

# **OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING TRANSCRIPT**

**for**

**State Project No. H.004987  
F.A.P. No. H004987**

**US 190 (Collins Boulevard) Widening  
(Louisiana Highway 25 to US 190 Business)**

**St. Tammany Parish**

**June 11, 2015**

**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration**

**Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development**

**Regional Planning Commission**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Open House Public Meeting Notice .....	1
Open House Attendance Record .....	7
Open House Public Meeting Handout.....	15
Power Point Presentation Shown at Meeting.....	19
Transcript of Verbal Comments .....	35
Written Comments .....	36
DOTD’s Responses to Comments.....	67

# **OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

**OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING**

**STATE AND FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. H004987  
US 190/COLLINS BLVD: US 190B – LA 25  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is conducting an open house public meeting for the proposed US 190/Collins Blvd. project in Covington from the US 190/Collins Blvd. intersection with US 190B to its intersection with LA 25. The proposed project would widen US 190/Collins Blvd. to four travel lanes separated by a median and would include: a four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya River; improvements to portions of LA 21 (Military Road), LA 437 (Lee Road) and LA 25; and the construction of roundabouts to improve/replace signalized intersections at various locations.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information regarding the project and to obtain input from interested parties. The meeting will include continuous multi-media presentations. Additional project information will be available. Representatives from DOTD will be available at the open house to answer questions and discuss issues related to the project. Oral and written comments can be submitted at the meeting or mailed to the DOTD address shown below if postmarked by July 11, 2015. The public meeting has been scheduled as follows:

**Thursday, June 11, 2015  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Covington City Council Chambers  
222 East Kirkland Street  
Covington, LA 70433**

Should you require special assistance, due to a disability, to participate in this public meeting, please contact DOTD by mail at the address shown below, or by telephone at 225.242.4506, at least five working days prior to the meeting.

**Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245**

# CAPITAL CITY PRESS

**Publisher of  
THE ADVOCATE**

## PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The hereto attached notice was published in **THE ADVOCATE**, a daily newspaper of general circulation published in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, also published daily in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Official Journal of the State of Louisiana, City of Baton Rouge, and Parish of East Baton Rouge, in the following issues:

**05/29/15, 06/05/15**



Shelley Calloni, Public Notice Clerk

Sworn and subscribed before me by the person whose signature appears above

**June 5, 2015**



**M. Monic McChristian,  
Notary Public ID# 88293  
State of Louisiana  
My Commission Expires: Indefinite**



**GEC INC  
JEFF ROBINSON  
8282 GOODWOOD BLVD  
BATON ROUGE LA 70806**

**5135357**

### NOTICE

#### OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

**STATE AND FEDERAL AID  
PROJECT NO. H004987  
US 190/COLLINS BLVD:  
US 190B - LA 25  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is conducting an open house public meeting for the proposed US 190/Collins Blvd. project in Covington from the US 190/Collins Blvd. intersection with US 190B to its intersection with LA 25. The proposed project would widen US 190/Collins Blvd. to four travel lanes separated by a median and would include a four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya River; improvements to portions of LA 21 (Military Road), LA 437 (Lee Road) and LA 25; and the construction of roundabouts to improve/replace signalized intersections at various locations.

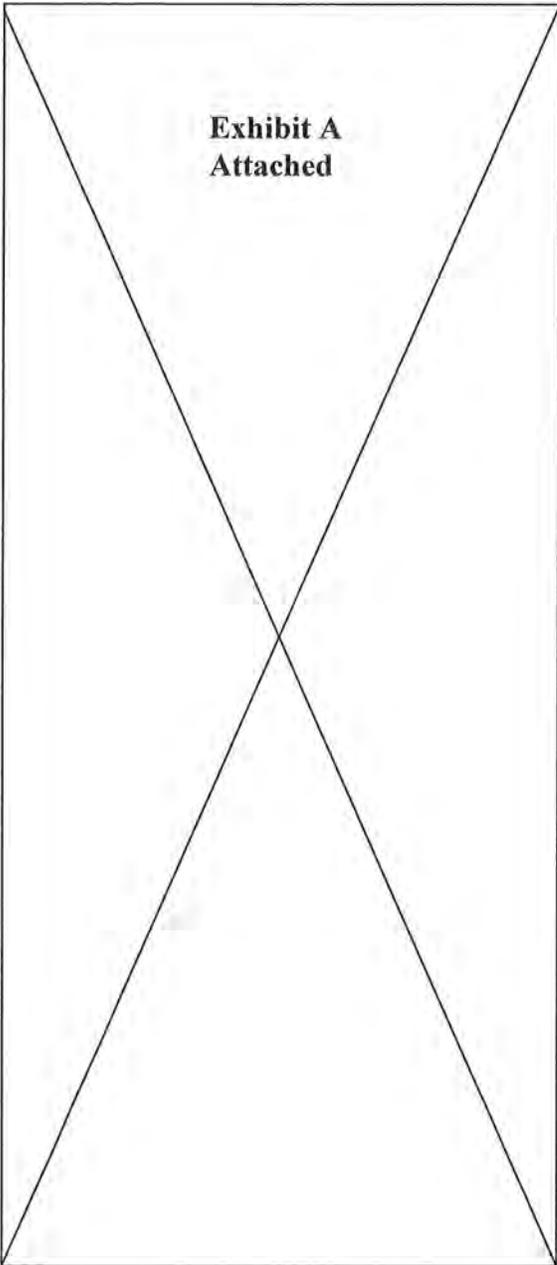
The purpose of the meeting is to provide information regarding the project and to obtain input from interested parties. The meeting will include continuous multi-media presentations. Additional project information will be available. Representatives from DOTD will be available at the open house to answer questions and discuss issues related to the project. Oral and written comments can be submitted to the meeting or mailed to the DOTD address shown below if postmarked by July 11, 2015. The public meeting has been scheduled as follows:

**Thursday, June 11, 2015  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Covington City Council  
Chambers  
222 East Kirkland Street  
Covington, LA 70433**

Should you require special assistance, due to a disability, to participate in this public meeting, please contact DOTD by mail at the address shown below, or by telephone at 225.242.4506, at least five working days prior to the meeting.

**Louisiana Department  
of Transportation and  
Development  
Environmental Engineer  
Administrator, Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA  
70804-9245**

5135357-may 29-jun 5-2t



State of Louisiana

Parish of Orleans

City of New Orleans

Personally appeared before me, a Notary in and for the parish of Orleans, Randy A. Trahan who deposes and says that he is Administrative Operations Manager of NOLA Media Group, a division of The Times-Picayune, L.L.C., a Louisiana limited liability company, and Publishers of The Times-Picayune, Daily and Sunday, of general circulation; doing business in the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana, and that the attached

LEGAL

Re: Open House Public Meeting - June 11, 2015

Advertisement of G.E.C., Inc.

8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La. 70806

Was published in The Times Picayune

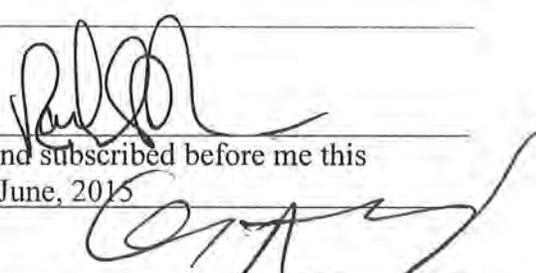
3800 Howard Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70125

On the following dates May 29, June 5, 2015

I attest that the copy attached hereto as "Exhibit A" is a true and correct copy of the advertisement published in The Times-Picayune on these dates.

5<sup>th</sup>

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
Day of June, 2015

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires at my death.

Charles A. Ferguson, Jr.

Notary identification number 23492



Home	Announcements	District / Parish Pages	Projects	Sign-Up
------	---------------	-------------------------	----------	---------

## Emails Sent For Public Meetings OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING FOR US 190/Collins Blvd (H.004987)

Count: 133

dotdpi@la.gov, cajundweeb@gmail.com, news@katctv.com, renethibodeaux@betageneral.com, news@louisianaradionetwork.com, operationlifesaver@la.gov, froberts@theadvocate.com, dschenck@stpgov.org, rrhoden@nola.com, hollisp@legis.la.gov, neversb@legis.la.gov, schrodej@legis.la.gov, Jdweathers@lahotmix.org, patrick.gutierrez@la.gov, news@wrno.com, nrle@ap.org, clancy@gambitweekly.com, lisabacques@clearchannel.com, mdjemigan@nola.gov, fox8news@fox8tv.net, ndecorte@fox8tv.net, jessica@laretail.org, melanie.stahl@yahoo.com, rstewart@theadvocate.com, tdarchie242911@yahoo.com, dperkins@stph.org, david.orr@la.gov, jodi.conachen@la.gov, amber.leach@la.gov, kierra.thomas@la.gov, Shawn.Wilson@LA.GOV, gwdillon@pcl.com, region1adrc@gmail.com, steve.strength@la.gov, mhodgson@stph.org, soisaacs@hearst.com, news@nbc33tv.com, mitom@stedf.org, ddegeneres@cityofmandeville.com, grichards@stratumengr.com, cmduran@pcl.com, dtalley@donaldsonvillechief.com, Lelia.bordelon@LA.GOV, gail.boudreaux@la.gov, nancy.gutierrez@att.net, news10@htv10.tv, robin.shannon@nosp.com, Seth.Dearmas@LA.GOV, editor@sttmanyfarmer.net, rsimpson@stpgov.org, wbishop@adatile.com, cristine.gowland@la.gov, bamhall1@aol.com, larep075@legis.la.gov, cathyalba@triplenetlease.info, mibeitzel@modjeski.com, tkeffer@norpc.org, foliveri@cityofmandeville.com, molinsky@jpefcu.org, barberdustin95@yahoo.com, Dedrick.Milton@la.gov, rlala@stpgov.org, msasser@abc-communications.net, sburke@hearst.com, michelle@sttmanyamchamber.org, christy.samek@la.gov, thno@clearchannel.com, lisabacques@yahoo.com, zemog@policeone.com, alejandro.fuentes@la.gov, Saundra.Sharp@la.gov, upperdecker5@yahoo.com, Dmitchell@theadvocate.com, lacey.mccaskill@la.gov, lambertmedia@eatel.net, karl.rothermel@volkert.com, jrRichardson@tweinc.com, Clang@covla.com, allison.schilling@la.gov, AYoung1923@aol.com, SBond@stph.org, john.weres@aecom.com, skaranas@gmail.com, tdsharp@stpgov.org, chrishill@randallreilly.com, jason.bernsen@edgenmurray.com, arodrique@wwltv.com, dstewart@emailatg.com, fnicoladis@n-yassociates.com, janice\_sherman@bellsouth.net, backdraft\_1988@hotmail.com, acarollo@cityofslidell.org, harringtons@transfieldservices.com, Saduhons@msn.com, sjohnson@gdangelolaw.com, sandraslifer@gmail.com, alaborde@stpgov.org, maryk1991@icloud.com, bob@heckerttechnology.com, clifford@nolaeast.com, diamedic@asaproadservice.com, covlion@gmail.com, lucy.kimbeng@la.gov, dkspatz@yahoo.com, jane.gonzales@la.gov, dwayne.schaefer@gmail.com, Geoffrey.Green@mail.house.gov, dennis@responsiveservice.com, ljdeen@hotmail.com, Leahwooten@charter.net, wwainepeters@gmail.com, mjguo1@gmail.com, silsk@coastalbridge.com, bonnie.veker@bridgeguard.net, donahuej@legis.la.gov, pfryer@lazenbyengr.com, simons@legis.la.gov, Ryan.Poindexter@la.gov, swsmith@munciepower.com, WCurry@InLine.com, katherineb@totalenergysolutions.net, lpalmer@stirlingprop.com, jwatson@stpgov.org, lawrence.naquin@gmail.com, pastime@cox.net, colin2269@att.net, huey.devilla@ceresenv.com, dchenderson@stpgov.org, tyson\_fisher@landlinemag.com, sbryansr@charter.net, mike.nitska@hydroterratec.com, jengem@tweinc.com, jesskilgore@bellsouth.net

### Public Meetings OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING FOR US 190/Collins Blvd (H.004987)

*Wednesday, May 27, 2015 7:33 AM*

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) propose to improve traffic capacity along a portion of US 190 (Collins Boulevard) in Covington, Louisiana. The proposed construction would begin south of the Bogue Falaya River Bridge at the US 190/US 190B intersection and continue northward to the US 190/Louisiana Highway 25 (LA 25) intersection. The project also entails improvements to portions of LA 25 and LA 21 (Military Road).

