





# I-49 Inner City Connector Newsletter

May 2009  
Volume 1, Number 1  
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State Project No. 700-09-0171

## INTRODUCTION

This newsletter provides an information source for engineering and environmental studies regarding the I-49 Inner City Connector project sponsored by the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG).

Over the next several months, we will be conducting a Stage 0 Feasibility Study and Environmental Inventory for the I-49 Inner City Connector project. A Stage 0 Feasibility Study and Environmental Inventory study includes identifying the initial project concept, potential alternatives and conducting a preliminary environmental review. There will be additional environmental review under the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) Stage 1: Environmental Process prior to construction of any alternative.

At this time, limited data concerning the proposed project, I-49 Inner City Connector exists. This first issue of the newsletter describes the scope of the project, the Stage 0 process, project evaluation efforts, and how the public can be involved in the study.

The project website <http://www.i49shreveport.com> is currently under construction, but will be routinely updated. Please visit it often for the most up to date information and/or to leave your comments.

## I-49 GOALS

- Provide Connectivity
  - Improve Safety
    - Provide Alternate Route
      - Economic Development
        - Assure Public Input

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## I-49 OBJECTIVES

Development of an interstate connector facility that will link downtown Shreveport at the current terminus of I-49 at I-20 with I-220, the southern terminus of proposed I-49 North.

- Least disruption to local, business, and through traffic during construction
- Least impacts to the natural and human environment
- Best access for local and business traffic in the completed project

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

What Process will NLCOG follow to study this project?

**Stage 0**

This project is currently in Stage "0". This is primarily a Feasibility Study and Environmental Inventory - 1.5 planning stage with preliminary environmental review. To years - The purpose of this process is to reach a show where we stand in the development of this project, decision regarding the project's feasibility, evaluate LDOTD's Stage 0 Project Development Process is outlined the financial and schedule implications of pursuing the below. Although this project has been studied in the past, it project and render a decision on whether the project has not been studied for a period of many years, and many should continue further through the project factors have changed, therefore it is necessary to begin development process. with Stage 0.



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## STAGE 0 FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY PLANNING PROCESS

- CURRENT STEP** → **STEP 1** →
- Development of Public Involvement Plan
  - Development of Interagency Involvement Plan
  - Define Study Area
  - Preliminary Data Collection
  - Scoping Meetings
- 
- STEP 2** →
- Traffic Studies
  - Refinement of Purpose and Need
  - Development of Preliminary Alternatives
- 
- STEP 3** →
- Selection of Alternatives for Detailed Study
  - Field Studies
  - Evaluation of Alternatives and Technical Reports
  - Environmental Documentation
- 
- STEP 4** →
- Draft Environmental Inventory
  - Utilities and Cost Analysis
  - Public Meeting
- 
- STEP 5** →
- Review Comments on the Environmental Inventory
  - Recommend Two Preferred Alternatives
  - Final Environmental Inventory
  - Project Implementation Plan

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

The first step of the **Stage 0** process involves public input. A series of Community Input Meetings will be held in Summer 2009, which will offer the first community-wide input opportunities. Residents will be given the opportunity to actively participate in the planning of conceptual corridors and give input regarding the project as a whole. Information gathered during these sessions will be used to create possible design alternatives.

### Summer 2009

#### Community Input Meetings I

### Fall 2009

#### Community Input Meetings II: Connector Alternatives

Stay tuned to <http://www.i49shreveport.com> for the latest on dates, times and locations of meetings.

A second round of Community Input Meetings will occur in Fall 2009 to present corridor options and design alternatives, and obtain feedback on those alternatives.

At the conclusion of the Stage 0 project, a meeting will be held to receive final public comment to be included in the feasibility study.

All interested members of the public are encouraged to attend these events.

## PROJECT TEAM

### NTB and Associates

Public Participation  
Design Criteria  
Concept Development and Evaluation

### Franklin Industries, LLC

Community, Public, Government  
and Media Relations  
Community Outreach

### PROVIDENCE

Project Management  
Planning

Preliminary Engineering  
Environmental

### ABMB Engineers

Traffic Engineering and Modeling  
Intersection and Corridor Analysis  
Highway and Bridge Design

