

~~Strikethrough~~ print represents text which has been deleted.

Bold and italicized print represents text which has been added or modified.

RESOLUTION
CORRIDOR 18 (I-69)

We recommend that high priority be given to expediting the funding for a four-lane interstate-standard bridge in the vicinity of Eutaw Landing-Arkansas City. Studies indicate that this location offers the opportunity to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts, as well as offering a favorable river navigation alignment. Due to the distance between Mississippi River levees on the Arkansas west bank and Mississippi east bank, a bridge on the river in this area will allow for the length of the structural bridge span to be far less than in the case of most other river crossing locations.

Delta Council is encouraged by the aggressive efforts of the Arkansas Department of Transportation to complete the final design and eventual real estate and construction activities for the river crossing on the Mississippi River. We pledge our area-wide support for the leadership which is being taken by the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the staff of the Mississippi Department of Transportation to bring a multi-state effort forward in support of continued progress on the bridge and the alignment joining the bridge in Arkansas and Mississippi.

Delta Council would like to emphasize the importance of the proximity of the Eutaw Landing-Arkansas City river crossing location to urban centers and the existing four-lane highway networks in Mississippi (Highway 82 and Highway 61) and Arkansas (Highway 65 and Highway 82). We urge the Congress and the respective transportation departments in both states to include four-lane access arteries to Highway 82, Highway 61, Highway 448, and Highway 65 as part of the initial river crossing plan. Delta Council views that major emphasis should be placed on a four-lane access artery connecting the population centers located along the U.S. Highway 82 corridor with a Benoit-area river crossing. A rail crossing should be part of all studies, planning and design work for the I-69 river crossing.

Delta Council urges the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Department of Transportation to continue to engage in formal actions regarding the design, engineering and right-of-way plans for an alignment from Collierville, Tennessee to Hernando. Such an alignment will result in an interstate-type outer-loop, and serve as a connection for four-lane Highway 72, Highway 78, Highway 55, and Highway 61 in Mississippi. Also, we encourage the evaluation of an alternate route for the I-69 alignment which would connect Highway 51 with I-240 south through the metropolitan area of Memphis.

Delta Council urges the Mississippi Department of Transportation to utilize available funds to initiate real estate acquisition along the I-69 alignment on those segments of I-69 in SIU (Segments of Independent Utility) 11 which are not located within the existing U.S. 61 four-lane alignment.

We respectfully urge the Mississippi Department of Transportation to work with the Arkansas Department of Transportation to utilize some portion of Congressionally-authorized funds in the 2005 SAFE-TEA measure to purchase right-of-way on the east and west approaches to the I-69/Mississippi River Bridge.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
November 6, 2008

