



November 26, 2002

«Name»
«Affiliation»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»
«City_State_Zip»

RE: State Job No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
Interstate Highway 69 – SIU 15
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes
Corridor Studies Report and Preferred Corridor Recommendation

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

A Unit of Michael Baker Corporation

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*

Dear «Salutation»:

On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration – Louisiana Division (FHWA-LA) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), we are submitting, for your information, the Corridor Studies Report and Preferred Corridor Recommendation for Interstate Highway 69, Section of Independent Utility (SIU) 15.

This document presents the development and comparison of several one-mile wide highway corridors. The Corridor Studies Phase of this project included involvement with federal and state resource agencies, local officials, and the public through the scoping and public involvement processes. Using a Geographic Information System (GIS), an Environmental Inventory was developed for the Study Area that allowed a comparison of all corridors with respect to potential involvement with various environmental resources. The objective of the Corridor Study is to identify a Preferred Corridor that best balances the environmental and engineering considerations with the benefits expected from the project.

We look forward to your continued participation in this project. Should you wish to comment on this document, please provide your written response by December 27, 2002. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact FHWA-LA's Mr. William Farr at (225) 757-7615.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.

Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment
CGG/mew

cc: Bill Farr – FHWA-LA
Wayne Nguyen – DOTD

**HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18, ROUTE I-69
NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES MAILING LIST**

Name	Affiliation	Address_1	Address_2	City, State, Zip
Phillip Martin, Chairman	Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	101 Industrial Road		Philadelphia MS 39350
Ed Rogers, Chairman	Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma	P O Box 765		Quapaw OK 74363-0765
LaRue Martin Parker, Chairperson	Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 487	Attn: Robert Cast	Binger OK 73009



CADDO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Cultural Preservation Department

Post Office Box 487

Binger, Oklahoma 73009

405-656-2901 405-656-2344

Fax # 405-656-2892

May 29, 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 Ngnyen, 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

Dear Mr. Gesing:

Your letter was forwarded to my office by Ms. LaRue Parker, Chairwoman of the Caddo Nation.

The Caddo Nation has a vast history in the state of Louisiana. They left behind many important sites, place names, and memories when they ceded their lands in 1835. We would further request that the Caddo Nation be consulted prior to any archeological investigations pertaining to this area.

We would ask that a cultural resources survey be undertaken prior to any ground disturbing activities anywhere within this corridor. We would also request that the Caddo Nation be consulted when making determinations of eligibility for sites to be listed on the NRHP. We respectfully request copies of any archeological/cultural resource survey reports for the area which have been done to date and would request that we be provided draft copies of any future survey reports, so that we would have an opportunity to comment on them. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Cast
Historic Preservation Officer
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

CHAIRMAN
EARL J. BARBRY, SR.

VICE CHAIRMAN
ALFRED BARBRE

SECRETARY-TREASURER
MARSHALL PIERITE

COUNCIL MEMBERS
EARL J. BARBRY, JR.
HAROLD PIERITE, SR.
DAVID RIVAS, JR.
MARSHALL RAY SAMPSON

TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBE OF LOUISIANA



June 22, 2001

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
P.O. Box 12259
Pittsburgh, PA 15231-0259

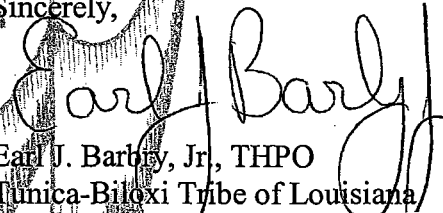
cc: Wayne Nguyen, DOTD

To Whom It May Concern:

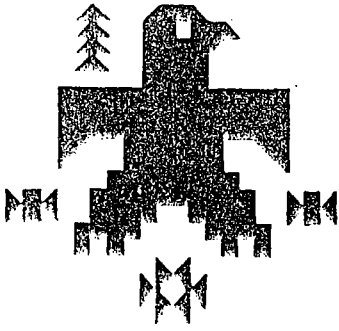
I am responding to the various requests for information regarding the presence of historic properties or traditional cultural, religious, and/or sacred sites related to the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, which may be impacted by proposed construction activities. Due to the historic presence of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and their ancestors in the area of construction, there is a strong likelihood of such sites being encountered at these locations. While the State Historic Preservation Officer is required by the NHPA to respond to requests such as these within 30 days, Federally recognized Indian Tribes are under no such obligation. Nor does a lack of response within your timeframe constitute Tribal assent to this project. Further, Tribal assent, in writing, does not satisfy your responsibilities with respect to any Federal or State laws concerning potential effects on historic properties. We require you to provide appropriate notice to this office of any future activities at these sites, which may affect our legal statutory interests in these locations.

