

# The Interstate 69 Corridor: An Overview



Dr. Christopher N. Lawrence

Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss. (2004-05)  
Duke University, Durham, N.C. (2005-06)

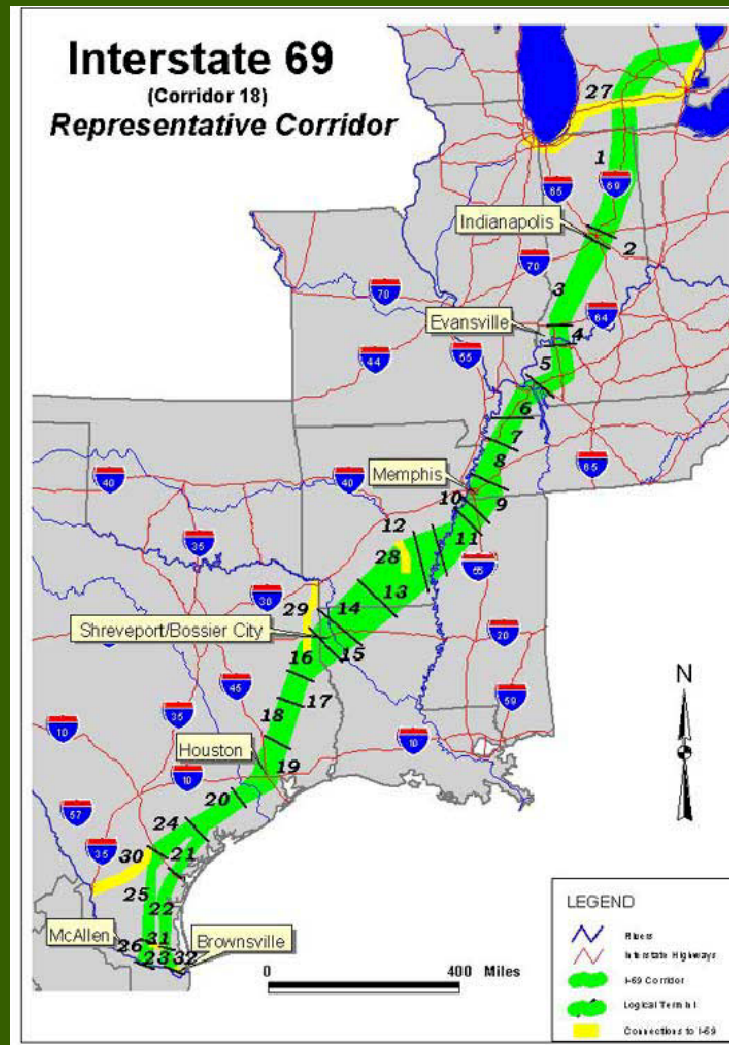
<http://www.i69info.com/>



# Overview of the talk

- A map of the corridor
  - The existing I-69 route
  - Extending I-69 to Mexico
  - Current status of the corridor
  - Areas of controversy
  - Political support
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# The Interstate 69 Corridor



# Existing Interstate 69

- 1944: “Interregional Highways” report suggested I-69 route between Indianapolis and Angola, Indiana
  - 1958: “National System of Interstate Highways” report included I-69 between Indianapolis and Marshall; later extended to Flint, Port Huron
  - 1968: I-69 complete to Marshall
  - 1988: I-69 complete to Canadian border at Port Huron
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# Extending I-69 south to Mexico

