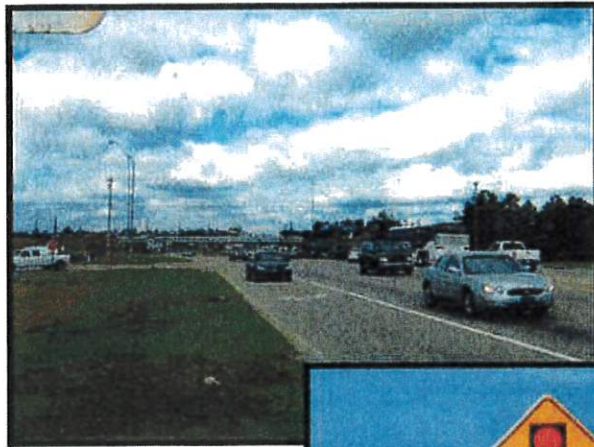


SR 609 CORRIDOR STUDY JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



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FINAL REPORT

Funding Provided by:
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SR 609 CORRIDOR STUDY

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) initiated a work assignment for Neel-Schaffer to provide traffic and transportation engineering services related to the evaluation of the State Route 609 (SR 609) Corridor in Jackson County, Mississippi. This corridor serves as a major north-south arterial route connecting Interstate 10 to U.S. Highway 90 in western Jackson County and the City of Ocean Springs. The assignment, which primarily addresses access management and capacity related issues along the corridor, was initiated in May of 2005, and was underway when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. The project was then put on-hold, and restarted again during the summer of 2006.

This study is a part of GRPC's programmatic approach to encourage the development of transportation improvement projects that maximize mobility and safety, while providing access to vehicular and pedestrian destinations along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The study was also conducted in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.

1.2 Project Description

SR 609 (Washington Avenue) is currently a five-lane suburban arterial route that extends for approximately 2.5 miles between Highway 90 in the City of Ocean Springs and Interstate 10 in unincorporated Jackson County. SR 609 is one of five direct connections between I-10 and Highway 90 in the County, the closest one is Highway 57 to the east. Numerous commercial and residential developments exist along the SR 609 corridor with multiple driveways. Furthermore, the corridor continues to grow and develop with unlimited access due to the center two-way left turn lane and the multiple driveway locations. SR 609 transitions into Tucker Road just north of Interstate-10. Tucker Road was recently widened to a five-lane undivided roadway which continues north, and serves the growing commercial and residential areas in northern Jackson County. A project location map is shown in Figure 1.1.