



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

Office of the Administrator

January 18, 2008

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

In Reply Refer To: HEPI-20

Mr. Paul D. Degges  
Chief Engineer  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building  
Nashville, TN 37243-0349

Through: Bobby W. Blackmon  
Division Administrator  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Degges:

This is in response to your letters of November 15 and December 3, 2007, to Mississippi Division Administrator Andrew Hughes and Tennessee Division Administrator Bobby Blackmon, respectively, regarding a portion of the future I-69 corridor in the Memphis, Tennessee area. Because the portion is already on the Interstate System with other numbering, we are responding only on the proposed additional route numbering.

You have requested that the Interstate highways between I-69/I-55 Hernando, Mississippi and I-40/TN 300 Memphis, Tennessee on the I-55—I-240—I-40 route also carry the number I-69. You have noted that the portion is part of the corridor designated as future Interstate and numbered I-69 by Section 1105(e)(5) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, as amended; it is also part of the route location in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision approved for the I-69 Section of Independent Utility #9 (SIU 9). This portion connects with the remaining part of approved SIU 9 to the north and with existing I-69 to the south. The dual numbering has been recommended by both Division Administrators.

Therefore, I approve adding the number I-69 to the portions of I-55, I-240 and I-40 from I-69 Hernando, Mississippi to TN 300 Memphis, Tennessee.

By copy of this letter, we are notifying the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials of this action in which the selection of the number I-69 is mandated by law.

Sincerely,

J. Richard Capka  
Administrator

cc: Ms. Marty Vitale-AASHTO/ Special Committee on US Route Numbering/  
Standing Committee on Highways

**AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**

w/1-18-08 to TN

## SUMMARY SHEET

**SUBJECT:** Establishment of I-69 route numbering in the Memphis, TN area.

**ISSUE:** The MS and TN DOTs have requested the Interstate addition and numbering of I-69 at the location of three consecutive Interstate segments that run through the Memphis area.

**FHWA POSITION:** The location has been established by the FEIS and ROD, the number is mandated in law, and the location is currently part of the Interstate System. Addition of the number at this location is warranted.

**BACKGROUND:** The request would extend existing I-69 numbering north from Hernando, MS partly through the city of Memphis, TN and is recommended by both Division Administrators.

As the numbering is mandated in law, only notice to AASHTO is necessary.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Frank Clark      HEPI 65006

**SUPERVISOR:** Jill Hochman      HEPI 60233