

available. The public must make arrangements by August 1, to present oral statements at the meeting. The public may present written statements to the executive committee at any time by providing 25 copies to the Executive Director, or by bringing the copies to the meeting.

If you are in need of assistance or require a reasonable accommodation for this meeting, please contact the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 14, 2000.

Anthony F. Fazio,

Executive Director, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 00-18409 Filed 7-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Bossier, Caddo, & DeSoto Parishes, Louisiana

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for a proposed Interstate highway project in Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Farr, Program Operations Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 5304 Flanders Avenue, Suite A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, Telephone: (225) 767-7615, or Vincent Russo, Environmental Engineer Administrator, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Post Office Box 94245, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245, Telephone: (225) 929-9190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a segment of the proposed Interstate Highway 69 (I-69) in Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes, Louisiana. This proposal will provide a divided four-lane, limited access highway on new location between US Highway 171 (US 171) near the Town of Stonewall in DeSoto Parish, to Interstate Highway 20 (I-20) near the Town of Haughton in Bossier Parish, a distance of approximately 30 miles. The proposed

new highway is a portion of the planned improvements to Congressionally-designated High Priority Corridor Number 18, which will link Indianapolis, Indiana to the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The purpose of this proposal is to improve international and interstate trade in accordance with national and state goals and to facilitate economic development in accordance with state, regional, and local policies, plans, and surface transportation consistent with national, state, regional, and local needs and with the Congressional designation of the corridor.

The location of the proposed new highway generally follows a proposed alignment as developed in the City of Shreveport's 1992 study entitled "Interstate 69 and the Inner Loop Extension: Compatibility Report". However, social, economic, and environmental considerations will determine the number and location of alternatives to be developed during the preparation of the EIS. The western terminus of the proposed highway will be an interchange at US 171 near the Town of Stonewall in DeSoto Parish. The eastern terminus of the proposed highway will be an interchange at I-20 near the Town of Haughton in Bossier Parish.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) the construction of a new controlled access highway, including interchanges providing access at I-20, US Highway 71, Louisiana Highway 1, Interstate Highway 49 and US 171, and (2) taking no action and using existing road network to connect the other segments of the proposed highway in the corridor. Incorporated into and studied with the various build alternatives will be design variations of grade and alignment.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Federal and State agencies with jurisdiction by law with regards to the social, economic and environmental impact of this proposal will be requested to act as a Cooperating Agency in this matter in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6. Numerous public involvement initiatives, including public meetings, newsletters, and advisory committee meetings will be held throughout the course of this study. Additionally, a Public Hearing will be held. Public notice will be given, in local newspapers, of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public

and agency review prior to the Public Hearing. A formal scoping meeting will be held upon initiation of this project.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposal are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the DOTD at the address above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program).

Issued on: July 10, 2000.

William A. Sussmann,

Division Administrator, FHWA.

[FR Doc. 00-18385 Filed 7-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-00-7283; Notice No. 00-7]

Hazardous Materials Safety: Public Meeting Related to Customer Service and Regulatory Review

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: RSPA will hold a public meeting to seek information from the public on improving safety, reducing costs (especially to small businesses) and increasing customer service through RSPA's management of the national hazardous materials transportation safety program. This meeting is being held in conjunction with a Hazardous Materials Multimodal Training Seminar sponsored by RSPA on September 12 and 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Sheraton Airport Hotel Cleveland, 5300 Riverside Drive, Cleveland, OH (216-267-1500). For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact Charles Betts at the address or phone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** as soon as possible.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2000, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; however, the meeting may end prior to 5:00 p.m., dependent upon public interest.

Baker

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

A Unit of Michael Baker Corporation

May 14, 2001

«NAME»
«AFFILIATION»
«ADDRESS_1»
«ADDRESS_2»
«ADDRESS_3»
«CITY_STATE_ZIP»

P.O. Box 12259
Pittsburgh, PA 15231-0259

(412) 269-4600
FAX (412) 269-2048 or
FAX (412) 269-4647

Office Location:
Airport Office Park, Building 3
420 Rouser Road
Coraopolis, PA 15108

RE: State Job No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes
Solicitation of Views

Dear «SALUTATION»:

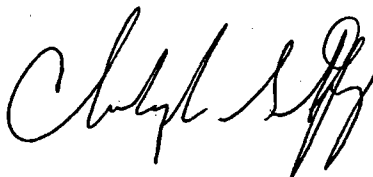
The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) has retained the consulting firm of Michael Baker Jr. Inc. to conduct an environmental study for the development of a divided four-lane, limited access highway on new location between US 171 and I-20. The proposed highway is a portion of the planned improvements to Congressionally-designated High Priority Corridor No. 18, which will link Indianapolis, Indiana and the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Early in the planning stages of a transportation project, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist us with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated.

Due to the earliness of this request for your views, very limited data concerning the proposed project exists. We have, however, attached maps showing the general location of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

It is requested that you review the attached information and furnish us with your views and comments by June 13, 2001. Replies should be addressed to Christopher G. Gesing, P.E., Michael Baker Jr., Inc., 420 Rouser Road, Airport Office Park, Building 3, Coraopolis, PA 15108. Please reference the State Project Number in your reply.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.



Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachments
CGG/mew

cc: Wayne Nguyen - DOTD

**HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18, ROUTE I-69
SOLICITATION OF VIEWS MAILING LIST**

Name	Affiliation	Address_1	Address_2	Address_3	City, State, Zip
Federal Agencies					
Douglas J Kamien, P.E.	Deputy For Programs &	Project Management	Vicksburg Dist Corps Of Engineers	4155 Clay Street	Vicksburg MS 39183-3435
Michael P Jansky	6ENXP	Environmental Protection Agcy	1445 Ross Avenue		Dallas TX 75202-2733
Commander	8th Coast Guard District	Hale Boggs Federal Building	501 Magazine Street		New Orleans LA 70130-3396
	Federal Activities Br (6E-F)	US Environ Protection Agcy	1445 Ross Avenue		Dallas TX 75202-2733
Greg Solvey	Fema Region VI	800 North Loop 288			Denton TX 76201
Donald Gohmert	Natural Resources	Conservation Service	3737 Government Street		Alexandria LA 71302
David Fruge	US Fish & Wildlife Service	646 Cajundome Blvd, Suite 400			Lafayette LA 70506
Claudia Nissley Director	Advisory Council/Historic	Preservation	12136 W Bayaud Avenue #330		Lakewood CO 80228-2113
	Dept Of Transportation	Federal Aviation	Attn ASW-472		Ft Worth TX 76193
	Dpt Interior/Geological Survey	3535 South Sherwood Forest	Suite 120		Baton Rouge LA 70806
	Federal Prog Rev Coord	NW Regional Clearinghouse	P O Box 37005		Shreveport LA 71133-7005
Morton Wakeland Jr	Marine & Wetlands Section	(6WQ-EM)	US Environ Protection Agency	1445 Ross Avenue	Dallas TX 75202-2733
Superintendent	National Park Service	365 Canal Street/Suite 3080			New Orleans LA 70130
	Region Environmental Officer	US Dpt Of Housing/Urban Dev	P O Box 2905		Fort Worth TX 76113
	US Dept Of The Interior	National Park Service	P O Box 728		Santa Fe NM 87504-0728
	US Dept Of The Interior	Regional Env Office	P O Box 649		Albuquerque NM 87103
	US Dept Of The Interior	Economic Development Admn	327 Congress Ave Suite 200		Austin TX 78701
Jerry Belson	US Dept Of The Interior	National Park Service, Southeast Region	100 Alabama St. SW	1924 Building	Atlanta GA 30303
State Agencies					
Peggy Thurin, P.E.	Texas Dept Of Transportation	Transportation Planning And Programming Division	P O Box 149217		Austin TX 78714-9217
	Dept Of Culture Rec & Tour	Division Of Archaeology	P O Box 44247, Capitol Annex 3rd		Baton Rouge LA 70804
	LA Natural Heritage Program	LA Dpt Of Wildlife & Fish	P O Box 98000		Baton Rouge LA 70898-9000
	Office Of State Parks	Dpt Of Culture Rec & Tour	P O Box 44426-Cap Ann 3rd		Baton Rouge LA 70804
Lisa Miller	Dept Of Environment Quality	P O Box 82231			Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2231
Curtis F Hoglan/Laf Econ	211 Devalcourt Street				Lafayette LA 70506-4121
	Dept Of Public Safety	Highway Safety Commission	P O Box 66336		Baton Rouge LA 70896
	Dept Economic Development	Office Of Commerce & Industry	P O Box 94185		Baton Rouge LA 70804-9185
	Dept Of Agriculture & Forestry	Office Of Forestry	P O Box 1628		Baton Rouge LA 70821
	Dept Of Agriculture & Forestry	Office Of Soil/Water Conserv	P O Box 3554		Baton Rouge LA 70821-3554
Doug Vincent, Chief Engr	Dept Of Health And Hospitals	Div Of Environmental Health	6867 Bluebonnet Road		Baton Rouge LA 70810
	Dept Of Wildlife & Fisheries	Ecological Studies Section	P O Box 98000		Baton Rouge LA 70898-9000
Maurice Watson	Dept Of Wildlife & Fisheries	P O Box 98000			Baton Rouge LA 70898-9000
Frank Deffes/Room 210	DHH/Public Health/Sanitarian	P O Box 60630			New Orleans LA 70160
	Division Of Administration	State Land Office	P O Box 44124		Baton Rouge LA 70804
	Dorcheat Soil & Water	Conservation Dist Of LA	216B N Broadway Street		Minden LA 71055
	Floodplain Management Pgm	DOTD-P O Box 94245	Room 430		Baton Rouge LA 70804-9245
	LA Dept Of Natural Resources	Office Of Conservation	P O Box 94275 (625 North 4th)		Baton Rouge LA 70804-9275
	LA Health & Human Res Adm	Bureau Of Envir Services	P O Box 60630		New Orleans LA 70160
	LA State Mineral Board	P O Box 2827			Baton Rouge LA 70821-2827
	Louisiana State Police	Troop G	5300 Industriect Dr Extension		Shreveport LA 71112

**HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18, ROUTE I-69
SOLICITATION OF VIEWS MAILING LIST**

Name	Affiliation	Address_1	Address_2	Address_3	City, State, Zip
LA State Attorney General	P O Box 94095				Baton Rouge LA 70804-9095
	State Planning Office	P O Box 94095	Capitol Annex Building, 2nd Floor		Baton Rouge LA 70804-4095
Other Agencies					
Mark S Davis, Executive Director	Coalition To Restore Coastal Environmental Assessment	200 Lafayette St Suite 500 Sierra Club/Delta Chp			Baton Rouge LA 70801-1203 New Orleans LA 70179-0469
Executive Director	LA Forestry Association	P O Drawer 5067			Alexandria LA 71301
Preston Eggers	LA Good Roads Association	656 North Street			Baton Rouge LA 70802
	Louisiana State University	Sea Grant Legal Program	170 Law Center LSU		Baton Rouge LA 70803-1018
	Shreveport Transport Mgmt	P O Box 7314			Shreveport LA 71137-7314
Native American Tribes					
Vernon Hunter, Chairman	Caddo Tribe Of Oklahoma	P O Box 487			Binger, OK 73009
Phillip Martin, Chairman	Mississippi Band Of Choctaw Indians	P O Box 6257			Philadelphia, MS 39350
Ed Rogers, Chairman	Quapaw Tribe Of Oklahoma	P O Box 765			Quapaw, OK 74363-0765
Rufus Davis Jr, Chairman	Caddo Adai Indians Of LA	Route 2, Box 246			Robeline, LA 71469
Gilmer Bennett	Apalachee Tribe Of LA	P O Box 84			Libuse, LA 71348
Roy L Tyler, Chairman	Clifton Choctaw Tribe Of LA	1146 Clifton Rd			Clifton, LA 71447-4015
Brenda Dardar, Chairman	United Houma Nation	20986 LA Hwy 1			Golden Meadow, LA 70357
Earl J Barbry Sr, Chairman	Tunica Biloxi Indians Of LA	P O Box 331			Marksville, LA 71351
Alton Leblanc, Chairman	Chitimacha Tribe Of LA	P O Box 661			Charenton, LA 70523
Tommy W Bolton, Chairman	Choctaw-Apache Tribe Of Ebarb	P O Box 858 (Billy Rd)			Zwolle, LA 71486
Lovelin Poncho, Chairman	Choushatta Tribe Of LA	P O Box 818			Elton, LA 70532
Wade Blackwell, Chairman	Four-Winds Cherokee	P O Box 267			Slagle, LA 71475
Joey Strickland, Director	Governor's Office Of Indian Affairs	365 N Fourth St	P O Box 94004		Baton Rouge LA 70804-9004
Mona Kogel, Director	Inter-Tribal Council Of LA, Inc	5723 Superior Dr, S.B-1			Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Beverly C Smith, Chairperson	Jena Band Of Choctaws	P O Box 14			Jena LA 71342
Chambers Of Commerce					
	Chamber Of Commerce	Bossier Parish	710 Benton Road		Bossier City LA 71111
Executive Vice President	Chamber Of Commerce	P O Box 20074			Shreveport LA 71130-0074
Sue Gruber, President	Webster Chamber Of Commerce	P O Box 819			Minden LA 71058
Alfred Sanders	Desoto Chamber Of Commerce	P O Box 928			Mansfield LA 71052
Sheriffs & Police Juries					
Desoto Parish Sheriff		205 Franklin Street			Mansfield, LA 71052
Bossier Parish Sheriff					Benton LA 71106
Caddo Parish Sheriff					Shreveport LA 71101
Marlin Caston	Desoto Parish Police Jury	P O Box 898			Mansfield, LA 71052
Jesse Williams	Bossier Parish Police Jury	P O Box 68			Benton LA 71006
Joyce Bowman	Caddo Parish Police Jury	3623 Milton Street			Shreveport LA 71109
Charles Walker	Webster Parish Police Jury	P O Box 389			Minden LA 71058
Federal Senators And Representatives					
The Honorable Jim McCrery	U S House Of Representatives	6425 Youree Dr #350			Shreveport LA 71101-4600

**HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18, ROUTE I-69
SOLICITATION OF VIEWS MAILING LIST**

Name	Affiliation	Address_1	Address_2	Address_3	City, State, Zip
The Honorable W J "Billy" Tauzin	U S House Of Representatives	107 Federal Building			Houma LA 70360
The Honorable David Vitter	U S House Of Representatives	2800 Veterans Memorial Blvd, #201			Metairie LA 70002-6130
The Honorable William J Jefferson	U S House Of Representatives	501 Magazine Street	Suite 1012		New Orleans LA 70130
The Honorable Richard H Baker	U S House Of Representatives	5757 Corporate Blvd, Suite 104			Baton Rouge LA 70808
The Honorable Chris John	U S House Of Representatives	800 Lafayette Street Suite 1400			Lafayette LA 70501
The Honorable John Cooksey	U S House Of Representatives	1101 Hudson Lane, Suite B			Monroe LA 71201
The Honorable John B Breaux	United States Senate	501 Magazine St, Suite 1005			New Orleans LA 70130
The Honorable Mary Landrieu	United States Senate	Federal Building, Room 326	707 Florida Boulevard		Baton Rouge LA 70801
State Senators And Representatives					
The Honorable Jane H Smith	LA House Of Representatives	District 08	P O Box 72624		Bossier City LA 71172
The Honorable Roy "Hoppy" Hopkins	LA House Of Representatives	District 1	P O Box 63		Oil City LA 71061
The Honorable Lydia P Jackson	LA House Of Representatives	District 2	610 Texas Street, Suite 201		Shreveport LA 71101
The Honorable Joe R. Salter	LA House Of Representatives	District 24	P O Box 250		Florien, LA 71429
The Honorable Ernest Baylor Jr	LA House Of Representatives	District 3	2835 Hollywood Ave, Suite 270		Shreveport LA 71108
The Honorable Cedric B Glover	LA House Of Representatives	District 4	401 Edwards St, Suite 219		Shreveport LA 71101
The Honorable Wayne Waddell	LA House Of Representatives	District 5	9260 Ellerbe Rd		Shreveport LA 71106
The Honorable Beverly Gourdon Bruce	LA House Of Representatives	District 7	P O Box 884		Mansfield, LA 71052
The Honorable Billy Montgomery	LA House Of Representatives	District 9	4326 Parkway Drive		Bossier City LA 71112-4200
The Honorable B L Shaw	LA House Of Representatives	District 6	3825 Gilbert, Suite 131		Shreveport, LA 71104
The Honorable Jean M. Doerge	LA House Of Representatives	District 10	731 Main Street		Minden LA 71055
The Honorable Max Tatum Malone	The Senate Of Louisiana	District 37	610 Marshall St, Suite 722		Shreveport LA 71101
The Honorable Gregory Tarver	The Senate Of Louisiana	District 39	1024 Pierre Avenue		Shreveport LA 71103
The Honorable Ronald Bean	The Senate Of Louisiana	District 38	2520 Bert Kouns Suite 100		Shreveport LA 71118
The Honorable Kenneth "Mike" Smith	The Senate Of Louisiana	District 31	P O Box 1381		Winnfield, LA 71483
The Honorable Foster Campbell Jr	The Senate Of Louisiana	District 36	1800 Jimmie Davis Hwy. Suite A		Bossier City LA 71112
Local Officials					
	Bossier City Parish Metro	Planning Commission	620 Benton Road		Bossier City LA 71111
	Bossier Office Of Community Services	P O Box 6004			Bossier City LA 71111
	Bossier Parish School Board	P O Box 2000			Benton LA 71006-2000
	Caddo Comm Action Agency	4055 St Vincent			Shreveport LA 71108
Caddo Parish Commission	Caddo Parish Courthouse	501 Texas Street			Shreveport LA 71101
	Caddo Parish School Board	P O Box 3200			Shreveport LA 71130-2000
	Caddo-Bossier Port Commission	P O Box 52071			Shreveport LA 71135-2071
Lorenz Walker	City Of Bossier	P O Box 5337			Bossier City LA 71171-5337
Director	Desoto Parish Civil Defense	P O Box 1341			Mansfield, LA 71052
	Desoto Parish School Board	201 Crosby Street			Mansfield, LA 71052
	Caddo Soil & Water	Conservation Dist Of LA	P O Box 7278		Shreveport LA 71137
	Desoto Soil & Water	Conservation Dist. Of LA	211 Washington Ave.		Mansfield, LA 71052
Mr Gary P Neathery	Floodplain Administrator	525 Marshall Suite 200			Shreveport LA 71101
The Honorable Joseph Nichols	Mayor Of Mooringsport	P O Box 577			Mooringsport LA 71060
J. Kent Rogers	Northwest Louisiana	Council Of Governments	509 Market Street	Suite 1000	Shreveport LA 71101

**HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18, ROUTE I-69
SOLICITATION OF VIEWS MAILING LIST**

Name	Affiliation	Address_1	Address_2	Address_3	City, State, Zip
Charles Kirkland	Shreveport Metropolitan	Planning Commission	P O Box 1109		Shreveport LA 71130
Keith Hightower	Mayor Of Shreveport	P O Box 31109			Shreveport LA 71130
George Dement	Mayor Of Bossier City	620 Benton Road			Bossier City LA 71111
Bill Maxey	Mayor Of Haughton	P O Box 729			Haughton LA 71037
Bill Robertson	Mayor Of Minden	P O Box 580			Minden LA 71058
Curtis McCune	Mayor Of Stonewall	P O Box 92			Stonewall LA 71078
Lynn Mascgni	Mayor Of Benton	P O Box 336			Benton LA 71006
Bill Hanna	Caddo Parish Administrator	505 Travis, Suite 800			Shreveport LA 71101
Shirley Bryd	Webster Parish Sec/Treasure	P O Box 389			Minden LA 71058
Dennis Woodward	Bossier Parish Administrator	P O Box 70			Benton LA 71006
Donald Edington	Desoto Parish Administrator	P O Box 898			Mansfield LA 71052
Stephanie Edminstons	Executive Director	Bossier City Metropolitan	Planning Commission		Bossier City LA 71111
Other Officials					
John Holt, Jr.	Executive Director	Port Of Shreveport-Bossier	P O Box 52071		Shreveport LA 71135
S. Bruce Easterly	District Engineer Administrator	Department Of Transportation & Development	3339 Industrial Drive		Bossier LA 71112
Tommy Clark	Director Of Public Affairs	KCS Railway Co	4601 Shreveport-Barksdale Blvd.		Shreveport LA 71107
John D. Caruthers	I-69 Coalition	400 Travis St., Suite 1510			Shreveport LA 71101
Roy Miller	Airport Authority	5103 Hollywood Avenue, Suite 300			Shreveport LA 71109
Murry Viser	Executive Director	Shreveport-Bossier Military Affairs Council	P.O. Box 1931	Barksdale Air Force	Shreveport LA 71166-1931

State Job No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to Junction I-20
Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes

The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct the proposed Interstate Highway 69 (I-69) in Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes, Louisiana. This proposal will provide a divided four-lane, limited access highway on new location between US Highway 171 (US 171) near the Town of Stonewall in DeSoto Parish, to Interstate Highway 20 (I-20) near the Town of Haughton in Bossier Parish, a distance of approximately 30 miles.

