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MOTT
MACDONALD



April 2026

DPW780



Public Meeting No. 1
Connecting New Orleans East
Stakeholder Update

PUBLIC MEETING #1 ANALYSIS

Public Meeting #1



- 120+ community members in attendance on 3/26/2026
- Strong appreciation from community for being heard and included.
- Attendees were engaged, prepared, and asked thoughtful questions.
- Overall tone was positive and collaborative.
- Positive news coverage and attendance by elected officials at local and state level.



Why we engaged the community

- Understand community priorities for the corridor
- Identify safety, mobility, and infrastructure concerns
- Use public input to inform project planning and design



Community engagement methods

- Comment cards
- Dot activity mapping
- Table mapping exercises
- Facilitated report-out discussions



Engagement snapshot

- Multiple input methods used to capture diverse perspectives
- Feedback collected across the full corridor
- Strong alignment observed across engagement tools

Key takeaway

- Consistent themes emerged regardless of engagement method.

What we heard

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety

A Core Community Concern
71.4% of comments referenced pedestrian challenges

Common issues included:

- Missing or inadequate sidewalks
- Unsafe or poorly marked crossings
- Limited bicycle accommodations

Key takeaway:

- Non-vehicular mobility is widely perceived as unsafe or underdeveloped.

Lighting & Perceived Safety

Up to 46.9% of comments referenced lighting concerns

Community connections:

- Visibility at night
- Personal safety
- Comfort using the corridor during evening hours

Key takeaway:

- Lighting improvements directly support safety and corridor usability.

Transportation & Transit Input

Transit Needs Vary by Engagement Method

- Comment cards: 8.1% referenced transit
- Mapping exercises: 22.4% referenced transit

Common themes:

- Inconsistent bus stops
- Lack of shelters
- Limited amenities

Key takeaway:

- Transit needs are more evident when participants engage spatially.

Where Concerns are Concentrated

Geographic Focus Areas
(Visual: Corridor map with callouts, if available)

I-10 Service Roads

- Secondary hotspot
- Access and safety concerns

Notable observation included

Downman Road:

- High concentration of comments

Key takeaway:

- Issues are concentrated along major access routes, not evenly distributed.

What we heard

Community Vision & Economic Opportunity

Looking Beyond Immediate Issues

Community expressed interest in:

- More retail and dining options
- Increased corridor activity
- Long-term investment and revitalization

Key takeaway:

- Infrastructure improvements are viewed as a foundation for economic growth.

Transportation Mode Observations

How People Are Using the Corridor

(Visual: Simple comparison graphic)

- **Driving:** Dominant mode (≈13x higher than others)
- **Walking:** Limited but present
- **Transit:** Minimal, clustered in specific areas
- **Biking:** Lowest overall activity

Key takeaway:

- The corridor is auto-oriented, with opportunities to improve multimodal access.

Maintenance & Environmental Conditions

Quality-of-Life Issues Along the Corridor

14.3% of comments referenced maintenance concerns

Common issues:

- Illegal dumping
- Blight
- Overgrown vegetation
- General lack of upkeep

Key takeaway:

- Maintenance conditions influence safety perceptions and corridor image

What this means for the Project

Key Planning Takeaways

- Safety and pedestrian mobility are top priorities
- Lighting is critical to perceived and actual safety
- Targeted improvements needed in specific corridor segments
- Multimodal solutions should be strategic and context-based