

# Appendix A

## Solicitation of Views



Environmental Section  
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
ph: 225-242-4502 | fx: 225-242-4500

Bobby Jindal, Governor  
Sherri H. LeBas, P.E., Secretary

December 18, 2014

STATE PROJECT NO.: H.011295  
F.A.P. NO.: H011295  
NAME: LA 73 (GOVT ST) EAST BLVD – LOBDELL AVE  
ROUTE: LA 73  
PARISH: EAST BATON ROUGE

SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF VIEWS

In the planning stages of a transportation facility, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist the Louisiana Department of Transportation (DOTD) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental efforts or concerns. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated.

We have attached a map showing the general location of the proposed project, along with a preliminary project description.

It is requested that you review the attached information and furnish us with your views and comments by **January 19, 2015**. Replies should be addressed to DOTD; Environmental Engineer Administrator; Section 28; P.O. Box 94245; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245. Please reference the State Project Number in your reply.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Maria Bernard Reid at (225) 242-4506.

Sincerely,

Noel Ardoin  
Environmental Engineer Administrator

Maria Bernard Reid  
Environmental Impact Manager

enclosure

cc: Project Manager  
District Administrator

## **PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**STATE PROJECT NO. H.011295  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.H011295  
LA 73 (GOVT ST) EAST BLVD – LOBDELL AVE  
LA 73  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge Government (City/Parish) propose the Louisiana State Highway (LA) 73 (Government Street) project which consists of rehabilitating the existing pavement and implementing a “road diet” to implement the “Complete Street” concept. The road diet would reduce the number of travel lanes on Government Street from four lanes (two lanes in each direction) to three lanes (one travel lane in each direction with a center two-way-left-turn-lane). Approximately 4.2 miles of the Government Street corridor from East Boulevard (30.443714, -91.18071) in Downtown Baton Rouge continuing eastward to the Lobdell Avenue intersection (30.445397, -91.111033) near Independence Park is included in this project (see attached Project Location Map).

LA 73 (Government Street) within the project limits consists primarily of a four-lane undivided roadway with curbs, a subsurface drainage system, and sidewalks that are either at the back of curb or slightly offset from the back of curb. The length of the project from East Boulevard to Lobdell Boulevard is approximately 4.2 miles and the posted speed is 40 mph. There are 58 intersections along Government Street within the project limits and numerous driveways to residences, businesses and schools. There are frequent back-ups on existing Government Street because the through lanes are being underutilized when turning vehicles block passage while waiting for a gap in traffic to make a turn.

A Feasibility Study of the LA 73 Corridor was prepared in April of 2013. In this study, safety analyses were performed for the existing 4-lane roadway. The study collected and analyzed crash data from January 2008 to December 2010. The study concluded that a 3-lane section consisting of two through lanes separated by a two-way-left-turn-lane (TWLTL) would improve both the capacity and the safety along the corridor. The reduction in the number of lanes is often called a road diet. This change will reduce the number of conflict points for vehicles, enhance safety for pedestrians (crossing a fewer number of lanes) and provide better access for the many side streets and driveways from the TWLTL. Another benefit of the road diet is that the excess pavement remaining from the four-lane section can be used to incorporate the Complete Streets policy which provides street space for multi-modal improvements such as bike lanes, on-street parking, bus turnouts, or widened sidewalks.

### **Alternatives Currently Being Considered**

In order to develop alternatives that will best serve the community, information is being gathered from stakeholders who live, work and commute along Government Street. The corridor has been divided into representative sections for the purpose of presenting options for the alternatives. The sections were chosen based on a consistent roadway section and the types of improvements that exist along the roadway. The sections and options are described as follows:

#### **Alternatives for Government Street I-110 to Steele Boulevard:**

This section of Government Street begins at East Boulevard just west of I-110 and continues east of S. Acadian Thruway to the intersection of Steele Boulevard. Existing land use in this section consists of small commercial developments and office space, some vacant lots and abandoned buildings, and residences and/or side streets to residential subdivisions. There are two schools in this section of the project and some larger shopping centers and drug stores near the S. Acadian Thruway intersection. Figure 1 shows two typical section options for this section of the project. Option 1 consists of the 3-lane road diet section with two 5-foot wide bike lanes on either side of the travel way. Option 2 uses the excess pavement produced by the road diet for on-street parking on one side of the roadway.

#### **Alternatives for Government Street from Steele Boulevard to Moore Street**

This section of Government Street begins just east of Acadian Thruway at Steele Boulevard and continues east to the intersection of Moore Street (located just west of S. Foster Drive). Existing land use consists primarily of commercial developments including retail, grocery stores, office buildings, a post office, and restaurants fronting Government Street. There are a few residents in this section and one apartment complex north of LA 73. Figures 2 and 2a cover the options being considered for this section.

Option 1 would provide on-street parking on one side of Government Street. Alternative sections to Option 1 could provide bus turnouts at select locations along Government Street as shown on Figure 2a. Bus turnout Options 1A and 1B are shown on Figure 2a. Option 1A uses the entire existing 44-foot roadway width to introduce 10-foot wide bus turnouts at select locations. Buses can pull out of the travel lane into a widened area for loading and unloading. Option 1A deletes the TWLTL for the length of the bus turnout and lane transitions. Option 1B requires the roadway to be widened for the length of the bus turnout and lane transitions. An 8-foot wide raised median is introduced in Option 1B in the place of the TWLTL. This section requires the two travel lane widths to be decreased to 10 feet and provides only the minimum 4-foot wide sidewalk at the bus turnouts. Beyond the limits of the bus turnouts, on-street parking or streetscape enhancements can be provided within the excess pavement produced by the road diet.

Option 2 for this section of Government Street would provide the road diet section with two 5-foot wide bike lanes on either side of the travel way. Providing bike lanes along this portion of

Government Street would give opportunity to connect to residential side streets and other nearby bike routes. For example, both Steele Boulevard and Moore Street along with 10 other side streets in this section of Government connect to Capital Heights Avenue a one-way westbound street south of Government Street that has bike lanes in each direction.

#### *Alternatives for Government Street from Moore Street to Jefferson Highway*

During the alternatives study, 24-hour traffic counts were obtained for the entire length of the project. The section between Moore Street and Jefferson Highway has an average daily traffic count (ADT) of approximately 25,000 vehicles per day, the highest ADT within the project limits. The land use in this section of Government Street is primarily commercial with grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations and restaurants fronting the roadway. The intersection of S. Foster Drive with Government Street has two southbound left turns which require two lanes to accept the turning traffic. Jefferson Highway has two existing northbound left turn lanes onto Government Street, but traffic analyses show that with adjustments to signal phasing and timing a single northbound left turn lane to Government Street functions well during peak periods.

Figure 3 shows the proposed typical sections for Government Street between Moore Street and Jefferson Highway. In this section of roadway a TWLTL is proposed wherever the existing lane configuration does not need to be maintained or wherever the operational analyses do not show the need for exclusive turn lanes. Operational analyses have shown that two through lanes should be maintained for eastbound and westbound Government Street at S. Foster, an exclusive eastbound left turn lane is proposed to Community College Drive, and an exclusive eastbound right turn lane is proposed to Jefferson Highway. The need for additional through lanes for this section of Government precludes the use of the road diet section. If the bike lane alternative is chosen for the section west of this one, bike lanes are proposed to be terminated at Moore Street and bikes routed on Moore Street to the bike lanes on Capital Heights Avenue. If this bike route alternative outside of the Government Street right of way is selected, then bike safety improvements will be considered where Capital Heights Avenue crosses S. Foster Drive and Jefferson Highway.

