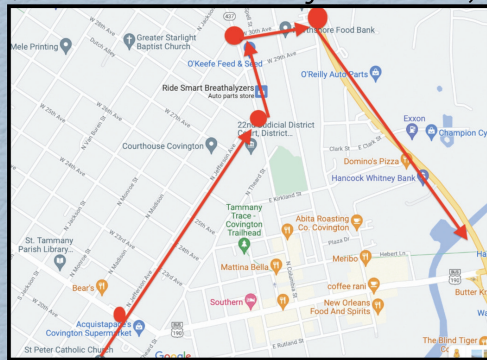




Mayor Mark - Road Improvements

Let's Study the Studies continued...

Ahhh, Yes, I hear you. This roundabout will only funnel cars more quickly onto Boston St. ... which is already a bottle neck. A Mayor Mark-ism: To decrease traffic on one street, you must increase it on another. To do that, the alternative route must be more attractive. To decrease traffic on Boston Street, the plan is to make Jefferson Ave. more attractive. Adding roundabouts at Jefferson/Columbia (Justice Center) and at Columbia/W. 30th (O'Keefe's) will create a smooth path for much of the city (especially the schools on or near Jefferson Avenue) to Collins Blvd (named after the City's founder, John Wharton Collins).



from St. Peter's Catholic Church at Jefferson/19th, go through the red-bean-about, the Justice Center roundabout, O'Keefe's roundabout, the Lee Road roundabout, over the new/old bridge all the way to The Chimes and NOT catch a single traffic signal nor a stop sign ... thereby AVOIDING Boston St. Mind Blowing!

Now, Add to the mix the 21st/Tyler Roundabout



Leaving the Sonic on Tyler —> 21st /Tyler roundabout —> Red Bean About —> Columbia /Jefferson roundabout —> Columbia/30th roundabout —> Lee Rd/Collins Blvd roundabout —> two lane bridge over Bogue Falaya River ... with nary a stop sign nor a traffic signal - from The Sonic on Tyler St. to The Chimes on Claiborne Hill. This new path of least resistance should decrease traffic on Boston St. ... making it more pedestrian friendly.

When will the city do something about traffic? The bad news, from start to finish, it takes several years. The good news, we started in earnest three years ago.

Mind Botting!



DID YOU JUST SAY "MIND BOTTLING?" YEAH, MIND BOTTLING.

#CovLA
November/December
2025



MARK R. JOHNSON
MAYOR

Photo by: Ron Barthet

SLOW YOUR ROLL
SLOW YOUR PACE

"One of the coolest cities in America"



Rockin' The Rails



Krewe of Bogue Falaya



Freedom Week



Night Out Against Crime



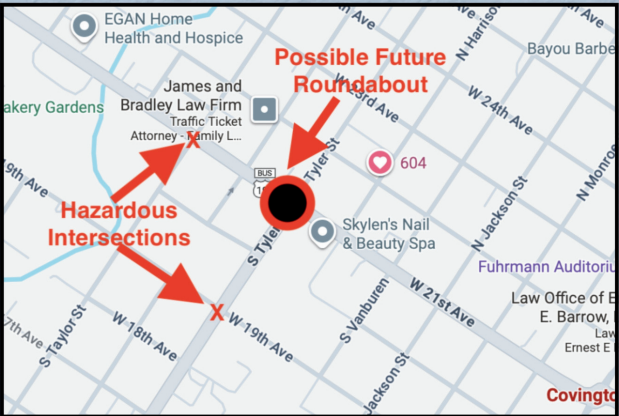
Never Forget 5k

Road Improvements

Tyler / 21st Ave. Roundabout

One of the most serious choke points for traffic in Covington is 21st Ave. and Tyler St. More accidents occur at 19th/Tyler and at Taylor/21st than any other intersections. The reason is traffic from the signal at 21st/Tyler backs up past these two intersections ... creating hazardous blind spots.

The burden for this choke point falls on many other side streets such as S. Polk, Taylor, Menetre Drive, West 11th Ave. and other avenues as drivers try to avoid 21st/Tyler. Traffic, like water, will find the path of least resistance. Making 21st/Tyler easier and more efficient will not only move drivers through Covington faster and more safely, but offer some relief to the side streets.



