



PROPOSED EXIT 408



TDOT
Department of
Transportation

New Interchange at Exit 408 and Connector Road from Dumplin Valley Road to State Route 139 (Douglas Dam Road), Sevier and Jefferson Counties, TN, PIN 133581.00

Public Meeting Handout

September 15, 2026, 5:00-7:00 PM
Sevierville Convention Center, Ballrooms A and B
202 Gists Creek Road
Sevierville, Tennessee 37876

Project Overview

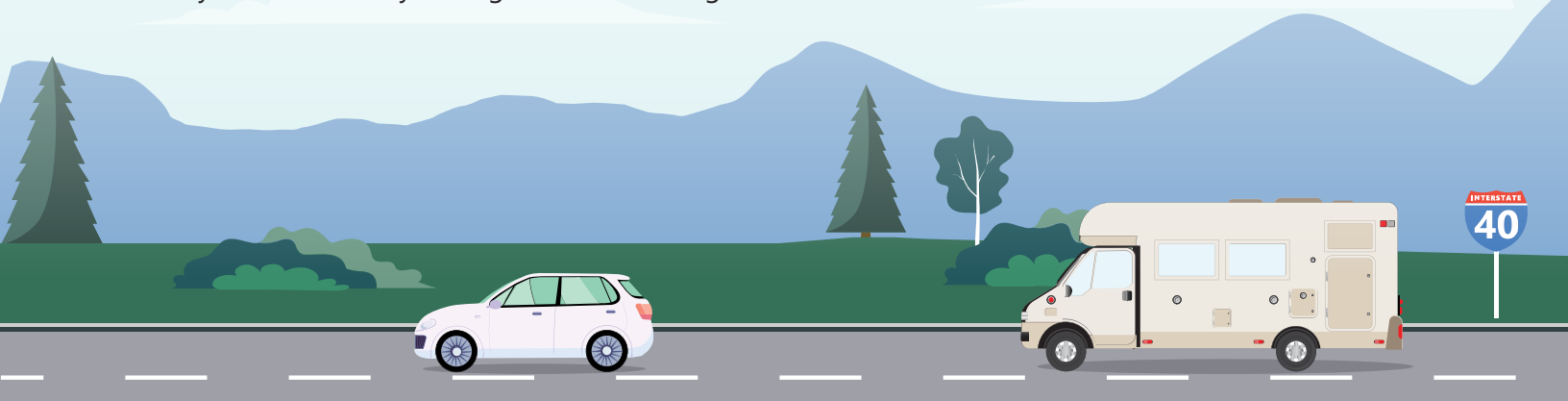
The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes the construction of a new Diverging Diamond Interchange along Interstate 40 (I-40) at Exit 408, approximately 1.75 miles east of the existing I-40 Exit 407 interchange. The proposed project also includes construction of a new north-south roadway, Connector Road, a new east-west roadway, Gateway Boulevard, and a new 10-foot greenway along Bryan Road. The proposed improvements would total approximately 1.59 miles in length.

Because the proposed project is being designed and constructed utilizing federal transportation dollars, the project is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). TDOT and FHWA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the NEPA to identify and evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and to identify measures to minimize harm.

Purpose Of Meeting

The purpose of this public meeting is to provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on the purpose and need for the proposed I-40 Proposed Exit 408 project as well as the range of alternatives under consideration.

During the public meeting, project information will be presented in an open-house format. Members of the TDOT project team will be available to discuss the project and answer questions while attendees review informational displays. A PowerPoint presentation containing additional project information will also cycle continuously throughout the meeting.



Project History

In 2023, Sevier County submitted the proposed project to TDOT for consideration under the Statewide Partnership Program, through which local entities, Sevier County and the City of Sevierville, would provide funding and support to help advance improvements on the state transportation system. The proposed project was subsequently included in [TDOT's 10-Year Project Plan](#)¹ for transportation investment and development.

The proposed project is located in Sevier County, home to tourism destinations such as Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) which attract millions of visitors annually and generate substantial travel demand throughout the regional transportation network.

Preliminary Need for the Project

The preliminary need for the proposed I-40 Proposed Exit 408 project has been identified as the following:

- » Insufficient System Linkage
- » Existing Traffic Operational Deficiencies

Preliminary Purpose of the Project

The preliminary purpose of the proposed I-40 Proposed Exit 408 project has been identified as the following:

- » Improve System Linkage
- » Improve Traffic Operational Efficiency

Please note that the preliminary purpose and need will be refined as the environmental technical studies are finalized and public feedback from the September 15, 2026, Public Meeting is analyzed. The purpose and need will be formally presented in the Environmental Assessment expected to be released for public review in Quarter 1 of 2027.

¹<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/build-with-us/04042610YP.pdf>

Alternatives Being Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment

A No-Build Alternative and one Build Alternative are being evaluated in the Environmental Assessment. Each alternative is described in the subsequent text below.

No-Build Alternative: The No-Build Alternative has been retained for detailed study and serves as a benchmark for comparison against the Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative would retain the existing roadway configuration throughout the project area except for those modifications to the roadway network that have been programmed and approved for implementation, as identified in [TDOT's 25-Year Long Range Transportation Policy Plan](#),² [State Transportation Improvement Program \(STIP\)](#),³ and the [TDOT 10-Year Project Plan](#)⁴ and would allow for routine maintenance and safety upgrades.

