

Interstate 49 Fast Facts

- ◆ I-49 in Missouri is 185 miles long, running between Kansas City and Pineville.
- ◆ First section of highway designated as I-49 was 32 miles long in southern Louisiana, completed in the mid-1980s.
- ◆ When completed, I-49 will cover 300 miles in Arkansas, 410 miles in Louisiana and 190 miles in Missouri.
- ◆ I-49/I-29 corridor will be 1,600 miles long through Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. It will link New Orleans area ports on the Gulf of Mexico and central Canada near Winnipeg, a center for mineral mining, energy, agriculture and transportation.
- ◆ When completed, I-49 in Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana will cost an estimated \$11.5 billion.



Benefits of Interstate Highway System

Various studies by the Federal Highway Administration, university researchers and business groups show the interstate highway system, whose construction began in 1956, is as important to the nation's infrastructure as electricity, water and sewer.

The interstate highway system has:

- ◆ Contributed significantly to growth in U.S. business productivity and helped control production and distribution costs. Factors include reduced driving delays between urban centers, more reliable on-time delivery of freight and greater connectivity to air and rail terminals and river, lake and ocean ports.
- ◆ Made driving safer. The fatality rate is 60 percent lower than the rest of the system and the injury rate is 70 percent lower.
- ◆ Increased mobility for the general public. This creates more job opportunities for workers, with the potential for higher income levels. Travel for family and recreational activities is easier.
- ◆ Enhanced national security. The interstate highway grid provides smooth, wide, fast, intersection-free roads that can be used in times of national or regional crisis to move military equipment and supplies and serve as evacuation and rescue routes.