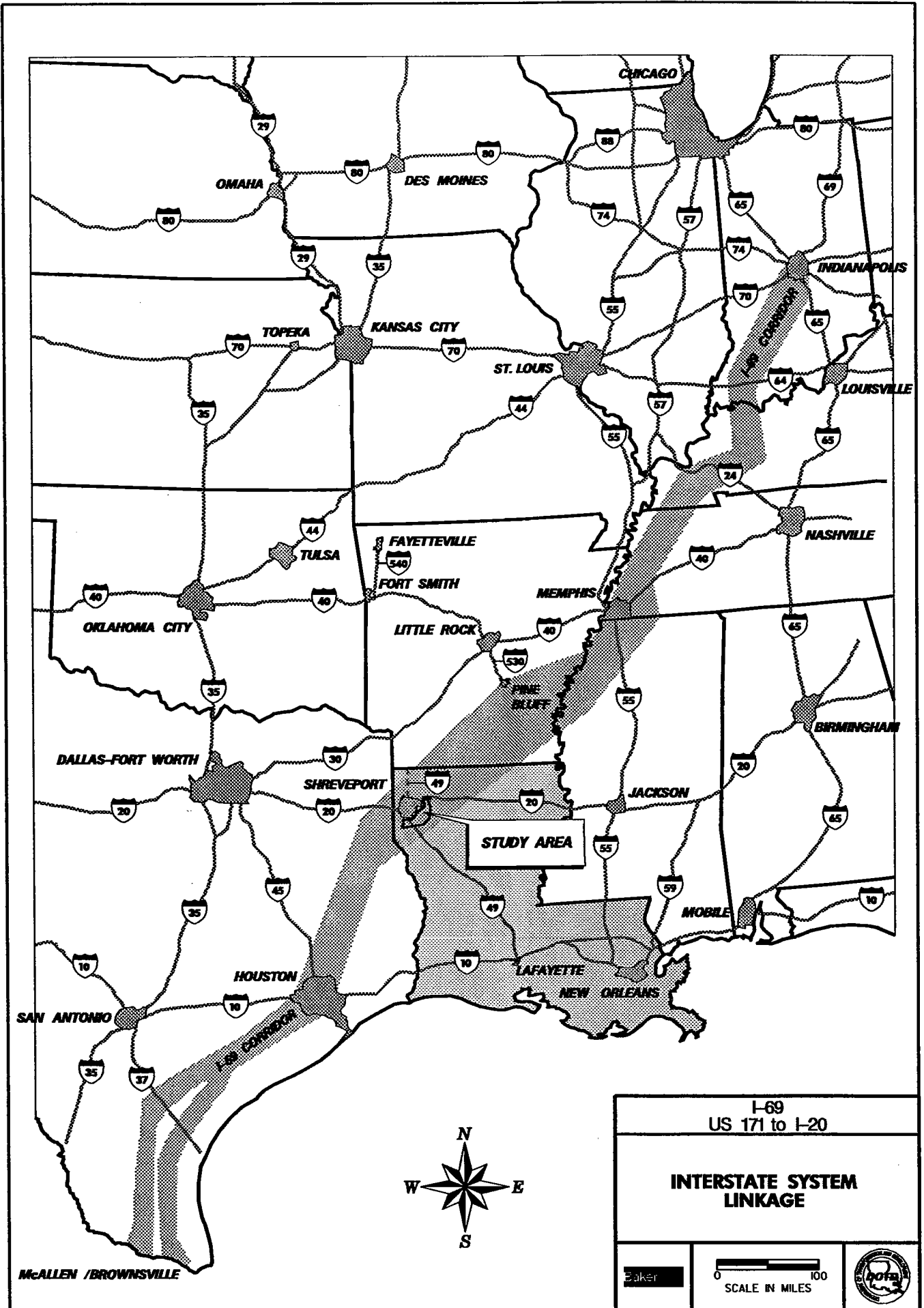
The proposed new highway is a portion of the planned improvements to Congressionally-designated High Priority Corridor Number 18, which will link Indianapolis, Indiana to the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The purpose of this proposal is to improve international and interstate trade in accordance with national and state goals and to facilitate economic development in accordance with state, regional, and local policies, plans, and surface transportation consistent with national, state, regional, and local needs and with the Congressional designation of the corridor.

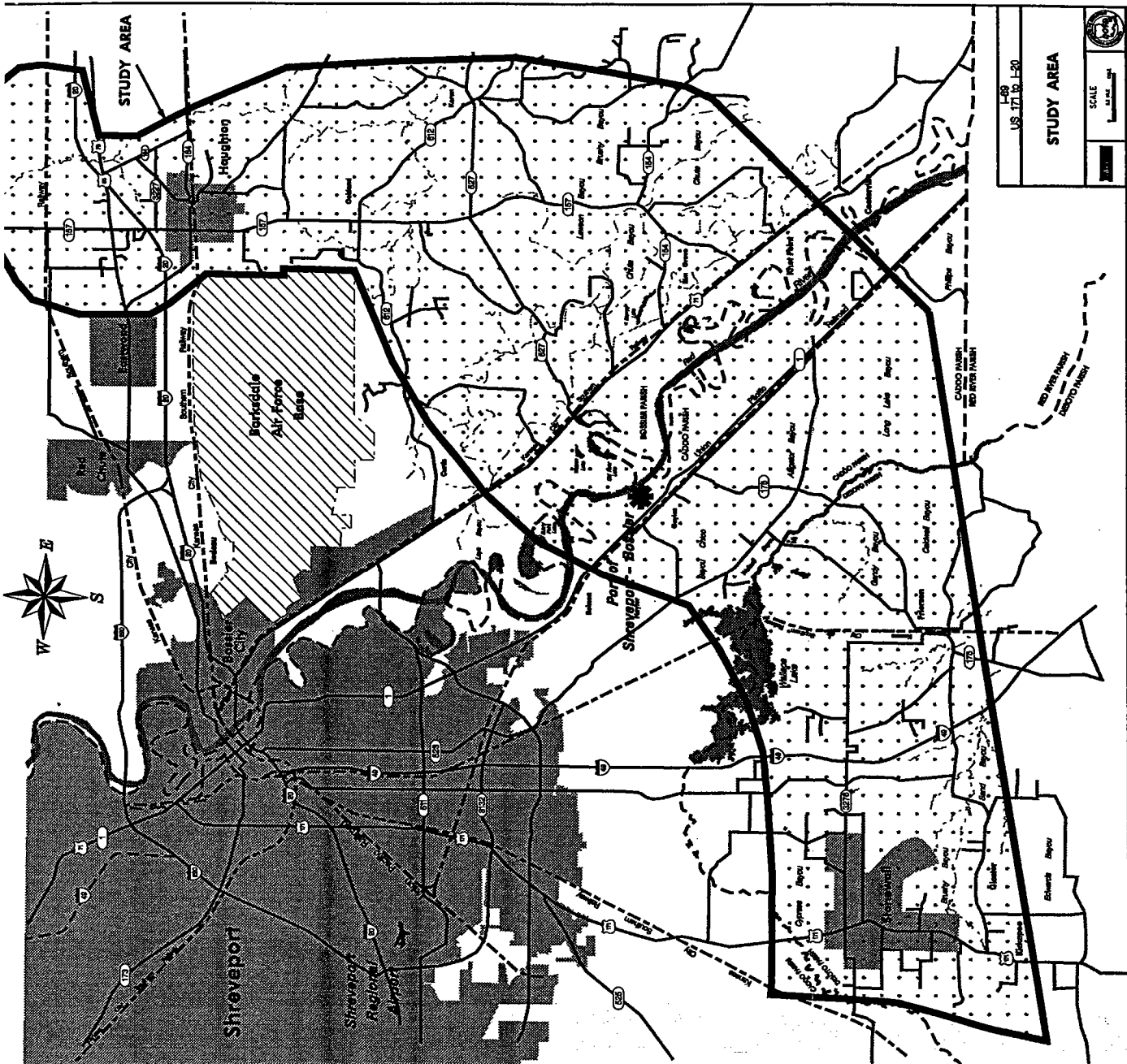
The location of the proposed new highway generally follows a proposed alignment as developed in the City of Shreveport's 1992 study entitled "Interstate 69 and the Inner Loop Extension: Compatibility Report". However, social, economic, and environmental considerations will determine the number and location of alternatives to be developed during the preparation of the EIS. The western terminus of the proposed highway will be an interchange at US 171 near the Town of Stonewall in DeSoto Parish. The eastern terminus of the proposed highway will be an interchange at I-20 near the Town of Haughton in Bossier Parish.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) the construction of a new controlled access highway, including interchanges providing access at I-20, US Highway 71, Louisiana Highway 1, Interstate Highway 49 and US 171, and (2) taking no action and using existing road network to connect the other segments of the proposed highway in the corridor. Incorporated into and studied with the various build alternatives will be design variations of grade and alignment.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Federal agencies with jurisdiction by law with regard to the social, economic and environmental impact of this proposal will be requested to act as a Cooperating Agency in this matter in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6. Numerous public involvement initiatives, including public meetings, newsletters, and advisory committee meetings will be held throughout the course of this study. Additionally, a Public Hearing will be held. Public notice will be given, in local newspapers, of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review prior to the Public Hearing. A formal scoping meeting will be held upon initiation of this project.



To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposal are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties.





