

# Houma – Thibodaux to LA 3127 Connection Environmental Impact Statement

State Project No. 700-99-0302 Federal Project No. HP 9902(518)

## Introduction

The purpose of this newsletter is to update the members of the South Central Planning and Development Commission on the status of the Houma-Thibodaux to LA 3127 Connector project. As many of you are aware, the project was stopped in July of 2006 to allow for the resolution of concerns from various resource agencies. Resource agencies felt an alternative tying to the Sunshine Bridge had not been given due consideration. As a result, the Consultant Team conducted a supplementary screening study analyzing alternatives traversing the Bayou Lafourche Ridge connecting US-90 between Houma and Thibodaux to LA-70 south of the Sunshine Bridge. Results of the analysis yielded a recommendation to carry an alternative tying to the Sunshine Bridge into Draft EIS.

DOTD and the Consultant Team have completed the scoping process required to restart the project with the expanded boundary and additional alternative. The Notice to Proceed was issued November of 2009. The following project and milestone schedule was presented and accepted at the DOTD/FHWA Kickoff Meeting held in December of 2009.

## Project Milestones & Schedule

### • Early Project Coordination (March, 2010)

- DOTD and Consultant Team Kickoff Meetings
- Newsletter addressing the Public regarding the restart of the project
- Revised Notice of Intent (underway)
- Development of an Agency Coordination Plan (underway)
- Resource Agency/Public Officials Informational Meeting

### • Additional Effort to Update Project (April, 2010)

- Update Project GIS Database (underway)
- Traffic Study Revision (underway)
- Toll Study Revision (underway)

### • Alternative Development (June, 2010)

- Present the findings and recommendations identified in the revised Traffic and Toll Study Reports to Agencies and Public Officials.
- Make recommendation on alternatives to carry forward into the DEIS
- Agency consultation opportunity (Alt.'s to carry forward)

### • Alternative Screening and Environmental Evaluation (September, 2010)

- Initiate technical analyses (using GIS & windshield surveys)
- Develop Screening Criteria to assess alternatives' ability to meet the Purpose and Need
- Using GIS, quantify impacts to human and natural resources
- Agency consultation opportunity (Screening Criteria)

### • Draft EIS Development (February, 2011)

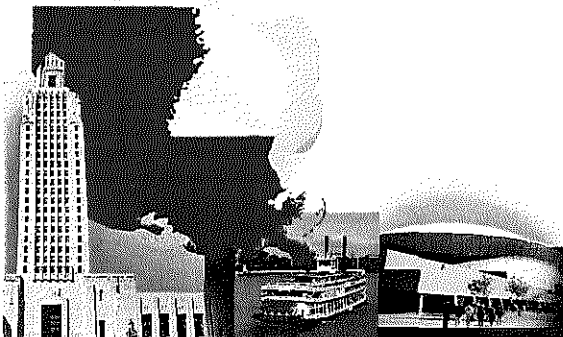
- Prepare, submit and publish the Draft Document
- Agency meeting and consultation opportunity (DEIS & Preferred Alt.)
- Public Officials Meeting/Public Hearing

### • Comprehensive Evaluation of Preferred Alternative (June, 2011)

- Affected Environment
- Environmental Consequences
- Traffic Management Plan
- Line & Grade Development
- Phased Implementation Plan

### • Final EIS (September, 2011)

### • ROD Development (November, 2011)



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