



Evaluations Completed

The Federal Highway Administration and the departments of transportation in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota have completed a series of evaluations of strategies for improvements to the I-35 Corridor.

Over the past five months the study team has been evaluating in detail each of the three strategies developed to address the need for improved local, intrastate and interstate service on I-35.

Improvement Strategies

- **Urban Congestion Relief Strategy** - *This strategy includes: adding as many lanes as possible within existing right-of-way sufficient to handle projected traffic volumes; reliance on relief routes; consideration of double decking the highway in congested urban areas; developing comprehensive Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) programs; and encouraging urban areas to take other steps, such as improving public transit, to relieve congestion in urban areas.*
- **Trade Focus Strategy** - *This strategy has all of the features of the Urban Congestion Relief Strategy, but adds a partial NAFTA truckway (roadway designed for high truck traffic) on the southern one-third of the corridor.*
- **Combination Strategy** - *This strategy has all of the features of Urban Congestion Relief Strategy, with two additions. It includes acquiring right-of-way to add additional lanes, up to a maximum of 12 lanes, as well as implementing enhanced rail service to relieve some truck traffic.*

Our Findings

Each of the strategies has been explored and measured against the study objectives as well as the consequences of making no improvements. This is what we've found:

Do the strategies provide needed mobility and safety improvements?

Each of the three strategies studied will provide needed mobility and safety improvements along the corridor, as demonstrated through travel time savings and accident reduction.

Do the strategies maintain environmental quality?

Each of the three strategies will enhance environmental quality along the corridor. By reducing congestion through improved traffic flow air-polluting emissions are projected to decrease, improving air quality on a corridor level.

Do the strategies enhance economic development along the corridor?

Each of the three strategies will enhance economic development along the corridor. By reducing travel times, and costs to the residents and businesses in the corridor area, economic benefits could be provided such as travel and tourism, and enhanced competitive position.

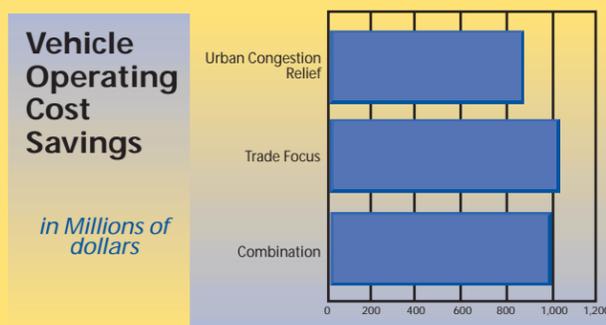
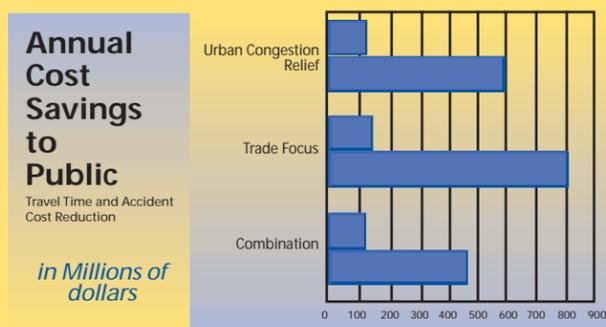
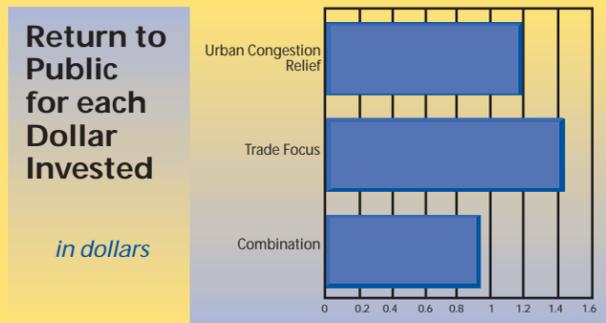
Are the strategies likely to have public and institutional support?

This is where you come in. We'd like you to review the information we've compiled and tell us what you think. Public meetings will be held in eight cities along the corridor in late April. At the public meetings, detailed evaluation information will be presented. Your comments will be solicited and will play an important role in choosing the best strategy for improving I-35.