#### *Alternatives for Government Street from Jefferson Highway to Lobdell Boulevard*

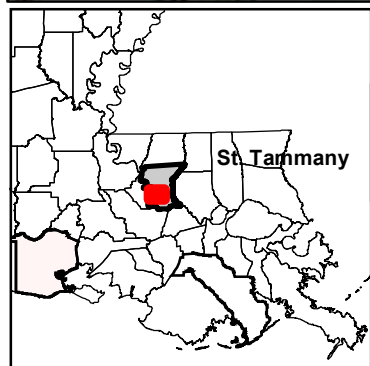
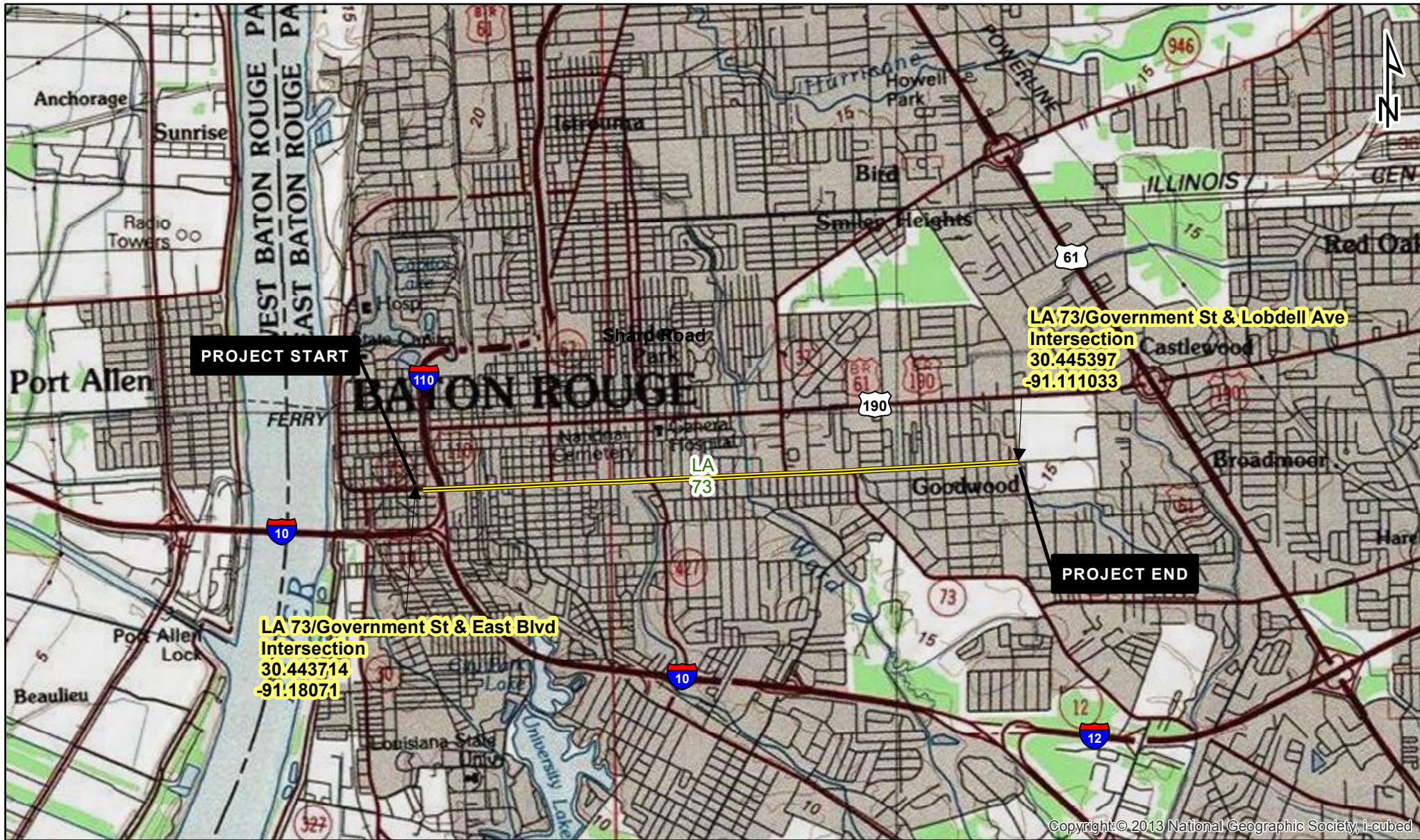
This section of Government Street begins at Jefferson Highway and ends at Lobdell Boulevard. Existing land use consists primarily of residences along Government Street and side streets to residential neighborhoods. Our Lady of Mercy Church and School are located in this section just north of Government Street on Marquette Avenue. Figure 4 shows the proposed typical section consisting of the 3-lane road diet section with two 5-foot wide bike lanes on either side of the travel way. Bike lanes and improved sidewalks would provide multi-modal access for residents to the park facilities east of Lobdell Boulevard.

Alternatives for the intersection of Lobdell Boulevard at Government Street include the no build alternative and a roundabout alternative. The no-build alternative would require a transition between the proposed road diet section and the existing multi-lane intersection configuration. A conceptual layout of the roundabout is included as Figure 5. A study to develop the recommended roundabout lane configuration is ongoing.

The majority of the project work would occur within the existing right-of-way; however DOTD anticipates right-of-way will be required for the proposed roundabout at the Lobdell intersection.

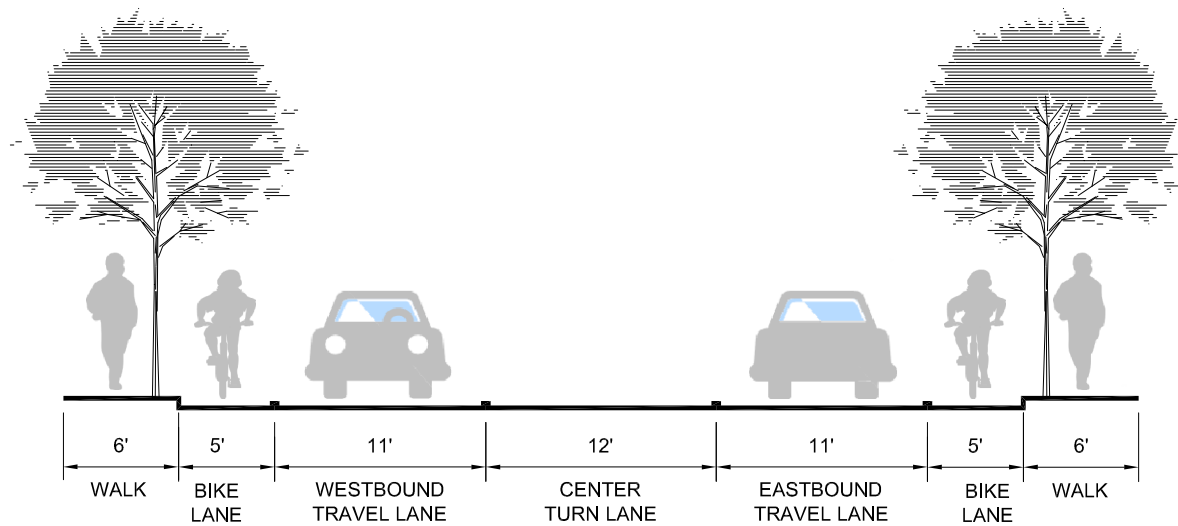
It is anticipated that this project would be environmentally processed with a Categorical Exclusion.



