

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC) ROADWAY NETWORK & RESILIENCE STUDY

H.015428 - Stage 0 Lower St. Bernard Transportation Network Feasibility Study



RPC Public Meeting No. 1

Project Introduction and Updates

April 11th, 2024



TRANSPORTATION STUDY
Planning For Future St. Bernard

Please note that information collected in support of this study may be used in a future NEPA process.

MEET THE TEAM

We're here to answer any questions you may have



Alex Carter, AICP
Outreach Coordinator



Karen Parsons, AICP
RPC Project Manager



Jacob Loeske, PE, LSI
Consultant Team Leader

AGENDA

Presentation *(20 minutes)*

- Study Introduction
- DOTD Process
- Study Progress
- Outreach & Engagement
- Feedback Received To Date

Break *(5 minutes)*

Tabling Exercise *(45 minutes)*

- Mark the Map
- Comment Cards
- Online Survey Support

Break *(5 minutes)*

Closing and Next Steps *(10 minutes)*



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Presentation



TRANSPORTATION STUDY
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Multi-modal
analysis

Evaluate
accessibility



TRANSPORTATION STUDY
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Anticipate
LIT Impacts

Examine road
capacity

STUDY SUMMARY

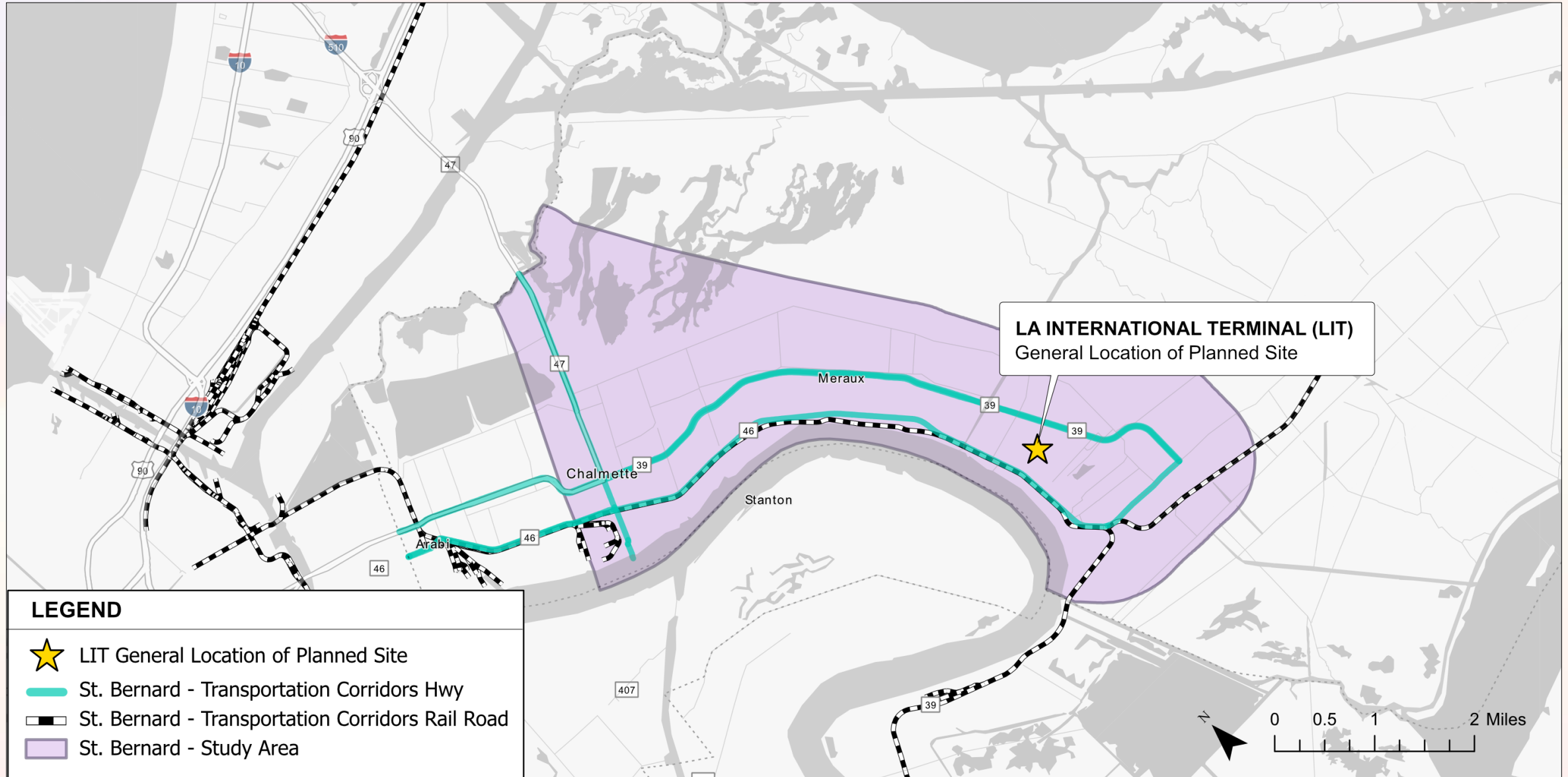
Planning for Future St. Bernard

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC), in coordination with the Port of New Orleans (Port NOLA) and St. Bernard Parish, is conducting a **feasibility study** to identify future needed transportation network improvements for St. Bernard Parish.

This study investigates impacts and alternative transportation solutions to manage traffic accompanying the proposed Port NOLA Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) project and associated land use development.



