

Chapter 1

Project Description:

The BR Loop is a proposed 90 to 105 mile controlled access free-flow toll road around Baton Rouge with two new river crossings (one North and one South of the existing I-10 bridge). The BR Loop is proposed to be constructed in 5 parishes (Ascension, Iberville, Livingston, East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge).

The BR Loop is proposed to be constructed in four lanes, two in each direction, in an “average” four hundred foot Right-of-Way. Two additional lanes could be added in the median, if future needs dictate.

Construction will be done in stages as funds are available, with the North Unit (I-12 near Walker to I-10 west of Baton Rouge) completed first. The East Unit (I-10 west of Baton Rouge to I-10 south of Baton Rouge) and the South Unit (I-10 south of Baton Rouge to I-12 near Walker) would be progressed at some future date.

During the Tier 1 EIS, (Environmental Impact Study) the Loop Project looks at all the proposed routes for general location, environmental resource presence, and land use implications. The Tier 1 EIS does not authorize construction or acquisition of property. Tier 1 is to select a “preferred route“.

The preferred route would be studied in the Tier 2 phase for Project details and potential impacts. A Record of Decision would then be issued which would allow construction and land acquisition.

Purpose

The purpose of the Loop is to provide an alternate route to reduce congestion and delays on I-10 and I-12.

To increase the number of bridges across the Mississippi River within the 5 Parishes.

The Loop is proposed to be funded all or in part by toll revenues.

Need

Traffic congestion/delays on I-10 and I-12 have gotten worse in the last 15 years and likely to increase in the future.

Traffic flow is restricted at the single lane exits on the existing I-10 bridge and at the US 190 bridge.

Two new bridges will provide additional links between the west and east sides of the Mississippi River and enhance emergency evacuation and emergency response.

Lack of convenient alternative routes forces traffic onto I-10/I-12 increasing congestion.