STUDY AREA




 US 171.10 L-50
STUDY AREA
 SCALE




CADDO/BOSSIER PORT COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 52071 ~ SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71135-2071

(318) 524-2272 ~ FAX (318) 524-2273

May 18, 2001

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Airport Office Park
Building 3
420 Rouser Road
Coraopolis, PA 15108

cc: Wayne Ngyen, DOTD

RE: State Job No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo and Desoto Parishes
Solicitation of Views

Dear Mr. Gesing:

The Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission is in full agreement with the Corridor 18 alignment for I-69. This alignment supports the Port's mission of supplying full transportation modality for products into and out of the Ark-La-Tex region at the lowest cost possible. The alignment also conforms to the mandate from ISTEA that Ports shall have access to these new projects.

The map of the proposed corridor included in the solicitation of views has been annotated to identify the approximate boundaries of the port complex for your information and to put the following comments in context.

The corridor's north boundary is approximately the same as the Port's at the point where the river is crossed. Along this boundary are plans for the construction of a private marina which is either still in the process of obtaining a Corps of Engineer permit or it has already been obtained, there are ongoing discussions with the local fire district to construct a new fire station and the port is in the process of developing a major power plant.

From this northernmost boundary the Port owns approximately 2000 acres along the river on the west side of the Red and between the Red River and La. Highway 1. Within this area the citizens of the State of Louisiana and Caddo and Bossier Parishes have invested approximately \$90 million developing various infrastructures to facilitate riverborne transportation and an industrial park. It is not in the best interests of those citizens to have the lands that they have invested in so heavily be negatively impacted from a development perspective by having that land, or a portion of it, crossed or otherwise physically constrained.

MEMBERS: *Michael H. Wainwright, President; Steve Watkins, Vice President; Artis Terrell, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer; A.K. Busada; Jerry C. Harris; Duncan McRae; Edward G. Powell; Maxine E. Sarpy; Lorenz J. Walker*

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
May 18, 2001
Page 2

Alignment on the northernmost edge of Corridor 18, once it past the port, would almost certainly require a significant southerly bend to avoid the wetlands, lake area and construction costs associated with Wallace Lake. Additionally there is substantial new home building in progress in this area. In fact a significant portion of the development of the City of Shreveport is now directed to the southeastern section of town. This can only be expected to accelerate during the period between project development and actual construction given the normal development lag times for a project of this nature.

From the ports perspective the alignment is best served by a crossing south of the existing port lands (e.g. center of the corridor). There is more unconstrained land there.

It is the ports intent to push for an expansion of the actual right-of-way width at the point of the river crossing wherever finally decided in order to facilitate the crossing of the Kansas City Southern Railroad from the eastern side of the river to the western side. The present path of the KCS rail is parallel to US 71 along the east side of the river. It ultimately passes through the entire southern half of Bossier City. Due to the limited land between the river and the Federal reservation for Barksdale Air Force Base the city has grown along the river to the south. By default almost every subdivision requires a rail crossing to enter. Although not the fault of the railroad, the result is that rail traffic causes more and more disruption to the city and safety concerns get greater. This rail traffic is increasing due to NAFTA development. KCS railroad has another main line to the west of La Highway 1 that passes roughly North-South-Southwest. Making a crossing south of Bossier City and connecting to this north-south line would allow the rerouting of traffic onto this western line thus eliminating all the dangerous and disrupting railroad crossings. Additionally this southern crossing near the port would give the port access to a second (UP and KCS) tier one railroad, a major plus to any shippers using the port. Should a major industry such as a steel mill or paper mill or refinery or similar activity locate here this would be a significant asset.

In summary, from the ports point of view, an alignment close to the center of the proposed corridor 18 is the most advantageous. It is the most direct, probably least expensive, more unrestrictive and disrupts the ports ongoing and planned activities the least and in fact facilitates the overall area development better.

If we can provide any other information as your efforts proceed, please let us know and we will attempt to provide the necessary assistance views

Sincerely,



Richard A. Nance
Director of Engineering & Planning

RAN: vb
cc: Mr. John W. Holt, Jr., CED, PPM, Executive Port Director



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

<http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/>
May 21, 2001

cc: Wayne Ngyen, DOTD

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division
Environmental and Economic
Analysis Branch

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
420 Rouser Road
Airport Office Park, Building 3
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania 15108

Dear Mr. Gesing:

I refer to your letter of May 14, 2001, soliciting views on the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development State Job No. 700-94-0003.

We have reviewed our records and find that the proposed projects would not conflict with any ongoing or proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, activities. However, based on the information provided, it appears that a Department of the Army permit may be required for some aspects of the proposed work. You should contact Mr. Mike McNair of our Regulatory Branch at the above address, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-FP, concerning permit requirements (telephone (601) 631-5721) or (e-mail regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil).

I trust this information meets your needs. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Kamien, P.E.
Deputy for Programs and
Project Management



DeSoto Parish School Board

201 Crosby Street - Mansfield, Louisiana 71052 - (318) 872-2836 - FAX (318) 872-1324

WALTER C. LEE
Superintendent

May 25, 2001

cc: Wayne Ngyen, DOTD

JOHNNY H. HAYNES
President
P. O. Box 354
Logansport, LA 71049
District 7

DUDLEY M. GLENN
Vice President
341 Duncan Road
Gloster, LA 71030
District 1

THOMAS CRAIG, JR.
Finance Chairman
106 Clista
Mansfield, LA 71052
District 9

DANA L. DEAS
235 Wildwood
Mansfield, LA 71052
District 4

DONALD B. DUFOUR
P. O. Box 734
Mansfield, LA 71052
District 8

McLAWRENCE FULLER
208 Doris Drive
Grand Cane, LA 71032
District 3

BRENDA E. HALL
751 Hall Road
Stonewall, LA 71078
District 2

PATRICIA C. HESSER
3694 Hwy 346
Pelican, LA 71063
District 5

L. J. MAYWEATHER, JR.
P. O. Box 862
Mansfield, LA 71052
District 11

JOHN A. NEILSON
1200 Polk Street
Mansfield, LA 71052
District 6

JAMES H. WIGGINS
1102 Bernard Street
Mansfield, LA 71052
District 10

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
P. O. Box 12259
Pittsburgh, PA 15231-0259

Dear Mr. Gesing:

On behalf of the DeSoto Parish School System, we strongly support the western terminus interchange at US 171 near the Town of Stonewall.

The proposed route appears to minimize disruption of businesses and private dwellings. The route also provides for easy access to Shreveport, I-20 and I-49. The proposed route will benefit Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto parishes. It also accommodates a direct route from Indianapolis to the Mexico border.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed route and exits for I-69 through the state of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Walter C. Lee, Superintendent
DeSoto Parish Schools

WCL:dt



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region VI
Federal Regional Center
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3606

Region VI Mitigation Division

Public Notice Review

Re: State Job No. 700-94-0003

cc: Wayne Ngnyen, DOTD

We offer the following comments:

Please contact the Bossier Parish (phone 318-965-2328), Caddo Parish (318-226-6930), and DeSoto Parish (318-872-0738) Floodplain Administrators for determinations as to whether Floodplain Development Permits will be needed.

We have no comments to offer.

David Hiegel

Reviewer

5-30-01

Date

If further information is required, please write to the address above or call (940) 898-5127.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

BOB ODOM, COMMISSIONER
W.G. "BUD" COURSON, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONERS

May 30, 2001

**Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences**

Matthew Keppinger, III
P.O. Box 3596
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 925-3770
Fax: 925-3760

cc: Wayne Ngyen, DOTD

**Agro-Consumer
Services**

Manning Broussard
P.O. Box 3098
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 922-1341
Fax: 922-0477

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
420 Rouser Road
Airport Office Park, Building #3
Coraopolis, PA 15108

**Animal Health
Services**

Terrel Delphin
P.O. Box 1951
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 925-3962
Fax: 925-4103

RE: Solicitation of Views

State Job No: 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
Route: US 171 to I-20
Parish: Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes

Forestry

Paul D. Frey
P.O. Box 1628
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 925-4500
Fax: 922-1356

**Management
& Finance**

Skip Rhorer
P.O. Box 3481
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 922-1255
Fax: 925-6012

Dear Mr. Gesing:

I have no comment at this time regarding the above referenced project.