STUDY AREA



HOW IS THIS STUDY RELATED TO THE PORT'S LIT PROJECT?

- The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Study is a road & rail traffic analysis to prepare for the proposed Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) facility AND to anticipate additional transportation needs in St. Bernard Parish.
- The Port NOLA traffic evaluation informs LIT permitting in a separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- Both are sharing their traffic data.



WHO DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

Study Goal: Capture public sentiment from a large and diverse group of residents and stakeholders through multiple avenues

- St. Bernard Residents
- Local Businesses
- Local Government
- Community Groups
- Economic Development Organizations
- Stakeholders in the Transportation Industry
- Tribes with ancestral interests in St. Bernard



WHAT IS THIS STUDY FOR?

Preliminary Purpose

To evaluate feasible **short-term and long-term improvements** to the transportation network within the lower St. Bernard Region, more specifically:

- **Between I-10/I-510 and lower St. Bernard Parish** (including Judge Perez Drive (LA 39), St. Bernard Highway (LA 46) and
- **Paris Road (LA 47)**

To provide efficient access and egress to accommodate projected land use changes, including the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) intermodal facility and associated traffic.

WHAT IS THIS STUDY FOR? (continued)

Preliminary Need

System Linkage to improve connectivity between the I-10/I-510 and Lower St. Bernard Parish to accommodate proposed economic development and growth.

Intermodal Relationships provide improved and efficient access to existing and planned intermodal port and rail facilities within the lower St. Bernard Region.

