

# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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## PUBLIC MEETING

December 04, 2018



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TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DESIGN PUBLIC MEETING  
ALCOA HIGHWAY  
STATE ROUTE 115 (US HIGHWAY 129) IMPROVEMENTS  
FROM SINGLETON STATION ROAD TO  
SOUTH OF THE LITTLE RIVER  
December 4, 2018  
SEVIER HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, NORTH CAMPUS  
Knoxville, Tennessee

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. NAGI: Hi, my name is Mark Nagi.

I'm the Community Relations Officer for Tennessee's Department of Transportation here at Region 1, East Tennessee. I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. I know that everyone is very busy, have a lot of things going on, and we really do appreciate your time.

We're here tonight at Sevier Heights Baptist Church, North Campus, for a Design Public Meeting to gather public input on the proposed project in Blount County on Alcoa Highway from Singleton Station Road to south of the Little River. The proposed project consists of developing a new controlled access six-lane highway with frontage road and grade separate interchanges.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to provide comments about this proposed widening project.

Joining us tonight from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, our TDOT Regional Director, Steve Borden, and from TDOT's Project Management division, Director Dexter Justis, along

05:28:12  
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05:28:55  
05:28:58  
05:28:58  
05:29:01

1 with Christie Brown and Stacy Weaver. 05:29:04

2 And if I could get everyone else from 05:29:06

3 TDOT to please raise their hands. So you see we 05:29:06

4 have a lot of folks from TDOT here tonight to help 05:29:13

5 answer any questions that you may have. 05:29:16

6 Also, from our consultant, Lochner, are 05:29:17

7 Jerry Leslie, John Hieronymus, Tyler Mills, and Troy 05:29:18

8 Woodyard. 05:29:18

9 Once again, this is a TDOT Design public 05:29:27

10 meeting. If you would like to make a comment on the 05:29:29

11 record, we have a court reporter up in front of the 05:29:32

12 room, right here, and she will be able to take down 05:29:32

13 all of your comments if that is something that you 05:29:36

14 would prefer on a one-on-one basis following our 05:29:39

15 presentation. 05:29:42

16 Also, when you walked in, you were able 05:29:44

17 to get sheets of paper and pens up front. You can 05:29:45

18 write down your comments and hand them to us 05:29:47

19 tonight. Or if it's something you want to take 05:29:50

20 home, take your time, you have 21 days from today to 05:29:52

21 have those questions recorded if you then choose 05:29:56

22 mail them back to us. 05:29:59

23 Also, we're going to have a short 05:30:01

24 presentation here in just a few minutes. Following 05:30:03

25 the presentation, we'll set aside a few minutes in 05:30:03

1 case anyone has any general questions about the 05:30:07  
2 project that they would like to have answered in the 05:30:10  
3 public forum. 05:30:11

4 Before we go any further, I know that 05:30:12  
5 WBIR is here tonight. Are there any other members 05:30:15  
6 of the media in attendance tonight? 05:30:19

7 In addition, are there any elected 05:30:23  
8 officials in attendance tonight? 05:30:26

9 Okay. Well, with all that being said, 05:30:30  
10 we'll turn things over to Dexter Justice. We will 05:30:32  
11 begin our short presentation. After the 05:30:34  
12 presentation, we are available until 7:00 to answer 05:30:34  
13 any questions you may have with TDOT representatives 05:30:41  
14 set up throughout the room. 05:30:41

15 Dexter, here you go. 05:30:48

16 MR. JUSTIS: Thank you, Mark. 05:30:50

17 We're certainly glad to see a good 05:30:51  
18 turnout tonight. Public involvement in these type 05:30:54  
19 of projects is really important to the department. 05:30:55  
20 And again, we're really glad to see you. 05:30:56

21 I'd like to say a quick thank you to 05:30:59  
22 Sevier Heights for allowing us to -- hosting us here 05:31:01  
23 to bring these kind of meetings to you in a good 05:31:03  
24 forum. 05:31:07

