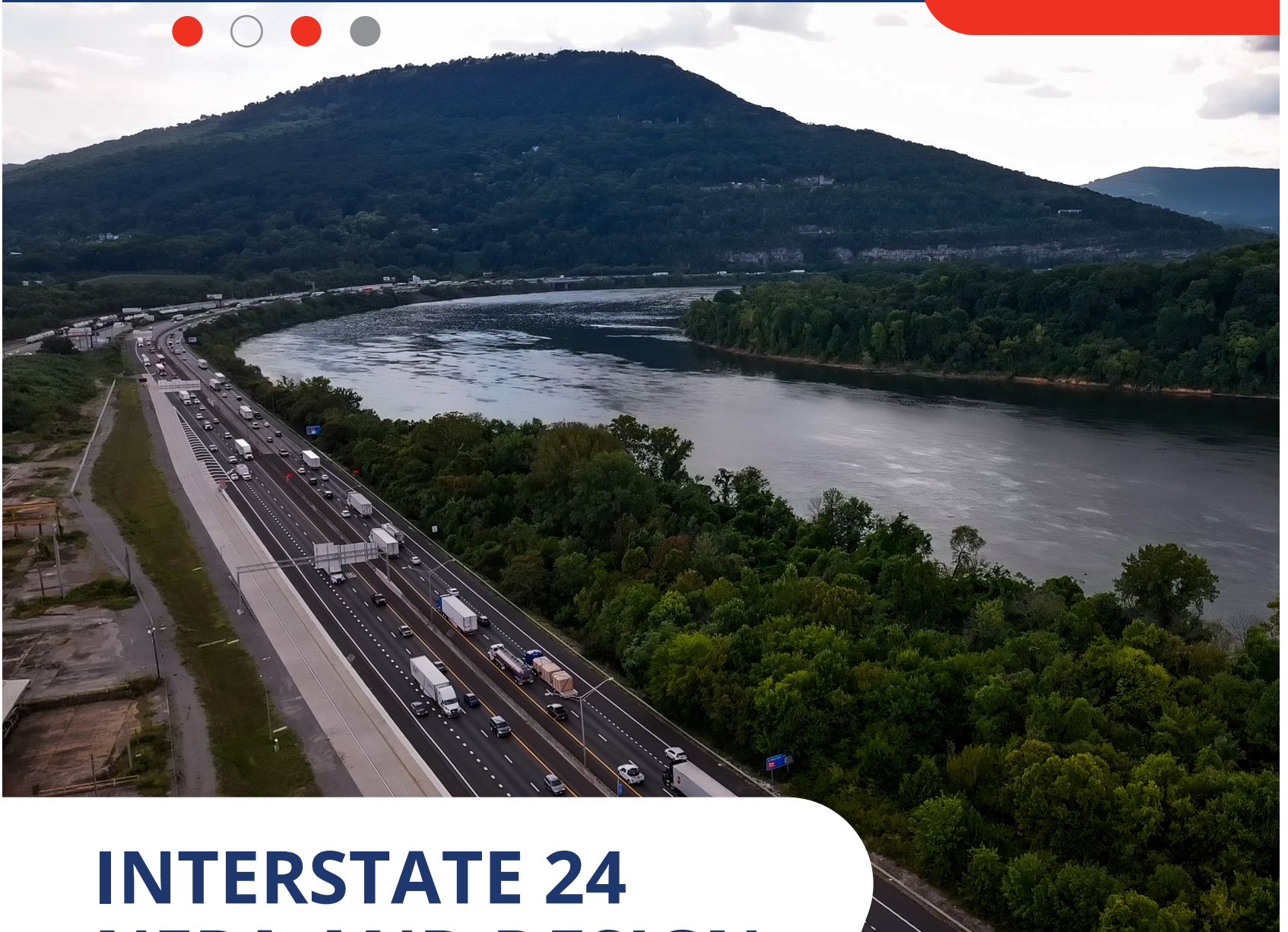


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2025**



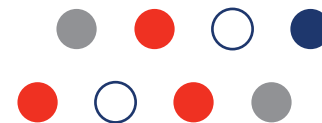
INTERSTATE 24 NEPA AND DESIGN

Public Meeting

Interstate 24 (I-24) From Near I-59 to
Near US-27, Hamilton County, Tennessee
and Dade County, Georgia

PIN 124072.00





PROJECT OVERVIEW



The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to widen a portion of Interstate (I) 24 from the I-24 and I-59 interchange in Dade County, Georgia to near I-124 (US-27) in downtown Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee (see project location map on page 3) for a length of approximately 10 miles.