### NLCOG

Project Sponsor

### LDOTD & FHWA

Courtesy Review

### Earth Search

Cultural Resources Management







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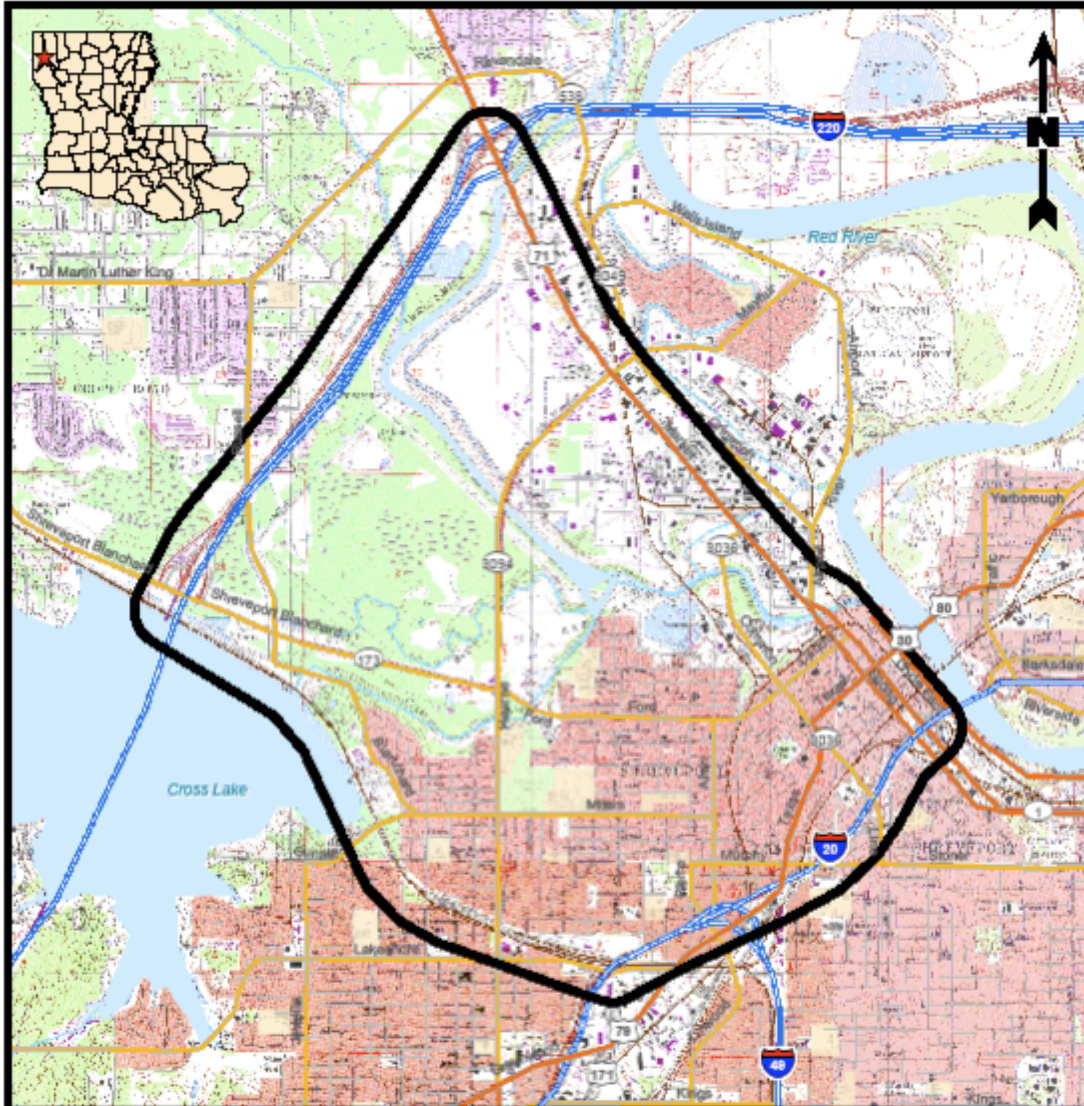
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## PROJECT AREA



0.75 0.375 0 0.75  
Miles

### Legend

 Project Study Area

### Reference

Base map comprised of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic maps, "Bossier City, LA" dated 1975, "North Highlands, LA", "Shreveport East, LA", and "Shreveport West, LA" dated 1980 revised 1992.

### Project Study Area

I-49 Inner City Connector Project  
Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Northwest Louisiana  
Council of Governments



Drawn By	DRA	04/22/09
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Checked By	LMH	04/22/09
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Approved By	PACGP	05/04/09
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Project Number	489-001
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