25 Again, thank you for being here. We 05:31:08

1 have about a 15-minute presentation that will 05:31:10  
2 outline what is going on with this project and what 05:31:15  
3 you can expect in the coming months as it relates to 05:31:16  
4 the project. 05:31:21

5 After we're finished with this, then 05:31:23  
6 we'll come back up and have a short public 05:31:25  
7 question-and-answer session, then we'll move into 05:31:28  
8 getting back around the boards and answering any 05:31:30  
9 questions you have there. And, obviously, you have 05:31:33  
10 a comment card opportunity to provide these comments 05:31:34  
11 as well. 05:31:39

12 So we'll go ahead and get started with 05:31:40  
13 the video at this time. 05:31:42

14 (Video playing.) 05:31:44

15 With it's high traffic volume, lack of 05:31:49  
16 access control, and mix of recreational, commercial, 05:31:52  
17 and commuter traffic, Alcoa Highway today 05:31:53  
18 experiences substantial congestion and safety 05:31:58  
19 issues. Continued growth and development in the 05:32:02  
20 area will only worsen these trends. 05:32:02

21 As a result, TDOT initiated the project 05:32:07  
22 to reconstruct State Route 115 between Singleton 05:32:09  
23 Station Road and the Little River, creating a 05:32:11  
24 six-lane fully controlled access roadway separating 05:32:15  
25 local traffic from commuter through traffic. 05:32:17

1                   The proposed project is intended to                   05:32:18  
2                   address transportation needs which help to identify               05:32:23  
3                   through coordination with local officials, agencies,               05:32:23  
4                   and the public. Those transportation needs include               05:32:28  
5                   increasing the capacity of Alcoa Highway and level               05:32:32  
6                   of service, correct roadway deficiencies, reduce               05:32:36  
7                   crashes, and improve safety.                                       05:32:37  
8                   This section of the Alcoa Highway                                   05:32:44  
9                   improvements is one project working in conjunction               05:32:45  
10                  with six other active TDOT projects, stretching from               05:32:49  
11                  along the State 115 corridor between UT Hospital and               05:32:53  
12                  McGhee-Tyson Airport.   05:33:01  
13                  Knox County section from Malone Road to               05:33:05  
14                  Woodson Drive is currently under construction.               05:33:08  
15                  Construction plans are currently scheduled to begin               05:33:12  
16                  in the Spring 2019 for two other sections: Knox               05:33:12  
17                  County, from south of Topside to Malone Road, and               05:33:15  
18                  Blount County, from State Route 45 Hull Road to a               05:33:20  
19                  proposed interchange at Tyson Boulevard.               05:33:24  
20                  Three of the remaining four sections,                       05:33:28  
21                  Knox County from Woodson Drive to Cherokee Trail;               05:33:30  
22                  Blount County, Pellissippi Parkway to South               05:33:31  
23                  Singleton Station Road; and Blount County, from the               05:33:35  
24                  proposed interchange at Tyson Boulevard to               05:33:38  
25                  Pellissippi Parkway are currently in the                       05:33:38

1 right-of-way appraisal in acquisition phase. 05:33:42

2 The final section, Blount County from 05:33:45  
3 Singleton Station Road to south of the Little River, 05:33:47  
4 is currently in the preliminary design phase and is 05:33:50  
5 the focus of tonight's meeting. 05:33:55

6 This section, called the Little River 05:34:04  
7 section, is currently under design. It begins here, 05:34:07  
8 at Singleton Station Road. This section ties into 05:34:10  
9 the Blount County relocated Alcoa Highway section 05:34:14  
10 from the south. It continues north about two miles 05:34:16  
11 of the existing Little River Bridge at the Blount 05:34:17  
12 County/Knox County line. When the relocated Alcoa 05:34:20  
13 Highway project to the south and the Little River 05:34:24  
14 projects are completed, commuter and through traffic 05:34:27  
15 will have a fully controlled access facility to 05:34:31  
16 State Route 45 to the Blount County/Knox County line 05:34:31  
17 at the Little River. 05:34:36

