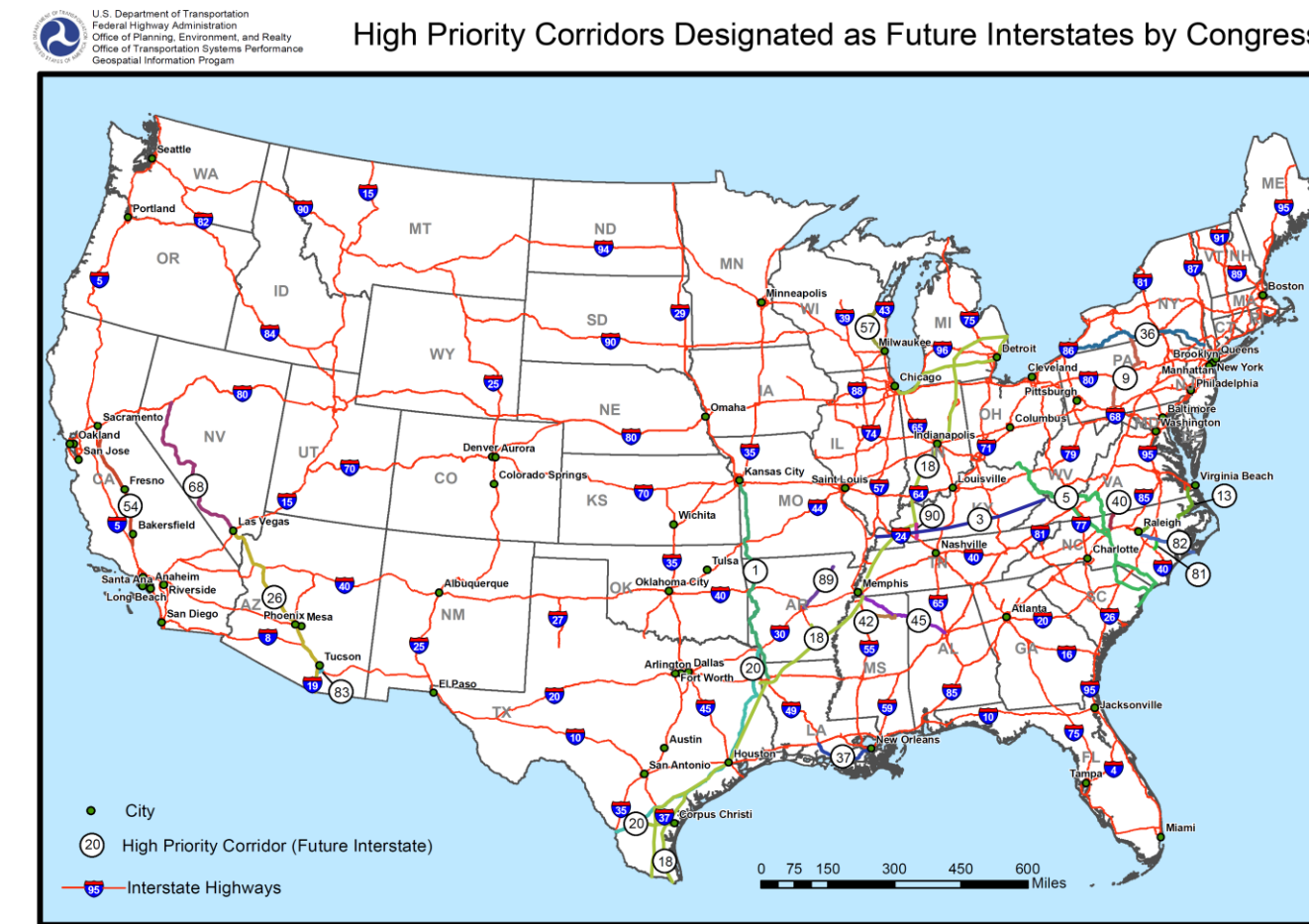
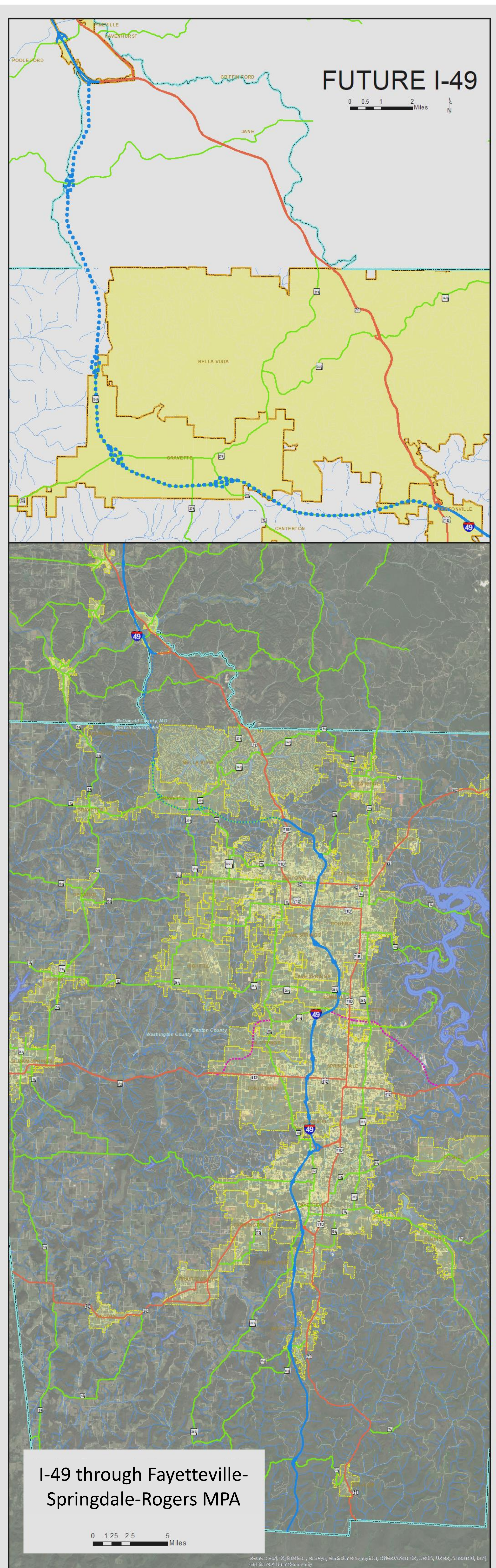


NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

30+ Years in the Making: Interstate 49 from Ft. Smith to Kansas City



Note: The FAST Act included the entirety of the Interstate System—including Interstate facilities not located on the PHFS—in the NHFN; however, all Interstate System roadways may not yet be reflected on the national and state NHFN maps and tables. FHWA will update the maps and tables on a periodic basis, incorporating any Interstate System routes missing currently, as well as those new roads added to the Interstate System that become part of the "non-PHFS Interstate System Highways" component of the NHFN under 23 U.S.C. 167(c)(2)(D).

Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)



Discretionary Grant Program I-49 Missouri-Arkansas Connector

NWARPC prepared and submitted a BUILD grant on July 18, 2018 for a \$25 million grant to be used solely on the I-49 Missouri-Arkansas Connector. The Secretary of Transportation announced in December 2018 that NWARPC's application was approved.

The \$25 million grant will complete the funding gap in Missouri and enable MoDOT to construct 4.8 miles of I-49 in the McDonald County portion of NWARPC's MPA. The BUILD grant allowed ARDOT to move forward to complete the voter-approved 14.1-mile section of I-49 in Benton County - a \$102M ½ cent sales tax (CAP) construction project.

These three projects complete I-49 From I-40 (Alma, AR) to I-35/I-29 (Kansas City, MO).

HISTORY OF I-49

- 1991** Arkansas Highway Commission (AHC) adopts the Kansas City, Missouri to Shreveport, Louisiana Highway Feasibility Corridor Study as a guide for improvements within the US 71 Corridor.
- 1992** AHC, approves planning study for US 71 between McKisic Creek and the Missouri state line.
- 1995** The Bypass study completed.
- 2000** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approves the location of the Bypass.
- 2001** The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) conducts the Arkansas Statewide Preliminary Toll Road Feasibility Study. AHC authorizes design consultant for the bypass. The results of the planning-level assessment for the project indicates that the bypass is feasible for tolling.
- 2003** Act 296 passed to allow the AHC to be a toll authority and issue bonds for construction of toll projects.
- 2004** Bella Vista Bypass Traffic, Revenue and Toll Feasibility Study considers the feasibility of constructing the US 71 Bypass using toll financing. Missouri voters approve Amendment 3 for the Smoother, Safer, Sooner program, which allowing funding for the Missouri portion of the Bypass.
- 2006** The Bypass is included in the MoDOT STIP. The Bypass Toll Study updated with findings from the Bypass Traffic, Revenue and Toll Feasibility Study(2004). ARDOT hires Toll Facility Advisor, Financial Advisor, Toll Counsel, and Bond Counsel.
- 2007** The Bypass is included in the AHTD 2007-2010 STIP as a toll facility and in the MoDOT STIP. Right-of-way acquisition services begin in Arkansas. Toll Facility Advisor and Financial Advisor reports a funding shortfall with tolling, and existing federal aid is already in use.
- 2009** Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan Letter of Interest submitted. AHC and Missouri Highway Commission (MHC) conduct joint meeting in Bella Vista to endorse the ARRA TIGER Discretionary Grant application. Draft Bella Vista Bypass Traffic and Revenue Report Submitted. Final environmental documentation is submitted to FHWA.
- 2010** Notification of Grant Award by USDOT \$10,000,000 (Bella Vista Bypass from AR 72 S to AR 72 N).
- 2011** Construction of TIGER I Project in Arkansas begins.
- 2012** Arkansas voters pass a 0.5 % sales tax increase (Connecting Arkansas Program).
- 2014** Tiger I Project substantially complete and open to traffic.
- 2015** AR 72 N-Co. Rd. 34 completed in Arkansas.
- 2017** US 71B-AR 72 S completed in Arkansas.
- 2018** NWARPC receives BUILD Grant \$25,000,000 for the remaining MO 4.8 mile gap.
- 2019** ARDOT awards bids to complete I-49 in AR.
- 2022** Bella Vista Bypass to open by ARDOT and MODOT, completing I-49 between Fort Smith, Arkansas and Kansas City, Missouri.