

**PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES WORKSHOP
SR-162/PELLISSIPPI PARKWAY EXTENSION
BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE**



Presented by the Tennessee Department of Transportation
October 25, 2007

Workshop Purpose

- ◆ Provide an update of the EIS study
- ◆ Present the revised Purpose and Need
- ◆ Seek public input on the alternatives to be studied
- ◆ Discuss next steps in the EIS process



Workshop Format

- ◆ 5:15 - Introduction & Group Presentation
- ◆ 6 PM - Breakout for Alternatives
- ◆ 7 PM - Q&A Session



NEPA Process

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - projects receiving federal funding /requiring major federal actions must have a rigorous environmental review process.
- Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) - early opportunities for public input on purpose and need and alternatives to be considered.
- The project cannot proceed until the NEPA process is successfully completed.

Project Status

- ◆ After EA/FONSI approved, court injunction was issued. TDOT & FHWA allowed to revisit the environmental evaluation
- ◆ EIS initiated April 26, 2006
- ◆ Public Scoping Workshop on June 13, 2006
- ◆ Public comments have been reviewed
- ◆ Preliminary environmental conditions identified
- ◆ Traffic forecasts and LOS analysis conducted
- ◆ Purpose & Need Statement drafted

Results of Scoping

- ◆ 295 individual comments provided between May and December 2006 via:
 - Comment cards
 - Oral comments to court reporter
 - Emails and letters
- ◆ Variety of opinions offered:
 - 195 comments supporting the extension
 - 84 comments opposing the extension

Transportation Needs Noted in 2006

- ◆ Congestion on Alcoa Highway and SR 33
- ◆ Existing roads need to be upgraded
- ◆ The extension would save time and add convenience to the commute to Knoxville and/or Oak Ridge
- ◆ Tourists and other through traffic should be routed around, not through, Maryville; Through traffic is putting a strain on local roads

Transportation Needs Noted in 2006

- ◆ A more direct route from Knoxville to Townsend is needed
- ◆ As a result of Pellissippi Parkway ending at SR 33, residents of the Jackson Hills subdivision have a hard time getting out of their subdivision
- ◆ The area east of Alcoa and Maryville is growing, and improvements to the existing road network are necessary to meet future traffic demands
- ◆ The extension will increase mobility for emergency vehicles

2006 Comments on Alternatives

- ◆ Do not extend Pellissippi Parkway
- ◆ Improve existing roads first
- ◆ Establish public transit
- ◆ Build the extension as planned
- ◆ Build the extension on as alignment as straight as possible and least disruptive to landowners
- ◆ Build the extension as an arterial rather than a freeway for greater access and reduced speeds

2006 Comments on Alternatives

Improvements to Existing Roads:

- ◆ Align intersection at Wildwood Road and SR 33 (Broadway)
- ◆ Add center turn lane on SR 33
- ◆ Install traffic signal at SR 33 and Sam Houston School Road
- ◆ Coordinate signal timing throughout the area
- ◆ Improve intersection of SR 33 and existing I-140
- ◆ Construct a northbound on-ramp at Cusick Road/I-140 interchange.

2006 Comments on Alternatives

Improve Existing Roads:

- Davis Ford Road
- Peppermint Road
- Sam Houston School Road
- US 411
- Ellejoy Road
- River Ford Road

Traffic Forecast Study

◆ Origin-Destination Study

- License tag survey conducted November 2006
 - ◆ 8 stations counted
 - ◆ over 100,000 tags surveyed

- Station 1 - US 129, north of Airway Drive
- Station 2 – I-140, west of US 129
- Station 3 – SR 33, north of Rockford Heights Road
- Station 4 – US 321, east of John Helton Road
- Station 5 – US 129, between SR 35 and Louisville Road
- Station 6 – SR 35/US 411, east of Peppermint Hills Road
- Station 7 – US 411/US 129, southwest of William Blount Drive
- Station 8 – US 321, west of William Blount Drive

