

Chapter 1

Introduction

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this study is to conduct a Corridor Study of the North-South Expressway between I-220 and the Arkansas State line. This Report serves as a prelude to an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and for the ultimate development of plans for the construction of the North-South Expressway within the Corridor.

The initiation of this corridor study is the result of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) which was signed into law on December 19, 1991. The purpose of the Act is expressed in its statement of policy: "to develop a National Intermodal Transportation System that is economically efficient, environmentally sound, provides the foundation for the Nation to compete in the global economy and will move people and goods in an energy efficient manner."

A major goal of the Act is the establishment of a National Highway System (NHS) consisting of existing Interstate routes and a portion of the Primary System, and to focus Federal resources on roads which are most important to interstate travel and national defense, connect with other modes of transportation, and are essential for international commerce.

The NHS program includes High Priority Corridors, which in some cases have received funding for studies, planning and/or construction. Corridor One, a part of the NHS program, is designated as the roadway between Shreveport, Louisiana and Kansas City, Missouri. To date, the segment of Corridor One between Shreveport and the Arkansas state line has received authorization of \$29.6 million for planning, right-of-way acquisition and construction. Arkansas and Missouri with funding assistance from the Highway Trust Fund have been active in planning and construction of a four lane, controlled access, roadway within Corridor One since 1988.

Other Corridors have been designated for study and planning. A Feasibility Study funded by a \$750,000.00 allocation under the ISTEA is being prepared for the I-69 project, which is designated as Corridor 18 between Indianapolis, Indiana and Houston, Texas. See Exhibit A for map outlining

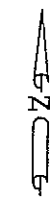
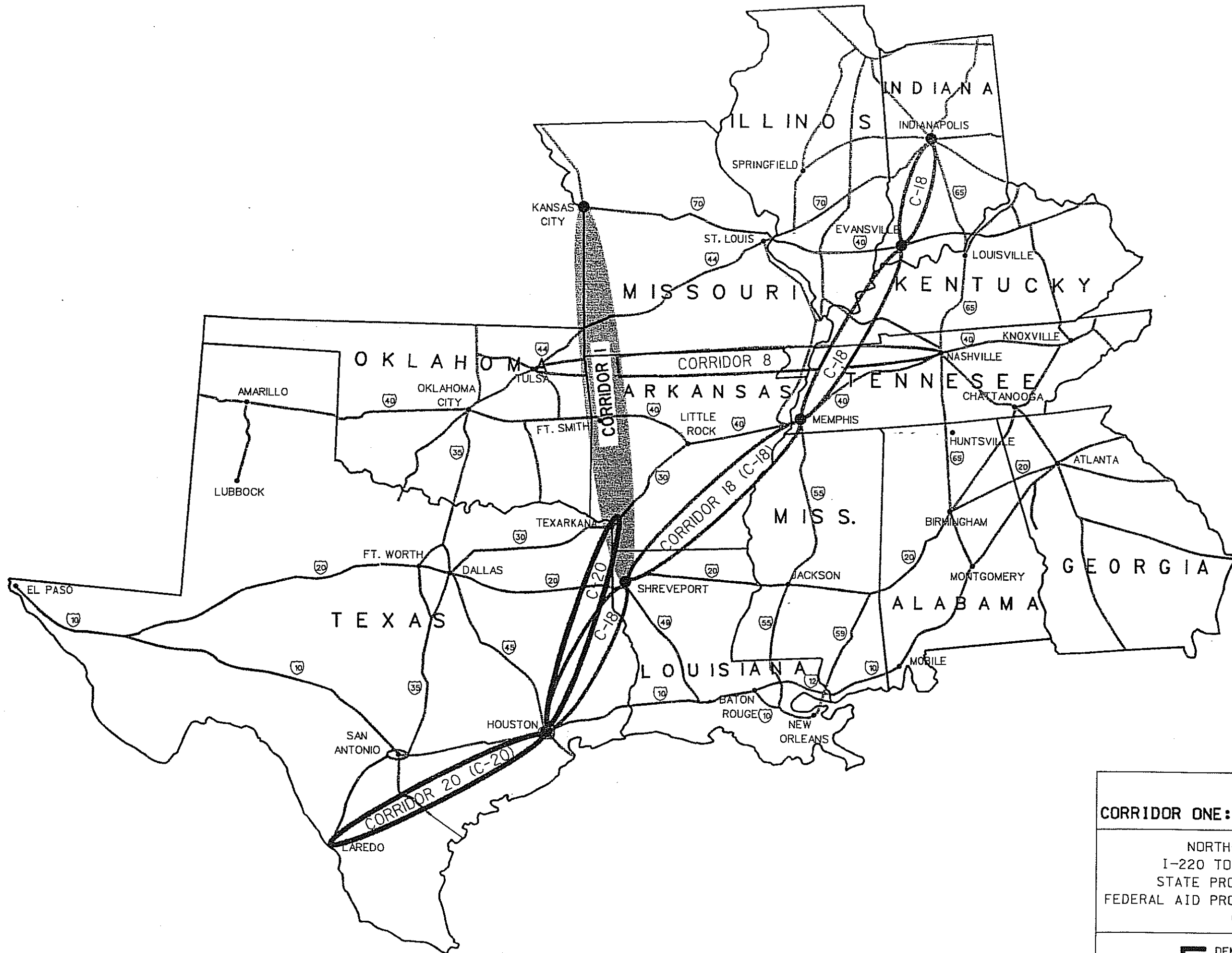



