



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

**Louisiana Division Office**

March 26, 2021

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**In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-LA**

Mr. Don Weir, Jr.  
910 Pierremont Road, Suite 410  
Shreveport, LA 71106

Subject: Re: I-49 Extension through Allendale Neighborhood in Shreveport, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Weir:

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, regarding the proposed I-49 Inner City Connector Project in Shreveport. The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG), the Lead Local Agency, initiated the project to connect the current north and south termini of I-49 in the Shreveport Metropolitan Area. The NLCOG has been working in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) and the Louisiana Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the respective Lead State and Federal Agencies, in the environmental study under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to ensure that the Project complies with NEPA requirements.

The NEPA process is currently at the data collection and alternatives development stage. At this time, no decisions have been made on a preferred alternative for the project. NLCOG and their consultant are currently completing the section 106 process in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This process requires Agencies to assess and identify the effects their project actions may have on historic properties. For several years, NLCOG has been in the early stages of NEPA review leading to a draft environmental impact statement (EIS). Our office is currently waiting for the LDOTD to submit a draft EIS that will consider all reasonable alternatives for the proposed project.

After our office is satisfied that the draft EIS meets all NEPA requirements, NLCOG will release it to the public for review and comment. Public outreach will include public hearings where individuals and groups can express their views. After considering all the comments received, NLCOG and LDOTD may proceed with a final EIS that will present the selected alternative, discuss any adverse impacts it may have, and address the concerns that emerged from the public involvement process. Our office will sign off on the final EIS when we are satisfied that it has addressed all issues and satisfies NEPA, historic preservation, and any other requirements.

The final stage of the NEPA review is preparation of a Record of Decision (ROD). Our office will prepare and approve the ROD, which will present the decision, the basis for it, and summarize any mitigation measures incorporated in the project.

Our office in collaboration with the NLCOG and the DOTD has had extensive outreach to the Allendale neighborhood and other interested parties. Their feedback and concerns raised thus far are being carefully considered in the NEPA process.

If you have any further questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely yours,

Edward Ofori, P.E.  
Deputy Division Administrator

cc: Dr. Eric Kalivoda – LDOTD