

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF EXHIBITS	vii
SUMMARY	S-1
SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND NEED	1-1
1.1 Project Description	1-1
1.2 National I-69 Corridor	1-1
1.2.1 I-69 Steering Committee	1-2
1.2.2 Legislative History	1-4
1.2.3 Previous Studies	1-8
1.2.4 Need For A Nationwide I-69 Corridor	1-9
1.2.5 Sections Of Independent Utility	1-26
1.2.6 I-69 Sections Of Independent Utility	1-30
1.3 Regional And Local Need	1-31
1.3.1 System Linkage	1-31
1.3.2 Economic Development	1-32
1.3.3 Intermodal Connectivity	1-32
1.3.4 Project Independent Utility And Logical Termini	1-37
1.3.5 Identification Of Locally Based Project Need	1-37
1.4 Purpose And Need Summary	1-38
SECTION 2: ALTERNATIVES	2-1
2.1 The Study Process	2-1
2.2 Scoping Process	2-2
2.2.1 Metropolitan Planning Organization Involvement	2-2
2.2.2 Agency Involvement	2-2
2.2.3 Native American Tribe Involvement	2-7
2.2.4 Local Officials Involvement	2-7
2.2.5 Public Involvement	2-7
2.2.6 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated	2-8
2.2.7 Alternatives Considered For Further Study	2-9
2.3 Corridor Studies	2-10
2.3.1 Environmental Inventory	2-10
2.3.2 Project Geographic Information System	2-11
2.3.3 Identification Of Key Study Area Issues/Constraints	2-12
2.3.4 Initial Corridor Development And Screening	2-13
2.3.5 Corridor Studies Outreach	2-19
2.3.6 Additional Corridor Studies	2-20
2.3.7 Additional Corridor Studies Outreach	2-29
2.3.8 Additional Corridor Revisions	2-30

