

U.S. Highway 49 Corridor Study Gulfport, Mississippi



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FINAL REPORT



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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 U.S. Highway 49 Corridor in Gulfport, Mississippi. This corridor serves as a major north-south arterial route. The assignment, which primarily addresses capacity related issues along the corridor, was initiated in March of 2008.

1.2 Project Description

The work assignment was executed to help the City of Gulfport to assess the traffic congestion along U.S. Highway 49 and to make recommendations for short term and long term projects that would help ease traffic congestion. The scope of work included attending project meetings with the project team and governing agencies, collecting field data related to perceived traffic problem areas, evaluating existing conditions and potential improvements, and providing graphic illustrations of data and proposed solutions.

1.3 Study Area

The City of Gulfport identified ten intersections on U.S. Highway 49 and one intersection east of the corridor on Creosote Road as the most critical intersections affecting the safe, efficient flow of traffic. The study area is shown graphically in Figure 1.1. The study area include the following intersections:

- Creosote Road and Three Rivers Road
- U.S. Highway 49 and Pass Road
- U.S. Highway 49 and 28th Street
- U.S. Highway 49 and 34th Street
- U.S. Highway 49 and Airport Road
- U.S. Highway 49 and Middle Drive
- U.S. Highway 49 and Creosote Road
- U.S. Highway 49 and Landon Road
- U.S. Highway 49 and Community Road
- U.S. Highway 49 and Dedeaux Road
- U.S. Highway 49 and St. Charles Street



Figure I.1 – Project Location Map
 Source – Mississippi Department of Transportation

2.0 Data Collection

Several pieces of data were collected to document the existing conditions and to help forecast future conditions along the U.S. Highway 49 corridor. The data collection efforts included gathering information from GRPC, Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), and the City of Gulfport. Also, Neel-Schaffer staff provided field data collection efforts for data not readily available. The following sections summarize the data collection efforts.

2.1 Traffic Data

GRPC received 12-hour turning movement counts at all signalized intersections along U.S. Highway 49 from MDOT and Neel-Schaffer staff collected a 12-hour turning movement count at the intersection of Creosote Road and Three Rivers Road. The counts were collected in the Spring of 2008 using the PETRA software. Reports were run to identify the traffic volumes present during the morning and afternoon peak hours of the day. These volumes were used when evaluating the existing conditions and for evaluating potential solutions for each location. Summary sheets for the intersection traffic counts are provided in the Appendix. The AM and PM peak hour traffic counts for the intersections are shown graphically in Figure 2.1.