



December 2, 2025

DLU Member Survey Results re: Mardi Gras route

November 29 – December 2, 2025 - Responses reflect opinions of Downtown Lafayette Unlimited members polled by email. Public responses were collected as well, but excluded from these results. Total DLU Respondents: 81

Question 1: Do you support moving the Mardi Gras parade route to Jefferson Street for the 2026 season?

Response	#	%
No	43	53%
Yes	30	37%
Not Sure	8	10%

Question 2: Should Downtown businesses and property owners have formal representation in decisions affecting Mardi Gras and major Downtown events?

Response	#	%
Yes	62	77%
No	10	12%
Not Sure	9	11%

Question 3: Do you support the proposed ordinance requiring future route changes to be approved by the City Council only after stakeholder review?

Response	#	%
Yes	44	54%
No	24	30%
Not Sure	13	16%



Question 4: If the route moves to Jefferson Street, will you remain open for business during parades?

Response	#	%
No	31	38%
Not Sure	28	35%
Yes	22	27%

****PUBLIC RESPONSES FOR QUESTION 1: Do you support moving the Mardi Gras parade route to Jefferson Street for the 2026 season?****

Response	#	%
No	22	65%
Yes	11	32%
Not Sure	1	3%

Total Public Respondents: 34 [*these are folks who got the link to vote but for whom we could not make a DLU connection*]

Representative Written Comments to “What is your biggest concern, if any, about the route change to Jefferson Street?”:

“There’s not enough space for the crowds that have grown over the years. Those crowds will also be destructive to lots of work happening downtown, including brand new planting. It’s very disruptive to downtown businesses.” [does not support the route change]

“Proper planning. We need to invest in the proper safeguards, staffing, security and protection of downtown assets.” [supports the route change]

“The street is too narrow. Blessedly the district is now full of businesses. The traffic disruption is too much. There is not enough space for patrons. It’s not safe. It kills any other events in the district.” [does not support the route change]

“I think the route change can be a positive thing if residents and businesses along the new proposed route approve of the changes. The lack of communication and an expedited timeline are the leading causes for concern.” [“not sure” about the route change]



“Ensuring that the concerns of downtown stakeholders such as protecting infrastructure are ‘heard’ and addressed.” [supports the route change]

“I think of all of the families that normally line Second Street, Congress Street, Lafayette Street, and Vermilion Streets with their BBQ pits, canopies, chairs, and ice chests. Where are they going to enjoy a family day at Mardi Gras if the parade route changes to Jefferson Street?” [does not support the route change]

Representative Written Comments to “What would be necessary to make a Jefferson Street parade route successful for downtown?”:

“Clearly stated and firmly enforced expectations for parade goers and participants alike should greatly reduce many of the potential problems the changes open for the district.” [supports the route change]

“I don't know that "success' is the right question. It's about where our priorities are and where we invest our money. Obviously there is potential benefit to the businesses on Jefferson, but how much? What is the projected impact both in terms of revenue and the additional nuisance issues that will inevitably arise? How does moving it to Jefferson Street benefit the overall city? Nostalgia is lovely, but it's not future looking (by definition), and often comes at a steep cost.” [does not support the route change]

“Open communication between business, DLU and the city to ensure a fluid plan to make sure that the route plan works for the majority of downtown businesses.” [supports the route change]