

**Scope of Work
Old Covington Highway
Safety and Operational Enhancements
Tangipahoa Parish
Stage 0 Feasibility Study
RPC Task ST-1.21OCH; FY 21 UPWP**

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC), in coordination with Tangipahoa Parish, is conducting a feasibility study for improving motor vehicle safety, operational related improvements, and separated pedestrian access along Old Covington Highway (OCH) between US 51B and LA 3158 (aka Airport Road) in Tangipahoa Parish, a distance of approximately 2.50 miles.

The project will consist of stakeholder outreach, transportation planning, infrastructure assessments, and cost estimates to develop a conceptual plan that has the support of the public, stakeholders, and agencies with interests along the corridor. Data collected during the study will include, but not be limited to:

- Land Uses and Trip Generation
- Public Infrastructure Utilities and Servitudes, including drainage infrastructure
- Roadway Average Daily Traffic and vehicle classification counts,
- Turning Movement Counts at selected intersections
- Roadway crashes of all types

Old Covington Highway in the above study area is a two lane, locally owned major collector roadway, with a 25 MPH posted speed limit between US 51B and Range Road, and 35 MPH west of Range Rd to LA 3158. Existing land uses are mostly single family residential, institutional, and small scale commercial/ warehouse and office uses and are generally mixed throughout the corridor.

PURPOSE AND NEED:

The purpose of the study is to identify conceptual, feasible improvements along the OCH corridor that would enhance the safety and operations of all roadway users of said corridor.

The need for the study was derived by constituent and resident concerns to the Parish and the City of Hammond related to a perceived increase in traffic coupled with narrow roadway widths and deep culverts adjacent to the roadway that are contributing to a potentially deleterious safety and operational condition for all users of the roadway.

GOAL:

Pursuant to performance measures outlined in RPC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2019-2048) for the S. Tangipahoa Urbanized area, the overarching goal is to reduce transportation related fatalities and serious injuries for all users by supporting comprehensive, multimodal, data-driven, and proactive transportation planning processes that integrate safety into surface transportation decision-making. In this regard, Old Covington Highway has been identified by Tangipahoa Parish and the City of Hammond as a corridor that warrants further analysis. The goal of this effort is to develop concepts for roadway improvements that would enhance safety for all potential users and manage access where possible while accounting for future development and growth in the corridor.

STUDY AREA:

The geographic parameters of the study area are as follow:

US 190 to the north
I-12 to the South
US 51B to the west
LA 3158 to the East

TASK 1: PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Consultant will assist the RPC in establishing and supporting the Project Management Committee (PMC) to oversee the work in progress, review inventory findings, and assist in the development of recommended pedestrian, bicycle, landscaping and related improvements for inclusion in the conceptual design plan.

The PMC will include representatives from the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), Tangipahoa Engineering Department, City of Hammond, LA DOTD District 62, and other organizations as deemed appropriate. The Consultant will provide all necessary agendas, handouts and exhibits in advance of the PMC's meetings for RPC review and approval and prepare summary minutes of the meetings. The PMC will meet four times during the course of the study effort: at the kick-off meeting, to review data inventory findings, to discuss alternative concepts, and to review project costs and phasing recommendations.

The Consultant will assist the RPC by attending meetings with elected officials and other local leaders and organizations in the area to discuss the project's purpose and need and project-related opportunities and concerns as necessary. The Consultant will receive approval from RPC prior to initiating these contacts and prepare summary meeting minutes for review and discussion with the PMC. It is anticipated that project findings may reveal the need for further engineering analysis through LADOTD and/or RPC prior to consideration for advancement into project implementation.

Task 1 Deliverable: Development of PMC and requisite meeting agendas, summary meeting minutes of same in technical memorandum format.

TASK 2: PROJECT TIMELINE & KICK-OFF MEETING

The Consultant will prepare a draft project schedule in Gantt chart format including major milestones (including, at a minimum: project initiation and conclusion dates, tasks and subtasks as per this scope, technical meetings, site visits, draft submittal and final submittal dates). The timeline will be submitted at a project kick-off meeting that will include: the consultant team, the Project Management Committee, and other stakeholders as needed. The project kick-off meeting will take place within two (2) weeks of the Notice to Proceed.

Task 2 Deliverable: Project Schedule in GANTT chart format, including major milestones and identification of PMC decision points

TASK 3: SITE INVESTIGATION AND DATA COLLECTION

3A: DATA COLLECTION

A comprehensive site investigation and data collection effort will be made at study area intersections to allow an accurate assessment of the traffic and physical characteristics of the site. The Consultant will work with the PMC to establish baseline volumes for all modes for the study corridor.

The consultant will compile other land use, transportation and safety data for the corridor. This will include traffic counts from all available sources and for all modes; adjacent land uses; posted/actual speeds; crash data (to be provided by RPC); and forecast volumes on Old Covington Highway for traffic (to be provided by RPC).