- 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) designates high priority corridors:
    - Corridor 18 between Indianapolis and Memphis
    - Corridor 20 between Texarkana and Laredo and the LRGV
  - 1993: Congress extends Corridor 18 to Houston, linking to Corridor 20
  - 1995: Corridors 18 and 20 combined
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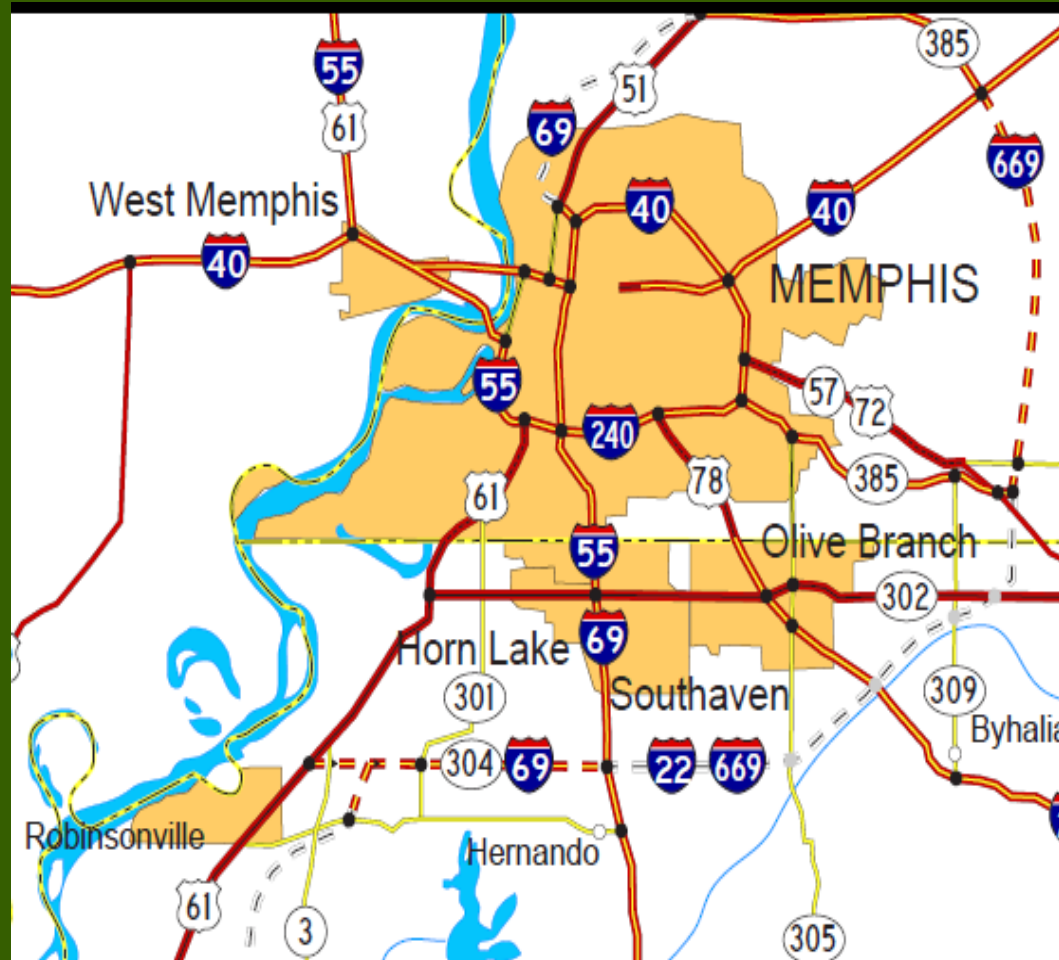
# TEA-21 and the Special Environmental Study

- 1998: Congress passes TEA-21, which designates the route as Interstate 69 and adds connector routes
  - 2000: I-69 Steering Committee completes Special Environmental Study dividing route into 32 sections of independent utility
  - States begin EIS process for each SIU as money becomes available
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# Current Status

- Construction underway on I-69 in Mississippi (SIU 10) and I-530 extension in Arkansas (SIU 28)
  - Right-of-way being acquired for I-69 from Dyersburg to South Fulton
  - Great River Bridge EIS complete
  - Environmental studies for most sections underway in all states
  - Texas has combined study of I-69 with its Trans Texas Corridor concept
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# Map of Memphis area





# Memphis - Area Developments

- First “new” portion of I-69, from Hernando to Robinsonville, likely to open by the end of 2006
  - DeSoto and Marshall county officials considering expediting I-269 construction with local bonds
  - TN 385 portion of outer loop should be complete by 2010, part of I-269
  - No timetable on Memphis-to-Millington corridor parallel to U.S. 51
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# Areas of controversy

- Indiana, particularly Bloomington
  - Trans Texas Corridor
  - Major issues
    - NAFTA in general
    - conversion of farmland to highway
    - secondary development
    - conduit for trafficking in drugs and undocumented workers
    - funding: tolls?
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# Political support

- TEA-LU highway bill includes more project money for I-69 in Tennessee
  - Centerpiece of Delta initiative to bring jobs and commerce to Mississippi Valley
  - Backed by business interests in all communities on the corridor
  - Backed by local governments, except Bloomington and Indianapolis
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