Appendix J: Agency Coordination and Public Involvement

State Route 19

Environmental Assessment

From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87

Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

TDOT Department of Transportation

NEPA INITIATION

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
SUITE 900, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING 505
DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-5376

BUTCH ELEY
COMMISSIONER

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

December 11, 2024

Bailey Vernon
Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Highway Administration
Tennessee Division Office
404 BNA Drive, Bldg. 200, Ste. 508
Nashville, TN 37217

Subject: State Route 19 from east of Eastland Avenue to east of State Route 87, Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, TDOT PIN 102251.00

Dear Ms. Vernon,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) hereby provides notice of our intent to initiate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the proposed State Route (SR) 19 improvements from east of Eastland Avenue to east of SR-87 in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, Tennessee (TDOT PIN 102251.00). The purpose of the proposed project is to address existing geometric deficiencies, improve traffic operations, and improve safety along the route. The proposed project will widen SR-19 from the existing 2-lane roadway to a super 2-lane to address vertical sight distances from east of Eastland Avenue to the Haywood County Line (PIN 102251.01). From near the Lauderdale County Line to east of SR-87 (PIN 102251.02 and PIN 102251.03), proposed improvements include resurfacing and correcting vertical sight concerns.

Previously, a D-List Categorical Exclusion (CE) was completed for the proposed project and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on 02/01/2018. Since the approval of the D-List CE, the proposed project has been divided into three segments for ROW and construction:

- PIN 102251.01 – SR-19 from East of Eastland Avenue to Haywood County Line
- PIN 102251.02 – From Near Lauderdale County Line to East of Binford Lane
- PIN 102251.03 – From East of Binford Lane to East of SR-87

The 2018 D-List CE estimated approximately 97 acres of ROW acquisition, which would be anticipated to result in 5 residential relocations and 1 business relocation. Based on the recently

provided Line and Grade Plans, the proposed project is estimated to require less ROW and total easements but is now anticipated to result in 22 residential relocations and 2 business locations. Given the increase in relocations, TDOT plans to develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) to comply with NEPA. TDOT does not anticipate the proposed project to have significant impacts.

Sincerely,

Erick Hunt-Hawkins
TDOT NEPA Team Lead

Cc:

Sharon Schutz	TDOT Environmental Division Director
Tammy Sellers	TDOT Environmental Quality and NEPA Section Manager
Frank DuBose	FHWA Environmental Protection Specialist
Sean Santalla	FHWA Program Development Team Leader
Benjamin Webb	TDOT Region 4 Project Manager

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Tennessee Division

404 BNA Drive, Suite 508
Nashville, Tennessee 37217
Phone (615) 781-5770

December 12, 2024

In Reply Refer To:
HPD-TN

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins
NEPA Team Lead
James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Subject: State Route 19 from east of Eastland Avenue to east of State Route 87, Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, TDOT PIN 102251.00

Dear Mr. Hunt-Hawkins:

Thank you for your letter dated December 11th, 2024, requesting concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on the proposed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Class of Action for the project in the subject line.

The FHWA concurs with the Tennessee Department of Transportation's request that the project proceed as an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with 23 CFR 771.

Initial analysis of this project has not yet established the significance of the environmental impact. Should significant impacts be determined throughout the NEPA decision-making process, FHWA reserves the right to amend this Class of Action.

This EA shall be completed within one year of this letter, as required by 40 CFR 1501.10.

Sincerely,

Bailey Vernon
Environmental Protection Specialist

cc: Mr. Sean Santalla, Program Development Team Leader, FHWA TN Division
Mr. Frank DuBose, Environmental Protection Specialist, FHWA TN Division
Ms. Sharon Schutz, Environmental Division Director, TDOT
Ms. Tammy Sellers, Environmental Quality and NEPA Manager, TDOT
Ms. Rachel Head, Statewide Technical Specialist, TDOT

EARLY COORDINATION

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING
SUITE 900, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-3655

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

To: Gregg Williams, US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District

From: Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: Coordination Request for State Route (SR) 19 Improvement Project from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee, Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (see attached Project Location Map). The proposed improvements would total approximately 15.4 miles in length.

The proposed project is needed to address geometric deficiencies and improve safety along SR-19. This section of the existing SR-19 roadway lacks adequate travel lane width, shoulder width, and vertical and horizontal alignments. The horizontal and vertical alignments are currently deficient, resulting in a decrease in sight distance.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the proposed project because of its jurisdictional authority, special expertise and regional interest. With this letter, TDOT is extending your agency an invitation to become both a *Cooperating Agency* (consistent with Title 42 United States Code (USC) Section 4336a(a)(3)) *and* a *Participating Agency* (pursuant to 23 USC 139) with TDOT and FHWA in the development of the EA for the proposed project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the proposed project.

Your agency is also a signatory to the Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement (TESA), an inter-agency agreement that incorporates and builds upon the requirements of 23 USC 139 and FHWA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 771.115).

As outlined in the TESA, TDOT and FHWA, in consultation with other signatory agencies, retain the ability to decide whether a project does not warrant involvement in the TESA process due to minimal adverse impacts.

In consultation with FHWA, TDOT has determined that an EA would be the appropriate class of action for the NEPA effort based primarily on the number of anticipated relocations associated with the proposed project. Therefore, TDOT and FHWA have determined that the proposed project does not warrant involvement in the TESA process due to

minimal anticipated adverse impacts that might benefit from the enhanced agency coordination provided by the TESA process. Development of the EA will include coordination and outreach in accordance with FHWA NEPA regulatory requirements and, therefore, the decision that the proposed project does not warrant involvement in the TESA process due to anticipated minimal adverse impacts, should not diminish your agency's role in the development of the proposed project.

Pursuant to 23 USC 139, Participating Agencies are responsible for assisting in the identification of, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that would be needed for the proposed project.

We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the proposed project should include the following activities as they relate to your area of expertise:

1) Providing meaningful and early input on the proposed project's purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
2) Identifying any issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental and/or socioeconomic impacts.

Please respond in writing via letter or email with an acceptance or denial of this invitation by 05/12/2025. If your agency chooses not to be designated as a Participating Agency for this project, you must decline this invitation in writing, otherwise we will assume your agency will be participating. In declining this invitation (pursuant to 23 USC 139(d)(3)), please confirm in writing in your response that your agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the proposed project; or
- Does not intend to submit comments on the proposed project.