Build Alternative: The Build Alternative proposes to construct the following four design elements:

- » **Design Element #1:** Construction of a new Diverging Diamond Interchange at proposed Exit 408 along I-40.
- » **Design Element #2:** Construction of a new north-south roadway alignment designated as Connector Road traveling between East Dumplin Valley Road, the proposed I-40 Exit 408 interchange, and SR-139 (Douglas Dam Road).
- » **Design Element #3:** Construction of a new east-west roadway alignment designated as Gateway Boulevard, parallel to the southern boundary of I-40, which would intersect with Connector Road approximately 0.2 miles south of the Exit 408 interchange. At its western terminus, Gateway Boulevard would connect to a future expansion to be constructed by others.
- » **Design Element #4:** Construction of a new 10-foot greenway along Bryan Road, traveling under I-40, and along Gateway Boulevard and Connector Road to SR-139 (Douglas Dam Road).

The Build Alternative would also construct the following signalized intersections:

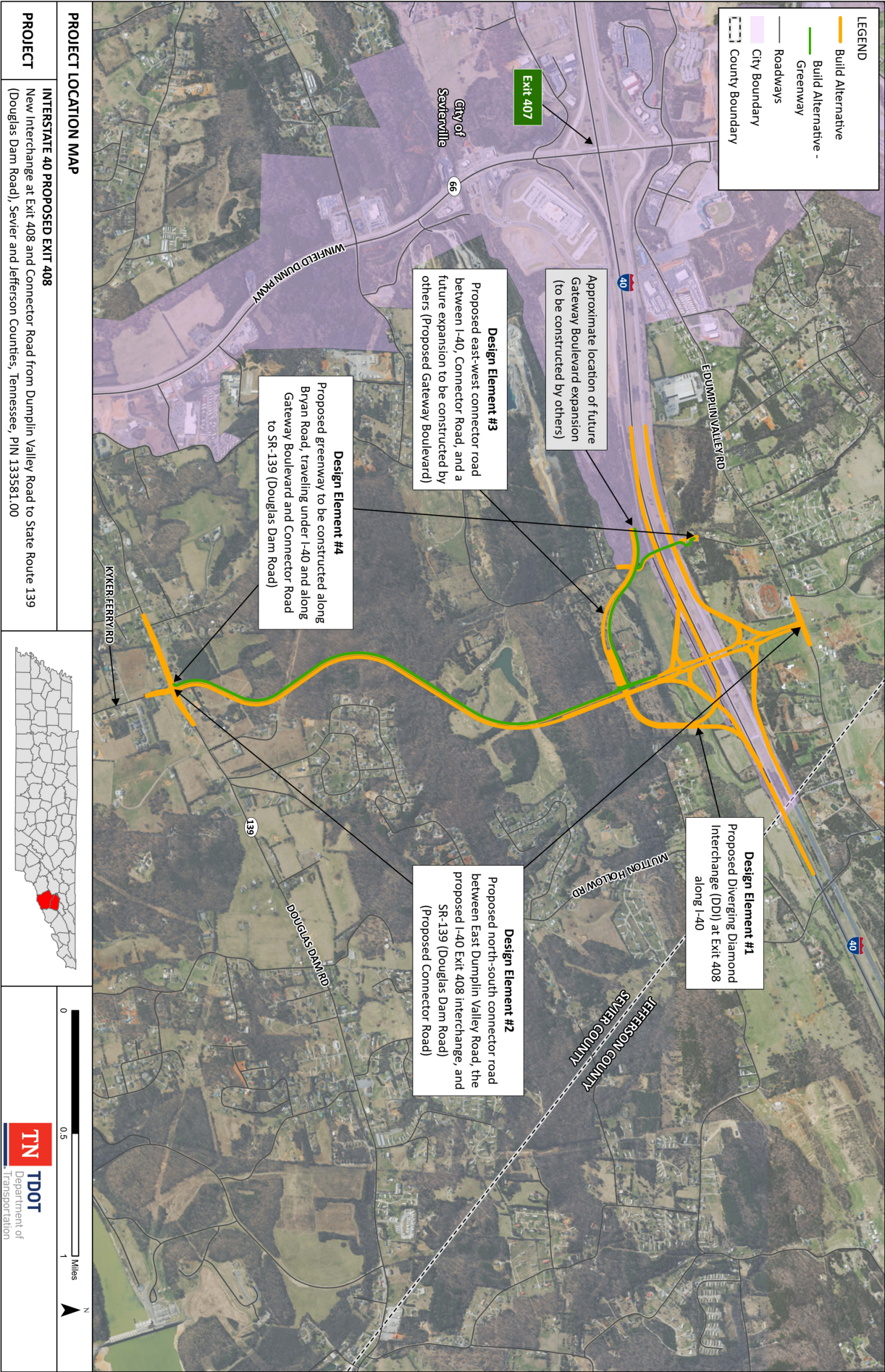
- » Connector Road and East Dumplin Valley Road
- » Connector Road and Gateway Boulevard
- » Connector Road and SR-139 (Douglas Dam Road).

