

Welcome to the
Interstate 65 and State Route 109
Interchange
Public Information Meeting



I-65/SR-109 Interchange Environmental Assessment (EA)

Robertson and Sumner Counties,
Tennessee



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

What is the purpose of this meeting?



- ◆ Update the public on the project.
- ◆ Get public input for the project.
- ◆ Listen to citizen's concerns about the proposed alternatives.
- ◆ Explain the environmental process as it relates to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). 

What does TDOT hope to accomplish at this meeting?



- Present Project Information.
- Listen to concerns from public on the purpose and need of the project.
- Receive comments from public on the alternatives for the interchange project.
- Listen to and document public concerns.



How do I participate in this Public Meeting?



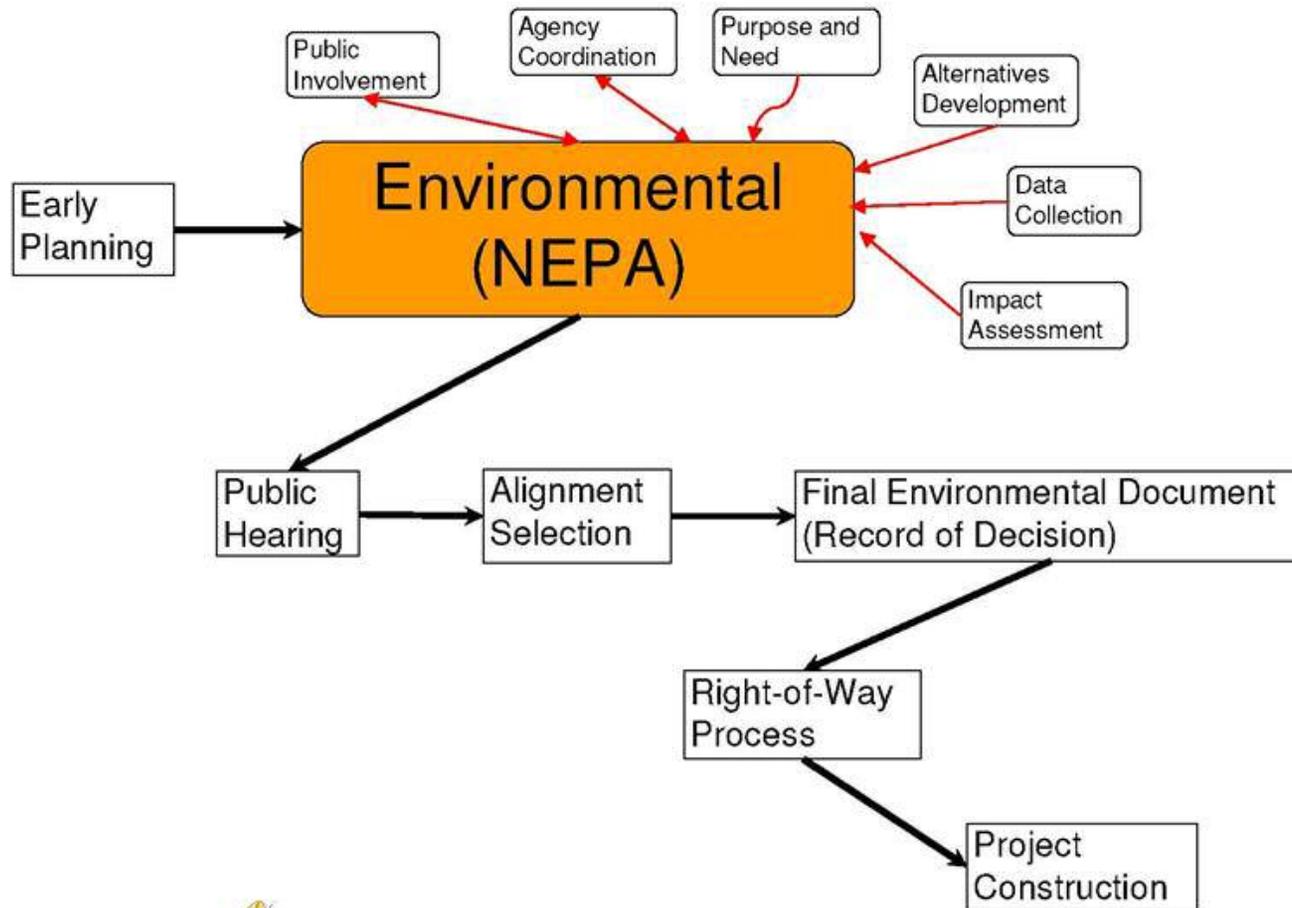
How do I participate in this meeting?



