# I-40/I-81 Study Update Knoxville & Lakeway



### April 7, 2008

# Agenda

- I-40/I-81 Tennessee's Major Artery
- Study Overview
- Process for Evaluating Potential Solutions
- Preliminary Study Results
- Remaining Steps

# **Study Corridor**

- Bristol to Memphis, 550 Miles
- Includes 9 of State's 12 RPOs
- Crosses 8 of State's 11 MPOs/TPOs



# **Corridor Importance**

- A Corridor in the Strategic Investment Plan
- 55% of State's population live along the corridor (28 counties)
- Truck volumes along corridor are estimated to double by 2030; trucks carry 74% of freight in State
- Rail freight volumes projected to increase over 50% by 2030

# **Study Purpose**

- Identify & address I-40/I-81 deficiencies
- Identify low-cost operational improvements along corridor
- Consider effectiveness of truck/rail diversion
- Consider multi-modal solutions

# Identify, Evaluate & Prioritize Solutions That Address:

- Congestion & capacity
- Operations & maintenance
- Safety & security
- Freight movement & diversion
- Economic access
- Commuter patterns
- Inter-modal facilities (freight and/or passenger)

# -40 / I-81 CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

# **Study Outcomes**

- Projects & strategies for consideration by TDOT, MPOs/TPOs & RPOs
- Short, mid & long-range solutions and cost estimates

# Previous Knoxville Public Meeting

- Held on September 25, 2007
- Provided background on I-40/I-81 study
- Asked if there were deficiencies in the corridor beyond what we had identified
- Requested input into range of potential solutions to be considered

# Other Regional Stakeholder Meetings

- Memphis
- Jackson
- Nashville
- Tri-Cities
- Cookeville

March 31 April 1 April 3 April 8 April 10

# **Initial Screening Process**

- Five "packages" of multimodal solutions for corridor analysis for 2030
  - -Existing + Committed Improvements
  - -Roadway Capacity
  - -Corridor Capacity
  - -Operational Solutions
  - -Rail-Focused Solutions
- Developed performance measures from statewide and urban area models
- Off-model analysis for selected measures

# **Purpose of Evaluation Process**

- Identify solutions/projects with highest benefit/cost (B/C) ratios, recognizing that this measure represents only one factor in project assessment
- Identify solutions/projects that will provide benefits in short- and midterm periods

# **Evaluation Process**

- B/C ratios estimated for projects from those "packages" found to be significant
- Benefits for each project monetized to allow consistent measurement across evaluation criteria
- Roadway cost estimates consistent with TDOT methodology
- Projects evaluated for multiple planning horizons
- Benefits estimated only for I-40 & I-81

# **Evaluation Components**

- Auto hours of recurrent delay
- Truck hours of recurrent delay
- Auto hours of non-recurrent (incident) delay
- Truck hours of non-recurrent (incident) delay
- Number of accidents
- Number of fatalities

# **Identified I-81 Widening Project**

- Widen to 6 Lanes between Exit 1 (I-40) and Exit 15 (SR-340)
  - Widening of 15-mile segment has an estimated total cost of \$147 million
  - Modeling analysis shows need for these improvements by 2030



# I-40/I-81 Corridor Capacity Projects

- SR-475 (Knoxville Parkway)
  - 2030 B/C ratio of 0.4 for constructing this roadway at estimated cost of \$609 million
  - Ratio only captures benefits for I-40, and not for I-75 and overall region
  - The latter benefits to be estimated from other studies

# I-40/I-81 Corridor Capacity SR-475 (Knoxville Parkway)



# **Truck/Rail Diversion**

- Truck trips are divertible to rail if
  - Trip distances are long (greater than 500 750 miles)
  - Commodities can be handled easily by rail
    - Bulk goods
    - Non-perishable goods
    - Goods easily packaged and shipped using intermodal containers
  - Rail network matches desired trip origin and destination

### I-40/I-81 Rail Improvement Alternatives



# **Trans-Tennessee Rail Corridor**

- Re-development of rail connection
  between Crossville and Cookeville
- Provides rail connection across state
- Direct rail service between Nashville and Knoxville
- Estimated cost of improvements is \$1.2 billion

# **Crescent Corridor**

- NS estimates over 1 million divertible truckloads along the Crescent Corridor
- Plans forecast 28 new trains per day
- NS seeking public-private partnerships to improve the rail network at an estimated cost of \$2 billion
- Corridor investments will begin this year with roll-out of improved services in 2009
- Entire network to be complete by 2013

# **Cooperation with Virginia**

- Regular meetings on rail corridor planning between DOT officials from both states
- Cambridge Systematics also is assisting Virginia in analyzing benefits of truck-rail diversion
- Virginia shared results of I-81 truck origindestination surveys with TDOT to assist in calibration of truck-rail diversion model

## I-40/I-81 Rail-Focused Improvements

- Norfolk Southern Crescent Corridor
  - 2030 B/C ratio of 5.0 warranting further analysis of planned improvements in and out of the state

### Trans-Tennessee Rail Corridor

 2030 B/C ratio of 0.1, but only includes benefits for I-40/I-81 Corridor & economic benefits identified in An Evaluation of Tennessee Rail Plan's Treatment of a Trans-Tennessee Rail Routing

# I-40/I-81 Operational Solutions

- Interchange, rest area & weigh station ramp improvements
- Truck climbing lanes
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements
- Potential for I-40 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) or high occupancy toll (HOT) lane expansion or conversion in Nashville & Memphis

# -40 / I-81 CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

# I-40/I-81 Operational Solutions



# I-40/I-81 Interchange Improvements

- Extensions of three acceleration ramps
- Represents preliminary design concept for addressing deficiencies at this location
- Estimated cost of \$1.3 million
- Need for improvements suggested during stakeholder interviews

# I-40/I-75 & I-140 Interchange Improvement

- Extend exit ramp from I-140 southbound to I-40/I-75 westbound
- Estimated cost of \$1.1 million
- Need for improvements suggested during stakeholder interviews

# I-40/I-81 Weigh Stations & Rest Areas

- Lengthen ramps at weigh station west of Knoxville, near Exit 373
- Estimated cost of \$1 million
- Lengthen ramps at rest area north of I-40/I-81 interchange
- Estimated cost of \$650,000
- Need for improvements suggested during stakeholder interviews

# -40 / I-81 CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

# **Project Programming**

- Near-term, medium-term and long-term projects with highest B/C ratios identified for each region
- Projects divided into constructible segments
- Segments are programmed based on timing of impacts and availability of funds

# **Remaining Steps**

Late April

Review public comments with TDOT Present draft corridor program to Commissioner



Complete corridor program & Final Report

### For more information on the study, contact:

### Teresa Estes TDOT Systems Planning & Policy Office James K. Polk Building, Suite 900 Nashville, TN 37243 615-253-7689

Email: Teresa.Estes@state.tn.us

or visit www.tdot.state.tn.us/i40corridor