
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: I-59 CONTRAFLOW: MDOT TELLING LOCALS THIS WILL HAPPEN
DATE 8/10/01
CC: RENICK

Robert Latham called this afternoon to tell me that one of his Area Directors had gone to a meeting in Pearl River County today with the new local Emergency Management Director. This local Emergency Management Director had spotted signs on I-59 earlier this week as to I-59 being contraflowed and he called MDOT and asked them to attend the meeting to explain.

Latham is going to call me Monday with full details, but based on preliminary reports from his Area Director, the MDOT representative (name to be provided Monday) started telling the audience of local government officials that I-59 was going to be contraflowed. Latham said that the local guys tore the MDOT guy to shreds and were furious that MDOT had not consulted with local government. The locals told MDOT that they couldn't handle the influx of people and traffic that contraflowing would result in. Latham said that a state Representative (my guess is that it might have been Herb Frierson) was also at the meeting and was livid that the Legislature had not been informed of these plans.

Latham wanted us to be aware of MDOT's actions. I told him that you had instructed me to prepare a letter to LDOT inquiring as to why we haven't received the impact study. Latham said that the locals might take care of MDOT.

I'll have the letter to LDOT on your desk Monday. **OBVIOUSLY, MDOT IS NOT RESPECTING THE CONCERNS OF THIS OFFICE OR OTHER EXECUTIVE AGENCIES AS TO THE IMPACT CONTRAFLOWING WILL HAVE ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES.** Once we receive the details from MEMA on Monday as to the MDOT rep's name and exactly what was said, you may need to call Butch Brown if we find out that MDOT is progressing with plans to contraflow I-59.