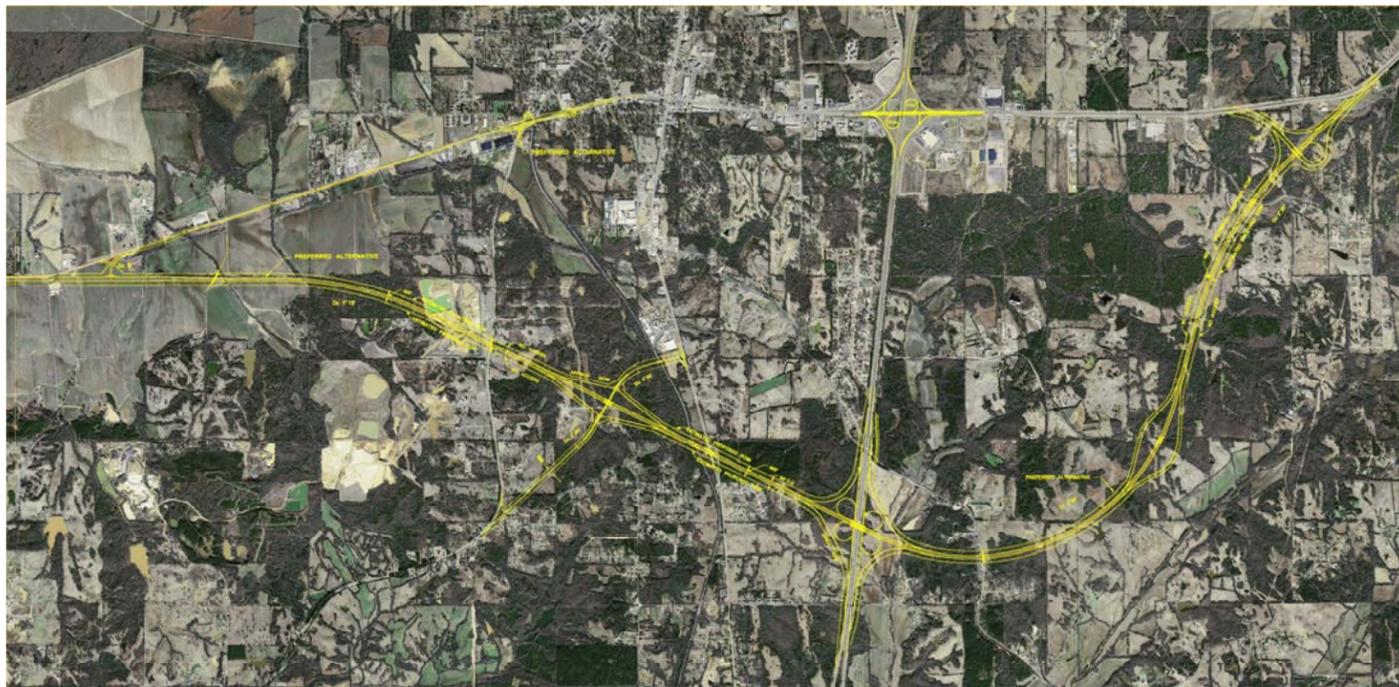


## Removal of the Batesville Bypass



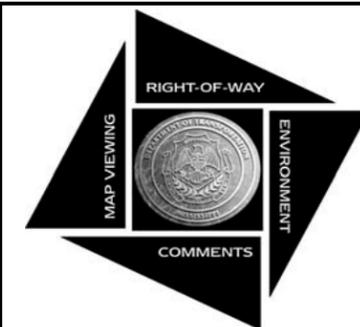
Based on a re-evaluation of the traffic projections it has been determined that a bypass of Batesville is no longer needed to handle the traffic in Batesville. The Mississippi Department of Transportation no longer plans to construct a bypass south of Batesville.

When the original environmental assessment was being performed, traffic studies indicated that an additional lane would be needed in each direction on SR 6/US 278 through Batesville to handle the projected traffic growth. The additional lanes would have relocated a number of the businesses along SR 6. Six through lanes of traffic would also hamper mobility through town and make it more difficult to access the local businesses that remained. These factors played a large part in the selection of the bypass south of Batesville in the FONSI.

During the re-evaluation of the FONSI, traffic analysis indicated that the growth of traffic in Batesville has significantly decreased. Based

on the earlier traffic projections, several of the intersections in Batesville should have failing levels of service now. According to current traffic studies, those same intersections currently have acceptable levels of service. Also, based on the current traffic studies, those intersections would have acceptable levels of service for an urban area in the design year (2038).

Based on the updated traffic projections, there is no need to widen the existing 5-lane section through Batesville from I-55 to Eureka Street to include six through lanes. By using the existing five-lane section and widening SR 6/US 278 from Bates Street out to the western Batesville city limit to a 5-lane section with 4 through lanes the Purpose and Need of the project would be met. With these changes, using the existing alignment would be the environmentally preferred alternative when compared to the proposed bypass.



