisioncrane.net, bridges@finleyengineeringgroup.com, joeske@gisy.com, fjohanson@urbanleaguella.org, Rawley@fenstermaker.com, Tnewberry@ppgov.net, joshua.mcnemar@la.gov, taylor.schau@jacobs.com, mallorywall@msn.com, chance@premierpolicies.com, charles.aziabou@dot.gov, david.brasset@la.gov, brandon.pitre@mbakerintl.com, kirr.gallien@neel-schaffer.com, EElam@emailatg.com, rihathaway@hntb.com, RJewell@Ardaman.com, chdelaine@yahoo.com, pfrazier@walsghgroup.com, Jwilbert@tdw.com, garretmelancon@gmail.com, BGahagan@TriCoeur.com, jdholdcraft@gmail.com, holly@wraylaw.com, cristina.florez@gspnet.com, dfalghou@jeffparish.net, lagbordon@la.gov, jim.poe@kiewit.com, brent@chstout.com, jrillard@traylor.com, frogstoo@gmail.com, wbbhome@gmail.com, shelly.sigo@sourcemedia.com, dkron@trcsolutions.com, luis.alvargue@arcadis.com, ecallicutt@figbridge.com, jason.michiels@la.gov, john\_weres@gspnet.com, wmaher@prim.com, adupont@prim.com, bschmidt@huvalassoc.com, mdinnat@gilchristconstruction.com, jerry.trumps@neel-schaffer.com, scaparotta@wafb.com, toot1229@outlook.com, tswanson@gecinc.com, joey.lefante@stantec.com, kmcdaniel@cobbfendley.com, acoper@urbansystems.com, khalil.hanifa@la.gov, donald@teamonetworks.com, gspaturesla3@gmail.com, sr\_business@bellsouth.net, gary.heitman@stantec.com, dstruckingenterprise@gmail.com, siebas@gecinc.com, branchbrenda@bellsouth.net, SDanna@trcsolutions.com, svincent@mca-llc.com, bnaghavi@hardestyanover.com, scouvi@affmc.com, gsepada@sigmacg.com, skaengr@skaengr.com, stoussant@gisy.com, scall@clengr.com, 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brooklyn.lejeune@sjbgroup.com, ericwhite1067@gmail.com, jean.reulet@tbsmith.com, nicolegf82@yahoo.com, Tyronewilford25@gmail.com, pduffy@hntb.com, sbayne@deii.net, lavist23@outlook.com, christina.everett@us.mcd.com, chris.welty@la.gov, mcarthur.hec@gmail.com, michael.leblanc@la.gov, john.weary@la.gov, Melissa.lavergne@ice-eng.com, nhschindler@modjeski.com, emclanahan@braunintertec.com, clarice91176@gmail.com, jonathan.gambino@volkert.com, cindylasseigne@yahoo.com, stoussant@laterre-eng.com, Jeffjimmy1969@yahoo.com, lyonsr@legis.la.gov, dgarber@ecmconsultants.com, sluquiv@jsengr.com, jonathan.charbonnet@oneatlas.com, jimknoch@hotmail.com, donahuestruckingllc@gmail.com, devon.zerique@shafferindustrial.com, dfford@edge-es.com, doloresmanderson@aol.com, Senronaim@coff.net, tereseleman@hntb.com, Kporter8002@yahoo.com, cjoy@bucharthorn.com, harperduncanllc@gmail.com, bholleman@fortteandtablada.com, pfoley@ejesinc.com, cjblum@gmail.com, kspeir@tineracconcessions.com, Mlingoni@pecla.com, cdeleon@jeffparish.net, rummler@coxmcclain.com, noel@metroanalytics.com, kfjt\_neal@yahoo.com, bklein@mcdonnel.com, jim.keith@freese.com, rlenz@rkci.com, daniel.jatres@nola.gov, Amandaeast3491@gmail.com, kscoitt@tbastudio.com, william.detwiler@tylin.com, sleekortoise@aol.com, katchison@bucharthorn.com, JCassagne@jeffparish.net, tamaranewcomb91@gmail.com, grant@reichla.com, empowermentconsultants@gmail.com, Rfno@yahoo.com, shodges@floodauthority.org, lacy@sellswithlacy.com, boyd.boswell@tbsmith.com, jsalazar.iupatcd80@gmail.com, robertcowanmerritt1@gmail.com, jcrowe@allianceswin.com, paul@fsgr.com, dzadigian@gmail.com, Caliechappell@icloud.com, libirdwallace@gmail.com, Zephyrsman@outlook.com, Njoseph815@gmail.com, jlang.jl3.jl@gmail.com, tahirahoward@yahoo.com, priscilla.hall@la.gov, Kaykayokay1551@gmail.com, kmlandry23@gmail.com

### Public Meetings

## AVONDALE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) STUDY VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, March 07, 2022 9:21 AM

State Project No. H.005168

Federal Project No. H005168

Avondale Planning &amp; Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Jefferson &amp; Orleans Parishes

Live Oak Boulevard, Willwood Lane, George Street, and Avondale Garden Road

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area will hold a Virtual Public Scoping Meeting for the Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the feasibility of closing the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe roadway-rail at-grade crossings at Live Oak Boulevard, Williswood 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.

The **Virtual Public Scoping Meeting** will be held online for 38 consecutive days from **March 9, 2022 through April 15, 2022** to present the study, its goals and schedule, and to solicit comments and key issues to be considered. The Scoping Meeting will consist of a pre-recorded presentation, meeting exhibits, and contact information to provide comments or to be added to the study distribution list to receive future notices. To access the Scoping Meeting, go to [www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy](http://www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy).

All interested parties are invited to review the Scoping Meeting materials and are encouraged to comment. Comment forms can be completed online, mailed to the address shown on the form, or submitted via email to [NORG@mbakerintl.com](mailto:NORG@mbakerintl.com). Indicate "NORG Avondale PEL Study Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form" as the subject. **Comment forms must be received or postmarked no later than April 15, 2022 to be included in the public record.** If internet access is unavailable or other special assistance is required for Scoping Meeting participation, please contact The Hawthorne Agency, Inc. by mail or telephone. The contact information is listed below.

#### Mail

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program  
Avondale PEL Study  
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.  
PO Box 56845  
New Orleans, LA 70156

#### Phone

504-488-6196

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is committed to delivering transportation and public works systems that enhance the quality of life. In addition to more than 16,600 miles of roadway, including over 890 miles of interstate, DOTD supports the development of the state's aviation, marine and rail infrastructures. Through this work, we are able to facilitate economic development, create job opportunities, improve vital evacuation routes, and make critical freight corridors safer and more efficient.

