



PROJECT FACT SHEET

INTERSTATE 49
Highway 22 to I-40



Project Description

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (Department), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is preparing an environmental re-evaluation and refining the conceptual alignment for a new section of Interstate 49 (I-49). The new section is a critical connection between Highway 22 in Sebastian County and the I-40/I-49 interchange in Crawford County, a length of approximately 13.7 miles.

Project Background

This proposed project was originally part of a larger environmental study known as the "U.S. 71 Relocation." This study extended from Highway 70 in DeQueen, Arkansas to I-40 near Alma, Arkansas, encompassing approximately 125 miles. The relocation of U.S. 71 in Arkansas is part of Congressionally-Designated High Priority Corridor 1 and Corridor 72, running from Shreveport, Louisiana to Kansas City, Missouri. A Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared and a Record of Decision was issued in December 1997 that approved the general alignment of a new location, four-lane highway in western Arkansas.



Due to the length of the corridor and funding constraints, design and construction of sections of the corridor have been completed as funding has become available. For this section of I-49, the Department has selected HNTB Corporation to perform an environmental re-evaluation, develop a preliminary design, and conduct a toll feasibility analysis to determine a path forward for completing this critical section of I-49.

Project Purpose & Need

The purpose of this project is to complement the existing interstate system, accommodate safe travel, and promote economic development.



Timeline

The proposed project will be conducted in phases.

The initial phase includes an environmental re-evaluation of potential environmental impacts, developing a conceptual and preliminary design, a tolling feasibility analysis, determining viable project delivery methods, and recommending steps for moving forward. One public meeting will be held during the first phase. Once the meeting has been scheduled, more information will be available and notifications will be distributed. The first phase is anticipated to last approximately 12 months.

Future phases for the proposed project may include the project's final design and additional tolling studies.



How to Get Involved

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