



### Airline & Main Complete Streets



The Airline and Main Complete Streets project is a Resilient Infrastructure and Community Nonstructural Mitigation/Flood Risk Reduction project positioned along Airline Highway in LaPlace. This project is an example of how to plan for a future of heightened flood risk in a low risk area by incorporating stormwater management strategies into public infrastructure projects that also provide residents enhanced transportation options.

The proposal suggests a 1.3-mile street improvement on Airline Highway and a 0.3-mile improvement on Main Street. Funding is currently available for off-street pedestrian and cyclist paths, a green median and shade trees. This proposal adds green infrastructure components to hold and filter runoff and extends improvements to Main Street, adding new bioretention cells, sidewalks, permeable parking, native plantings and historic light poles and banners. Complete street designs like this one aim to attract reinvestment in commercial corridors, alleviate drainage systems and reduce flooding. Improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists enhance connectivity, aesthetics and urban identity.

During the first round of LA SAFE meetings, the project team hosted residents of St. John the Baptist Parish at the St. John the Baptist Parish Community Center in LaPlace. At this meeting, many attendees pointed out that the quality of drainage and stormwater management infrastructure in the parish needs improvement. Specifically, residents acknowledged drainage, flooding and stormwater management as areas of opportunity a combined 41 times in a meeting with around 65 attendees. The attendees also described a lack of connectivity and transportation options, mentioning both concerns 20 times. They related the connectivity issue back to a growing traffic and congestion problem in the parish.

In the second round of meetings, attendees from all over the parish again stressed the critical need for recreational space and improved stormwater detention capabilities. In meeting rounds three and four in St. John the Baptist Parish, the project team continued to work collaboratively with residents as well as parish leadership to develop a project based on the ideas presented by residents in previous rounds. Lack of proper drainage, safe multimodal transportation options and traffic congestion were recurring themes found in all rounds of meetings in St. John. As a major thoroughfare that runs through the parish, Airline Highway is an ideal location for the complete street enhancements and stormwater retention improvements recommended by parish residents. The Airline and Main Complete Streets project will directly address residents' concerns by creating better-connected, more inclusive transportation along a main artery through town. The project enjoys the support of both parish officials and residents, and it aligns with information gathered throughout the public engagement efforts of LA SAFE. The community affirmed its support of this project in person and online in the final round of meetings, when residents representing eight different zip codes in St. John the Baptist Parish collectively chose this project as their number one preference.