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, DOTD and RPC are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project

#### OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, June 11th, 4pm - 7pm  
Covington City Council Chambers  
222 East Kirkland Street, Covington, La 70433

The NEPA process for this project began in 2010 when project information and a request for comment was sent to resource agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders. A public meeting was held and three Build Alternatives, all of which proposed widening the roadway to four travel lanes, were developed.

In 2012 DOTD recorded new traffic data for the project corridor and applied new growth forecasts to update traffic volume estimates for the roadway. The updated traffic volume estimates indicate additional improvements are warranted. Upon approval by FHWA, an EA will be distributed to regulatory agencies and stakeholders for comments. A public hearing will be held following the distribution of the EA to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn more about the proposed project and to submit comments.

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:  
by e-mail: [comment@gecinc.com](mailto:comment@gecinc.com)

by mail: G.E.C., Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La 70806

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](#).



By using this service you agree to the [MyDOTD Terms and Conditions of Use](#).

**OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING FOR US 190/Collins Blvd (H.004987)**  
 Wednesday, May 27, 2015

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) propose to improve traffic capacity along a portion of US 190 (Collins Boulevard) in Covington, Louisiana. The proposed construction would begin south of the Bogue Falaya River Bridge at the US 190/US 190B intersection and continue northwestward to the US 190/Louisiana Highway 25 (LA 25) intersection. The project also entails improvements to portions of LA 25 and LA 21 (Military Road).

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, DOTD and RPC are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project

**OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING**

Thursday, June 11th, 4pm - 7pm  
 Covington City Council Chambers  
 222 East Kirkland Street, Covington, La 70433

The NEPA process for this project began in 2010 when project information and a request for comment was sent to resource agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders. A public meeting was held and three Build Alternatives, all of which proposed widening the roadway to four travel lanes, were developed. In 2012 DOTD recorded new traffic data for the project corridor and applied new growth forecasts to update traffic volume estimates for the roadway. The updated traffic volume estimates indicate additional improvements are warranted. Upon approval by FHWA, an EA will be distributed to regulatory agencies and stakeholders for comments. A public hearing will be held following the distribution of the EA to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn more about the proposed project and to submit comments.

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:  
 by e-mail: [comment@gecinc.com](mailto:comment@gecinc.com)

by mail: G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806

**OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING**

**STATE AND FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. H004987  
US 190/COLLINS BLVD: US 190B – LA 25  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

*The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is conducting an open house public meeting for the proposed US 190/Collins Blvd. project in Covington from the US 190/Collins Blvd. intersection with US 190B to its intersection with LA 25. The proposed project would widen US 190/Collins Blvd. to four travel lanes separated by a median and would include: a four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya River; improvements to portions of LA 21 (Military Road), LA 437 (Lee Road) and LA 25; and the construction of roundabouts to improve/replace signalized intersections at various locations.*

*The purpose of the meeting is to provide information regarding the project and to obtain input from interested parties. The meeting will include continuous multi-media presentations. Additional project information will be available. Representatives from DOTD will be available at the open house to answer questions and discuss issues related to the project. Oral and written comments can be submitted at the meeting or mailed to the DOTD address shown below if postmarked by July 11, 2015. The public meeting has been scheduled as follows:*

**Thursday, June 11, 2015  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Covington City Council Chambers  
222 East Kirkland Street  
Covington, LA 70433**

*Should you require special assistance, due to a disability, to participate in this public meeting, please contact DOTD by mail at the address shown below, or by telephone at 225.242.4506, at least five working days prior to the meeting.*

**Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245**

# OPEN HOUSE ATTENDANCE RECORD



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015 Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
Jean Patrick	105 CHACAHOUA LA 77777	MADEVILLE LA.	70471	—	—
Hugh & John Maloney	433 Pinewood Dr.	Covington, LA	70435		
Phil Rapp	246 SHADY POND LANE	COVINGTON, LA	70435		
Anne Maricelli	6031 N Willie Rd Folsom, LA 70137				
Gay Byrd	10 SI				
Craig Stoney	1234 Collins Blvd	Covington LA	70434		
Jake Lehman	CPD	Covington La	70433		



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015 Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
Ted Jackson	Tina P...	Cov.			T.P.
Don Bonano	Bonano Ins 1109 Business 190	Cov.			
Jim Simin	133 Cantside Dr	BR			
Erin + Joe Bivona	272 carriage Pines La	Cov			
Mary Hall	108 W 8th Ave Covington La 70433				
Timothy McJunkin	917 Rapatel St <del>Mandeville</del>	Mandeville	70447		
Margaret Law Dennis	77063 So Fitzmorris Covington	Covington	70435	dennisld@att.net	



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La      Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015      Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
JEFF ROESEL	10 LETS BLVD.	NOLA	70124	jroesel@noir.us	RPC
Ross Lagarde	74184 River Road	Covington	70435	ross@joneslagarde.com	citizen
Tommy Blocker	Covington P.D.	Covington	70435	tblocker@covla.com	CPD
Robert Blount	Covington P.D.	Covington	70433	rblount@covla.com	CPD
Richelle Sharp	Covington P.D.	Cov			CPD
Melissa Stephens	DOTD	Hammond		melissa.stephens@la.gov	DOTD
Chad Whaley	317 N Jefferson City of Covington	COV	70433	cwhaley@covla.com	COC



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015 Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
ALAN KROUSE				AKROUSE@BA-BA.com	CONSULTANT
Cristine Gowland				cristine.gowland@la.gov	DOTD
FAMON ROBERTS				frobarts@theadstate.com	MTA
Polly Greene				editor@sttammanyfarmer.net	St Tammany Farmer
Adam Acquistapace				adame@acquistapaces.com	Resident
Erik Acquistapace				Erik@acquistapaces.com	Resident
Luis Lumsden				tlumsden@covingtonfoodbank.org	Covington Food Bank



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015 Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
Rita Moreci	5100 Village Walk Covington LA 70433			Rmoreci@Fec.org.com	Property mgr Covington Village Walk.
Jesse McClendon				jesse.mcclendon@la.gov	LA DOTD
Ken Cochran	31 ELLEN DRIVE			KENNETHCochran90@gmail.com	CITIZEN
William Rogers	2933 N Hwy 190			ccs asphalt@bellsouth.net	
J. CONER	752 N. FLORIDAST	<del>LA</del> COVINGTON	70433	JERRY CONER@YAHOO.COM	CITY OF COVINGTON
Vaunne Blossman	76495 Currier Dr.	Covington	70435	VonHund@gmail.com	Small Business
Jonathan Perry		Hammond		johnathanperry@la.gov	DOTD



State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015

Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
Ofc. L. Benjamin	200 E. Kirkland St	Covington	70433		Police
Sgt. C Anthony	200 E Kirkland ST	Covington	70433		Police



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La      Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015      Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
Mizana Loria	18332 Hosmer Mill Rd.	Covington	70435	MLORIAN159@Gmail.com	
Doug Arrowood	609 N. COLUMBIA ST	COVINGTON	70433	DARROWOOD@COVLA.COM	Cov. P.D.
Miller Brock	72547 Plantation St	Covington	70435	b.miller@covla.com	Cov PD
Mike Cooper		Covington		mayorcooper@covla.com	Mayor, City of Covington
Michelle Fitzgerald	685 N. Aberdeen HA	Hammade	70401	Michelle.Fitzgerald@lagos.com	DOTD Real Estate
Bill Mayfield	1247 Collins Blvd.	Covington	70433	glass20@bellsouth.net	A-1 Glass Services Inc.
DAVID DOMINGUEZ	422 N. Columbia Cov	Cov	70433	DAVIDINCOVINGTON@yahoo.com	REMAX



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Location: Covington City Council Chambers, Covington, La    Date: Thursday, June 11, 2015    Time: 4pm-7pm

### Guest Register

Please print. The below information is voluntary and may be used to coordinate future information on the US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening Project.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
Noel Maestre	105 W. 31 <sup>st</sup> + Collins Blvd.	Covington	70433	Noel Maestre yahoo.com	
Victoria L. Williams	752 N. Florida Street	Covington	70433		
Mimi Goodyear Donett	74283 Military Rd	Covington	70435	mimi@money hill.com	
Carlos Lawton	104 ST John Cr	Covington	70433	Carlos.lawton@gmail.com	
Ronnie Sipe				r.simpson@sipgov.org	
James E. Blackwell	913 W. 16th Ave	Covington	70433		

# OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING HANDOUT

# US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD WIDENING



*The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) propose to improve traffic capacity along a portion of US 190 (Collins Boulevard) in Covington, Louisiana. The proposed construction would begin south of the Bogue Falaya River Bridge at the US 190/US 190B intersection and continue northwestward to the US 190/Louisiana Highway 25 (LA 25) intersection. The project also entails improvements to portions of LA 25 and LA 21 (Military Road).*

*In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, DOTD and RPC are preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed project.*

## **WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE**

This open house public information meeting is designed to provide you the opportunity to learn more about the US 190/Collins Boulevard Widening Project and to provide input to our project team. From our experience with events like tonight's, we have learned the open house format is the most conducive to meaningful interaction between the public and project team. We hope you agree and look forward to working with you as the project progresses.

## **WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK**

Be sure to view the narrated presentation tonight as well as the animated project "fly-over." The presentation can be viewed at any of the information tables, and the fly-over can be viewed on the large monitor. Project team members look forward to discussing the project with you and answering your questions. Have a comment regarding the project? Comment cards are located throughout council chambers. Please complete a card and place it at any of the information or welcome tables. You can also comment by e-mail ([comment@gecinc.com](mailto:comment@gecinc.com)) or by mail (**G.E.C., Inc., Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E., 8282 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806**). Comments should be forwarded no later than **March 10, 2015**.

## **YOUR PROJECT TEAM**

G.E.C., Inc., a Louisiana engineering and planning resource, has grown during its 28 years through the talents and experience of its engineering and planning professionals. With offices in Mandeville, Metairie, and Baton Rouge, and together with our longtime partner Neel-Schaffer, with its impressive staff of professional traffic engineers and its traffic design and management expertise, we are proud to have been selected for this project and greatly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to our local community.

# US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD WIDENING



## PROJECT PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the project is to increase capacity and reduce congestion along US 190/Collins Boulevard from its intersection with US 190B to its intersection with LA 25. The project would also increase capacity and decrease congestion along LA 21 (Military Highway) from its intersection with US 190B to its intersection with LA 36.

## PROJECT NEED

US 190/Collins Boulevard is a major corridor within Covington city limits that also serves as the main link for motorists traveling between Covington and I-12 or the Causeway Bridge. This section of US 190/Collins Boulevard currently experiences considerable daily congestion, which is expected to worsen with anticipated future increases in traffic volume.

## WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) directs federal agencies to evaluate alternatives and impacts to the natural and human environments for proposed federal actions. The process requires coordination with local, state, and federal agencies, and the public throughout the project planning process, and local communities and stakeholders are provided opportunities to ask questions and provide comments about proposed projects. Public input is considered when developing alternatives and documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA), a public document that presents sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether impacts from the proposed action warrant a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or further analysis documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

## PROJECT MILESTONES

The project team anticipates the EA will progress in accordance with the following schedule:

October 20, 2014	Notice to Proceed
November 20, 2014	Review Existing Studies
January 23, 2015	Solicitation of Views
→ June 11, 2015	Public Information Meeting
October 31, 2015	Draft Environmental Assessment
December 31, 2015	Public Comment
January 31, 2016	Final Environmental Assessment / Finding of No Significant Impact

## WHERE IS THIS PROJECT IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS?

The NEPA process for this project began in 2010 when information and a request for comment was forwarded to resources agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders. A public meeting was held in October 2010, and three preliminary alternatives, all of which proposed widening the roadway to four travel lanes, were considered. In 2012 DOTD updated traffic counts and future traffic volumes for the project, and the updates indicated additional improvements were warranted. Upon approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), an EA will be distributed to regulatory agencies and stakeholders for comment. A public hearing will be held following distribution of the EA to offer interested parties the opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide comments.



