



# CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY

GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

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**Date:** November 26, 2024

**Subject:** Ham Reid Extension Projects Update Meeting and Field Visit Summary

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2024

**Field Visit:** Friday, November 22, 2024

**Location:** Police Jury Conference Room (Meeting) & Ham Reid Road (Field Visit)

**Attendees:** Mary Kaye Eason, Ron Hayes, Anthony Bartie, Brian Abshire, Chris Landry, Bryan Beam, Dane Bolin, Alberto Galan, Jessica Booth, Allen Wainwright, Nick Johnson

A meeting was held to discuss the current status of the Ham Reid Extension Phase I and Phase II projects on the above-mentioned dates. The meeting began with a review of the Ham Reid Road Extension Phase I project's history. The original scope included roundabouts at Elliott Road, Highway 384, and the Ham Reid Road extension. However, anticipating challenges in securing the DOTD permit for the roundabouts on Highway 384, the project was split into two phases. Phase I began while Phase II permitting was still underway, with the expectation that Phase II construction would begin before Phase I's completion, thus aligning the completion of both phases. Unfortunately, changes to the DOTD permitting process caused delays, and the permit for Phase II is still pending, although it is expected soon.

Substantial completion of Phase I is anticipated to go before the Police Jury in December or January. While Phase II is nearing readiness for advertising, its construction timeline is projected to take 18-24 months.

The primary concern discussed was the potential use of the connector road and Vincent Road as a temporary cut-through until Phase II is complete. This would provide a direct route from Elliott Road to Big Lake Road (Highway). The impact on residents of Vincent Road, many of whom have expressed opposition to its opening, was acknowledged. Several ideas were suggested to address residential concerns, including:

- Installation of lighted stop signs on Vincent Road
- Addition of speed bumps
- Installation of culverts and widening road shoulders
- Improvement of lighting at the southern end of Ham Reid Road where traffic would be detoured onto Vincent Road

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- Striping Vincent Road
- Organizing a public outreach meeting to gather local feedback
- Increasing traffic enforcement to address concerns of unlawful activity early in the process
- A potential 3-way stop at Vincent Road and Big Lake Road
- Placing “Dead End” signs at the northern end of Vincent Road to discourage non-residents from traveling this portion

After further discussion, the following approach will be pursued to address concerns while maintaining project objectives:

- CPPJ staff will organize a public outreach meeting to engage local residents and gather feedback on the potential impacts of the connector road.
- Speed bumps, which are generally considered an ineffective traffic-calming solution, may introduce potential liability concerns and will likely be ruled out. Instead, the focus will be on utilizing narrower lanes and striping on Vincent Road to reduce speeding and discourage cut-through traffic. Making a road too comfortable for travel leads to higher volumes and increased speeding, which we aim to avoid.
- Additional lighting measures will be considered and installed as required.
- A 3-way stop condition will be placed at Vincent Road and the connector road intersection.
- “Dead End” signage will be placed at the northern portion of Vincent Road.
- Maintenance of this cut-through route will require ongoing adjustments and modifications based on observed driving habits as traffic patterns evolve over time.

A graphic illustrating potential measures for managing cut-through traffic was presented and will be attached to this summary.

The Parish remains committed to balancing efficient road use with minimizing disruptions to Vincent Road residents. Updates on the Phase II timeline and the DOTD permit process will be provided as they become available.

Nick Johnson, Parish Engineer

Attachment