



I-29 CORRIDOR STUDY

Exit 73 to Exit 77




Newsletter #12

January 30, 2009

Second I-29 Corridor Study Public Meeting Set

The next public meeting to seek input and provide information on the options developed by the I-29 Corridor Study has been set for February 26, 2009. Available for review will be each of the alternatives that have been incorporated into the draft Interchange Justification Report (IJR) and will be taken through an Environmental Assessment (E.A.). The meeting will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Gymnasium of Explorer Elementary School, located at 4010 W. 82nd Street in Sioux Falls.

A brief, summarizing presentation will be given at approximately 6:45 p.m. Information will be available and displays set up for each of the options for an updated I-29/I-229 interchange, for an I-29/85th Street interchange, a 69th Street crossing of I-29 and the Solberg Avenue-Tallgrass Avenue crossing of I-229. URS, City of Sioux Falls and SDDOT staff will be available to answer questions and receive input. The open house will be informal, with one on one discussion available. You will also have the opportunity to provide formal written comments regarding any of the components of the alternatives.

Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this open house/public meeting is being held in a physically accessible place. Please notify the SDDOT ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the open house/public meeting if you have special needs for which this agency will need to make arrangements. The telephone number for making special arrangements is 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf). 



Public Meeting #2

Date: February 26, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Explorer Elementary
4010 W. 82nd St.

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Study Advisory Team News

The next Study Advisory Team meeting is expected to be within the second week of February.

The Study Advisory Team will more than likely also meet on February 26, 2009. 

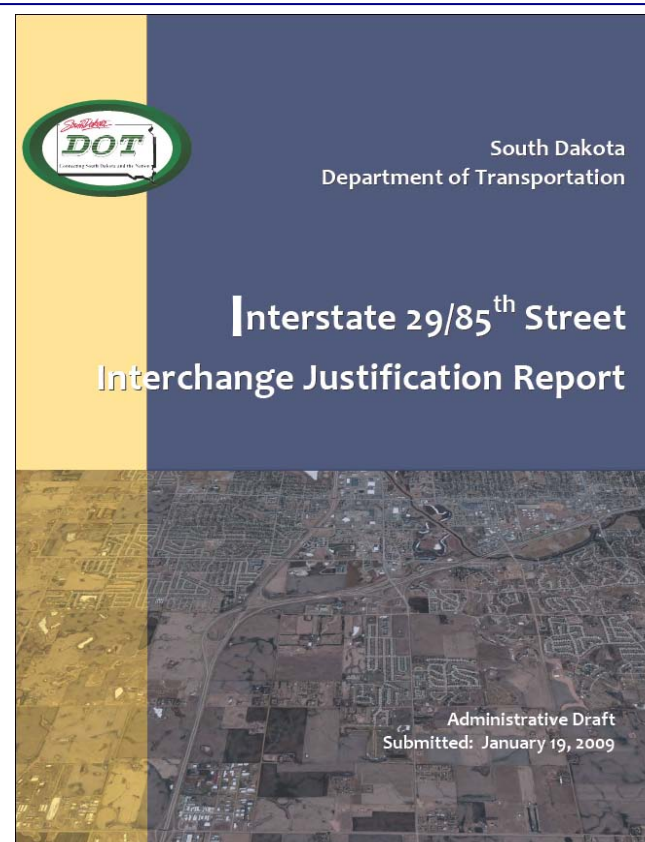


Draft Interchange Justification Report Received

URS Corporation submitted the first administrative draft of the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) for a potential new service interchange at I-29 and 85th Street to the SDDOT on January 19, 2009. The SDDOT has completed an internal review of the IJR document and has submitted comments and questions back to URS in regards to the administrative draft.


Upon URS' revising of the administrative draft IJR per those comments and questions, the SDDOT will then distribute the revised draft IJR document to outside agencies for their comments. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be among those agencies. As you recall from Newsletter #2, FHWA is the approving authority for all changes of Interstate access. Considering the proximity and potential modification of the I-29/I-229 System Interchange necessary for traffic capacity, the South Dakota Division of FHWA will be required to send the draft IJR to FHWA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. It is anticipated that FHWA Headquarters will take up to three months to render a decision on which options within the draft IJR will be acceptable.