State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
St. Tammany Parish



Public Comment Card

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
[comment@gecinc.com](mailto:comment@gecinc.com)

by mail:  
G.E.C., Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
St. Tammany Parish



Public Comment Card

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
[comment@gecinc.com](mailto:comment@gecinc.com)

by mail:  
G.E.C., Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La 70806

---

---

---

---

Place  
Postage  
here

***G.E.C., Inc.***  
***Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.***  
***8282 Goodwood Blvd.***  
***Baton Rouge, La 70806***

---

---

---

---

Place  
Postage  
here

***G.E.C., Inc.***  
***Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.***  
***8282 Goodwood Blvd.***  
***Baton Rouge, La 70806***

**POWER POINT PRESENTATION SHOWN AT  
MEETING**



## **OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING**

**US 190/COLLINS BOULEVARD WIDENING  
190 BUSINESS - LA 25  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH  
STATE PROJECT NO. H.004987  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. H004987**



Welcome to the public meeting for the proposed US 190 (Collins Blvd.) widening project, from 190 Business to LA 25, in Covington. The project is managed jointly by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Regional Planning Commission .



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

DOTD and RPC propose the construction of four travel lanes separated by a median; a four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya River; and roundabouts at the Collins Boulevard intersections with LA 437 (Lee Road), 32nd Avenue, E. Magee Street, Columbia Street, and LA 25; the 190 Business intersections with E. Boston Street, Front Street, and LA 21 (Military Road); the Military Road intersection with LA 36; and the Poole Drive intersection with Columbia Street.

The project would also improve approximately 1,400 feet of LA 25 and 1,400 feet of Military Road and would construct new sidewalks/bike paths that would connect to the Tammany Trace.

The total length of the project is approximately 2.7 miles.




DOTD and RPC propose widening Collins Blvd. from 190 Business to LA 25, a length of approximately 2.7 miles, to four travel lanes separated by a median. The project would also include a new four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya River; improvements to portions of Military Road, Lee Road, and LA 25; the construction of roundabouts to improve signalized intersections at 10 locations; and the construction of new sidewalks/bike paths that would connect to the Tammany Trace.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

**PROJECT PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of the project is to increase capacity and reduce congestion along Collins Boulevard from its intersection with 190 Business to its intersection with LA 25. The project would also increase capacity and decrease congestion along Military Road from its intersection with 190 Business to its intersection with LA 36.



The purpose of the project is to increase capacity and reduce congestion on Collins Blvd. from its intersection with 190 Business to its intersection with LA 25. The project would also increase capacity and reduce congestion along Military Road from its intersection with US 190 B to its intersection with LA 36.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

**PROJECT NEED**

Collins Boulevard is a major corridor in Covington that provides the primary link for motorists traveling between Covington and I-12 or the Causeway. This section of Collins Boulevard currently experiences considerable daily congestion, which is expected to worsen with anticipated future increases in traffic volume.



Collins Blvd. is a significant corridor in Covington that provides the main link for motorists traveling to and from I-12 or the Causeway. It currently experiences considerable daily congestion, which will worsen with anticipated future increases in traffic volume.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

### **OPEN HOUSE FORMAT**

We're glad you're here.

- Please sign in at the guest registry and pick up a project brochure.
- In addition to this presentation, a project animation has also been developed.
- Have a comment? Comment cards are located throughout council chambers. Please complete a card and place it at any of the information or welcome tables.

Project Team members look forward to discussing the project with you and can answer your questions.



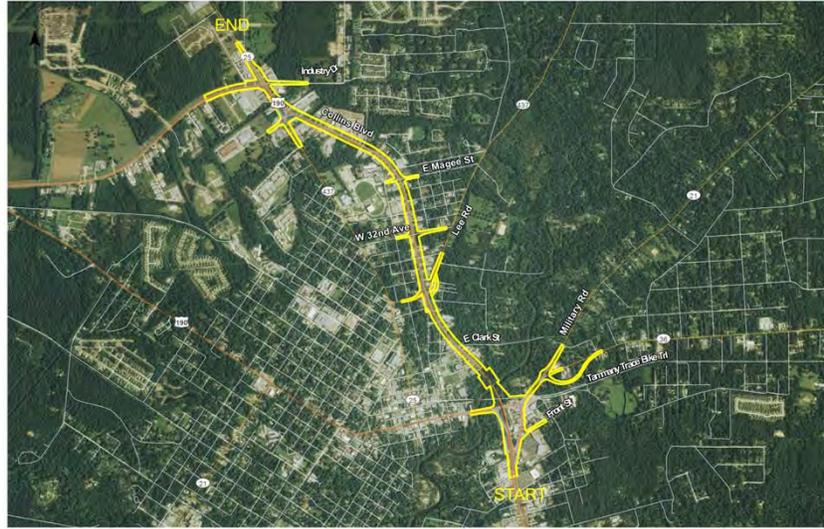
DOTD and RPC are glad you're here. Please sign the guest registry and take a project information brochure.

In addition to this presentation, the large maps and a project animation will be of interest.

We encourage you to comment on the project, and comment cards are located throughout the chambers. Once completed they can be placed at any of the information or welcome tables.

Additionally, project team members are available to discuss the project and answer your questions.

## PROJECT LOCATION



The project is located along Collins Blvd. in Covington, from its intersection with 190 Business to LA 25. The project also includes improvements to portions of LA 25, Lee Road, and Military Road.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

**PROPOSED ACTION**

DOTD and RPC propose the construction of four travel lanes separated by a median; a four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya River; and roundabouts at the Collins Boulevard with Lee Road, 32nd Avenue, E. Magee Street, Columbia Street, and LA 25; the 190 Business intersections with E. Boston Street, Front Street, and Military Road; the Military Road intersection with LA 36; and the Poole Drive intersection with Columbia Street.

The project would also improve approximately 1,400 feet of LA 25 and 1,400 feet of Military Road and would construct new sidewalks/bike paths that would connect to the Tammany Trace.

The total length of the project is approximately 2.7 miles.




DOTD and RPC propose widening Collins Blvd. from 190 Business to LA 25, a length of approximately 2.7 miles, to four travel lanes separated by a median. The project would also include a new four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya River; improvements to portions of Military Road, Lee Road, and LA 25; the construction of new sidewalks/bike paths that would connect to the Tammany Trace; and the construction of roundabouts to improve signalized intersections at 10 locations.

The roundabouts would be located at:

- The Collins Blvd. intersections with Lee Road, 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, E. Magee Street, Columbia Street, and LA 25;
- the 190 Business intersections with Front Street, E. Boston Street, and Military Road;
- the Military Road intersection with LA 36; and
- the Poole Drive intersection with Columbia Street.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

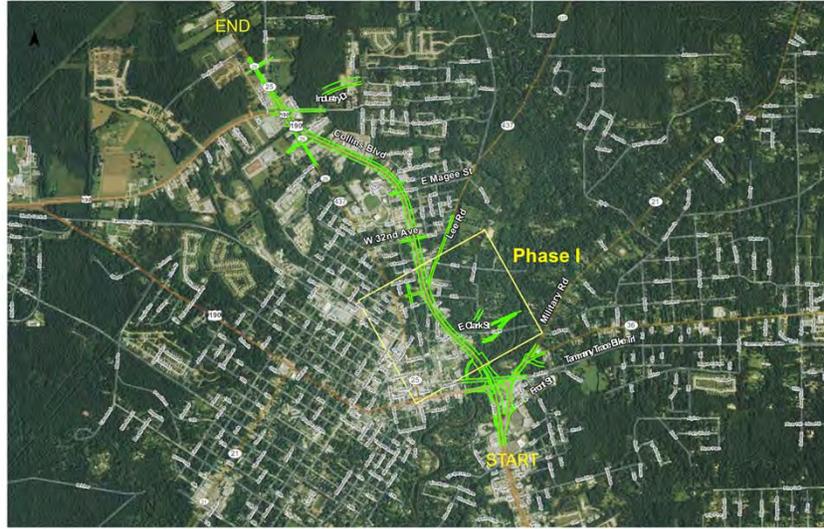
**CONSTRUCTION PHASES**

- Phase 1 – Collins Boulevard: 190 Business to Lee Road
- Phase 2 – Collins Boulevard : Lee Road to LA 25
  - 2A – Collins Boulevard – LA 25 Intersection
  - 2B – Lee Road – LA 25 Intersection
- Phase 3 – 190 Business, Military Road, Front Street, E. Boston Street.



The project would be constructed in three phases.

## PHASE 1



Phase I would provide Collins Blvd. with two travel lanes in each direction from 190 Business to Lee Road. It would include construction of the new bridge over the Bogue Falaya River as well as two left-turn lanes from westbound Lee Road onto southbound Collins Blvd.

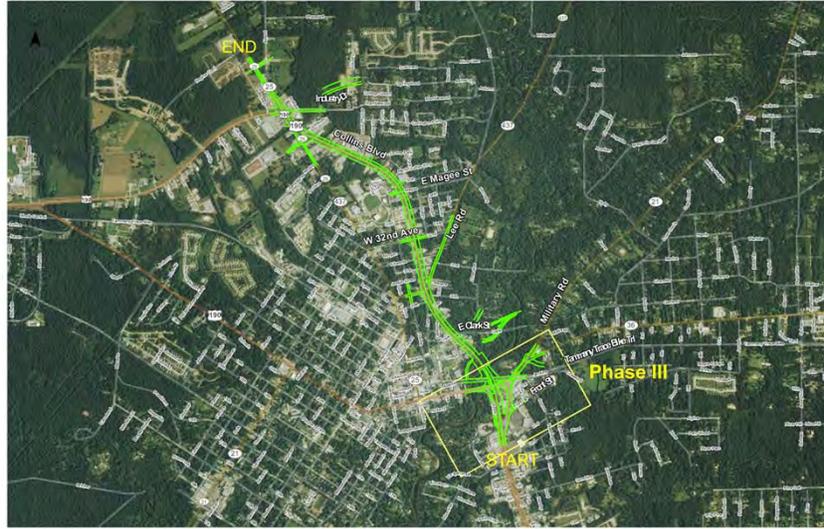
## PHASE 2



Phase II would provide Collins Blvd. with two travel lanes in each direction from Lee Road to LA 25. It would include construction of all medians and roundabouts along Collins Blvd. from the new Bogue Falaya Bridge to LA 25.

Phase II includes two stages: Phase II-A, which improves the Collins Blvd. intersection with LA 25, and Phase II-B, which improves the remainder of Phase II.

## PHASE 3



**DOTD**  
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT



Phase III would complete full build-out of the project: it includes demolition of the existing Bogue Falaya Bridge, conversion of the new bridge to four travel lanes, and all improvements south of the Bogue Falaya River, including ramps for the new bridge.

