



## PROJECT START

March 2018

## PROJECT FINISH

May 2018

## KEY PERSONNEL INVOLVED

Ross Liner, AICP, PTP  
 Frank Liang, P.E., PTOE  
 David LeBreton, P.E., PTOE  
 Patrick Stiegman, El  
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## PROJECT OWNER

City of Covington  
 317 North Jefferson Avenue  
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## OWNER REFERENCE

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## DE FEE

\$15,427

# West 8th Avenue Traffic Study

CCE No. 118-115

Covington, Louisiana

The West 8th Avenue corridor is a heavy volume local road that provides direct access to St. Paul's High School, St. Tammany Parish Hospital, and several other area schools. St. Tammany Parish Hospital generates pedestrian traffic and a fatality occurred there in February 2018. DE was retained to help mitigate vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle conflicts.

DE provided an analysis and evaluation of the current and potential traffic volume and safety issues along the W. 8th Avenue corridor (LA 21/S. Tyler Street to S. Van Buren Street) within the City. Methods of data collections and analysis included traffic counts, turning movement counts, pedestrian movement counts, inventory of existing physical conditions (such as roadway geometry, sidewalk alignment, signage, and striping), and intersection modeling.

Results of data analyzed show that W. 8th Avenue experiences a high percentage of vehicles speeding above the posted speed limit, the traffic volume for this facility is excessive, it experiences irregular and multiple peak periods, there are significant pedestrian movements, and sidewalks/crosswalks are misaligned and poorly illuminated.

The findings of the data collection and analysis of the current roadway operations are that improvements can be made to increase safety for all users while maintaining traffic flow. The major areas of safety improvements are within the W. 8th Avenue and S. Harrison Street intersection. The recommendations are split into immediate lower cost implementation items and long-term higher cost intersection modifications and include:

### Speed Control

- Keep the existing posted speed of 25 MPH
- Law enforcement of the speed limit
- Radar Speed Display Signs

### Pedestrian Awareness

- In-Street Pedestrian Sign
- Pedestrian Walkway Lighting
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons
- Advance warning signage
- Sidewalk realignment
- Crosswalk and advance stop bar striping

### Intersection Modifications

- Roadway widening
- Raised center medians with median refuge
- Additional two sided RRFB in the center median
- Right turn lane on S. Harrison St.

The implementation of the proposed recommendations will have a positive impact on the efficiency and safety of the W. 8th Avenue study area. However, no level of planning, design, or implementation can mitigate against all risks.