Marketing

Bryce Malone
P.O. Box 3334
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 922-1277
Fax: 922-1289

Sincerely,

Bradley E. Spicer
Assistant Commissioner

**Soil & Water
Conservation**

Bradley E. Spicer
P.O. Box 3554
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 922-1269
Fax: 922-2577

BES:le

Town of Haughton

POST OFFICE BOX 729
HAUGHTON, LOUISIANA 71037-0729

Phone: (318) 949-9401
Fax: (318) 949-2609

May 31, 2001

Christopher g. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
P. O. Box 12259
Pittsburgh, Pa.-15231-0259

cc: Wayne Ngyen, DOTD

RE: State Job No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-(001)
High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes

Dear Mr. Gesing:

In reply to your letter, May 14, 2001, the study area (Interstate System Lineage) is a much needed project to address the Interstate Highway Program. The I-69 project, when completed, will compliment the Interstate Highway Network many times in economic value.

The completion of this project, Interstate I-69, will be one of the most important construction phases of the Interstate Network System. Not only will it be beneficial to the National Highway Traffic routing system, but it will be a major benefit, many times over, to every state, city, town, or community when the project is completed.

In the Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parish area, lineage will be a major uplift. Not only economically, but in traffic control and transportation routing. In this area, Highway 171, Interstate 49, Highway 71, Port of Shreveport-Bossier, Highway 157, Highway 80, and Interstate 20, the compliment of I-69 will bring the possibility of routing major truck traffic and personal travel traffic in several directions without major congestion and/or confusion. The Port of Shreveport-Bossier, in my opinion, will greatly benefit with traffic control and routing problems that need to be solved early. The I-69 corridor would be very, very beneficial in this respect.

Yours truly,



Billy J. Maxey, Mayor

BJM/cs



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

June 5, 2001

cc: Wayne Ngyen, DOTD

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing
Project Manager
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
420 Rouser Road
Airport Office Park, Building 3
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania 15108

Dear Mr. Gesing:

Please reference your May 14, 2001, letter requesting our review of State Project No. 700-94-0003, F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001). The proposed project would involve the construction of a new divided four-lane interstate highway (I-69) from U.S. Highway 171 to Interstate Highway 20 located in Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes, Louisiana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the information you provided, and offers the following comments in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The proposed project will involve construction of a bridge over the Red River; that portion of the project may be within habitat that is utilized by the interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*). Federally listed as endangered, the interior least tern is a migratory shorebird that breeds, nests, and rears its young on non-vegetated portions of sandbars and islands in the Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, and Ohio River systems. In the lower Mississippi Valley, the interior least tern population is concentrated along approximately 500 miles of the river between the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers at Cairo, Illinois, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. In Louisiana, the interior least tern is listed as occurring along the Mississippi River north of Baton Rouge, but few birds have been observed within the state during surveys conducted over the last few years. Several nesting colonies have recently been found along the Red River in northwestern Louisiana, but none farther south than the pool of Lock and Dam Number 3 in Natchitoches Parish. Major threats to this species include habitat loss and human disturbance at nesting colonies. Least terns are apparently extending their breeding habitat farther south along the Red River, and the absence of nesting should be confirmed before initiating any work in or adjacent to the river during the breeding season (May 15 to August 31). If least terns should be observed in the project area during the breeding season, all work should cease and the Service should be contacted immediately for further consultation.

Portions of the proposed project are also within habitat that is inhabited by the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW, *Picoides borealis*). RCWs inhabit open, parklike stands of mature (i.e., greater than 60 years of age) pine trees containing little hardwood understory or midstory. RCWs can tolerate small numbers of overstory hardwoods or large midstory hardwoods at low

densities found naturally in many southern pine forests, but do not tolerate dense hardwood midstories resulting from fire suppression. RCWs excavate roost and nest cavities in large living pines (i.e., 10 inches or greater in diameter at breast height). The cavity trees and the foraging area within 200 feet of those trees are known as a cluster. Foraging habitat is defined as pine and pine-hardwood stands over 30 years of age that are located contiguous to and within one-half mile of the cluster.

If the proposed project area does not contain suitable nesting and/or foraging habitat as defined above, further consultation with the Service for this project will not be necessary. However, if suitable nesting and/or foraging habitat does exist, the lands within a one-half mile radius of the project boundary should be carefully surveyed by a qualified biologist for the presence of RCW clusters in accordance with the Henry (1989) guidelines. We recommend that you provide this office with a copy of the survey report, which should include the following details:

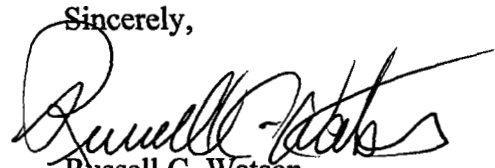
1. survey methodology including dates, qualifications of personnel, size of survey area, and transect density;
2. pine stand characteristics including number of acres of suitable nesting and/or foraging habitat, species, basal area and number of pine stems 10 inches or greater per acre, percent cover of pine trees greater than 60 years of age, species of dominant vegetation within each canopy layer, understory conditions and species composition (several representative photographs should be included);
3. number of active and inactive RCW cavity trees observed, and the condition of the cavities (e.g., resin flow, shape of cavity, start-holes);
4. presence or absence of RCWs; and
5. topographic quadrangle maps which illustrate areas of adequate RCW nesting and/or foraging habitat, cluster sites, and cavity tree locations relative to proposed construction activities.

If no RCW clusters are found within a one-half mile radius of the project boundaries, a request for our concurrence with your "not likely to adversely affect" determination should be included with the survey report. If we concur with that determination, no further consultation with this office will be necessary. If RCW clusters are found in the surveyed areas, further consultation will be required.

The proposed project may also impact wetlands. For a complete jurisdictional wetland delineation of the proposed project, please contact Mr. Ken Moseley (601/631-5289) at the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines that the proposed project is within their regulatory jurisdiction, official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comments will be provided in response to the corresponding Public Notice.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in the planning stages of the proposed project. If you need further assistance, please contact Brigette Decoteau (337/291-3108) of this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Watson", written in a cursive style.

Russell C. Watson
Acting Field Supervisor

cc: Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS
LDWF, Natural Heritage Program, Baton Rouge, LA



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

J. DALE GIVENS
SECRETARY

June 6, 2001

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
420 Rouser Road
Airport Office Park, Building 3
Coraopolis, PA 15108

cc: Wayne Nguyen, DOTD

RE: SOV 700-94-0003; Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes
Proposed Construction of a High Priority Corridor No.18,
Route (I-69) from US 171 to I-20

Dear Mr. Gesing:

The Department of Environmental Quality has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

There were no objections based on the limited information submitted to us. Should you encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, please make the appropriate notification to this Department.

The Office of Environmental Services has made the following comments:

Please see the letter from the Office of Environmental Services, Permits Division.

"Any approval, or letter of no objection, granted by LDEQ is relevant only to the granting of funds for the proposed project. This does not relieve the applicant of his responsibility for obtaining any other permits or approvals necessary from LDEQ or other State, Local, or Federal agencies, nor does it influence the Department's ultimate decision on those permits or approvals. A copy of our brochure 'Construction Nonpoint Source Pollution Program' is enclosed."



recycled paper

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE P.O. BOX 82231 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70884-2231

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



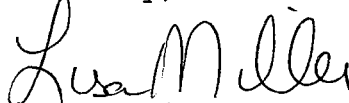
June 6, 2001
Page 2

Please forward all future SOV's to the following address and we will expedite it as quickly as possible. When submitting large proposals please provide triplicate copies.