Because the proposed project is being designed and constructed using 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 preliminary purpose and need for the proposed project and the alternatives under consideration. The meeting will be in an “open house” format, with a presentation to introduce the proposed project, the preliminary purpose and need, and the proposed schedule. All the information will be on display and available for review during the public meeting. Representatives from the TDOT project team will be available to discuss the proposed project, review displays and answer questions from the public following the presentation. Comment cards will be available for those wishing to provide feedback.

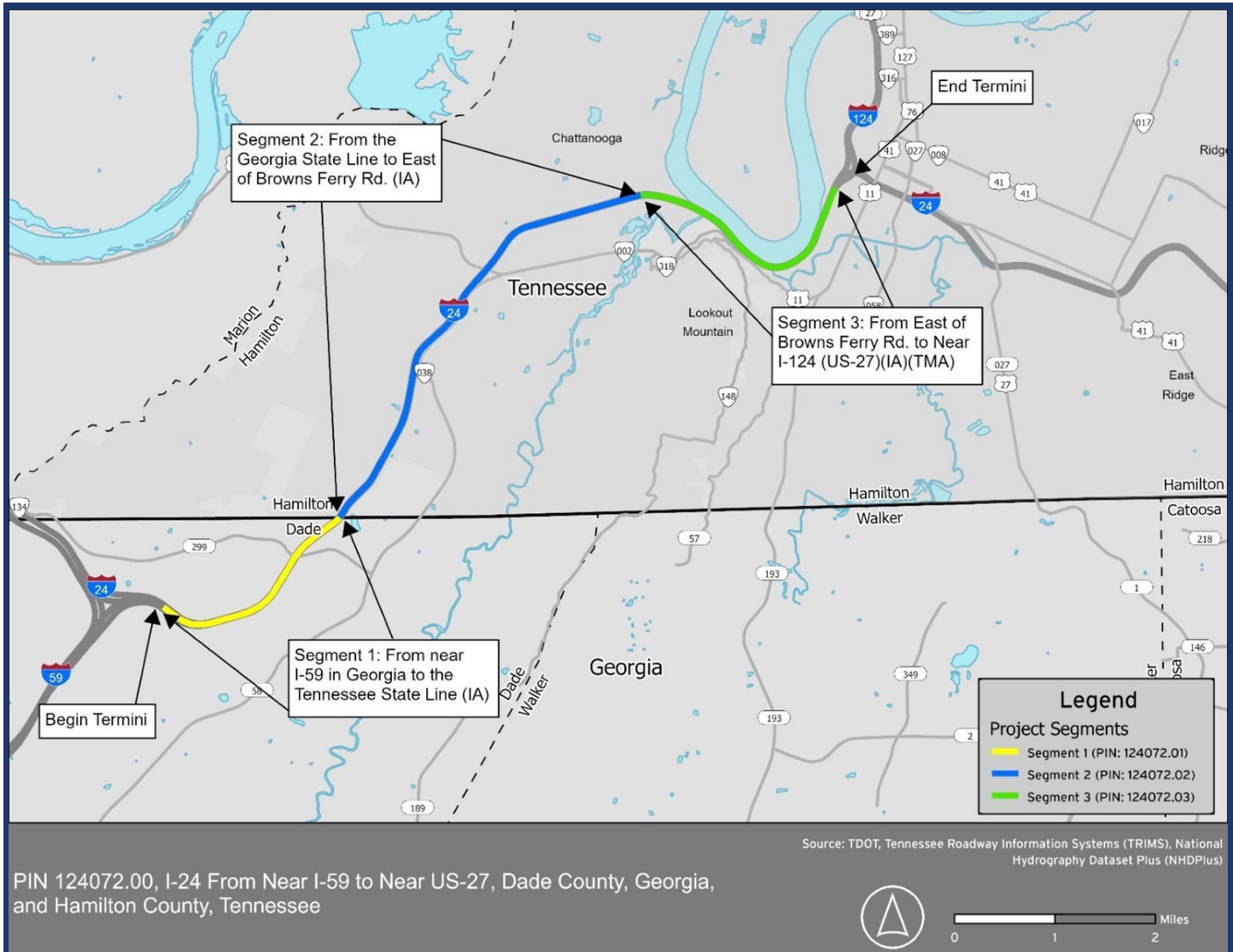
In this handout, please find a description of the proposed project’s preliminary purpose and need, a location map, project status details and additional project information, FAQs, and information on how to provide feedback to the TDOT project team.