By this memo, TDOT is also requesting that you review the enclosed material and provide comments on potential environmental impacts and the project *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* by 05/12/2025.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or your agency's roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EA, please contact me at 615-253-5163 or Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov.

Once the EA has been approved, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be distributed to your agency via email. The NOA will include a link to a digital copy of the EA unless otherwise requested.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead
TDOT Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Attachments:
Project Location Map
Project Data Summary
Project Coordination and Public Involvement Plan
TDOT/FHWA Notice of Intent to Initiate NEPA Coordination and TESA Recommendation

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
SUITE 900, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-3655

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

To: Shannon Williams, U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division
Aaron Friend, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Arlisa Armstrong, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Rural Development State Office
Jot Splenda, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Environmental and Project Review Branch
Ntale Kajumba, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NEPA Programs Office
Mandy Ranslow, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

From: Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: Coordination Request for State Route (SR) 19 Improvement Project from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee, Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (see attached Project Location Map). The proposed improvements would total approximately 15.4 miles in length.

The proposed project is needed to address geometric deficiencies and improve safety along SR-19. This section of the existing SR-19 roadway lacks adequate travel lane width, shoulder width, and vertical and horizontal alignments. The horizontal and vertical alignments are currently deficient, resulting in a decrease in sight distance.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the proposed project. With this letter, TDOT is extending your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency (pursuant to Title 23 United States Code (USC) Section 139) with TDOT and FHWA in the development of the EA for the proposed project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the proposed project.

Pursuant to 23 USC 139, Participating Agencies are responsible for assisting in the identification of, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that would be needed for the proposed project.

We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the proposed project should include the following activities as they relate to your area of expertise:

1) Providing meaningful and early input on the proposed project's purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
2) Identifying any issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental and/or socioeconomic impacts.

Please respond in writing via letter or email with an acceptance or denial of the invitation by 05/12/2025. If your agency chooses not to be designated as a Participating Agency for the proposed project, you must decline this invitation in writing, otherwise we will assume your agency will be participating. In declining this invitation (pursuant to 23 USC 139(d)(3)), please confirm in writing in your response that your agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the proposed project; or
- Does not intend to submit comments on the proposed project.

By this memo, TDOT is also requesting that you review the enclosed material and provide comments on potential environmental impacts and the project *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* by 05/12/2025.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the proposed project or your agency's roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EA, please contact me at 615.253.5163 or Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov.

Once the EA has been approved, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be distributed to your agency via email. The NOA will include a link to a digital copy of the EA unless otherwise requested.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead
TDOT Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Attachments:
Project Location Map
Project Data Summary
Coordination and Public Involvement Plan

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
SUITE 900, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-3655

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

To: Nicole Sikula, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Elizabeth Smith, Tennessee Valley Authority, Environmental Compliance and Operations

From: Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: Coordination Request for State Route (SR) 19 Improvement Project from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee, Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (see attached Project Location Map). The proposed improvements would total approximately 15.4 miles in length.

The proposed project is needed to address geometric deficiencies and improve safety along SR-19. This section of the existing SR-19 roadway lacks adequate travel lane width, shoulder width, and vertical and horizontal alignments. The horizontal and vertical alignments are currently deficient, resulting in a decrease in sight distance.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the proposed project. With this letter, TDOT is extending your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency (pursuant to Title 23 United States Code (USC) Section 139) with TDOT and FHWA in the development of the EA for the proposed project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the proposed project.

Your agency is also a signatory to the Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement (TESA), an inter-agency agreement that incorporates and builds upon the requirements of 23 USC 139 and FHWA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 771.115).

As outlined in the TESA, TDOT and FHWA, in consultation with other signatory agencies, retain the ability to decide whether a project does not warrant involvement in the TESA process due to minimal adverse impacts.

In consultation with FHWA, TDOT has determined that an EA would be the appropriate class of action for the NEPA effort based primarily on the number of anticipated relocations associated with the proposed project. Therefore, TDOT and FHWA have determined that the proposed project does not warrant involvement in the TESA process due to minimal anticipated adverse impacts that might benefit from the enhanced agency coordination provided by the TESA process. Development of the EA will include coordination and outreach in accordance with FHWA NEPA regulatory requirements and, therefore, the decision that the proposed project does not warrant involvement in the TESA process due to anticipated minimal adverse impacts, should not diminish your agency's role in the development of the proposed project.

Pursuant to 23 USC 139, Participating Agencies are responsible for assisting in the identification of, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that would be needed for the proposed project.

We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the proposed project should include the following activities as they relate to your area of expertise:

1) Providing meaningful and early input on the proposed project's purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
2) Identifying any issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental and/or socioeconomic impacts.

Please respond in writing via letter or email with an acceptance or denial of this invitation by 05/12/2025. If your agency chooses not to be designated as a Participating Agency for the proposed project, you must decline this invitation in writing, otherwise we will assume your agency will be participating. In declining this invitation (pursuant to 23 USC 139(d)(3)), please confirm in writing in your response that your agency:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the proposed project; or
- Does not intend to submit comments on the proposed project.

By this memo, TDOT is also requesting that you review the enclosed material and provide comments on potential environmental impacts and the *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* by 05/12/2025.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the proposed project or your agency's roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EA, please contact me at 615.253.5163 or Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov.

Once the EA has been approved, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be distributed to your agency via email. The NOA will include a link to a digital copy of the EA unless otherwise requested.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead
TDOT Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Attachments:
Project Location Map
Project Data Summary
Coordination and Public Involvement Plan
TDOT/FHWA Notice of Intent to Initiate NEPA Coordination and TESA Recommendation

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
SUITE 900, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-3655

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

To: Jamie Stitt, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
Jeff Aiken, Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Melanie Beauchamp, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development,
Deniece Thomas, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Melissa Loggins, Tennessee Department of Human Services, Family Assistance
Lizzette Reynolds, Tennessee Department of Education
Shelton Merrell, Southwest Tennessee Rural Planning Organization
Karyssa Wilson, West Tennessee Rural Planning Organization

From: Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: Coordination Request for State Route (SR) 19 Improvement Project from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee, Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (see attached Project Location Map). The proposed improvements would total approximately 15.4 miles in length.

The proposed project is needed to address geometric deficiencies and improve safety along SR-19. This section of the existing SR-19 roadway lacks adequate travel lane width, shoulder width, and vertical and horizontal alignments. The horizontal and vertical alignments are currently deficient, resulting in a decrease in sight distance.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the proposed project. With this letter, TDOT is extending your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency (pursuant to Title 23 United States Code (USC) Section 139) with TDOT and FHWA in the development of the EA for the proposed project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the proposed project.

