

PASS ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI



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FINAL REPORT

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Description

In October, 2004, the Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) initiated a work assignment with Neel-Schaffer to provide traffic and transportation engineering services related to the evaluation of the Pass Road Corridor in Gulfport, Mississippi. GRPC, the City of Gulfport, business owners, and residents along the corridor participated in the development of the study.

As the project was nearing completion, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005 causing widespread damage and destruction. Not only did the Hurricane destroy residential and commercial developments, it damaged critical infrastructure that supported the people who lived within the area. Due to the Hurricane, priorities were adjusted to focus on recovery efforts, and the Pass Road Corridor Study was put on hold indefinitely. In February, 2008 it was agreed upon that Neel-Schaffer would begin finalizing the report with some minor revisions to address short to intermediate term improvements at a few selected intersections within the corridor.

Overall, the 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. Furthermore, the study was conducted in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

1.2 Report Objectives

The objective of the report was to inventory and analyze the existing conditions along the Pass Road Corridor in Gulfport, as well as, develop and evaluate alternatives for improvements. The report outlines general recommendations for corridor improvements, and costs associated with each alternative. Furthermore, the report breaks down the proposed roadway improvements into segments that could potentially allow for phased construction projects and/or different typical

sections and right-of-way requirements. Finally, the report will provide information that will assist the City of Gulfport and GRPC when making decisions concerning improvements along the Pass Road Corridor.

1.3 Project Area

The project area was defined as the Pass Road Corridor in Gulfport, Mississippi between 30th Avenue and Debuys Road. The Pass Road Corridor contains many unsignalized intersections, as well as, fifteen (15) signalized intersections. The project location map is shown in figure 1.1.

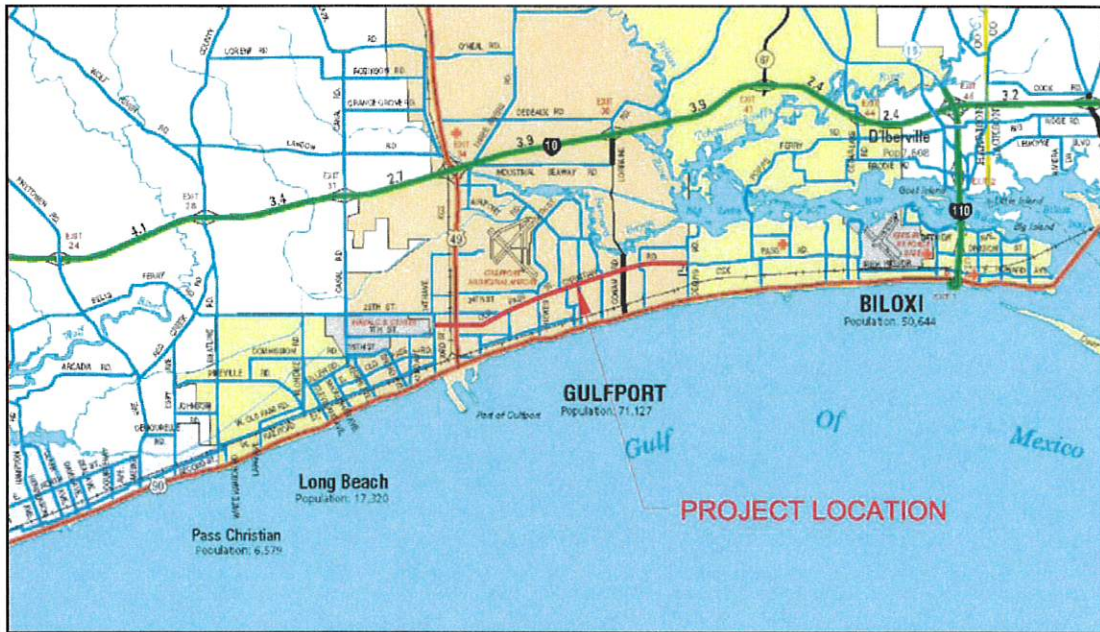


Figure 1.1 – Project Location Map
Source – Mississippi Department of Transportation

1.4 Project Area Characteristics

The Pass Road Corridor is functionally classified as a principal urban arterial roadway. The roadway typically carries between 15,000 and 27,000 vehicles per day (2004 AADT), depending upon the location within the corridor. Roadways that intersect with the study corridor include two major arterials, six minor arterials, and seven collector streets as listed in Table 1.1.