

PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES WORKSHOP

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
for
Pellissippi Parkway Extension (SR 162)
From SR 33 to SR 73 (US 321)
Blount County, Tennessee

Thursday, October 25, 2007

**5:00 to 8:00 PM
Heritage High School
3741 E Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN 37804**



Tennessee Department of Transportation

WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the Public Alternatives Workshop for the proposed Pellissippi Parkway Extension (SR 162) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The purpose of the meeting tonight is to:

- Provide an update of the EIS study;
- Present the revised Purpose and Need Statement;
- Seek public input on the alternatives to be studied in the Draft EIS; and
- Discuss next steps in the EIS process.

The agenda for tonight's meeting is:

5:15 PM: Formal presentation by TDOT and the Project Team

6:00 PM: Breakouts for discussing preliminary project alternatives and corridors

7:00 PM: Formal question and answer session

A court reporter is available for those persons who desire to make a statement about the project to be 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 questionnaire. Please take a moment to fill it out so that we know your concerns about the project. The completed questionnaires may be deposited in the box by the door. If you do not wish to submit your 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 37243-0332

To be a part of the official record of this workshop, written comments must be postmarked by **November 15, 2007**. Of course, you are welcomed to submit your comments at any time during the course of the EIS study.

Thank you for attending and participating in this meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project website at: www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/

or

Call or email the TDOT Project Manager, Michael W. Russell, P.E.
865/594-2334 or Mike.Russell@state.tn.us

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives to extend and construct Pellissippi Parkway (SR 162) from its current terminus at SR 33 (Old Knoxville Highway) to SR 73 (US 321 or Lamar Alexander Highway) in Blount County.

On April 26, 2006, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was issued in the *Federal Register*. On June 13, 2006, TDOT held two public scoping meetings to invite the public and agencies to provide their input on the project, purpose and need, alternatives to be considered, and issues and concerns.

Comments received through the scoping comment period and beyond have been considered in the refinement of the purpose and need for the project and in the development of the list of preliminary alternatives to be considered.

WHAT ARE THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN THE CORRIDOR?

The proposed project is intended to address the following transportation needs in the study area:

- Lack of a northwest/east roadway connection east of Alcoa and Maryville to help serve:
 - Expanding residential development occurring in eastern Alcoa and Maryville and northeastern Blount County; and
 - Increasing demand for trips between Maryville and Alcoa and the Knoxville area to the north.
- An incomplete regional roadway (Pellissippi Parkway (SR 162) between I-40 and US 321) that has been a part of the regional transportation planning efforts since the late 1970s.

- Traffic congestion and poor levels of service on the major arterial roads in the study area (US 129, SR 33, US 411 and US 321); and
- High crash incidents in the Maryville core that through travelers between the northwestern and eastern portions of the county must pass.

These transportation needs have been identified through comments provided during the scoping meetings and in the months following that meeting, through the review of existing plans and studies, and through the traffic forecast and level of service analysis being conducted for this EIS.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT?

The core transportation objectives of the proposed project are:

- To enhance regional transportation system linkages;
- To improve circumferential mobility by providing travel options to the existing radial roadway network in Blount County, Maryville, and Alcoa;
- To assist in achieving acceptable traffic flows (level of service) on the local transportation network; and
- To assist in improving roadway safety on the existing roadway network, including the Maryville core.

Additional objectives of the proposed project include:

- Support community and growth management goals;
- Minimize adverse impacts to neighborhoods and businesses;
- Minimize adverse impacts to farmlands; and
- Minimize adverse impacts to the natural and cultural environment.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED?

The range of alternatives that has been suggested through the project scoping is:

- (1) No-Build;
- (2) Transportation Systems Management (TSM) activities;
- (3) Public Transit;
- (4) Upgrade existing roadways in the northeastern portion of the county between SR 33 and US 321; and
- (5) Construct a new four-lane roadway on new location between SR 33 and US 321.

WHY ARE WE HERE TONIGHT?

The focus of tonight's meeting is to gather public input on the refined purpose and need and potential project alternatives. This is the second step in the EIS process.

The June 13, 2006 public meetings were the first step in the EIS process, with the initiation of project scoping and public and agency input. At that meeting, attendees provided TDOT with input on the purpose and need of the project and suggestions for alternatives to consider. In response to comments received, TDOT conducted a detailed traffic forecast and operations study that has helped refine the purpose and need, and has helped define the range of initial alternatives presented here tonight.

Public input on purpose and need and project alternatives is a requirement of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Following this meeting, your comments will be reviewed and used to finalize the project's purpose and need statement and to refine the alternatives to be studied in the Draft EIS. Participating agencies also will be asked to provide input on the purpose and need of the project and the alternatives

to be evaluated in the Draft EIS, in compliance with the Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement (TESA).

After reviewing all of the comments from the public and the agencies, the TDOT project team will refine the list of preliminary alternatives that meet the purpose and need of the project and avoid and/or minimize impacts to identified environmental resources. The final purpose and need and the set of alternatives to be evaluated in the Draft EIS will be posted on the project website.

