

**PUBLIC INFORMATION
MEETING**

**Interstate 65 Interchange
at State Route 109**

Robertson and Sumner Counties, Tennessee

Project No. 74003-1130-44, 83001-114-44

January 22, 2008

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Portland High School
600 College Street
Portland, Tennessee

TDOT Project Manager
Kelley Garrett
(615) 532-7229

Kelley.Garrett@state.tn.us



Tennessee Department of Transportation

WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the Public Information Meeting for the proposed Interstate 65 (I-65) interchange at State Route 109 (SR-109). Please take this opportunity to read the information provided and become better acquainted with the proposed improvements.

You are invited to view a PowerPoint presentation and the project location maps. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide you with a project update and to gather information from you about the project. There are Tennessee Department of Transportation representatives (who are wearing nametags) available to answer questions throughout the meeting. Please take a few moments to discuss the project with them.

A court reporter is available for those persons who desire to make a verbal statement about the project and want that statement included in the official transcript of this meeting. If you wish to make a statement, please see the representative at the court reporter's table.

Included with this package is a comment form/questionnaire for you to complete. Please take a moment and fill it out. Completed questionnaires may be deposited in the box by the door. If you do not wish to make a statement at this time, you may submit written comments to:

*Project Comments
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243*

Written comments must be postmarked by February 12, 2008 in order to be included in the official transcript of the meeting.

Thank you for attending and participating in this meeting. Your comments are important. The purpose and need for the project is a critical element of the project development process, and we need your input.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) proposes to construct a new interchange on Interstate 65 (I-65) at the proposed new State Route 109 (SR-109) in Robertson and Sumner Counties, Tennessee. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared for this project.

The project would involve construction of a new interchange on I-65 at proposed SR-109 located near the current crossing of Lake Springs Road in Robertson County. The interchange includes all ramps and connector roads and allows the Tennessee Welcome Center to remain in place.

The following design features may be constructed as part of this project or as a future project:

- Widening of I-65 to six lanes from south of the proposed interchange to near the Kentucky border (approximately 1.5 miles).
- Construction of the proposed alignment of SR-109 from existing SR-109 to I-65 (approximately 1.2 miles).
- Widening of SR-41 (US-31W) to five lanes from the proposed SR-109 crossing north to the existing SR-109 crossing (approximately 0.5 miles).
- The addition of turn lanes on SR-41 (US-31W) at the proposed SR-109 crossing.

The adjacent interchange to the south is SR-52 at a distance of approximately 3.3 miles. The adjacent interchange to the north is SR-41 (US-31W) north of the Tennessee/Kentucky State Line at a distance of approximately 2.5 miles. The closest urban development, Portland, is located 5 miles east of the proposed project in Sumner County. The provision of an interchange at this location would provide direct access to expanding industrial parks located on both sides of I-65 and a connection to SR-109 and the surrounding area.

WHY DOES THE PROJECT HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that projects receiving federal funding or requiring federal actions (e.g. permits) undergo an environmental review process. The project cannot proceed until this requirement has been completed.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT?

The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to:

- Fulfill NEPA requirements.
- Disclose effects of the project at a stage in the development process where decision making can still be shaped by the environmental analysis and by the comments of agency and public reviewers.

WHAT ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT?

Issues that must be addressed in the EA are:

- Noise and Air Quality
- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Traffic and Safety
- Ecology/Natural Resources
- Floodplains
- Hazardous Materials Sites
- Soils and Geology
- Land Use
- Social and Community Impacts
- Environmental Justice
- Farmland
- Visual Impacts
- Parks and Recreational Resources
- Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Resources
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Considerations
- Indirect and Cumulative Impacts
- Construction Impacts

WHAT ALTERNATIVES MUST BE STUDIED IN AN EA?

In addition to the No-Build Alternative, one Build Alternative, identified in the Interchange Justification Study, is proposed for this project.

The Build Alternative would include a modified diamond interchange with a collector-distributor (C-D) road. The one-lane C-D road would provide entrances and exits to the Welcome Center and SR-109. A 1-lane (loop) exit ramp would be provided for vehicles traveling to SR-109. This configuration also provides a two-lane entrance ramp that reduces to one lane before merging onto the southbound C-D road. The northbound I-65 exit ramp would provide two lanes due to the projected high ramp volumes. The northbound entrance ramp is also two lanes that reduce to one lane before merging onto I-65. This alternative allows the Tennessee Welcome Center to remain in place. It improves the safety along I-65 and accommodates future growth in the area.

WHY ARE WE HERE TONIGHT?

TDOT is currently beginning the EA process. The first step in the process is gathering public input on the purpose and need and the alternatives for the project. This is a requirement of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

The purpose and need for a project can include, but are not limited to, transportation demand, safety, economic development, transportation plan consistency, modal interrelationships, system linkage, and the condition of existing facility. Specific solutions, or alternatives, should not be addressed as a purpose (e.g., the purpose of the project is to widen the existing road).

TDOT representatives are here tonight to listen to what you have to say about the purpose and need and the proposed alternative for the project. The information that you provide will be used to develop the purpose and need statement for the project.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- ✓ Analyze and address public comments on the purpose and need.
 - ✓ Develop the purpose and need for the project.
 - ✓ Coordinate with resource agencies and stakeholders.
 - ✓ Complete the Technical Studies.
 - ✓ Prepare the Environmental Assessment.
- A Purpose and Need statement will be developed for the project based on public input received. Project goals and objectives and a project vision will also be developed.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT

Representatives of TDOT are available to answer questions you may have regarding this project. You are encouraged to make a formal comment that will be incorporated into the official project summary. This can be done in one of three ways:

- 1) Make an oral statement to the court reporter.
- 2) Submit your written comments tonight before you leave.
- 3) Mail your comments to TDOT (postmarked by February 12, 2008) to:

Tennessee Department of Transportation
Project Comments
505 Deaderick Street
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0332

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the I-65/SR 109 Interchange Web site at:
www.tdot.state.tn.us

- ♦ Click on Project Information
- ♦ Click on Middle Tennessee

Call or email the TDOT Project Manager:
Kelley Garrett
(615) 532-7229 or
Kelley.Garrett@state.tn.us



Tennessee Department of Transportation
Authorization 401359, 500 copies.
March 2007. This public document was
promulgated at a cost of \$.06 per copy.