

**URGENT – TIME SENSITIVE MATTER REGARDING I-59 LANE REVERSAL**

---

---

**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

---

---

**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** I-59 LANE REVERSAL: INPUT FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS  
**DATE** 3/26/02  
**CC:** FILE

---

Mr. Latham and I have been working on the I-59 situation since Mr. Brown's meeting with the Sun-Herald editorial board this past Friday afternoon. MDOT provided the final draft plan this month and it has been our plan to review the plan and then distribute it to local emergency response officials for their response. You stated in a meeting with Mr. Brown last fall that you wanted the locals to have this opportunity and Mr. Latham and I have consistently conveyed this message to Bob Chapman, MDOT's liaison on this matter. Butch Brown told me this morning that Bob Chapman only informed him of this yesterday.

Mr. Latham and I would like to conduct the following meetings:

<u>County</u>	<u>Date</u>
Pearl River County	Mon, 4/8 morning
Lamar County	Mon, 4/8 afternoon
Forrest County	Mon, 4/8 evening
Jones County	Tues, 4/9 morning
Tier Counties (Stone, George, Perry)	Tues, 4/9 afternoon
Gulf Coast (Hnck, Hrsn, Jxn)	Tues, 4/9 evening
Jasper, Clarke, Lauderdale counties	Wed, 4/10 morning

**Mr. Latham and I both think that we should provide a copy of the draft plan to the local officials in advance so that they have time to review it, synthesize it and comment on it at the meetings.** If MEMA mails the draft plan tomorrow morning, local officials can have at least a week to review it. It is important that the locals understand that this is MDOT's draft plan and that we (the Governor's Office and MEMA) are soliciting their input. Mr. Latham has already received several phone calls from locals who are very upset and feel like this is being crammed down their throats. Some reported that MDOT told them that you have been pushing this plan. Mr. Latham has set the record straight. MEMA has prepared the attached cover letter to accompany the draft report if you agree to let us mail it tomorrow.

Is it okay with you if we mail MDOT's draft plan and MEMA's cover letter to local emergency response officials in the morning (Wednesday)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

## **Proposed I-59 Meeting Agenda**

1. Introduction of agency representatives and Purpose of Meeting (Riley)
  - Governor's Office
  - MEMA
  - DPS
  - MDOT
  - DHS
  - Department of Health
  - Red Cross
2. Background of Lane Reversal Plan (Latham)
3. Overview of Draft Lane Reversal Plan (Chapman of MDOT)
4. Agency Responses
5. Public Comments on Draft Lane Reversal Plan (Riley and Latham)