Mississippi Department of Transportation

# SR 6 / US 278

From Clarksdale to Batesville

## Open Forum Public Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2015 • 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Batesville Civic Center  
Batesville, MS



### Welcome

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) welcome you to this public meeting. We are here to provide an opportunity for the public to view photography and voice opinions and/or concerns relating to improvements to US SR 6/US 278 between Clarksdale and Batesville.

Public meetings benefit citizens as well as MDOT. They allow for an exchange of opinions, ideas, information and suggestions before a final plan is made for a highway design and its construction. The meetings also give MDOT and FHWA personnel the opportunity to share information about the project and to hear citizens' comments, which are often helpful in determining the project's final design.

### Your Comments are Important

All who attend this meeting are encouraged to voice their opinions by completing a Comment Sheet. Your comments can be sent by mail to MDOT Environmental Division, P.O. Box 1850, Jackson, MS 39215, or to [environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov) via e-mail.

### Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a safe transportation facility with traffic capacity that is adequate for present and future

needs and to comply with the mandates of the Mississippi Legislature's Vision 21 Program which requires a four-lane highway system connecting interstates and highways in various areas of the state.

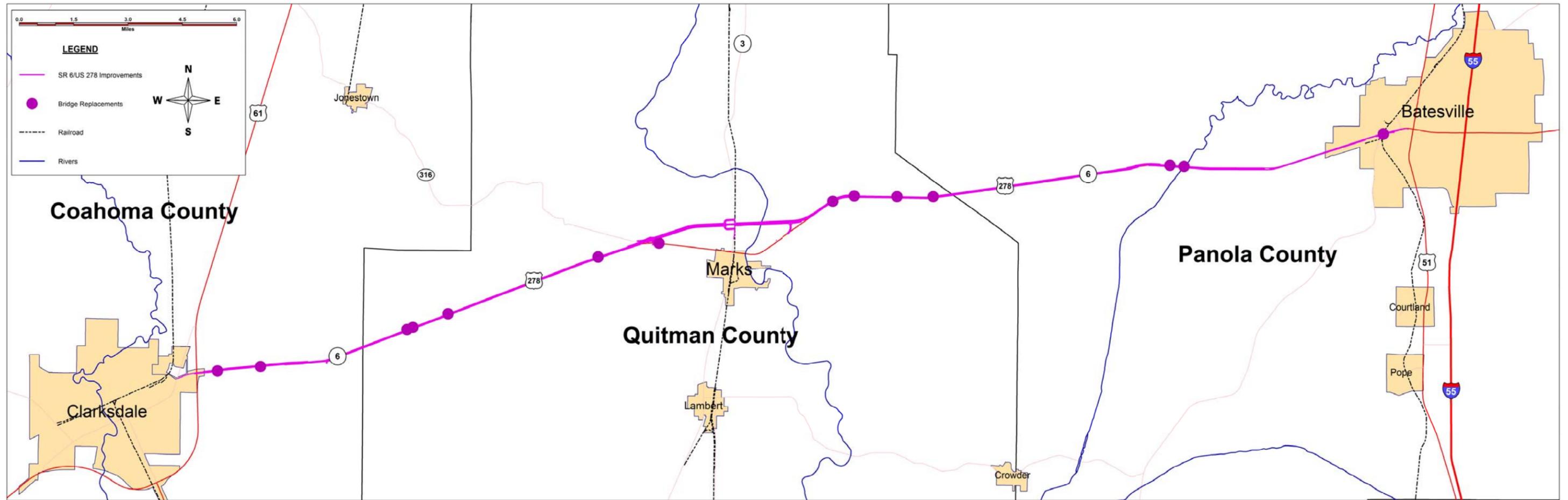
### Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment was performed for a four-lane highway that would follow the route of existing SR 6/US 278 between Clarksdale and Batesville with bypasses of Marks and Batesville. Several public meetings took place during environmental the process. The anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts were evaluated as a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and MDOT received approval from the Federal Highway Administration on April 15, 2008, for the location of the proposed SR 6 improvements.



Mississippi Department of Transportation  
Environmental Division (87-01)  
P. O. Box 1850  
Jackson, MS 39215-1850  
(601) 359-7920 • Fax (601) 359-7355

[environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:environmentalcomments@mdot.ms.gov)



### Four-Laning SR 6 / US 278

In order to meet the mandates of the Mississippi Legislature’s Vision 21 Program, the Mississippi Department of Transportation intends to widen SR 6/US 278 from two lanes to a 4-lane divided highway with a bypass in Marks. However, based on the current fiscal constraints under which MDOT is working, the work will not be started in the near future.



### Bridge Replacements

The Mississippi Department of Transportation is currently developing plans for the replacement of fourteen bridges along SR 6/US 278 between Clarksdale and Batesville. The map at the top of the page identifies the locations of the bridges to be replaced. With the exception of the railroad bridge on the western side of Batesville, construction of the new bridges should begin in the next year.