18 In order to achieve the purpose and need 05:34:40  
19 of improved safety and added capacity, as well as 05:34:43  
20 maintaining traffic during construction, this 05:34:48  
21 section proposes improvements to Alcoa Highway 05:34:50  
22 through upgrading the existing four-lane roadway to 05:34:50  
23 a six-lane controlled access facility with frontage 05:34:55  
24 roads and interchanges. TDOT chose to expand the 05:34:57  
25 proposed roadway to the west in order to minimize 05:35:02



1 impacts and to eliminate traffic on roadway during 05:35:04  
2 construction. Widening to the west enabled TDOT to 05:35:07  
3 reuse the existing northbound travel lanes by 05:35:11  
4 converting them to a northbound frontage road. 05:35:13  
5 Access on the southbound side of Alcoa 05:35:18  
6 Highway will be maintained by building a southbound 05:35:22  
7 frontage road to the west. The northbound and the 05:35:24  
8 southbound frontage roads will have access ramps to 05:35:27  
9 and from the new proposed Alcoa Highway. New access 05:35:29  
10 ramps will allow traffic to make safer on-and-off 05:35:34  
11 maneuvers to and from the newly-constructed Alcoa 05:35:38  
12 Highway. A barrier wall will separate the Alcoa 05:35:41  
13 Highway northbound and southbound traffic and 05:35:42  
14 eliminate the dangerous left turns across through 05:35:45  
15 traffic. 05:35:49  
16 Let's look at a few of the key features. 05:35:52  
17 Starting at the southern end of the projects, Alcoa 05:35:56  
18 Highway and the Pellissippi Parkway interchange will 05:36:00  
19 be shifted east as part of the relocated Alcoa 05:36:03  
20 Highway Project. Old Alcoa Highway, or the Motor 05:36:05  
21 Mile, will remain in place in operation in order to 05:36:07  
22 maintain access to homes and businesses along the 05:36:12  
23 existing route to the south. Ramps will provide 05:36:12  
24 access to and from old Alcoa Highway and Singleton 05:36:16  
25 Station Road. 05:36:20

1                   Instead of Singleton Station Road                   05:36:22  
2   intersecting Alcoa Highway as it is today, an                   05:36:24  
3   interchange will separate through traffic on Alcoa               05:36:28  
4   Highway with the local traffic on Singleton Station               05:36:32  
5   Road. The new frontage roads begin here at                       05:36:35  
6   Singleton Station Road and continue north, allowing               05:36:40  
7   motorists to access the businesses and homes along               05:36:41  
8   the corridor.   05:36:44  
9                   Additionally, a greenway trail begins in               05:36:46  
10  the area surrounding, which facilitates pedestrian               05:36:46  
11  and Pellissippi travel. The greenway trail extends               05:36:48  
12  across the Little River Bridge and onto the next                   05:36:53  
13  design section in Knox County.                                       05:36:57  
14                   North of Singleton Station Road, the                   05:37:07  
15  frontage roads and ramps intersect to create an                   05:37:08  
16  efficient free-flow intersection called a double                   05:37:12  
17  teardrop roundabout, which allows traffic to                       05:37:18  
18  access destinations on both sides of Alcoa Highway               05:37:21  
19  without stopping at a traffic signal.                               05:37:22  
20                   Continuing north to Topside Road,                       05:37:34  
21  another double teardrop roundabout interchange                   05:37:38  
22  provides access to and from Alcoa Highway. Alcoa               05:37:41  
23  Way will be extended to Topside Road to provide                   05:37:48  
24  access to properties located to the north of Topside               05:37:51  
25  Road and west of Alcoa Highway.                                       05:37:54