It should be noted that Phase III construction requires relocating a short reach of the Tammany Trace in order to provide adequate vertical clearance in the vicinity of new ramps/approaches planned for the new Bogue Falaya River Bridge. Because Canadian National Railway currently owns the Tammany Trace right-of-way, Phase III construction is contingent on an agreement between St. Tammany Parish and Canadian National Railway through which the railway releases its rights to the Tammany Trace right-of-way.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

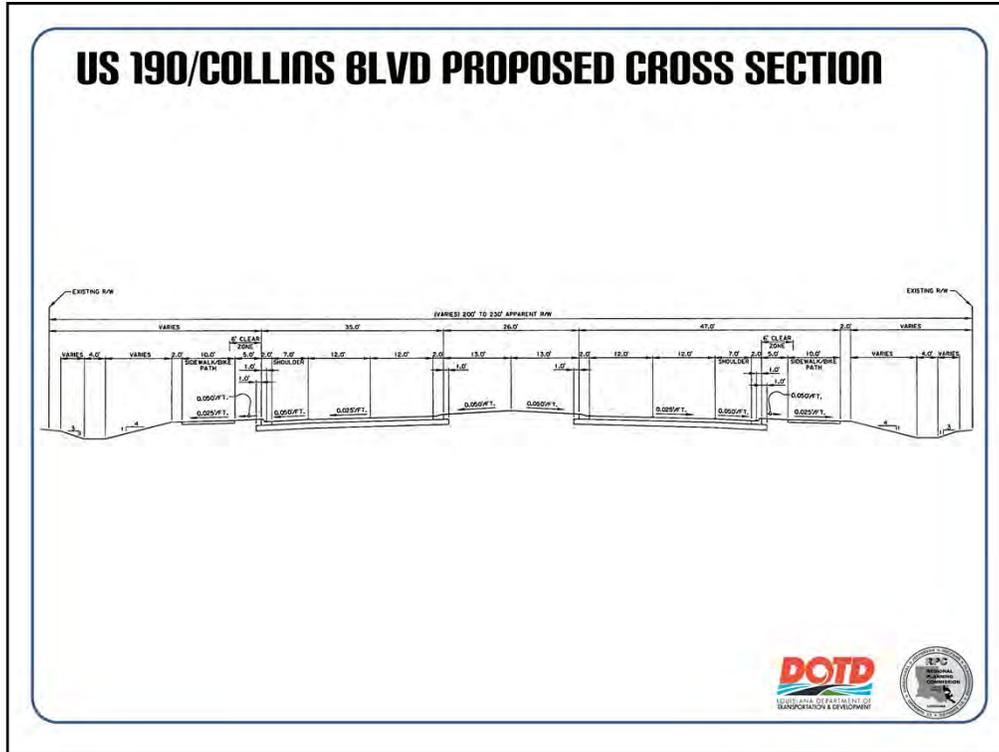
**CONSTRUCTION ACCESS**

Two lanes in each direction will remain open to traffic during construction.

Lane closures limiting traffic to fewer than two lanes in each direction will be limited in duration and conducted only during weekends or at night.



Two lanes will remain open in each direction during construction. Any lane closures limiting traffic to less than two lanes will be limited to nighttime or during weekends.



Upon completion the project would provide two, 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction separated by a 26-foot-wide median. The roadways will have seven-foot-wide outside shoulders, and 10-foot-wide paved sidewalks/bicycle paths will be constructed five feet beyond the shoulders.

Much of the project can be constructed within existing state-owned right-of-way. However, as design for the project progresses it is anticipated that areas requiring additional right-of-way will be identified.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- Sign the guest register and take a project brochure.
- Speak with a member of the project team.
- Submit a comment.

**DOTD**  
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT



Again, DOTD and RPC are glad you're here. Please sign the guest registry and take a project information brochure.

In addition to this presentation, the large maps and project animation will be of interest.

We encourage you to comment on the project. Comment cards are located throughout the chambers. Once completed they can be placed at any of the information or welcome tables.

Additionally, project team members are available to discuss the project and answer questions.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

**THIS IS THE END OF THE PRESENTATION.**

Thank you for your time. Please take time to:

- Sign the guest register.
- View other exhibits.
- Speak with a project team member
- Submit a comment.



This ends the presentation. Thank you for your time. Please visit the remaining exhibits and don't hesitate to speak with a project team member.



**US 190 / COLLINS BOULEVARD  
WIDENING**

**THIS PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN TWO  
MINUTES.**



The presentation will begin again in two minutes.

# TRANSCRIPT OF VERBAL COMMENTS

Verbal comments from Public Meeting:

Many at the meeting supported construction of the roundabout at Lee Road during Phase 1.

There could be a need to re-examine the Collins-Kirkland intersection to provide for northbound turns onto Collins from Kirkland.

How will parking lot access be accommodated along the northbound off-ramp between US 190 and the Walgreen's roundabout?

Consider providing an additional southbound U-turn with bulb-out north of Clark St. that can accommodate 18-wheelers.

There was concern with the unsignalized left turn movement from US 190 to the service road that serves the Chimes.

# WRITTEN COMMENTS



# 1

State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Public Comment Card

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Look GREAT  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name Craig Storzoph  
 Street 1234 Collins Blvd  
 City, St Zip Louisiana LA  
 e-mail BEB559@BellSouth.net

Affiliation Property owner  
 Phone 985-966-2087  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



# 2

State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish



Public Comment Card

Comments: GREAT PROGRESS. HAPPY TO SEE PHASE 1 INCLUDES  
THE BRIDGE. NOT SURE OF THE SAFETY OF TWO LANES  
IN THE BOUNDARIES. ONE LANE IS FINE BUT 2 IS A  
SIGNIFICANT LEARNING CURVE FOR FIRST TIME USERS.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name Michael Loria  
 Street 18336 Haswell Mill Rd  
 City, St Zip Covington LA 70335  
 e-mail mloria1550@gmail.com

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone 985 234 9305  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806

#3



State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
St. Tammany Parish



Public Comment Card

Comments: AS BOTH A COMMUTER AND FREQUENT TRAVELER FOR WORK, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS SECTION ROAD WIDENED AS SHOWN. I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT THE PROJECT HAS BEEN PHASED TO SPEED UP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

Name DANIEL HILL  
Street 317 N. JEFFERSON AVE  
City, St Zip COVINGTON, LA 70433  
e-mail dhill@covla.com

Affiliation CITY OF COVINGTON  
Phone 985-892-1811 EXT. 721  
Fax

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
G.E.C., Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La 70806

#4



State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
St. Tammany Parish



Public Comment Card

Comments: NEED ACCESS TO PARKING LOT & FRONT DOOR FROM NEW HWY 190. ALSO BUTTERCRISP DONUTS NEXT DOOR NEEDS ACCESS FOR DELIVERIES.

Name DON BONANO  
Street 1109 BUSINESS 190  
City, St Zip COVINGTON, LA 70433  
e-mail DON@BONANOINSURANCE.COM

Affiliation BONANO INSURANCE BLDG  
Phone WK 985-893-9393 CELL (504) 512-5650  
Fax (985) 893-9451

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
G.E.C., Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La 70806

ll



State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
St. Tammany Parish

#5



Public Comment Card

Comments: I Like IT!!

Name Robin Fischer Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street 104 St John Cr. Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St Zip Covington LA 70433 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail luv2dance72@gmail.com

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
G.E.C., Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
St. Tammany Parish

#6



Public Comment Card

Comments: I like the plan, way overdue. Thank you for the Lee Rd turning lane under construction now!

Name Carlos Lawton Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street 104 St John Cr Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St Zip Covington La 70433 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail Carlos.lawton@gmail.com

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
G.E.C., Inc.  
Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#7



Public Comment Card

Comments: Please consider changes to traffic light north of the bridge. It stops north bound traffic with long intervals from the ~~west~~ south bound left turn into that motorcycle convenience store as well as traffic leaving the mall on the west side.  
 I notice the north bound red light for a long time without traffic in the other directions

Name Tim Bartholomew  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, St Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail tbartho9@att.net

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
 comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#8



Public Comment Card

Comments: ALTHOUGH MANY WILL STAINCHLY RESIST THE CONCEPT OF ROUNDABOUTS, ONCE ADOPTED AND FAMILIARISED, THEY WILL GREATLY EASE TRAFFIC FLOW AND KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING.  
 THE CONCEPT WORRIES AND MYSTERIES MANY WHO ARE NOT USED TO THE CONCEPT. IT IS THOSE WHO RESIST CHANGE AND LONG FOR EVERYTHING TO STAY THE SAME WHO WILL RESIST MOST. IN THE END IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WILL EASE TRAFFIC, NOT ELIMINATE IT.

Name Darrel Arrowood  
 Street 609 N. COLUMBIA ST.  
 City, St Zip COVINGTON, LA, 70433  
 e-mail DARROWOOD@COVLA.COM

Affiliation COVINGTON P.D.  
 Phone (985) 892-8500  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
 comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#9



Public Comment Card

Comments: *I am glad DOTD is moving forward but they obviously have been asleep at the wheel. Too late. Traffic in morning and afternoon is beyond help with roundabouts. Traffic off of Lee Road cannot expect relief not with the 15 wheelers.*

Name Phil Rapp  
 Street 246 Shady Pond Lane  
 City, St Zip Covington LA 70435  
 e-mail RAPPPP1976@OUTLOOK.COM

Affiliation SAVANNAHS HOMEOWNERS ASSOC  
 Phone (504) 421-0224  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#10



Public Comment Card

Comments: *Please consider additional subdivisions coming Oak Alley additions - Oak Meadows - 300 homes - possible COSTO County - all at 190 / Branch Crossing - Roundabout not feasible*

*AKS*

*And Lee Road - Roundabout - too much traffic for that now!*

Name Michelle John Mabery  
 Street 433 Persimmon St.  
 City, St Zip 704035  
 e-mail MICHELE\_MABERRY@yahoo.com

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#11



Public Comment Card

Comments: Roundabouts impede traffic. Six Roundabouts in such close proximity are impediments to Residents & businesses along this stretch of highway. I have personally experienced inconveniences, wrong directions of travel & lost time during travel where Roundabouts are positioned. Widening of the Roadway is enough to sustain travel flow. Please, please, please Reconsider the installation of Roundabouts on this Roadway.

Name V. L. Williams  
 Street 752 N Florida Street  
 City, St Zip Covington, LA 70433  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation Covington Resident  
 Phone 985 893 3775  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

**by e-mail:**  
 comment@gecinc.com

**by mail:**  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#12



Public Comment Card

Comments: In order to make a convincing argument for Roundabouts, the simulation should have included both Roundabouts and traffic stop lights. I have personally experienced negative consequences using Roundabouts in Louisiana and other states as well. As traffic flow increases, Roundabouts become less effective. St. Tammany Parish is the fastest growing parish in Louisiana. As time passes, traffic congestion will probably increase. Residents and businesses will feel the impact. How long will it take to correct problems?

Name J. L. Coner  
 Street 752 N Florida Street  
 City, St Zip Covington, LA 70433  
 e-mail JCONER@COVLA

Affiliation City of Covington Councilman - District B  
 Phone 985 893 9689  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Also, any costs associated with corrections will increase. I am not convinced that the planned number of Roundabouts are conducive to the needs our Residents and businesses deserve and expect.

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

**by e-mail:**  
 comment@gecinc.com

**by mail:**  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#13



Public Comment Card

Comments: I am in favor of this project. I reside 2 miles North of Covington, on River Road, and it takes 20-25 minutes to drive to I-12 in peak traffic. I avoid the bridge by leaving for work before 7am and returning after 6:30pm. Otherwise the congestion at the bridge will add substantial time to my commute. I reside in fire district 12 and the station is south of the bridge. If there is an emergency there is no quick route around the bridge. Please start construction now as this problem will only get worse.

Name Ross Lagarde  
 Street 74184 River Road  
 City, St Zip Covington, LA 70435  
 e-mail ross@jameslagarde.com

Affiliation none - local resident  
 Phone 985-237-9400  
 Fax 985-649-5830

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#14



Public Comment Card

Comments: MY CONCERN WITH ROUNDABOUTS IS THAT DURING PEAK RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC NORTH & SOUTH BOUND ON 190, EAST & WEST BOUND TRAFFIC WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME ENTERING THE ROUNDABOUTS CAUSING BACK UPS EAST & WEST BOUND. I BELIEVE WE WOULD BE BETTER SERVED WITH SIX (6) LANES NORTH & SOUTH BOUND 190 REGULATED BY TRAFFIC LIGHTS. CONSIDER PROJECTED GROWTH NORTH OF BOGUE FALAYA BRIDGE, ESPECIALLY 190 & BRANCH CROSSING AREA

Name JOHN MABERRY  
 Street 433 PINWOOD  
 City, St Zip COVINGTON, LA 70034  
 e-mail MICHELLE\_MABERRY@YAHOO.COM

Affiliation SAVANNAH'S SUB-DIVISION  
 Phone 985-276-4634  
 Fax N/A

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#29



Public Comment Card

Comments: This project is LONG overdue. I only hope that some assistance can be obtained that it will not run months, years, over the proposed time of completion - as so many of our road + bridge projects have in the past.

