



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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(225) 379-1200

January 3, 2007



JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY  
SECRETARY

Mr. Pete Johnson  
Federal Co-Chairman  
Delta Regional Authority  
236 Sharkey Avenue, Suite 400  
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Subject: Delta Economic Development Highway System

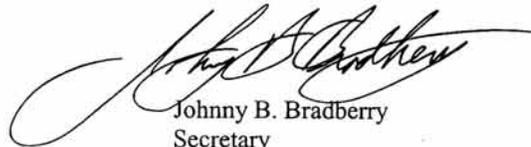
Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to express the support of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for the goals of the Delta Regional Authority to improve the quality of life of the Mississippi Delta Region, and foster partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region's economy. Specifically, we support the establishment of the Delta Economic Development Highway System, and efforts to implement improvements to that highway network.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the identification of this important highway network. We all recognize that an efficient transportation system is critical to the economic growth of the Delta Region.

We look forward to working with the other states in the Delta Region and with the Delta Regional Authority to improve the standard of living of our citizens in this area.. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (225) 379-1200, or Dr. Eric Kalivoda, Assistant Secretary, Office of Planning and Programming at (225) 379-1248.

Sincerely,



Johnny B. Bradberry  
Secretary

pc: Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Mr. Sam Jones  
Mr. Cedric Grant  
Dr. Eric Kalivoda  
Mr. Jeff Carroll, Wilbur Smith Associates

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  
A DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