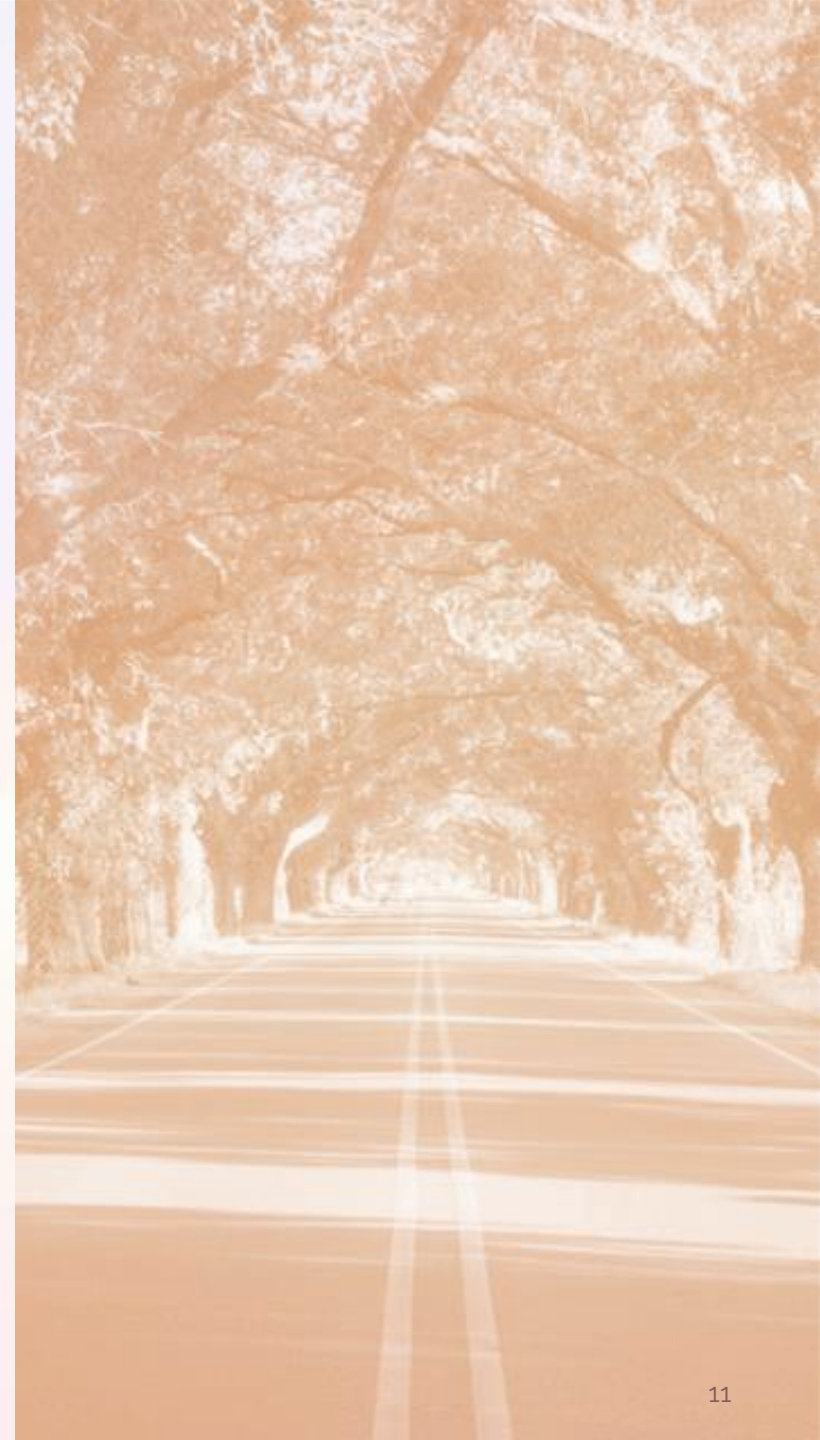
Economic Development accommodate future economic development associated with the LIT intermodal port facility and other land use changes within the lower St. Bernard Region.

Capacity Improvements provide capacity necessary to address the existing and projected future traffic growth within the transportation network of the lower St. Bernard Region.

Hurricane Evacuation to provide improved and resilient evacuation routes for residents in Lower St. Bernard Parish and the East Bank of Plaquemines Parish.

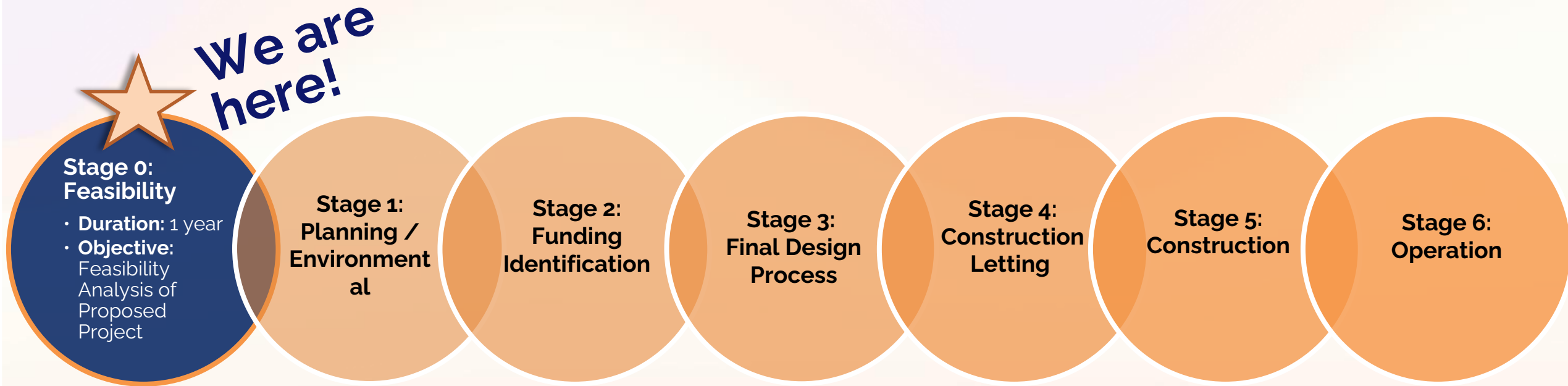
WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME OF THIS STUDY ?