- Sign in and collect the handouts, which includes a comment form.
- Watch this informational slide presentation.
- Review the graphics and displays.
- Feel free to discuss the project with one of the TDOT project representatives.
- Provide written comments for the project Purpose and Need and Alternatives [either leave your comments when departing or return your comments postmarked within 21 days (February 12, 2008)].
- Provide oral comments to the court reporter (optional).



Tennessee Department of Transportation Project Planning Flowchart



Project History

- On August 10, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).
- SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period from 2005-2009.
- The interchange project originated from a congressional earmark out of SAFETEA-LU.

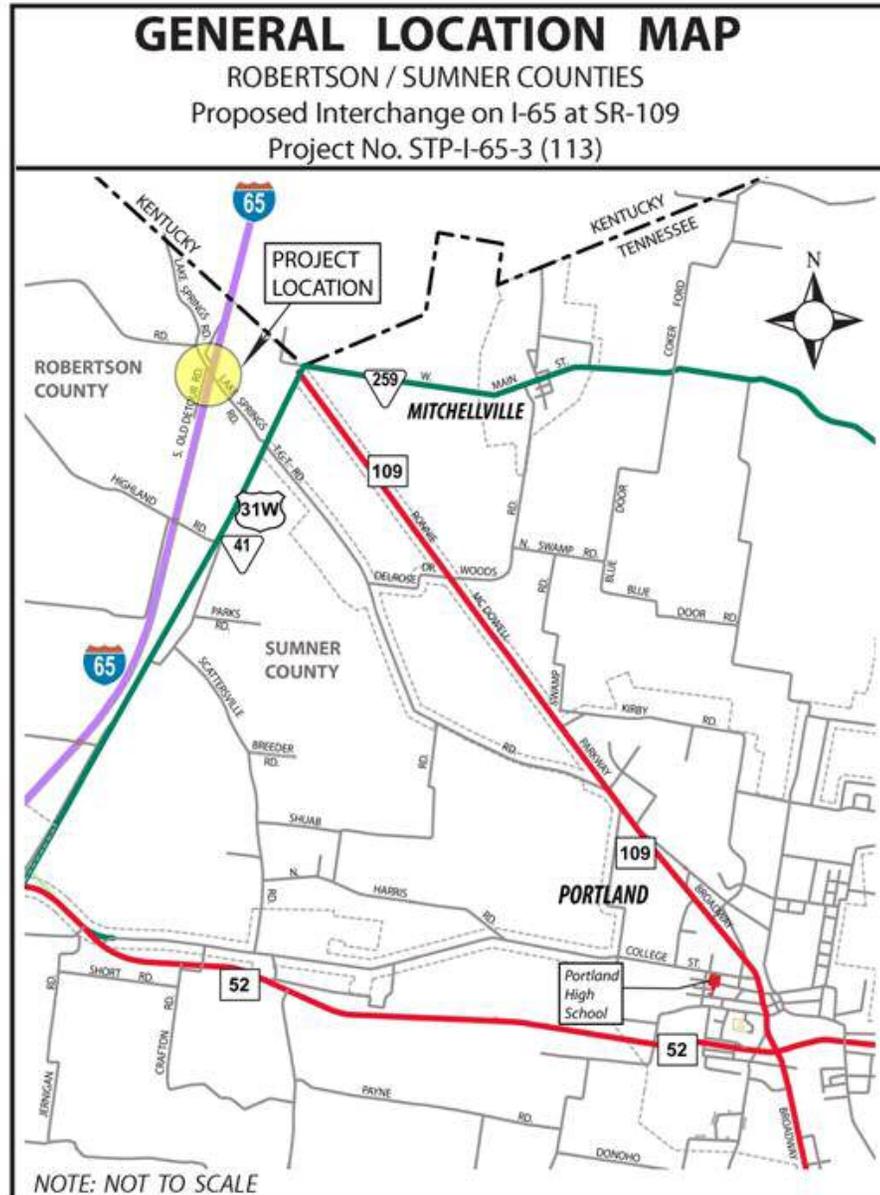


Project History cont.

- Interchange Justification Study (IJS) was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on November 29, 2006.
- The IJS evaluated four alternatives and identified a preferred build alternative.
- The NEPA process began in July 2007 when TDOT notified the FHWA that it intended to prepare an Environmental Assessment.



