

ASK THE ADVOCATE: Pecue Lane interchange

What is the status of the I-10 Interchange at Pecue Lane?

Response from John Snow, spokesman for the Green Light Plan in East Baton Rouge Parish:

“The Pecue Lane at Interstate 10 Interchange project is in the early design stages of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. As the project will utilize federal funding, it is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), of which the EA process is a federally mandated component. This process requires the analysis of various design options for the proposed interchange with respect to the overall environmental impact of each option. One of the next steps in this process is for the design engineering team to analyze these design options and determine which options perform better than others in accordance with the environmental impact analyses as well as cost estimates, traffic modeling, and public comments from previous public meetings to narrow the list of conceptual design alternatives down to a select few, thereby eliminating the poor performing options. Once this has taken place, a public hearing will be scheduled to present these final options to the public for comment, at which point comments will then be addressed, a preferred alternative will be identified, and a “Finding of No Significant Impact” will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval and environmental closure. Upon receiving this approval from the FHWA, the project will then proceed into preliminary design, final design, right-of-way acquisition, and utility relocations prior to the start of construction. Due to the anticipated cost of construction, we are also actively pursuing additional funding opportunities at the state and federal levels while the project continues to proceed through the EA process in order to help supplement funding levels currently allocated to support all of these activities in addition to some construction-related items.

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