



December 16, 2002

CORRIDOR STUDIES PHASE NEARING COMPLETION

This is to update you on the status of the Corridor Studies efforts and the designation of a Preferred Corridor for the proposed Interstate Highway 69 (I-69), Section of Independent Utility (SIU) No. 15, between US Highway 171 (US 171) near the Town of Stonewall in DeSoto Parish, to Interstate Highway 20 (I-20) near the Town of Haughton in Bossier Parish. Public outreach meetings were last held on April 2 and April 3, 2002 to present additional corridors that were developed in response to comments received from local officials and the public.

Following the April 2002 public meetings, the Port of Shreveport-Bossier informed the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) of potential future improvements that will be located on Port property within Corridors F and G, which necessitated additional analyses of the corridors in the vicinity of the Port property.

The bridge crossing the Red River and the adjacent proposed interchanges at US 71 and LA 1 are the project's most significant challenge and costly feature. Issues include navigation, river width and crossing angle, and the ability to develop a two-quadrant interchange on the riverside of LA 1 and US 71 while satisfying highway design criteria, avoiding impacts to the adjacent rail lines and avoiding/minimizing potential impacts to environmental resources.

These additional studies have been completed and a Corridor Studies Report has been submitted to Federal regulatory and resource agencies for review. After reviewing the comments received from the Federal regulatory and resource agencies, a Preferred Corridor decision will be announced via flyers and the project's Internet website (www.i69dotd.com). **We anticipate making a Preferred Corridor announcement by December 31, 2002.** At that time, exhibits showing the location of the Preferred Corridor will be available for public review at the Haughton Town Hall, Stonewall Town Hall, DOTD District 04 Headquarters, and Michael Baker Jr., Inc. The project website lists the addresses and viewing times for these locations.

Public participation is an important part of the transportation decision-making process and your involvement is encouraged and appreciated. We appreciated your patience as we completed our additional studies. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the DOTD I-69 SIU 15 Hotline at (866) I-69-DOTD.

Thank you!