



Potential Improvements to I-35 Identified

Over the past 20 months the I-35 Trade Corridor study team has been working to identify ways to improve traffic and trade flows along the I-35 corridor. The I-35 Trade Corridor Study was commissioned to assess the need for improved local, intrastate, interstate and international service

along I-35 and to clearly define a general, feasible improvement plan to address those needs. The Trade Focus Strategy has been identified as the most efficient and cost-effective strategy to improve traffic flow along I-35.

Developing the Trade Focus Strategy for I-35

A base case and five candidate improvement strategies were developed, combining the most desirable features of various scenarios such as, efficiency improvements to I-35; increasing use of railroads; expediting international freight processing; improving commercial vehicle operations; improving intermodal transfers; public transportation strategies; and a do nothing (base case) strategy.

Based on improvement objectives defined in the study, the base case and five candidate strategies were evaluated. Three strategies, which were considered the most viable, were carried forward for further study.

Those strategies were presented at a series of public meetings held in April of this year. Once public comments were reviewed and the more detailed evaluation completed, the Trade Focus Strategy was recommended.

The Trade Focus Strategy

The Trade Focus Strategy is a combination of several strategies used to address different causes of traffic congestion along the I-35 Corridor. Components of the Trade Focus Strategy include widening the corridor within the existing right-of-way; including a truckway from Laredo, Texas to Dallas - Ft. Worth; elevating the interstate where needed in highly developed urban areas; building relief routes in certain urban areas; improving public transit; and developing comprehensive Intelligent Transportation Systems.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Departments of Transportation in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota combined their efforts to conduct The I-35 Trade Corridor Study.

Why the Trade Focus Strategy?

The Trade Focus Strategy has a number of important advantages over the other alternatives. These include providing good overall movement of traffic in the corridor, as well as the best economic benefits of the alternatives studied. Additional advantages include the best reduction in travel times for traffic on I-35, the best reduction in accident costs, the best benefit-to-cost relationships, and fewer environmental impacts.

What's Next?

What happens now that the study team has recommended the Trade Focus Strategy as the best investment strategy for the I-35 Corridor? The purpose of the strategy is to guide future improvements to I-35. Any decision to implement any parts of this corridor strategy will be made by the individual states through their planning processes, as conditions warrant and funds become available. The strategy provides the participating states and the FHWA with a planning tool to guide decisions regarding specific I-35 projects to be undertaken in the future.

Executive Summary

An executive summary of the study has been drafted and will be available for review on the department of transportation web sites for Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa after November 1. You also may obtain a copy by writing your local department of transportation. (See back page for web site and U.S. mail addresses.)

Study Finding

only 5% of the urban and transitional sections of I-35 currently have enough lanes

Study Finding

only 42% of the rural sections of I-35 currently have enough lanes

I-35 Corridor



We Appreciate Your Input

The I-35 Steering Committee would like to thank those of you who took part in the I-35 Trade Corridor Study by attending a public meeting, or by mailing or phoning in a comment. Public participation was viewed as a very important part of the study and we heard from nearly 1,000 people along the corridor.

Notes from Iowa

Dennis Tice
Director, Planning & Programming Division
Iowa Department of Transportation



We are excited and optimistic concerning several upcoming opportunities with I-35 and related corridors in Iowa.

This year Iowa received a \$3,000,000 grant out of the National Corridor Planning and Development (NCPD) program. The grant has been earmarked to help fund the reconstruction of a 2.6-mile segment of Interstate highway 35/80 in the Des Moines metropolitan area. The Department is entering the final phase of a five-year long Interstate 35/80 reconstruction program. A total of \$31.5 million will be spent for this final phase.

An additional \$800,000 in NCPD funding was awarded to carry out a multi-state, international corridor coordination and planning study for the North American International Trade corridor. Iowa, along with 10 other states and the province of Manitoba are contributing to this study by providing the necessary matching funds. Missouri is the lead state and the actual recipient of the \$800,000 grant.

In September the state Transportation Commission approved several Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) early winner projects for funding. One of these positively impacts I-35. It will integrate our Road Weather Information System and our Automated Weather Observing Stations into the current Iowa DOT web site for use by travelers and shippers. This will provide real time information on weather and road conditions.

The 1999 Midwest Transportation Conference (to be held on October 25, 26, and 27 in Des Moines) will have a main session on freight planning and corridor studies. Fourteen states have been invited to this conference with a productive discussion anticipated. For information on this conference contact the Des Moines Area MPO at 515-237-1366.

The Iowa DOT is completing our Freight Transportation Report, which will outline issues, trends, and options for improving goods shipments throughout the state, including the I-35 corridor. The final report should be available in early 2000.

Contact Information

Texas

Ms. Peggy Thurin
Texas Department of
Transportation
P.O. Box 149217
Austin, TX 78714

Oklahoma

Mr. Terry McFall
Oklahoma Department of
Transportation
200 N.E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Kansas

Mr. Dennis Slimmer
Kansas Department of
Transportation
Docking State Office Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Missouri

Mr. Fred Martin
Missouri Department of
Transportation
P. O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Iowa

Mr. Dennis Tice
Iowa Department of
Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Minnesota

Mr. Chuck Sanft
Minnesota Department of
Transportation
MS 440
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Newsletter

This is the fifth and final newsletter created in conjunction with the I-35 Trade Corridor Study. Volumes I, II, III, and IV of the I-35 Trade Corridor Study newsletter are currently available for review on the department of transportation web sites for Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa.

Texas

www.dot.state.tx.us/mis/mis.htm

Oklahoma

www.okladot.state.ok.us/whatsnwg.htm

Kansas

www.state.ks.us/public/kdot/pubinfo

Missouri

www.modot.state.mo.us/info/pubs.htm

Iowa

www.dot.state.ia.us/sitemap.htm#newslet