Pursuant to 23 USC 139, Participating Agencies are responsible for assisting in the identification of, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that would be needed for the proposed project.

We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the proposed project should include the following activities as they relate to your area of expertise:

1) Providing meaningful and early input on the proposed project's purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
2) Identifying any issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental and/or socioeconomic impacts.

In order for your agency to be designated as a Participating Agency for the proposed project, you must respond in writing with an acceptance of this invitation via letter or email by 05/12/2025. If your agency chooses not to be a Participating Agency for the proposed project, your response should state your reason for declining the invitation.

By this memo, TDOT is also requesting that you review the enclosed material and provide comments on potential environmental impacts and the *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* by 05/12/2025.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the proposed project or your agency's roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EA, please contact me at 615.253.5163 or Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov.

Once the EA has been approved, a Notice of Availability (NOA) will be distributed to your agency via email. The NOA will include a link to a digital copy of the EA unless otherwise requested.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead
TDOT Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Attachments:
Project Location Map
Project Data Summary
Coordination and Public Involvement Plan

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
SUITE 900, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-3655

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

To: Interested Individuals/Government Offices/Non-Governmental Organizations

From: Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: Coordination Request for State Route (SR) 19 Improvement Project from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee, Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (see attached Project Location Map). The proposed improvements would total approximately 15.4 miles in length.

The proposed project is needed to address geometric deficiencies and improve safety along SR-19. This section of the existing SR-19 roadway lacks adequate travel lane width, shoulder width, and vertical and horizontal alignments. The horizontal and vertical alignments are currently deficient, resulting in a decrease in sight distance.

The EA will assess a wide range of concerns including impacts on the social, economic, and natural environment. Your input will assist us in the preparation of this environmental document.

TDOT would like to know if the proposed project would have any effect, either favorable or adverse, on any programs being planned or executed in your area. If there are areas that you feel require special consideration, TDOT will coordinate with you to try to avoid or minimize possible adverse effects or conflicts with any of your proposed programs. TDOT requests that you review the enclosed material and provide us with your comments via letter or email by 05/12/2025.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 615.253.5163 or Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead
TDOT Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Attachments:
Project Location Map
Coordination and Public Involvement Plan

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
SUITE 900, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402
(615) 741-3655

BUTCH ELEY
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

To: Federal, State, and Local Officials

From: Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: Coordination Request for State Route (SR) 19 Improvement Project from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee, Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (see attached Project Location Map). The proposed improvements would total approximately 15.4 miles in length.

The proposed project is needed to address geometric deficiencies and improve safety along SR-19. This section of the existing SR-19 roadway lacks adequate travel lane width, shoulder width, and vertical and horizontal alignments. The horizontal and vertical alignments are currently deficient, resulting in a decrease in sight distance.

The EA will assess a wide range of concerns including impacts on the social, economic, and natural environment. Your input will assist us in the preparation of this environmental document.

TDOT would like to know if the proposed project would have any effect, either favorable or adverse, on any programs being planned or executed in your area. If there are areas that you feel require special consideration, TDOT will coordinate with you to try to avoid or minimize possible adverse effects or conflicts with any of your proposed programs. TDOT requests that you review the enclosed material and provide us with your comments via letter or email by 05/12/2025.

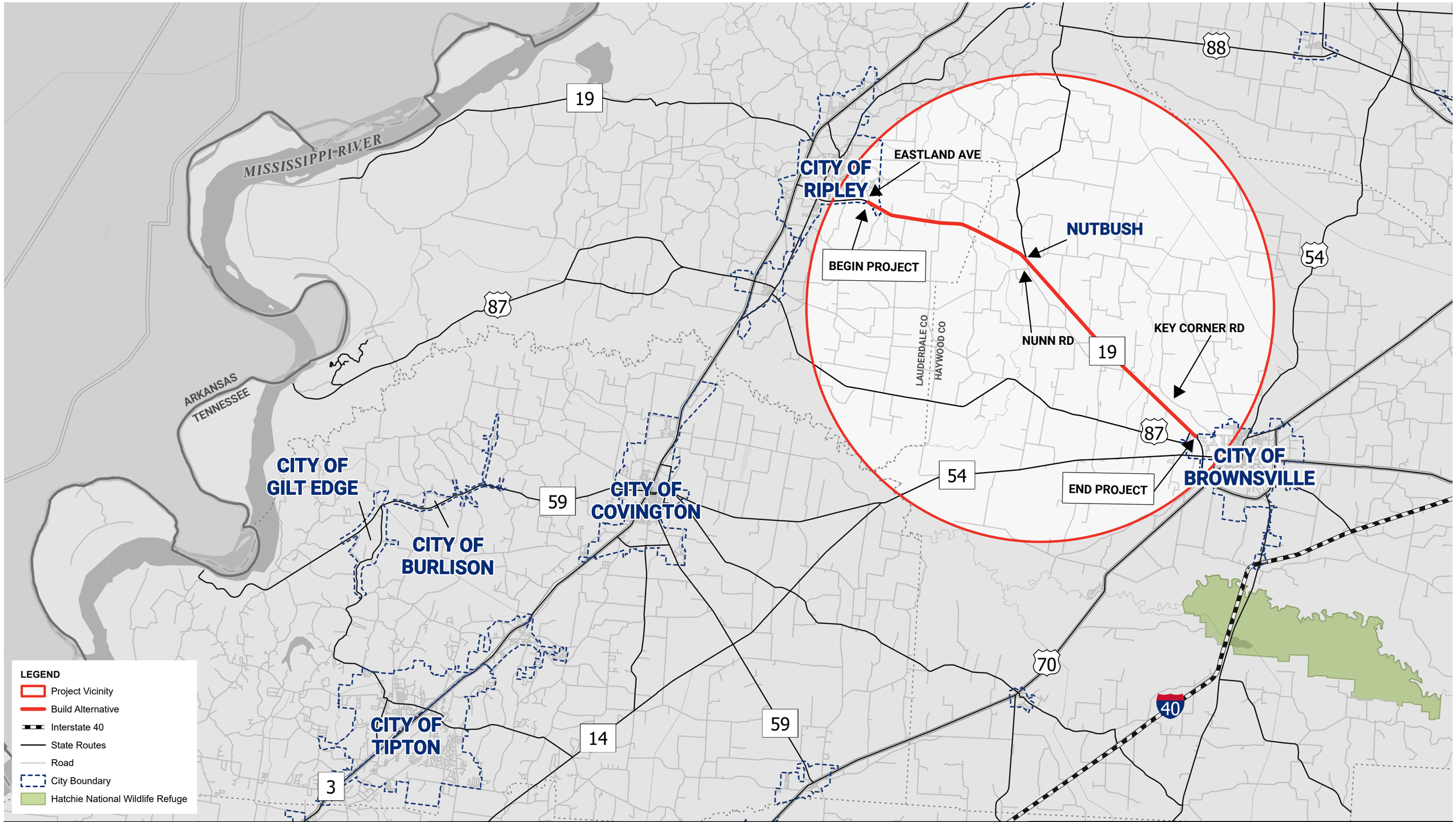
If you have any questions, please contact me at 615.253.5163 or Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the proposed project.