Traffic Forecast Study

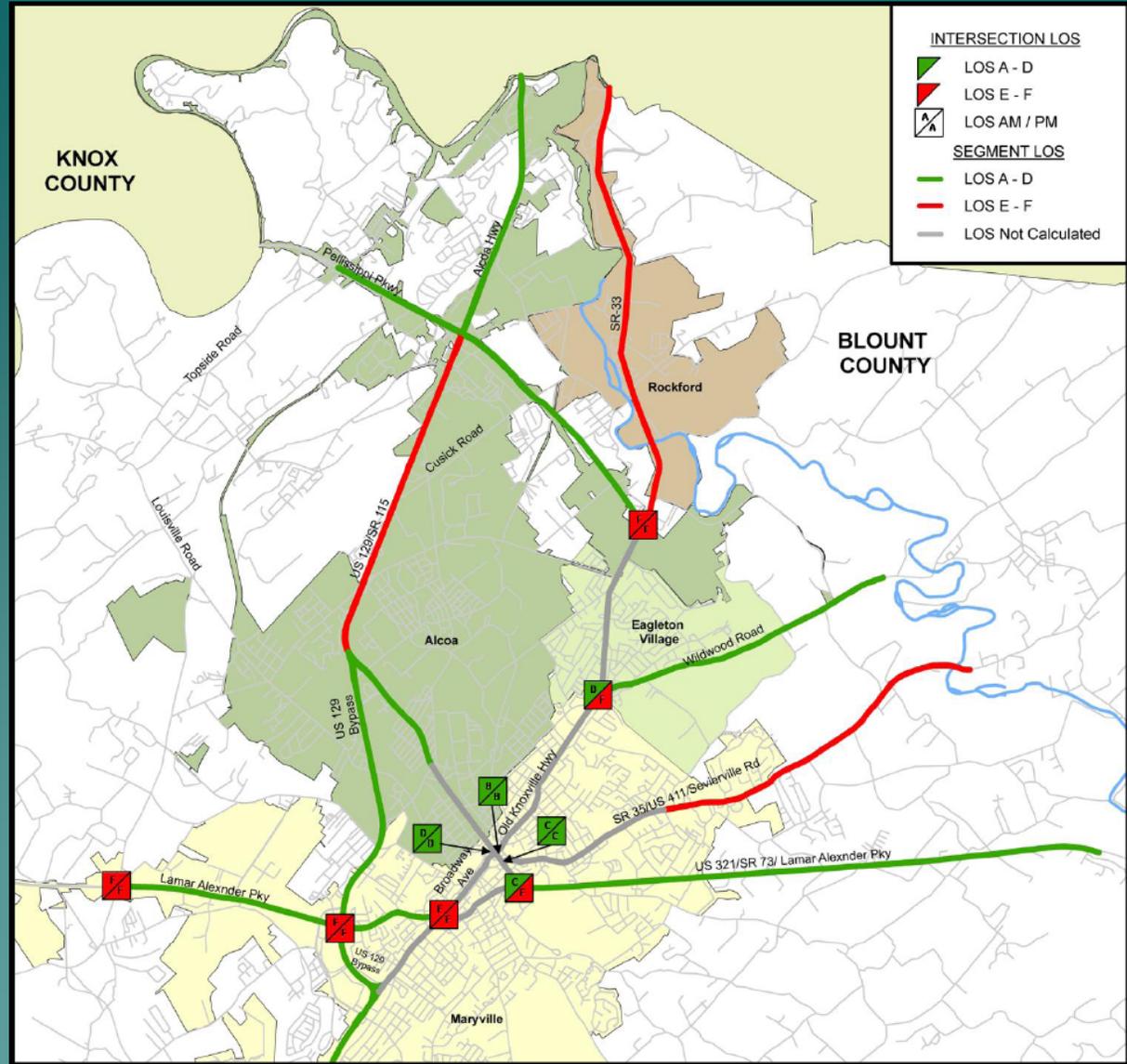
- ◆ Origin-Destination Study
 - Used to develop Road Segment and Intersection volumes
 - ◆ 2006 (existing)
 - ◆ 2015 and 2035 for Build and No Build scenarios
 - Volumes used to prepare Level of Service analysis

Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

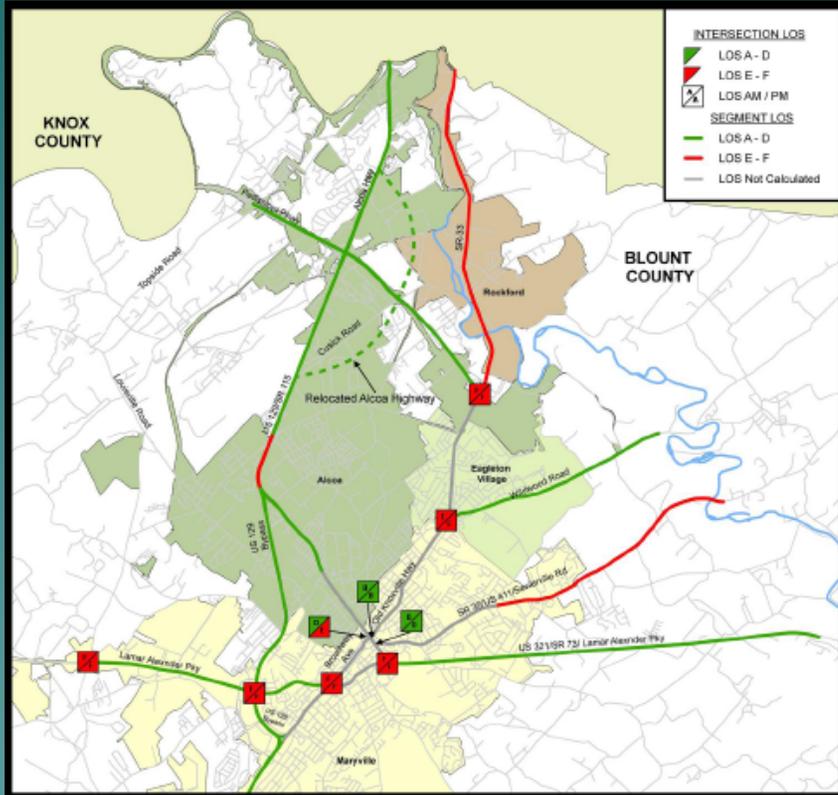
- ◆ Preliminary traffic operations study:
 - Two alternatives identified and examined for comparison:
 - ◆ No-Build Alternative
 - ◆ Build Alternative

