



Project Area Wetlands

WHAT'S NEXT?

The next steps include continuing to develop preliminary environmental (including natural, cultural and social environment) and engineering constraints and the development of preliminary alternatives using State-of-the-Art "Route Optimization" software. Subsequent tasks include initial impact evaluation, a more detailed study of alternatives and environmental impacts, the development of a draft EIS, a public hearing, preparation of a final EIS with complete, detailed environmental and line and grade studies resulting in a Record of Decision by the Federal Highway

Administration. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be made available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

Public and agency involvement activities, including presentations, newsletters, and press releases, will occur throughout the process. A web page, www.north-southhurricane corridor.com, features project related materials. **Stay Tuned!**

By receipt of this newsletter the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is offering the opportunity for you or your organization to participate in consultation regarding historic resources pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) 36 CFR Part 800 regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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**Houma-Thibodaux to LA 3127 Connection
Environmental Impact Statement**

State Project No. 700-99-0302

Federal Project No. HP 9902(518)

Newsletter No. 1



Project Introduction

Houma-Thibodaux to LA 3127 Connection
Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed construction of a limited-access hurricane evacuation route to be known as the Houma-Thibodaux to LA 3127 Connection (North-South Corridor/Hurricane Evacuation). The project limits would be US 90 on the south and State Route 3127 on the north. The approximate distance of the project is 23 miles. Based on previous studies, the project area is known to contain a rich variety of natural, cultural and socio-economic resources. This project is intended to serve as a primary north-south hurricane evacuation route to provide direct access to the I-10 corridor during emergency evacuation events (see attached map).

The Houma-Thibodaux to LA 3127 Connection Project, initiated in April 2004, will evaluate information and assemble results in an EIS. By the completion of the EIS process, the entire study area will have been evaluated to assess the existing roads and how well they serve the public today; how well they can be expected to serve the public in the event of an emergency; environmental features; and topographic features. Alternatives that will meet the defined needs will also be developed and their potential environmental effects will be evaluated.

An extensive community and agency involvement program, intended to keep the public informed of project progress, is part of the overall study. We anticipate that there will be a total of three public meetings and one public hearing throughout the project development process to present findings to the public and to obtain public input. The public will receive notices on the location and time of future opportunities for participation at meetings and public hearings through newspaper advertisements and other means.

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