1. Development of **different project alternatives** to respond to future traffic scenarios.
2. Technical evaluation and feedback informs which concepts are forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for consideration.
3. Further analysis may be pursued by the LA DOTD after the RPC Study is complete to make a final decision within an environmental review process on whether or not one or more project solution(s) should be constructed.
4. If selected for construction, a cost estimate will be created for engineering design.
5. Once funded, construction for the selected project alternative(s) may begin.



LA DOTD PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS

Each LA DOTD Transportation project goes through distinct phases during its life-cycle, from feasibility analysis (where we are now) to operation.



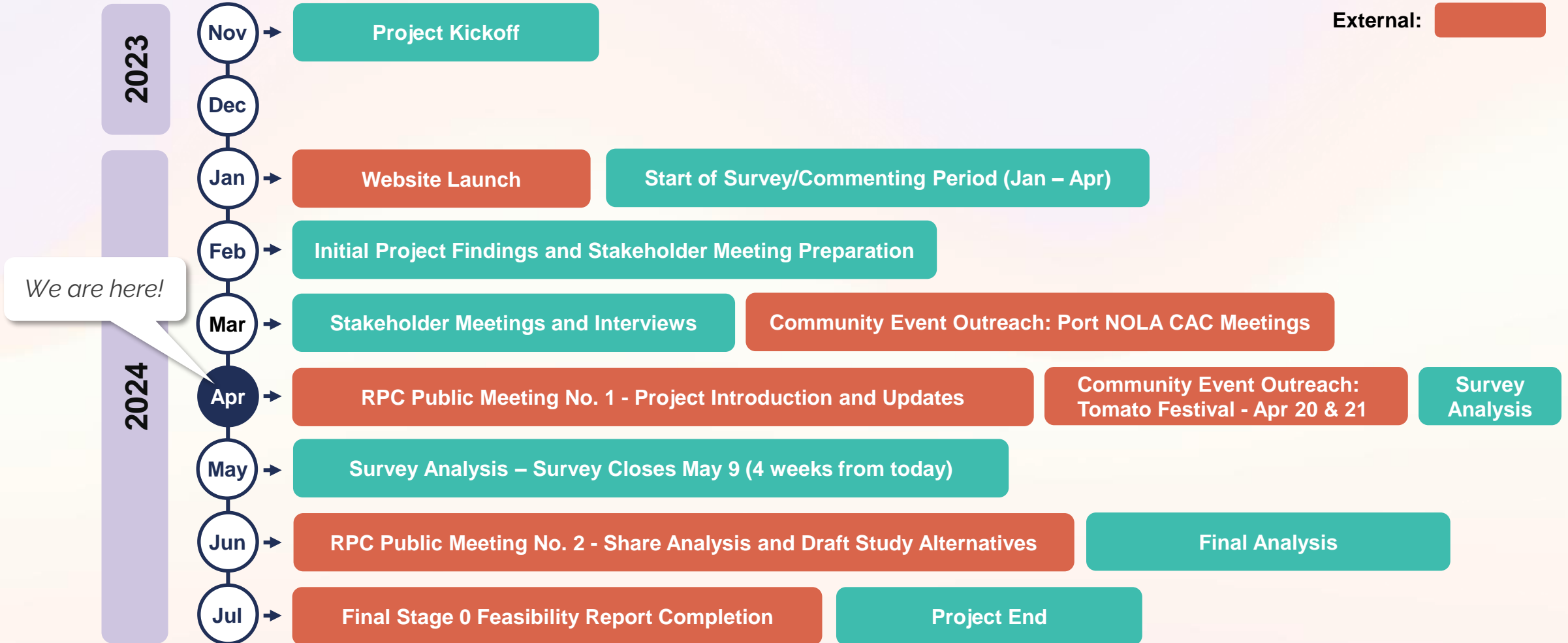
*This process (from start to finish) could be as early as 4 years.
Depending on the funding source, the project could be operational sooner.*