EXHIBIT A
CORRIDOR ONE: HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR

NORTH-SOUTH EXPRESSWAY
 I-220 TO ARKANSAS STATE LINE
 STATE PROJECT NO. 700-24-0072
 FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. DE-NHS-0009 (801)
 CADDO PARISH


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Corridors 1 and 18 as well as other designated Corridors within Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas which have an impact upon Corridor One.

The need for a Corridor One roadway was documented in the Kansas City, Missouri to Shreveport, Louisiana Highway Feasibility Corridor Study. The highway departments of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Missouri participated in a study to determine the feasibility and necessity of constructing a highway from Shreveport to Kansas City. This report prepared in response to Section 166 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1987 by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation was issued in April, 1988.

This Corridor Study and a future EIS shall determine suitability of the Louisiana portion of this roadway as a part of the NHS.

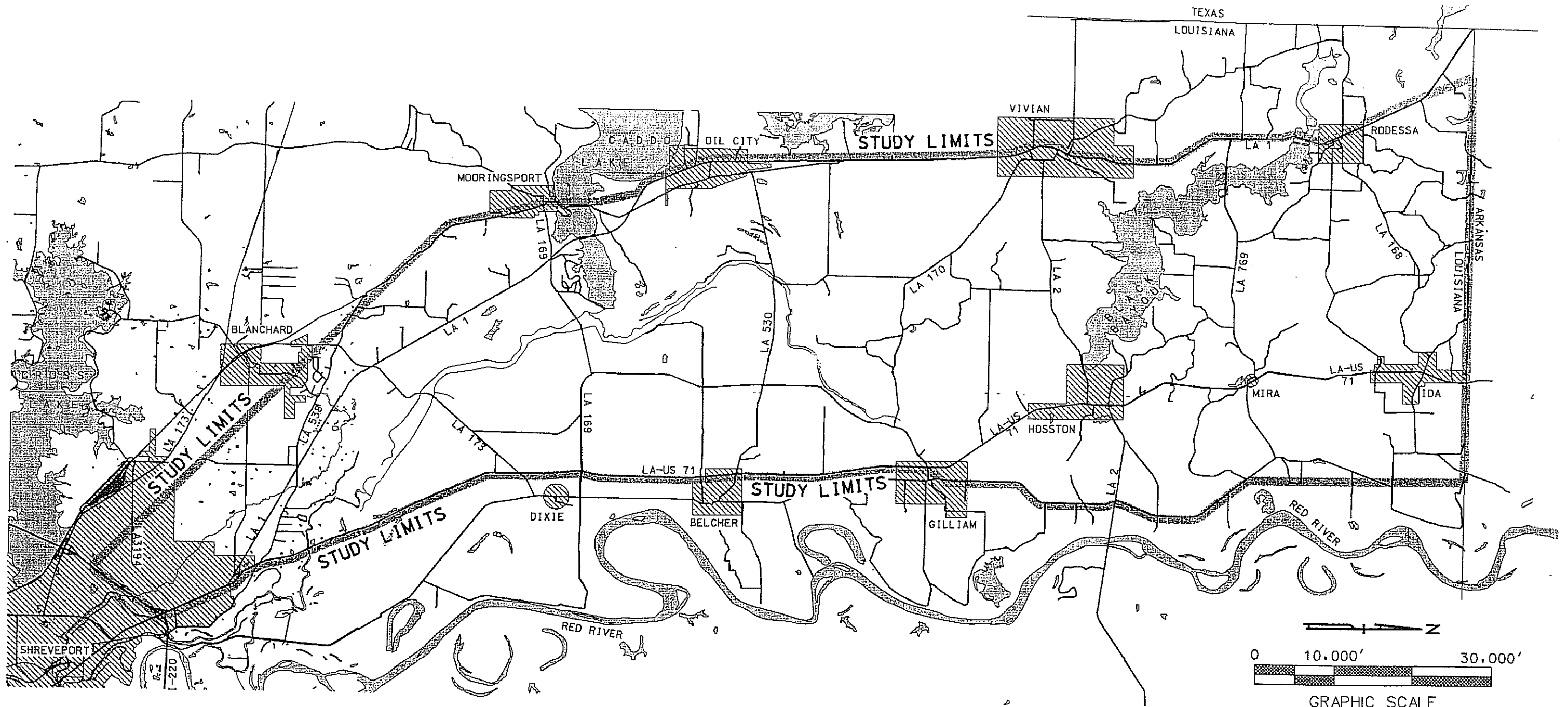
Study Area

The limits of the Corridor Study are generally bounded on the west by La 173 and La 538 and by La 1 beginning north of Mooringsport, on the east by US 71 except for an area east of Gilliam, Hosston and Ida, on the north by the Arkansas state line and on the south by I-220 between US 71 and La 173. See Exhibit B-1 for map showing Study Area. The study area is approximately 35+ miles in length and varies in width from a minimum of two miles at I-220 to a maximum of ten miles.

Scope of Project

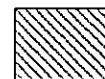
Scope of work is generally defined as six major areas of work, as follows:

- 1) Communication and public involvement includes communication with public agencies and elected officials and meetings to inform the public on scope, purpose and schedules of the project study. Meetings are structured to encourage and receive comments and to provide opportunity for LaDOTD and the study team to respond to public concerns. Maintenance of communication with public agencies, officials and the general public throughout the Corridor Study work period is an integral part of the study process.
- 2) Collect, assemble and document existing information and data relative to physical conditions and environmental concerns for a location of a highway within the study area.