Sincerely,

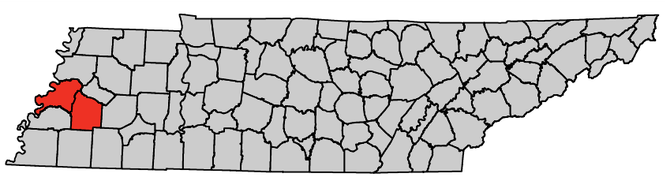
Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead
TDOT Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Attachments:
Project Location Map
Coordination and Public Involvement Plan



PROJECT VICINITY MAP

PROJECT	**STATE ROUTE 19** ***From east of Eastland Avenue to east of State Route 87*** ***Lauderdale and Haywood Counties*** ***TDOT PIN 102251.00***



0 2 4 8 12 Miles

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

PROJECT DATA SUMMARY

State Route (SR) 19 Improvements
From east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County
to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee
TDOT PIN 102251.00

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (**Figure 1**). The proposed project is approximately 15.4 miles in length.

SR-19 in the project area is currently a two-lane facility (one travel lane in each direction) with 11-foot travel lanes and two-foot shoulders. From east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County, the proposed project would widen the two travel lanes to 12 feet with 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved), correct geometric deficiencies and realign several intersections. From just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus east of SR-87, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct erosion/slope issues in two locations, and realign several intersections.

PROJECT HISTORY

Since the late 1990s, a number of studies have been conducted to explore potential improvements to SR-19. In February 2018, FHWA approved a D-List Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project. As design of the proposed project progressed, it became evident that the number of relocations that would be required to construct the project had increased. After further coordination with FHWA in 2024 regarding the number of potential relocations, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was initiated.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The needs for the proposed project include:

- Increased percentage of severe crashes
- Existing roadway deficiencies

This section of SR-19 lacks adequate travel lane and shoulder width. It also has horizontal and vertical deficiencies, which affect sight distance. The percentage of fatal crashes and suspected serious injury crashes for SR-19 in the project area is greater than the state-wide percentage of fatal crashes and suspected serious injury crashes.

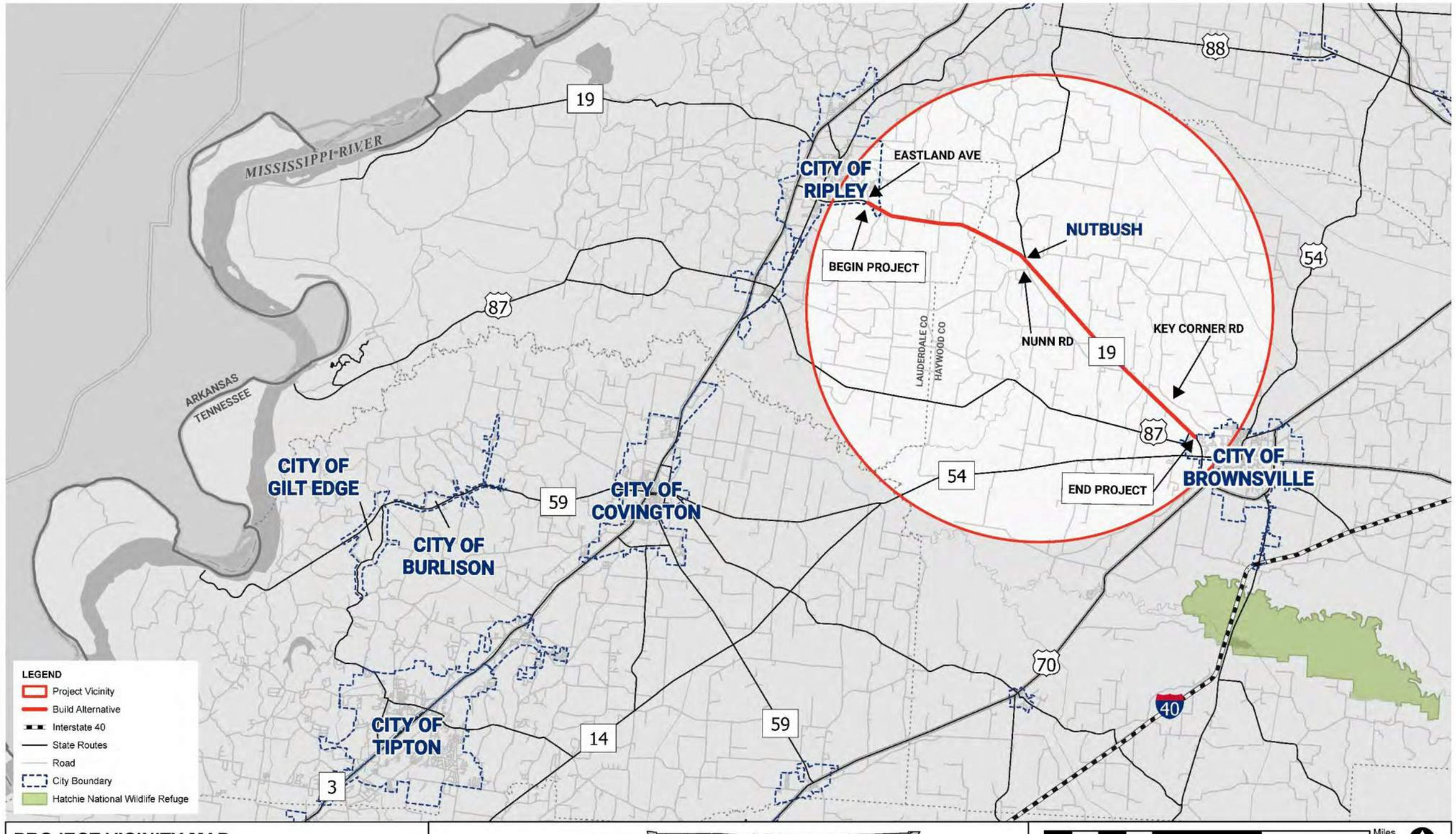
The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Reduce the severity of crashes
- Improve the roadway to meet current TDOT design standards

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA

The study area is located in eastern Lauderdale County and western Haywood County between the cities of Ripley to west and Brownsville to the east. The study area is predominantly rural with agriculture as its main land use. Residential land uses tend to be scattered except near Ripley and Brownsville where there are residential subdivisions.