Mrs. Lisa Miller
Department of Environmental Quality
P. O. Box 82231
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2231

Should you need any additional information please call me at (225) 765-0723.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Miller
Contracts & Grants

LLM/nos
Enclosures



State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

MAY 27 2001

J. DALE GIVENS
SECRETARY

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E., Project Manager
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
P. O. Box 12259
Pittsburgh, PA 15231-0259

RE: Project No. 700-94-0003; proposed construction of a High Priority Corridor
No. 8, Route (I-69) from US 17 to I-20; Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.; Bossier,
Caddo and DeSoto Parishes

Dear Mr. Gesing:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Office of Environmental Services (OES), has received your request for comments dated May 14, 2001, regarding the above referenced project. Based on an in-house review of the information you have submitted to this Department, the OES has no objection to the implementation of the proposed project, provided that the issues listed below are satisfied if required. Please note that no field investigation was conducted on this project.

Please note that any project that results in a discharge to waters of the state may require submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit application.

This Office recommends that you investigate the following requirements that may impact your proposed project:

1. if any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps in order to apply for any necessary permits;
2. if a permit is required from the Corps, a Water Quality Certification from OES may also be required;
3. all precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region (SEE ATTACHMENT);
4. all precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities (SEE ATTACHMENT); and
5. the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has a stormwater general permit for construction areas equal to or greater than five acres. It is recommended that you contact Jan Cedars at (225) 765-2784 to determine if your proposed improvements are covered under that general permit.



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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES • P.O. BOX 82135 • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70884-2135

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Mr. Gesing
Page Two (2)

If you have any questions, please contact the Contracts and Grants Section at (225) 765-0723.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Delahoussaye". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Delahoussaye
Environmental Scientist Manager
Permits Division

JD\ar
Attachment

c:

Northwest Regional Office
Surveillance Division

JOHN D. CARUTHERS, JR.

400 TRAVIS STREET

SUITE 1510

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101-3182

TEL: (318) 222-0285

FAX: (318) 221-6089

June 11, 2001

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P. E.
Project Manager
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
Airport Office Park, Building 3
420 Rouser Road
Coraopolis, PA 15108

cc: Wayne Nguyen, DOTD

Dear Chris:

I enjoyed the well-conducted meeting in Haughton Wednesday nite. The newspaper account this morning indicated a similar positive response from Stonewall. Today the Federal Highway Administration was contacted by the Environmental Policy Center in Chicago which has appeared in past years in the Indiana scene involving I-69. They wanted minutes of the seven state highway department steering committee and were referred to the Arkansas highway department. All SIU environmental studies may be scrutinized and challenged.

The following are my comments in response to your letter of May 14, 2001:

I. Local and State

I-69's Section of Independent Utility (SIU) #15 will connect the former Louisiana Ordinance Plant, the corridor's greatest potential industrial park of 11,000 acres, with water, sewage and streets, to the Port of Shreveport-Bossier, the northern terminus of the Red River Waterway Project.

The Kansas City Southern railway, which serves both the above Ordinance plant and the Port, has expressed an interest in using the highway's median for a rail connection between the two. By their extension of this connection west from the Port to their main route to New Orleans, they report that they could close 12 or more grade crossings along Barksdale Boulevard in Bossier City and donate the abandoned right of way to the city. This would end the possibility of rail blockage of Barksdale Air Force Base's west gate, one of only two exits from the Base.

Furthermore, SIU #15 will connect both I-20 and the Port to Interstate 49, which connects New Orleans to Shreveport, but when completed, will join I-29 at

Kansas City, thus providing interstate highway from New Orleans to Winnipeg, Canada.

The local benefit of a semi-circumferential route around the metropolitan area of 300,000 people completing with I-220 (and LA. 3132) a circle, though irregular, is obvious both from the stand-point of value added and traffic relief.

II. National and International

Interstate 69 – High Priority Corridors 18 and 20

When completed, I-69 will span the nation's heartland, connecting Canada and Mexico through the states of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. Designated as congressional High Priority Corridors 18 and 20 in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and as Interstate Route I-69 in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the I-69 Corridor traverses over 150 counties and hundreds of municipalities, directly serving over 20 million people.

Two sections of the Corridor 18 system – Interstate 69 from Port Huron, Michigan at the Canadian border to Indianapolis, Indiana and Interstate 94 from Port Huron southwest to the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit and west to Chicago, Illinois are existing-open-to-traffic Interstates. The rest of Corridor 18, as well as Corridor 20, is under development. From Indianapolis south I-69 connects Evansville, Indiana, Memphis, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Shreveport/Bossier City, Louisiana and Houston, Texas to the Lower Rio Grande Valley at the Mexican border. Corridor 20 extends along US 59 from Laredo, Texas at the Mexican border through Houston to Texarkana, Texas. A portion of Corridor 20 overlaps Corridor 18. Together, Corridors 18 and 20 comprise I-69.

When the Interstate system was initially designed, it was laid out generally east to west, reflecting the demographics, trade patterns and defense needs of the time. Trade has shifted, particularly after the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), from east-west to north-south. U.S. Mexican trade has more than doubled since the passage of NAFTA in 1993. U.S. imports from Mexico were up 175% from 1993 to 1999. U.S. exports to Mexico rose 109% over the same period and trade with Canada increased 73%. The I-69 Corridor accounts for over 64 percent of the nation's trade with Canada and Mexico. It has the nation's busiest border crossings on both the Canadian and Mexican borders, accounting for over 46 percent of the nation's trade with Canada and almost 49 percent of the nation's trade with Mexico.

Yet there is no direct Interstate level highway from Indianapolis to the Mexican border. Completion of I-69 will significantly enhance safety and

efficiency along this key international trade route. Completion of the Corridor 18 portion of I-69 alone is projected to save 3100 lives, avoid 158,000 injuries and 409,000 property damage accidents. I-69 will reduce travel time, fuel consumption and costs over the existing circuitous route. It is an essential intermodal link for trade and commodity flow. Twenty of the nation's top 25 seaports are directly connected to I-69 and 16 of the nation's top 25 air cargo airports are readily accessible to I-69.

In addition to its national and international trade benefits, I-69 will stimulate economic growth. I-69 traverses some of the nation's most impoverished regions. There are over 10.5 million people living below the poverty level in the I-69 Corridor states. In six of the Corridor states the population in poverty exceeds the U.S. average. There are 12 empowerment zones, enhanced enterprise communities and enterprise communities along the Corridor, including two rural empowerment zones-Mid-Delta and Lower Rio Grande Valley. Construction of I-69 will provide economic growth. The Corridor 18 Feasibility study estimated that, in the Houston to Indianapolis segment alone, I-69 will create 27,000 jobs, add \$11 billion in wages and produce \$19 billion in value added through 2025.

The I-69 Corridor 18 and 20 system spans over 2600 miles. About 2000 miles from Indianapolis to the Mexican border remain to be completed. The estimated cost of completing the unfinished portion of I-69 is \$8.3 billion. Completion of I-69 will not require an entirely new facility from Indianapolis to the Mexican border. In some areas it will link existing Interstates or highways at Interstate standards. In other areas it will require upgrading and linking existing non-Interstate highways and in others new construction.

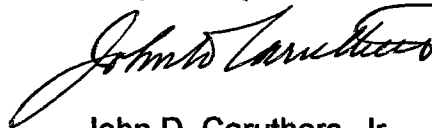
Work is underway along the entire I-69 corridor. Feasibility studies have been completed and have shown that both Corridors 18 and 20 have positive cost benefit ratios returning \$1.57 and \$1.68 respectively for every dollar invested. Sections of Independent Utility (SIUs) have been identified, corridorwide location and environmental studies are in progress and some sections are in design, preliminary engineering and construction.

