

August 17, 2001

Mr. Larry Brown, Executive Director  
Mississippi Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 1850  
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

Dear Mr. Brown:

This letter is to request your agency's assistance and cooperation in analyzing the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's proposal to contraflow I-59 should an approaching hurricane require the evacuation of New Orleans.

I have been advised that representatives of your department have stated in public meetings that Mississippi will comply with Louisiana's contraflow plans. It appears as if such statements are in total disregard of the concerns raised by other Mississippi agencies as to the impact that the proposed contraflow will have on the infrastructure, as well as on personnel and other resources. I am requesting that your agency recognize these concerns and work with these other Mississippi agencies to obtain the information required to determine the precise impact on state resources necessary to accommodate the contraflow implementation prior to Mississippi consenting to the Louisiana proposal.

Mississippi is committed to helping Louisiana as much as possible without adversely impacting efforts to evacuate our own Mississippi residents. Resolving this matter, however, requires recognition by all parties that the impact affects much more than the interstate transportation infrastructure and that the final solution depends on concurrence by affected state agencies.

Please contact Kelly Riley (601-359-2528) of my staff if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr