



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

February 17, 2011

In Reply Refer To: HEPH-20

Mr. John Horsley
Executive Director
American Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Horsley:

At the 2010 Annual Meeting in Biloxi, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Official's (AASHTO) Special Committee on U.S. Route Numbering approved the Alabama Department of Transportation's (ALDOT) request for a new Future Interstate 85 (I-85) alignment and re-designation of I-85 as I-685, pending FHWA's approval. After further review and coordination with ALDOT, we have made the following decisions regarding ALDOT's request.

Alabama Add the proposed route as future I-85 from I-85 east of Montgomery, AL to I-20/59 near Cuba, AL.

The FHWA concurs with the numbering for the entire route and is in the process of entering into an agreement with ALDOT for the proposed future Interstate route segment from existing I-85 east of Montgomery to I-65 south of Montgomery. Concurrence for the remaining segment from I-65 south of Montgomery to I-20/59 near Cuba, AL, is contingent on completion and approval of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), currently under development, and the Record of Decision approving the selection of an alternative.

Alabama Renumber I-85 as I-685, from I-65 northeast to I-85.

The FHWA concurs with the proposed numbering of I-85 as I-685. However, until the future I-85 route segment from existing I-85 east of Montgomery to I-65 south of Montgomery is complete, this segment shall be co-numbered as I-85 and I-685. Upon completion of the future I-85 route segment from existing I-85 east of Montgomery to I-65 south of Montgomery, the co-numbering shall be removed. The removal of the I-85 signage should be coordinated with the designation and official signage of the new alignment to provide continuity of the system.



The FHWA will inform AASHTO once the future Interstate route agreement is completed. If there are any questions regarding these comments or approvals, please contact Kevin Adderly at (202) 366-5006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor M. Mendez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victor" and last name "Mendez" clearly legible.

Victor M. Mendez
Administrator