

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is the 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.

Project Purpose and Need

While this portion of the I-49 Corridor was defined as far back as 1976, lack of funding and community support have prevented further study and development of the route. Therefore, a current purpose and need statement has been developed to support the I-49 Inner Connector.

The purpose and need of the proposed facility are:

- 1.To provide connectivity between the existing I-49 and the future presently designated I-49 North that is proposed to terminate at I-220 in Shreveport.
- 2.To improve the safety of present routes (I-20 at I-49) and to provide an alternate route for hazardous materials, currently being transported across Cross Lake, the designated water supply for the City of Shreveport.
- 3.To support economic development by providing improved access to downtown from the west and a continuous I-49 route through Shreveport-Bossier to encourage development through Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

As a result of its construction, the I-49 Inner Connector will accommodate future potential development and promote orderly growth.