

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**SR 162/PELLISSIPPI PARKWAY EXTENSION**  
**BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



Presented by the Tennessee Department of Transportation  
February 19, 2008

Welcome

# We're Glad You are Here!

**TDOT appreciates your  
attendance at this public  
meeting**

# Meeting Purpose

- ◆ Encourage public input on alternatives to be studied;
- ◆ Discuss next steps in the EIS process; and
- ◆ Provide the public with the opportunity to ask questions about Blount County's future growth and infrastructure.



# Meeting Format

- ◆ **5:00 PM** - Informal session to review potential corridors and alternatives, with short, narrated presentation in auditorium
- ◆ **5:30 PM** - Formal Presentation
- ◆ **6:00-7:00 PM** - Question & Answer session with TDOT and Local Officials



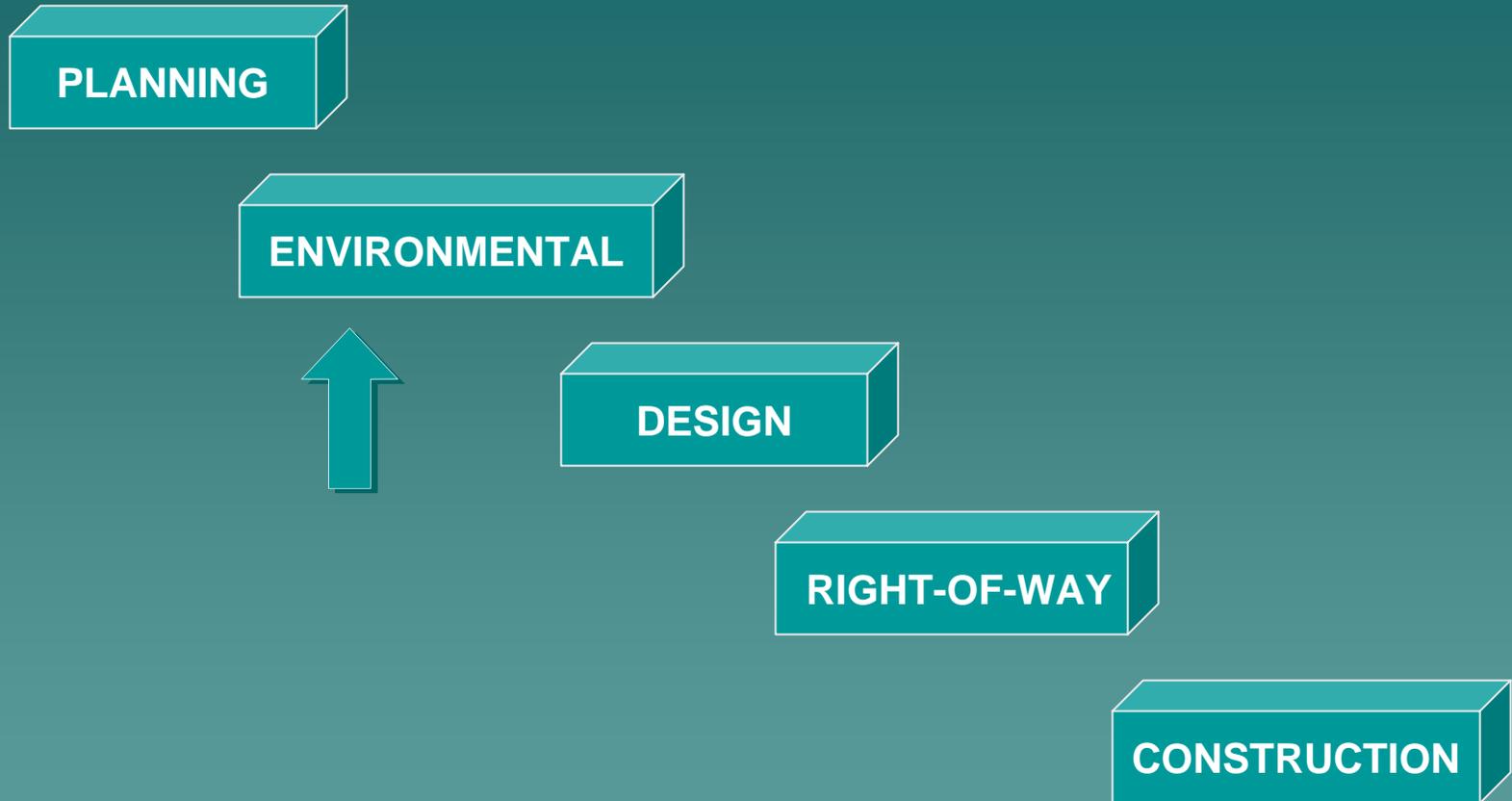
# Project Background

- ◆ **1977** - First of three requests to TN General Assembly by local officials of Blount County, Maryville, and Alcoa to extend Pellissippi Parkway from I-40 to SR 73
- ◆ **1986** - General Assembly includes Pellissippi Parkway as part of the Better Roads Program and Urgent Highway Needs Program
- ◆ **1998** - Federal TEA-21 includes Pellissippi Parkway Extension in High Priority Projects Program
- ◆ Knoxville TPO includes Pellissippi Parkway Extension in Regional Long Range Transportation Plans in 1999, 2002, 2005, and 2007