Name Charles Lagarde + Susan Lagarde  
 Street 7115 Whiskey Oaks Ln  
 City, St Zip Covington La. 70433  
 e-mail gigi.lagarde@yahoo.com

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone 985-893-1903  
 Fax 504-885-6019

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806



State Project No: H.004987  
 F.A.P. No.: H004987  
 US 190 / Collins Boulevard Widening  
 St. Tammany Parish

#27



Public Comment Card

Comments: #1) Consider including the round-about at the junction of Lee Rd. and Collins Blvd in Phase One !!!  
 #2) Provide a detailed drainage runoff study for potential 100 yr flooding from the Bayou Lafourche River at E. 31st Ave.  
 #3) Consider a safe bike path to The Trace from either E 31st Ave at Lee Rd. or the end of Cherokee Lane across Collins Blvd.

Name Bill Duncan  
 Street 431 E. 31st Ave  
 City, St Zip Covington, LA 70423  
 e-mail wdunc22@gmail.com

Affiliation Home Owner  
 Phone 985-869-0656  
 Fax N/A

We encourage you to provide comments regarding the project by July 11, 2015:

by e-mail:  
comment@gecinc.com

by mail:  
 G.E.C., Inc.  
 Attn: Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
 8282 Goodwood Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, La 70806

---

**From:** MJC <9661256@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2015 12:16 PM  
**To:** Jeff Robinson  
**Subject:** 5.33 acres on Hwy 21, Covington, LA- adjacent to Hwy 190 overpass bridge that's under construction

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Jeff,

I am blindly sending you this email through information that I received from a local realtor, David Dominguez. I was told that the State or DOTD is looking for a parcel of land to purchase...I am assuming the reason to buy land is to help facilitate the construction of the new overpass bridge under construction in Covington (Hwy 190 / Bogue Falaya River). If my info is incorrect or you are not the right contact I apologize to you for my mistake. If you are not the right contact I respectfully ask that you forward this email onto the right person(s). If correct, specifics about my site is below.

Attached is a survey of the Hwy 21 / Claiborne Hill parcel. Everything shown on the survey is the whole 5.33 acres that can be purchased partially or whole....please disregard the dark black line with the arrows drawn from it. The "high & dry" part of the property is the bluff to the highway and represents 3.75 acres and the balance of 1.58 acres is the bluff to the rivers edge. Please note that in neither the May 1995 flood, Hurricane Katrina, Gustav or Issac that the Bogue Falaya River did NOT crest over the bluff and flooded the 3.75 acres. The whole tract is zoned "Highway Commercial 2" and is in the Parish but is adjacent to the city limits of Covington. I met with Covington's Mayor Cooper and Councilmen Faust & Blackhall and they would like to annex this property into the City. Also to mention, I had a Phase I done on the property-it is clean, electricity is on site, and there is a well & septic system on site. If needed, it would be easy to tie-in to the water & sewer lines from Water District # 2 because they are very close to the front property line. There is a +/- 11,000 square foot warehouse on site that has a lot of utility value. Lastly, there are 3 tenants paying a total of \$2,600 in monthly rent, all are on a month to month lease basis and all can be legally removed off the property within 90 days of certified notice.

The parcel is currently listed for \$1,650,000 but I can negotiate a price that's fair & realistic to both Seller & Purchaser.

If there is an interest and you have any questions or need more information please feel free to call me at 985-966-1256.

Cordially,

Joey Champagne



scan0001.jpg

---

**From:** Pat Nieto <p\_nieto@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 02, 2015 10:08 PM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** Bogue Falaya bridge in Covington overpass

Please construct a 4 lane bridge. 2 lanes in each direction. The traffic is TERRIBLE! Traffic backs up daily during the peak hours- 7am for 2 miles, and evening hours northbound beginning at 3pm at the bridge all the way past the I-12 overpass. Emergency vehicles are delayed also! There is very little space on the bridge for a fire truck to pass between the traffic lanes.

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** Kettenring, Keith <Keith.Kettenring@crescenttowing.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 03, 2015 3:36 PM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** CLAIBORNE HILL - BRIDGE IMPROVMENTS  
**Attachments:** Keith J Kettenring.vcf

Good day,

I would certainly endorse any efforts to reduce the bottleneck conditions experienced at US 190 Bridge at Claiborne Hill. The traffic in that area can get backed-up past Harrison Ave. in the evenings during rush hour. Improvements in this area will help open the northern areas of St. Tammany as more people will want to expand in that direction and avoid the congestion experienced in the Mandeville area.

This is the type infrastructure expenditures that are justified and sorely overdue!

Respectfully,

Keith J. Kettenring  
19260 Katie Lane  
Covington, LA 70435

This message, including any attachments, is for the use of the intended recipient and may contain privileged and confidential information of this Company or its affiliates. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are strictly prohibited from reviewing, forwarding, printing, copying, distributing or using this information in any way, and are hereby requested to contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

---

**From:** odsaucier@charter.net  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2015 9:40 AM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** Covington Choke Point

History is about to repeat itself. Highway construction north of the Boguefalaya River Hi. 190 is a good thing since the right-of-way has been in place over 35 years. Including the turn-a-rounds is very poorly thought out concept. Louisiana back in the 1940+ years had many but were replaced due to accidents and congestion. Highway planners have forgotten those problems and are spotting them around the state again. I was recently in the Lafayette area out Ridge Road and came to a sudden stop about 1/2 mile from an intersection. We inched our way forward and found that a circle had been installed but the traffic from my left would not allow my lane to merge thus the back-up. Poor planning. We won't go into east bound traffic on I-10 in Baton Rouge attempting to merge. Again poor planning.

Also being considered is a turn-a -round at the conjunction of Hi 190 and 25 northbound. This is a pending death trap. St. Tammany Hospital will have to enlarge their trauma center again. Traffic flow N-S at that point in the morning and evening as well as during the day would seem it to be an evacuation route in use at all times of day. Covington High School is just to the west on 190 plus the continued construction in that corridor from Tylertown, Ms., Franlinton and Folsom is increasing traffic daily. Traffic studies please. NO MORE POOR PLANNING!!

---

**From:** William Duncan <wdunc22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 8:46 AM  
**To:** comment; Jeff Robinson; jconer@covla.com  
**Cc:** Kim Duncan  
**Subject:** Covington US 190/Collins Blvd Widening

State Project No: H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
St Tammany Parish

Dear Mr Robinson and Councilman Coner,

Following the recent open format meeting regarding the above referenced project I would like to make the following suggestions/requests:

#1) Provide a detailed drainage runoff study for a potential 100 year flood over the banks of the Bogue Falaya River at E 31st Avenue. This request goes much further than the widening of US 190 but also the long term future growth of the North Covington, Bogue Falaya Corridor and the increased potential for flooding.

#2) If feasible and safe, consider including the round-about at the junction of Lee Road and US 190 / Collins Boulevard in PHASE ONE.

#3) Also consider a safe bike path to The Trace from either; E 31st Avenue at Lee Road, OR the end of Cherokee Lane (if possible)..... ACROSS US 190 / Collins Boulevard.

Regarding suggestion #1, it is my understanding that the Chief Parish Engineer is Mr Eddie Williams. Would you please provide his contact information as well as passing on my contact info and flooding concerns to him.

Your consideration and assistance is appreciated.

Thank You,

Bill Duncan  
431 E 31st Ave Covington, LA 70433  
[wdunc22@gmail.com](mailto:wdunc22@gmail.com)  
Cell# [985-869-0656](tel:985-869-0656)

---

**From:** Carlos Perez  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2015 4:58 PM  
**To:** Jeff Robinson  
**Subject:** FW: H.004987 St. Tammany Parish

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Carlos J. Perez** | GIS Project Manager  
G.E.C., Inc.  
Direct Phone: (225) 612-4185 | Cell Phone: (225) 324-9823 | Fax: (225) 612-3016  
Email: [cperez@gecinc.com](mailto:cperez@gecinc.com)

*PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION: DO NOT read, copy or disseminate this communication unless you are the intended recipient. This entire e-mail transmission contains information that belongs to the sender, and which may be privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable state and federal privacy and/or disclosure laws. The information is intended solely for the addressee(s) named above. If you are not the named addressee, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately in order to arrange for the return of the document. While G.E.C., Inc. believes this transmittal to be free of virus or other defect, it is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that it is virus free and no responsibility is accepted by G.E.C., Inc. (or its subsidiaries and affiliates) for any loss or damage arising therefrom.*

---

**From:** Virginia A. Williams [<mailto:virginia@msh-architects.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 3:29 PM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** SPN:H.004987 St. Tammany Parish

Good afternoon:

I recently attended the public information meeting in Covington required as part of the NEPA process and will be interested in reading the draft EA when it is ready. Will it be posted somewhere on line? Are the maps that were shared at the meeting available somewhere in the area for more leisurely viewing?

Please, be sure that I have been added to the distribution list.

Thank you,  
Virginia Williams  
225 E. Kirkland Street  
Covington, LA 70433

---

**From:** Edmund Hughes <ewehughes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2015 2:14 PM  
**To:** comment; jrosel@norpc.org; maria.reid@la.gov  
**Subject:** New Bridge Bogue Falaya River, Covington, LA

Here are my comments from the meeting last Thursday. As you will see my feelings remain mixed and I hope my comments and those of others will contribute to the success of this entire project. I will share this report with the Military Road Homeowners Association and other interested neighbors. I sincerely enjoyed meeting you and some of your other associates;

## NEW BRIDGE OVER BOGUE FALAYA

### PHASES 1, 2 & 3

June 16, 2015

On Thursday June 11, 2015, I attended the open house at Covington City Hall to review the plans for the new bridge to cross the Bogue Falaya River (BFR) and the subsequent development plans for managing the traffic congestion on the U.S. 190 /LA 25 corridor on the northern side of the BFR. After a thorough review of the three phases of these plans and the accompanying maps, conversations with Jeff Roesel, Deputy Director-Regional Planning Commission and his associate, a separate conversation with Maria Bernard Reid, Environmental Impact Manager1, DOTD of Louisiana, and having had a few days of consideration, I am pleased with the short-term Phase 1 portion of the plan. On the other hand, I have severe reservations regarding the longer term plans, Phases 2 and 3 of the project.

Phase 1 is the construction of a new three-lane bridge across the river which includes the new right turn relief lane coming off the bridge heading north, from U.S. 190 on to Lee Road (LA 437) currently underway. The relief lane will be finished by the end of August, weather permitting. Shortly thereafter, construction on the new bridge will get underway and should be completed in 2017, although I do not recall the exact date. This Phase One is fully funded so that the new bridge will soon be a reality. With the completion of the bridge, the plan is to have the current bridge dedicated to southern bound traffic and the new bridge for traffic heading to the north. Surface traffic and signal lights will remain as they are currently until Phases two and three are completed.

Phase 2 and 3 are not yet funded, although funding for the first part of Phase 2, referred to as Phase 2-A, the construction of a traffic circle at the intersection of U.S. 190 and LA 21, has been requested and apparently there is optimism that it will be approved. This appears to be a good addition and should enhance traffic flow and make the U.S. 190 by-pass more effective.

In Phases 2 and 3, the plan is to demolish the old bridge (ca. 1950), replace it with a new one replicating the bridge to be constructed in 2015-16, adding four more traffic circles, one each on the east and west sides of U.S. 190 at LA 21, and two more between the north end of the BFR bridge and the US. 190/LA 25 traffic circle. Specifically, the idea seems to be to have an exit ramp off the south bound bridge flowing into a traffic circle which will mingle the exiting traffic with LA 21 (Boston Street) so that exiting traffic will have the option to travel east, west, or south on surface streets. A second traffic circle would be at the intersection of LA 21 (Military Road) and LA 36 and will include an on ramp from this point on to the BFR Bridge going north. Presumably, traffic flowing north from LA 36 and that travelling south on LA 21 will enter the traffic circle and have the option of traveling west, south, and north (across the bridge).