Speed of Government

Other than being mayor, I have spent my entire life in the private sector. What took me six months to do as a builder may take 18 - 24 months in government. The budgeting process followed by the procurement- bidding process is proper and protects us, the taxpayers. However, it is tedious, time consuming and miserable.

My best guess is that a new roundabout will take about six years from the initial planning stage to completion. That's the bad news. The good news is we began working on it three years ago :). At that time, I set it as a priority (a word I very seldom use around City Hall).

South Tyler and 21st Ave. from Tyler to Boston St. are LA State Highway 21. Hence, they fall under the jurisdiction of the LA Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) ... lots of rules, lots of regulations, lots of studies and strapped for cash. CAO Erin Stair (who understands how gubment works) suggested we apply to the State Legislature for a Capital Outlay Grant. Working with Senator Patrick McMath and Representative Mark Wright, we applied in the Fall of 2023. The Legislature approved it the following Spring and the Governor signed it that Summer of 2024. It took almost one year, but we now have \$3.2M for the roundabout that is not dependent on DOTD for funding. This is big.

Let's Study the Studies

For new construction or any modifications to a State Highway, DOTD will always require a study. Fortunately, in 2014, the Mayor Mike Cooper administration, working with the Regional Planning Commission, commissioned a traffic study for the intersection including a conceptual plan. Now, it being a bit dated, DOTD required the study be updated. So, we did so during the past year. We subsequently modified the conceptual drawings and submitted for DOTD's review. They kicked it back with requests, we modified as requested and it is now back at the Hammond Regional DOTD office and at Baton Rouge DOTD. Once the conceptual plan is approved, we move towards actual engineered designed plans, the bid process and finally construction. Though tedious and time-consuming, the City is quietly making progress to resolve one of our most significant chokepoints. (Continued on page 4)

HAPPY HOLIDAY'S

	November					
1st	Ozone Music Festival	🎵	Saturday	11:00 AM	FREE	Covington Trailhead
2nd	Ozone Music Festival		Sunday	11:00 AM	FREE	Covington Trailhead
2nd	Heroes Who Cook	🎵	Sunday	4:00 PM	Tickets	Justice Center Parking Lot
5th	Covington Business Association Meeting		Wednesday	5:30 PM	FREE	Seiler Bar
7th	Pallets with Purpose (Northshore Food Bank)	🎵	Friday	6:30 PM	Ticketed	Northshore Food Bank
15th	Covington Three Rivers Art Festival (Also Sunday)		Saturday	10:00 AM	FREE	Columbia Street
22nd	Saint Tammany Hospital's "United In Pearls" (Walk)	🎵	Saturday	11:00 AM	Tickets	Covington Trailhead
23rd	Zumba w/Mayor Mark		Sunday	12:00 PM	FREE	Bogue Falaya Hall
	December					
1st	12 Days of Christmas (Self guided tour)				FREE	Downtown Covington
1st	CBA Christmas Party		Monday	5:30 PM	Members	The Greenwood
6th	PorchFEST	🎵	Saturday	2:00 PM	FREE	South America Street
6th	Northshore Food Bank Trim The Trailhead (View 30+Trees all month)				FREE	Covington Trailhead
13th	Lollipop Christmas Parade	🎵	Saturday	3:00 PM	FREE	Downtown Covington
13th	Christmas In Covington and Lighting of the Christmas Tree		Saturday	4:00 PM	FREE	Covington Trailhead
14th	CHF History & Holly Home Tour	🎵	Sunday	2:00 PM	Tickets	Old Covington
16th	Mayor Mark's Blood Drive		Tuesday	10:00 AM	FREE	Bogue Falaya Hall
19th	Covington by Candlelight	🎵	Friday	6:00 PM	FREE	Covington Trailhead



Tammany Turkey Trot
Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2025
Downtown Covington



FREE

DEC 6

2:00 TO 5:00

COVINGTON

419 S New Hampshire
Molly Taylor

512 S New Hampshire
Pontchartrain Shakers

421 S Vermont
John Marc & Friends

449 S Vermont
8 Track

306 S America
The Charles Richards Band