

TN

TDOT

Department of
Transportation



**STATE ROUTE (SR) 170 FROM THE SR-62 (OAK RIDGE
HIGHWAY) INTERCHANGE TO SR-9 (US-25W, CLINTON
HIGHWAY) ANDERSON COUNTY, TN**

PIN 124121.00

Public Meeting

March 6, 2025 | Claxton Elementary School

2218 Clinton Highway

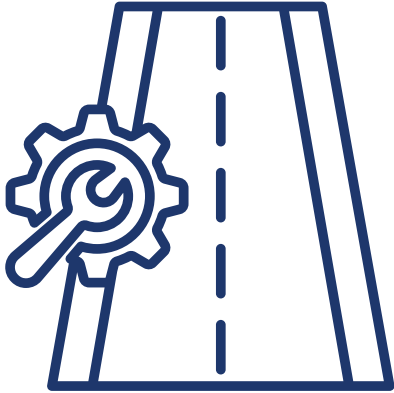
Powell, TN 37849

SR-170 PUBLIC MEETING

Project Overview:

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to widen and realign State Route (SR) 170 from the SR-62 (Oak Ridge Highway) interchange (L.M. 0.00) to SR-9 (US-25W, Clinton Highway) (L.M. 6.18) in Anderson County, Tennessee (see Project Location Map) for approximately 6.18 miles.

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 this 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 SR-170 project as well as the range of alternatives under consideration.

The meeting will be in an “open house” format and there will be no formal presentation; all of the information will be on display and available for review. During the meeting the TDOT project team will be available to discuss the project and review displays with members of the public.

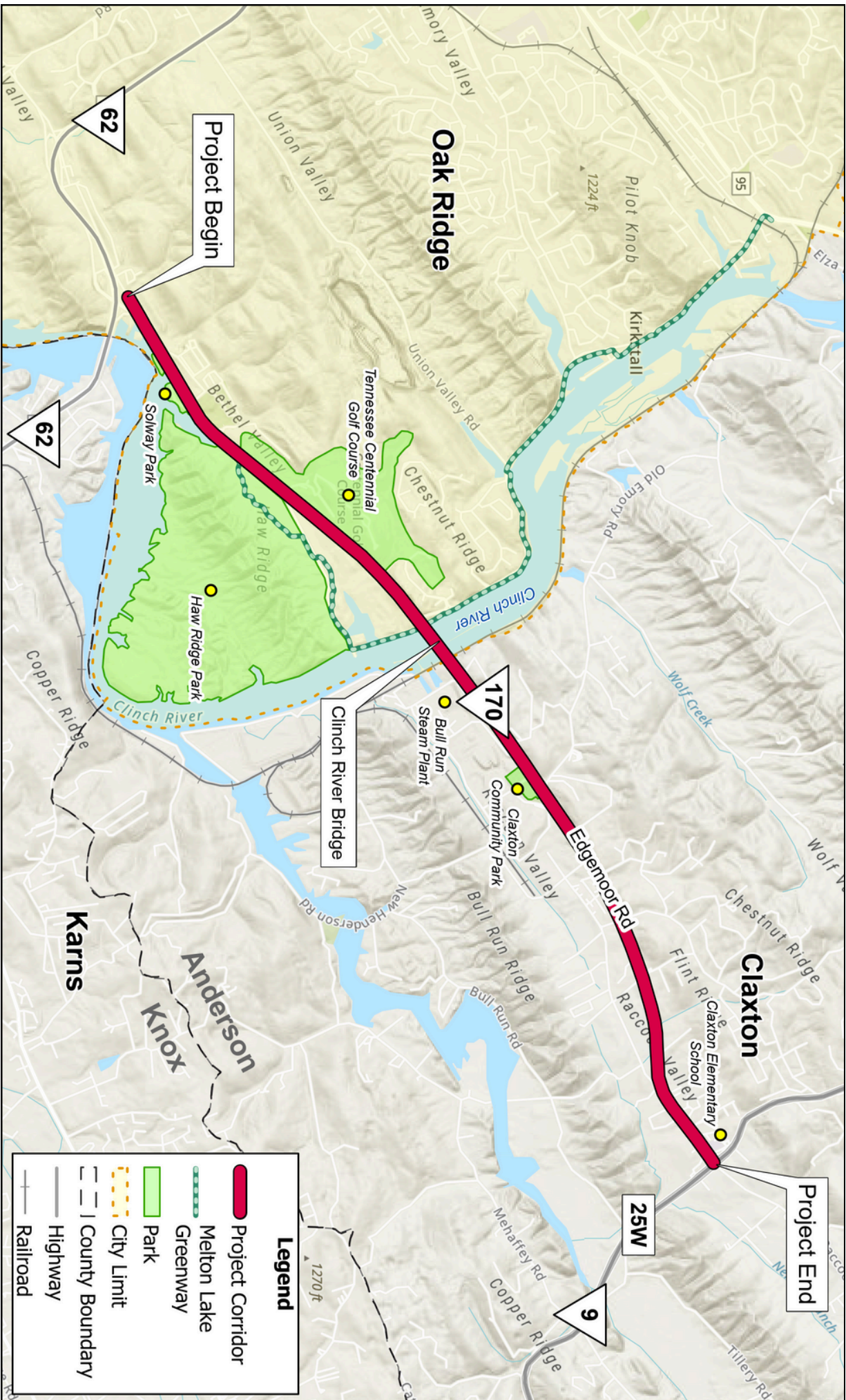
In this handout, please find a description of the transportation issue to solve, a proposed solution, a location map, project status, FAQs, and information on how you can provide feedback for the project team.