Budgetary constraints and loss of staff have contributed to the delay of this correspondence. Future correspondence will be soon to follow. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,


Earl J. Barbry, Jr., THPO
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

EJBJ/anj



CLIFTON CHOCTAWS

CLIFTON-CHOCTAW RESERVATION, INC.

Mailing and Location: 1146 Clifton Road • Clifton, LA 71447 • (318) 793-4253

May 23, 2001

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

cc: Wayne Ngyen, DOTD

Re: State Project No. 700-94-0003
US 171 to I-20 Bossier, Caddo, and DeSoto Parishes

Mr. Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.

We the Clifton Choctaw Tribe of Louisiana accept your invitation in determining whether any of these proposed projects will effect or disturb any religious, cultural, or historical resources sacred and important to our people.

We the people of the Clifton Choctaw Tribe of Louisiana have concluded these particular projects will not likely effect sacred tribal resources or remains of any Indian people. If it should we request that they be properly handled and we be notified at once. We do know our ancestry were in that area.

Sincerely,

Theresa C. Sarpy
Tribal Historian
RLT/tcs



CADDO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Cultural Preservation Department

Post Office Box 487

Binger, Oklahoma 73009

405-656-2901 405-656-2344

Fax # 405-656-2892



July 16, 2001

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

cc: Wayne Nguyen, DOTD

Re: 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
Minutes of Agency Scoping Meeting

Dear Mr. Gesing:

At the request of Chairwoman Parker, (not Chairman Vernon Hunter as stated in your letter) I am responding to a number of issues on how this project and Federal Highways consultation with Indian tribes has gone so far.

For one, Chairwoman Parker has been the elected official of the Caddo Nation for over two years now, and has recently been elected for another 2 year term. Please update your records and make these appropriate changes.

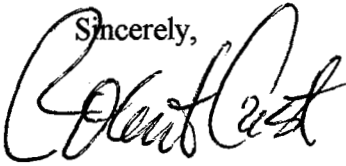
Secondly, this in itself, seems evident of the lack of consultation and coordination that has been taking place on these major highway projects. As part of your NEPA scoping process you are also required under federal laws to meet obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We are again requesting consulting party status on this project. We possess expertise in the areas of Caddoan archeology and traditional cultural properties in this area. As you may be aware, Nacogdoches is a Caddo word and this area contains many important historical sites to the Caddo Nation. As a point of fact, we are also currently working with Barksdale Air Force Base to develop a Memorandum of Agreement related to cultural resources there.

In reviewing the minutes of the meeting, Mike Jansky stressed the importance of public input and that if "resource agencies" could not attend that Baker should visit them. What about making a visit to the Caddo Nation to hear some of their concerns about this project? We are at a disadvantage in that we are in Oklahoma and the time and money it

takes to attend these scoping meetings cut in to monies that have already been designated for certain projects under grant funding or specific tribal program budgets.

Additionally, in reading the minutes, it was stated that environmental justice issues needed to be considered. Not only does Executive Order 12898 apply to Indian tribes, but the Executive Orders on Sacred Sites (13007) and government-to-government consultation (13175) also applies to Indian tribes. How would Baker know what is a Sacred Site to the Caddo? Or what the Caddo consider to be a Traditional Cultural Property? I believe that these issues, among others, need to be addressed in a face-to-face consultation meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Cast". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Robert Cast
Historic Preservation Director
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

Baker

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

A Unit of Michael Baker Corporation

December 6, 2001

LaRue Martin Parker, Chairperson
Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009
ATTN: Robert Cast

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
Minutes of November 2, 2001 Meetings

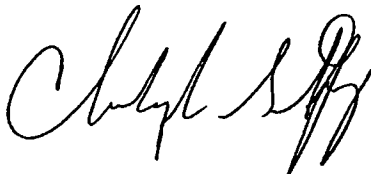
Dear Ms. Parker:

On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration, Louisiana Division (FHWA-LA) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), we are transmitting the minutes from our meetings of November 2, 2001.

Should there be any questions on the minutes, or if you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to call Bill Farr of FHWA-LA at (225) 757-7615, Vince Russo of DOTD at (225) 248-4190 or me at (866) I69-DOTD. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on November 2, 2001.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.



Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Enclosure
CGG/mew

cc: Meeting Attendees (w/ encl.)

