

I-49 LAFAYETTE CONNECTOR - FAST FACT SHEET



The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), along with federal, state, regional and local partners, recently began this phase of the I-49 Lafayette Connector project in Lafayette. Over the next 18 months, the public and various government, business and community stakeholders will be invited to participate in a collaborative decision-making process to complete the planning and conceptual design for the I-49 Lafayette Connector.

For more information, please visit
www.LafayetteConnector.com

WHAT IS THE I-49 LAFAYETTE CONNECTOR?

The I-49 Lafayette Connector is a future 5.5-mile segment of limited-access highway that will extend I-49 from I-10 to the Lafayette Regional Airport. It is a critical transportation link for Lafayette and the state as a whole. The I-49 Lafayette Connector is a key component of I-49 South, which will:

- Function as a critical hurricane evacuation route
- Complete a major energy and trade corridor to the nation
- Provide new interstate connectivity within the Lafayette region and to New Orleans

The I-49 Lafayette Connector traverses a very heavily urbanized corridor within the heart of Lafayette. Recognizing the significance of this project to the City of Lafayette and the State of Louisiana, the DOTD, using federal funds, has initiated a planning and conceptual design study to complete the Functional Plan for the Connector utilizing a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) approach.

PROJECT HISTORY

In 1990, DOTD began initial planning for the I-49 Connector corridor through preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The final EIS was published in 2002, and a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2003, approving the I-49 Connector project. The ROD was the subject of a federal court challenge, but was successfully upheld in court in 2004. In 2006, the next phase of the project began (I-49 Lafayette Connector Functional Plan) and included more refined traffic studies, geometric design, bridge concept studies and an extensive, context-sensitive design and public involvement process. Midway through this phase, work on the project was suspended. The current I-49 Lafayette Connector effort builds on the previous work in order to complete the Functional Plan for the Connector utilizing a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) approach.

MOVING FORWARD

For the I-49 Lafayette Connector to become a reality, 5.5 miles of new urban interstate highway will be constructed through Lafayette. While considerable progress has been made, several key decisions remain and depend upon community input and DOTD requirements.

Activities during this phase of the I-49 Lafayette Connector project will include:

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Process

Designed to fulfill 21 commitments established by the I-49 Lafayette Connector ROD, the CSS process will address the key project-related features where mitigation and other measures to minimize impact need to be considered.

The goal is to achieve a project design that's affordable, acceptable to all key stakeholders and has the potential to become a valued community asset.

Engineering Field Services

Important information will be gathered from the field during this phase of the project that will be used to perform preliminary design and estimate the cost of construction. Topographic surveys and aerial photography will be combined to generate accurate mapping along the Lafayette Connector corridor. These surveys will also identify both above-ground and underground utilities that will be affected by the I-49 Lafayette Connector so they can be included in the project mapping. Soil borings will be taken during this phase that will be analyzed to help determine the most cost-effective foundations for the bridge structures and the pavement thicknesses for the roadways. All of the valuable field information gathered during this phase will be used later for the final design of the Lafayette Connector project.

Traffic Studies

New traffic studies will be conducted to verify the travel demand and traffic flows throughout the study area, and will ultimately help in the planning and conceptual design of the I-49 Lafayette Connector.

Community & Stakeholder Outreach

A comprehensive Communications, Public Relations, Community Involvement and Stakeholder Outreach Program is being implemented for the I-49 Lafayette Connector so that all members of the Lafayette Community (residents, businesses, property owners, civic and service organizations, etc.) have numerous opportunities to participate in the CSS process.

Environmental Re-evaluation

The environmental element of the study will determine if there are new or modified laws and regulations, changes in circumstances or the project area, or new information in general. The Re-evaluation will determine if any amendments will be needed to the Record of Decision, issued in 2003 in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

CONTACT US

To submit an official comment about the project:

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