Shortly after the public meetings, the study team will recommend the most promising strategy to the Steering Committee. A final report will document the analysis and findings of the study, and recommend future implementation strategies and actions.

Are the strategies fiscally responsible and cost effective?

The graphs below illustrate the comparative benefit of each of the three strategies.



Public Meetings

Public meetings are scheduled at the following locations

Texas

Monday - April 26
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Texas Department of Transportation
District Office
1817 Bob Bullock Loop
Laredo, TX

Tuesday - April 27
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Texas Department of Transportation
District Office
4615 NW Loop 410
San Antonio, TX

Wednesday - April 28
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Irving City Hall
City Council Chamber
825 W. Irving Blvd.
Irving, TX

Oklahoma

Thursday - April 29
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Moore Community Center
301 South Howard (I-35 & SE 4th)
Moore, OK

Kansas

Tuesday - April 20
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Board Room
455 N. Main Street
Wichita, KS

Missouri

Monday - April 19
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
RLDS Heartland Conference Center
420 West 7th Street
(behind Mid-America Regional Council)
Kansas City, MO

Iowa

Wednesday - April 21
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
The Depot
100 SE 4th Street
Des Moines, IA

Minnesota

Thursday - April 22
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mears Park Centre
Room 2A
230 East 5th Street
St. Paul, MN

Notes from Iowa

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



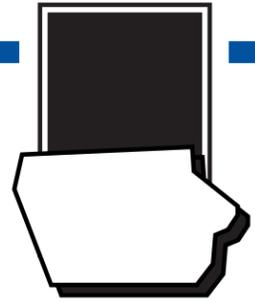
Over the past couple of months, I have been impressed with the extent to which Iowans have been following this multi-state study. Numerous discussions have taken place on the importance of the I-35 Trade Corridor to our state. These discussions have involved Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Planning Affiliations, technical and policy committees, key legislators, transportation

interest groups, business and industry leaders, as well as the public.

Interstate 35 and associated routes significantly impact all of Iowa. We need to continue our partnership to ensure Iowa's agricultural and manufacturing products will be competitive in the regional, national and international marketplace. An opportunity to express your thoughts, ideas, and concerns regarding the current findings of this study will be available at the April 21, 1999, public meeting in Des Moines. I encourage you to attend this statewide meeting. The consultant has developed scenarios or strategies for improvement of traffic flow on I-35. Following the Des Moines public meeting, and similar meetings in the other five states, the study team will recommend the best investment strategy for this corridor.

The Iowa Department of Transportation continues to participate in the I-29 multi-state Red River Trade Region Study. We are also in regular discussions with our neighboring states as we strive to strengthen our coalition from a regional perspective. The I-35 Trade Corridor Study lead consultant (HNTB) was the guest speaker at the February 19, 1999, transportation seminar series held at Iowa State University.

Again, your input (either at the upcoming public meeting or by phone, e-mail or letter) is essential in developing a beneficial course of action to improve the flow of traffic in this corridor.



Your Comments Are Important

The I-35 Steering Committee is composed of senior transportation officials from the six states through which I-35 travels. Whether you are part of the freight community, a resident of an area impacted by I-35, a traveler on I-35 or a concerned citizen, the Steering Committee is interested in hearing from you.

There are several ways for people to learn about the I-35 trade corridor and the activities of the Steering Committee.

Meetings

Please see inside pages of this newsletter for the public meeting nearest you.

Video

Interested groups may contact the project office for a free copy of the study video.

Media

Study information is made available to the media and may appear in your local newspaper, radio and television stations.

Written or verbal comments

Comments or questions about the study can be communicated directly to the study team by mail, telephone or e-mail at the addresses listed below. Everyone who submits a comment is added to the project mailing list to receive future study information.

Project Office

I-35 Trade Corridor Study

P.O. Box 410482

Kansas City, MO

64141-0482

Telephone -

1-800-590-0066

E-Mail - I35Study@hntb.com

Newsletter

This is the fourth newsletter created in conjunction with the I-35 Trade Corridor Study. Volumes I, II and III 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.state.ia.us/government/dot/sitemap.htm#pubs

