



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

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In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-SD  
(E-Document)

Tim Bjorneberg, P.E.  
Office of Project Development  
SD Department of Transportation  
700 E. Broadway Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Draft Interstate Justification Report for I-29 and 85<sup>th</sup> Street in Sioux Falls, SD

Dear Mr. Bjorneberg:

Our Division, in consultation with the FHWA Office of Program Administration, has completed our review of the Draft Interstate Justification Report (DIJR) for the proposed I-29 interchange at 85<sup>th</sup> Street in Sioux Falls. As you know, our priority is the preservation of the performance of I-29 and the interchange with I-229. Due to the proximity to the I-29/I-229 interchange, the safety and traffic operations of the system interchange will be impacted by the proposed interchange. While the DIJR contains alternatives that may be viable, we cannot approve the DIJR without further safety and operational analyses.

Per FHWA policy, any request for new interstate access must demonstrate that the need being addressed cannot be adequately satisfied through reasonable improvements to existing interchanges and roadways. Since a significant portion of the study area is relatively undeveloped, there appears to be an opportunity to create a local roadway infrastructure that is capable of handling the projected traffic. Additional local transportation system improvement options should be analyzed.

Any request for new interstate access also has to describe any commitments agreed upon to assure adequate collection and dispersion of traffic resulting from future development in the area. While the DIJR includes a number of arterial improvements, crossings, auxiliary lanes, and additional lanes, it does not explain how these improvements will be phased in over time. Construction phasing and sequencing of improvements included in the build alternatives must be identified and analyzed. Certain improvements to the local street network may have to occur prior to, or concurrent with, the construction of a new interchange.



We are willing to assist you in revising the DIJR. Once a DIJR is approved, the environmental and planning processes will need to be completed prior to final approval. If you have any question, please contact Ron McMahon at 224-7326, Ext. 3047.

Sincerely,



Todd D. Jorgensen  
Assistant Division Administrator

cc: Joel Jundt, SDDOT  
Steve Gramm, SDDOT  
Ron McMahon, FHWA  
Brett Hestdalen, FHWA