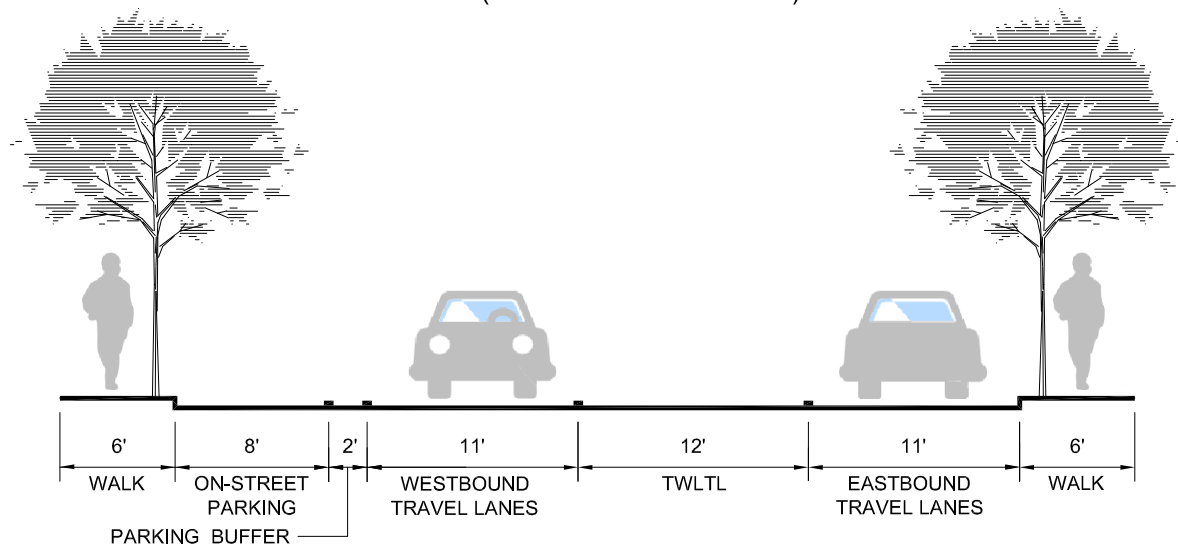


<b>PROJECT LOCATION MAP</b> SOURCE: USGS 1:100,000 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP - BATON ROUGE QUADRANGLE	
STATE PROJECT NO. H.011295 F.A.P. NO. H011295 LA 73 (GOVT ST): EAST BLVD - LOBDELL AVE EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH	





OPTION 1:  
PROPOSED 3-LANE WITH BIKE LANES  
 LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



OPTION 2:  
PROPOSED 3-LANE WITH ON-STREET PARKING  
 LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



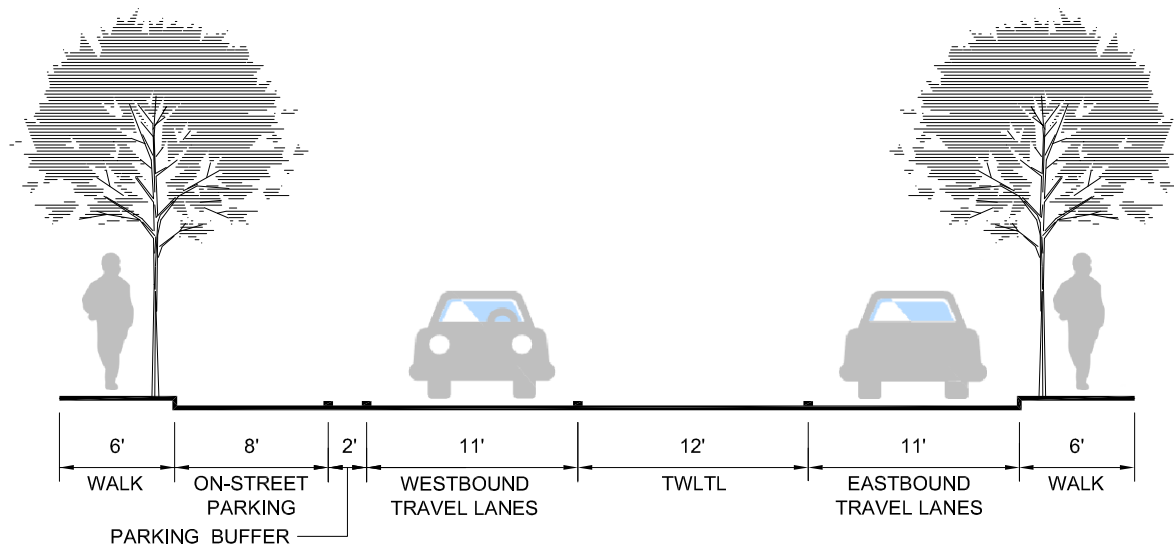
<p>FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</p> 	<p>LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT</p>  <p>LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION &amp; DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p>(LA 73) GOVERNMENT STREET          TYPICAL SECTION ALTERNATIVES I-110 TO STEELE BLVD.</p>	

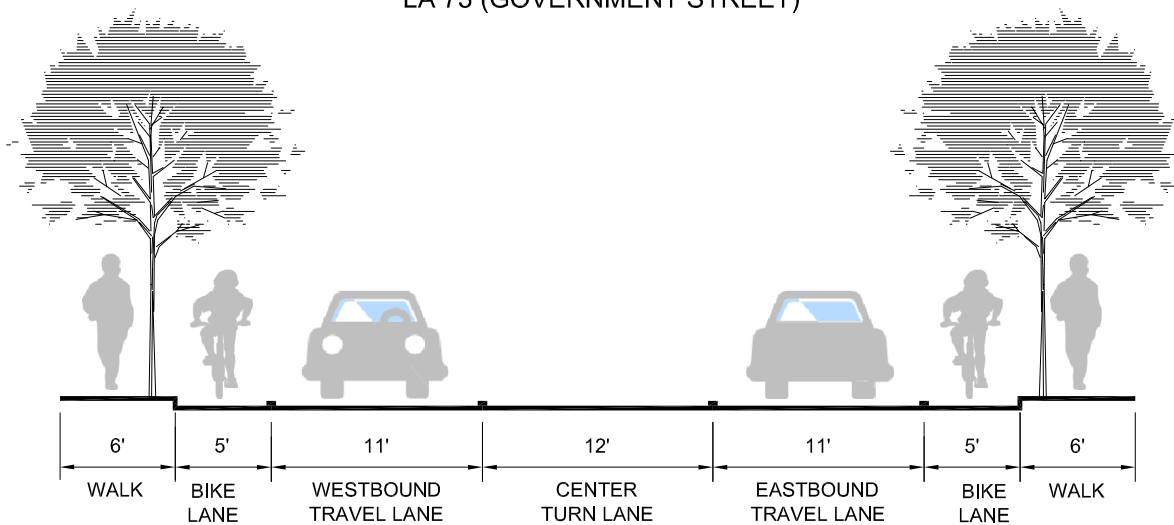
FIGURE 1





NOTE:  
SEE FIGURE 2a FOR AN  
ALTERNATIVE TO OPTION 1  
TO PROVIDE BUS  
TURNOUTS AT SELECT  
LOCATIONS.

OPTION 1:  
PROPOSED 3-LANE WITH ON-STREET PARKING  
LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



OPTION 2:  
PROPOSED 3-LANE WITH BIKE LANES  
LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