For more information, please visit [www.dotd.la.gov](http://www.dotd.la.gov), email [dotdcs@la.gov](mailto:dotdcs@la.gov), or call DOTD's Customer Service Center at (225) 379-1232 or 1-877-4LADOTD (1-877-452-3683). Business hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please let us know how we may better serve you: [Customer Service Survey](#).



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AVONDALE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) STUDY VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING  
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**State Project No. H.005168**

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# Press Releases

Notification Type	Publication / Issue Date(s)
Press Release (Issued to local Media Outlets)	03/07/2022

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes  
State Project No. H.00516168.2  
Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 7, 2022

**Media Contact:** Karimah Stewart  
[kstewart@hawthorneagency.com](mailto:kstewart@hawthorneagency.com) | 504-488-6196

**DOTD to Hold Virtual Public Scoping Meeting for  
Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages Study**

(New Orleans, LA) - The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission and the railroads operating in the New Orleans metropolitan area will hold a Virtual Public Scoping Meeting for the Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study. The Virtual Public Scoping Meeting will be held for 38 consecutive days from March 9, 2022 through April 15, 2022 to present the study, its goals and schedule, and to solicit comments and key issues to be considered.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the feasibility of closing the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa FE roadway-rail at-grade 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. The Scoping Meeting will consist of a pre-recorded presentation, meeting exhibits, and contact information to provide comments or to be added to the study distribution list to receive future notices. To access the Scoping Meeting, go to [www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy](http://www.dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy).

All interested parties are invited to review the Scoping Meeting materials and are encouraged to comment. Comment forms can be completed online, mailed to the address shown on the form, or submitted via email to [NORG@mbakerintl.com](mailto:NORG@mbakerintl.com). Indicate "NORG Avondale PEL Study Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form" as the subject. Comment forms must be received or postmarked no later than April 15, 2022 to be included in the public record. If internet access is unavailable or other special assistance is required for Scoping Meeting participation, please contact The Hawthorne Agency, Inc. by mail or telephone. The contact information is listed below.

**Mail**

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program  
Avondale PEL Study  
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.  
PO Box 56845  
New Orleans, LA 70156

**Phone**

504-488-6196

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## Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

Notification Type	Publication / Issue Date(s)
PSAs (Issued to local Media Outlets)	03/07/2022

New Orleans Rail Gateway Program  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes  
State Project No. H.00516168.2  
Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Start Date:** 3/7/22  
**End Date:** 4/15/22

**Media Contact:** Karimah Stewart  
[kstewart@hawthorneagency.com](mailto:kstewart@hawthorneagency.com)  
504-488-6196

(30 Seconds)

THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES, AND RAILROADS OPERATING IN THE NEW ORLEANS METRO AREA ARE HOLDING A VITUAL PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE AVONDALE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY MARCH 9TH THROUGH APRIL 15TH. PLEASE ACCESS THE SCOPING MEETING BY VISITING [WWW.DOTD.LA.GOV/AVONDALE P E L STUDY](http://WWW.DOTD.LA.GOV/AVONDALE PEL STUDY). COMMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED. IF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION CALL 5 0 4 4 8 8 6 1 9 6.

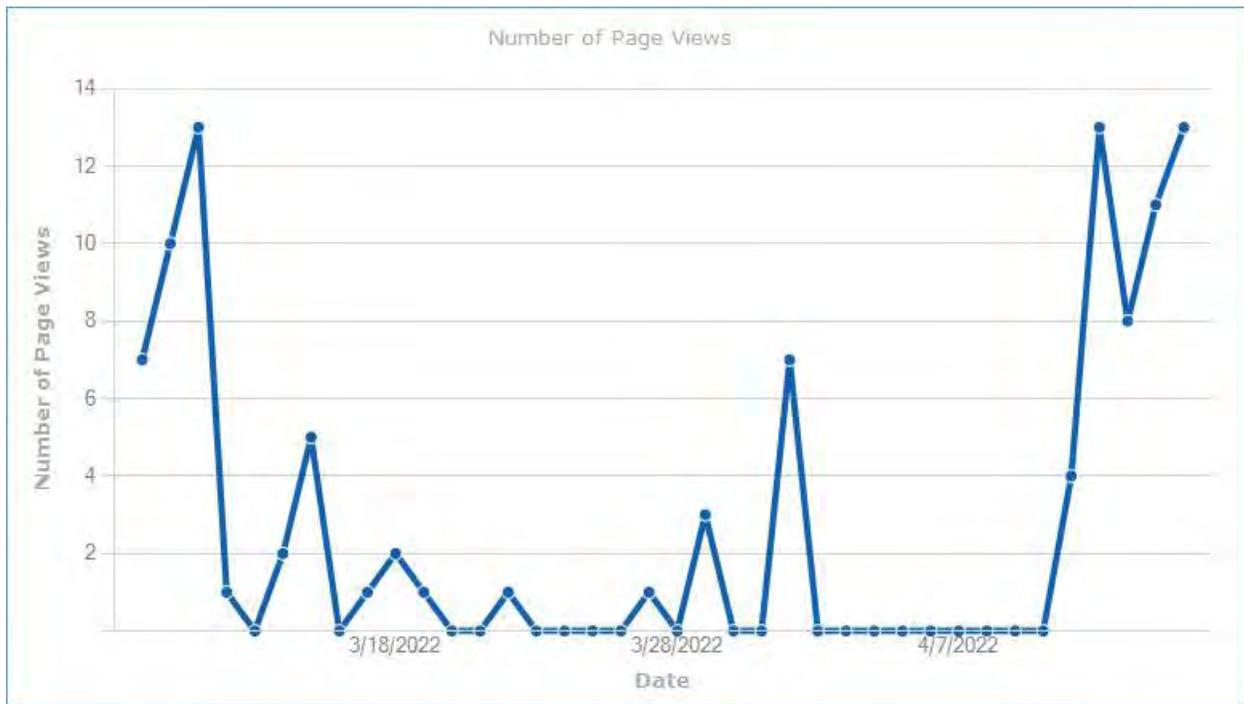
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# Media List

