LA 3234 EXTENSION FROM LA 1065 TO HAMMOND AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

STATE PROJECT No. H.008915 FEDERAL AID PROJECT No. H008915 TANGIPAHOA PARISH, LOUISIANA

Southeastern Louisiana University Alumni Center 500 West University Ave.

Hammond, LA

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE MEETING FORMAT:

- Sign-in Table; please be sure to sign in.
- Exhibits are on display and project staff members are stationed throughout the meeting room. Feel free to ask them questions.
- A PowerPoint presentation will play on a constant "loop" during the meeting. Feel free to watch it at any time during your visit.
- Comments can be submitted verbally or in writing. A court reporter is available to take your verbal comments. A written comment may be submitted tonight at the comment table, or mail via the Comment Forms one is included at the back of your handout Please make sure to state your name and address for the record.
- Real Estate: DOTD Brochures explaining the Acquisition of Right of Way and Relocation Assistance Program are available at the welcome table.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this project is to improve east-west connectivity and access in the Hammond, LA area, and to support intermodal connectivity at Hammond Northshore Regional Airport.

The need for the is project ties in to the growth of the area around the airport as an industrial center. Numerous new industrial, warehousing, and distribution facilities have been locating in the vicinity of the airport on three sides (west, south and east) in recent years. Trucks from these facilities (as well as regular vehicular traffic) best access I-55 via US Highway 190 east. The City of Hammond is planning for the area to continue to be further developed as such, meaning the amount of truck traffic through the narrow streets of downtown Hammond would increase. The extension of LA 3234 down to US 190 (west of the Airport) would provide a more direct route to I-55 for truck traffic with origins/destination at the airport industrial area, as well as vehicular through traffic.

PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LIMITS

The project is currently examining four (4) alternatives: The **No Build Alternative**, and three (3) **Build Alternatives** (Alternates A, B, and C). The **No Build Alternative** will examine the impacts to the human and natural environment in the project corridor if no action is taken. The **Build Alternatives** are described below (*see attached maps*).

- Alternate A would be a three-lane facility (two travel lanes with one center turning lane). Beginning on the east side at the LA 1065/ N. Cherry Street intersection, where LA 3234/ E. University Avenue currently ends, and proceeds northeasterly before turning more easterly and crossing M.C. Moore Road. Alternate A crosses LA Hwy 443/Morris Road between Dominick Lane and Pine Court. It then joins existing Pride Drive, which would be upgraded to a three-lane facility, as well as having geometric improvements to the road's curvature. The Pride Drive improvements would end at Pride Drive's current terminus with US 190.
- Alternate B, would also be a three-lane facility. Beginning on the east side at the LA 1065/ N. Cherry Street intersection, where LA 3234/ E. University Avenue currently ends, and proceeds northeasterly, then takes a more southeasterly turn. It crosses LA Hwy 443/Morris Road north of Old Vineyard Road, and crosses both Old Vineyard Road and Woodscale Road near the intersection of those two roads. Alternate B then crosses the CN Railroad spur, and proceeds westerly where it intersects with Lear Drive. Alternate B then joins existing Lear Drive, which would be upgraded to a three-lane facility. At the intersection of Lear Drive and Pride Drive, the Alternate would then turn and follow Pride Drive south, with that portion of Pride Drive also being improved to a three-lane facility. The Pride Drive improvements would end at its current terminus with US 190.
- <u>Alternate C</u>, would be built a two-lane facility. Beginning on the east side of the LA 1065/ N. Cherry Street intersection, where LA 3234/ E. University Avenue currently ends, and proceeds northeasterly, and follows the same southeasterly turn as Alternate B. However, before crossing LA Hwy 443/Morris Road, it takes an even more southerly turn. Alternate C crosses LA Hwy 443 south of Old Vineyard Road, and proceeds south-southeast, crossing the CN Railroad spur before ending at US 190 across from the current US 190 intersection with Myers Road.

STEPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS:

- 1. <u>Alternatives Analysis</u> Analyze and select three "Build" Alternatives <u>COMPLETE.</u>
- 2. <u>Refinement of Engineering</u> Fine-tune the preferred alternative's geometry and design features, and prepare cost estimates for construction. <u>UNDERWAY.</u>
- 3. <u>Impact Analysis</u> Examine what may be impacted if we were to build each of the alternatives (both natural environment and human environment). <u>UNDERWAY.</u>
- 4. <u>Public Participation</u> Hold public meeting and public hearing to obtain public's input on project. **UNDERWAY.**
- 5. <u>Mitigation Measures</u> Examine ways to mitigate any negative impacts that may result from construction of project (noise walls, wetlands mitigation, etc.) **TO BE COMPLETED**.
- 6. Report Preparation Document all work, including Public Participation. TO BE COMPLETED.
- 7. Environmental Clearance If impacts are not significant or are able to be successfully mitigated, obtain a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which enable the project to move on to design and construction. **TO BE COMPLETED**.