The project displays and all the meeting material will be available for review on the project website:

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/projects-region-1/sr-170-widening.html>



All of the public meeting material presented today is also available on the project website. Scan the **QR code** to go to the website.



SR-170 PUBLIC MEETING

Project History:

2004

FEASIBILITY



TDOT completed a feasibility study for the SR-170 corridor (Edgemoor Road) in August 2004 to review the possibility of widening SR-170 from a two (2) lane to a four (4) lane facility. The feasibility study was conducted in response to public concerns about increasing traffic volumes along Edgemoor Road. In addition to reviewing the option of widening SR-170 to a four (4) lane section, the study also recommended consideration of a five (5) lane section with a center two way left-turn lane and the replacement of the Clinch River Bridge. Based on the assessment of the feasibility study, the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Executive Board requested the SR-170 corridor be listed as a high priority corridor in efforts to move the planning process forward.

2011



A Transportation Planning Report (TPR) was developed to evaluate SR-170 corridor needs and alternatives. The study area started from SR-62 and ended at SR-9 and considered three (3) preliminary design options:

- **Option A (No-Build):** No modifications or improvements are made except for other programmed improvements and routine maintenance and safety upgrades.
- **Option B (Widening):** Improvement to a five (5) lane roadway section and a new structure over the Clinch River Bridge.
- **Option C:** Intersection improvements along SR-170 at Melton Lake Drive, Walnut Valley Road, Old Emory Road, and New Henderson Road.

2022



TDOT developed a Technical Report Update for this corridor focused on the No-Build option and the updated version of the widening option that would consist widening SR-170 to a four (4) lane with raised median west of Walnut Valley Road and then a five (5) lane facility with center two way left-turn lane east of Walnut Valley Road.

2024/
2025

TDOT developed concept design and Environmental Technical Study Area (ETSA) for the current proposed Build Alternative and initiated NEPA:

- Technical studies
- Public Meeting
- Environmental Assessment



→ Preliminary Need for the Project:

The proposed project is needed to address:

- Existing geometric deficiencies
- Insufficient mobility/connectivity
- Traffic congestion

→ Preliminary Purpose of the Project:

The proposed project's purpose include:

- Correct geometric deficiencies to meet current TDOT design standards
- Improve connectivity for vehicles and pedestrians and bicyclists
- Provide additional capacity with operational and intersection improvements to address travel delays

The goals and objectives of an improved SR-170 facility include promoting safer operations for commuters and accommodating efficient movement of people and freight.