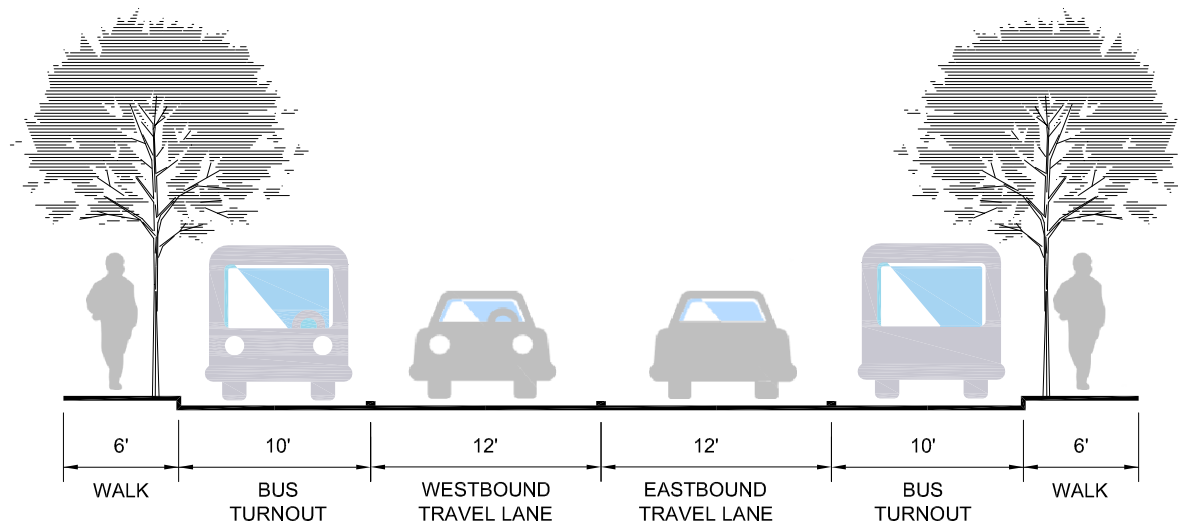
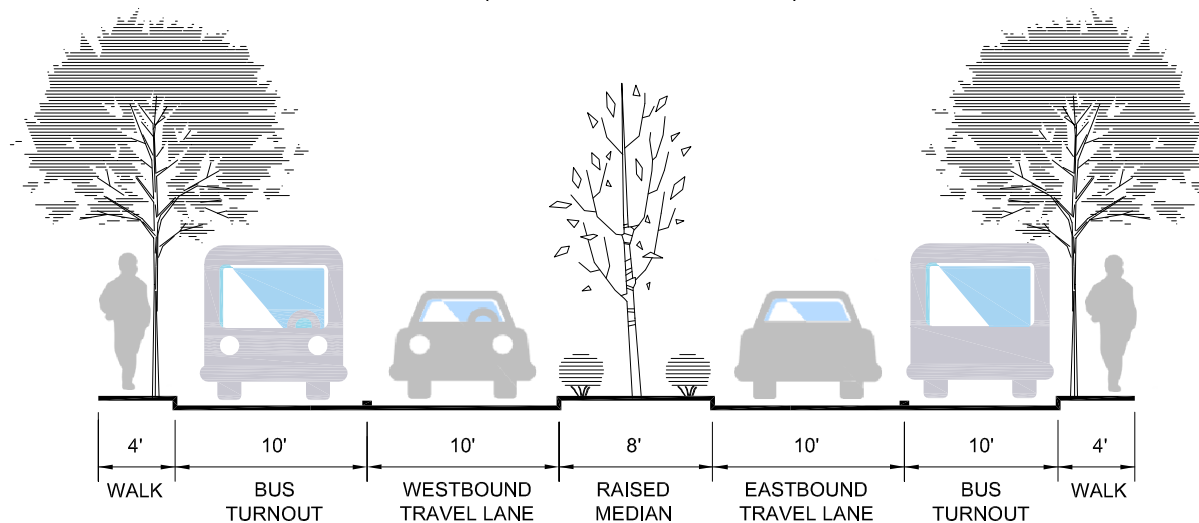
<p>FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</p>  <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</p>	<p>LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT</p>  <p>LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION &amp; DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p>(LA 73) GOVERNMENT STREET TYPICAL SECTION ALTERNATIVES STEELE BLVD. TO MOORE ST.</p>	

FIGURE 2



OPTION 1A:  
PROPOSED 3-LANE WITH BUS TURNOUTS  
 LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



OPTION 1B:  
PROPOSED 3-LANE WITH BUS TURNOUTS & MEDIAN  
 LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



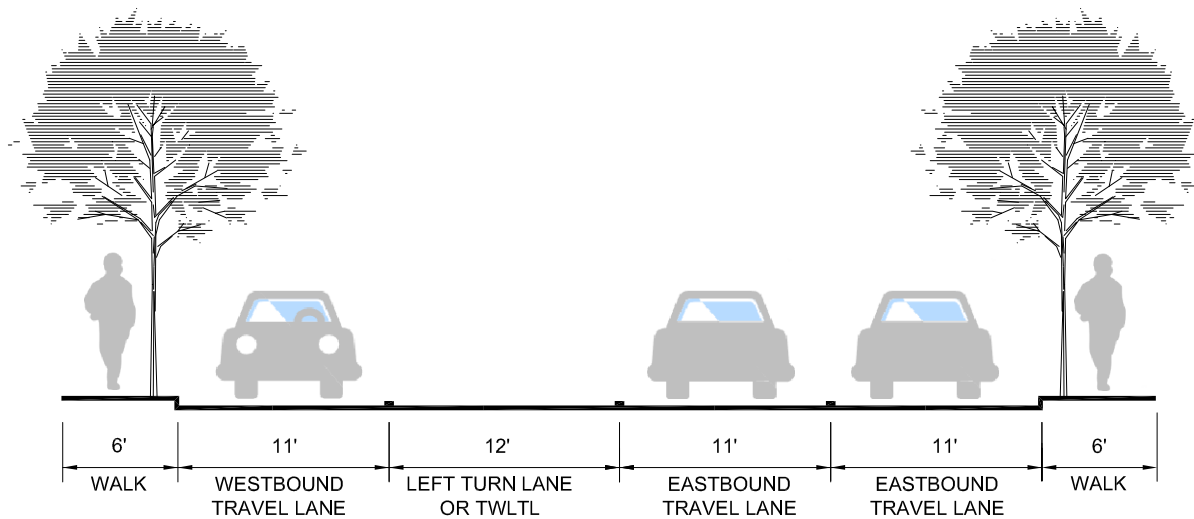
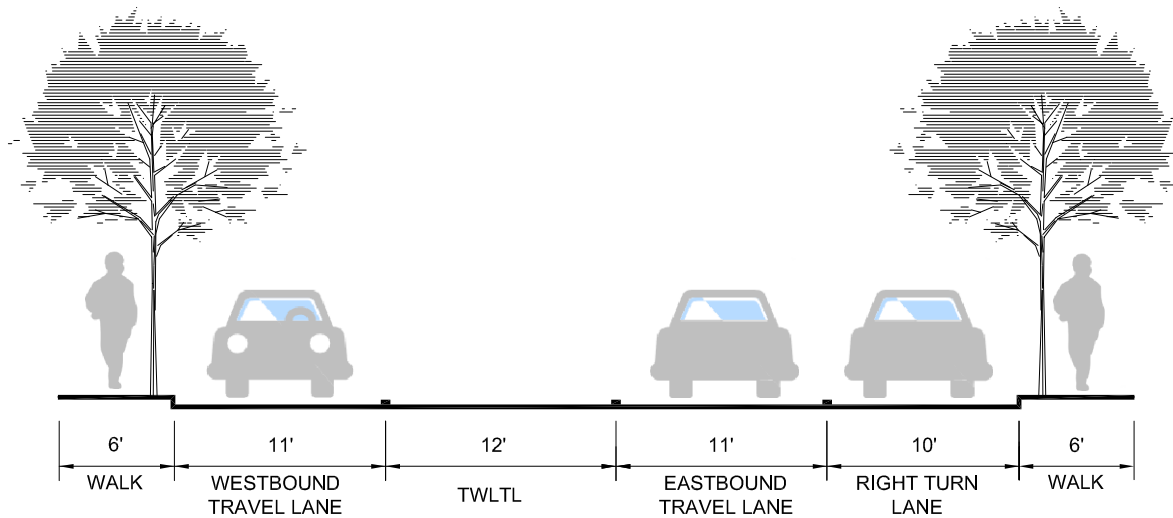
<p>FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION</p>  <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</p>	<p>LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT</p>  <p>LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION &amp; DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p>(LA 73) GOVERNMENT STREET          TYPICAL SECTION ALTERNATIVES STEELE BLVD. TO MOORE ST.</p>	

FIGURE 2a



PROPOSED 3-LANE NEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE DR. WITH LEFT TURN LANE  
LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



