



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Downtown Greenway, East Boulevard/T.J. Jemison Boulevard Construction

BATON ROUGE, LA (November 13, 2023) – Construction is now complete on the Downtown Greenway Louisiana Connector, connecting the Government Street Bike Lanes to the Downtown Greenway at T.J. Jemison Boulevard. The Downtown Greenway is a 2.75-mile interconnected network of bike/pedestrian pathways connecting Baton Rouge’s public parks and recreational facilities, inner city communities, and cultural attractions through the use of greenways, or linear parks. The multi-phased, alternative transportation project now has approximately 1.75 miles completed and strengthens our community’s connectivity and social cohesion, promoting revitalization and adding economic value. The Downtown Development District is the lead agency responsible for administering the Downtown Greenway project, in partnership with the East Baton Rouge City-Parish.

The concept for the Downtown Greenway began in Plan Baton Rouge II as a public, alternative transportation system that connects the surrounding inner-city neighborhoods to the ‘Central Green,’ a system of greenspaces in the heart of Downtown Baton Rouge that includes North Boulevard Town Square, Repentance Park, City Hall Plaza, and Riverfront Plaza. The final design and construction documents for the Louisiana Connector portion were created by the East Baton Rouge City-Parish Department of Transportation and Drainage in collaboration with the Downtown Development District. The contractor for the project was Industrial Enterprises, Inc.

Approximately \$3 million dollars has been acquired from national, state, and local grant resources to plan and/or construct the completed portions of the Downtown Greenway including: FHWA Louisiana Recreational Trails Program, LA-DOTD Transportation Enhancement Program, LA-DOTD Transportation Community and System Preservation, LA-DOTD Transportation Alternatives Program, EPA Greening America’s Capitals Program, and the Capital Area Finance Authority. The construction of the Louisiana Connector portion of the Downtown Greenway was funded by an approximately \$369,960 grant provided by the Louisiana Department of Transportation’s Transportation Alternatives Program; 20% of the total project cost was funded by the EBR City-Parish as a local match.

Completed portions of the Downtown Greenway include sections at Expressway Park and Myrtle Street, T.J. Jemison and East Boulevard, and North Boulevard, totaling approximately 1.75 miles. Bike lanes on Government Street were also previously completed, totaling approximately 4 miles. The projects, previously disconnected by Interstate 110, are now safely connected by the Louisiana Connector via Eddie Robinson Sr. Drive and Louisiana Avenue.

“We are excited to announce the critical connection of the Government Street Bike Lanes and the Downtown Greenway, linking Mid-City, Downtown East, and our inner-city neighborhoods to downtown’s attractions and work force opportunities. We are grateful to our community partners that have helped us make this vision a reality” – Whitney Hoffman Sayal, DDD Executive Director

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AGENDA

Downtown Greenway – Louisiana Avenue Connector Ribbon Cutting

November 14th, 2023 at 4pm

Louisiana Avenue @ Interstate 110

1. Whitney Hoffman Sayal – Opening/ Project Overview/Recognitions
Downtown Development District Executive Director
2. Honorable Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome
City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge
3. Honorable Councilwoman Carolyn Coleman
District 10 - City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge
4. Fred Raiford
Director of Transportation and Drainage, City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge
5. Mark Martin
Complete Streets Citizen’s Advisory Committee
6. Whitney Hoffman Sayal – Closing Remarks
Downtown Development District Executive Director

The celebratory ribbon cutting will take place after the closing remarks.

LOUISIANA AVENUE CONNECTOR

The Downtown Greenway Louisiana Connector connects the Government Street bike lanes to the Downtown Greenway at T.J. Jemison Boulevard. The Downtown Greenway is a 2.75 mile interconnected network of bike/pedestrian pathways connecting Baton Rouge's public parks and recreational facilities, inner city communities, and cultural attractions through the use of greenways, or linear parks. The multi-phased, alternative transportation project now has approximately 1.75 miles completed and strengthens our community's connectivity and social cohesion, promoting revitalization and adding economic value.

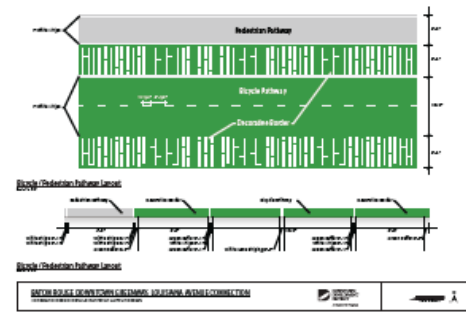
PHASE 1

Completed Louisiana Avenue connection under I-110 overpass



PHASE 1

Schematic Design Details: Pathway Layout Design



PHASE 2

Plan view of the improvements from T.J. Jemison Boulevard to Government Street



PHASE 2

Future sidewalk improvements and shared bike lanes to Government Street

