

~~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)

Delta Council is encouraged by the aggressive efforts of the Arkansas Department of Transportation to commence with real estate acquisition at the Monticello, Arkansas, interchange associated with the I-69-Mississippi River crossing. 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.

Delta Council would like to re-state 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 in Arkansas 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 Scott-area river crossing. Delta Council specifically urges that the potential of a rail crossing should be re-examined for the I-69 river crossing.

Delta Council applauds the work of the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Department of Transportation in expediting actions regarding the design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and ***completion of*** construction for ~~an I-269 alignment~~ from Collierville, Tennessee to Hernando. This project will soon result in an interstate standard outer-loop of the Memphis metro area, and serve as a connector for four-lane Highway 72 to Huntsville, AL, Highway 78 to Tupelo-***Birmingham***, Interstate 55, and Highway 61 from Memphis ***throughout*** Northwest Mississippi.

Delta Council urges the Mississippi Department of Transportation to utilize any available funds, when available to initiate real estate acquisition along the I-69 alignment on those segments of I-69 in SIU (Section of Independent Utility) 11 which are not located within the existing U.S. 61 four-lane alignment, as their initial order of priority for I-69 real estate acquisition.

In an effort to begin extending this major Federal public works project in Mississippi, Delta Council encourages the Mississippi Department of Transportation to pursue a FASTLANE grant under the current Federal Highway Administration freight corridor program to advance I-69 to ~~Highway 4~~ ***Arkabutla Road*** in Tunica County, ***as the next item of work.***

Delta Council ~~also~~ wishes to express appreciation to the Mississippi Department of Transportation for their support of the I-69 Coalition and we urge the Mississippi Department of Transportation to encourage the support of other State Departments of Transportation for the I-69 Coalition.

Adopted by: Delta Council Board of Directors
June 1, 2018