The two other traffic circles between the north end of the BFR Bridge and US 190/LA25 seem to be of equal distances along this route, but I could not determine their exact location. Although I would prefer identical bridges and endorse the demolition of the current bridge and the construction of a new southbound crossing, I find the suggestion of ramps off and on of the new bridges at Boston Street and Military Road abhorrent and a detriment to the city of Covington and the residential tranquility on Military Road. I also do not understand the need for two additional traffic circles between the north end of the bridges and the intersection of US 190 and LA 25. Instead of enhancing traffic flow, I believe these will be impediments to the free flow of traffic in both directions.

At this point I should add that in Phase 1 there are planned enhancements of the Tammany Trace which, I believe, will include a park on the north side of LA 21 (Military Road) and an improved and safer road crossing. Someone mentioned that the crossing might be pedestrian/bike tunnels under LA 21 one from the north side to the south and one from the south to the north. If my memory is correct and this improvement is part of Phase 1, I truly believe, that it is an excellent improvement to the quality of life of the parish. If this also includes the demolition of the tire store and the Parish junk yard between the river and Military Road, I would tend to believe that all residents would applaud this improvement as an enormous step in the right direction both environmentally and aesthetically.

In summary, I favor Phase 1, particularly if the River Park and improvements to the Trace are a part of the work. On the other hand, I am completely opposed to Phases 2 (with the exception of Phase 2A) and 3, as presently envisioned. If the traffic circles and ramps for the bridge utilizing LA 21 from either the Boston Street side or Military Road side are ever constructed, they will simply solve one traffic problem in exchange for new ones, particularly on Military Road. The road is currently heavily travelled and with the proposed ramp, it will become nothing more than a feeder road for cars and trucks heading north or south bound. I believe that the residents of Military Road will vigorously oppose the construction of ramps as Military Road and LA 21 are classified as a Scenic Highway by the U.S. Department of transportation because of it's natural beauty, and is one of the most beautiful residential streets in the entirety of St. Tammany Parish.

Rather than clutter the area with more traffic and impediments, I would prefer to place the entire focus and resources, toward having U.S. 190 north of the BFR converted to a limited access highway all the way to the beginning of LA25, including the construction of service roads on the east and west sides of the highway. Perhaps one large traffic circle could be inserted halfway between the bridge and LA 25 to allow access to business located on either side of the highway. In addition the traffic circle at the US 190/LA 25 intersection could be designed large enough to facilitate access to the businesses via the service roads.

I sincerely appreciate the time that representatives of the project took to explain the details of the plan and hope that the recommendation for improvement that have been made will become part of the entire project.

Edmund W.E. Hughes

--

**Edmund W.E. Hughes**  
**[ewehughes@gmail.com](mailto:ewehughes@gmail.com)**  
**(985) 630-9173**

---

**From:** michele maberry <michele\_maberry@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2015 5:55 PM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** State Project -- DOTD

Thank you for opportunity to address concerns/issues.....

Very concerned of RoundABOUTS; clearly City paid alot of money to engineers to draw these plans and much time/money spent.

Past history shows common sense goes out the window with engineer's and their ideas; too many round abouts - Lee Road/190 will never work.....these are for low traffic areas; like Abita and the like....not 190 high traffic which clearly will only get worse with additional buildings coming in the future.....coming out of The Savannahs; light at 190/Branch Crossing; heavy with those continuing to Folsom. School Buses, etc.

Oak Alley subdivision is expanding; Oak Meadows building some 300 homes 190/Branch Crossing near Winn Dixie; rumors have a COSTO going in.....use our money wisely.

Thank you.  
Michele and John Maberry  
433 Pinewood Dr  
Covington 70435  
The Savannahs

---

**From:** Brad Fontenot <fontenotbrad@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 03, 2015 6:06 AM  
**To:** comment  
**Subject:** Traffic

As a person who sees traffic build ups everywhere, New Orleans, covington, Kenner, sometimes the problem isn't the road way. It's the drivers on the roadway. It's the people who slam on their brakes when someone in front of them let go of the accelerator. It's the people who will wait 20 minutes in the left lane to get to the bridge instead of taking the right lane, putting on their left blinker, and merging. It's the scared drivers who have something to do with the traffic also. In my opinion I would take that into consideration because coming across someone who drives scared is inevitable. And yes, there is a difference between driving scared and driving defensively.

Sent from my iPhone

---

**From:** johnthomas985@charter.net  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2015 10:22 AM  
**To:** comment

Jeff:  
In regards to the Covington Claiborne Hill bridge project, was there any consideration to having a flat bridge (like the existing one that goes over the river on Boston St.) rather than a high bridge? It appears a flat bridge would cost less to build -- in addition with a roundabout south of the bridge on Hwy. 190. (I was unable to attend the 6/11/15 residents meeting but do live 2 miles from Claiborne Hill and read the TP article on Friday (today) in which your email address was included.

Thanks in advance for your response.

John (J.T.)

-----

July 8, 2015

**VIA E-MAIL & FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Mr. Jeff Robinson, P.E.  
GEC, Inc.  
8282 Goodwood Boulevard  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Re: State Project No. H.004987  
F.A.P. No.: H004987  
US190/Collins Boulevard Widening  
Our File: 4098.222

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing on behalf of Phoenix Covington Associates, LLC (“Phoenix”) concerning the referenced road project. Phoenix owns 12 acres of commercial property, known as Covington Village Walk, located near the foot of the current bridge over the Bogue Falaya River. If you come over the bridge from the I-12 side, the Phoenix property is on the left almost as soon as you leave the bridge. The location of the property is highlighted on the DOTD plan that is attached as Exhibit A.

Phoenix is pleased with the work that is currently in progress, but it is very concerned about an aspect of the future proposed work because of the potentially disastrous effect that it would have on the Phoenix property. To explain the problem, I need to go into a bit of detail concerning the current configuration of the main roadway through Covington Village Walk, a street that is reflected on the DOTD plan as “East Kirkland/Village Walk.”

East Kirkland is currently a private street at the point where it connects to Collins Boulevard and remains private until it reaches Lee Road at the back of the Phoenix property. It provides convenient access to the St. Tammany Parish Courthouse without requiring the use of East Boston Street, thus relieving some of the traffic congestion in downtown Covington. Representatives of Phoenix have had several conversations with Covington Mayor Mike Cooper during the past few years about donating the private portion of East Kirkland to the city and thereby to extend public access all the way to Collins Boulevard from the courthouse area.

In a related vein, representatives of Phoenix were contacted by Ross Liner of Digital Engineering, who they understood was hired by the State to conduct a traffic study and come up with a conceptual design for the Collins Boulevard project. Mr. Liner provided the representatives with the conceptual plan and traffic information that are attached as Exhibits B-1, B-2, and B-3 and stated that he would be scheduling another meeting with them around August of this year. Phoenix was therefore under the impression that the State was aware of the issues relating to Kirkland Street.

The plans that the DOTD displayed at its recent meeting would stop the progression of the Kirkland Street project discussions with the City of Covington dead in their tracks and, more generally, would severely disrupt the operation of the Phoenix property. Currently there is a traffic signal at the intersection of Kirkland Street and Collins Boulevard, and cars from Kirkland Street can make either a left turn or a right turn onto Collins. According to the plan presented by DOTD (see Exhibits C-1 and C-2), traffic would only be allowed to make a right-hand turn from Kirkland Street onto Collins Boulevard. Any people who wanted to turn left from Kirkland onto Collins Boulevard would no longer be able to do so, but instead would have to leave the Phoenix property through the rear and proceed to the Lee Road roundabout. If people leaving the Covington Village Walk cannot make a left-hand turn onto Collins Boulevard, the effect on this commercial property would be disastrous, and the value of the property would drop precipitously. A shopping center and office complex must have easy access in and out from all directions, or it cannot thrive.

When Phoenix's representative asked about this traffic pattern at the meeting, the engineers explained that egress from Kirkland Street onto Collins Boulevard was planned as a right turn only due to the onramp distance required, but that future development of the surrounding area was not taken into consideration. That future development very much needs to be taken into consideration, particularly if this road widening project is to serve its intended purpose of assisting in the future development of the northern end of Covington.

There may be a simple way to resolve the problem described above without affecting the general construction plan for Collins Boulevard. There is a Shell gas station currently located adjacent to Kirkland Street at its intersection with Collins Boulevard, and the presence of that gas station requires Kirkland to make a sharp curve just before the intersection. If the State were willing to purchase the gas station property and straighten Kirkland Street, it should be possible to build a roundabout at the reconfigured intersection and solve the problem. We urge the DOTD and GEC, as DOTD's engineer, to give strong consideration to this alternative. Not only will this alternative benefit both the Covington Village Walk and the flow of traffic toward the St. Tammany Parish Courthouse, but it will enable DOTD to avoid a significant compensation claim that Phoenix will have little choice but to make if the current Kirkland-to-Collins access proposal were to be incorporated into the final construction.

We look forward to working with you to resolve these issues so that this worthwhile project can continue for the benefit of everyone.

Sincerely,

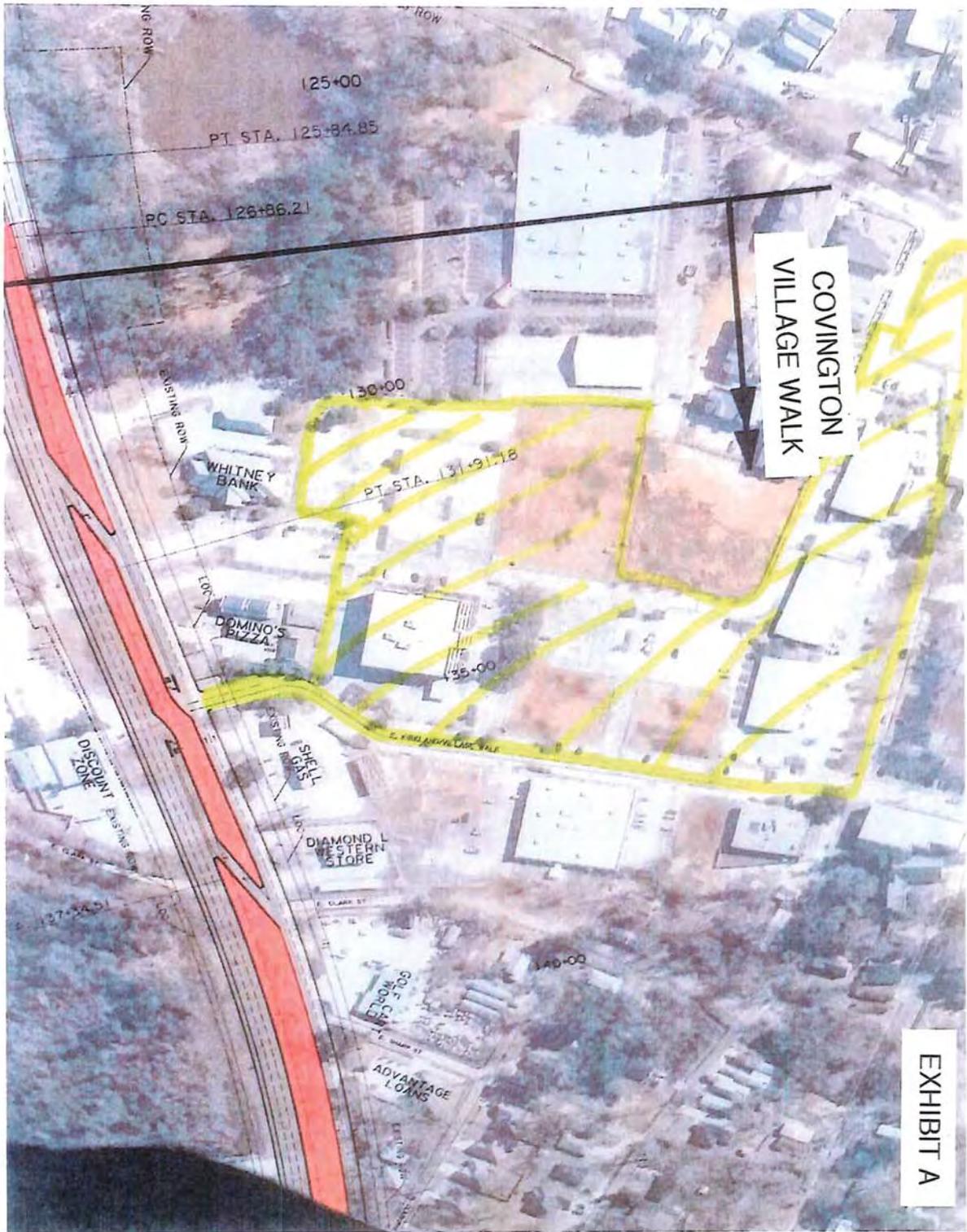
Forwarded in Mr. Stern's absence to avoid delay

CHARLES L. STERN, JR.

