



Department of Transportation
Division of Planning/Engineering
Office of Project Development
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June 1, 2009

Mr. Todd Jorgensen
Assistant Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
116 East Dakota Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3110

Dear Mr. Jorgensen:

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) respectfully requests a formal review and approval of the composite options included in the draft request for an additional access to I-29 for Exit 74 (85th Street) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The draft request is the culmination of a four year study of the I-29 Corridor. This study looked at hundreds of possible improvements to the I-29 corridor between Exit 73 and Exit 77, which have been narrowed down to the nine composite options included in this draft request. The nine composite options comprise of various combinations of two configurations for a new service interchange at 85th Street and four reconfigurations of the I-29/I-229 System Interchange necessary to accommodate the new service interchange. Pending the results of an Environmental Assessment, the preliminary SDDOT preferred option is for a single point urban interchange at 85th Street with a slight ramp shift for the I-29 southbound off-ramp of the system interchange. This preliminary option was selected for the improved traffic operations of 85th Street, the least amount of right-of-way acquisition needed, and the least affect to the system interchange versus the other composite options. The new interchange will improve traffic operations at I-29 Exit 73 (Tea), I-29 Exit 77 (41st Street) and I-229 Exit 1 (Louise Avenue) while assisting economic development in Sioux Falls by providing the city an I-29 access south of I-229.

Attached is an Adobe® .pdf file of the analysis of the access addition as it meets the criteria for access modification published in the Federal Register on February 11, 1998. Your prompt response to our request is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Gramm at (605) 773 – 6641 or via email at steve.gramm@state.sd.us

Respectfully,

Tim Bjorneberg, PE
Office of Project Development
South Dakota Department of Transportation