ISTEA provided \$4.05 million for Corridor 18 Feasibility and Special Issues Studies, the identification of SIUS and Special Environmental Studies. The State of Texas paid for the Corridor 20 Feasibility Study and other location studies out of state only funds. Since the inception of TEA-21, Corridors 18 and 20 have received over \$166 million from the National Corridor Planning and Development and the Coordinated Border Infrastructure programs and directly from the Highway Trust Fund. Funds also have been provided for specific segments in appropriations, ISTEA and TEA-21 and states have invested their own funds.

On May 3, 2000 the Federal Highway Administration finalized the Record of Decision approving the location of the Great River Bridge across the Mississippi River linking Mississippi and Arkansas. The Environmental Impact Statement identifying the Great River Bridge as the I-69 Mississippi River crossing is underway and is anticipated to be completed in 2001.

The I-69 Mid-Continent Highway Coalition has been the primary advocate for I-69 before Congress and the Executive Branch. The Coalition spearheaded the creation of the National Corridor Planning and Development and Coordinated Border Infrastructure programs in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century and has consistently advocated funding for I-69 in annual appropriations and the Department of Transportation. The Coalition is a dues paying organization of cities, counties, states, business, labor and civic organizations all along the I-69 Corridor. Supporters include over 45 Chambers of Commerce representing over 13,050 businesses. The I-69 Mid-Continent Highway Coalition reflects the economic diversity of this vast region, including the agriculture, mining, timber, energy, transportation, chemical, electronic and industrial sectors-current and future users of the I-69 Corridor.

Respectfully submitted,



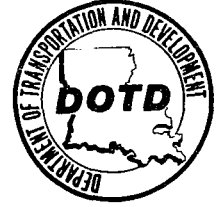
John D. Caruthers, Jr.
President

I-69 Mid Continent Highway Coalition

JDC:tgh



STATE OF LOUISIANA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
 P. O. Box 94245
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245



M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
 GOVERNOR

June 12, 2001

KAM K. MOVASSAGHI
 SECRETARY

SPN 700-94-0003
 US 171 to I-20
 BOSSIER, CADDO & DESOTO PARISHES

cc: Wayne Nguyen, DOTD

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
 Michael Baker Jr., Incorporated
 Airport Office Park, Building 3
 420 Rouser Road
 Coraopolis, PA 15108

SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF VIEWS

Dear Mr. Gesing:

Enclosed are copies of the flood insurance rate maps for Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes. The general area of the proposed highway is indicated on these maps. Upon review of the roadway corridor, it was noted that several sections are located in special flood hazard areas and a portion of the project is located near a regulatory floodway (near & in the Town of Haughton, Bossier Parish).

A regulatory floodway is the stream channel, plus that portion of the adjacent floodplain areas, that must be kept free from encroachment in order that the 100-year flood may be carried without increasing flood levels. The intention of the floodway is not to preclude development. Rather, it is intended to assist communities in prudently and soundly managing floodplain development and prevent additional damages to other property owners. Proposed encroachments should be reviewed to show that flood levels within the community won't be increased.

Our office advises that the floodplain administrators for each community be contacted regarding appropriate permits and any parish requirements. Contacts are as follows:

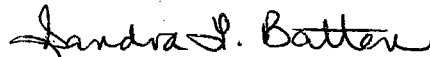
Bossier Parish	Mr. Dennis Woodward Parish Admin./Engr.	P.O. Box 70 Benton, LA 71006	318-965-2328
Caddo Parish	Mr. James Demouchet Permit Official	8 th Floor, 505 Travis St. Shreveport, La 71101	318-226-6930
DeSoto Parish	Mr. Don Edington Parish Engineer	P.O. Box 898 Mansfield, LA 71052	318-872-0738

Mr. Christopher Gesing
Solicitation of Views
June 12, 2001

Also, during and after this project, consideration must be given to the responsibility for clearing debris and keeping the areas surrounding construction clear so as not to interfere with the accumulation and flow of water.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you need additional information please contact our office, 225/274-4354.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Batten
Floodplain Management

Enclosure

pc: Mr. Dennis Woodward
Bossier Parish
Mr. James Demouchet
Caddo Parish
Mr. Don Edington
DeSoto Parish



State of Louisiana

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

PHILLIP J. JONES
SECRETARY

GERRI HOBDY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

June 19, 2001

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
420 Rouser Road
Airport Office Park, Building 3
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Re: Solicitation of Views
State Project No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes, Louisiana

cc: Wayne Nguyen, DOTD

Dear Mr. Gesing:

Receipt is acknowledged of correspondence dated May 14, 2001, concerning the above-referenced Solicitation of Views. We have completed our review of the data submitted and have the following comments to offer.

Due to the size of the proposed undertaking and its potential to affect historic properties, it is our recommendation that a Phase I cultural resources survey be conducted of the proposed project's Area of Potential Effects. Upon completion of the survey and submittal of a report of findings to this office for review, we will issue specific comments on project effects on historical and archaeological properties.

If we may be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact Duke Rivet in the Division of Archaeology at (225) 342-8170.

Sincerely,

Gerri Hobdy
State Historic Preservation Officer



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT
P.O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245



M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER
GOVERNOR

KAM K. MOVASSAGHI
SECRETARY

Phone (225) 248-4190 Fax (225) 248-4188
July 24, 2001

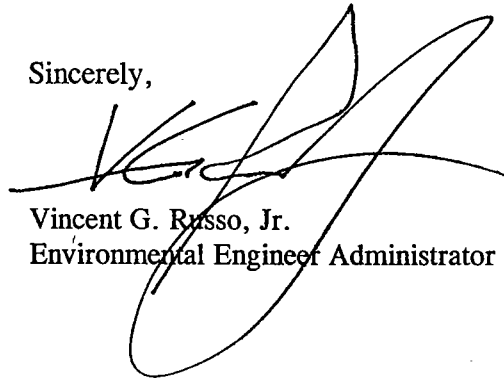
STATE PROJECT NO. 700-94-0003
F.A.P NO. HPI-69-1(001)
HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18
(JCT. US 171 TO JCT. I-20)
BOSSIER, CADDO, AND DESOTO PARISHES

Ms. Chris Gesing
Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
420 Rouser Road
Airport Office Park, Building 3
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Dear Ms. Gesing:

Transmitted, herewith, is a copy of EPA response letter for the captioned project. Should you have any question, please feel free to contact Wayne Nguyen at (225) 248-4193.

Sincerely,



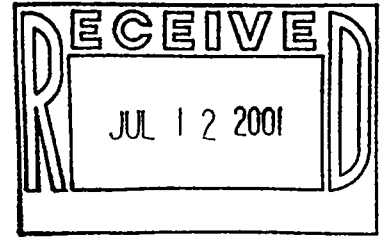
Vincent G. Russo, Jr.
Environmental Engineer Administrator

VGR/qvn
Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733



NOTICE

The Ground Water/UIC Section, Region 6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received descriptions of the following projects:

State Project No. 713-14-0106
Off-System Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program
Claiborne Parish


State Project No. 700-94-0003
High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes

Project No. TX95B338008 Site #1 (Ina Maldonado site)
Project No. TX95B338008 Site #2 (Quanah Whitethunder site)
Alabama-Coushatta Reservation
Polk County, TX

In administering the sole source aquifer (SSA) program under Section 1424 of the Safe Drinking Water Act our Office performs evaluations of projects with federal financial assistance which are located over a designated sole source aquifer.

Based on the information provided, we have concluded that the projects do not lie within the boundaries of a designated sole source aquifer and are thus not eligible for review under the SSA program.

For further information on this determination or on the sole source aquifer program, please contact the project evaluator listed below.

Project evaluated by:  Clay Chesney
(214) 665-7128.

Date: 7/05/01