STUDY TIMELINE

MILESTONES

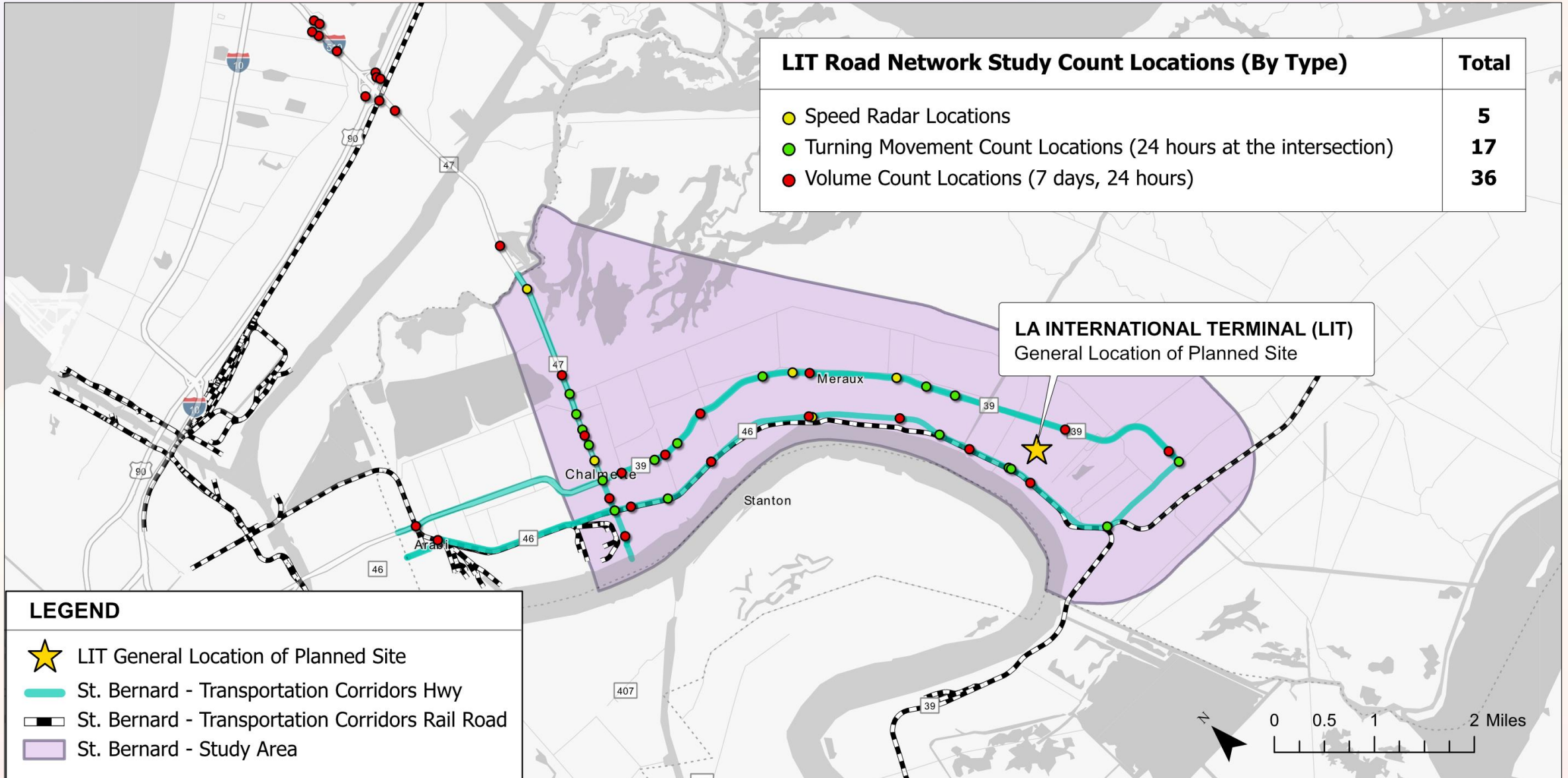
Internal:

External:



STUDY PROGRESS

Data collection points



LIT Road Network Study Count Locations (By Type)	Total
● Speed Radar Locations	5
● Turning Movement Count Locations (24 hours at the intersection)	17
● Volume Count Locations (7 days, 24 hours)	36

LEGEND

- ★ LIT General Location of Planned Site
- St. Bernard - Transportation Corridors Hwy
- ▬ St. Bernard - Transportation Corridors Rail Road
- St. Bernard - Study Area

STUDY PROGRESS

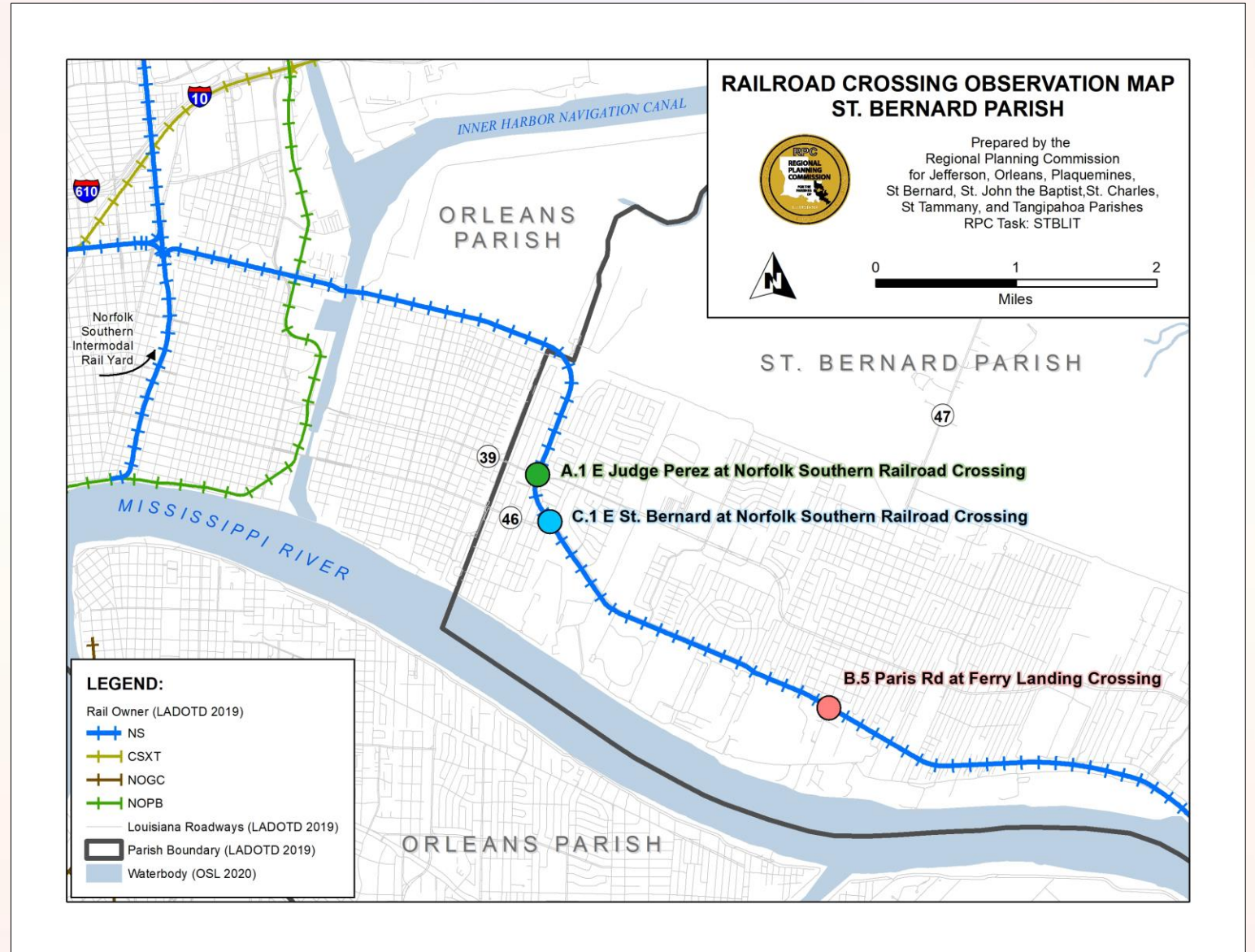
Data collection at Railroad Crossings

Data collected at the following railroad crossings:

- E Judge Perez
- E St Bernard
- Paris Rd by Ferry Landing

What is being observed:

- Crossing Time/Duration
- Vehicle Delay Time
- Vehicle Queue Length



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Help us understand your transportation needs and challenges. What's working, what isn't, and what would make movement in St. Bernard easier?



Shape Your Community

Your opinions ensure projects meet the community's needs and preserve its character



Informed Decision-Making

Feedback provides critical insights for planning and decision-making



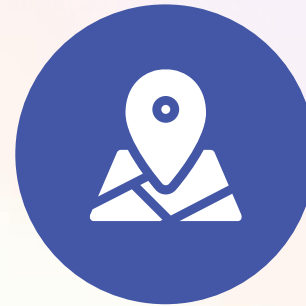
Enhanced Quality of Life

Participation has the power to influence decisions on traffic flow, public safety, the environment, and accessibility

WHAT CAN YOU DO TODAY?



*Meet team members
and ask questions*



*Participate in today's
"Mark the Map" exercise*



*Provide feedback by
filling out a comment
card*



*Participate in online
surveys and tell others*

PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE SURVEYS



Take the community survey!

Help us gather input on transportation challenges and needs in St. Bernard Parish, so we can better plan for the future.



Mark the map!

Provide location-specific feedback on the map to identify transportation improvements needed in the area.

Please note that information collected in support of this study may be used in a future NEPA process.

HOW WE WILL UTILIZE FEEDBACK

1. **We'll continuously review feedback and ideas** from surveys, maps, interviews, and meetings to identify transportation system needs, challenges, and opportunities in St. Bernard.
2. **We'll focus on what matters most to you.** Input will help us to understand your priorities and identify all community goals.
3. **Our meetings will refine transportation alternatives and inform the preliminary purpose and need statement** for future consideration as part of the potential LA DOTD environmental review process.
4. **All feedback will be considered** and incorporated into the final report and – to the extent that there is broad consensus - reflect the values and needs of St. Bernard Parish and the broader region.



Feedback We've Received From the Community So Far



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SURVEY RESPONSES TO DATE



Community Survey

226

RESPONSES



Mark the Map Survey

17

RESPONSES



Mailing List Sign-Ups

23

SIGN UPS

FREQUENTLY MENTIONED TOPICS*

**As a percentage of total survey responses*



**Increased Traffic
Congestion**

74%



Traffic Safety

59%



**Emergency Vehicle
Access**

44%

WHAT WE'RE HEARING SO FAR...

Common themes from survey respondents to date include the following concerns:

- **Highway congestion**
- **Community character / noise pollution**
- **Traffic safety**
- **Emergency vehicle access**
- **Evacuation troubles**

The feedback we've received underscores the community's need for **improved transportation networks** to **address existing issues** and **accommodate future growth** efficiently and safely.