CLS/cbm  
Enclosures

cc: Ms. Rita Moreci (via e-mail only, w/encl)  
Mr. Mike Campbell (via e-mail only, w/encl)  
Mayor Mike Cooper  
City of Covington  
317 N. Jefferson Avenue  
Covington, LA 70433

P.S. – At the recent meeting, you had requested that Rita Moreci of Phoenix provide you with information about the development, including the number of cars utilizing Phoenix's parking throughout the day. Attached as Exhibit D is the information that she has provided to us.







E. KIRKLAND ST.		Vehicles	Trucks
WESTBOUND	Total Survey	10492	10
	Maximum 24-hour	1887	
	Minimum 24-hour	423	
	Vehicles Per Hour	62.51	
	Total All Vehicles	10502	
	% Heavy Volume	0.10%	
EASTBOUND	Total Survey	5252	14
	Maximum 24-hour	934	
	Minimum 24-hour	228	
	Vehicles Per Hour	31.35	
	Total All Vehicles	5266	
	% Heavy Volume	0.20%	

E. Kirkland St./Village Walk at US 190/N. Collins Blvd

- 2011 Crash History: Rear End = 8, Left Turn = 3, Sideswipe = 2, Right Turn = 1
- 2012 Crash History: Rear End = 7, Left Turn = 3, Right Angle = 2, Head On = 1, One Car = 1
- 2013 Crash History: Rear End = 5, Left Turn = 1

	Collectors		Local
	Major Collector <sup>a</sup>	Minor Collector <sup>a</sup>	
<b>Typical Characteristics</b>			
Lane Width	10 feet - 12 feet	10 - 11 feet	8 feet - 10 feet
Inside Shoulder Width	0 feet	0 feet	0 feet
Outside Shoulder Width	1 feet - 6 feet	1 feet - 4 feet	0 feet - 2 feet
AADT <sup>b</sup> (Rural)	300 - 2,600	150 - 1,110	15 - 400
AADT <sup>b</sup> (Urban)	1,100 - 6,300 <sup>c</sup>		80 - 700
Divided/Undivided	Undivided	Undivided	Undivided
Access	Uncontrolled	Uncontrolled	Uncontrolled
<b>Mileage/VMT Extent (Percentage Ranges)<sup>d</sup></b>			
<b>Rural System</b>			
Mileage Extent for Rural States <sup>e</sup>	8% - 19%	3% - 15%	62% - 74%
Mileage Extent for Urban States	10% - 17%	5% - 13%	66% - 74%
Mileage Extent for All States	9% - 19%	4% - 15%	64% - 75%
VMT Extent for Rural States <sup>f</sup>	10% - 23%	1% - 8%	8% - 23%
VMT Extent for Urban States	12% - 24%	3% - 10%	7% - 20%
VMT Extent for All States	12% - 23%	2% - 9%	8% - 23%
<b>Urban System</b>			
Mileage Extent for Rural States <sup>e</sup>	3% - 16%	3% - 16%	62% - 74%
Mileage Extent for Urban States	7% - 13%	7% - 13%	67% - 76%
Mileage Extent for All States	7% - 15%	7% - 15%	63% - 75%
VMT Extent for Rural States <sup>f</sup>	2% - 13%	2% - 12%	9% - 25%
VMT Extent for Urban States	7% - 13%	7% - 13%	6% - 24%
VMT Extent for All States	5% - 13%	5% - 13%	6% - 25%
Qualitative Description (Urban)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve both land access and traffic circulation in higher density residential, and commercial/industrial areas</li> <li>• Penetrate residential neighborhoods, often for significant distances</li> <li>• Distribute and channel trips between local streets and arterials, usually over a distance of greater than three-quarters of a mile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve both land access and traffic circulation in lower density residential, and commercial/industrial areas</li> <li>• Penetrate residential neighborhoods, often only for a short distance</li> <li>• Distribute and channel trips between local streets and arterials, usually over a distance of less than three-quarters of a mile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide direct access to adjacent land</li> <li>• Provide access to higher systems</li> <li>• Carry no through traffic movement</li> </ul>
Qualitative Description (Rural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide service to any county seat not on an arterial route, to the larger towns not directly served by the higher systems, and to other traffic generators of equivalent intra-county importance such as consolidated schools, shipping points, county parks, important mining and agricultural areas</li> <li>• Link these places with nearby larger towns and cities or with arterial routes</li> <li>• Serve the most important intra-county travel corridors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be spaced at intervals, consistent with population density, to collect traffic from local roads and bring all developed areas within reasonable distance of a minor collector</li> <li>• Provide service to smaller communities not served by a higher class facility</li> <li>• Link locally important traffic generators with their rural hinterlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve primarily to provide access to adjacent land</li> <li>• Provide service to travel over short distances as compared to higher classification categories</li> <li>• Constitute the mileage not classified as part of the arterial and collectors systems</li> </ul>



EXHIBIT C1

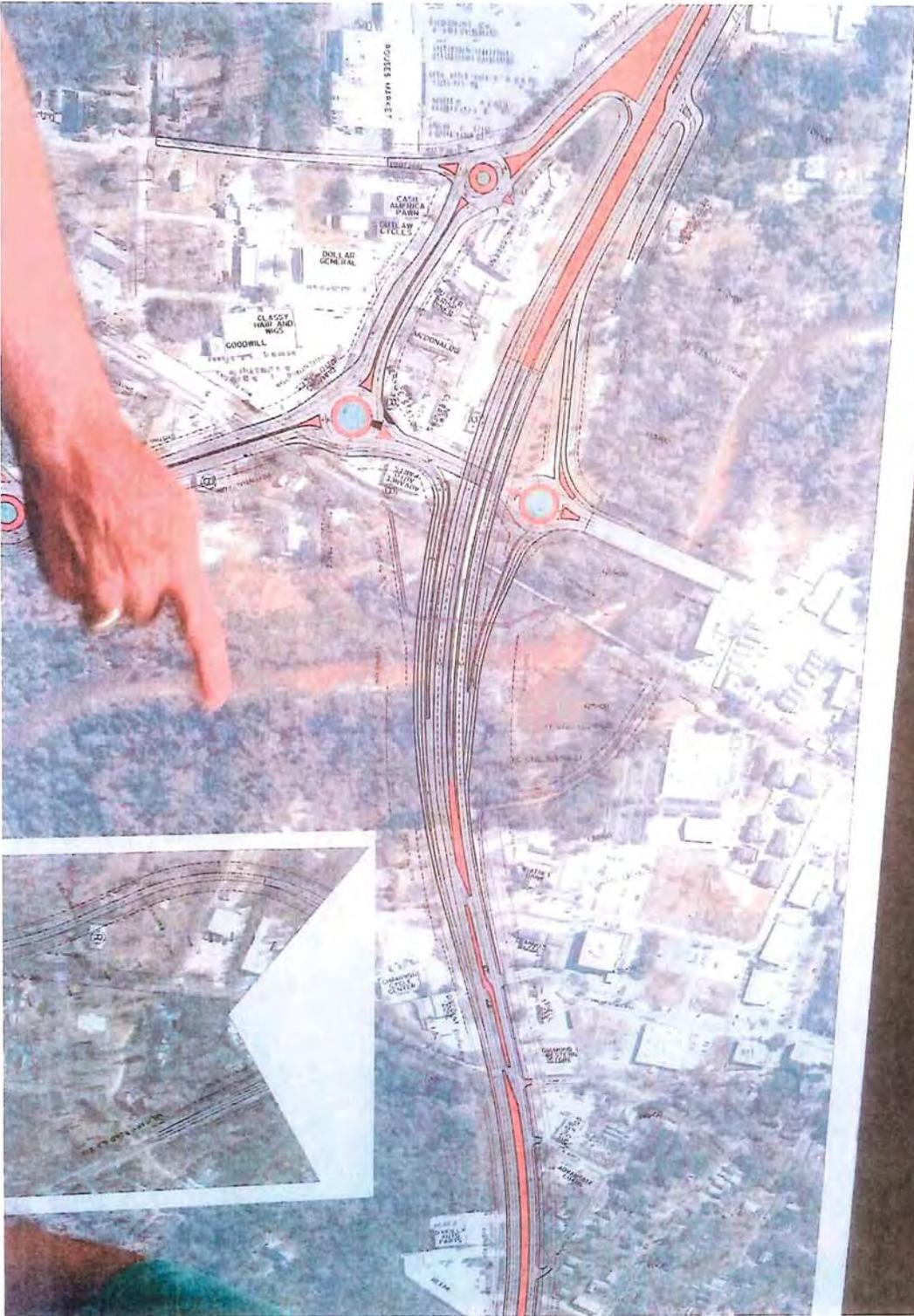


EXHIBIT C2

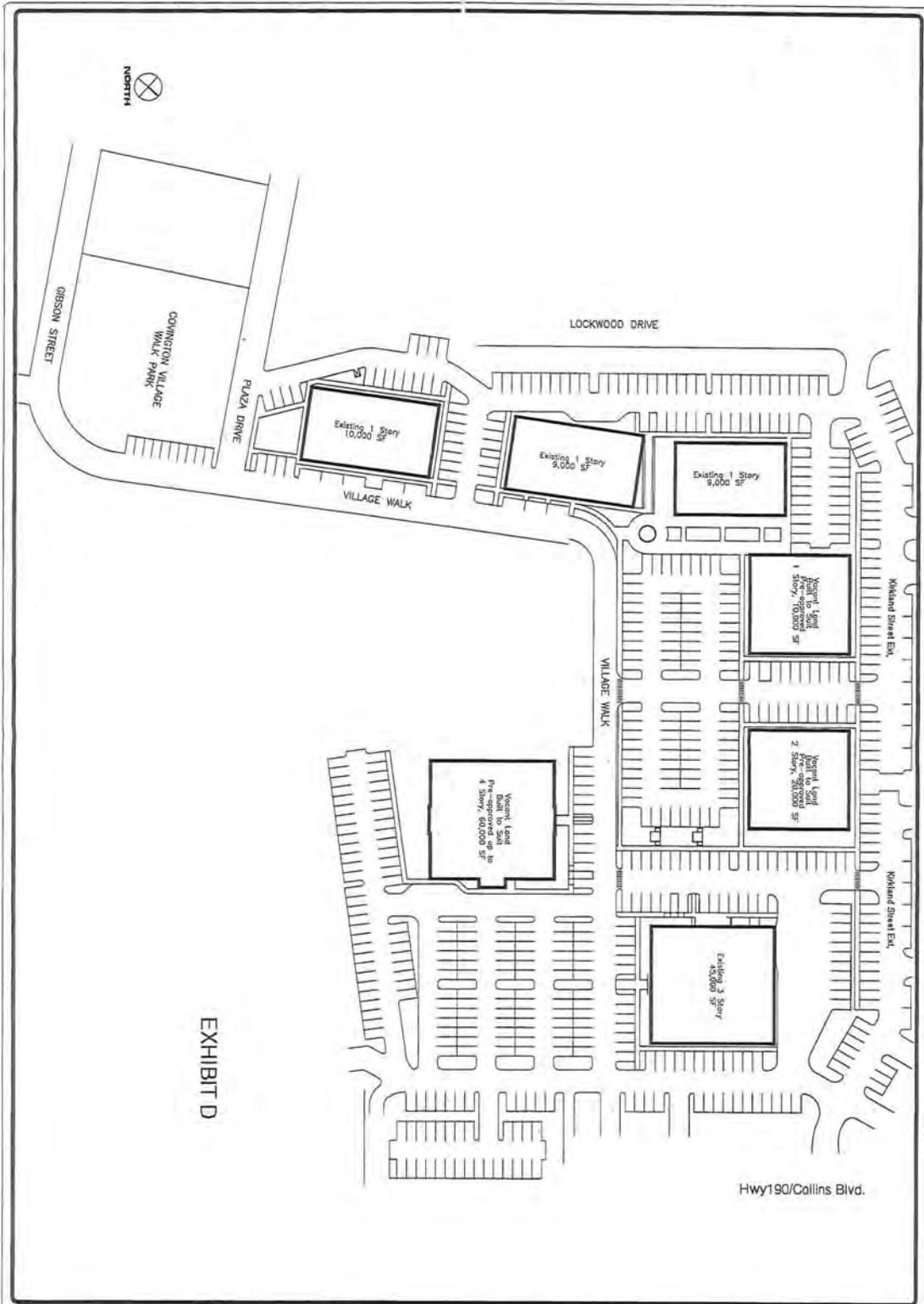


EXHIBIT D

**AGL**  
 COMMERCIAL INTERIORS  
 AGLDESIGNS.COM  
 433 METAIRIE ROAD SUITE 209 METAIRIE, LA 70005  
 504-888-9077

PROJECT  
**COVINGTON VILLAGE WALK**  
 The Feil Organization  
 Village Walk • Covington • Louisiana • 70433

