

# Mississippi



2007

## US 78 Desoto County (Future I-22)

The award-winning section of US 78 is a four-lane, limited access road that stretches 10.8 miles east from the Tennessee/Mississippi line. The road was constructed with a thicker, heavier base than most others built at the same time.

Part of the road was opened to traffic in 1968 and the remaining portion in 1972. It was milled and resurfaced with 2 inches of HMA in 1987, and then milled and resurfaced with two layers of Superpave HMA in 2000.

US 78 is in excellent condition today, handling approximately 2.5 million equivalent single axle loads (ESALs) each year, with 19 percent of that heavy truck traffic. It has withstood more than 60 million ESALs since it was opened 40 years ago. The highway will become Interstate 22 in the near future, after the Mississippi Department of Transportation completes the I-269 loop that will connect it to I-69.