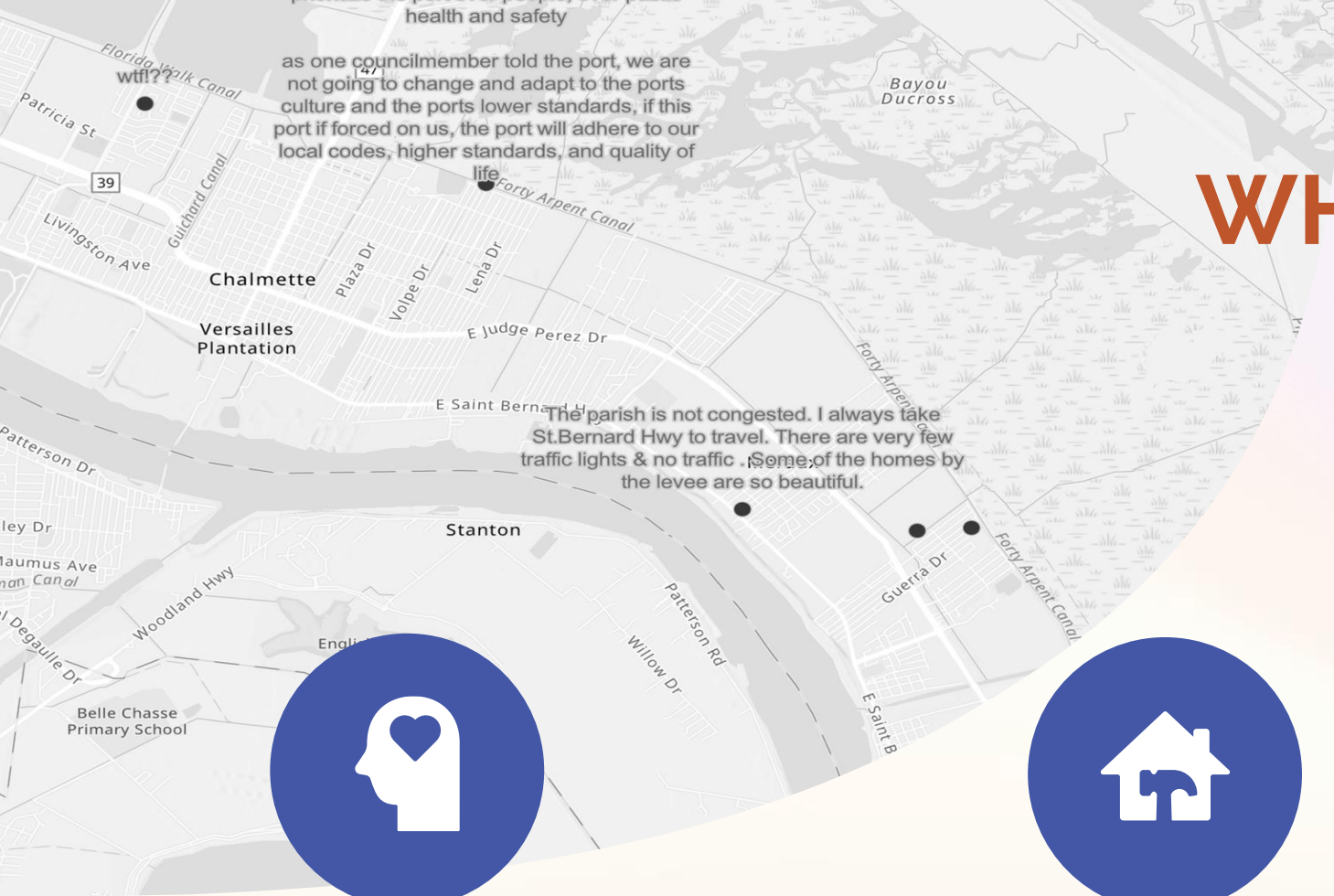
Visit a table to weigh in about:

- **Community Impact Concerns**
- **Traffic Safety, Congestion, Emergency Vehicle Access**
- **Your Evacuation Challenges**
- **Doing the Mark the Map exercise**



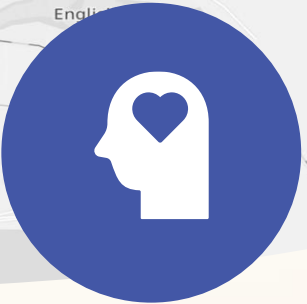
Tabling Exercise





WHY MARK THE MAP?

Location-specific stakeholder feedback will help shape transportation alternatives evaluated as part of this Study.



Gather feedback on what's working well

Ask residents what they enjoy most about the area



Identify Areas Needing Improvement

Have residents identify transportation challenges and concerns



Collect ideas for transportation improvements

Gather input on potential transportation upgrades from residents



Closing and Next Steps



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JOIN US AT OUR NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING



RPC Public Meeting No. 2

Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024
Time: 5:00-8:00pm
Place: St. Bernard Government Complex
Address: 8201 W Judge Perez Dr,
Chalmette, LA 70043

Our next community meeting will cover:

- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Future Conditions Analysis
- Community Feedback
- Draft Project Alternatives
in Development

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/sb-study> or scan the QR code here:



Take the community survey!



THANK YOU!!!

and don't forget to...

Mark the map!



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