

## Executive Summary

This report summarizes an evaluation of traffic operations in the area of Destrehan, Louisiana known as Ormond Estates. The study area includes Ormond Boulevard between US 61 (Airline Highway) and Thomas Coby Drive.

The report evaluates three specific intersections:

- Ormond Boulevard at Airline Highway,
- Ormond Boulevard at Stanton Hall Drive, and
- Ormond Boulevard at Plantation Road.

The report also addresses:

- The access management issue on Ormond Boulevard between Airline Highway and the first set of railroad tracks;
- Alternative routes to using Ormond Boulevard as a cut through between LA 48 (River Road) to Airline Highway are also suggested and evaluated in this report.

### **• Ormond Boulevard at Airline Highway**

Ormond Boulevard at Airline Highway was evaluated and it is recommended that an additional left turn lane be added on Airline Highway westbound. The signal timing must also be adjusted so this configuration will perform well.

The road segment of Ormond Boulevard between Airline Highway and the railroad tracks was evaluated because there are multiple median cuts that are very close to each other. This results in an increased chance of accidents because of all the vehicles turning simultaneously. It is recommended that the median openings be redesigned to reduce the number of vehicles turning at once while maintaining access to the various retail stores in the area. See Figure 6 for proposed redesign.

### **• Ormond Boulevard at Stanton Hall Drive**

Ormond Boulevard and Stanton Hall Drive both experience high daily traffic volume which causes excess delay at the intersection. It is recommended this problem be addressed in two phases. The first phase includes adding a left turn lane on Ormond Boulevard southbound and removing the bushes in the median that block the view of turning vehicles. The second phase will be an operational evaluation of the intersection following a minimum of six (6) months of operations after the new left turn lane becomes operational. Additional modifications may include signalizations and lane reconfiguration (within current ROW) of Stanton Hall Drive.

### **• Ormond Boulevard at Plantation Road**

It is recommended that no changes be made to Ormond Boulevard at Plantation Road because the times during which the intersection experiences high traffic volumes a St. Charles Parish Sheriff is on duty to direct traffic for the school buses entering/exiting Plantation Road. It is recommended that the commercial signs on Ormond Boulevard just south of the intersection be relocated because they are blocking the view of drivers turning out of the Plantation Road westbound approach. Refer to Photo 14.

### **• Alternative Routes**

River Road and Harding Street were evaluated as possible alternative routes for drivers that use Ormond Boulevard. Both streets require improvements before this is feasible.

It is understood that improvements to River Road are being addressed by other parties not affiliated with this study.

It is recommended that Harding Street undergo multiple improvements to become a viable alternative to Ormond Boulevard. Those improvements are: changing the open ditch drainage system (rural section) to a subsurface drainage system (urban section), widening the roadway, adding curb and gutter bottom along both sides, improving the lighting, and installing a traffic signal at Harding Street and Airline Highway. The modifications to this roadway will also aid the St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center and Sheriff's Office in an emergency evacuation event. These proposed improvements to Harding Street create a viable alternative and/or additional evacuation route for St. Charles Parish.

The recommended improvements have been arranged in order of priority, and potential funding sources have been identified.

**1. Ormond Boulevard at Stanton Hall Drive.**

Phase 1: remove bushes in the median obstructing sight;  
add a left turn lane on the Ormond Boulevard southbound approach.  
(St. Charles Parish Road Maintenance Program)

Phase 2: Perform a follow-up study six to twelve months after the installation of the left turn lane. (Study – St. Charles Parish / Construction – Federal urban Systems Funds-RPC)

**2. Ormond Boulevard at Airline Highway.**

Add a left turn lane on the westbound approach of Airline Highway, resulting in dual left turns onto Ormond Boulevard. (LADOTD and Federal Aid Program)

**3. Harding Street.**

Improve Harding Street by adding subsurface drainage, widening the roadway, adding curb and gutter bottom, improving the lighting, and adding a traffic signal at Harding Street and Airline Highway. (Hazard Mitigation Funds)

**4. Ormond Boulevard at Plantation Road.**

Remove signage that obstructs sight distance for drivers turning onto Ormond Boulevard from the Plantation Road westbound approach.

**5. Ormond Boulevard between Airline Highway and Railroad Tracks.**

Reconfigure the median of Ormond Boulevard to channelize turning movements and eliminate conflict points.