Figure 1 Project Location



ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives under consideration and proposed to be carried forward in the EA include the No-Build Alternative and one Build Alternative.

The No-Build Alternative would leave this portion of SR-19 as it currently exists except for routine maintenance, as needed. The No-Build Alternative is required by federal regulations to be evaluated in the EA and provides a baseline for comparing other alternatives.

The Build Alternative proposes to widen the existing two 11-foot travel lanes of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County to two 12-foot travel lanes and widen the shoulders from 2-foot shoulders to 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved). In order to widen the travel lanes in this section of the proposed project, right-of-way would need to be acquired and the travel lanes would need to be reconstructed primarily to the north side of the existing roadway in the Lauderdale County section and mostly to the south side of the roadway in Haywood County. Also, in this section of the proposed project, the following intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Willie Paris Road at SR-19
- Ross Road/Gause Lane at SR-19
- Tall Oaks Cove at SR-19
- Sanford Road/Conner Whitefield Road at SR-19
- Watson Road/Carney Road at SR-19
- Springhill Road at SR-19

From just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus east of SR-87, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. Additional right-of-way would be needed to correct erosion/slope issues from approximately 4,351 feet east of Woodlawn Road to approximately 4,411 feet west of Old SR-19 (approximately 1,700 feet) and from approximately 3,417 feet east of Patton Road to approximately 279 feet east of Westpointe Road (approximately 1,800 feet). From just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus, the following intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Forked Deer Road at SR-19
- Nunn Road at SR-19
- Jim Binford Lane at SR-19
- Small Road at SR-19
- Woodlawn Road/Briar Creek Road at SR-19
- Old SR-19 at SR-19

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Table 1 provides a summary of the impacts identified in the 2018 CE. The proposed project scope in the section of the project route between Gill Brackin Road at the project terminus east of SR-87 has been reduced since the 2018 CE was approved. While the scope of the original project was reduced, of note are an increased number of potential relocations, primarily on the west end of the proposed project, due to the topography. There is also potentially an increase in farmland to be acquired so the proposed project will be subject to provisions of the Farmland Protection

Policy Act (FPPA). New technical resources studies will be conducted utilizing the 2024 Line and Grade plans (dated July 15, 2024, July 30, 2024, and August 20, 2024[1]) and the findings included in the EA.

The following environmental commitments were included in the 2018 CE. They will be reviewed and, if still applicable, they will be carried forward into the EA.

- Cliff swallow and barn swallow nests, eggs, or birds (young and adult) will not be disturbed between April 15 and July 31. From August 1 to April 14, nests can be removed or destroyed, and measures implemented to prevent further nest building at the site (e.g. closing off area using netting).
- TDOT has committed to seasonal tree removal on this project. The USFWS [US Fish and Wildlife Service] has given TDOT a finding of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" for the Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat, provided that tree cutting on this project is conducted between October 15th and March 31st.

[1] July 15, 2024 (title sheet dated July 14, 2024): West of Eastland Avenue to Haywood County Line; July 30, 2024: Near Lauderdale County Line to East of Binford Lane; August 20, 2024: East of Binford Lane to East of SR-87

Table 1 Summary of Impacts Identified in the 2018 Categorical Exclusion

Resource	2018 Impacts	Notes
Relocations	5 residential, 1 business	Conceptual Stage Relocation Plan (CSRP) currently being developed. Preliminary results estimate 22 residential relocations and 2 business relocations.
Streams	22 streams (7,650 feet)	Environmental Boundaries Report (EBR) currently being developed.
Wetlands	11 wetlands (0.83 acres)	
Threatened/Endangered Species	Suitable summer roosting habitat for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) was identified within project limits. Determination of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" based on TDOT commitment to implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures. Project was determined to be eligible to be placed under the Range-wide Programmatic Consultation between the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	
Floodplains	Not located in a FEMA floodway, floodplain, or study area	FEMA FIRM maps will be reviewed to confirm if this is still accurate.
Air Quality	Project in counties that are in attainment for all regulated criteria pollutants.	Area still in attainment.
Noise	Project determined to be a Type III project and noise study was not needed.	Project will be reviewed to confirm if this is still accurate.
Farmland	FPPA exemption.	Will coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) based on current plans.
Section 4(f) Resources	No 4(f) resources identified.	Project area will be reviewed to confirm is this is still accurate.
Historic Resources	1 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible site within the project area. The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) concurred with No Adverse Effect determination.	Historic report will be updated and recoordinated with the TN-SHPO, as necessary.
Archaeological Resources	No resources eligible for listing in the NRHP.	Archaeological report will be updated and recoordinated with the TN-SHPO, as necessary.
Environmental Justice	Environmental Justice (EJ) populations were identified within the project area. The project was not anticipated to have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on EJ populations.	On January 20 and 21, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 14154 *Unleashing American Energy* and EO 14173 *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*, which included guidance to rescind EO 12898 *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (1994) and EO 14096 *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All* (2023). As a result, EJ analysis is no longer included in the NEPA analysis and will not be updated for this project.
Hazardous Materials	Asbestos was detected in the deck drains on Bridge No. 38SR0190003, SR-19 over Meridian Creek (LM 8.49). Two old gas stations and a country grocery store were identified as potential UST sites.	Hazardous Materials review will be updated, as necessary.