The refined alternatives will undergo technical studies to determine their potential impacts on the environment. The results of the environmental analysis will be presented in the Draft EIS, which will be made available for public and agency review and comment.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT

Representatives of TDOT are available tonight 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 by:

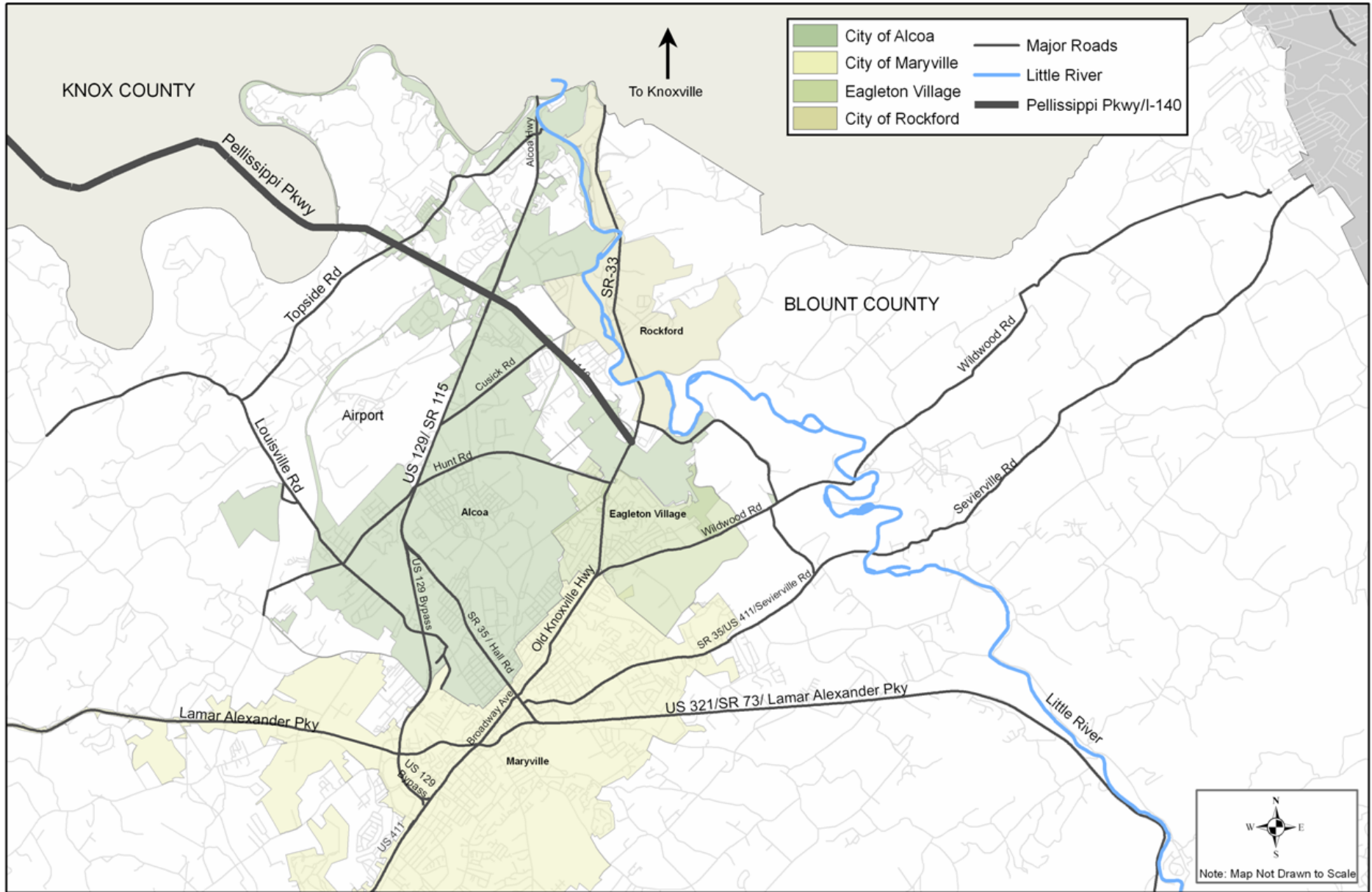
- 1) Making an oral statement to the court reporter.
- 2) Submitting your written comments tonight before you leave.
- 3) Mailing your comments to the Department (postmarked by **November 15, 2007**) to:

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



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Pellissippi Parkway Extension EIS Study Area



Pellissippi Parkway Extension (SR 162) from SR 33 to SR 73 (US 321)
Public Workshop, October 25, 2007
Public Comment Form

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is conducting an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed extension of Pellissippi Parkway (SR 162/I-140) from SR 33 to SR 73 (US 321). The October 25, 2007 public alternatives workshop is intended to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the selection of alternatives for study in the EIS. TDOT needs your assistance and input about the project. Please take a moment to answer the following questions. Please return comment form postmarked no later than **November 15, 2007**.

Should any other transportation needs or purposes be considered; if so, explain?

What do you like or dislike about the following alternatives?

No Build (no improvements to existing roadways and no extension of Pellissippi Parkway east of SR 33)

Transportation Systems Management (install signals, improve signal timing, add turn lanes, widen shoulder, and/or intersection improvements along US 129, SR 33 and SR 35)

Improve Existing Roadways between SR 33 and US 321

Build Alternative (Extend Pellissippi Parkway to US 321 in a new corridor between SR 33 and US 321)

What other alternatives do you think would meet the purpose and need of the project?

What other concerns do you have about the project?

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

County of Residence: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

E-mail Address (optional): _____ (Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices ____)

Would you like to receive future mailings about the Pellissippi Parkway Extension project? YES____ NO____

Fold at this line second

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Return Comments by NOVEMBER 15, 2007 to:

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

Fold at this line first

For additional project information:

Visit the TDOT website at <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/>
Or contact Michael W. Russell, PE, TDOT Project Management Office at Mike.Russell@state.tn.us