<b>Media List</b>
<b><u>Television</u></b>
WWL TV 4 (CBS)
WDSU TV 6 (NBC)
WVUE TV 8 (Fox)
WNOL TV 38 (CW) / WGNO TV 26 (ABC)
<b><u>Print</u></b>
Associated Press (AP) New Orleans Louisiana
Gambit Weekly
Louisiana Life Magazine
Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans Advocate
New Orleans City Business / New Orleans Publishing Group
New Orleans Magazine
New Orleans Tribune Magazine
<b><u>Radio</u></b>
KGLA 1540 AM
KBDU 97.9 FM
WBOK 1230 AM
WGSO 990 AM
WRBH 88.3 FM
WWOZ 90.7 FM
WWNO 89.9 FM
WQUE 93.3 FM / WYLD 98.5 FM / WRNO 99.5 FM / WNOE 101.1 FM / KVDU 104.1 FM / WYLD 940 AM
KMEZ 102.9 FM / KKND FM 106.7 FM / WZRH 92.3 FM / WRKN 106.1 FM
WEZB 97.1 FM / WLMG 101.9 /WKBU 95.7 FM / WWL 105.3 FM / 870 AM
<b><u>Online Journals / Newsletters</u></b>
The New Orleans Agenda
Krewe of Truth
<b><u>Other</u></b>
City of New Orleans Communications Department - Beau Tidwell, Director

# DOTD WEB PAGE

Type	Views
DOTD Web Page	103
DOTD YouTube Channel – Technical Presentation	46





## Avondale Planning & Evaluation Linkages (PEL) Study Documents

### Virtual Public Scoping Meeting

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 Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) roadway-rail at-grade 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 separation(s) will be evaluated as part of this study.

A **Virtual Public Scoping Meeting** is being held online for thirty-eight (38) consecutive days from **March 9 through April 15, 2022**, to present the study, its goals and schedule, and to solicit comments and key issues to be considered. This Scoping Meeting consists of a pre-recorded presentation, meeting exhibits, and contact information to provide comments or to be added to the study distribution list to receive future notices. All interested parties are invited to review the Scoping Meeting materials and are encouraged to comment.

### Comments

Comments can be submitted by completing the [On-line Comment Form](#) or by downloading the [Printable Comment Form](#) and mailing it to the address shown on the form or submitting it via email to [NORG@mbakerintl.com](mailto:NORG@mbakerintl.com). Emailed forms should indicate "NORG Avondale PEL Study Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form" as the Subject.

Comment Forms must be received or postmarked no later than **April 15, 2022**, to be included in the public record.

[Click here to be added to the mailing list.](#)

### Virtual Public Scoping Meeting Materials

<input type="checkbox"/>	Type	Name	File Size	Modified
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">NORG Avondale PEL Printable Fill-in Comment Form 030922</a>	203 KB	3/2/2022 12:49 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">NORG Avondale PEL Study Area Exhibit 030922</a>	1363 KB	3/2/2022 12:50 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">NORG Avondale PEL Study Goals 030922</a>	451 KB	3/2/2022 12:50 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">NORG Avondale Public Scoping Meeting Presentation with Written Narrative</a>	7821 KB	3/3/2022 12:24 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">YouTube - NORG Avondale Public Scoping Meeting Presentation with Audio Narrative 03-09-22</a>	2 KB	3/8/2022 2:55 PM

# **TECHNICAL PRESENTATION**



**New Orleans Rail Gateway Program**  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes  
State Project No. H.005168

**Avondale PEL Study**  
**Virtual Public Scoping Meeting**  
*March 9 – April 15, 2022*



Thank you for taking the time to watch this virtual public scoping meeting presentation for the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program Avondale PEL Study.

 **Purpose of the Virtual Scoping Meeting** 

- **Provide an opportunity to learn about the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program**
  - **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**



During this presentation you'll learn about the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program.

This presentation will:

- Present an overview of the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program,
- Describe the Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study,
- Request your initial thoughts and input, and
- Let you know how to stay involved.

This virtual scoping meeting is an important step in the transportation decision-making process and your input is encouraged and appreciated.

We hope you find this presentation interesting and informative.

 **Why a Virtual Scoping Meeting?** 

-  **COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things, including the way stakeholder outreach is conducted**
-  **Maintains social distancing measures under changing Federal, State and Local guidance in response to the Delta and now Omicron variants**



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things, including the way stakeholder outreach is conducted.

This meeting is being conducted virtually so we can maintain social distancing measures under changing Federal, State and Local guidance in response to the Delta and now Omicron variants.



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.



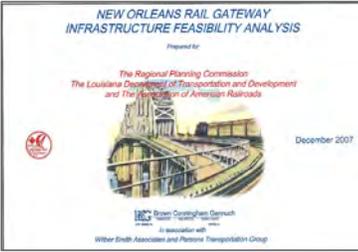
A Public Private Partnership was formed between the

- 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** 

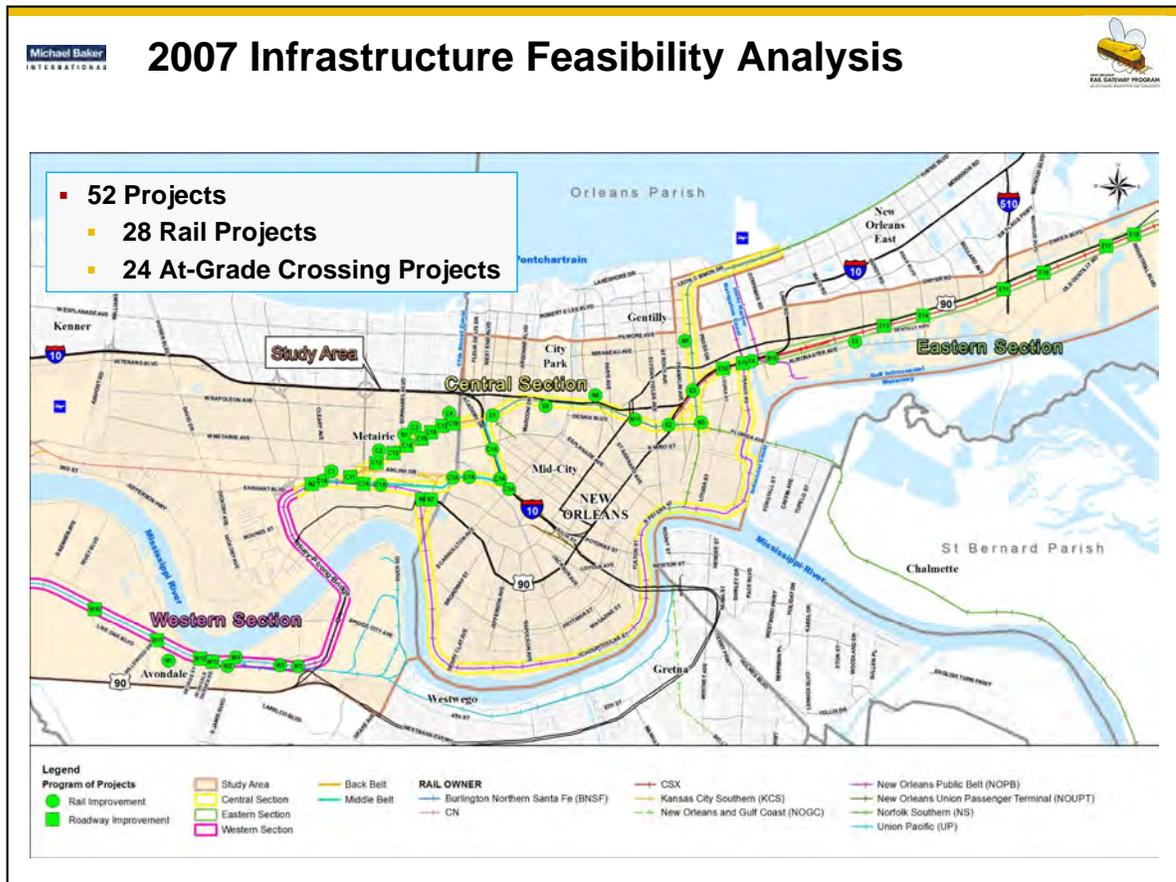
- Analysis of Alternatives in Alleviating Railroad – Community Conflicts in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (FRA 1975)
- Old Metairie Railroad Project Final EIS (FHWA 1989)
- A Comprehensive Study of Problems in the Old Metairie Railroad Corridor in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes in Louisiana (FRA 1996)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