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

」<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-2/interstate-24.html>.」



PROJECT LOCATION MAP





PROJECT HISTORY

Between 2012 and 2014, TDOT completed the I-24 Multimodal Corridor Study¹, which identified short-term and long-term solutions for improving problem spots along the entire corridor of I-24 within Tennessee. In 2018, TDOT completed a more detailed Technical Report², which was developed to evaluate the preliminary design concept, outline the project termini, provide a general scope for the proposed project, and define a preliminary purpose and need. This report focused only on the proposed project area rather than the entire corridor of I-24 within Tennessee. Following the completion of this report, Governor Bill Lee signed the Transportation Modernization Act (TMA) into law in 2023, increasing the transportation infrastructure funding available to TDOT. The proposed project has since been included in TDOT's 10-Year Project Plan. In 2024, TDOT completed a Traffic Operations and Safety Analysis to build upon the data collected in the 2018 Technical Report and provide updated information for the TDOT project team to use during the NEPA review of the proposed project. TDOT officially initiated the NEPA process for the proposed project in January 2025 and started environmental technical studies around the same time.

PRELIMINARY NEED OF THE PROJECT

This section of I-24 is currently operating at or near capacity, with passenger and freight traffic volumes projected to increase substantially by 2047, resulting in a reduced level of service. In addition, several bridges within the corridor are in fair or poor condition. The proposed project is needed to address these operational and structural deficiencies.

¹<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/documents/government-how-do-i-documents/Studies/I-24/I-24FinalReport.pdf>

²https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/region-2/124072.00%20-%20I-24%20Tech%20Report%20-%20FINAL_08-17-2018_report%20only.pdf



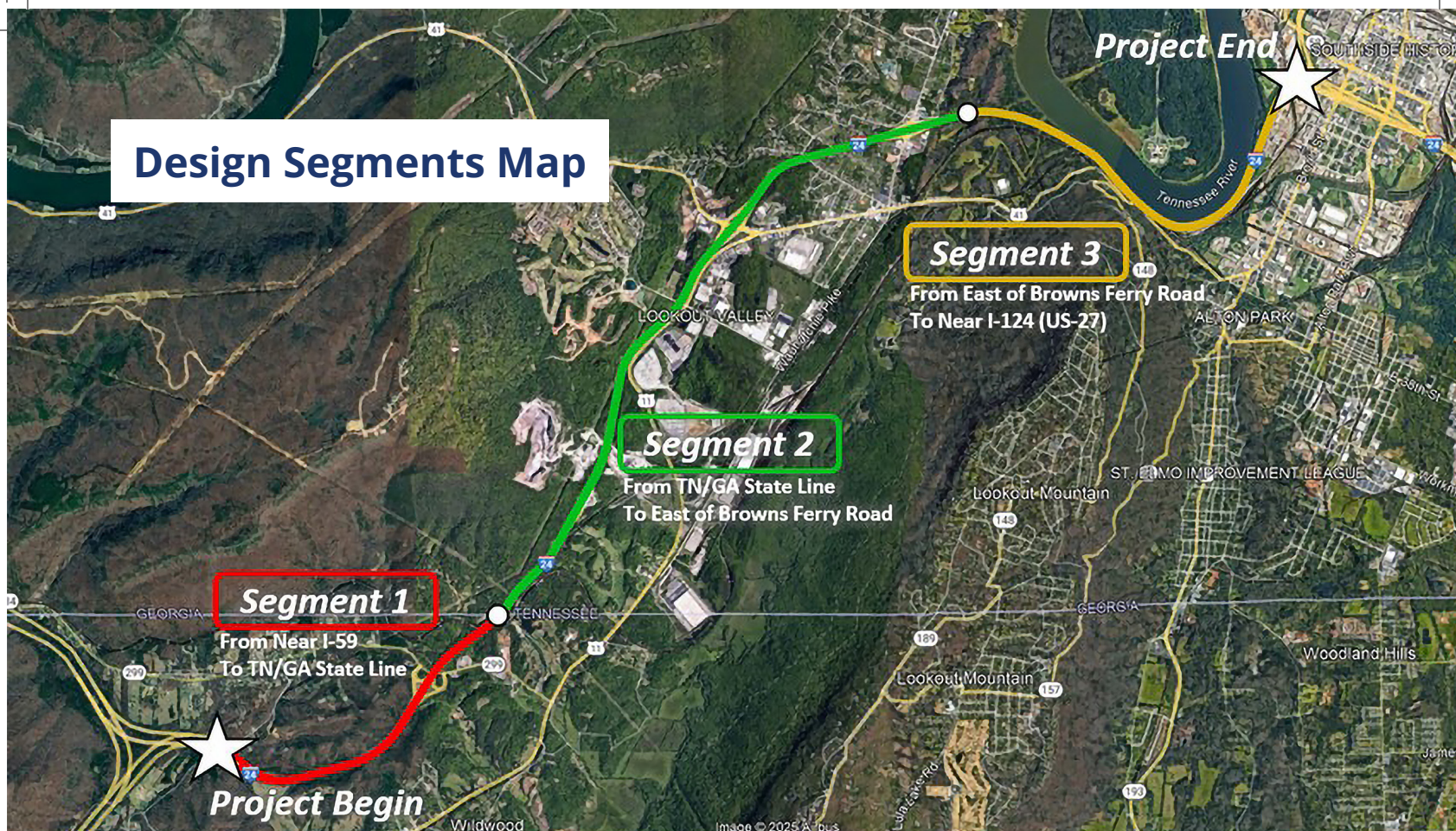
PRELIMINARY PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of the proposed project is to help reduce congestion, improve traffic operations and address structural deficiencies to meet current TDOT design standards along I-24 between I-59 in Dade County, Georgia, and US-27 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The proposed project aims to accommodate projected growth in both passenger and freight traffic.

