

- The Record of Decision (ROD) for Section of Independent Utility (SIU) 15 for the I-69 Interstate Highway was finalized a number of years ago and contains not only Interstate 69 itself but also the I-69 Service Road Project from Ellerbe Road to Stonewall Frierson.
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- There was approximately \$15 million of federal/State of Louisiana funding remaining in the SIU evaluation account for the I-69. These funds can be and are intended to be used by DOTD towards the construction of the service road.
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- Pre-covid, Bossier City, Caddo and Desoto Parishes, NLCOG and the port committed funds for the service road project, which totaled approximately \$32 million. Caddo Parish, along with the Port and Desoto Parish each committed \$2.25 million and Bossier City committed \$10.5 million through NLCOG. These funds were matched with the existing \$15 million of state/federal funds and other NLCOG funds to equal the approximate \$32 million estimate for the service road cost.
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- As part of the process for the State of Louisiana to commit \$15 million of state/federal funds, LADOTD requested Road Swaps be completed with Caddo and Desoto Parishes. By law, the state cannot increase mileage throughout the State Highway system, therefore, given that the I-69 Frontage Road is going to be a State Highway, DOTD requires each respective parish to swap an equal amount of existing State Highway into the Parish system roadway network for the project to proceed.
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- Caddo Parish and LADOTD negotiated and the roads to be swapped are included in the proposed Caddo Parish Ordinance.
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- In order to move the project forward to the next step, which includes design, ROW acquisition and environmental, Caddo Parish needs to adopt the Ordinance.
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- LADOTD, in these situations of having multiple local partners on a project, prefers to have one governing authority take the lead. The port has taken this role and is responsible for collecting the partnering governing authority's funds and then enter into an agreement with LADOTD to provide these funds to them. In this case, this includes \$2.25 million from Caddo Parish.
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- The Caddo Parish Ordinance needs to be adopted ASAP in order for the port to enter into an agreement with LADOTD to provide the local match (\$6.75 million from Caddo, Desoto and the Port) to begin the design, ROW acquisition and environmental.
  - In addition to the above, due cost increases associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the cost estimate has increased approximately 80% and the port is finalizing an INFRA grant to be submitted later this month for the cost difference.