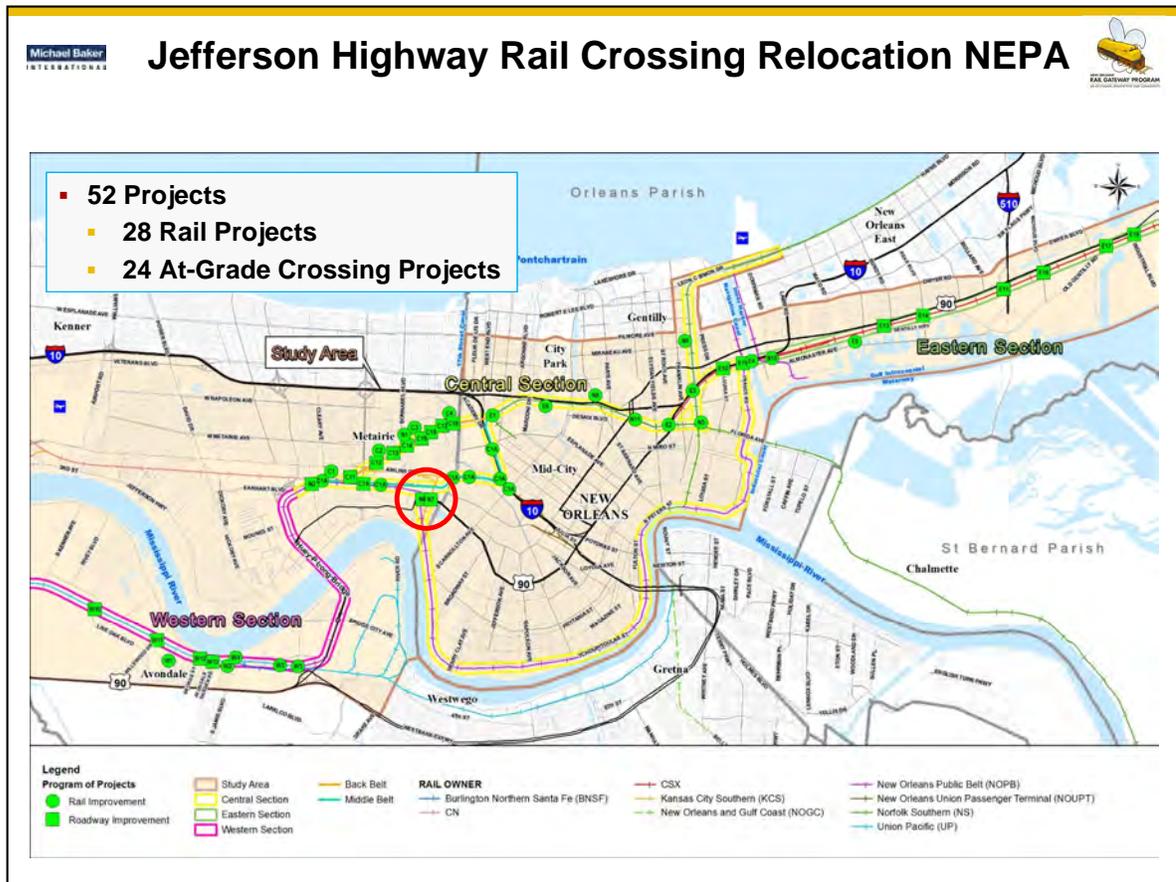


The Partnership conducted studies in 2004, 2007 and 2008.

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



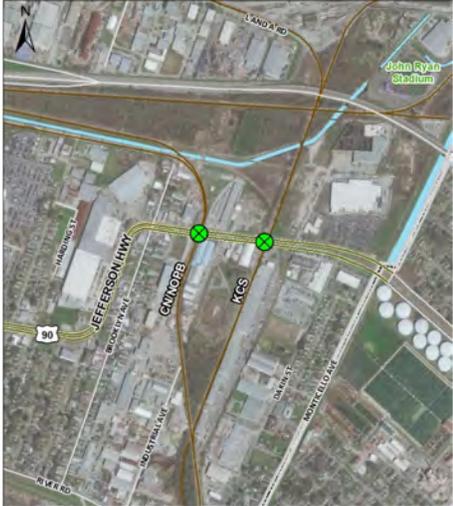
In all, 52 individual rail and roadway improvement projects (28 rail, 24 roadway) were identified throughout the Gateway and connecting rail lines.