TDOT is relying on data from the 2018 Technical Report and the 2024 Traffic Operations and Safety Analysis to support its purpose and need formulation. Beyond the preliminary purpose and need for the proposed project, improvement of freight movement has been identified as a secondary benefit. Please note that the preliminary purpose and need will be refined as the environmental technical studies are finalized and public feedback from the July 8, 2025, and July 10, 2025, NEPA and Design Public Meetings are analyzed. The purpose and need will be formally presented in the EA expected to be released for public review in late 2025/early 2026.

ALTERNATIVES BEING EVALUATED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

TDOT's analysis of existing interstate traffic conditions indicates the proposed project corridor is likely at or near capacity and would therefore likely experience further deterioration of vehicular traffic flow. With that in mind, TDOT has chosen to evaluate two alternatives for the proposed project, the No-Build Alternative and the Build Alternative. Additional details on these alternatives are provided on page 6.



► No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative would retain the existing interstate configuration throughout the project area except for those modifications to the interstate 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 10-Year Project Plan, and would allow for routine maintenance and safety upgrades.

► Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would include the construction of an additional travel lane in each direction along the length of the proposed project, increasing the total number of lanes from four to six. Each side of the facility would include three 12-foot travel lanes, 12-foot inside shoulders, and 12-foot outside shoulders. Most of the proposed project would be constructed within existing right-of-way. However, along certain areas of the corridor, TDOT may need to acquire additional right-of-way to implement the proposed project.

TDOT has divided the proposed project into the following design segments (see the design segments map above).

- **Segment 1 (PIN 124072.01):** From Near I-59 to TN/GA State Line. Approximately 2.5 miles.
- **Segment 2 (PIN 124072.02):** From TN/GA State Line to East of Browns Ferry Road. Approximately 4.7 miles.
- **Segment 3 (PIN 124072.03):** From East of Browns Ferry Road to Near I-124 (US-27). Approximately 2.6 miles.

Along Segment 1 and Segment 2, the Build Alternative would widen I-24 towards the inside of the central grass median with guardrails and barrier walls installed as needed. Along Segment 3, the Build Alternative would widen I-24 mostly to the south, with a barrier and retaining wall along the eastbound edge of the outside shoulder. Additionally, the proposed Build Alternative would replace and/or improve six sets of side-by-side bridges in Tennessee and one set of side-by-side bridges in Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

TDOT is currently evaluating the potential environmental impacts from the proposed Build Alternative and the No-Build Alternative. During this process, the No-Build Alternative will serve as a baseline against which TDOT will compare the Build Alternative. Environmental technical studies are still under development, the results of which would be formally published in the EA that TDOT is currently preparing. After approval of the EA, the public will be asked to provide comments on the anticipated environmental impacts during the NEPA Public Hearing, which is anticipated in early 2026.

