



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

**French Quarter Safety & Security Traffic
Study Public Meeting**

June 28, 2017

Agenda

- Introduction 6:00 p.m.
- Citywide Public Safety Improvement Program 6:05 p.m.
- French Quarter Traffic Study Overview 6:10 p.m.
- Discussion 6:30 p.m.

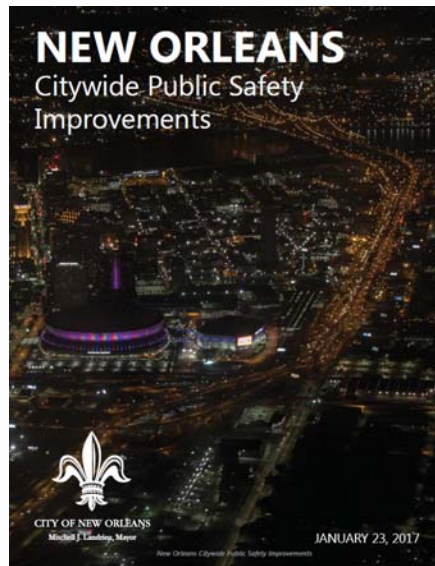
Ground Rules

- Please be sure to sign in
- Submit general comments on cards, individual comments will be addressed by staff during discussion
- Comment cards will be collected throughout the presentation



City-Wide Public Safety Improvement Program

- Holistic approach to improving safety throughout the City and in the French Quarter in particular
- Calls for use of technology and improvements to physical environment to reduce crimes of opportunities and improve quality of life for residents
- Safety initiatives address crime and reduce the risk of terrorist attacks
- French Quarter initiatives to address infrastructure and security



Traffic Study Background

- **DPW Selected AECOM to conduct a traffic study to support the creation of a operations plan to:**
 - Improve safety and efficiency of the streets in the French Quarter;
 - Reduce the risk to public safety from uncontrolled vehicles; and
 - Mitigate the impacts of the potential closure of Bourbon St and/or any other new street closure on traffic flow and businesses.
- **The traffic study scope of work included:**
 - Identifying and analyzing existing conditions and access requirements;
 - Developing a recommended operational management plan; and
 - Investigating the feasibility of and impacts associated with a potential closure of Decatur St at Jackson Square.



Existing Conditions

- NOPD barricades are typically placed on Bourbon St each evening from approx 7 PM to 4 AM
- Current conditions often allow unsafe vehicular movements and pedestrian conflicts
- Evening garbage collections are from 5 to 7 PM



Stakeholder Engagement

- Interviewed more than **60 Bourbon St. businesses**
- Feedback provided during the April 4, 2017 public meeting prompted development of an online survey
 - Online survey included **128 residents** and **93 businesses**
- Held focus groups with French Quarter Business Association and Louisiana Restaurant Association members



Stakeholder Feedback

- Most of the survey respondents either do not commute to work or have a commute that does not involve Bourbon St.
- A small percentage of residents commute using or crossing Bourbon St.
- Of the residents who do commute, more than half leave before 9AM and almost all arrive home between 4PM and 8PM.
- The existing closure extent and starting time – Iberville St to St. Ann St starting at 5PM – are the most popular options with survey respondents.
- The vast majority are opposed to closure of the streets crossing Bourbon St.



Stakeholder Feedback

- Most businesses on Bourbon St. receive deliveries 4-7 times per week.
- Most deliveries occur during the mid to late morning (9 AM – 11 AM), but more than half of the respondents receive deliveries after 3 PM.
- Most businesses get deliveries from more than 4 companies.
- Most businesses do not have capacity for larger, less-frequent deliveries.



Public Safety Recommendations

- The project team followed a multi-layered approach to safety and security derived from the Federal General Services Administration Safety and Security Design Guide and considered stakeholder feedback.
- *Recommendations for immediate implementation include the following:*
 - ✓ Controlling vehicular access to Bourbon St. using a movable bollard system, with bollards installed on Bourbon St allowing the cross streets to remain open to traffic;
 - ✓ Closure of Bourbon St. from Canal to Dumaine to vehicular traffic from 5 PM to 4 AM daily and/or based on public safety considerations.



