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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2020

A \$10 million U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD grant puts LCG one step closer to creating an inviting gateway into Lafayette and enhancing safety along the University Avenue corridor. “This project is crucial to the revitalization of the North University Avenue area in order to provide better connectivity to its neighborhoods and enhancements to the economic development opportunities along the corridor,” Development & Planning Department Director Mary Sliman said.

Project Details

- The project includes replacing the left-turn lane along University Avenue with a raised, landscaped median to reduce left turns, decreasing crashes by 47 percent.
- Five-foot sidewalks will give pedestrians a safe place to travel along the corridor, where more than one fourth of households don’t have a vehicle and where sidewalks are lacking.
- Two roundabouts will improve traffic flow. Two-lane roundabouts will be constructed at University Avenue and Willow Street and University Avenue and Alcide Dominique Drive.
- At the Four Corners area, where University Avenue and Cameron Street intersect, dedicated turn lanes will allow vehicles to turn without effecting traffic flow, and crosswalks, lighting, and pedestrian signage and signals will be added.

The addition of a connected sidewalk network on both sides of University Avenue will provide pedestrians a safe alternative for walking to nearby destinations which currently doesn’t exist. Additionally, roundabouts planned at Willow Street and Alcide Dominique Drive will have a direct impact on reducing the number of severe crashes that happen annually in those areas.

Sliman said, “With these enhancements to North University Avenue, the safety of our motorists and pedestrians remains top priority. Our citizens and visitors will have a better roadway and sidewalk system to get them through this corridor into and out of our great city.”

Engineering is projected to take 12 to 18 months with construction likely to begin in 2023. The project is expected to be completed sometime in 2026.

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