

Increasing capacity on our nation's transportation system will:

- Unlock Gridlock,
- Generate Jobs,
- Deliver Freight,
- Access Energy,
- Connect Communities

Did you know?

- The amount of freight moved in this country—from milk, toothpaste and toilet paper to sparkplugs, wheat and wind turbines—is expected to double in the next 40 years?
- The Interstate Highway System represents only 4 percent of total miles but carries 70 percent of commercial truck traffic?
- Each of the top ten worst freight-truck bottlenecks cause over one million hours of delay a year?

—Joe McInnes, Alabama Director of Transportation



Freight Capacity Needs

Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge—Mobile and Baldwin Counties

The proposed Interstate 10 Mobile River Bridge near Mobile Bay demonstrates one of Alabama's critical needs for added capacity. The project would replace the I-10 tunnels with a new bridge over the Mobile River. The existing tunnels are constrained to two lanes in each direction. A new bridge is needed to relieve congestion.

I-10 is an important east-west corridor from Los Angeles to Jacksonville, Florida. This route serves the many ports along the Gulf Coast as well as East Coast and West Coast ports. In Alabama, I-10 carries 10,000 trucks per day.

Average annual daily traffic through the tunnel is 65,000 vehicles. In 2007, automated monitoring systems in the tunnel recorded 83 days with congestion due to high traffic volumes. An additional 71 days experienced congestion due to an accident in or near the tunnel. The average time to clear congestion was 3 hours due to high traffic and the average time to clear after an accident was 2½ hours.

The Mobile tunnel is a chokepoint along this critical Interstate. Capacity improvements along this corridor are necessary and will enhance the conveniences for the motoring public. Reliable access to centers of commerce from this area can only be provided by expanding this vital interstate facility. Additionally, upgrading this project would afford easier access to recreational areas and lends itself to the expansion of tourism where visitors can enjoy golfing, fishing, sporting events, historic and cultural activities.

This corridor is part of the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET), a critical element to the Department of Defense domestic operations. This project enhances the efficiency of the corridor to serve in the STRAHNET operation of homeland security.