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December 6, 2006

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

**SUBJECT: Delta Regional Authority Transportation Study**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Please accept my thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Delta Regional Authority's Transportation Study. As the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, I fully understand and appreciate the significance of transportation as a critical component of economic growth and development. Your agency's work to identify and designate the Delta Economic Development Highway System (DDHS) is a crucial step towards realizing the great potential of the Delta Region.

We at MDOT are committed to continuing the partnership with DRA that can bring about improvements to the quality of life for our citizens. I look forward to the opportunity to see the DDHS being successfully implemented.

Sincerely,

Larry L. "Butch" Brown  
Executive Director

LLB:WRB:de

PC: Mr. Jeffrey Carroll, Wilbur Smith Associates  
Mr. Jeff Pierce, State Planning Engineer, MDOT

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## 9. MISSISSIPPI

There are 45 counties in Mississippi that are a part of the DRA region. There are a total of 753 DDHS miles identified in Mississippi, which constitutes 19.6 percent of the total DDHS miles, of which 556 miles are 2-lane facilities. The Mississippi DDHS improvements consist of widening and upgrading portions of I-69, US 49, US 61, SR 6/US 278, SR 22, and SR 1. **Table 10** provides a project description, priority and cost estimate details on each DDHS corridor in Mississippi and **Figure 12** shows the Mississippi DDHS.

**Table 10 – Mississippi DDHS (planning-level cost estimates are in millions)**

<b>Corridor / Route</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Priority</b>
US 49	Provide Full Access Control from Covington/Forest County line to Florence	623.0	Short-Range
US 49	Florence Bypass - Full Control	277.0	Short-Range
US 49	Add 2 lanes from Mississippi River Bridge to US 61	43.0	Short-Range
SR 6/US 278	Add 2 lanes 5.15 miles west of I-55 to 3.11 miles east of I-55	3.0	Short-Range
SR 6/US 278	Add 2 lanes from MS 61 to 5.15 miles west of I-55	127.0	Short-Range
I-69	Grade Drain Pave from SR 305 to Marshall County line - Full Control	282.0	Short-Range
I-69	4-lane from Robinsonville to Benoit - Full Control	1,458.0	Medium-Range
I-69	Grade Drain Pave 4-lane BR Benoit to Arkansas State line - Full Control	198.0	Medium-Range
SR 22	Add 2-lanes from I-20 to I-55	170.0	Medium-Range
US 61	Add 2-lanes from SR 3 to US 82	256.0	Medium-Range
US 61	Add 2-lanes from Natchez Trace to 4-lane section north of Port Gibson	18.0	Long-Range
SR 1	Add 2-lanes from end of 4-lane in Greenville to I-69	38.0	Long-Range
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,602.0</b>	

## *9.1 Highest Priorities*

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

1. US 49,
2. SR 6/US 278, and
3. I-69.

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

1. SR 6/US 278 between Bates Street and SR 35 S and, SR 6/US 278 from US 61 to Quitman County line,
2. SR 6/US 278 from Quitman County line to SR 35 S, and
3. SR 6/US 278 from Coahoma County line to SR 316.

MDOT's top project segment if provided a total of \$5 million.

1. SR 6/278 between Bates St. and SR 35 S, and SR 6/278 from US 61 to Quitman County line.

**SR 6/US 278** – This project will construct four-lanes from Batesville to US 61 near Clarksdale. The completion of the route will provide economic opportunities for the region as well as providing a new vital section of 4-lane to US 278, which is currently 4 lanes or under construction through the majority of the state.

Figure 12 – Mississippi DDHS Corridors