3, TJS,



A Total Quality Corporation

**High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and Desoto Parishes
Meeting Minutes**

Subject: Caddo Tribe Coordination Meeting

Attendees: See Attached List

Time and Place: November 2, 2001, 11:00 a.m.
Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma Office
Binger, OK

Purpose: Discuss the Project Study Process and Identify Caddo Tribal Concerns

Discussions:

Chris Gesing opened meeting and presented a chronological history of the project coordination to date with the Caddo Tribe, which included:

- Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS – July 2000
- Solicitation of Views (SOV) Letter sent to Caddo Tribe – May 14, 2001
- Caddo Tribe response to the SOV letter – May 29, 2001
- Invitation to Caddo Tribe to Participate in Agency Scoping Meeting – May 18, 2001
- Minutes of Agency Scoping Meeting sent to Caddo Tribe – June 15, 2001
- Caddo Tribe response to Minutes of Agency Scoping Meeting – July 16, 2001

Chris distributed and reviewed the various handouts that were included as part of the SOV and Agency Scoping Meeting. These included:

- Description of the Proposed Action
- Interstate System Map – showing the entire I-69 Corridor. Sections of Independent Utility (SIU) were discussed
- Study Area Map – 300 square-mile Study Area for SIU 15 around the southeast side of Shreveport-Bossier City
- Study Process Flowchart – for the project's study process covering a 24-month period

The Study Process flowchart was reviewed in detail. The study process involves four main phases:

- Scoping which led to consensus on important project and environmental issues and development of an environmental resource inventory within the 300 square-mile Study Area
- Corridor Studies which developed several corridor alternatives, approximately 1 mile in width within the Study Area and identification of a Preferred Corridor
- Alignment Studies which will develop, with the Preferred Corridor, specific highway alignment alternatives, approximately 300 feet in width and ultimately the identification of a Preferred Alignment
- Environmental Documentation which consists of the preparation of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and other supporting documents, and the selection of a single Selected Alignment identified in the Final EIS and Record of Decision.

It was noted that as part of the Environmental Documentation phase, a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey would be performed on the Preferred Alignment. The Phase I Management Summary, which presents the

**High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and Desoto Parishes
Meeting Minutes**

findings of the survey and recommendations for further testing, if warranted, would be completed prior to issuing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A Memorandum of Understanding would be developed, outlining continuation of the Section 106 process, as appropriate based on the findings and recommendations, and included in the Final EIS.

Chris presented Geographic Information System (GIS) based maps showing the environmental resource inventory within the Study Area and the corridor development efforts to date. The various environmental resources, including cultural resources were discussed. Cultural Resources information included known archaeological and historic structures information obtained from the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The archaeological site information presented reflected the current National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) status and differentiated between sites containing Caddoan and non-Caddoan content. A table was distributed showing the eligibility status and period of the known sites within the Study Area.

Robert Cast indicated unlike some other States, the Louisiana SHPO was a good source of Caddo information.

Chris also explained that a geomorphologic study of the Study Area was prepared by Paul Heinrich of the Louisiana Geologic Survey and a probability model for archaeological potential was being prepared by Gulf South Research Corporation, a cultural resources subconsultant to Baker.

Bobby Gonzalez indicated that areas of high, moderate and low probability combined with the locations of know archaeological sites would be useful in evaluating the developed corridors. Robert added that entire Red River crossing area should be designated as high probability for archaeological potential.

Robert indicated that the Caddo Tribe wants to be consulted for the Corridor review and selection process and wants to be involved during the conduct of the Phase I surveys of the Preferred Alignment.

Robert discussed the importance of historic landscapes including mound sites and ceremonial sites. He indicated that each site is part of a bigger picture.

Robert stressed the importance of indicated the reviewing historic maps of the Study Area. He presented and discussed a map of northeast Texas, which illustrated the location of mound and ceremonial sites along historic trails.

Robert also stressed that the project archaeologists be knowledgeable in Caddo culture. Certain type of diagnostic pottery and points were used solely at burial sites. Robert indicated that Jeff Girard, the Louisiana SHPO regional archaeologist and Dr. Gregory were knowledgeable sources of Caddo information.

Bobby indicated that Caddo Tribe would want to be consulted on the development of a treatment plan for any sites recommended for Phase II investigations. It was noted that development of a project-specific Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) may be warranted, depending on the findings of the Phase I survey.