State Route 19

From East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to East of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

Coordination and Public Involvement Plan

Federal Highway Administration, Tennessee Division *and*
Tennessee Department of Transportation

April 2025

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction 1

2.0 Project Description 1

2.1 Study Area 3
2.2 Project Background 3
2.3 Project Purpose and Need 3
2.4 Alternatives Proposed to be Carried Forward in the EA 4

3.0 Summary of Environmental concerns 5

4.0 Agency Coordination 8

4.1 Agency Roles and Responsibilities 8
4.1.1 Lead Agencies 8
4.1.2 Cooperating and Participating Agencies 9
4.1.3 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Private Entities, and Local Officials 10
4.2 Early Coordination 10
4.3 Native American Consultation 11

5.0 Opportunities for Agency to Provide Input 11

5.1 Early Coordination 11
5.2 Notice of Availability 12
5.3 NEPA Decision Document 13
5.4 Other Opportunities for Agency Involvement 13

6.0 Public Involvement 13

6.1 Project Database 13
6.2 Identification of Special Outreach Groups/Areas 13
6.3 Media Relations 13
6.4 Project Website 13
6.5 Public Meeting 14
6.6 Project Comment Email Address 14
6.7 Notice of Availability 15
6.8 Public Hearing 15

7.0 Project Team 15

8.0 Project Schedule 16

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Project Location 2

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Summary of Impacts Identified in the 2018 Categorical Exclusion and Preliminary 2025 Updates 6
Table 2 Early Coordination List ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Table 3 Early Coordination Milestone and Review Schedule 12
Table 4 Anticipated Project Schedule 16

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Coordination and Public Involvement Plan (CPIP) is intended to define the process by which the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as the Joint Lead Agencies for the proposed project, will communicate information about the proposed State Route (SR) 19 project to the Cooperating, Participating, and other agencies and organizations with interest in the proposed project, and to the public. The plan also identifies how input from agencies and the public will be solicited and considered, discusses coordination planned throughout the environmental review process, and provides a current schedule for the major project milestones.

New regulations, policy, and guidance may require changes to the CPIP and other aspects of the environmental review process. Over the course of the project, TDOT will periodically update this CPIP to reflect these and other major changes to the project schedule and other items, as necessary.

Copies of the draft CPIP will be distributed to Cooperating and Participating agencies and agencies and organizations with an interest in the proposed project for review and comment. A copy of the completed CPIP will be available on the project website.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TDOT, in coordination with FHWA, is proposing improvements to SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (**Figure 1**). The proposed project is approximately 15.4 miles in length.

SR-19 in the project area is currently a two-lane facility (one travel lane in each direction) with 11-foot travel lanes and two-foot shoulders. From east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County, the proposed project would widen the two travel lanes to 12 feet with 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved), correct geometric deficiencies and realign several intersections. From just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus east of SR-87, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct erosion/slope issues in two locations, and realign several intersections.

.

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Title 23 of the U.S. Code (USC) 139(g) requires the lead agencies associated with the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), with optional use for an Environmental Assessment (EA), to establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation and comment during the environmental review process. While TDOT has chosen to not follow the entire 23 USC 139 process for this EA, TDOT has opted to prepare a coordination plan and schedule and designate Cooperating and Participating Agencies from that optional process, as part of its standard practice for projects for which an EA is prepared.

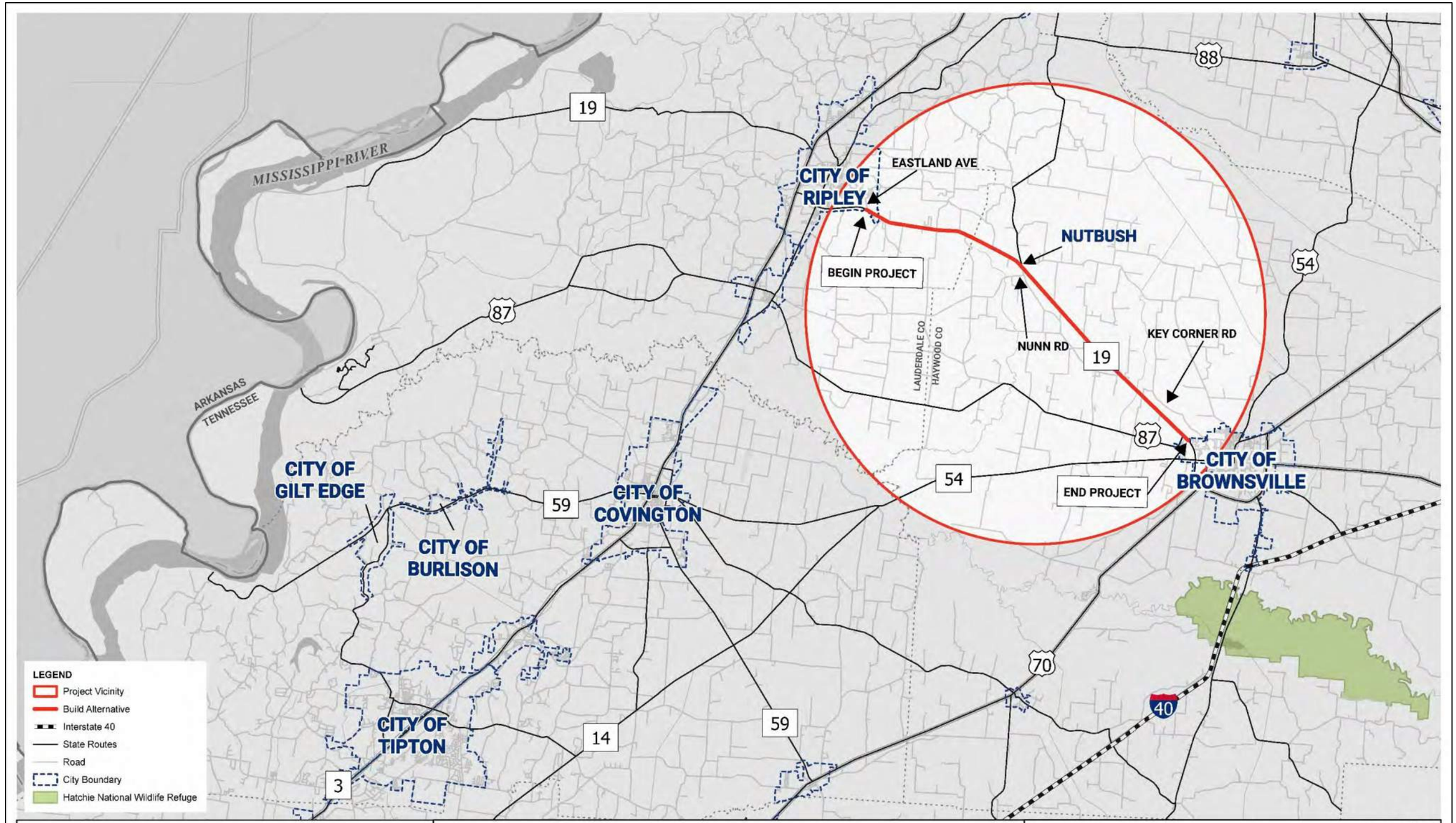
For more information:
https://codes.findlaw.com/us/title-23-highways/23-usc-sect-139/

STATE REQUIREMENTS

TDOT must meet the requirements of its *Public Involvement Plan: Statewide Transportation Public Participation Guide*. The SR-19 project is classified as a TDOT Level 3 project. The Level 3 classification encompasses projects that require completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA). A Level 3 classification requires the development of a project-specific Public Involvement Plan (PIP) that outlines specific activities to be carried out during the planning process. Since the federal Coordination Plan and the PIP contain similar information, TDOT has combined the two documents into this single document (CPIP) that meets the requirements for both.

