



Allendale Strong's primary purpose is renewing the Allendale Neighborhood relationally, economically, and environmentally.

To accomplish this purpose, Allendale Strong grows community relational capacities by engaging citizens in learning-doing pathfinding projects and initiatives to improve sectors of the community as a whole system, described by Community Renewal International (CRI) as a village framework: safety, education, meaningful work, health, housing, culture of caring, leadership, and relational foundation.

CURRENT INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- Loop-it 49
- Save Allendale's SWEPCO Park
- Corner Store Food Co-Op formation

Facebook 4000FriendsOfAllendaleStrong

Facebook LoopIt49

Facebook CornerStoreCOOP

Instagram friends\_of\_allendalestrong

Twitter loop\_it\_49

Podcast allendale-strong-podcast

www AllendaleStrong.org

www Allendale.coop



NEW YARD SIGNS! Email info@AllendaleStrong.org to get a sign for yourself and your neighbors

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Loop-it 49 is a learning-doing group for alternatives to inner-city cut-through freeways.

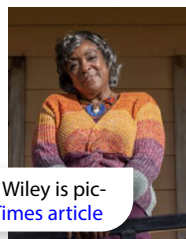
The Allendale Strong alternative: separate local and through traffic – build a business boulevard for local traffic and use the existing loop for through traffic. Ongoing research (currently over 500 articles, papers, and videos) supporting our positions are shared through social media. This learning-doing initiative has persisted for 9 years, learning about the social, environmental, and economic harm inflicted on cities like Shreveport through urban transportation planning policies and practices. Over the past year we continued to engage NLCOG (North La. Council of Governments, the regional MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization) in their confusing manipulative planning process that is designed to wear out any opposition. NLCOG continues promoting I-49 ICC misinformation to decision makers and citizens while ignoring our reasonable requests.

## Fix the bad policy direction...

February appeal letter to US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg informing him of Allendale Strong experiences with urban transportation planning process flaws and injustices. We invited him to Shreveport and offered to assist with system reform.

## Seeking truthful information for decision-makers, FOIA request...

April 22nd our request to NLCOG for Travel Demand Modeling technical data files used to justify NLCOG highway plans. After delaying months with excuses and attempts to impose unreasonable requirements, NLCOG finally provided a link to the data files on January 5, 2022. Our consultant, Smart Mobility, can now comparatively apply current modeling technology. This will fulfill our request ignored by NLCOG: confront NLCOG's 50+ year-old traffic modeling technology that recent research truth-checked, exposing flaws and inaccuracies upon which Louisiana decision-makers have long relied to create a \$30 billion backlog of unfunded highway maintenance and new mega-projects.



Nov 2021: President Dorothy Wiley is pictured & quoted in a New York Times article



Nov 2021: President Dorothy Wiley joins 4-Corners Coalition member Amy Stelly to speak with Charles Blow

## Expanding Allendale Strong Networks...

During April Allendale Strong convened a statewide group representing 5 cities, 4-Corners Coalition, that now meets monthly for mutual support and alignment to influence state and local urban transportation planning policies and practices reform. During September Allendale Strong was invited to be part of a new nationwide coalition, Freeway Fighters, convened by the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU). Through this learning-doing group representing over 80 national initiatives, we are participating in and influencing federal policies and funding rules.



Sept 2021: with Strong Towns founder Chuck Marohn

## Strong Towns ongoing support...

During September, Allendale Strong and CR Institute co-hosted a book tour visit and presentation by Chuck Marohn, author and Strong Towns founder. Chapter 8 of the new book, Confessions of a Recovering Engineer, is about Allendale Strong's efforts and Chuck's analysis of NLCOG's I-49 ICC misinformation campaign. Strong Towns website section on Shreveport contains over 20 articles supporting Allendale Strong's position for an alternative to I-49 ICC.

## Civil Rights Investigation...

During November we presented written public comments to FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) as part of their process for certifying NLCOG as the MPO. In December Allendale Strong received notice that FHWA will begin a Civil Rights investigation based on 10 issues reported.

## Corner Store Co-op

**Strengthening community through local healthy food, local creations, and community ownership...**

The co-op learning-doing group began in 2018 with support from a Food Co-Op Initiative (FCI) seed grant. Corner Store Co-op (CSC) is a network of corner stores business concept, each named for the 21 inner-city neighborhood locations in Shreveport. The first, Allendale Corner Store Co-op ([ACS Facebook Page](#)) is the focus for growing capacities to form a co-op by collectively learning and participating in FCI's national network of over 400 food cooperatives. FCI provides guidance through organizing, planning, implementing, and operating phases. During 2021 ACS participated in a national peer group of 11 Black led startup food cooperatives. Additionally, FCI awarded our co-op a grant to develop a website and launch a membership campaign to grow from our current 32 equity members to 300, our goal for contracting a feasibility study. ACS / CSC is in process of expanding board, finalizing an Action Plan and hiring part time staff to organize and promote co-op membership growth.