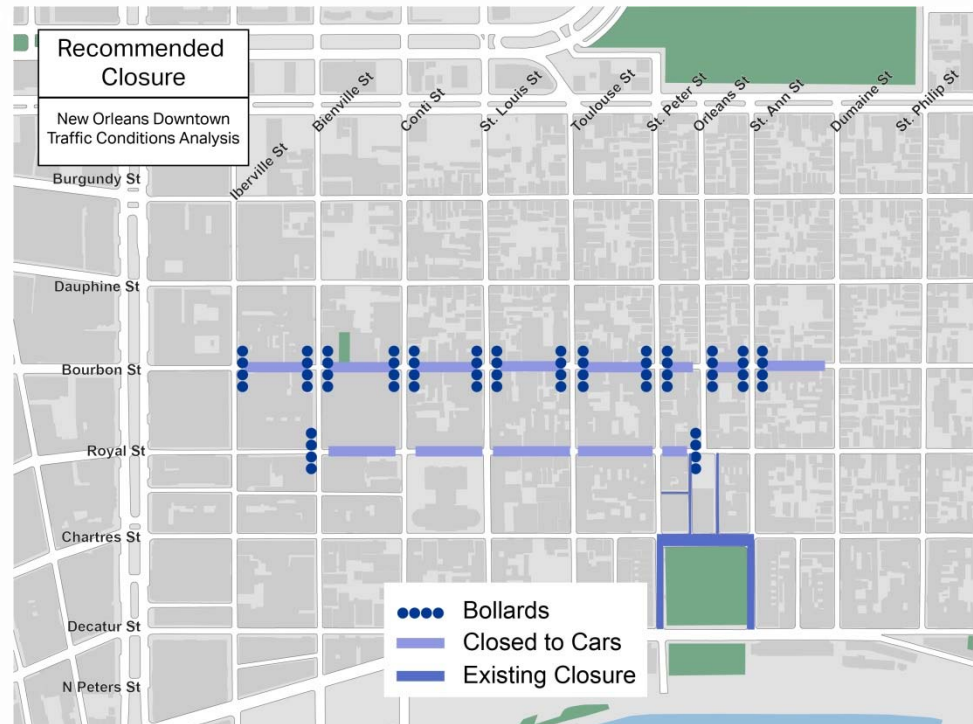
Public Safety Recommendations (Continued)

- Recommendations for further consideration to reduce vehicle speeds, improve pedestrian safety and access, reduce parking, reduce traffic congestion, and improve emergency responder access within the French Quarter include the following:
 - ✓ Re-allocating on-street parking spaces; and
 - ✓ Additional traffic calming and safety measures.
- While technically feasible, after consideration of the potential benefits and impacts, the closure of Decatur St at Jackson Square was not recommended at this time.