# Project Background

- ◆ **1999** - TDOT initiates Environmental Assessment for PPE between SR 33 and SR 73
- ◆ **2002** – EA and FONSI approved; court injunction stops project
- ◆ **2005** – Appeals Court allows TDOT & FHWA to revisit the environmental evaluation
- ◆ **April 26, 2006** - TDOT initiates EIS with Notice of Intent
- ◆ **June 13, 2006** - Public Scoping Workshops
- ◆ **October 25, 2007** - Public Alternatives Workshop
- ◆ **November 2007** - Resolutions from Cities of Alcoa and Maryville supporting extension of Pellissippi Parkway

# Project Status



# Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

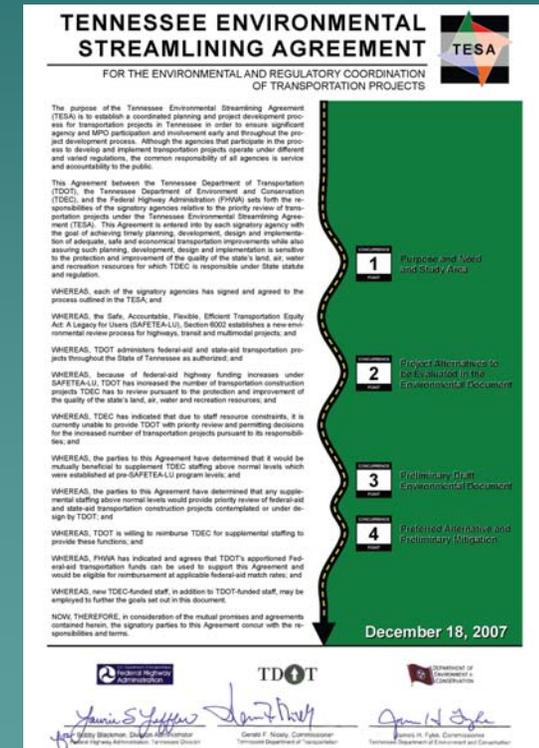
- ◆ **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**
  - requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.
  
- ◆ **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**
  - a full disclosure document that details the process through which a transportation project was developed
  - includes consideration of a range of reasonable alternatives
  - analyzes the potential impacts resulting from the alternatives, and
  - demonstrates compliance with other applicable environmental laws and executive orders.

# Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement

- ◆ **The purpose of the agreement is to:**
  - Establish a coordinated planning and project development process for major transportation projects
  - Ensure significant agency and MPO participation and involvement early and throughout the project development process
  - Streamline the NEPA process
  - Coordinate NEPA, permitting and Section 106 processes
  - Implement environmental stewardship and environmental review process improvements

# Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement

- ◆ The Agreement establishes four (4) concurrence points:
  - Purpose and Need and Study Area
  - Project Alternatives to be Evaluated in the Environmental Document
  - Preliminary Draft Environmental Document
  - Preferred Alternative and Preliminary Mitigation



# Project Status

- ◆ Completed to date:
  - Preliminary environmental conditions identified
  - Preliminary traffic forecasts and LOS analysis
  - Revised Draft Purpose & Need Statement presented to public in October 2007 and to participating agencies in December 2007
  - Initial range of alternatives identified

# Summary of Purpose and Need

- ◆ Transportation Needs
  - Existing road network is primarily radial extending out of Maryville, with no northwest/southeast connection to serve northeast Blount County
  - Incomplete regional road network
  - Traffic congestion and poor levels of service on major arterial roads
  - High crash incidents in the Maryville core

# Summary of Purpose and Need

## ◆ Purpose of Project

- Improve mobility by providing travel options to the existing radial roadway network
- Enhance regional transportation system linkages
- Assist in achieving acceptable traffic flows on the local transportation network
- Assist in improving roadway safety on the existing roadway network