Bill Farr and Vince Russo indicated for this project, monies could be made available to cover the costs of Caddo representation at project coordination meetings or for the Caddo to view the Study Area/Preferred Corridor/Preferred Alignment.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
5304 Flanders Dr. Suite A
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70808

March 15, 2002

IN REPLY REFER TO
FAP HP-HPI-69-1(001)
SP 700-94-0003
Interstate Highway 69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo & DeSoto
Parishes

RE: Coordination Meeting

Ms. LaRue Martin Parker, Chairperson
Caddo Nations of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Binger, Oklahoma 73009-0487

Dear Ms. Parker:

We, the Federal Highway Administration – Louisiana Division (FHWA), are requesting your continued participation in the environmental and location study for the above-listed portion of I-69. We are the lead Federal agency and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is the project sponsor. Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) has been retained by DOTD to perform comprehensive environmental and engineering studies and to prepare the necessary environmental documentation for the proposed highway facility between US 171 and I-20.

The proposed 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 proposed project will improve international and interstate trade in accordance with national and state goals and facilitate economic development in accordance with state, regional, and local policies, plans, and surface transportation consistent with national, state, regional, and local need and with the Congressional designation of the corridor. As part of this study, Baker will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the proposed highway facility.

We last met with the Caddo Nations on November 2, 2001, to discuss the project. Since that time, a series of agency, local officials and public meetings were held December 11 and December 12, 2001, to present the results of the corridor location studies for the proposed I-69 project. In response to comments received from local elected officials and the public, three (3) additional corridors have been developed.

A second corridor studies review meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on April 2, 2001, at Baker's Shreveport Office, 1324 N. Hearne Avenue, Suite 255, Shreveport, Louisiana. A meeting agenda is enclosed. The purpose of this meeting is to review the environmental resource information and the additional corridors developed. This meeting precedes public outreach meetings being held on April 2 and April 3, 2002.

A map showing the original corridors (Corridors A, B, C, and D), the additional corridors (Corridors E, F, and G), and a comparative analysis will be sent to you shortly, directly from the consultant, Michael Baker Jr., Inc., so you can become familiar with the corridors prior to the meeting.

Your participation in providing current, relevant information will insure the development of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement. If you would like to attend the April 2, 2002, coordination meeting, we can arrange for you travel needs to be met. Or, if you prefer, we can arrange to meet at your office again to discuss these additional corridor studies efforts. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. William Farr at (225) 757-7615. We look forward to your continued participation in this project.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Joe Bloise

William A. Sussmann
Division Administrator

cc: Mr. Vince Russo – DOTD
Mr. Chris Gesing – Baker [Michael Baker Jr., Inc.]

Baker

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

A Unit of Michael Baker Corporation

March 21, 2002

Ms. LaRue Martin Parker, Chairperson
Caddo Nations of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Binger, Oklahoma 73009-0487

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 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
Additional Corridor Studies

Dear Ms. Parker:

The Federal Highway Administration – Louisiana Division (FHWA) recently contacted you requesting the Caddo Nations' continued participation in the environmental and location study for the above-listed portion of I-69. FHWA is the lead federal agency and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is the project sponsor. Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) has been retained by the DOTD to perform comprehensive environmental and engineering studies and to prepare the necessary environmental documentation for the proposed highway facility between US 171 and I-20.

The proposed 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 proposed project will improve international and interstate trade in accordance with national and state goals and facilitate economic development in accordance with state, regional, and local policies, plans, and surface transportation consistent with national, state, regional, and local need and with the Congressional designation of the corridor. As part of this study, Baker will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the proposed highway facility.

Additional corridor studies have been performed in response to comments received from local elected officials and the public following agency, local officials and public meetings held December 11 and December 12, 2001. In their letter, the FHWA indicated that Baker would provide the Caddo Nation with information on the additional corridors developed.

Enclosed is a map showing the original corridors (Corridors A, B, C, and D), the additional corridors (Corridors E, F, and G), and a comparative analysis so that you can become familiar with the corridors developed. These corridors are preliminary, and as such, should not be distributed to the public at this time.

If you have any questions, please contact FHWA's Mr. William Farr at (225) 757-7615 at your convenience. We look forward to your continued input throughout the duration of this project.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.



Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment
CGG/mew

cc: Bill Farr - FHWA
Wayne Nguyen - DOTD



A Total Quality Corporation

Baker

May 2, 2003

«Name»
«Affiliation»
«Address_1»
«Address_2»
«City_State_Zip»

RE: State Job No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
Interstate Highway 69 – SIU 15
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes
Purpose and Need Statement

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

P. O. Box 12259
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15231-0259
(412) 269-4600
FAX (412) 375-3989

Office Location:
Airside Business Park
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108

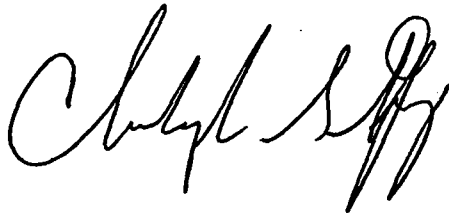
Dear «Salutation»:

On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration – Louisiana Division (FHWA-LA) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), we are submitting, for your information, the Purpose and Need Statement for Interstate Highway 69, Section of Independent Utility (SIU) 15.