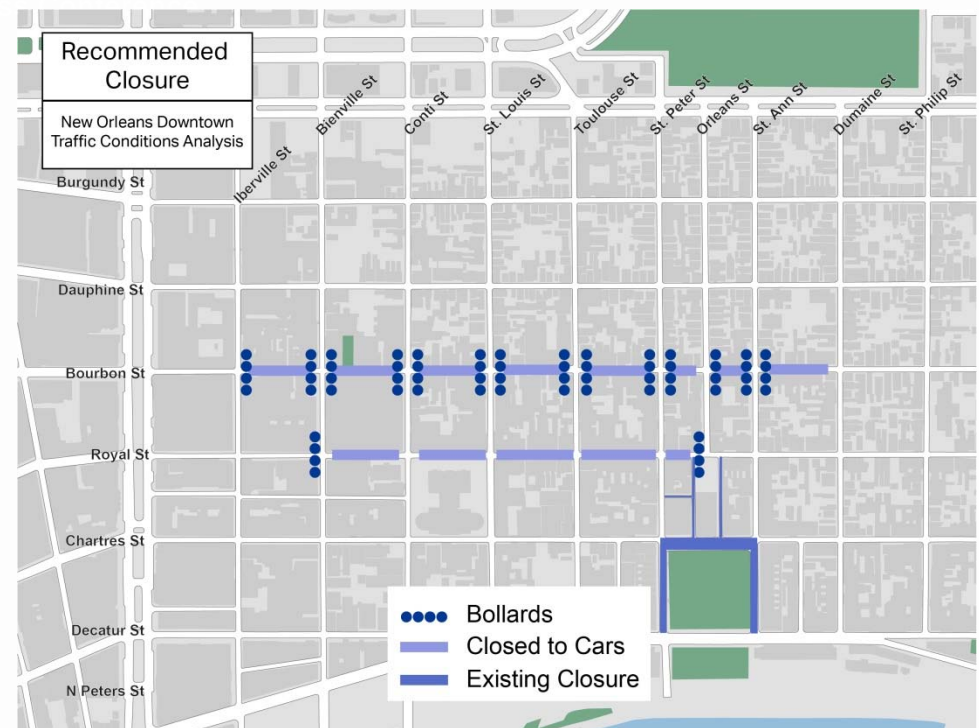
Controlling Vehicular Access to Bourbon St.

- City staff would open/close bollards daily and as needed during high volume events and based on public safety considerations.
 - ✓ Allows deliveries and garbage pick up to occur between 4 AM and 5 PM.
 - ✓ Allows for 24/7 controlled access to Bourbon St by emergency responders and emergency utility repair crews.



Controlling Vehicular Access to Bourbon St (Continued)

- ✓ Prevents access to Bourbon St. by an uncontrolled vehicle.
- ✓ Ensures pedestrian access, reducing the large number of pedestrian crashes with delivery and service vehicles.
- ✓ Increases the availability of law enforcement resources in the French Quarter.
- ✓ Integrated with and supports a comprehensive strategy of public safety and infrastructure investments.



Parking Findings and Recommendations

- **Improve Management of Parking Supply:** On-street parking in the French Quarter is severely constrained during peak hours (above 85% occupancy).
- **Reduce Parking Signs:** The City now has 29 different sign types in use, which should be reduced over time.
- **Reallocate Curb Space:** Too much curb space (26%) appears to be devoted to loading zones - freight, passenger, taxi and hotel. These spaces are underutilized and could be re-allocated on a block-by-block basis based on stakeholder input to free up more on-street parking.
- **Improve Violation Rate:** The current rate of violation (20%) is high compared to industry standards (9%).

