



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### KENNER TRAFFIC CONCERNS BEING ADDRESSED AS DESIGN WORK BEGINS ON NEW AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD

**Kenner, LA.** – An ordinance spelling out the details of a Memorandum of Understanding between Kenner and the New Orleans Aviation Board, in advance of a \$7 million project to build a new, four-lane Airport Access Road and make other traffic improvements, was introduced at last week’s Kenner City Council meeting.

The new access road is needed because construction is expected to begin this summer on a \$650 million project to build a new North Terminal at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport with two concourses and 30 gates along with a 2,000-space parking garage and other improvements. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu has set a goal of early 2018 to complete the project.

The North Terminal Access Road will be built just slightly east of where Aberdeen Street is now located, and will be a four-lane divided road to handle the traffic headed either from Interstate 10 or Veterans Boulevard to the new terminal.

The current Aberdeen Street, which provides access to a nearby business park, will remain in place and continue to offer that access.

While the New Orleans Aviation Board (NOAB) is in charge of the North Terminal project, Kenner officials have held regular meetings with the state, the Aviation Board, Jefferson Parish and the Regional Planning Commission, among others, to ensure that concerns about drainage, traffic and noise were being properly addressed.

“We have made sure all of the necessary environmental, drainage and traffic studies are being conducted so that any impact on Kenner will be minimized,” Kenner Chief Administrative Officer Mike Quigley said.

The Memorandum of Understanding offers further protection for the city by spelling out the details of an agreement between Kenner and the NOAB regarding payment for the North Terminal Access Road. The Aviation Board has agreed to pay for the 20 percent construction match and all design costs.

“The Aviation Board has recognized the potential impacts on the residents of the city of Kenner and they have been excellent partners thus far,” Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said. “But we cannot just sit back and

assume everything will work out for the best. Instead, we are taking the lead to make sure Kenner's interests are being represented here."

Kenner has chosen Digital Engineering and Imaging, Inc. to design a second roadway-related project. The project includes ground-level roadway improvements on Veterans and Loyola Drive to accommodate traffic until the new access road is completed. That project is estimated to cost about \$800,000 and it has also been scheduled into the Federal Aid Network Program. That means, the federal government pays 80 percent of the costs. Kenner will pay 20 percent, as well as the design costs.

The access road and other ground-level improvements are not considered the ultimate solution to traffic entering and leaving the North Terminal area. Future plans call for an \$87 million new, elevated Interstate 10 interchange to handle all airport traffic. However, that project likely will take 7 to 10 years to fund and complete, officials have said.

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