PROPOSED 3-LANE NEAR JEFFERSON HWY. RIGHT TURN LANE  
LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)

FEDERAL HIGHWAY  
ADMINISTRATION

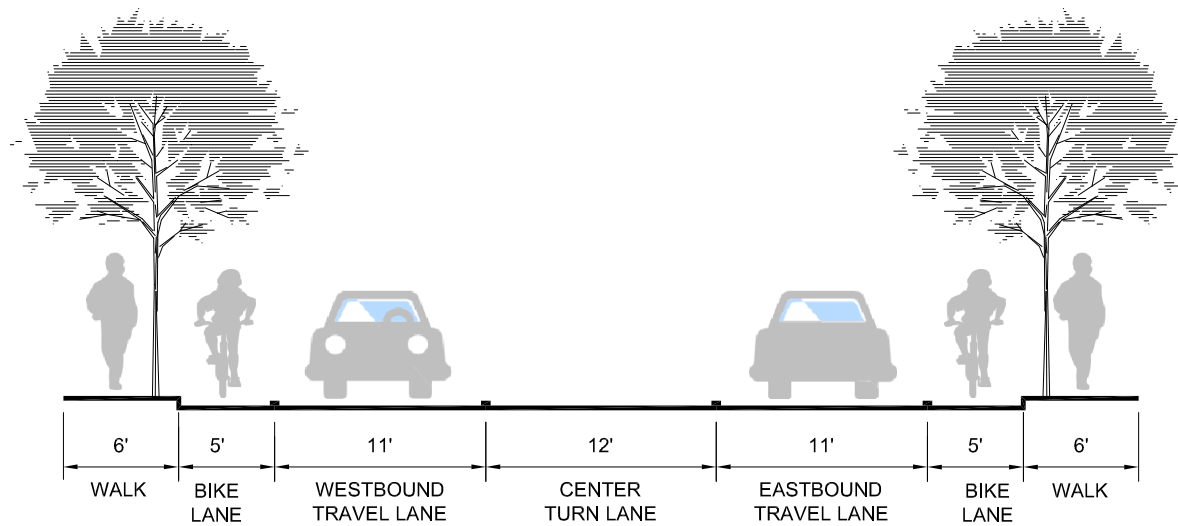


LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

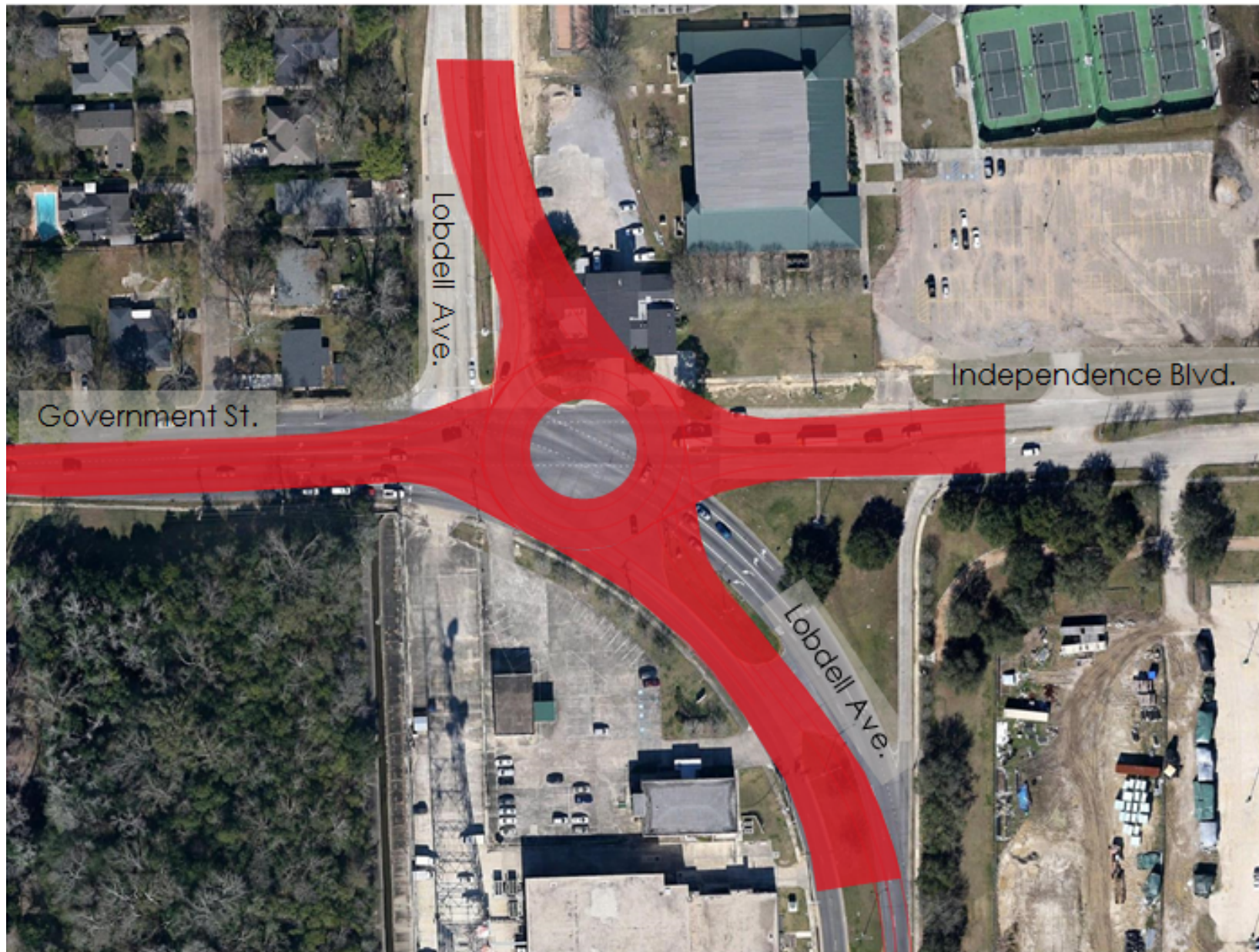


(LA 73) GOVERNMENT STREET  
TYPICAL SECTION ALTERNATIVES MOORE ST. TO JEFFERSON HWY.

FIGURE 3



PROPOSED 3-LANE WITH BIKE LANES  
LA 73 (GOVERNMENT STREET)



FEDERAL HIGHWAY  
ADMINISTRATION



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT



(LA 73) GOVERNMENT STREET  
ROUNDBOUT AT GOVERNMENT ST. AND LOBDELL BLVD.