We look forward to your continued participation in this project. Should you wish to comment on this document, please provide your written response by June 10, 2003. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact FHWA-LA's Mr. William Farr at (225) 757-7615.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.



Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment
CGG/mew

cc: Bill Farr – FHWA-LA
Vince Russo – DOTD

Challenge Us.

**HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18, ROUTE I-69
NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES MAILING LIST**

Name	Affiliation	Address_1	Address_2	City, State, Zip
Phillip Martin, Chairman	Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	101 Industrial Road		Philadelphia MS 39350
Ed Rogers, Chairman	Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma	P O Box 765		Quapaw OK 74363-0765
LaRue Martin Parker, Chairperson	Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma	P.O. Box 487	Attn: Robert Cast	Binger OK 73009



CADDO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Cultural Preservation Department

Post Office Box 487

Binger, Oklahoma 73009

405-656-2901 405-656-2344

Fax # 405-656-2892

July 23, 2002



Mr. William C. Farr
Program Operations Manager
5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808-4348

Re: I-69 Proposed Corridors

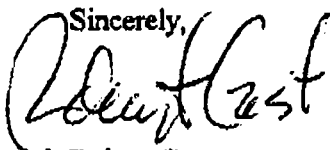
Dear Mr. Farr:

Thank you for providing the Caddo Nation with the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project.

As you are well aware, the Caddo have had an extensive history in the state of Louisiana. In 1835, the Caddo ceded over approximately 1 million acres of land along the Red River near the area of present day Shreveport. Any developments related to the I-69 corridors should be aware that there is a high potential for Caddo archeological sites in and around the areas of Northwestern Louisiana.

We would ask that any corridor that contains or has the potential to contain Caddo archeological sites be avoided if at all possible. If not avoided, a plan to minimize and mitigate adverse effects to the sites should be developed in conjunction with the Caddo Nation, along with a Memorandum of Agreement stipulating the process for minimizing these effects.

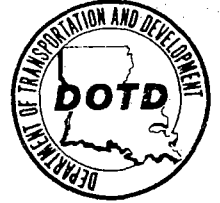
We would also ask that the FHWA and their contractors be aware of surrounding cultural landscapes related to the Caddo Nation. In simply identifying what archeological sites are within the bounds of the corridor, we are avoiding the role these sites play within a cultural context or community which may be outside the corridor. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robert Cast
Historic Preservation Director
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)	
FAX TRANSMITTAL	
# of pages >	
To: <i>Trace Russo</i>	From: <i>Bill Farr</i>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #
NSN 7540-01-317-7388 5089-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	



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



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

July 8, 2003
(225) 248-4190

KAM K. MOVASSAGHI
SECRETARY

STATE PROJECT NO. 700-94-0003
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. HPI-69-1(001)
HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR NO. 18
(JUNCTION US 171 TO JUNCTION I-20)
ROUTE I-69
BOSSIER, CADDO, AND DESOTO PARISHES

Robert Cast
Historic Preservation Officer
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Binger, Oklahoma 73009-0487

Dear Mr. Cast:

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is requesting your continued participation in the environmental and location study for the above-listed portion of I-69. FHWA is the lead federal agency and the LADOTD is the project sponsor. Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) has been retained by the LADOTD to perform comprehensive environmental and engineering studies and to prepare the necessary environmental documentation for the proposed highway facility between US 171 and I-20.

The proposed 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 proposed project will improve international and interstate trade in accordance with national and state goals and facilitate economic development in accordance with state, regional, and local policies, plans, and surface transportation consistent with national, state, regional, and local need and with the Congressional designation of the corridor. As part of this study, Baker will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the proposed highway facility.

We last met with the Caddo Nation on November 2, 2001 to discuss the project. Since that time, numerous agency, local officials and public meetings were held present the results of the original and additional corridor studies for the proposed I-69 project. A Preferred Corridor was announced on December 31, 2002. The next phase of the project, the Alignment Phase, involves the development of several highway alignment locations within the Preferred Corridor, and in-depth field investigations.