As was presented in Newsletter #2, the draft IJR is a document that provides the FHWA with traffic volume and traffic operations information. It is not a document in which a final recommendation is outlined. From the information presented in the draft IJR, the FHWA will make a determination as to whether the SDDOT and the City can continue to evaluate a new I-29 interchange at 85th Street and the other needs that are created by an interchange. The draft IJR will be submitted to FHWA to get a decision as to which options will be allowed by FHWA to hopefully help save some effort in the




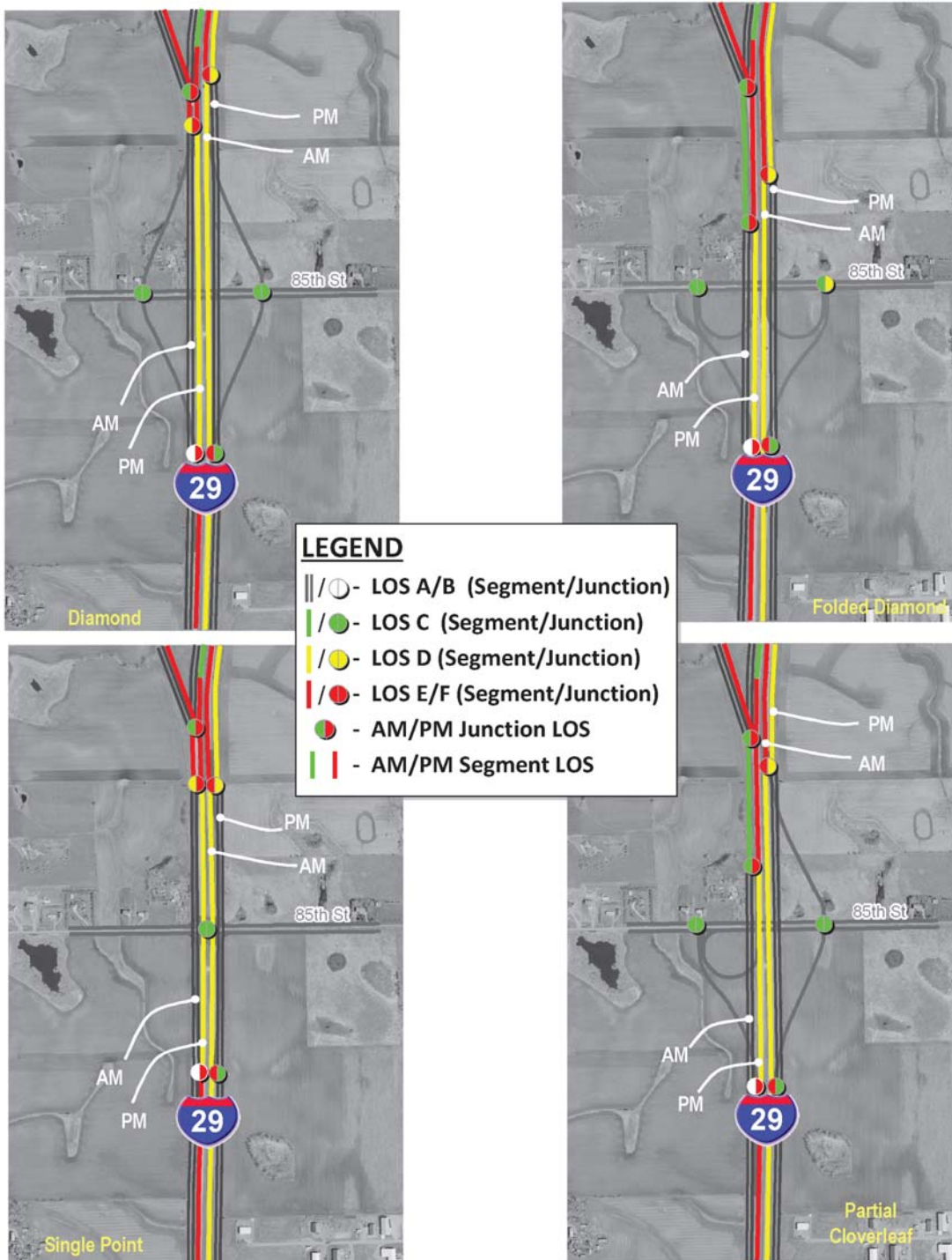
Environmental Assessment.

