

GRPC PLANNING — SECURITY

INTERSTATE 10

I-10 in Mississippi is a critical link for east-west mobility in the southern United States. I-10 facilitates the flow of traffic throughout our very linear region. This corridor serves the longer length trips being made between the twelve Gulf Coast cities and activity centers. It is the primary route used daily to access employment, regional shopping, truck delivery, and evacuation. Maintaining I-10 is extremely important to the functionality of our transportation system and the southern United States. This Gulf Coast Highway Freight Corridor is between the

Louisiana and Alabama borders with major intersecting highways of US 49 in Gulfport and MS 63 in Pascagoula. The three coastal counties in this corridor account for 13% of both population and employment in Mississippi. Ingalls, the state's largest employer with over 11,500 employees, is located in this corridor. The corridor serves three major Gulf Coast ports, including two deep water ports: Pascagoula and Gulfport.

FRONTAGE ROADS

The development and construction of new local roadways parallel to I-10 would maintain traffic circulation on the street system next to the interstate and eliminate the need for some traffic to enter the interstate, thereby reducing the number of vehicles entering the overburdened interchanges. Frontage roads add **redundancy** to the operation of the interstate as **temporary ramp closures, crashes, congestion, and natural or man-made disasters** on the interstate are manageable without seriously affecting the flow of the system as diverted traffic may utilize the frontage road.

As stated in the USDOT's **National Roadway Safety Strategy** under the Safe System approach, **redundancy** is crucial to the transportation system so that if one part fails, the other parts still protect people. Frontage roads will improve the **resilience of I-10 as it** is an at-risk infrastructure and could easily be disrupted by a **disaster**. Transportation plays a central role in the Gulf Coast's ability to respond to the increasing number and strength of hurricanes caused by climate change. Gulf Coast communities are very aware and prepared to respond to hurricanes. It is imperative that they are provided with suitable infrastructure to **evacuate for hurricanes**. Our transportation system must be efficient and resilient, providing multiple options in the event of a disruption on one of our evacuation routes. Proper infrastructure will lessen the dangers posed to health and safety and help with relief efforts when these powerful storms strike.

OBJECTIVE

Strategically enhance corridors for safety and context

STRATEGY

Provide frontage roads for access to developed and undeveloped areas and interstate redundancy

MEASURE

Miles of roadway paralleling the interstate.

GRPC Mission

Provide a planning process that identifies, develops, and promotes projects and programs that contribute toward a safe, efficient, and resilient Mississippi Gulf Coast transportation system.



GULF COAST I-10 REDUNDANCY