Please note that the preliminary purpose and need will be refined as the environmental technical studies are finalized and public feedback from the March 6, 2025 Public Meeting is analyzed. The purpose and need will be formally presented in the EA expected to be released for public review in Fall 2025.

→ Existing Conditions along the Project Corridor

The existing roadway along SR-170 between SR-62 and SR-9 (US 25W) consists primarily of two (2) 12-foot lanes (one (1) in each direction) with intermittent 12-foot paved turn lanes and variable shoulders. Traffic forecast for 2029-2049 will result in more congestion and longer traffic delays on many segments of SR-170 unless capacity is added.



SR-170 PUBLIC MEETING

Alternatives Being Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment:

In accordance with the implementing regulations of NEPA (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1502.14(d)), the No-Build Alternative has been retained for detailed study and serves as a benchmark for comparison with the Build Alternative.

→ No-Build Alternative:

The No-Build Alternative would retain the existing state route and 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, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the TDOT 10-Year Project Plan and would allow for routine maintenance and safety upgrades.

→ Build Alternative:

The Build Alternative would include widening the existing two (2) lane typical section to a four (4) lane typical section (two (2) 12-foot travel lanes in each direction) with a variable median and 8-foot shoulders west of Walnut Valley Road, and a five (5) lane section (two (2) 12-foot travel lanes in each direction and a center 12-foot two way left-turn lane) with 8-foot shoulders east of the Walnut Valley Road. The project would also include curb and gutter, a 5-foot sidewalk to the north, a 10-foot shared-use path to the south, and guardrails as needed. Proposed improvements would also include adding turn lanes at strategic intersections, realigning and reconfiguring several intersections along the corridor, and replacing the existing two (2) lane bridge over the Clinch River with a four (4) lane bridge.



SR-170 PUBLIC MEETING

Preliminary Environmental Impacts:

TDOT is currently evaluating the potential environmental impacts related to the proposed Build Alternative and the No-Build Alternative. Additionally, the No-Build Alternative will serve as a baseline against which to compare the Build Alternative. Several environmental technical studies are still under development, the results of which will be formally published in the EA that TDOT is currently preparing. Following the approval of EA, the public will be asked to provide comments on the anticipated environmental impacts during the Public Hearing which is anticipated in Fall 2025. Examples of environmental technical studies under development include:



Traffic and Safety Analysis



Recreational Resources
(Section 4(f) Resources)



Land Use, Farmland, and
Transportation Infrastructure



Natural Resources



Community Impact Assessment,
Relocations, and Economic
Resources



Visual Impacts



Air Quality and Noise



Hazardous Materials



Cultural Resources
*(Historic Architecture [including
Section 4(f) Resources], Archaeology
and Native American Consultation)*



Indirect and Cumulative
Effects



SR-170 PUBLIC MEETING

Project Schedule:

ACTIVITY	PROPOSED TIMELINE
Initiate Early Coordination	Early 2025
Public Meeting	March 2025
Preliminary Design	2025
Environmental Assessment	Summer 2025
Public Hearing	Fall 2025
Final NEPA Documentation	Late 2025/Early 2026
Right-of-Way	2026
Construction	2029

Note: Proposed project to be phased for Right-of-Way and Construction. Dates are subject to change.

Next steps:

TDOT will complete environmental technical studies and draft the EA. Following FHWA's approval of the EA, TDOT will:

- Make the approved EA available for public review (including the results of all environmental technical studies).
- Hold a Public Hearing to present the findings of the environmental technical studies.
- Invite feedback and comments from the public on the results of the EA.



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.