SR-162 / Pellissippi Parkway Extension

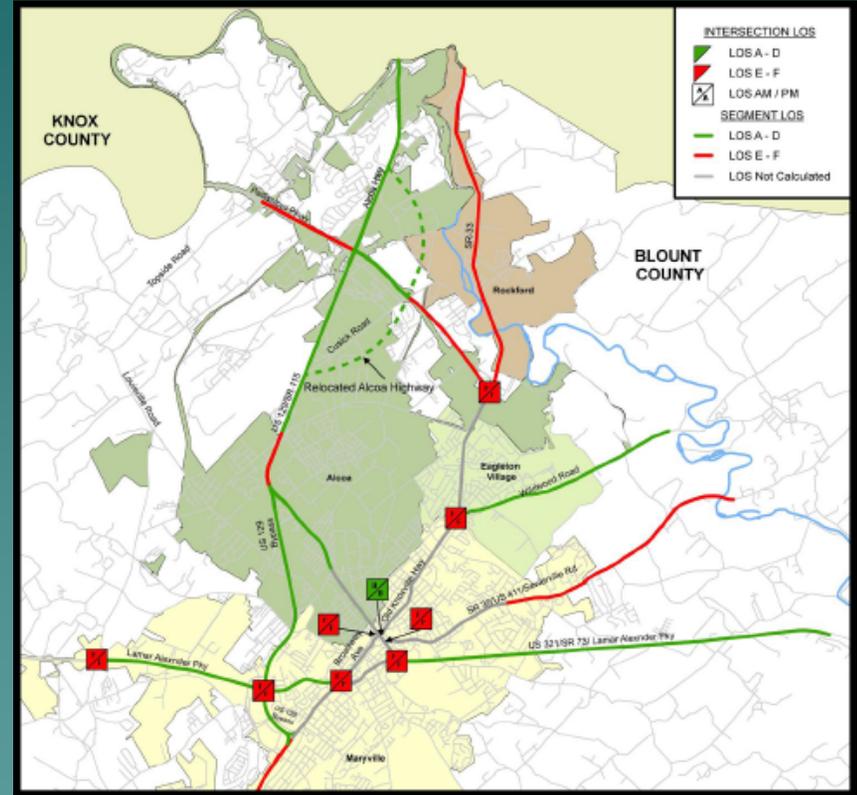
Existing LOS



No Build Level of Service

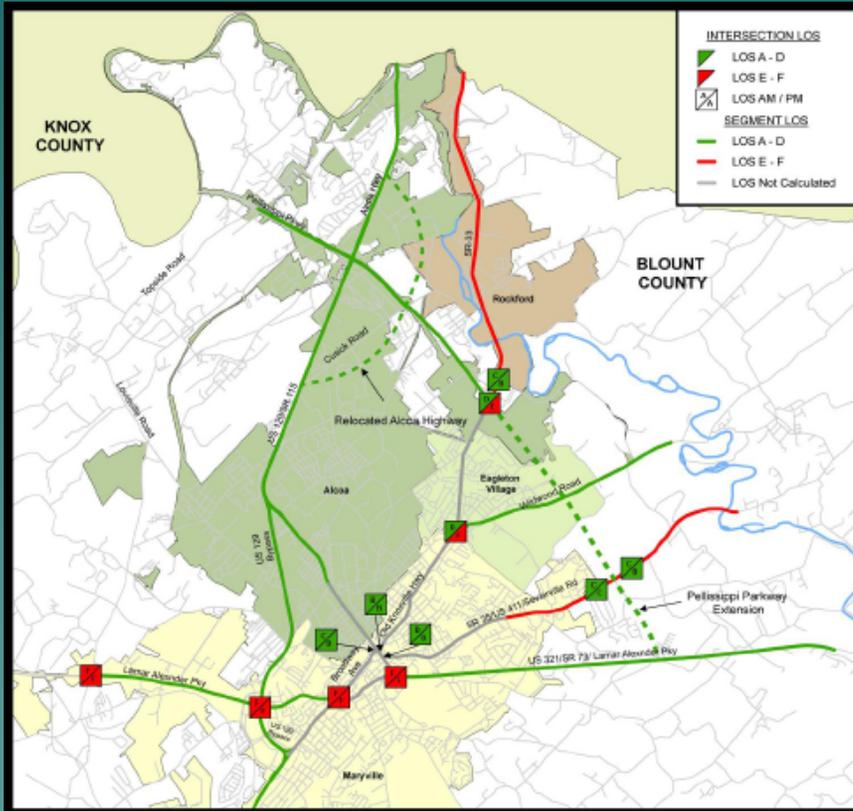


2015 No-Build

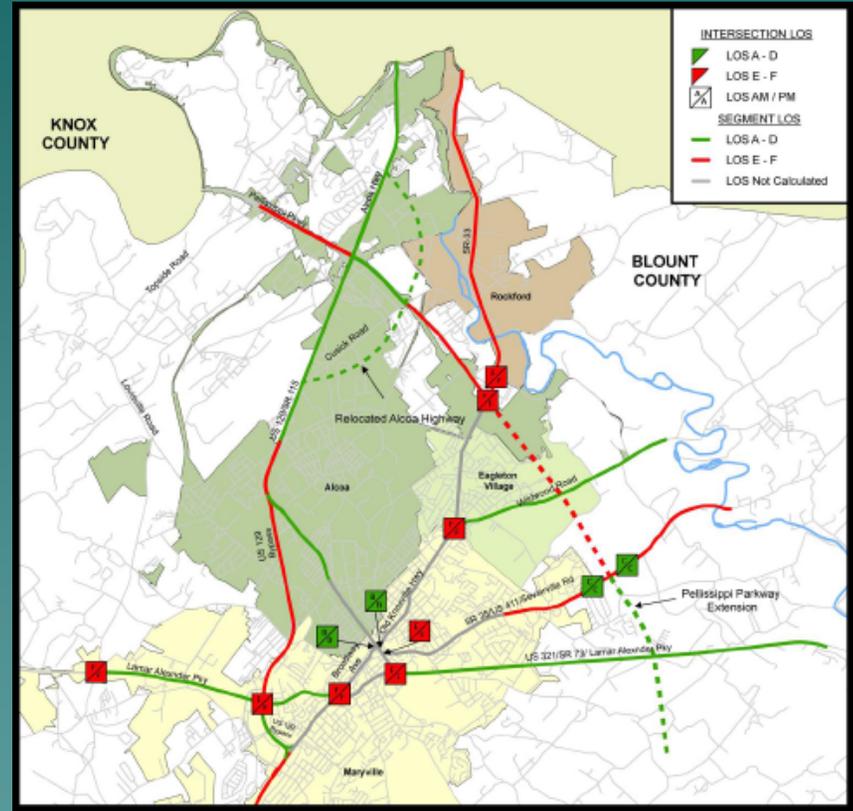


2035 No-Build

Build Scenario Level of Service

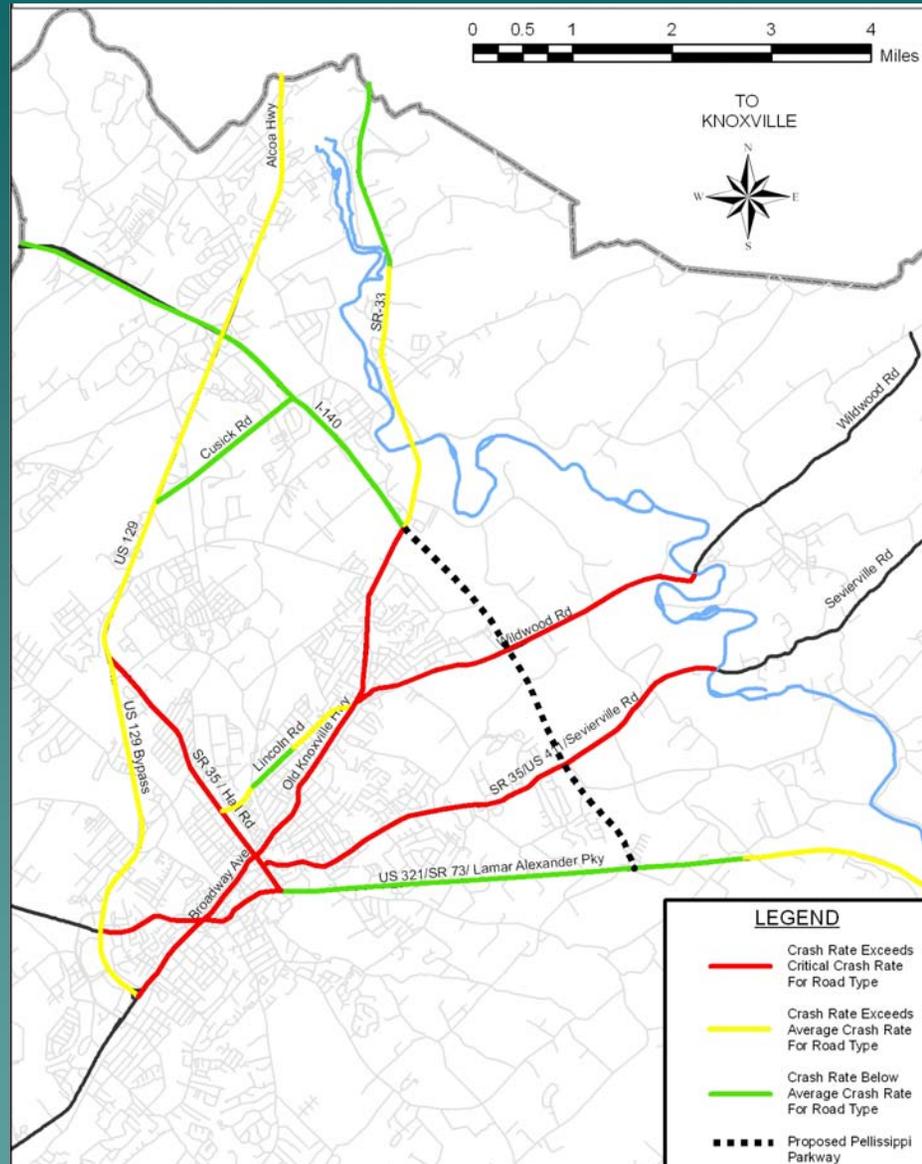


2015 Build



2035 Build

CRASH RATE LOCATIONS



Needs for Project

- ◆ Lack of northwest/east connection east of Alcoa and Maryville to help serve:
 - Expanding residential development in NE Blount County
 - Increasing demand for trips between Maryville/Alcoa/eastern Blount County and Knoxville
- ◆ Incomplete regional roadway network

Needs for Project, continued

- ◆ Traffic congestion and poor levels of service on major arterial roads in study area
 - (US 129, SR 33, and US 411)
- ◆ High crash incidents in the Maryville core that through travelers between the northwestern and eastern portions of the county must pass

Purpose of Project

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

Purpose of Project

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

Alternatives to be Considered

- ◆ No Build
- ◆ Transportation System Management (TSM)
- ◆ Public Transit
- ◆ Improve existing roadways in NE Blount County
- ◆ Extend Pellissippi Parkway on new location

No-Build Alternative

- ◆ Examines what would happen if Pellissippi Parkway is not extended
- ◆ Serves as a baseline to which other alternatives are compared.

Transportation Systems Management

- ◆ Construction, operational, and institutional actions to make best use of existing transportation facilities and services

- ◆ Improvements to existing US 129, SR 33 and SR 35:
 - Signal timing
 - Shoulder improvements
 - Turn lanes
 - Intersections

Public Transit

- ◆ Options:
 - Fixed route bus service in Alcoa/Maryville
 - Regional rail service
- ◆ Highly dependent on land use density