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

**Michael Baker** **Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation NEPA** 

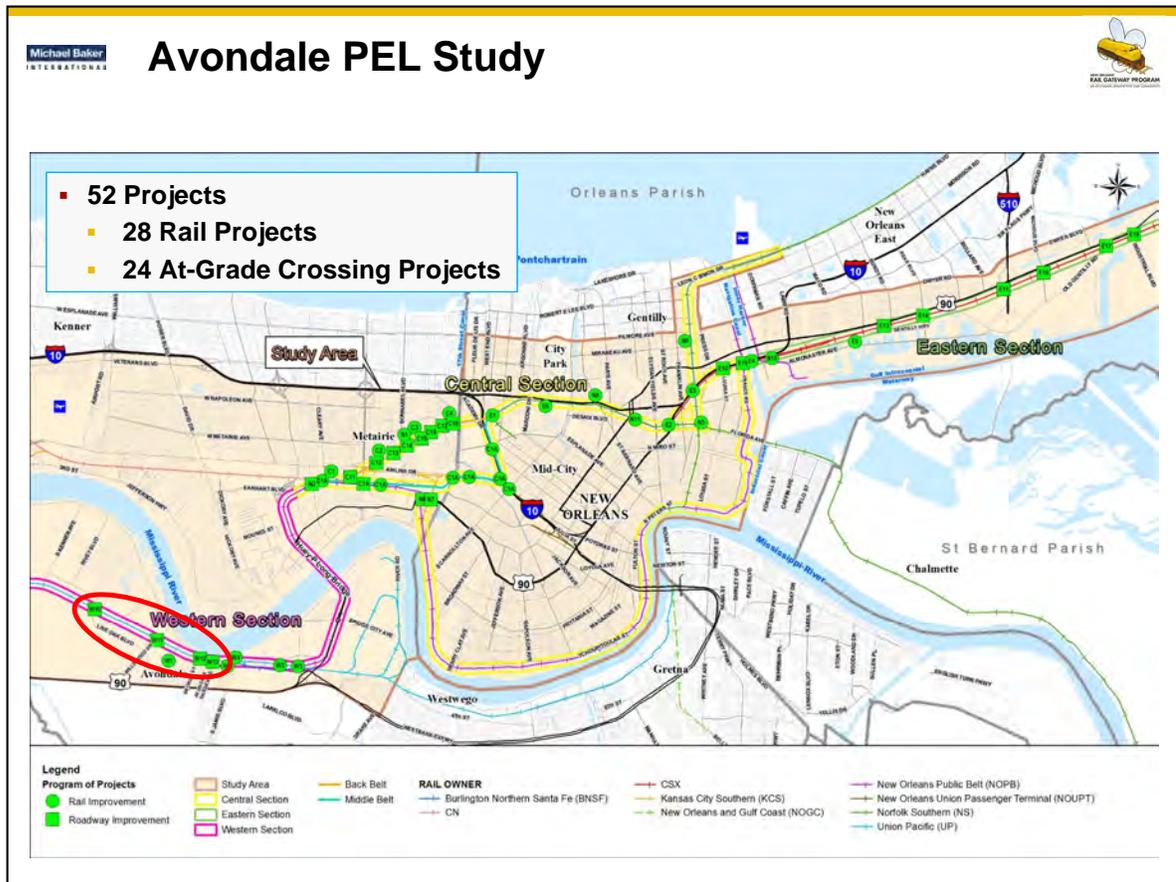
- **Consolidate the two (2) crossings to a single location and possibly grade separate the consolidated rail crossing**
- **Goals**
  - Reduce vehicle congestion and delay
  - Support Hospital expansion and Regional economic development
  - Improve safety
  - Increase freight fluidity through the NORG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



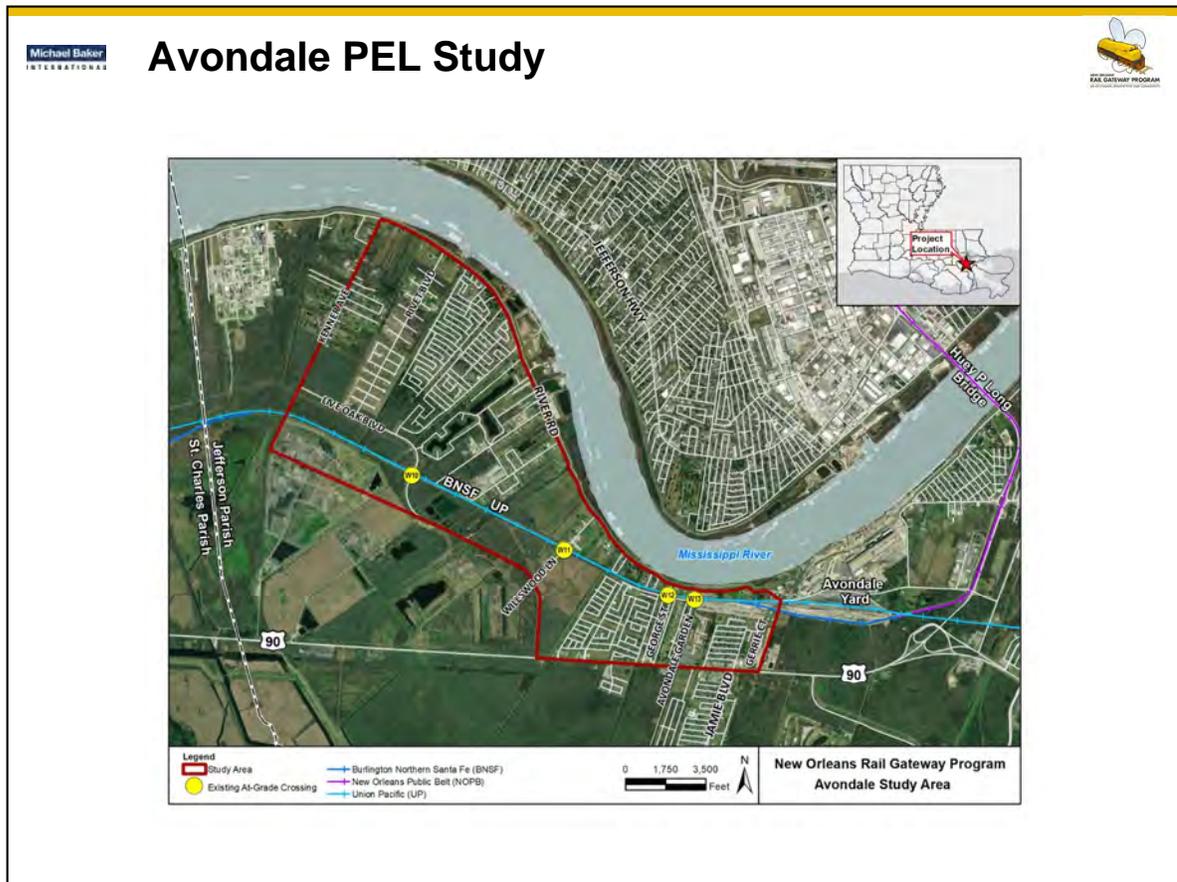
The Jefferson Highway Rail Crossing Relocation study is evaluating consolidating the two at-grade highway-rail crossings between the Ochsner Health Foundation Hospital and Monticello Avenue to a single location and possibly grade separating that consolidated rail crossing.