LEGEND

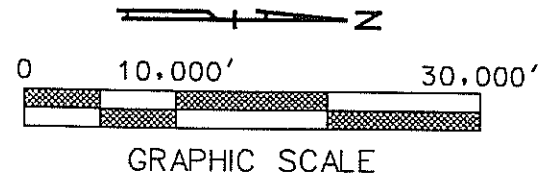
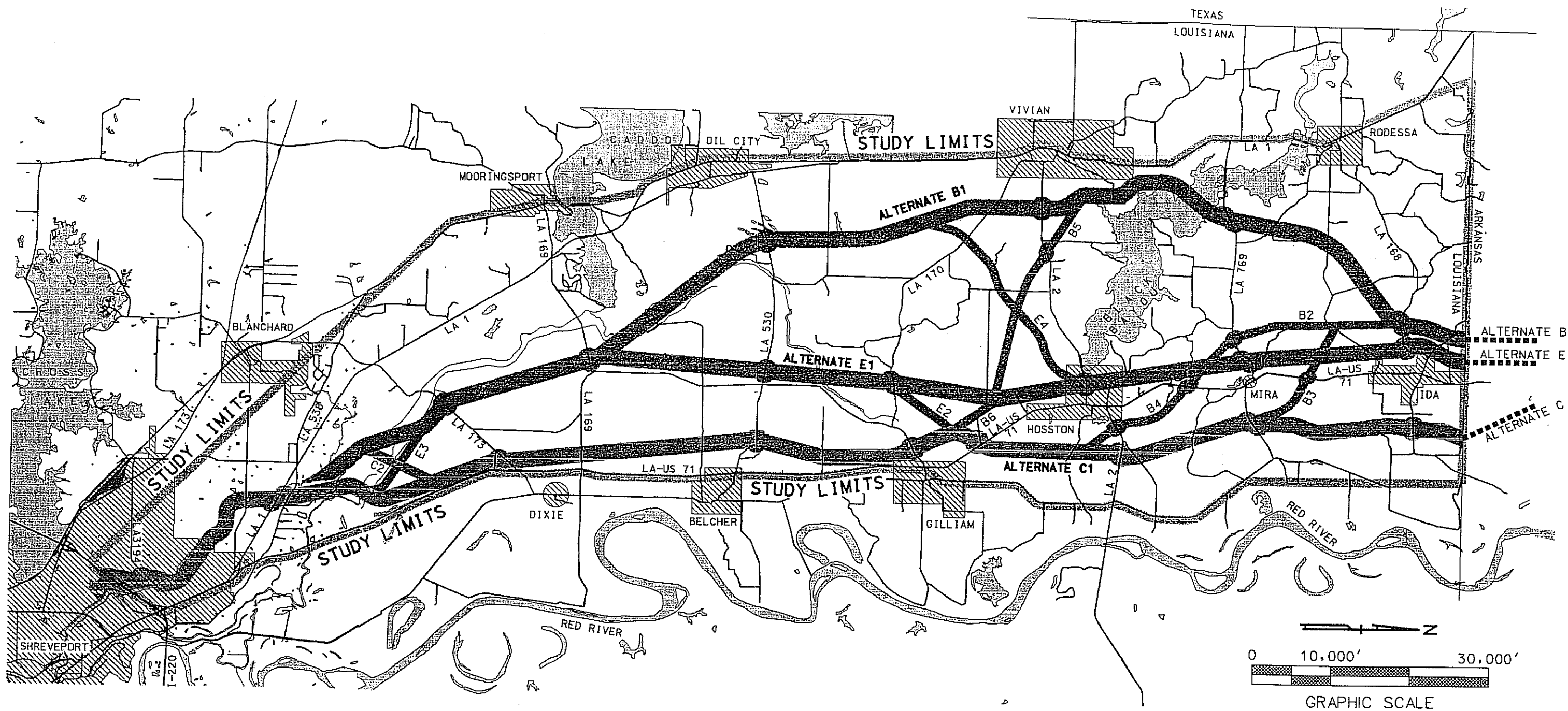
LIMITS OF CITY
TOWN OR VILLAGE