1 River Trace subdivision's access will be 05:37:56  
2 relocated south to connect to the new Topside Road 05:37:58  
3 interchange, providing safer access to Alcoa 05:38:01  
4 Highway. During construction, access will be 05:38:05  
5 maintained to homes and businesses along the 05:38:09  
6 existing roadway. 05:38:12

7 Let's now take a look at how the new 05:38:15  
8 Alcoa Highway and frontage roads will function. 05:38:18  
9 Traffic leaving Knoxville and other destinations to 05:38:21  
10 the north will be able to use the new Alcoa Highway 05:38:22  
11 and will be separated from local traffic. Traffic 05:38:28  
12 traveling south will have the option of taking Old 05:38:33  
13 Alcoa Highway to the Motor Mile or continuing south 05:38:39  
14 to nearby destinations along the relocated Alcoa 05:38:41  
15 Highway. It's important to remember that there are 05:38:45  
16 plenty of access points along the way for local 05:38:47  
17 trips as well. 05:38:52

18 Local traffic traveling north will be 05:38:56  
19 able to access Singleton Station Road and the Motor 05:39:00  
20 Mile via a new interchange at Singleton Station 05:39:04  
21 Road. The unique feature of the northbound offramp 05:39:06  
22 is that the ramp will split to accommodate high 05:39:10  
23 expected traffic volumes and providing easier access 05:39:10  
24 to local destinations. Motorists will have the 05:39:13  
25 option of taking the left ramp for Singleton Station 05:39:17

1 Road and Motor Mile or the right ramp for South 05:39:19  
2 Singleton Station Road and the northbound frontage 05:39:23  
3 road, which provides access to all the homes and 05:39:25  
4 businesses on the east side of Alcoa Highway. 05:39:30  
5 A northbound on-ramp provides trips 05:39:33  
6 north of Knoxville with access to Alcoa Highway. 05:39:33  
7 Continuing north, access to local homes and 05:39:37  
8 businesses on the east side of Alcoa Highway will be 05:39:40  
9 provided by northbound frontage roads, which is 05:39:43  
10 important to remember that the frontage roads, both 05:39:47  
11 northbound and southbound, will be one-way travel. 05:39:49  
12 However, several options enable access 05:39:55  
13 to either side of Alcoa Highway, such as Lakemont 05:39:56  
14 Drive. Here at Lakemont, the double teardrop 05:39:58  
15 roundabout underpass will provide safe and simple 05:40:03  
16 access to both sides of Alcoa Highway without the 05:40:04  
17 use of a traffic signal. 05:40:06  
18 As we continue to the north, another double 05:40:19  
19 teardrop roundabout interchange at Topside Road 05:40:20  
20 provides access to Rivertrace Subdivision and other 05:40:24  
21 local destinations. 05:40:27  
22 On the west side of Alcoa Highway, a new 05:40:33  
23 Alcoa Way and greenway will lead to local homes and 05:40:36  
24 businesses as well as pedestrians to access Topside 05:40:39  
25 Road, frontage roads, and Alcoa Highway. The new 05:40:44

1 greenway is located on the west side of Alcoa 05:40:50  
2 Highway and enables pedestrian access to both sides 05:40:53  
3 of the corridor. Like northbound frontage road, 05:40:54  
4 the southbound frontage road will be one way. 05:40:59  
5 Heading south, all access is provided among 05:41:08  
6 the corridor by new frontage road while 05:41:12  
7 circulation's provided by the double teardrop 05:41:16  
8 roundabouts. At the Singleton Station Road 05:41:20  
9 interchange, the southbound frontage road and ramps 05:41:21  
10 will provide access back to the Motor Mile, as well 05:41:21  
11 as to the new Alcoa Highway. 05:41:24  
12 This graphic highlights the traffic 05:44:53  
13 development process for transportation projects. 05:44:55  
14 TDOT is approaching the end of the design phase for 05:44:56  
15 this section of the State Route 115 project. The 05:45:00  
16 next stage includes purchasing the necessary 05:45:04  
17 right-of-way and easements. It is anticipated to 05:45:06  
18 take 18 to 24 months to complete. Once the 05:45:07  
19 necessary right-of-way is acquired, the project 05:45:13  
20 will be eligible for construction funding pending 05:45:14  
21 available funds. 05:45:16  
22 Thank you for your interest in the Alcoa 05:45:19  
23 Highway Reconstruction Project. For more 05:45:20  
24 information, please contact Mr. Dexter Justice or 05:45:24  
25 Mr. Stacy Weaver. 05:45:28

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(END OF VIDEO.)