For more information:
tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/documents/government-how-do-i-documents/pip.pdf

Figure 1 Project Location



2.1 Study Area

Lauderdale and Haywood counties are located in southwest Tennessee. Lauderdale County is bordered by the Mississippi River on the west, Dyer County on the north, Tipton County on the south and Crockett and Haywood counties on the east. The 472-square mile county is predominantly comprised of flat or rolling agricultural land. Residential development tends to be sparse except in and adjacent to the town of Ripley, the county seat. Four-lane United States Highway (US) 51 traverses the county from north to south, passing through the western edge of Ripley. Two-lane SR-19 traverses the county from west to east

Haywood County is bounded by Lauderdale and Tipton counties on the west, Crockett County on the north, Fayette and Hardeman counties on the south and Madison County on the east. The 533-square mile county is predominantly comprised of flat or rolling agricultural land. Residential development tends to be sparse except in and adjacent to Brownsville, the county seat. The lower portion of Haywood County, south of Brownsville, is traversed from west to east by the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge. The wildlife refuge encompasses 11,556 acres of Haywood County.

SR-19 crosses from Lauderdale County to the east through Haywood County to its terminus at Interstate 40 (I-40) southeast of Brownsville. SR-19 is a two-lane facility except for a short four-lane section as it bypasses Brownsville to the south. Additionally, the major road network in Haywood County consists of SR-54, US-79, US-70/SR-1, with each passing through Brownsville. I-40 passes through the county from south to northeast.

2.2 Project Background

Since the late 1990s, a number of studies have been conducted to explore potential improvements to SR-19. In February 2018, FHWA approved a D-List Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project. As design progressed, the number of potential relocations that would be required to construct the proposed project increased. After further coordination with FHWA in 2024 regarding the number of potential relocations, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was initiated. New technical resource studies will be conducted utilizing the 2024 Line and Grade plans (dated July 15, 2024, July 30, 2024, and August 20, 2024[1]) and the findings included in the EA.

2.3 Project Purpose and Need[2]

The needs for the proposed project include:

- Increased percentage of severe crashes
- Existing roadway deficiencies

[1] July 15, 2024 (title sheet dated July 14, 2024): West of Eastland Avenue to Haywood County Line
July 30, 2024: Near Lauderdale County Line to East of Binford Lane
August 20, 2024: East of Binford Lane to East of SR-87

[2] Note that the purpose and need could be refined through public and agency coordination efforts as well as results of the traffic and safety analysis currently underway.

This section of SR-19 lacks adequate travel lane and shoulder width. It also has horizontal and vertical deficiencies, which affect sight distance. The percentage of fatal crashes and suspected serious injury crashes for SR-19 in the project area is greater than the state-wide percentage of fatal crashes and suspected serious injury crashes.

The purpose of this proposed project is to:

- Reduce the severity of crashes
- Improve the roadway to meet current TDOT design standards

2.4 Alternatives Proposed to be Carried Forward in the EA

Alternatives under consideration include the No-Build Alternative and one Build Alternative.

A No-Build Alternative has been retained for detailed study and serves as a benchmark for comparison of potential impacts against the 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*[3], *State Transportation Improvement Program* (STIP)[4], and the TDOT *10-Year Project Plan*[5] and would allow for routine maintenance and safety upgrades.

The Build Alternative proposes to widen the existing two 11-foot travel lanes of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County to two 12-foot travel lanes and widen the shoulders from 2-foot shoulders to 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved). In order to widen the travel lanes in this section of the proposed project, right-of-way would need to be acquired and the travel lanes would need to be reconstructed primarily to the north side of the existing roadway in the Lauderdale County section and mostly to the south side of the existing roadway in Haywood County. Additionally, along this section of the proposed project, the following intersections would be realigned:

- Willie Paris Road at SR-19
- Ross Road/Gause Lane at SR-19
- Tall Oaks Cove at SR-19
- Sanford Road/Conner Whitefield Road at SR-19
- Watson Road/Carney Road at SR-19
- Springhill Road at SR-19

From just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus east of SR-87, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. Additional right-of-way would be needed to

[3] https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/25-year-transportation-policy-plan.html

[4] https://www.tn.gov/tdot/program-development-and-administration-home/program-development-and-administration-state-programs.html

[5] https://www.tn.gov/tdot/build-with-us.html

correct erosion/slope issues from approximately 4,351 feet east of Woodlawn Road to approximately 4,411 feet west of Old SR-19 (approximately 1,700 feet) and from approximately 3,417 feet east of Patton Road to approximately 279 feet east of Westpointe Road (approximately 1,800 feet). From just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus, the proposed improvements would also include the realignment of the following intersections:

- Forked Deer Road at SR-19
- Nunn Road at SR-19
- Jim Binford Lane at SR-19
- Small Road at SR-19
- Woodlawn Road/Briar Creek Road at SR-19
- Old SR-19 at SR-19

3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Error! Reference source not found. provides a summary of the impacts identified in the 2018 CE and the s tatus of resource studies for the EA. The proposed project scope for the section between Gill Brackin Road and the project terminus east of SR-87 has been reduced since the 2018 CE was approved. The proposed project scope previously included widening the existing two lane roadway from two 11-foot travel lanes to two 12-foot travel lanes for the entire length of the proposed project route. It also proposed widening the existing shoulders from two feet to 10-feet, except for the section from just west of Gill Brackin Road to just east of Nunn Road where the shoulders would be limited to four feet with all improvements occurring within the existing right-of-way. While the scope of the original project has been reduced, of note are an increased number of potential relocations, primarily on the west end of the proposed project, due to the topography.

The following environmental commitments were included in the 2018 CE. They will be reviewed and, if still applicable, they will be carried forward into the EA.