2.3.9 Corridor Screening 2-32

2.3.10 The Preferred Corridor For Interstate 69, SIU 15 2-43

2.3.11 Alignment Studies 2-47

2.3.12 Design Features 2-47

2.3.13 Alignment Development 2-50

2.3.14 Navigation 2-52

2.3.15 Traffic Analysis 2-52

2.3.16 Alignment Studies Outreach 2-53

2.3.17 Alignment Revisions 2-55

2.3.18 Preliminary Cost Analysis 2-56

2.3.19 Preliminary Environmental Impact Analysis 2-57

2.3.20 Preferred Alignment Recommendation 2-58

SECTION 3: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT 3-1

3.1 Social Environment 3-1

3.1.1 Demographics 3-1

3.1.2 Community Characteristics 3-2

3.1.3 Recreational Resources 3-4

3.2 Economic Environment 3-4

3.3 Environmental Justice 3-7

3.3.1 Identification Of Minority And Low-Income Populations 3-7

3.4 Bicycle And Pedestrian Facilities 3-8

3.5 Land Use 3-8

3.5.1 Agricultural Land 3-11

3.6 Geologic Resources 3-13

3.6.1 Oil And Natural Gas 3-13

3.7 Farmlands 3-13

3.8 Water Quality 3-14

3.8.1 Surface Water Resources 3-14

3.8.2 Groundwater 3-18

3.8.3 Public Water Supplies 3-18

3.9 Floodplains And Floodways 3-19

3.10 Wetlands 3-19

3.10.1 Wetland Communities 3-20

3.11 Upland Communities 3-25

3.11.1 Forests 3-26

3.11.2 Pastureland / Old Fields 3-26

3.11.3 Cropland 3-28

3.12 Aquatic Communities 3-28

3.13 Threatened And Endangered Species 3-28

3.13.1 Federally Listed Species 3-29

3.13.2 State Species Of Special Concern 3-29

3.14 Public Lands 3-29

3.15 Cultural Resources 3-29

3.16 Air Quality 3-33

3.17 Noise 3-33

3.17.1 Measured Noise Levels 3-33

3.18 Visual Characteristics 3-37

3.19 Hazardous Materials 3-37

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION		4-1
4.1	Social Impacts	4-1
4.1.1	Land Use And Land Cover Changes	4-1
4.1.2	Community Changes	4-4
4.1.3	Safety	4-7
4.1.4	Relocations	4-7
4.2	Environmental Justice	4-9
4.2.1	Methodology	4-9
4.2.2	Summary Of Environmental Justice Considerations	4-10
4.3	Economic Impacts	4-11
4.3.1	Employment Opportunities	4-11
4.3.2	Secondary Economic Impacts	4-12
4.4	Visual	4-12
4.4.1	Views Of The Proposed Highway	4-12
4.4.2	Views From The Proposed Highway	4-13
4.5	Oil And Gas Resources	4-13
4.6	Water Quality	4-14
4.6.1	Surface Water Resources	4-14
4.6.2	Groundwater Resources	4-29
4.6.3	Public Water Supply	4-29
4.7	Floodplains	4-30
4.7.1	Floodplain Impacts	4-30
4.7.2	Floodway Impacts	4-30
4.7.3	Secondary Floodplain Impacts	4-30
4.7.4	Floodplain and Floodway Mitigation	4-31
4.8	Wetlands	4-31
4.8.1	Methodology	4-31
4.8.2	Wetland Impacts And Alternatives Analysis	4-32
4.8.3	Secondary Wetland Impacts	4-34
4.8.4	Wetland Mitigation Requirements	4-34
4.9	Natural Communities	4-35
4.10	Threatened And Endangered Species	4-36
4.10.1	Environmental Commitments	4-37
4.11	Farmland Soils	4-38
4.12	Cultural Resources	4-38
4.13	Air Quality	4-41
4.13.1	Air Quality Construction Impacts	4-41
4.14	Noise	4-41
4.14.1	Prediction Of Traffic Noise Levels	4-43
4.14.2	Traffic Noise Impacts	4-43
4.14.3	Noise Abatement	4-44
4.14.4	Determination Of Feasibility And Reasonableness	4-46
4.14.5	Analysis Of Construction Noise	4-47
4.15	Hazardous Materials	4-47
4.16	Energy	4-47
4.17	Construction Impacts	4-48
4.18	Cumulative Impacts	4-48
4.18.1	Methodology	4-48
4.18.2	Potential Cumulative Impacts	4-50

4.19 Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses And Long-Term Productivity 4-52
 4.20 Irreversible And Irretrievable Commitments Of Resources 4-53

SECTION 5: LIST OF PREPARERS **5-1**

SECTION 6: DISTRIBUTION OF STATEMENT **6-1**

SECTION 7: COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT **7-1**

7.1 Scoping Process 7-1
 7.1.1 Metropolitan Planning Organization Involvement 7-1
 7.1.2 Local Officials Involvement 7-2
 7.1.3 Resource Agency Involvement 7-2
 7.1.4 Native American Tribal Involvement 7-2
 7.1.5 Public Involvement 7-3
 7.2 Corridor Studies 7-3
 7.2.1 Public Involvement 7-3
 7.2.2 Local Officials Involvement 7-4
 7.2.3 Agency Involvement 7-4
 7.2.4 Native American Tribal Involvement 7-4
 7.3 Additional Corridor Studies 7-4
 7.3.1 Local Officials Involvement 7-4
 7.3.2 Public Involvement 7-6
 7.3.3 Agency Involvement 7-6
 7.3.4 Native American Tribal Involvement 7-7
 7.3.5 Preferred Corridor Recommendation 7-8
 7.4 Alignment Study 7-8
 7.4.1 Public Involvement 7-8
 7.4.2 Local Officials Involvement 7-9
 7.4.3 Agency Involvement 7-10
 7.4.4 Native American Tribal Involvement 7-10
 7.4.5 Preferred Alignment Recommendation 7-10
 7.5 Other Means Of Public Outreach 7-11
 7.5.1 Project Mailings 7-11
 7.5.2 Local Media Coverage 7-11
 7.5.3 Project Materials Viewing Locations 7-12
 7.5.4 Toll-Free Project Hotline 7-12
 7.5.5 Project Website 7-12
 7.5.6 Public Meeting Transcripts 7-12
 7.6 Environmental Documentation 7-12