Improve Existing Roads

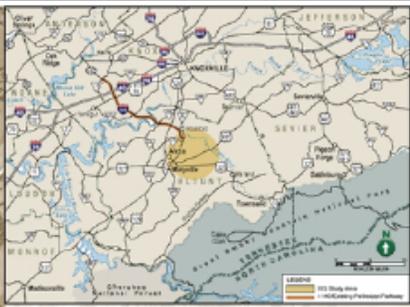
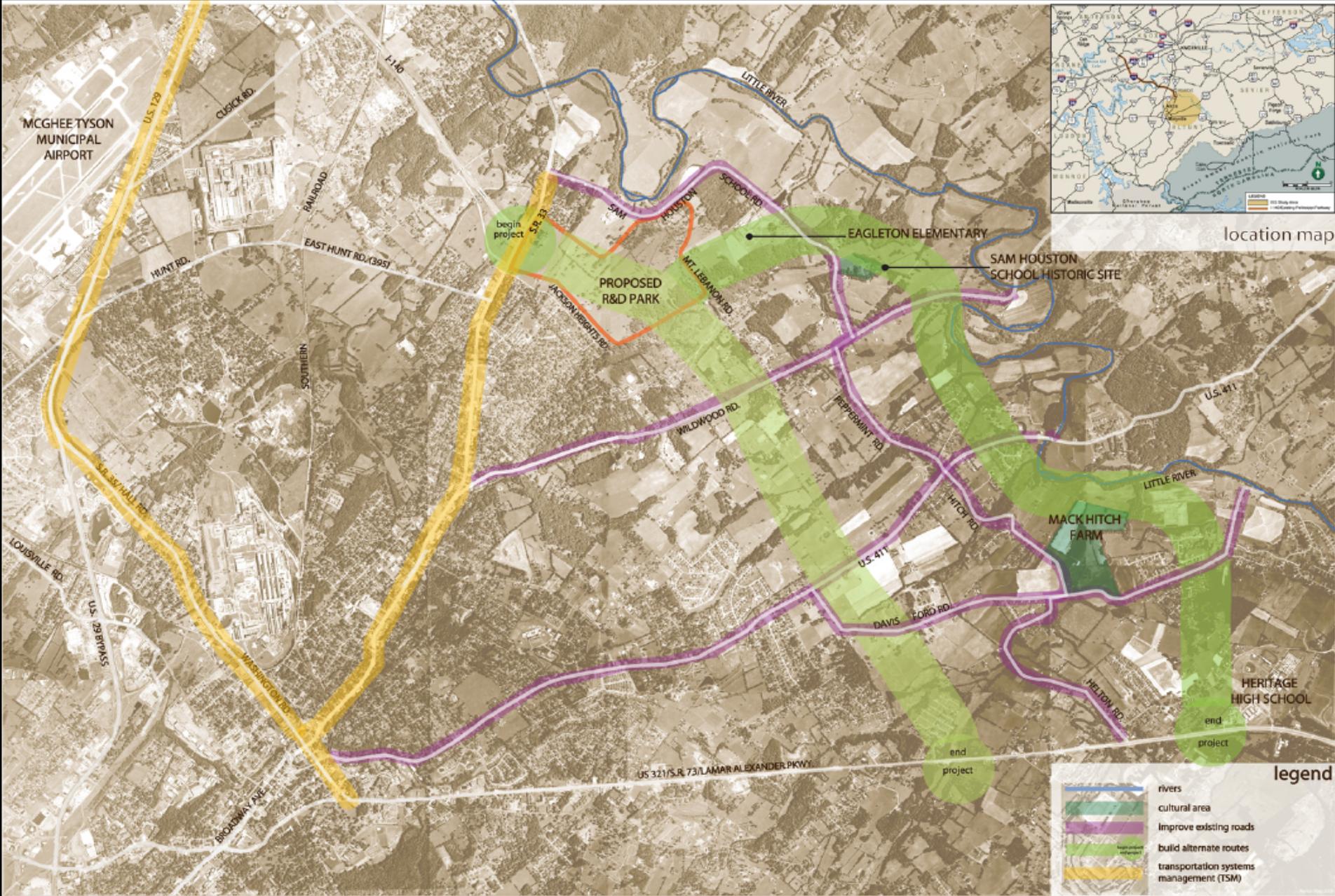
- ◆ Improve a network of existing roads in the NE quadrant of Blount County to serve as an eastern bypass:
 - Sam Houston School Road
 - Peppermint Road
 - Hitch Road
 - Davis Ford Road
 - Helton Road

Improve Existing Roads

- ◆ Improve other existing roads in the northeastern quadrant of Blount County:
 - Wildwood Road
 - US 411
 - Ellejoy Road
 - River Ford Road

Build Alternative (Extension)

- ◆ New 4-lane divided roadway
 - two corridors to be studied



location map



legend



PELLISSIPPI PARKWAY EXTENSION EIS Project Vicinity Map



NEXT PROJECT STEPS

- Review public comments on purpose & need and alternatives and revise
- Obtain concurrence on Purpose and Need from TESA agencies
- Refine Alternatives and hold public meeting on alternatives
- Obtain concurrence on Alternatives from TESA agencies
- Finalize Alternatives for DEIS
- Prepare Technical Studies
- Prepare DEIS and Hold Public Hearings

Tentative Project Schedule

- ◆ Refine Purpose & Need & Develop/Refine Alternatives – *Fall 2007/Winter 2008*
- ◆ Conduct Technical Studies – *Spring/Summer 2008*
- ◆ Prepare DEIS – *Summer/Fall 2008*
- ◆ Circulate Draft EIS circulated & hold public hearings – *Winter/Spring 2009*
- ◆ Complete Final EIS – *Fall 2009*

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 by November 15, 2007.
- ◆ Visit project Website
www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/

For More Information Contact:

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

Or visit the website at:
www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/