Roadway Volumes and Vehicle Classification

The consultant will undertake two ADT/ vehicle classification counts along the roadway, one on either side of Range Rd. Counts will be undertaken during three consecutive, non-holiday weekdays. Consultant will use the data collected to discern the weekday AM and PM peak periods. Consultant will prepare a memo for RPC review that documents the count locations, data collected, vehicle classifications and the peak AM and PM hour turning movement volumes. RPC will review and direct the consultant to either proceed or revise the memo and resubmit.

Turning Movement Counts:

Consultant will undertake AM and PM peak hour turning movement counts along the Old Covington Highway corridor at the following intersections.

S. Cypress. St.
S. Holly St.
S. Chestnut St.
Range Rd.
Easy St.
Fern St.
Little Italy Rd./ E. Park Ave.
Forbes Farms Rd.
McLain/Arbordale Dr.
Robinson Rd.
Blair Blvd
W. Pleasant Ridge Rd.
E. Pleasant Ridge Rd.
Audubon Circle

Using the above collected data, existing Levels of Service for each intersection will be determined using HCM criteria.

Enhanced vehicular and pedestrian crossing of the Railroad track.

Consultant will promulgate safety improvement concepts of the crossing of the CNIC railroad at Old Covington Highway, consistent with best practices and current RR Standards.

3B. REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS

The Consultant will coordinate with planning and development personnel in both the City of Hammond and Tangipahoa Parish to compile and review existing planning proposals, subdivisions, or other known and relevant land use changes and other similar documents addressing present and forecastable land uses.

Using these data, consultant will develop a trip generation forecast for the corridor. Consultant will coordinate with RPC to obtain a growth rate for the OCH corridor.

Deliverable: Task 3

Technical memorandum detailing and documenting existing and forecast traffic conditions for the Old Covington Highway corridor that will be based upon current, observed traffic data and counts, as well as known or readily foreseeable land use changes that would impact trip generation, traffic volumes and patterns.

TASK 4 – PLANNING AND CONCEPT DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Based on data collection from Task 3, consultant will provide feasible options that improve/ enhance operational efficiency and safety for all modes where opportunities exist to do so. This will include but not be limited to examining the feasibility of implementing various access management techniques at select locations; three-laning all or part of the corridor; turn lanes, roundabouts, and minor roadway widening. Consideration shall be given to pedestrian access and accommodation for bicyclists in the corridor with corresponding conceptual layouts for alternatives promulgated.

Draft overall design concept may incorporate elements such as new or upgraded sidewalks/ paths, signage, striping, lighting, pedestrian crossings where warranted or where pedestrian oriented developments are planned, and other measures to enhance the safety and connectivity of the corridor, consistent with LADOTD design standards (EDSM II.2.1.14). The Consultant will coordinate with the PMC on the development and evaluation of these improvement measures, identifying project priorities which are feasible and appropriate for implementation.

Deliverable: Task 4: Submittal of concept options for improvements in the corridor, including concept level cost estimates (opinions of probable cost)

TASK 5 - SUBMIT DRAFT REPORT

The RPC will distribute the draft report with proposed design concepts (ten copies) to the PMC membership and call a final review meeting, if necessary. An electronic version of the draft plan should also be provided in Microsoft Word format. The draft plan will include unit cost estimates and quantities with an opinion of probable costs for proposed improvements, (i.e. new or upgraded sidewalks, signage, striping, lighting, pedestrian crossings, transit facilities, improved bus facilities and other measures.) The plan will review transportation plans provided by other PMC participants to identify future phased improvements that may require additional study and/or follow-on analysis.

Task 5 Deliverable: Distribution of Draft report to PMC members, coordination through RPC PM

TASK 6 – SUBMIT FINAL STAGE “0” STUDY

Consultant shall finalize alternatives and prepare/submit the Stage 0 Feasibility Study, documenting the information and analysis described above.

All studied alternative(s) will be described in the Stage 0 Report.

The Stage 0 Report will include completed Stage 0 checklists (ref. LA DOTD Program Development and Project Delivery System Manual, Chapter 4: Stage 0 Standard Operating Procedure, Checklist for Stage 0-Preliminary Scope and Budget Worksheet, and Stage 0 Environmental Checklist) for a single alternative to be prepared at the discretion of RPC.

Ten printed copies of the report and 5 PDF and an editable Microsoft Word version, as well as digital versions of all maps and visualizations, saved on three USB drives.

Deliverables will be submitted by the Consultant to the RPC for distribution. All analysis work products and electronic files (including` SYNCHRO files) will be submitted to the RPC. All data collected as part of this effort will be provided to the RPC in formats designated by RPC staff. Submittals accomplished in CAD and/or *.shp file format will be consistent w/ RPC standards.

The Consultant will prepare overall visualizations and “meeting-ready” graphics of the proposed improvements to be used in outreach efforts conducted by the City at its discretion to help the community understand the design intent by using before and after graphics in plan-view for the corridor and key destinations. The Consultant will be responsible for the development of estimated quantities and costs for proposed improvements.

Budget: \$90,000

Timeline: 8 months