The Build Alternative would be approximately 1.59 miles in length.

² <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/25-year-transportation-policy-plan.html>

³ <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/longrange-oct/stip-and-tip.html>

⁴ <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/build-with-us/04042610YP.pdf>



Project Location Map

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TN

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Project Schedule

Transportation projects are developed in four phases: Planning and Environmental Design, Design, Right-of-Way, and Construction. The following is an estimated timeline for various aspects of the proposed project.^{5, 6}

Initial Early Coordination	Quarter 3 of 2026
Conduct Environmental Technical Studies	Quarter 4 of 2026
Hold Public Meeting WE ARE HERE	September 15, 2026
Notice of Availability / Environmental Assessment Approval	Quarter 1 of 2027
Hold Public Hearing	Quarter 1 of 2027
Approval of Final Environmental Document / Selection of Preferred Alternative ⁷	Quarter 2 of 2027
Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase	2027
Construction Phase	2030

⁵ Quarter 1 – January through March
Quarter 2 – April through June
Quarter 3 – July through September
Quarter 4 – October through December

⁶ Forecasted dates are subject to change.

⁷ Once the final environmental document is approved by the Federal Highway Administration, the planning and environmental phase is complete.

Next Steps

- » TDOT will complete environmental technical studies and draft the Environmental Assessment for FHWA review and approval.
- » To further engage the public, following FHWA approval of the Environmental Assessment, TDOT will:
 - + Make the approved Environmental Assessment available for public review (including the results of all technical studies).
 - + Hold a public hearing to present the findings of the environmental technical studies and the recommended Preferred Alternative.
 - + Invite feedback and comments from the public on the results of the Environmental Assessment.

Right-Of-Way and Relocations

TDOT will make relocation assistance available to all eligible persons impacted by this project, including residences, businesses, farm operations, non-profit organizations, and those requiring special services or assistance. The Regional Relocation Staff will administer the relocation program under the rules, policies, and procedures set forth in the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 as amended, the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1972, implementing federal regulations, TCA 13-11-101 through 119, the State of Tennessee Relocation Assistance Brochure and Chapter IX of the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Manual.

An information pamphlet, Relocation Assistance Program, outlines the services offered and any payments for which you may be eligible, such as moving expenses and replacement housing benefits for owners and tenants. The pamphlet also outlines the eligibility requirements for receiving these payments. The pamphlet is available for download from the [TDOT Relocation Office website](#).⁸

TDOT will provide advance notification of proposed right-of-way acquisition. The TDOT Right-of-Way Office has the responsibility, once a project is approved, of appraising, purchasing and, if required, assisting individuals, families or businesses in relocating. Before acquiring property, all properties are appraised on the basis of comparable sales and land use values in the surrounding areas.

The value will be established by using independent real estate appraisers who will prepare, for TDOT's use, written appraisals using actual sales data in the surrounding community.

When an appraisal is necessary, the appraiser will contact each property owner and offer the owner the opportunity to accompany him/her on an inspection of the property. After the appraisal is complete, the TDOT Right-of-Way Appraisal staff will review, and field check the findings for accuracy to ensure that everything relating to value has been considered in establishing the amount to be offered. Owners of property will be offered fair market value for their property rights, as it is TDOT's desire to pay fair market value for the necessary property.

If you have a question regarding the TDOT Relocation process, please call **1-877-SmartWay** (toll-free) and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number and question.

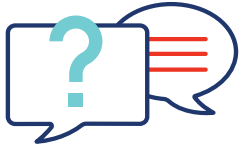
⁸ <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/right-of-way-division/relocation-office.html>

Notes/Questions

Use this space to keep track of any notes or questions you may have.

Procedure for Submitting Public Comments

You are encouraged to provide comments and input on the project. Your input will become part of the official public record for this project.



Questions:

Please call **1-877-SmartWay** (toll-free) by **September 29, 2026**, and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, and question. This will allow TDOT to provide you a response by the **October 6, 2026**, comment deadline.



Comments:

Public Comments received or postmarked by **October 6, 2026**, will be included in the official summary of the public meeting.

Verbal Comments: Record a verbal comment with the court reporter tonight or call **1-877-SmartWay** (toll-free) and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, and comment.

Written Comments:

- » Send a **comment card or letter** by mail to:

Interstate 40 Proposed Exit 408
C/O Kimley-Horn and Associates
10 Lea Avenue, Ste 400
Nashville, TN 37210



- » Send an **email** to TDOT.comments@tn.gov using the subject line **Interstate 40 Proposed Exit 408 Project**.
- » Complete an **online comment form** available on the I-40 Proposed Exit 408 project website <https://tinyurl.com/I40Exit408> or by scanning the QR code.

Additional Information

For additional information, please contact the following TDOT representative:

Mr. Jeff Branham, PE, PTOE
TDOT Region 1 Project Development
Email: Jeff.Branham@tn.gov
Phone: 423.736.2509

Project Website: <https://tinyurl.com/I40Exit408>