Information pamphlets below, outline the available residential and non-residential relocation programs available and provide information on 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*:

- **For residential relocations:** <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/right-of-way-division/brochures/ROW%20Res.%20Relocation%202024.pdf>
- **For non-residential relocations:** <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/right-of-way-division/brochures/ROW%20Non-Res.%20Relocation%202024.pdf>



TDOT will provide advance notification of proposed right-of-way acquisition. The TDOT Right-of-Way Division 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 the 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 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 **1-907-360-0955** and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number and question. A TDOT representative will respond to questions within seven (7) business days.

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



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING?

TDOT is seeking public feedback on the purpose, need, and range of alternatives for the proposed improvements on SR-170 between SR-62 (Oak Ridge Highway) interchange to SR-9 (US-25W, Clinton Highway) in Anderson County, TN.

2. HOW CAN YOU ASSIST?

Please provide feedback about the proposed improvements as well as information about any resources important to you or to your community. Are there events that future construction may affect once it begins?

3. WHAT BENEFITS WILL THIS PROPOSED PROJECT BRING?

Project benefits and goals would include increased capacity and congestion relief along the corridor, enhanced mobility that promotes safer operations for commuters, and efficient movement of people and freight.

4. WHY DOES THE BRIDGE NEED TO BE REPLACED?

The proposed replacement is necessary to meet current design standards and to serve the projected traffic volumes.

5. WILL TRAFFIC ON THE SR-170 BE DETOURED TO OTHER ROUTES DURING CONSTRUCTION?

No. The existing SR-170 traffic will be maintained through construction.

6. WILL TRAFFIC ON THE EXISTING CLINCH RIVER BRIDGE BE DETOURED TO OTHER ROUTES DURING CONSTRUCTION?

No. TDOT proposes phased construction, and the existing bridge would be maintained without a full detour while the bridge is under construction. More detailed information will be in the future.

7. HOW WILL THIS PROJECT MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS?

Every effort is made to avoid and/or minimize environmental impacts. Where avoidance is not possible, mitigation would be evaluated.

8. HOW WILL THE PROJECT BE FUNDED?

TDOT anticipates that the proposed project would be funded in part through the Transportation Modernization Fund.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

9. WHAT IS THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE PROJECT IN THE PROCESS?

The proposed project is currently in the preliminary design phase. The preliminary phase is the time in which the preferred design alternative is refined and designed sufficiently to establish project impacts.

10. WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

TDOT intends to address public and stakeholder comments and concerns shortly after the public meeting. TDOT will evaluate the proposed improvements with regards to comments received. TDOT will prepare the EA and hold a Public Hearing after the EA is approved and before the NEPA decision document is completed.

11. WHEN WOULD CONSTRUCTION BEGIN AND HOW LONG IS CONSTRUCTION ANTICIPATED TO LAST?

Construction of the proposed corridor would be carried out in two phases and is currently scheduled to begin in 2029 (for both phases). Dates are subject to change.



PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Questions:



Please call **1-907-360-0955** and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, and question. If you have a question or information request that needs to be answered before providing your official comment on the project, please make sure to call the number above by **March 21, 2025**. A TDOT representative will respond to questions within seven (7) business days.

Comments:



TDOT will be soliciting comments for 21 days following the public meeting, ending on **March 27, 2025**. Public Comments received or postmarked by March 27, 2025, will be included in the official summary of the public meeting.



You can submit your comments in person during the Public Meeting as well as using other available options below. Please reach out to any TDOT representative for more information.



Record a verbal comment by calling **1-907-360-0955** and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, and comment.



Complete an online comment form available on the SR-170 project website at <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/projects-region-1/sr-170-widening.html> or by scanning the QR code.



Send an email to **TDOT.comments@tn.gov** using the subject line "State Route 170 Project".



Mail a comment card or letter to the following address:

State Route 170
C/O Mr. John Sherk, Project Manager
Tennessee Department of Transportation - Region 1
7345 Region Lane, Knoxville, TN 37914

For additional information, please contact the following TDOT representative:

Mr. John Sherk
TDOT Region 1 Project Management
Email: John.Sherk@tn.gov | Phone: 1-907-360-0955