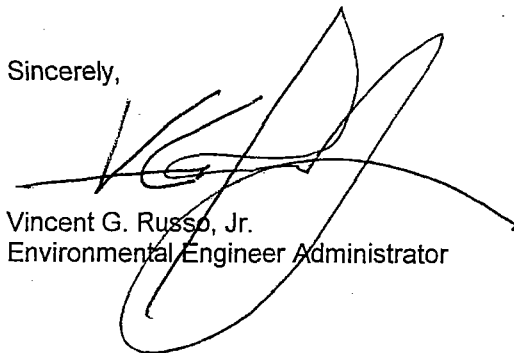
An alignment studies review meeting will be held at **10:30 a.m. on July 23, 2003 at Baker's Shreveport Office**, 1324 N. Hearne Avenue, Suite 255, Shreveport, Louisiana. A meeting agenda is enclosed. The purpose of this meeting is to review the preliminary highway alignments, approximately 300 feet in width, that have been developed within the Preferred Corridor. This meeting is being held in conjunction with public outreach meetings on July 22 and July 23, 2003 in Stonewall and Haughton, respectively.

Robert Cast, Historic Preservation Officer
July 8, 2003
Page 2

An Alignment Studies Report and Alignment and Environmental Resource maps will be sent to you shortly, directly from the consultant, Michael Baker Jr., Inc., so you can become familiar with the alignments prior to the meeting.

Your participation in providing current, relevant information will insure the development of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement. If you would like to attend the July 23, 2003 coordination meeting, we can take care of your travel needs. If you prefer, we can arrange to meet at your office again to discuss the alignment studies efforts. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 248-4190. We look forward to your continued participation in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VGR', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Vincent G. Russo, Jr.
Environmental Engineer Administrator

cc: Mr. William Farr, FHWA
Mr. Chris Gesing, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
 Airside Business Park
 100 Airside Drive
 Moon Township, PA 15108
 (412) 269-4600

Letter of Transmittal

To: Robert Cast
Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Attn: Robert Cast
Binger OK 73009

S.O. 24999
 Project: High Priority Corridor No. 18
Route I-69, US 171 to I-20
State Project No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
 Date: July 17, 2003

We are forwarding the following: Attached Under Separate Cover

DWG. NO.	NO. COPIES	TITLE OR DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
	1	Alignment Report	
	1	Study Process	
	1	Study Area and Alignment Locations	
	1 set	Alignments and Environmental Resource Plots (7 sheets)	

THESE ARE TRANSMITTED as checked below:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> As requested | <input type="checkbox"/> No exception taken | <input type="checkbox"/> Revise and resubmit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For review and comment | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected - See remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit specified items |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For your information | <input type="checkbox"/> Proceed subject to corrections noted | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

By: Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.

Title: Project Manager

Page 1 of 1

cc: Wayne Nguyen – DOT

Baker

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
 Airside Business Park
 100 Airside Drive
 Moon Township, PA 15108
 (412) 269 - 4600

Letter of Transmittal

To: LaRue Martin Parker, Chairperson
Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Attn: Robert Cast
Binger OK 73009

S.O. 24999
 Project: High Priority Corridor No. 18
Route I-69, US 171 to I-20
State Project No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
 Date: September 29, 2003

We are forwarding the following: Attached Under Separate Cover

DWG. NO.	NO. COPIES	TITLE OR DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
	1	Agency Coordination Meeting Minutes held July 22, 2003	

THESE ARE TRANSMITTED as checked below:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> As requested | <input type="checkbox"/> No exception taken | <input type="checkbox"/> Revise and resubmit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For review and comment | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected - See remarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit specified items |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For your information | <input type="checkbox"/> Proceed subject to corrections noted | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

By: Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.

Title: Project Manager

Page 1 of 1

cc: Wayne Nguyen – DOTD

**High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and Desoto Parishes
Meeting Minutes**

Subject: Agency Coordination Meeting

Attendees: See Attached List

Time and Place: July 23, 2003, 10:30 a.m.
Baker's Shreveport Office

Purpose: To Present the Results of the Alignment Location Study

Discussions:

Vince Russo opened the meeting and all in attendance identified themselves and their agency/affiliation.

Chris Gesing provided an overview of the four main phases of the highway study which include: 1) Scoping and Purpose and Need, 2) Corridor Studies, 3) Alignment Studies, 4) Environmental Documentation. Scoping involved the identification of Federal, State, regional, local and public stakeholders. Scoping sessions identified the Federal, State, regional, and local issues that defined the framework for the environmental information to be considered during the project. In concert, a Purpose and Need Statement was prepared that provided the justification for the project. The national, regional, and local purpose and need was identified. All Federal cooperating agencies responding to date concurred with the Purpose and Need. The Vicksburg District COE had not yet responded.