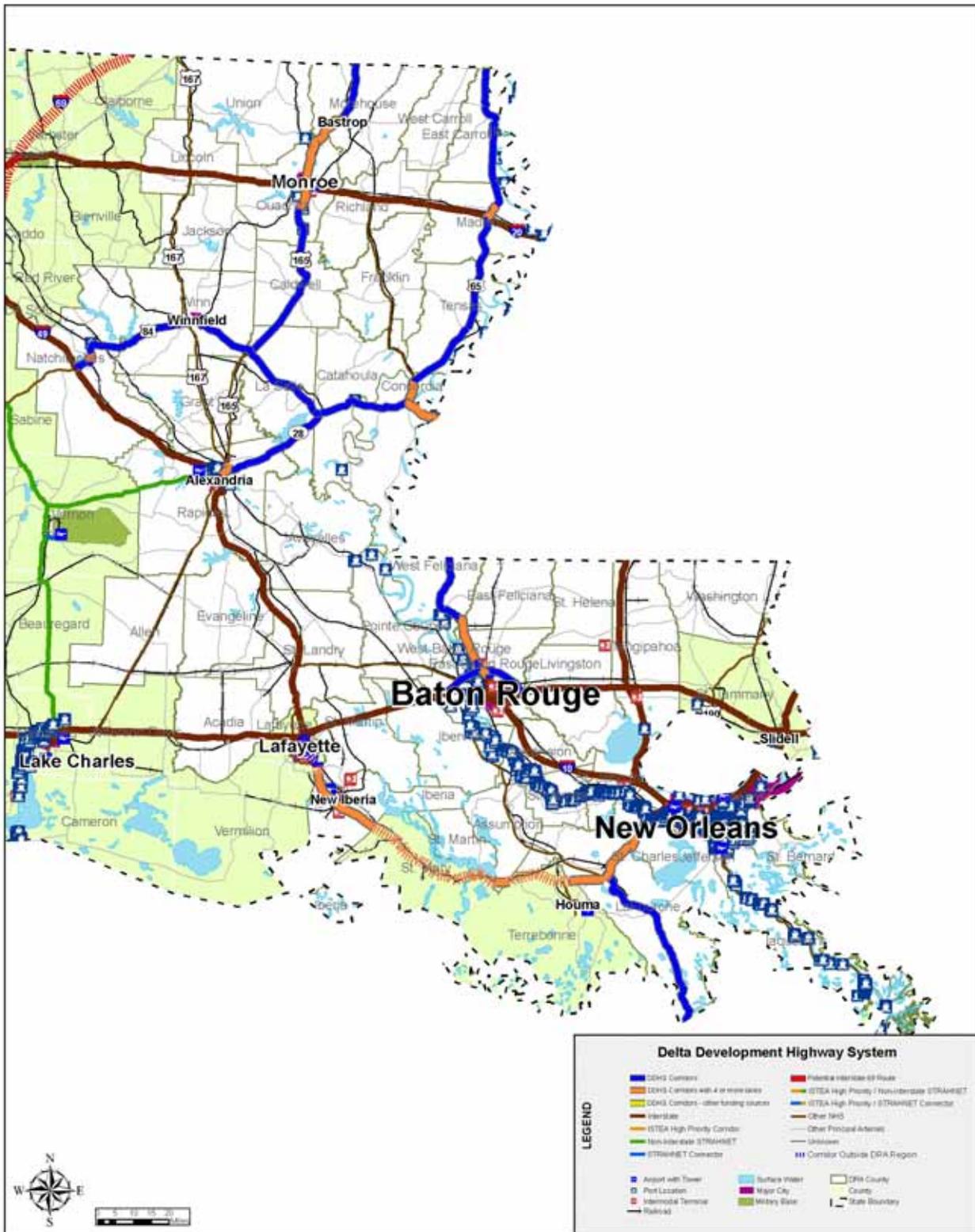
## 8. LOUISIANA

There are 48 parishes in Louisiana that are a part of the DRA region. There are a total of 591 DDHS miles identified in Louisiana, which constitutes 15.4 percent of the total DDHS miles, of which 484 miles are 2-lane facilities. The Louisiana DDHS improvements consist of widening and upgrading portions of US 90 (future I-49, Baton Rouge North Bypass (new construction), US 61, US 65, US 84, LA 6, LA 1, LA 3235 and LA 28. **Table 9** provides a project description, priority and cost estimate details on each DDHS corridor in Louisiana and **Figure 11** shows the Louisiana DDHS.

**Table 9 – Louisiana DDHS (planning-level cost estimates are in millions)**

Corridor / Route	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Priority
US 90/ Future I-49 St. Martin, Iberia, Lafourche, St. Charles, and Jefferson Parishes	Existing 4-Lane Upgrade to Interstate	1,643.0	Short-Range
US 90/ Future I-49 Assumption Parish	Existing - Full Interstate Standards	0.0	
Baton Rouge Interstate North By-Pass	New Interstate By-Pass	910.0	Medium - Range
US 61 Business Route Mississippi State line	4-Lane	0.0	
US 65 US 84 – Arkansas State line	4-Lane	412.0	Long-Range
US 165/US 425 US 84 – Arkansas State line	4-Lane	0.0	
LA 6 & US 84 I-49-Mississippi State line	4-Lane	460.0	Long-Range
LA 28; Alexandria - US 84	4-Lane	128.0	Medium- Range
LA 1- Leeville to Port Fourchon (under construction) Golden Meadow to Leeville	Elevated 2-lane	220.0	Short-Range
LA 3235: Golden Meadow to U.S. 90/ Future I-49	4-Lane	1,000.0	Long-Range
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,773</b>	

Figure 11 – Louisiana DDHS Corridors



## *8.1 Highest Priorities*

LA DOTD's top three (3) projects regardless of cost are:

1. US 90/Future I-49 - upgrade to Interstate in Delta parishes of St. Martin, Iberia, Lafourche, St. Charles, and Jefferson parishes. Total Cost Estimate - \$1,643 million.
2. LA 1 and LA 3235 - from Port Fourchon to US 90/Future I-49. Total Cost Estimate - \$1,220 million.
3. U.S. 84 - Archie, LA to Ferriday, LA - this is a portion of the "LA 6 & US 84 - I-49 to Mississippi State line" corridor. The estimated cost for this section only is \$67 million.

LA DOTD's top three (3) project segments if provided a total of \$15 million are:

1. LA 1 - Leeville to Port Fourchon - use this \$15 million as additional funding support for the project currently under construction, or the soon to be let project (the elevated 2 lanes from the new bridge under construction at Leeville to Port Fourchon).
2. U.S. 84 - Archie, LA to Ferriday, LA (as described above) - could use the \$15 million to complete design and perhaps acquire right-of-way.
3. U.S. 90/I49 - use \$15 million for frontage road and interchange construction on projects in the DOTD program

LA DOTD's top project segment, given \$5 million:

1. U.S. 65 - from U.S. 84 to Arkansas State line - use \$5 million on isolated pavement and safety improvements along this corridor.