

**Conceptual Planning Study:
Causeway Blvd. at US 90 / Jefferson Hwy.
Jefferson Parish, Louisiana
(RPC Task A-1.18; FY-18 UPWP)**

Project Background:

The Ochsner expansion is going to significantly increase traffic through the Causeway and Jefferson Highway intersection. Specifically, the South to East movement in the morning peak(s) and the West to North movements in the evening peak(s) will be most affected.

Ochsner is developing additional properties immediately adjacent to this intersection (southeast quadrant) which will include a major parking facility either at-grade or elevated structure.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to develop and analyze a range of feasible improvements, taking into account potential traffic loadings, the location of the new parking facility, existing constraints, i.e., nearby structures and limited rights-of-way, and the aesthetic goals of the corridor improvement program. In addition, the intersection with River Road will need to be considered. The future operation of Maine Street must also be determined as a function of Ochsner's long term land use and development plan.

Task 1: PROJECT TIMELINE AND KICK-OFF MEETING

The Consultant will prepare a draft project schedule including major milestones, i.e., Project Management Committee (PMC) meetings, site visits, draft reviews, final report submissions. The timeline will be submitted at a project kick-off meeting that will include the consultant, all sub-consultants, Jefferson Parish Planning, Traffic, and Public Works Departments, and LADOTD representatives. Other attendees will be invited as necessary. The kick-off meeting will take place within two (2) weeks of the Notice to Proceed.

Task 2: PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Consultant will assist RPC in establishing and supporting the PMC to guide the technical work effort and to review the Consultant's work products. The PMC will include the agencies identified in Task 1 (see above), and other organizations as deemed appropriate. The Consultant will provide all necessary agendas, handouts and exhibits in advance of the PMC meetings for RPC review and approval and prepare summary minutes of the meetings.

The PMC will meet five times during the course of the study effort. In addition, the Consultant will as necessary conduct 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. The Consultant will receive prior approval from RPC before initiating these contacts and prepare summary meeting minutes for review and discussion with the PMC.

Task 3: SITE INVESTIGATION AND DATA COLLECTION

Site visits will be conducted and data collected as necessary in order to gather and record information regarding the physical, engineering, land-use, and environmental features of the study area. Such data and information will include but may not be limited to parking, sidewalks, traffic signals and signage, crash data, utility types, and adjacent land use and driveway conditions.

The Consultant will make use of existing traffic data provided by RPC and Jefferson Parish which has been collected as part of the on-going US 90 Corridor Study, including the 2041 horizon year traffic volumes. In addition, Jefferson Parish and / or DOTD will provide supplemental Average Daily Traffic, turning movements, and driveway counts as may be needed – using DOTD approved count procedures. Traffic count locations will be pre-approved by the PMC prior to initiation. All of the above inventory data will be developed in a format suitable for reproduction on RPC’s GIS mapping system.

Task 4: CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Consultant will develop and evaluate concepts, based on agency and stakeholder input, to increase capacity and operational efficiency in the study area. Traditional capacity analysis and widening techniques will be evaluated as well as new opportunities to provide access into and out of the area. Working in coordination with the PMC, the Consultant will develop a large number of conceptual alternatives for “sifting” or evaluation purposes, including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1) Expansion of the existing J-turn to appropriately accommodate two-way traffic.
- 2) Reworking the striping, signage and phasing of the existing J-turn ramp such that it is one way southbound in combination with a new northbound Causeway overpass of Jefferson Highway.
- 3) Reworking the striping, signage and phasing of the existing at-grade intersection to give greater favor to the westbound to northbound movement (making this the primary direction and having the J-turn eastbound to northbound movement yield).
- 4) Demolition of the existing J-turn and replacement with an improved facility or combination of the other options noted herein.
- 5) Installation of a structure to bring traffic from south to east directly (small fly over ramp).
- 6) Consideration of a ramp from south to west that would come down at-grade and use surface improvements to get from this point to an intersection at Jefferson Highway.
- 7) Other alternatives as developed in consultation with the PMC, including improved transit access.

Task 5: EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Consultant will prepare a table of evaluation criteria to be included in the report for comparing and analyzing the effectiveness of the various conceptual alternatives, utilizing a fatal flaw method to compare and evaluate alternatives, including impacts to rights-of-way, utilities, and number of potential conflict points.

Task 6: PMC REVIEW

At the appropriate time and following direction from RPC, the Consultant will organize and convene a PMC meeting to review the various alternatives and the results of the alternatives screening process. With the input and assistance from the PMC, the most promising of the alternatives (two or three) will be selected for further study and refinement.

Task 6: TYPICAL SECTIONS

The Consultant will prepare a conceptual plan for this smaller sub-set of promising alternatives including typical roadway sections, identifying measures to enhance traffic safety and operations, and intersection geometrics. The Consultant will provide a conceptual plan of these alternatives on an aerial map with apparent right-of-way information in order to analyze basic feasibility and costs of alternatives. Evaluation of impacts to existing land use and utility infrastructure and ability to manage future traffic volumes will be included as part of the refined concept development and analysis.

Task 7: OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

The Consultant will develop a preliminary cost estimate for each proposed project concept, as agreed to in discussions with the RPC and PMC. The Consultant will develop quantities and unit cost estimates for each element of the conceptual design plan for the alternative(s) as well as estimated future design costs, recommended project phasing, and potential funding sources for project advancement and implementation.

Task 8: DRAFT REPORT

A draft of the report with all documentation described above will be submitted to the RPC, Jefferson Parish, and LADOTD for review by, at the latest, 80% of project completion. The report will include a description of the various alternatives studied, the results of the screening process, and conceptual layouts of the most promising alternative(s) along with supporting documentation. The report will identify potential utilities, environmental constraints, or other issues that could influence the concept's feasibility, timing, and impact on the physical, natural, and human environment. DOTD's Stage 0 Environmental Checklist will be included in the draft report.

Task 9: FINAL DELIVERABLES

Following review and approval of the draft submission, the Consultant will provide RPC with ten bound copies of the Final Report and supporting plan packages. A pdf version of the final report and plan packages will also be provided to RPC on compact disc. The CD should also include any GIS shapefiles, CAD files, and / or other accessory documentation created during the course of the study.

TIMELINE: Ten Months

BUDGET: \$75,000