The Environmental Assessment (E.A.) is a decision document that defines the purpose and need, benefits, impacts, and environmental mitigation measures for the proposed improvements. The E.A. process is necessary to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). More information regarding the NEPA process can be found in Newsletter #4.

After completion and FHWA approval of the E.A., URS will take the decision from the E.A. and incorporate that decision into the Final IJR document as the preferred option. The Final IJR document will then be submitted to FHWA for final approval in regards to an interchange at I-29 and 85th Street. A general timeline of the process steps will be available for review at the February 26th public meeting. 

85th Street Interchange Traffic Analysis

As preparation for the draft IJR document, URS Corporation has performed a traffic analysis for the 85th Street Interchange Options. Below are graphic displays showing the results of the 2033 build analysis assuming no change to the I-29/I-229 System Interchange for the four basic interchange configurations. 



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

STUDY ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #5
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY, 2009

STUDY ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #6
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2009

PUBLIC MEETING #2
SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2009

SDDOT CONTACT INFORMATION

The I-29 Corridor Study is being administered by Mr. Steven Gramm, P.E., from SDDOT's Project Development Office located in Pierre, SD. Steve can be reached via email at steve.gramm@state.sd.us or by phone at 605-773-6641.

URS CONTACT INFORMATION

The I-29 Corridor Study is being coordinated by Mr. Bill Troe, AICP, from the Surface Transportation Group of the URS Division located in the Omaha, NE office. Bill can be reached via email at Bill_Troe@URSCorp.com or by phone at 1-866-671-5309.

USD CONTACT INFORMATION

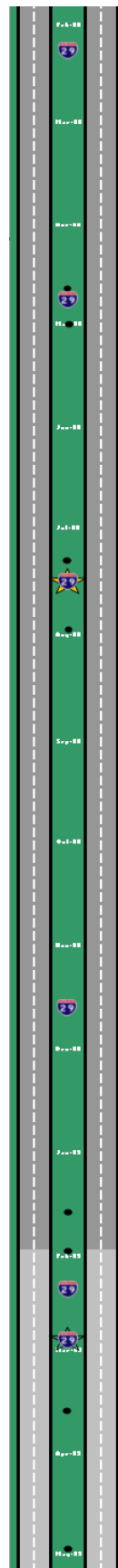
The economic impact portion of the I-29 Corridor Study is being coordinated by Mr. Wade Druin of USD's Business Research Bureau. Wade can be reached via email at wdruin@usd.edu or by phone at 605-677-5287.

STUDY WEBSITE

http://www.sddot.com/pe/projdev/planning_ss_i29.asp

STUDY NEWSLETTER

Requests to be added to the newsletter mailing list can be made with an email to steve.gramm@state.sd.us. Past newsletters can be downloaded from the study website.



Study Advisory Team Meeting #1
Held February 8, 2008

69th Street Options: April 24, 2008
Study Advisory Team Meeting #2
Held April 25, 2008
I-29/I-229 Options: May 1, 2008

85th Street Options: July 10, 2008
Study Advisory Team Meeting #3
Held July 17, 2008
Public Meeting #1: Held July 17, 2008
Additional I-29/I-229 Options: Late July, 2008

No Build Future Traffic Operations: October, 2008

Build Future Traffic Operations: November, 2008
Study Advisory Team Meeting #4
Held November 20, 2008

Draft IJR January 19, 2009
Economic Impact Study Late January, 2009

Study Advisory Team Meeting #5
Tentatively Scheduled Early February, 2009
Study Advisory Team Meeting #6
Public Meeting #2
Scheduled February 26, 2009

Draft EA Mid March, 2009

Final IJR: Late April, 2009

