



LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO - FEBRUARY 28, 2002

- The airport in Las Cruces is an engine for future economic development. There are plans for additional BLM land to be brought into the airport property.
- I-10 between El Paso and Las Cruces exceeds the design capacity of 104,000 vpd with current traffic volumes of 190,000 vpd.
- Union Pacific Railroad is planning to increase the number of trains through Deming, from 40 to 75 trains per day, with many trains greater than 8000 feet long.
- Increase route access to Deming since Highway 26, which is the shortcut to Hatch and to I-25, is heavily congested
- Railway stops and at-grade crossings cause concern in Deming. Additional underpasses and overpasses need to be constructed in Deming.
- Incorporate US 70 and I-25 in study. US 70 provides access to Las Cruces and is a freight transport route for trucks. I-25 also provides access to I-10 and should be used more frequently. US 70 is convenient for truckers, as it is less circuitous and ramp curves are less severe than the I-25 interchange.
- I-25 is an urban arterial and has been damaged from heavy truck volumes. Alternate routes to I-10 are damaged and need repair. To relieve damage to local bridges, restrictive truck weight limits should be implemented. Development of alternate routes would alleviate truck traffic.
- Consider population and location when creating truck routes (Dona Ana County has 180,000 people, with Las Cruces having 40 percent of that population).
- Alternate routes and relocating truck terminals would minimize traffic passing through urban areas. Truck stops should be designed to provide good access for commuters, and could provide economic growth including sales tax revenue for the city and the state.
- Lack of adequate rest stops results in trucks parked on ramps and on roadways, causing major concerns.
- Seasonal factors need to be integrated into the study. During winter months there is a high number of RV's on I-10. I-10 is closed two to five times per year due to dust storms. In some cases, there are parallel roads but no emergency access to them. Driving visibility during a dust storm is a major concern in the area. The danger of dust storms should be incorporated into the study. The effects of high winds on trucks and motorists should be analyzed. This is especially important as the trucking industry is pushing for the use of triple trailers.
- Incorporate feedback from the trucking industry into this freight study.
- Study the effects of Mexican border traffic congestion on I-10.
- To alleviate traffic congestion, trucks should receive pre-passes at weigh stations.