

## Phone Call to Governor Foster

06/02/03

### Background:

On February 10, 2003 Robert Latham met with General Landreneau in Baton Rouge to discuss the I59 evacuation issue. General Landreneau was asked by Robert Latham what Louisiana needed Mississippi to do to assist in the evacuation plan for the southeast portion of Louisiana (New Orleans area). He stated that contraflow would only be used as a last resort and only requested by Louisiana State Police on the ground who determines that traffic flow justifies the request, thru the Governor of Louisiana.

General Landreneau indicated that if contraflow were requested by Louisiana, he felt that an I59 contraflow to Mile Mark 21 (just south of Poplarville) would be more than adequate to meet Louisiana's needs. NOTE: THIS IS THE SAME PLAN THAT ROBERT LATHAM AND MIKE BROWN (LA DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT) AGREED UPON IN JACKKSON, MISSISSIPPI ON MAY 16, 2002). The concept was immediately agreed upon. As a contingency we also agreed to plan for a contraflow as far as Mile Marker 55 (just south of Hattiesburg).

MHP and MDOT developed an operational plan to support the agreed upon concept.

MHP and LSP have agreed, through a MOU, on the options/phases of the plan. Through the MOU the two states lead law enforcement agencies, responsible for the public's safety on highways, agreed to assist each other when requested and identifies 3 options or phases (in order of priority) that may be used. They are:

1. Louisiana will implement reverse laning within their state borders. They feel that proper utilization of existing road infrastructure will be adequate for evactuation.

2. Louisiana will request reverse laning of I59 into Mississippi to Mile Marker 21, south of Poplarville, Ms.

3. Louisiana will request reverse laning of I59 into Mississippi to Mile Marker 55, south of Hattiesburg, Ms.

The agreed upon plan supports the request from Louisiana and also ensures law enforcement resources are available to support Mississippi's own evacuation and the counties along the I59 corridor.

If this does not accomplish what you need let me know.

Thanks.

RRL