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.

**Michael Baker**  
CORPORATION

## 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.

**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL

## George Street Crossing



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



Google Earth

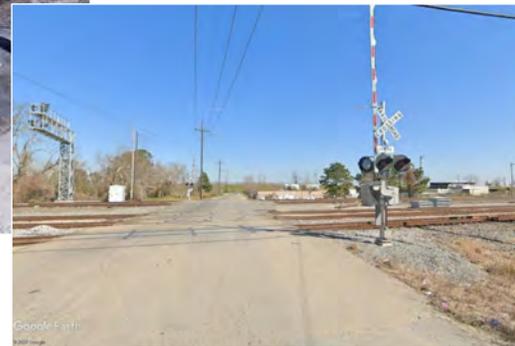
The George Street crossing is also a 4-track crossing. Like Live Oak and Willswood, it has two sets of crossbucks and lights and one set of gates.



## 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.

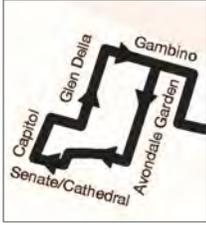
There is only one set of crossbucks, lights and gates at this crossing.

**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

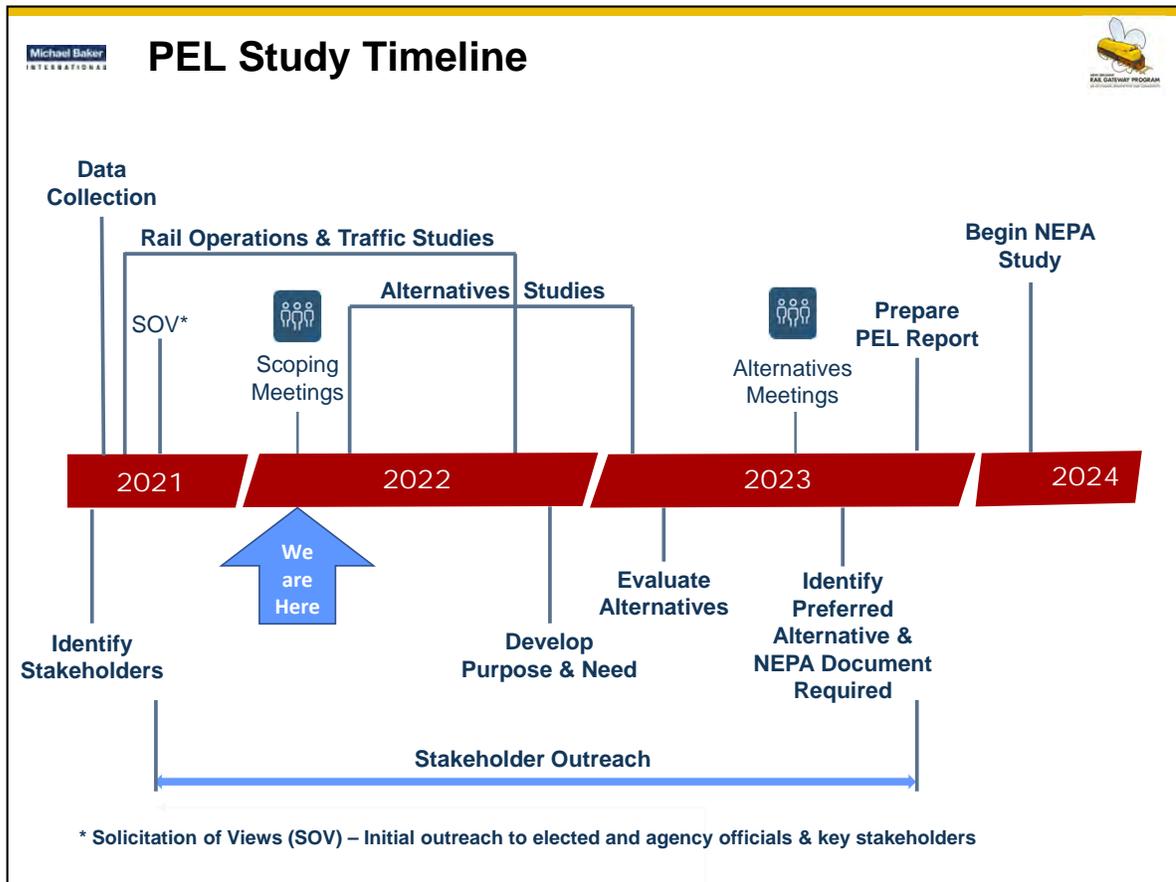


- **Study closing all four (4) at-grade crossings and replacing them with one, or possibly more, bridges (road-over-rail grade separations)**
  - Rail Operations Analysis
  - Traffic Studies
  - Road-over-Rail Alternatives Studies
  - Environmental Inventory
  
- **Location and number of bridges will 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.




## Solicitation of Views (SOV) Responses

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 25<sup>th</sup> supporting the study.



## We Want to Hear From You Too!



▪ **Please complete the Comment Form on the Avondale Webpage**



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)?  
 Direct Mailings  Newspaper  TV/Radio Advertisement  M/LX/OT/Internet  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you live, work or travel through the Atchafalaya 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 under-vehicle roadway intersect at the same level or grade)?  
Living/De la Houe  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  Less than 4 times per month  
Whitfield St.  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  Less than 4 times per month  
George St.  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  Less than 4 times per month  
Avondale Garden Rd.  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  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? \_\_\_\_\_ 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)? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you ever take an alternative route to avoid these at-grade rail crossings?  
 No  Yes, please describe the alternate route you take \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have safety concerns at these at-grade rail crossings?  
 No  Yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

State Project No. H.005168.2 March 9 to April 15, 2022

- **Complete & Submit Online**
- **Print, Complete & USPS Mail to:**
  - NORG – Avondale PEL Study  
c/o The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.  
P.O. Box 56845  
New Orleans, LA 70116
- **Download, Complete & Email to:**
  - [NORG@mbakerintl.com](mailto:NORG@mbakerintl.com)
- **Include your contact information to receive future study information**
- **Comment forms must be received or postmarked no later than April 15, 2022 to become part of the public record**

We want to hear from you too!

If you want to comment about the study or this presentation, please complete the Comment Form on the Avondale PEL Study webpage. The Comment Form can be submitted online and can also be printed or downloaded.

Comment forms must be received or postmarked no later than April 15, 2022, to become part of the public record.

Please complete your full name and contact information. Anonymous comments cannot be fully considered.