ISSUED: 06-30-15

## EXHIBIT D

The existing and future potential gross building area is approximately 163,000 square feet. We currently have approximately 487 parking spaces. The anticipated parking count could increase by at least 56 parking spaces based on a parking ratio of 1:300. The retail parking ratio is 1:100. The attached plan (Exhibit D) represents the following information.

- Park – Gibson Street/Village Walk
- Buildings A, B & C are Retail Buildings
  - Building A – 80%
    - Abita Roasting Café, 3300 square feet: Average daily receipt count is 500, representing 1 or more individuals dining per ticket and representing at least 500 vehicles throughout the day.
    - Good Dog Naturally, 2350 square feet – Pet supply and grooming/self-dog bathing service. 50 – 100 customers/cars per day.
    - Vacant available space, 2280 square feet
  - Building B –
    - Indigo Studio, 2534 square feet – Average daily customers 50
    - Primal Kinesis, 1256 square feet – Average daily customers 15
    - OneMobility, 1186 square feet – 3 people in the office, home service
    - Vacant available space, 1700 square feet
    - Vacant available space, 1550 square feet
  - Building C –
    - 100% Occupied consisting of:
      - Megumi Restaurant – According to owner, average daily ticket count approx. 200, which 1 ticket could represent 1 or more individuals and vehicles.
      - Anytime Fitness Center – has over 600 members, according to Owner average gym attendance is 295 – 300 people per day, which equates to approximately 300 cars.
- Outparcel – D
  - This piece of the property has been pre-approved for a future 10,000 square foot building retail building. Depending on the type occupancy and based on a ratio of 1/100 (retail: 1 parking space per every 100 sf) this would add a minimum of 33 additional cars. If a restaurant could be much more throughout its business hours.
- Outparcel – E
  - This piece of property has been pre-approved for a future 65,000 sf office building. The ratio for office parking is 1/300, which could result in at least 217 cars additional cars entering and exiting the property.
- Building “F”
  - 3-story office building, 45,000 square feet, building “F” on the attached plan.
  - Current Occupancy approx. 75%
  - Current Tenants employ 176 people combined, also representing the approximate number of vehicles per day entering and exiting the property.
  - NOTE: Gilsbar adjacent to our property has 230 employees and leases 70 parking spaces from the Owner.
- Out parcel “G”
  - This site has been pre-approved for a future 20,000 square foot office building and based on the ratio 1/300 could result in at least 67 additional cars entering and exiting the property.

# **DOTD'S RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**

## Public Meeting Comments and Responses

No.	Comment	Response
1	In favor of the project.	Comment taken into consideration.
2	Pleased to see that Phase I includes bridge work. Two lanes at roundabouts may be unsafe--may be too much of a learning curve for drivers.	Traffic simulations of the proposed roundabouts indicate improved intersection operations.
3	In favor of the project design. Pleased to see that the construction phasing will accelerate the schedule.	Comment taken into consideration.
4	Access to businesses on 190B needs to be maintained, including access for deliveries for Butter Krisp Donuts.	The project will preserve access to the currently permitted driveway(s) at this location.
5	In favor of the project.	Comment taken into consideration.
6	In favor of the proposed widening project and the additional turn lane at Lee Road.	Comment taken into consideration.
7	The traffic signal operations north of the bridge need to be improved to minimize delays.	Signalized intersections would be eliminated from Collins Blvd. with construction of the project.
8	In favor of the roundabouts proposed for the project. Although some residents oppose them, the roundabouts will facilitate traffic flow.	Comment taken into consideration.
9	Morning and afternoon traffic delays will not be improved with the proposed roundabouts, especially with regard to the volume of 18-wheelers coming from Lee Rd.	Traffic modeling/simulations of anticipated future traffic volumes (peak hour morning and afternoon) indicate the project would reduce congestion along the project. Roundabouts have been designed/sized to accommodate 18-wheel truck/trailers.
10	The proposed roundabouts may not be able to handle future growth in traffic volumes due to additional subdivisions (Oak Alley and Oak Meadows additions) and the possible addition of Costco; the Lee Rd. roundabout will not facilitate traffic flow.	Traffic modeling of anticipated future traffic volumes take into account future residential and commercial growth and indicate the project would reduce congestion along the corridor, including at the US 190/Lee Rd. intersection.
11	Widening the roadway is the only measure needed to sustain traffic flow; please reconsider the installation of roundabouts.	Traffic modeling indicates that replacing traffic lights with roundabouts along the project corridor will improve traffic operations and reduce delays.
12	In order to make a convincing argument for roundabouts, the simulation should have included both roundabouts and traffic stop lights. As traffic flow increases, roundabouts become less effective, and traffic congestion in St. Tammany Parish will probably increase. I am not convinced that the planned number of roundabouts is conducive to the needs of our residents and businesses.	Traffic modeling/simulations of anticipated future traffic volumes compared LOS at project-area intersections with traffic lights versus roundabouts. The analysis showed that the LOS at major intersections with traffic lights in 2033 would either worsen or remain unchanged as compared to existing conditions. However, simulations showed that replacing traffic lights with roundabouts would maintain or improve LOS for peak traffic at these intersections in 2033.

No.	Comment	Response
13	In favor of the project, especially bridge improvements. The fire station for Fire District 12 is south of the bridge. Congestion on the bridge currently reduces fire station response times in the event of emergencies. Construction of the project should be expedited.	Comment taken into consideration. Construction of the widened bridge will begin during the first phase of project implementation.
14	Concerned that there will be traffic delays during peak rush hour for east- and westbound traffic entering roundabouts; please consider projected growth in the US 190/Branch Crossing area.	Traffic modeling/simulations of anticipated future traffic volumes (peak hour morning and afternoon) take into account future residential and commercial growth and indicate the project would reduce congestion and improve intersection operations along the corridor.
15	In favor of Phases 1 and 2A of the project. Opposed to the proposed ramps connecting the widened bridge with Boston St. and Military Rd. Also opposed to the proposed roundabouts between the bridge and LA 25. The roundabouts may impede traffic flow.	Comment taken into consideration. Traffic modeling/simulations of anticipated future traffic volumes (peak hour morning and afternoon) take into account future residential and commercial growth and indicate the project roundabouts would reduce congestion and improve intersection operations along the corridor.
16	Opposed to roundabouts based on delays experienced at a roundabout in the Lafayette area. Traffic is increasing daily, and the roundabout proposed for the US 190/LA 25 intersection will cause increased crashes. Traffic studies are needed.	Traffic modeling/simulations of anticipated future traffic volumes compared LOS at project-area intersections (including the US 190/LA 25 intersection) with traffic lights versus roundabouts. The analysis showed that the LOS at major intersections with traffic lights in 2033 would either worsen or remain unchanged as compared to existing conditions. However, simulations showed that replacing traffic lights with roundabouts would maintain or improve LOS for peak traffic at these intersections in 2033. Traffic simulations of the proposed roundabouts indicate improved intersection operations.
17	Was there any consideration to having a flat bridge (like the existing one that goes over the river on Boston St.) rather than a high bridge? It appears a flat bridge would cost less to build.	The new bridge must maintain vertical clearance for Boston Street and will also span the Tammany Trace/railroad right-of-way and the river, avoiding another intersection at Boston Street.
18	Opposed to the numerous roundabouts proposed for the project, particularly the US 190/Lee Rd. roundabout. Traffic will worsen due to expected Costco and residential development at Oak Alley and Oak Meadows subdivisions near the US 190/Branch Crossing. Use taxpayer money wisely.	Comment taken into consideration. Traffic modeling/simulations of anticipated future traffic volumes take into account future residential and commercial growth and indicate the project roundabouts would reduce congestion and improve intersection operations along the corridor.
19	In favor of the project, especially bridge improvements. Improvements in this area will help spur development in the northern areas of St. Tammany as more people will want to avoid the congestion experienced in the Mandeville area.	Comment taken into consideration.

No.	Comment	Response
20	The drivers on the roadway are sometimes the problem, not the roadway itself.	Comment taken into consideration.
21	In favor of widening the bridge to four lanes. Currently, traffic delays during peak travel times in the morning and evening are extensive, and emergency vehicles are delayed as well.	The project provides for a four-lane bridge across the Bogue Falaya.
22	In favor of construction of the proposed roundabout at Lee Rd. during Phase I.	Comment taken into consideration.
23	There could be a need to re-examine the Collins Blvd. /E. Kirkland St. intersection to provide for northbound turns onto Collins from Kirkland.	Comment taken into consideration (see below).
24	How will parking lot access be accommodated along the northbound off-ramp between US 190 and the Walgreen's roundabout?	Existing driveways on this reach of US 190 B will be maintained for access to the parking lots / businesses.
25	Consider providing an additional southbound U-turn with bulb-out north of Clark St. that can accommodate 18-wheelers.	South- and northbound U-turns will be provided for this reach of Collins until construction of the roundabout at Lee Drive.
26	Concerned with the unsignalized left turn movement from US 190 to the service road that serves the Chimes at 19130 W Front St.	The plan has been modified to address this concern. The proposed plan now provides a directional left turn lane to Rogers Ln. from northbound US 190, and the US 190 southbound left turn lane has been removed. Rogers Ln. will be a right in / right out. Those wanting to go north will go a short distance south on US 190 to a U-turn.
27	(1) Suggest a detailed drainage runoff study for a potential 100 year flood over the banks of the Bogue Falaya River at E. 31 <sup>st</sup> Avenue. This request goes much further than the widening of US 190 but also the long term future growth of the North Covington, Bogue Falaya Corridor and the increased potential for flooding. (2) If feasible and safe, consider including the roundabout at the junction of Lee Road and US 190 / Collins Boulevard in Phase 1. 3) Consider a safe bike path to the Trace from either E. 31 <sup>st</sup> . Avenue at Lee Road, or from the end of Cherokee Lane.	A drainage study for the project will be prepared during engineering and design.  Comments taken into consideration. The proposed shared-use path is restricted to the proposed project limits.
28	Please add my name to the project distribution list, and send information where the environmental assessment can be reviewed.	The locations for reviewing the environmental assessment, when completed, will be posted on the City of Covington website, local newspapers, and in a notification sent to the distribution list.
29	In favor of the project. Hope to see the project built without delays.	Comment taken into consideration.
30	The Collins Blvd. intersection with Kirkland street must provide for northbound turns onto Collins from Kirkland.	Comment taken into consideration (see below).