FIGURE 5



U.S. House of Representatives (District 1) Honorable Steve Scalise 110 Veterans Blvd, Ste. 500 Metairie, LA 70005	Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Steven Peyronnin, Executive Director 6160 Perkins Rd. Suite 225 Baton Rouge, LA 70808	FEMA Region VI 800 North Loop 288 Denton, TX 76209
U.S. House of Representatives (District 2) Honorable Cedric Richmond 2021 Lakeshore Dr. Suite 309 New Orleans, LA 70122	8 <sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District District Commander Hale Boggs Federal Building 500 Poydras St. New Orleans, LA 70130	Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Commission P.O. Box 66336 Baton Rouge, LA 70896
U.S. House of Representatives (District 3) Honorable Charles Boustany, Jr., MD 800 Lafayette St., Ste. 1400 Lafayette, LA 70501	Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism Division of Archaeology P.O. Box 44247 Capitol Annex 3 <sup>rd</sup> Baton Rouge, LA 70804	Louisiana Forestry Association Executive Director P.O. Box 5067 Alexandria, LA 71301
U.S. House of Representatives (District 4) Honorable John Fleming, MD 6425 Youree Dr. Suite 350 Shreveport, LA 71105	Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism Office of State Parks P.O. Box 44426 Baton Rouge, LA 70804	Louisiana Good Roads Association P.O. Box 3713 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
U.S. House of Representatives (District 5) Honorable Vance McAllister 1900 Stubbs Ave, Ste. B Monroe, LA 71201	Division of Administration State Land Office P.O. Box 44124 Baton Rouge, LA 70804	Department of Health and Hospitals Tenney Sibley, Chief Sanitarian 628 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
U.S. House of Representatives (District 6) Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD 5555 Hilton Ave Suite 100 Baton Rouge, LA 70808	Division of Administration Facility Planning & Control P.O. Box 94095 Baton Rouge, LA 70804	Department of Health and Hospitals Division of Environmental Health ATTN: Steven Davis, P.E. P.O. Box 4489 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
United States Senate Senator David Vitter 2800 Veterans Memorial Blvd Suite 201 Metairie, LA 70002	Department of Economic Development Office of Business Development P.O. Box 94185 Baton Rouge, LA 70804	Office of Indian Affairs Director P.O. Box 94095 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
United States Senate Senator Mary Landrieu Hale Boggs Federal Building 500 Poydras St. Rm. 1005 New Orleans, LA 70130	Environmental Protection Agency Source Water Protection (6WQ-S) 1445 Ross Ave Dallas, TX 75202-2733	Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, INC Director 991 Grand Cailou Rd Houma, LA 70363
Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office of Soil/Water Conservation P.O. Box 3554 Baton Rouge, LA 70821	USEPA Region 6 (6 EN-XP) 1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200 Dallas, TX 75202-2733	Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana P.O. Box 818 Elton, LA 70532
Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office of Forestry P.O. Box 1628 Baton Rouge, LA 70821	Federal Transit Administration Region 6 819 Taylor St. Rm. 8A36 Fort Worth, TX 76102	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians P.O. Box 14 Jena, LA 71342

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
~~101 Industrial Rd~~  
~~Choctaw, MS 39350~~  
[kcarleton@choctaw.org](mailto:kcarleton@choctaw.org)

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Louisiana Natural Heritage Program  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

FHWA Recreational Trails  
1051 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> /Street  
Room 307  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5239

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 1589  
Marksville, LA 71351

Floodplain Management Program  
Susan Veillon → Section 64

Louisiana Byway Administrator  
P.O. Box 94291  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

U.S. Geological Survey  
3535 S. Sherwood Forest Suite 120  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Kevin D. Norton  
3737 Government St.  
Alexandria, LA 71302

Online USFWS SOV  
Email: DEQ at [Linda.Hardy@la.gov](mailto:Linda.Hardy@la.gov)  
Email Seminole at [harjo.n@sno-nsn.gov](mailto:harjo.n@sno-nsn.gov)

U.S. National Park Service  
Southeast Region  
100 Alabama St., SW  
1924 Building  
Atlanta, GA 30303

AARP  
301 Main Street  
Suite 1012  
Baton Rouge, LA 70825

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma  
Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 1498  
Wewoka, OK 74884

Louisiana State University  
Sea Grant Legal Advisory Service  
James G Wilkins  
227B Sea Grant Building  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Department of Public Safety  
Highway Safety Commission  
P.O. Box 66336  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

Seminole Tribe of Florida  
THPO  
30290 Josie Billie Hwy PMB 1004  
Clewiston, FL 33440

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Ian Thompson Phd, RPA  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Baton Rouge Green Association  
448 N 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-4607

Chitimacha Tribe  
155 Chitimacha Loop Road  
Charenton, LA 70523

Alabama Coushatta Tribe of TX  
575 State Park Rd. 56  
Livingston, TX 77351

Baton Rouge Bicycle Club  
P.O. Box 253  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

EBR Parish City Government  
P.O. Box 1471  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Amite River Basin Commission  
3535 South Sherwood Forest Blvd,  
Ste. 135  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

EBR Metro Parish Council  
**P.O. Box 1471**  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Ms. Karen Oberlies  
Dept Of The Army – Tech Support  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70538

Executive Director  
Capitol Transportation Corp.  
2250 Florida Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

St. Francisville Planning Commission  
P.O. Box 400  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

E. B. R. Parish Sheriff  
P.O. Box 2406  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dept. of Emergency Management  
Emergency Operations Center  
P.O. Box 1471  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

The State Senate (District 6) Senator Mack “Bodi” White 808 O’Neal Ln. Baton Rouge, LA 70816	LA House of Representatives (District 63) Representative Dalton Honre 8776 Scenic Highway Baton Rouge, LA 70807	East Baton Rouge Parish School Board P.O. Box 2950 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
The State Senate (District 13) Senator Dale Erdey P.O. Box 908 Livingston, LA 70754	LA House of Representatives (District 64) Representative Valarie Hodges 35055 La Hwy 16, Suite 2a Denham Springs, LA 70706	Baton Rouge Police Dept. P.O. Box 2406 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
The State Senate (District 14) Senator Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Ste. 226 Baton Rouge, LA 70802	LA House of Representatives (District 66) Representative Hunter Greene 8708 Jefferson Hwy., Ste. B Baton Rouge, LA 70809	EBR City Planning Commission Planning Director P.O. Box 1471 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
The State Senate (District 15) Senator Sharon Weston Broome P.O. Box 52783 Baton Rouge, LA 70892-2783	LA House of Representatives (District 67) Representative Patricia Haynes Smith 251 Florida St. Ste. 300 Baton Rouge, LA 70801	Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd. #137 Baton Rouge, LA 70816
The State Senate (District 16) Senator Dan Claitor 7520 Perkins Rd, Suite 160 Baton Rouge, LA 70808	LA House of Representatives (District 68) Representative Stephen F. Carter 3115 Old Forge Baton Rouge, LA 70808	Greater Baton Rouge Port Comm. P.O. Box 380 Port Allen, LA 70767-0380
The State Senate (District 17) Senator Rick Ward P.O. Box 94183 Baton Rouge, LA 70804	LA House of Representatives (District 69) Representative Erich Edward Ponti 7341 Jefferson Hwy, Suite J Baton Rouge, LA 70806	Capital Region Planning Comm 333 N. 19th St. P.O. Box 3355 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
LA House of Representatives (Dist 29) Representative Regina Ashford Barrow 4811 Harding Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70811	LA House of Representatives (District 70) Representative Franklin J. Foil 320 Somerulos St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802	Greater Gonzales Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 1204 Gonzales, LA 70707-1204
LA House of Representatives (Dist 61) Honorable Alfred C Williams 701 S. Acadian Thwy Baton Rouge, LA 70806	LA House of Representatives (District 101) Representative Edward C. “Ted” James II 3552 Monterrey Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70814	Capital Soil & Water Conservation Dist. Of LA 2191A Tower Street Denham Springs, LA 70726
LA House of Representatives (Dist 62) Representative Kenneth E Havard P.O. Box 217 Jackson, LA 70748	Mayor City of Baton Rouge P.O. Box 1471 Baton Rouge, LA 70821	Louisiana State Police Troop A 17801 Highland Road Baton Rouge, LA 70810
LA House of Representatives (Dist 63) Representative Dalton Honre 8776 Scenic Highway Baton Rouge, LA 70807	Chamber Of Commerce Baton Rouge Area 564 Laurel Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801	Dept. of Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center P.O. Box 1471 Baton Rouge, LA 70821



January 5, 2015

Noel Ardoin  
DOTD-Environmental Engineer Administrator  
Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

RE: State Project No: H.011295  
F.A.P. No.: H011295  
LA 73 (Govt. St.) East Blvd – Lobdell Ave.  
East Baton Rouge Parish

Dear Mr. Ardoin:

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

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

The project map and description submitted with your request indicates that the proposed construction is within an urban area and will not impact prime farmland, and therefore is exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549.