Corridor Studies were discussed. The purpose of this phase was to develop an environmental inventory of the study area to develop a constraints map. The constraints map was used to guide corridor development. Some of the identified constraints included features such as wetlands, wetland reserve program areas, floodplains, hazardous waste sites, residences, and businesses. In December 2001, four corridors (Corridors A, B, C, and D) 1 mile in width were presented within the study area. In response to comments received from local elected officials and the public following the December meetings, additional corridors were developed and evaluated. The additional corridor studies focused on two issues: 1) Avoiding the Williamson Road/Stacey Lane area and the Old Port Petroleum Facility along U.S. 171 while maintaining a southern route around Stonewall and 2) A corridor location closer to the cities of Shreveport and Bossier City that could pass through the Port of Shreveport-Bossier to enhance intermodal connectivity. Additionally, these studies included the expansion of the study area northward to evaluate the I-69 Inner Loop Extension Corridor from earlier studies. An expanded GIS environmental inventory was developed to cover the northern expansion of the study area.

In April 2002, the initial four corridors (Corridors A, B, C, and D) and three additional one mile wide corridors (Corridors E, F, and G) were presented. Subsequently, Corridors F and G were revised to pass through the Port property south of and adjacent to their original corridor locations in order to avoid the largest contiguous of property owned by the Port. The Port expressed their desire to retain this tract for potential future development. These revised corridors were designated as Corridors F_s and G_s. The study area was divided into three general geographic regions for comparison and evaluation. The Northern Region extends from the northern terminus at I-20 to approximately Johnson-Koran Road, the Middle Region from Johnson-Koran Road to approximately the Kansas City Southern Railroad line east of

**High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and Desoto Parishes
Meeting Minutes**

Friendship Road, and the Southern Region from the KCS Railroad line to the southern terminus at U.S. 171. A Preferred Corridor consisting of Corridor G, in its entirety along with a segment of Corridor B through the Red River Alluvial Valley was recommended and submitted to the MPO and resource agencies for review and comment in November 2002. The Preferred Corridor was announced on December 31, 2002.

Alignment Studies were discussed. Digital orthophotography was used to provide greater detail of environmental features within the Preferred Corridor and used as the base map for this phase of the project. Property boundaries from Parish tax maps were collected and identified on the base map within the Preferred Corridor. Letters were sent to property owners within the Preferred Corridor that requested permission to access land for detailed field studies. Detailed field studies focused on wetland delineations and a historic structures survey. A DTM model was used to estimate horizontal and vertical controls. The project GIS was expanded to include additional environmental information such as water well and oil and gas well locations. It was stressed that oil and gas well development was a dynamic data set and it would not be possible to contain real time mapping of these facilities, we can only provide a snapshot in time. The review of this data, including engineering design standards and engineering considerations regarding the crossing of the Red River, existing roadway crossings, grades, and navigation at the Red River, resulted in the development of four alignments approximately 300 feet wide and conceptual interchange locations.

Chris discussed the alignment and environmental resources from U.S. 171 to I-20. All alignments start at the same location at U.S. 171. Constraints in this area to the east of U.S. 171 include the North Desoto Parish Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, residences along Red Bluff Road, floodplains associated with Brushy Bayou, and moderately probable archaeological areas. All alignments avoid schools and residences in this area and minimize impacts to floodplains and archaeological areas.

The Preferred Corridor splits into two segments just west of Wallace Bayou. Lines 1 and 3 veer to the north and follow the northern segment through Port property while Line 2 and 4 continue into the southern segment and pass through the Lucas Sludge Disposal Site. All alignment locations reduce the number of bridge crossings. Shreveport city officials stated that there are no problems with passing through the disposal site.

Beth Guynes asked if all wetland areas would be bridged. It was noted that anticipated bridge locations are shown on the Alignment and Resource Location Plans.

Mike Jansky expressed concern that all lines impact a wetland along Brushy Bayou and another near the proposed interchange along I-49. He also stated that all lines would miss the residential area along Red Bluff Road.

All lines would miss the Bethlehem Baptist Church and about 30 residences along Oliver Road east of LA 157.

Concern was expressed about wetland impacts at Station 1830+00 and Station 1960+00. The preliminary alignments would be further evaluated to determine if impacts could be further minimized.