Environmental technical studies under development include:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
|  | Traffic Operations and Safety Analysis |  | Noise |
|  | Land Use |  | Cultural Resources
Historic Architecture,
Archaeology and Native
American Consultation |
|  | Farmland |  | Recreational Resources |
|  | Relocations |  | Natural Resources |
|  | Multimodal Transportation
Infrastructure and
Resources |  | Visual Impacts |
|  | Socioeconomic Resources |  | Hazardous Materials |
|  | Air Quality | | |

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The table below shows an estimated timeline of the project development phases and NEPA milestones for the proposed project. Right-of-Way authorization is anticipated in 2026, with construction of the proposed corridor scheduled to begin in 2027. Please note that the dates listed below are subject to change.

ACTIVITY	PROPOSED TIMELINE
Initiate Early Coordination	2024
Design & NEPA Public Meeting	July 2025
Preliminary Design	Next few months
Environmental Assessment (EA)	Late 2025/Early 2026
Public Hearings	Early 2026
Approved EA/Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact	Early/Mid 2026
Right-of-Way	Late 2026
Construction	2027

Note: 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 EA and the recommended Preferred Alternative.
- ▶ Invite feedback and comments from the public on the results of the EA and the Preferred Alternative.



RIGHT-OF-WAY 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.

The resources below outline the available residential and non-residential relocation programs and provide information on 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:

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 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 Brad Scott, Regional ROW Manager at 423-510-1238 and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number and question. A TDOT representative will respond to questions within seven (7) business days.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1 What's the purpose of this meeting?

TDOT is seeking public feedback on the preliminary purpose and need and the alternatives for the proposed improvements on I-24 from the I-24 and I-59 interchange in Dade County, Georgia to near I-124 (US-27) in downtown Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee.

2 How can I assist?

Please provide feedback about the proposed improvements as well as information about any resources important to you or to your community.

3 What benefits will this project bring?

Project benefits would include increased capacity and congestion relief, improvement of bridges, and improvement of freight movement.

4 How will this project mitigate environmental impacts?

Every effort is made to avoid and/or minimize environmental impacts. If not possible, mitigation will then be evaluated.

5 How will the project be funded?

TDOT anticipates that the proposed project would be funded in part through the TMA.

6 What is the estimated cost of the project?

The proposed project has an estimated total cost of \$246 million dollars. Funding includes NEPA documentation and preliminary engineering for all three segments of the proposed project and the construction of Segment 2 and Segment 3.

7 What is the current phase of the project in the process?

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

8 What are the next steps?

TDOT intends to address public and stakeholder comments and concerns shortly after the NEPA and Design 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.

9 When would construction begin?

Design Segments 2 and 3 are scheduled in TDOT's 10-Year Project Plan for construction to be carried out in Fiscal Year 2027. Dates are subject to change.

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.

► COMMENTS

TDOT will be soliciting comments for 21 days following the public meeting. Public comments received or postmarked by **August 1, 2025**, will be included in the official summary of the public meeting.

You can submit your comments in-person during the public meeting or use other available options below. Please reach out to any TDOT representative for more information.



Record a verbal comment by calling 1-855-925-2801 and enter the code 11638 (toll-free) and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, and comment.



Complete an online comment form available on the project website at <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-2/interstate-24.html> or by scanning the QR code.



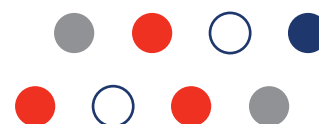
Send an email to TDOT.Comments@tn.gov using the subject line "I-24 From Near I-59 to Near US-27".

Mail a comment card or letter to the following address:



NEPA and Design Public Comments

Attn: I-24 From Near I-59 to Near US-27
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332



CONTACT US

For additional information, please contact the following TDOT representatives:



Michael O'Donnell

Director, TDOT Region 2 Project Management

Email: Michael.ODonnell@tn.gov

Phone: 423-634-8622



Erick Hunt-Hawkins

TDOT NEPA Team Lead

Email: Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov

Phone: 615-253-5163



Rae-Anne Bradley

TDOT Region 2 Regional Communications Officer

Email: Rae-Anne.Bradley@tn.gov

Phone: 423-510-1164



Scan the QR code to view the project website and the public meeting materials presented today.



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Transportation



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