Project Vicinity



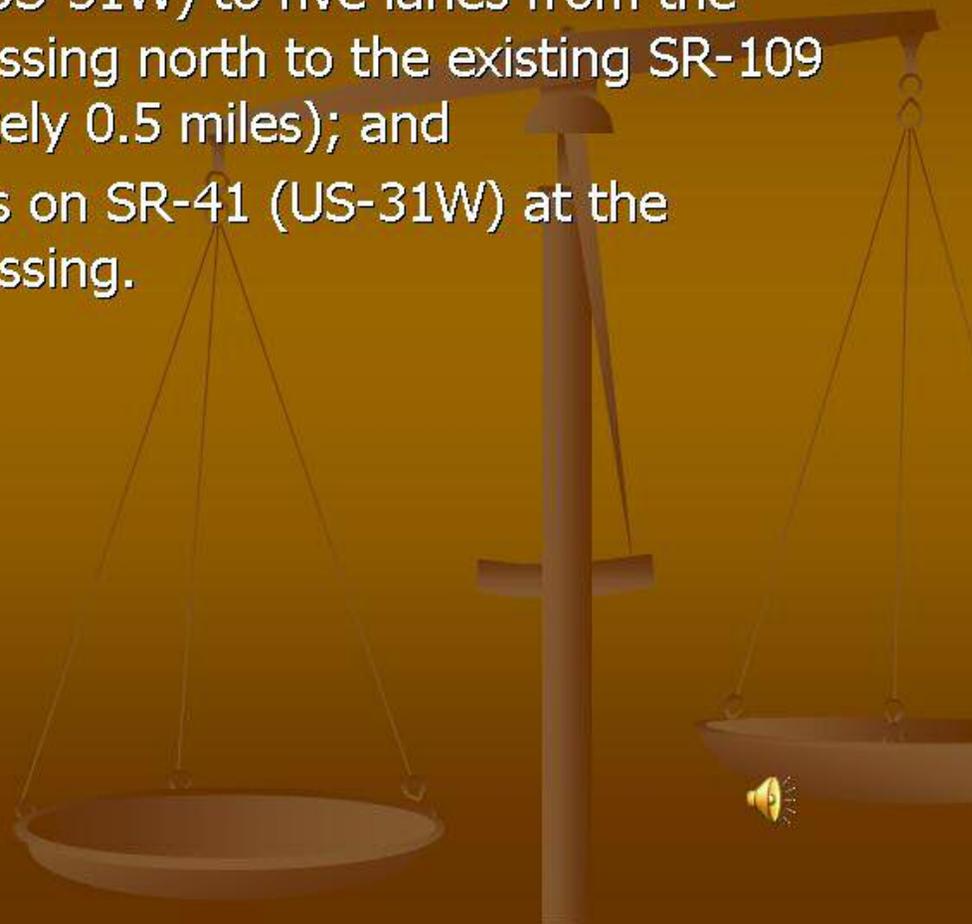
Project Description

Key project elements includes the following components:

- Construction of the proposed new interchange on I-65 at the proposed SR-109 realignment to be located near the current crossing of Lake Springs Road in Robertson County;
- 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);

Project Description cont.

- 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); and
- Addition of turn lanes on SR-41 (US-31W) at the proposed SR-109 crossing.



National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

- ◆ NEPA declares it a national policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and the environment and promote efforts to better understand and prevent damage to ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation.
- ◆ For federal action that are not likely to have significant environmental impacts, agencies typically prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to determine whether a federal action would significantly affect the environment. If there are no significant impacts identified, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is prepared.
- ◆ Although NEPA requires agencies to take what is known as a "hard look" at the environmental consequences of their actions, it does not force them to take the most environmentally beneficial alternative. However, the process typically results in alternatives that are more environmentally sound.



The NEPA Process for an Environmental Assessment

- ◆ Develop the Purpose and Need for the Project.
- ◆ Develop reasonable alternatives.
- ◆ Document current conditions in the affected environment for each alternative.
- ◆ Conduct an impact assessment for the proposed alternatives.
- ◆ Provide the opportunity for agency and public involvement throughout the NEPA process.



What is the next step in the process?

- Finalize the Purpose and Need Statement.
- Evaluate environmental impacts of the interchange project alternatives including the Build Alternative and the No Build Alternative.
- Prepare the Environmental Assessment.
- Present to the findings of the Environmental Assessment to the public.



Interstate 65/State Route 109 Environmental Assessment Schedule - Major Elements

Project Tasks	2008												2009												2010											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Public Outreach Program	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
Agency Coordination and Tribal Coordination		■	■	■			■	■					■	■	■																					
Develop Purpose & Need	■																																			
Alternatives Development	■	■	■																																	
Conduct Technical Studies		■	■	■	■	■	■	■																												
Preliminary Draft EA (August 2008)				■	■	■	■	■																												
Environmental Assessment (Fall 2008)								■	■																											
EA Public Hearing									■																											
Prepare Final EA/FONSI										■	■	■	■	■	■																					
FONSI (Summer 2009)																■																				
Final Design Begins																			■																	



Thank you for participating in the Interstate 65 and State Route 109 Public Meeting.

Be sure to leave your comment cards with us here
tonight or return them postmarked by
February 12, 2008.



Have a nice evening, and drive home safely!

This slide show will repeat in five minutes.

teamwork