For specific information about the soils found in the project area, please visit our Web Soil Survey at the following location:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

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

Respectfully,

Kevin D. Norton  
State Conservationist



JAY DARDENNE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

CHARLES R. DAVIS  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 5, 2015

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

Re: State Project No. H.011295  
F.A.P. No. H011295  
La 73 (Govt. St.) East Blvd – Lobdell Ave.  
Route La 73  
East Baton Rouge Parish Parish

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in receipt of the solicitation of views request regarding transformation of Government Street in East Baton Rouge Parish from East Boulevard to Lobdell Avenue near Independence Park.

The Division of Outdoor Recreation in the Louisiana Office of State Parks administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program for Louisiana. In this capacity we compile an inventory of recreational sites within the state for publication in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) published periodically. The most recent SCORP was published for the period of 2014-2019 with an inventory developed in 2014.

In so much as a primary goal of this project is enhancement of access for alternative modes of transportation to include dedicated bike lanes, there is no finding of conflict with this project in connection with the existing recreational inventory in proximity to the development. The project would enhance to accessibility to existing LWCF-assisted park facilities to include Goodwood Park and Independence Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cleve Hardman".

Cleve Hardman  
Director of Outdoor Recreation





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**FEB 19 2015**

Operations Division  
Operations Manager,  
Completed Works

Ms. Noel Ardoin  
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Post Office Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

This is in response to the Solicitation of Views request dated December 18, 2014, concerning the reduction of travel lanes on LA 73 (Government Street) from East Boulevard to Lobdell Avenue, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in East Baton Rouge Parish (H.011295).

We have reviewed your request for potential Department of the Army regulatory requirements and impacts on any Department of the Army projects.

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts to any Corps of Engineers projects.

We have reviewed your project and determined that a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required. Any changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination.

You are advised that this determination is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision prior to the expiration date or the District Commander has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.

Please contact Mr. Robert Heffner, of our Regulatory Branch by telephone at (504) 862-1288, or by e-mail at [Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil) for questions concerning wetlands determinations or need for on-site evaluations. Questions concerning regulatory permit requirements may be addressed to Mr. John Herman by telephone at (504) 862-1581 or by email at [John.M.Herman@usace.army.mil](mailto:John.M.Herman@usace.army.mil).

Future correspondence concerning this matter should reference our account number MVN-2015-00261-SB. This will allow us to more easily locate records of previous correspondence, and thus provide a quicker response.

We apologize for missing the target date of January 19, 2015 listed in your request. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Clement". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "C".

Karen L. Clement  
Solicitation of Views Manager



Louisiana Ecological Services Office

5/2/2016

ESA Technical Assistance Form

General Information

**Name:** Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

**Point of Contact:** Maria Bernard Reid

**Address:** P.O. Box 94245

**City:** Baton Rouge

**State:** Louisiana

**Zip Code:** 70804-

9245

**Phone Number 1:** 225-242-4506

**Phone Number 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** maria.reid@la.gov

Proposed Project Information

**Project Reference ID:** 7057

**Project Latitude:** 30.444341 **Project Longitude:** -91.148204

**Project Parish(es):** East Baton Rouge

**Project Description:** The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge Government (City/Parish) propose the Louisiana State Highway (LA) 73 (Government Street) project which consists of rehabilitating the existing pavement and implementing a "road diet" to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian friendly concepts. The road diet would reduce the number of travel lanes on Government Street from four lanes (two lanes in each direction) to three lanes (one travel lane in each direction with a center two-way-left-turn-lane). Approximately 4.2 miles of the Government Street corridor from East Boulevard (30.443714, -91.18071) in Downtown Baton Rouge continuing eastward to the Lobdell Avenue intersection (30.445397, -91.111033) near Independence Park is included in this project. A roundabout would replace the signalized intersection at Government Street, Lobdell Avenue, and Independence Park Boulevard. The turning geometry at the Government Street and Jefferson Highway intersection would also be improved.

Based on the information provided, the proposed project is not an activity that would affect a federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.

No further ESA coordination with the Service is necessary for the proposed action, unless there are changes in the scope or location of the proposed project or the project has not been initiated one year from the date of this letter.



5/2/2016

## Louisiana Ecological Services Office

### ESA Technical Assistance Form

If the proposed project has not been initiated within one year, follow-up coordination via this website should be accomplished prior to making expenditures because our threatened and endangered species information is updated periodically. If the scope or location of the proposed project is changed, coordination via this website should occur as soon as such changes are made.

If your project is located adjacent to a wildlife management area, refuge, or other area that is managed as a bird preserve, we recommend that you contact the adjacent land management office.

This finding completes project review by the Service for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the ESA.

Please keep a copy of this pre-development coordination for your records. Do not send it to the Lafayette ES Office.

If you have additional questions, please contact Louisiana ES Office Biological Science Technician at 337/291-3100 for further assistance.



5/2/2016

## Louisiana Ecological Services Office

### ESA Technical Assistance Form

Project Type: Other

Does the project propose to obtain, remodel, refurbish, or rehabilitate existing structures in such a way that does not significantly alter the present capacity or use, and does not alter surrounding land areas that were previously undisturbed? **Yes**





BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

*State of Louisiana*  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM  
SECRETARY  
JIMMY L. ANTHONY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**Date** January 23, 2015

**Name** Noel Ardoin

**Company** LA DOTD

**Street Address** P.O. Box 94245

**City, State, Zip** Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Project** State Project No.: H.011295  
LA 73 (GOVT ST) East Blvd-Lobdell Ave


**Project ID**

**Invoice Number** 15012313

Personnel of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project. After careful review of our database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

  
for Amity Bass, Coordinator  
Natural Heritage Program



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

January 7, 2015

Ms. Noel A. Ardoin  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
LA DOTD  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

We have received your December 18, 2014, letter requesting our evaluation of the potential environmental impacts which might result from the following project:

**Rehabilitate Pavement  
LA 73 (Government St.) from East Blvd. to Lobdell Av.  
STP No. H.011295  
FAP No. H011295  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

The project, proposed for financial assistance through the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development funds, is located on the Southern Hills aquifer system which has been designated a sole source aquifer (SSA) by the EPA. Based on the information provided for the project, we have determined that the project, as proposed, should not have an adverse effect on the quality of the ground water underlying the project site.

This approval of the proposed project does not relieve the applicant from adhering to other State and Federal requirements, which may apply. This approval is based solely upon the potential impact to the quality of ground water as it relates to the EPA's authority pursuant to Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

If you did not include the parish, project description, project location or the federal funding agency, please do so in future SSA correspondence.

If you have any questions on this letter or the SSA program please contact me at (214) 665-7133.

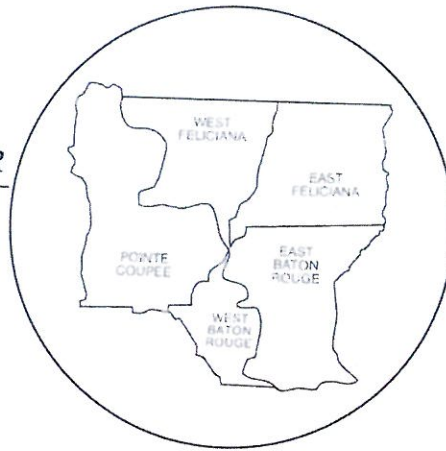
Sincerely yours,

Michael Bechdol, Coordinator  
Sole Source Aquifer Program  
Ground Water/UIC Section

cc: Jesse Means, LDEQ

*CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER*

*ANTHONY J. DUPLECHIN*  
*DIRECTOR*



*CONSERVATION DISTRICT*

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 137  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816-2255  
Telephone (225) 293-7370

January 5, 2015

LA DOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

Re: State Project No. H.011295  
Federal Aid Project No. H011295  
LA 73 (Gov't Street) East Blvd-Lobdell Ave  
Route LA 73  
East Baton Rouge Parish

Dear Sir:

Concerning the referenced project, please be aware that there are numerous shallow wells, both active and plugged and abandoned, along the project right-of-way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Duplechin". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "A" and "D".