SECTION 8: REFERENCES **8-1**

APPENDIX

Level of Service Definitions

Correspondence

 Notice of Intent and Solicitation of Views

 Agency Coordination

 Tribal Coordination

 Local Officials Coordination

 Public Flyers

Farmland Impact Rating Forms

Existing and Predicted Sound Levels

DOTD Highway Traffic Noise Policy

DOTD Acquisition of Right of Way and Relocation Assistance

LIST OF TABLES

Table S-1	Impact Summary	S-17
Table 1-1	Sections Of Independent Utility For The I-69 Corridor	1-34
Table 1-2	Sections Of Independent Utility For The I-69 Connectors.....	1-37
Table 2-1	Preliminary Corridor Inventory Comparison	2-17
Table 2-2	Preliminary Corridor Inventory Comparison (Values Shown Are An Inventory Of Resources Within	2-27
Table 2-3	Preliminary Additional Revised Corridor Inventory Comparison	2-35
Table 2-4	Corridor Segment Inventory Comparison – Middle Region.....	2-41
Table 2-5	Corridor Segment Engineering Comparison – Middle Region	2-41
Table 2-6	Design Criteria	2-47
Table 2-7	Proposed Interchanges And Grade Separations	2-48
Table 2-8	No-Build And Build Alternatives Level Of Service	2-54
Table 2-9	Cost Estimate For Preliminary Alignments.....	2-57
Table 2-10	Preliminary Alignment Impact Summary	2-59
Table 2-11	Justification For The Preferred Alignment.....	2-75
Table 3-1	Population Data For The Study Area	3-1
Table 3-2	Study Area Racial Characteristics	3-2
Table 3-3	2000 Study Area Housing Characteristics	3-3
Table 3-4	Study Area Labor Force Estimates	3-5
Table 3-5	Employment By Industry Type	3-5
Table 3-6	Median Household Income	3-7
Table 3-7	2000 Study Area Minority, Low-Income, And Elderly Populations By Census Tract	3-11
Table 3-8	Study Area Surface Water Quality Assessment	3-17
Table 3-9	State Species Of Special Concern	3-30
Table 3-10	Listed, Eligible, And Potentially Eligible Cultural Resources Within The Study Area	3-31
Table 3-11	Measured Noise Levels Within The Preferred Corridor	3-34
Table 3-12	Potential Hazardous Materials Sites Within The Study Area	3-38
Table 4-1	Summary Of Land Cover Impacts.....	4-2
Table 4-2	Relocation Summary.....	4-8
Table 4-3	Current Available Housing	4-9
Table 4-4	Census Block Groups Potentially Affected By The Alignments	4-10
Table 4-5	Estimated Employment Impacts Of Highway Construction	4-11
Table 4-6	Producing Oil And Gas Well Impacts.....	4-13
Table 4-7	Proposed Bridge and Culvert Locations.....	4-27
Table 4-8	Floodplain Impacts.....	4-30
Table 4-9	Total Wetland Impacts By Habitat Type.....	4-32
Table 4-10	Wetland Impacts By Location.....	4-33
Table 4-11	Natural Communities.....	4-35
Table 4-12	Forest Stands Within ½-Mile Of The Alignments	4-37
Table 4-13	Farmland Impacts	4-38
Table 4-14	Summary Of Cultural Resources Within Each Alignment	4-40
Table 4-15	DOTD Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC).....	4-42
Table 4-16	Traffic Noise Impact Comparison.....	4-44
Table 7-1	Public Meetings.....	7-13
Table 7-2	Local Officials Meetings	7-14
Table 7-3	Resource Agency Meetings	7-15
Table 7-4	Northwest Louisiana Council Of Governments Transportation Policy Committee	7-15
Table 7-5	Local Officials.....	7-16
Table 7-6	Agencies	7-18

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit S-1	Alignment Locations	S-5
Exhibit 1-1	Interstate System Linkage	1-3
Exhibit 1-2	Study Area	1-5
Exhibit 1-3	Congressional Designation Of The I-69 Corridor	1-7
Exhibit 1-4	Modal Distribution By Tonnage	1-11
Exhibit 1-5	Total Truck Freight Flows By Route (2020)	1-13
Exhibit 1-6	US / Canadian Truck Traffic By US Route (2020)	1-15
Exhibit 1-7	US / Mexican Truck Traffic By US Route (2020)	1-17
Exhibit 1-8	Total International Truck Traffic Generated From US Water Ports (2020)	1-19
Exhibit 1-9	Truck Freight Flows Diverted To I-69 (2020) – International Movements Through Texas And Michigan Ports	1-21
Exhibit 1-10	Truck Freight Flows Diverted To I-69 (2020) – All Truck Movements	1-23
Exhibit 1-11	Mississippi Delta Initiative Target Counties	1-27
Exhibit 1-12	Lower Rio Grande Valley Median Household Income	1-29
Exhibit 1-13	I-69 Trade Corridor Sections Of Independent Utility	1-33
Exhibit 2-1	Study Process	2-3
Exhibit 2-2	Corridor And Alignment Study Methodology	2-5
Exhibit 2-3	Study Area And Corridor Locations	2-15
Exhibit 2-4	Revised Study Process (Additional Corridor Review)	2-23
Exhibit 2-5	Study Area And Corridor Locations	2-25
Exhibit 2-6	Study Area And Additional Revised Corridor Locations	2-33
Exhibit 2-7	Preferred Corridor	2-45
Exhibit 2-8	Typical Section	2-49
Exhibit 2-9	Study Area And Alignment Locations	2-61
Exhibit 2-10	Alignment Locations And Environmental Resources	2-63
Exhibit 3-1	Census Block Groups	3-9
Exhibit 3-2	Oil And Gas Fields	3-15
Exhibit 3-3	Wellhead Protection Areas	3-21
Exhibit 3-4	Wetlands And Floodplains	3-23
Exhibit 3-5	Noise Measurement Locations	3-35
Exhibit 3-6	Hazardous Materials Locations	3-39
Exhibit 4-1	Wetlands And Floodplains	4-15