

# Interstate 69

## From Benoit to Robinsonville



### Mississippians Have Selected the Route for the New I-69

The final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS—a study) has been completed for a 120-mile stretch of the new Interstate Highway 69 (I-69) through Mississippi’s Delta. As a result, the best, most feasible location for the future highway has been determined by citizens, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, local governments, and numerous private and non-profit organizations. The chosen route—located in Bolivar, Coahoma, and Tunica Counties—is known as the Central Alternative (see map on page 3) and stretches from near Benoit to near Robinsonville, Mississippi.

According to Brown, the new interstate is expected to benefit the historically disadvantaged Delta region of Mississippi by bringing the following improvements:

- A high quality truck route to support international and domestic trade traffic.
- Improved quality of life by encouraging economic development and long-term stability in the region.
- Greater tourist access, while increasing safety and mobility for local and regional traffic.

“We are very excited to have reached this milestone in the development of the new interstate highway,” Larry L. “Butch” Brown, Mississippi Department of Transportation Executive Director said. “The EIS is an intensive study of possible impacts to an area’s economic, social and environmental interests. With this study, MDOT carefully evaluated possible impacts to Delta communities, farmlands, wetlands, and wildlife for each proposed route and worked closely with the general public to receive local input and guidance.”

Years from now, the new I-69—once completed—will stretch from Mexico to Canada. Until that time, work is underway on separate portions of the national interstate corridor called Sections of Independent Utility (SIU). There are 32 SIU’s for I-69. The purpose of dividing the corridor into sections is so each SIU can be a viable project even if all of the other sections of I-69 are not completed. The Mississippi Delta section of I-69, from near Benoit to near Robinsonville, is SIU #11.