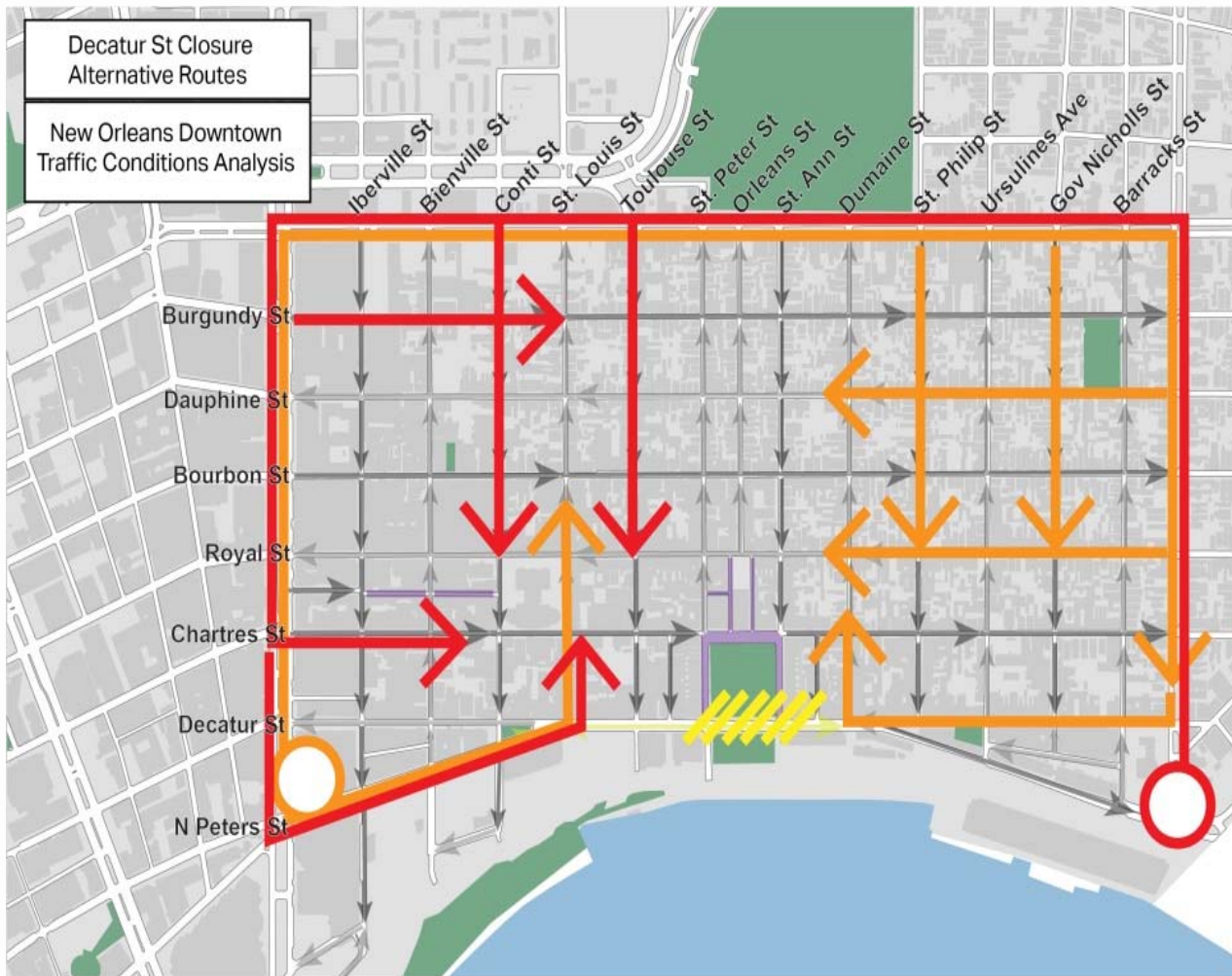


Additional Safety Findings and Recommendations

- Study confirmed findings of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
- Bourbon St. at Canal St. is ranked #4 and Bourbon St. at St. Ann St. is listed among the 50 most dangerous intersections in the city.
- Poor sidewalk conditions and pedestrians sharing space with personal vehicles, deliveries, and service vehicles generates conflicts and unsafe conditions.
- Pavement markings, lighting, and signage based on traffic engineering analysis can be employed to reduce vehicle-pedestrian crashes.
- Earlier closure times should be considered on weekends and during events with high pedestrian traffic.
- The timing and management of trash collection services should be reviewed to reduce traffic congestion and instances where large vehicles are operating during high pedestrian traffic.



Decatur St Findings and Recommendations



- Would establish a pedestrian connection between the French Quarter and riverfront.
- Would re-route traffic and transit routes thru or around the French Quarter.
- Closure of Decatur St at Jackson Square not recommended at this time.



Next Steps

- French Quarter Safety & Security Traffic Study is available at <https://roadwork.nola.gov/bourbon/>
- Comments on recommendations accepted until **Friday, July 7** at RoadWork@nola.gov
- Comments received will be considered and incorporated into the final report findings and recommendations **by mid July**.
- Decision will be made by the **end of July** on the closure of Bourbon St.
- Additional report recommendations (parking considerations, striping, signage) will be evaluated and prioritized for implementation.



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Discussion