

## MEMO

TO: I-59 Corridor and Gulf Coast Emergency Management Directors  
FROM: Governor Ronnie Musgrove  
DATE: October 9, 2002  
SUBJECT: Status of I-59 Contra-flow Plans

This memo is to inform you of the latest developments associated with the Mississippi Department of Transportation's proposed I-59 contra-flow plan.

As you know, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has the statutory responsibility to coordinate the development and implementation of Mississippi's emergency management activities. Transportation represents only one component of our state's emergency response activities. I did not approve MDOT's draft contra-flow plan and I will not approve the use of contra-flow until we have developed a comprehensive evacuation plan between the states of Mississippi and Louisiana which addresses all of the components of evacuation, including evacuation routes, sheltering, emergency response and resource allocation. Such a plan must not adversely impact our state or the safe evacuation of our Mississippi Gulf Coast communities.

Louisiana did not request that Mississippi implement contra-flow during Isidore or Lili. Nor did Louisiana implement its own I-59 contra-flow plan to the Mississippi state line. Governor Mike Foster and I have agreed to work together to develop a comprehensive evacuation plan. I have designated Robert Latham, Executive Director of MEMA, to represent the State of Mississippi in the development of this plan.

The State of Mississippi is committed to working with Louisiana to provide for the safe and orderly evacuation of its citizens during a time of impending natural disaster. I am confident that by working together as partners, Mississippi and Louisiana can develop an evacuation plan that provides for the health and safety of the citizens of both of our states.

As always, I appreciate the service and leadership that you provide to your county and to our state. I also appreciate your sharing issues that affect your communities and citizens with our Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Together, we will continue to work to make our communities safe and our citizens prepared for times of emergency.