State Project No. H.005168.2

Slide 24



## Stay Involved!

- **Provide your contact information to receive:**
  - Newsletters
  - Public Meeting & Other Notices
  
- **Contact us:**
  - Telephone - (504) 488-6196
  - Email - [NORG@mbakerintl.com](mailto: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**  
[dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy](http://dotd.la.gov/AvondalePELStudy)

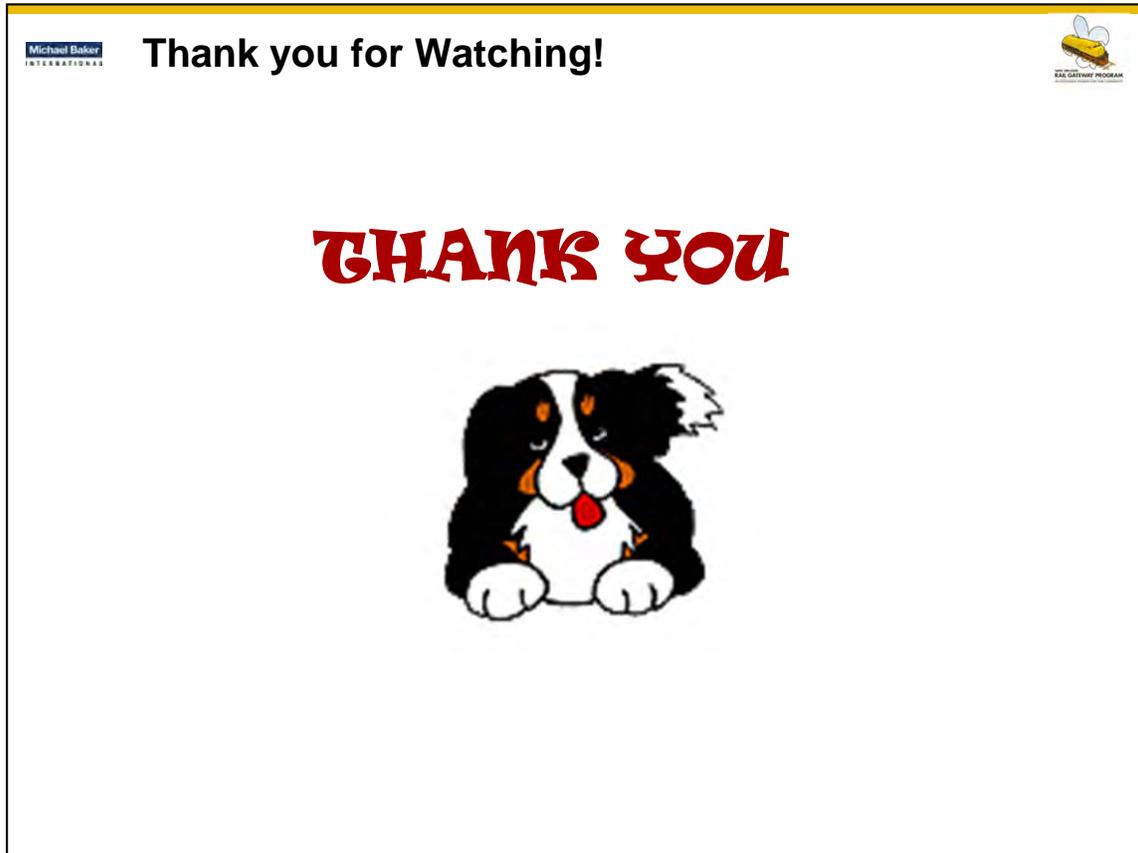


Please provide your contact information to receive newsletters, public meeting and other notices.

Public involvement initiatives including public meetings, newsletters, mailings and e-mail notices, press releases, DOTD's MyDOTD email blasts and the NORG Program Webpage will be used throughout the study. Project information and opportunities for public participation will be announced using these media.

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 as it is developed will also be posted to the DOTD Avondale Webpage.



Thank you again for taking the time to watch this virtual public scoping meeting presentation for the New Orleans Rail Gateway Program Avondale PEL Study.

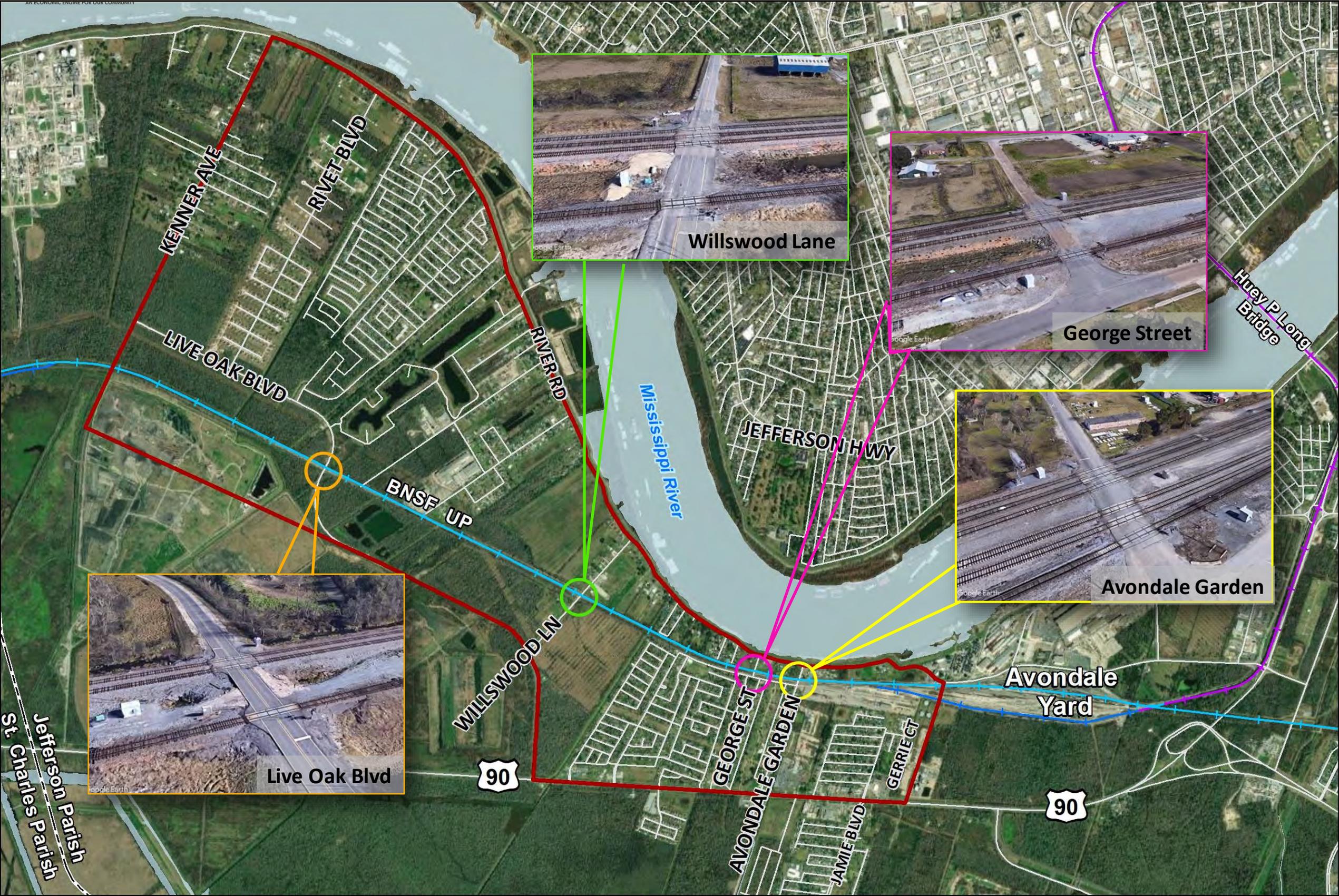
This public meeting is an important part of the transportation decision-making process and your input is encouraged and appreciated.