Anthony J. Duplechin  
Director

## Maria Reid

---

**From:** Linda (Brown) Hardy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2015 2:00 PM  
**To:** Maria Reid  
**Cc:** Yasooob Zia  
**Subject:** 141217/1680 LA 73 (Gov't St) East Blvd - Lobdell Avenue

January 20, 2015

Noel Ardoin, Environmental  
Engineering Administrator  
LA DOTD  
PO Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
[maria.reid@la.gov](mailto:maria.reid@la.gov)

RE: 141217/1680 LA 73 (Gov't St) East Blvd - Lobdell Avenue  
H.011295 DOTD & FHWA Funding  
East Baton Rouge Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

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

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

- Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit application or Notice of Intent may be required. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 9371.
- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.

- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

**Currently, East Baton Rouge Parish is classified as nonattainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Department has no objections regarding this project based on the information provided; however, if the project scope changes in the future, please notify LDEQ before implementation.**

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

Sincerely,

*Linda M. Hardy*

Technical Assistant to the Deputy Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of the Secretary  
P.O. Box 4301  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301  
Ph: (225) 219-3954  
Fax: (225) 219-3971  
Email: [linda.hardy@la.gov](mailto:linda.hardy@la.gov)





**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Public Health

December 18, 2015

LA DOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

**Re: Solicitation of Views; State Project Number H.011295; F.A.P. No. H011295;  
Name: LA 73 (Government Street): East Boulevard – Lobdell Avenue  
Route: LA 73  
Parish: East Baton Rouge Parish**

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Yuanda Zhu".

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



**Capital Region Planning Commission  
Staff Review Form  
E. O. 12372 Process**

Contact Person: Maria Bernard Reid

Phone: (225) 242-4506

Date: 02/12/2015

**Applicant:** LaDOTD and the City of Baton Rouge/EBR Parish Government

**Project Title:** LA 73 (Govt St) East Blvd - Lobdell Ave.

**State Project:** H011295

**F.A.P. No.:** H011295

**Total\$:** Solicitation of Views Only

**Total \$:** N/A

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Does the project conflict with any region-wide plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the project redundant with other federally funded projects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC) staff on <u>02/12/2015</u> has reviewed the above referenced project and offers the following comments:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 30px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div>		
The CRPC staff supports the above referenced project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
The CRPC staff has neutral comments toward the above referenced project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The CRPC staff has negative comments regard the above referenced project. (See comments below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
 _____ <b>James C. Setze</b> Executive Director		



## Office of the Planning Commission

City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge  
Post Office Box 1471, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821  
or  
1100 Laurel Street, Suite 104, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Phone (225) 389-3144 Fax (225) 389-5342

Frank M. Duke, FAICP  
Planning Director

January 9, 2015

DOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., Section 28  
P. O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

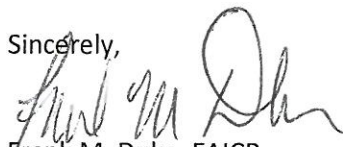
Dear Mr. Ardoin:

This letter is in response to the request for a Solicitation of Views (State Project Number H.011295 and F.A.P. NO. H011295) for the Government Street (LA 73) "road diet" to implement the "Complete Streets" concept from East Boulevard to Lobdell Avenue. The length of the project is approximately 4.2 miles with 58 intersections and a travel speed of 40 miles per hour. The plan is to reduce the number of conflicts to improve safety.

The City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge Planning Commission is responsible for implementing the FUTUREBR Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan including the items that relate to transportation and roadway improvements.

This project is consistent with the Goals, Objective, and Action Items of FUTUREBR that address Regional Connectivity and Capacity. Therefore, the Planning Commission supports the project.

Sincerely,



Frank M. Duke, FAICP  
Planning Director

FMD/JAMM/omh

c: Ryan Holcomb, Assistant Planning Director  
C. Lael Holton, Manager, Advance Planning and Research

State project No: H.011295  
F.A.P NO. H011295  
Name : LA 73(Govt. St) East Blvd- Lobdell ave  
Route: LA 73  
Parish: East Baton Rouge

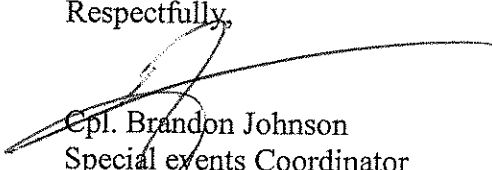
Subject: Views of Project from city police

Through reviewing the documents sent to me detailing the project and implementing a "Road Diet", I have the opinion that its implementation would help traffic flow more freely. The section of roadway described is an ongoing issue with traffic control because of the amount of business on both sides of the roadway. More often than not, vehicles are stopped in the left lane, stopping traffic, attempting to make a left turn across two lanes of travel. These vehicles cause backups because of the amount of time it takes for these vehicles to clear the roadway. I have seen this issue for the last fifteen years I have been in law enforcement in this area, especially around the Community College and Post Office areas.

My only concern that I see with its implementation is that area from I-10 to East Blvd. area. During large downtown events that are becoming more and more frequent, clearing the interstate from backing up onto the interstate because of heavy volume of traffic from I-10 to the Baton Rouge River Center could become counter productive with taking away West bound lanes to put in TWLTL travel. The TWLTL is not an issue with vehicles attempting to turn onto N. 9<sup>th</sup> to get on the interstate or vehicles attempting to get onto East Blvd. I could only see this change would negatively affect this portion of roadway.

The study and its safety analyses may have considered other factors of my issues pointed out in the above that I'm not aware of. The reduction of lanes causes concern only in this small area for me, however the Complete Streets policy would create a different environment that seems to be desired in this area.

Respectfully,



Cpl. Brandon Johnson  
Special events Coordinator  
Baton Rouge Police Dept.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY  
MIKE STRAIN DVM  
COMMISSIONER



January 16, 2015

**Agricultural &  
Environmental  
Sciences**

P.O. Box 3596  
Baton Rouge,  
LA 70821  
(225) 925-3770  
Fax: 925-3760

**Agro-Consumer  
Services**

P.O. Box 3098  
Baton Rouge,  
LA 70821  
(225) 922-1341  
Fax: 923-4877

**Animal Health  
& Food Safety**

P.O. Box 1951  
Baton Rouge,  
LA 70821  
(225) 925-3962  
Fax: 925-4103

**Forestry**

P.O. Box 1628  
Baton Rouge,  
LA 70821  
(225) 925-4500  
Fax: 922-1356

**Management  
& Finance**

P.O. Box 3481  
Baton Rouge,  
LA 70821  
(225) 922-1255  
Fax: 925-6012

**Soil & Water  
Conservation**

P.O. Box 3554  
Baton Rouge,  
LA 70821  
(225) 922-1269  
Fax: 922-2577

DOTD

Environmental Engineer Administrator – Section 28

P.O. Box 94245

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

RE: Solicitation of Views

STATE PROJECT NOS.: H.011295

FEDERAL AID PROJECT NOS.: H011295

NAME: LA 73 (GOVT ST) EAST BLVD – LOBDELL AVE

ROUTE: LA 73

PARISH: EAST BATON ROUGE

Dear Ms. Ardoin,

I have no comment at this time regarding the above referenced project.

Sincerely,

Bradley E. Spicer  
Assistant Commissioner

BES:kh





# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Attn: Noel Ardoin  
Environmental Section, DOTD  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton rouge, La. 70804-9245

December 23, 2014

RE: La 73 East Blvd – Lobdell ave  
State Project No: H011295

Dear: Noel Ardoin

The U.S. Geological Survey is not a regulatory agency and cannot approve or disapprove any project. However, we understand the proposed project, and the U.S. Geological Survey finds No Objection to the work.

Sincerely

Paul Ensminger  
Surface Water Specialist, LA Water Science Center  
U.S. Geological Survey