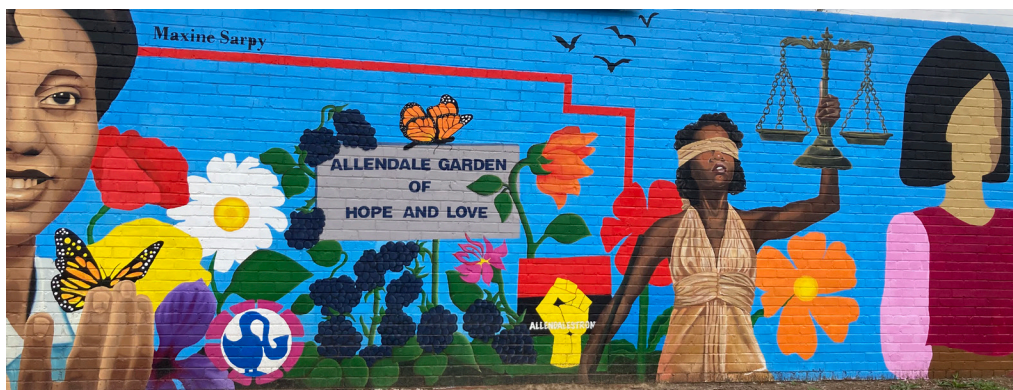


## SWEPCO Park

**Catalyst for continued Allendale Neighborhood Renewal...** Allendale Strong is negotiating a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Shreveport for Allendale Strong to lead a collaboration in capital fundraising, community engagement and design with the City leading in park maintenance and contracting improvements. The SWEPCO Park committee has also worked throughout 2021 in research, video productions, surveying community, and partner development. Emerging from the committee's work is a Home Owner's Summit planned for Spring 2022.

## Organizational activities...

During 2021 monthly meetings were convened on Zoom. We plan a return to face-to-face gatherings in 2022. Our first Actions Plan provided a guide for growth during 2021. [A New logo and website](#) are under construction. [Allendale Strong Video Podcasts Series](#) launched during 2021 to share Allendale stories and progress. We participated in a 2021 Shreveport Race Commission mural project in Allendale and is collaborating with LSUS Archives in an Allendale History project.



**Allendale Strong began in February 2012** when a small group of Shreveport homeowners living in Allendale, a concentrated disadvantage Black inner-city neighborhood, gathered in a Community Renewal (CRI) Friendship House at 320 North Allen. All in the group are part of the CRI trained volunteer block leader network (Haven House Leaders). All were among residents that partnered with CRI and Fuller Center for Housing to co-create a miracle of renewal, transforming the most dangerous part of Shreveport into the safest place to live in the city (started in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina). That evening, the group agreed to form a learning-doing community as a response to local leaders reviving from the dead a "Zombie" Freeway Project, I-49 ICC, to run over the miracle residents had co-created. The learning-doing community has grown and continues growing relational capacities as a diverse loosely joined open network. Members are Allendale residents. All others (local and national) engage as Friends or Advisory Members. On June 24, 2019, we formalized as an organization with official designation by the IRS as a 501(c)3 tax exempt public charity 509(a)2 (a copy of the IRS determination letter can be provided upon request). (EIN 84-2210223)

## Looking to the future...

Allendale Strong will continue collaborating with the CR Institute Agile Community Initiative to grow Allendale citizen relational capacities to envision a future that they lovingly bring to life through guided learning-doing groups. Among current preformation topics: platform cooperatives, incremental development, land trusts, citizen generated and guided neighborhood plan (plan driven, not project driven), gentrification with justice, citizen led street design team to guide urban street design for local wealth building, distributed power generation proposal, and a Community Vision book club to learn as a group what a vibrant community looks like, and how to make it happen in Allendale.



Oct 2021 neighbors gather for National Night Out celebration

## Save the Dates

Allendale Strong meets monthly on the **2nd Thursday of each month** to review our progress and consider new ideas/initiatives.

Email [kmitchellarchitect@gmail.com](mailto:kmitchellarchitect@gmail.com) for the zoom link to join or learn more at [allendalestrong.org/events](http://allendalestrong.org/events)

- March 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9
- July 14
- August 11
- September 8
- October 13
- November 10
- December 8

**COMING IN SPRING 2022:  
A Homeowner's Summit  
for Allendale neighbors**