**EXHIBIT B-1
CORRIDOR STUDY AREA**

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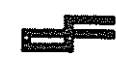
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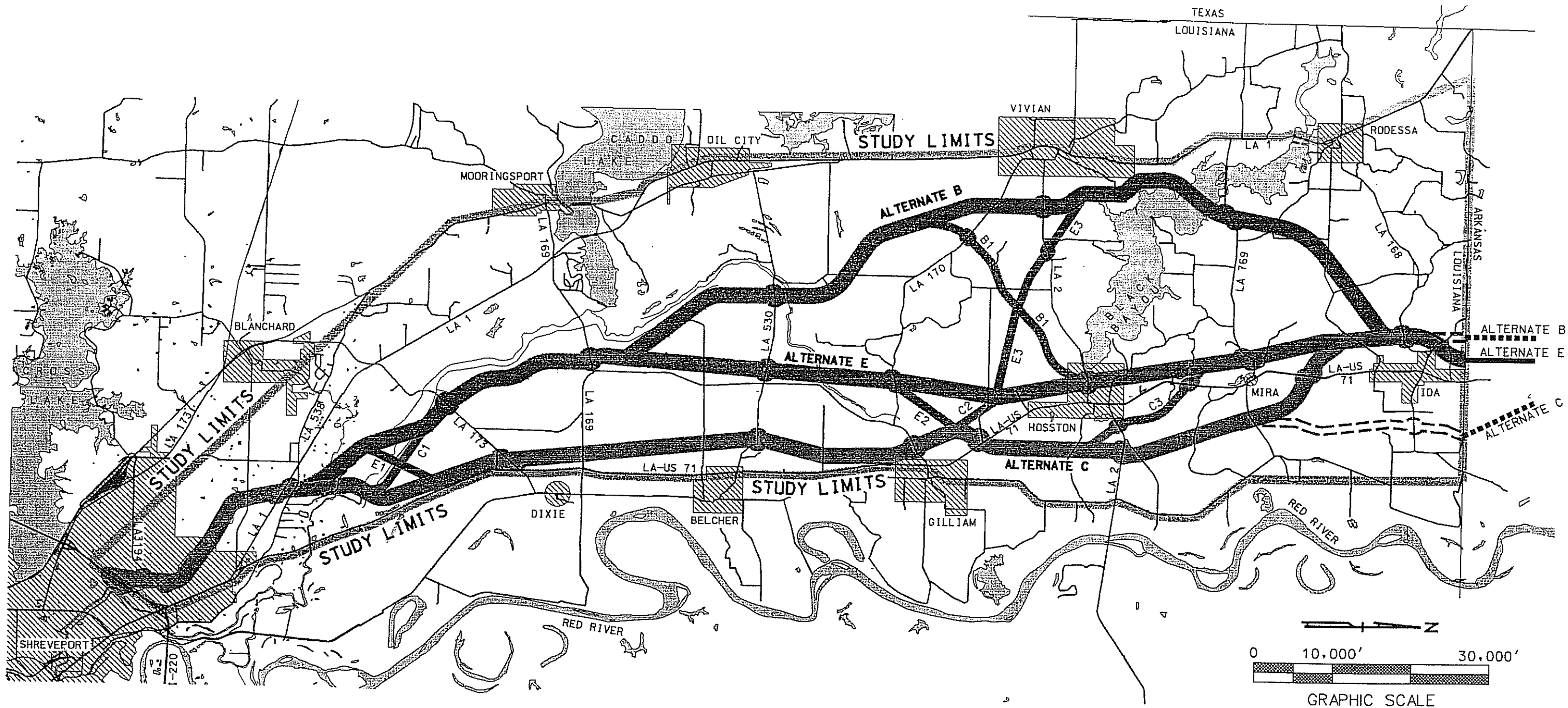
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EXHIBIT B-2
INITIAL CORRIDOR ALIGNMENTS

NORTH-SOUTH EXPRESSWAY
I-220 TO ARKANSAS STATE LINE
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LEGEND

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**EXHIBIT B-3
REVISED CORRIDOR ALIGNMENTS**

NORTH-SOUTH EXPRESSWAY
I-220 TO ARKANSAS STATE LINE
STATE PROJECT NO. 700-24-0072
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