MR. NAGI: So what we'll do now, is we'll open the floor to questions for about 15 minutes. We want to make sure everyone has a chance to look at the plans, talk to TDOT officials on a one-on-one basis as well. But if anybody has any general questions about the projects --

State your name and your address also, please.

MR. LEE: Earl Ray Lee, Airway Drive in Alcoa. I thought the video was well done. Is it available online?

MR. JUSTIS: It's not today, but it will be in the next couple of weeks.

MR. NAGI: Yep, that will be available on the TDOT website.

Anyone else have a general question about the project?

Okay. Well, with that, that concludes tonight's presentation. We're still here till 7:00 to answer any questions that you may have about the project.

Also, remember, you have those comment cards that you can send in to us. You have 21 days from today to get those back to us and get them on

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05:46:48

1 the official record. Any comment that you would 05:46:50  
2 like to leave on a one-on-one basis, we have our 05:46:53  
3 court reporter here until 7:00 p.m. as well. Thank 05:46:58  
4 you very much. And again, we're here until 7:00. 05:47:00

5 MR. JUSTIS: Yeah, I'd also like to add, 05:47:00  
6 we got -- obviously, we have the boards here that 05:47:02  
7 you can go stand around and ask questions, but we 05:47:05  
8 also have something that's a little unique back in 05:47:05  
9 the corner here. We have a virtual reality setup. 05:47:07  
10 So you can actually go back there, put some goggles 05:47:07  
11 on, walk around the project, go look and see where 05:47:07  
12 it's at to your property, if you're actually 05:47:15  
13 impacted by this project. So stop back there and 05:47:15  
14 give that a try. 05:47:21

15 (END OF PRESENTATION.) 05:47:22

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

\* \* \*

MR. CRAMER: My name is Wayne,  
W-A-Y-N-E, R., Kramer, K-R-A-M-E-R, and I am a  
resident of Rivertrace Subdivision. 3714 Rivertrace  
Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37920. This is what  
I want to say:

We heard tonight that there is the  
possibility that the access in and out of the  
Rivertrace subdivision may change from what we have  
been told for many, many months. The entire  
neighborhood would object to such a change,  
exclamation point.

If there is the slightest possibility  
that a change is being considered, we would ask that  
we be advised well in advance and have the  
opportunity to object. This is extremely important  
to us. Thank you.

(END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.)

05:59:38  
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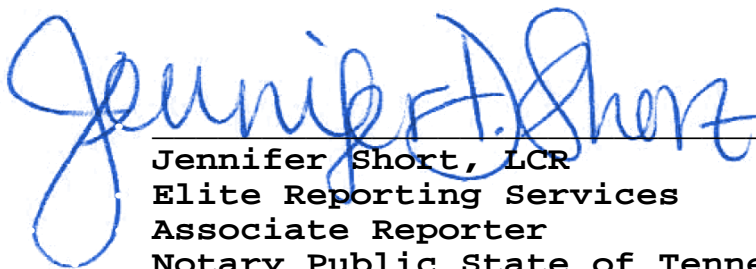
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2 STATE OF TENNESSEE

3 COUNTY OF KNOX

4 I, Jennifer Short, Licensed Court  
5 Reporter, with offices in Knoxville, Tennessee,  
6 hereby certify that I reported the foregoing  
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24 My Notary Public Commission Expires: 09/2021  
25 LCR # 518 - Expires: 6/2020

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