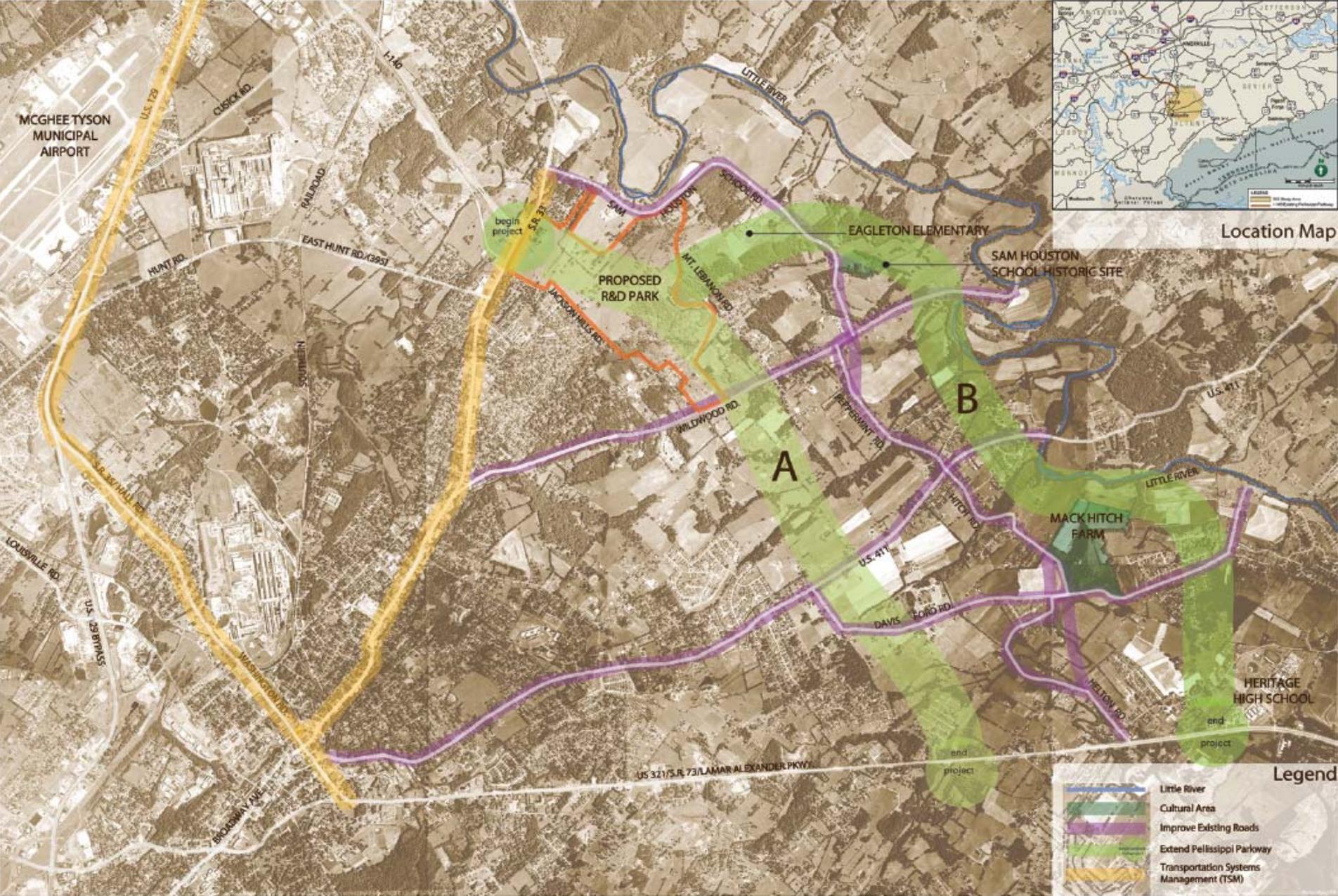
# Summary of Purpose and Need

## ◆ Other Objectives

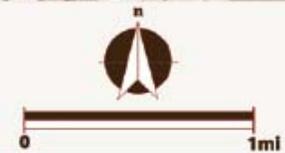
- Support community and growth management goals
- Minimize adverse impacts to neighborhoods and businesses
- Minimize adverse impacts to farmlands
- Minimize adverse impacts to the natural and cultural environment

# Initial Range of Alternatives

- ◆ No Build
- ◆ Transportation System Management (TSM)
- ◆ Public Transit
- ◆ Improve network of existing roadways in NE Blount County
- ◆ Build Alternative- Extend Pellissippi Parkway on new location in Corridor A or Corridor B



# PELLISSIPPI PARKWAY EXTENSION EIS Project Vicinity Map



# NEXT PROJECT STEPS

- Refine range of alternatives based on public comments and purpose and need
- Finalize alternatives for Draft EIS and communicate with public via newsletter and website
- Identify and analyze environmental impacts of alternatives
- Prepare Draft EIS and hold Public Hearings
- Select Preferred Alternative and prepare Final EIS
- Obtain Record of Decision

# Tentative Project Schedule

- ◆ Refine Alternatives – *Spring 2008*
- ◆ Conduct Technical Studies – *Spring /Summer 2008*
- ◆ Prepare Draft EIS – *Summer/Fall 2008*
- ◆ Draft EIS circulated & hold public hearings – *Winter/Spring 2009*
- ◆ Complete Final EIS – *Winter 2010*

# How Can You Comment?

- ◆ Submit a statement to court reporter  
Please see representative at the court reporter's table.
- ◆ Submit written comments today  
Comment forms provided in information packets.
- ◆ Mail comments to TDOT  
Postmarked or emailed by **March 11, 2008.**

# For More Information Contact:

Michael W. Russell, P.E.  
TDOT Project Manager  
(865)594-2334  
[mike.russell@state.tn.us](mailto:mike.russell@state.tn.us)

Or visit the website at:  
[www.tn.state.gov/tdot/pellissippi](http://www.tn.state.gov/tdot/pellissippi)