After all exhibits were reviewed Chris asked if anyone had comments on the alignments. Pat Owen had no comments, but asked if Baker had looked to the west of U.S. 171 for any show stoppers. Chris

**High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo, and Desoto Parishes
Meeting Minutes**

responded that environmental constraints were gathered 2 miles to the west of U.S 171 and evaluated during the Corridor Studies phase. Vince Russo added that HDR needed to coordinate the logical termini at U.S. 171 with DOTD.

Mike Jansky stated that a successful meeting was conducted and stated that we needed public input on the alignments.

Chris added that the alignment report would be updated and revised shortly after the public meetings. Currently, no decision has been made on the Preferred Alignment that will be identified in the DEIS.

The Environmental Documentation phase will begin after concurrence of a Preferred Alignment. The completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is anticipated by the end of 2003. A Phase 1 ESA and archeological survey will begin once a Preferred Alignment has been identified.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

*High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
US 171 to I-20
State Project No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)*

**Agency Coordination Meeting
July 23, 2003
Baker's Shreveport Office
10:30 AM**

AGENDA

Introduction of Attendees & Agenda Review	10 min
Study Process Review	10 min
Alignment Review and Preliminary Impact Analysis.....	60 min
Discussion of Issues of Concern	30 min
Wrap Up.....	10 min

High Priority Corridor No. 18, Route I-69
 Environmental and Location Study
 Agency Alignment Meeting
 July 23, 2003

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
DEREK HAMILTON	USFWS	337-291-3138
VINCENT G. RUSSO, JR	LA DOTD	225-248-4190
WAYNE NGUYEN	"	225-248-4193
VIRGIL PAGE	FHWA	225-757-7622
SCOTT NELSON	"	225-757-7619
BILL FARR	"	225-757-7615
CHRIS GESING	MICHAEL BAKER JR	412-269-4636
LAMAR SMITH	"	601-933-6224
DAVE BEDNAR	"	318-222-8110
BILL McAbee	"	318-222-8110
VIA PHONE CONFERENCE		
ELIZABETH GUYNES	COOPS OF ENGINEERS ^(vicksburg)	601 631 5276
MIKE JANSKY	EPA	214 665 7451
Phillip Johnson	US COAST GUARD	504 589 2965
PAT OWEN	TX DOT	512 314 1732
RYAN HILL	"	↓
ANN COBY	TX DOT	
MIKE SPEIGEL	TX DOT	

Baker

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

September 13, 2004

P. O. Box 12259
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15231-0259
(412) 269-6300
FAX (412) 375-3989

Robert Cast
Historic Preservation Officer
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009

*Office Location:
Airside Business Park
100 Airside Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108*

RE: State Job No. 700-94-0003
F.A.P. No. HPI-69-1(001)
Interstate Highway 69 – SIU 15
US 171 to I-20
Bossier, Caddo and DeSoto Parishes
Alignment Studies Report and Preferred Alignment Recommendation

Dear Mr. Cast:

On behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Federal Highway Administration – Louisiana Division (FHWA-LA), we are submitting the Alignment Studies Report and Preferred Alignment Recommendation for Interstate Highway 69, Section of Independent Utility (SIU) 15 (Project).

As a result of the comprehensive involvement by the public, local officials, and federal and state resource agencies, two additional alignments, Line 5 and Line 6 (following the southern and northern routes of the Preferred Corridor, respectively), were developed by combining portions of the four preliminary alignments previously sent to you on July 17, 2004.

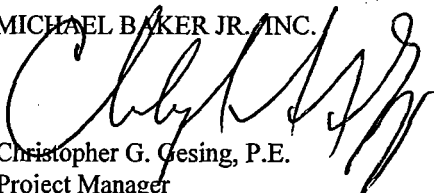
We believe that Line 6 best balances the expected project benefits with the overall impacts and recommend identifying it in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as the Preferred Alignment. In addition, the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), concurs with this recommendation and adopted a January 20, 2004 resolution supporting Line 6 as the Preferred Alignment.

Line 6, the recommended Preferred Alignment, and the other five preliminary alignments will be subject to public, local officials, federal and state resource agency, and Native American tribe review during the public hearings and comment period on the Draft EIS.

Your input in providing current, relevant information will insure the development of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement. If you have any comments on the Alignment Studies Report and Preferred Alignment Recommendation we would appreciate your written response by October 18, 2004. If you have any questions, please contact DOTD's Vince Russo at (225) 242-4502 or FHWA-LA's Bill Farr at (225) 757-7615. We look forward to your continued participation in this project.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.


Christopher G. Gesing, P.E.
Project Manager

Attachment
CGG/mew

cc: Vince Russo – DOTD

Challenge Us.