# EXHIBITS



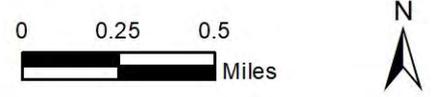
# New Orleans Rail Gateway Program

## 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 Program

## Avondale PEL Study Goals

NEW ORLEANS  
RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM  
AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- ✦ **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



# **COMMENT FORM**



**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

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 |
| 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 |

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)? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please fold on the dotted line, tape, stamp, and return to:

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NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM  
AVONDALE PEL STUDY  
P.O. BOX 56845  
NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA 70156-6845

**WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED**



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
JUDY F. LLOYD BRASELL	10101 REYNOLDS DR WAGGAMAN LA 70094	BRASELLJ@AOL.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 \_\_\_\_\_

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  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  Less than 4 times per month  
Willswood Ln  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  Less than 4 times per month  
George St  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  Less than 4 times per month  
Avondale Garden Rd  Daily  Multiple times per day  1-2 times per week  3-4 times per week  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) AVOID TRAFFIC ON RIVER ROAD LAIS

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- 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 LAIS

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

No  Yes, please explain UNEVEN GRADE & LOW CLEARANCE ON CAR COULD CAUSE CAR DAMAGE

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**Subject:** FW: EXTERNAL: Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study

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**From:** RequestForm@la.gov <RequestForm@la.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 7:02 AM

**To:** dean.goodell@la.gov; NORG <NORG@mbakerintl.com>

**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study

New Orleans Rail Gateway  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes, Louisiana

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

Name: Gilda Hagan-Brown

Email Address: [Gapresley@msn.com](mailto:Gapresley@msn.com)

Address: 9508 Sweet Bay Lane Waggaman, LA 70094

**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     TV / Radio Announcement  
 Other

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

Live     Work     Travel     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)?**

Daily     Multiple Times Per Week     1-2 times per Week     3-4 timer per Week     Less than 4 time a week

**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:

**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 crossings?** 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 Try but there really are no alternate routes because the trains span so far.

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

No  Yes, please explain Exposure to hazardous materials. Derailment of trains.

**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?**

These trains not only expose our neighborhoods to dangerous and hazardous chemicals and materials -they are EXTREMELY LOUD blowing their horns all night long. Parents are unable to rest for work, Kids are unable to rest for school and babies are unable to rest! We have been miserable sinnce we purchased our new home in Live Oak in July 2021. It's just not right!!

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

Yes  No  Already on the list

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**Subject:** FW: EXTERNAL: Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study

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**From:** RequestForm@la.gov <RequestForm@la.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:25 PM  
**To:** dean.goodell@la.gov; NORG <NORG@mbakerintl.com>  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study

New Orleans Rail Gateway  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes, Louisiana

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

Name: Jackson Hurst  
Email Address: [ghostlightmater@yahoo.com](mailto:ghostlightmater@yahoo.com)  
Address: 4216 Cornell Crossing, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

**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     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)?**

Daily     Multiple Times Per Week     1-2 times per Week     3-4 timer per Week     Less than 4 time a week

**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:

**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 crossings?** Live Oak Blvd Willswood Ln George St Avondale Garden Rd

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

No     Yes, please explain

**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 NORG Avondale mailing list?**

Yes    No    Already on the list

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**From:** RequestForm@la.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 3:01 PM  
**To:** dean.goodell@la.gov; NORG  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL: Avondale Planning & Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study

New Orleans Rail Gateway  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes, Louisiana

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

Name: Katrice King  
Email Address:  
Address: 9509 Laurel Oak Lane Waggaman LA 70094

**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  TV / Radio Announcement  
 Other: Neighborhood FB group

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

Live  Work  Travel  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)?**

Daily  Multiple Times Per Week  1-2 times per Week  3-4 timer per Week  Less than 4 time a week

**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:

**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 crossings?** 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 Dandelion or River Road

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

No  Yes, please explain There will be some medical emergency and help will be delayed by the train

**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?**

N/A

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

Yes    No    Already on the list



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
VALINICIA WASHINGTON	372 LAYMAN STREET AVONDALE, LA. 70094	VRW1225@AOL.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 \_\_\_\_\_

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    Daily    Multiple times per day    1-2 times per week    3-4 times per week    Less than 4 times per month  
Willswood Ln    Daily    Multiple times per day    1-2 times per week    3-4 times per week    Less than 4 times per month  
George St    Daily    Multiple times per day    1-2 times per week    3-4 times per week    Less than 4 times per month  
Avondale Garden Rd    Daily    Multiple times per day    1-2 times per week    3-4 times per week    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? 3-5 MINUTES 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, GEORGE STREET, 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 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?

YES. THE AVONDALE COMMUNITY HAS A LARGE SENIOR POPULATION WHO ARE NOT INTERNET SAVVY, WILL JEFFERSON PARISH CONSIDER TOWN HALL MEETINGS TO HAVE MORE PARTICIPATION FROM THE COMMUNITY.

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:

(Fold)-----(Fold)-----(Fold)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NEW ORLEANS RAIL GATEWAY PROGRAM  
AVONDALE PEL STUDY  
P.O. BOX 56845  
NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA 70156-6845



**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?**

Have not seen it yet.

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

Yes    No    Already on the list