



# I-29 CORRIDOR STUDY

## Exit 73 to Exit 77



Newsletter #19

October 30, 2009

## Federal Highway Responds to Draft I-29 / 85<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange Justification Report

The Federal Highway Administration has responded to the South Dakota Department of Transportation's draft I-29 / 85<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange Justification Report (DIJR). As anticipated, changes made in August (after the DIJR's submittal) to FHWA's interstate access policy are apparent in the response letter, with an underlying theme that the DIJR does not meet the revised policy by inadequately addressing items that are now emphasized or added by the revised policy.

Within the letter, FHWA states, "While the DIJR contains alternatives that may be viable, we cannot approve the DIJR without further safety and operational analysis." The letter goes on to enforce the theme with the paragraph: "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." FHWA also wrote about the lack of a project phasing plan in the DIJR and how "Certain improvements to the local street network may have to occur prior to, or concurrent with, the construction of a new interchange."

While not a denial for an interchange at that location, to meet the requirements set forth by the letter will take additional analysis and time.

Those interested in reviewing the entire FHWA response letter can download it from the study webpage [http://www.sddot.com/pe/projdev/planning\\_ss\\_I29.asp](http://www.sddot.com/pe/projdev/planning_ss_I29.asp).

### Study Advisory Team News

There are no meetings scheduled at this time.

### Solberg-Tallgrass Overpass Progressing

SDDOT and City of Sioux Falls staffs are currently reviewing the draft environmental document prepared by URS Corporation. It is anticipated that the document will be ready for public review sometime in November. The project to construct Solberg Avenue from 59<sup>th</sup> Street to 69<sup>th</sup> Street is currently scheduled to be let to contract in September 2010 with construction anticipated in 2011.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 FHWA Responds
- 1 Study Advisory Team News
- 1 Solberg-Tallgrass Update
- 2 Study Timeline



## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

STUDY ADVISORY TEAM MEETING #6  
TO BE DETERMINED

PUBLIC MEETING #3  
TO BE DETERMINED

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Bill_Troe@URSCorp.com) or by phone at 1-866-671-5309.

## USD CONTACT INFORMATION

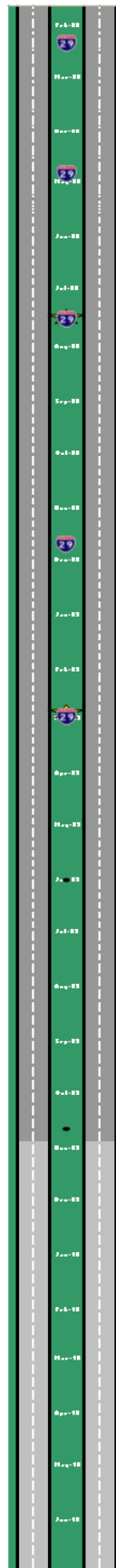
The economic impact portion of the I-29 Corridor Study is being coordinated by Mr. Wade Druin of USD's Business Research Bureau. Wade can be reached via email at [wdruin@usd.edu](mailto:wdruin@usd.edu) or by phone at 605-677-5287.

## STUDY WEBSITE

[http://www.sddot.com/pe/projdev/planning\\_ss\\_i29.asp](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](mailto:steve.gramm@state.sd.us). Past newsletters can be downloaded from the study website.



Study Advisory Team Meeting #1  
Held February 8, 2008

Study Advisory Team Meeting #2  
Held April 25, 2008

Study Advisory Team Meeting #3  
**Public Meeting #1**  
**Held July 17, 2008**

Study Advisory Team Meeting #4  
Held November 20, 2008

Study Advisory Team Meeting #5  
**Public Meeting #2**  
**Held February 26, 2009**

Draft IJR Submittal to FHWA,  
June, 2009

FHWA Response to Draft IJR  
October, 2009

Study Completion:  
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