- Cliff swallow and barn swallow nests, eggs, or birds (young and adult) will not be disturbed between April 15 and July 31. From August 1 to April 14, nests can be removed or destroyed, and measures implemented to prevent further nest building at the site (e.g. closing off area using netting).
- TDOT has committed to seasonal tree removal on this project. The USFWS [US Fish and Wildlife Service] has given TDOT a finding of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" for the Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat, provided that tree cutting on this project is conducted between October 15th and March 31st.

Table 1 Summary of Impacts Identified in the 2018 Categorical Exclusion and Preliminary 2025 Updates

Resource	2018 Impacts	Preliminary 2025 Updates
Relocations	5 residences 1 business	A Conceptual Stage Relocation Plan (CSRP) is currently being developed. Preliminary results estimate 22 residential relocations and 2 business relocations. The relocation information will be provided in the EA. Those individuals and businesses identified as being relocated will be fully assisted through procedures provided in the *Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970*[1], as amended, the *Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1972, implementing federal regulations, Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 13-11-101 through 119*[2], *The State of Tennessee Relocation Assistance Brochure*[3], and Chapter IX of the *State of Tennessee Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Manual*[4].
Environmental Justice	Environmental Justice (EJ) populations were identified within the project area. The project was not anticipated to have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on EJ populations.	On January 20 and 21, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 14154 *Unleashing American Energy* and EO 14173 *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*, which included guidance to rescind EO 12898 *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (1994) and EO 14096 *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All* (2023). As a result, EJ analysis is no longer included in the NEPA analysis and will not be updated for this project.
Air Quality	Project in counties that are in attainment for all regulated criteria pollutants.	Area still in attainment. An air quality analysis will be completed as part of the EA, as necessary.
Noise	Project determined to be a Type III project and noise study was not needed.	Project will be reviewed to confirm if this is still accurate. If necessary, a noise study will be conducted and the findings included in the EA.
Cultural Resources	Historic Resources: 1 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible site within the project area. TN-SHPO concurred with No Adverse Effect determination. Archaeological Resources: No NRHP resources.	Historic and archaeology reports will be updated, as necessary. TDOT will consult with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) and federally recognized Native American tribes as required.
Ecological Resources	22 streams 11 wetlands Suitable summer roosting habitat for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) was identified within project limits. Determination of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" based on TDOT commitment to implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures. Project was determined to be eligible to be placed under the Range-wide Programmatic Consultation between the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Environmental Boundaries Report (EBR) is currently being developed. The EBR will identify streams, wet weather conveyances, springs, seeps, ponds, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species in the study area. The determination as to whether the waters are designated as State and/or US waters will be confirmed by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The State of Tennessee sets water quality criteria for waters of the State; these standards must be met during construction of the proposed project. TDOT would implement its *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*[5], which includes erosion and sediment control standards for use during construction. In an effort to minimize sedimentation and runoff impacts, erosion and sediment control plans will be included in the project construction plans. Information will be sought from TDEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) regarding whether federally or state listed plants or animals, and critical habitat are known to occur within the project area. New or updated species surveys will be conducted if determined necessary in coordination with the relevant agencies.
Floodplains	Not located in a FEMA floodway, floodplain, or study area	FEMA FIRM maps will be reviewed to confirm if this is still accurate.
Farmland	Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) exemption.	A review of the current plans indicate that the proposed project no longer qualifies for a FPPA exemption. In accordance with the FPPA (7 CFR 658)[6], a prime farmland impact analysis will be conducted for the proposed project and coordinated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
Hazardous Materials	Asbestos was detected in the deck drains on Bridge No. 38SR0190003, SR-19 over Meridian Creek (LM 8.49). Two old gas stations and a country grocery store were identified as potential UST sites.	Project area will be reviewed to confirm is this is still accurate. In the event that hazardous materials are encountered within the proposed right-of-way, their disposition shall be subject to the applicable sections of the *Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* (RCRA)[7], as amended; and the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* (CERCLA)[8], as amended; and the *Tennessee Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1983*[9].
Section 4(f) Resources	No 4(f) resources identified.	Project area will be reviewed to confirm is this is still accurate.
Reasonably Foreseeable Effects	N/A[10]	In addition to identifying the direct effects of the project alternatives, the environmental evaluation will consider reasonably foreseeable effects, in accordance with 42 USC 4332(g).
Construction Impacts	N/A[10]	In order to minimize as many possible detrimental effects as is practicable, the construction contractor will be required to comply with all applicable rules and provisions of the Tennessee Department of Transportation's *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*[3]. These provisions implement the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration's *Federal-Aid Policy Guide: Chapter 1, Subchapter G, Part 650, Subpart B*[11].

[1] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-A/part-24
[2] https://www.lawserver.com/law/state/tennessee/tn-code/tennessee_code_title_13_chapter_11

[3] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/right-of-way-division/brochures/New Residential_09-26-18.pdf
[4] https://tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/right-of-way-division/ROW_Procedures_Manual.pdf
[5] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/construction/2021-standard-specifications/January_1_2021_Standard_Specifications.pdf
[6] https://ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-VI/subchapter-F/part-658
[7] https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-resource-conservation-and-recovery-act
[8] https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-cercla-overview#:~:text=The%20Comprehensive%20Environmental%20Response%2C%20Compensation%2C%20and%20Liability%2Act%20of201980,waste%20at%20sites%3B%20and
[9] https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2016/title-68/environmental-protection/chapter-212/part-2
[10] Not typically addressed in categorical exclusions.
[11] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-G/part-650/subpart-B

4.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

The intent of coordination with federal, state, and local agencies is to cooperatively identify important environmental resources and potential impacts, as well as to resolve issues that could delay the environmental process or that could result in denial of approvals required to implement the proposed project.

4.1 Agency Roles and Responsibilities

A description of the types of agency participation is presented in the sections below.

4.1.1 Lead Agencies

Since FHWA funds would be utilized for the proposed project, FHWA serves as the Lead Federal Agency for the project. TDOT, as the direct recipient of Federal funds for the proposed project, is the Joint Lead Agency.

Lead Agencies are expected to:

- Manage and coordinate the environmental review process, ensuring that environmental information is available to public officials and the public before decisions are made and actions taken.
- Prepare the EA in accordance with Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 771.
- Provide, as early as practicable, accurate and complete project information on why the proposed project is needed, environmental resources within the project area, alternatives under consideration, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation measures.
- Identify and involve Cooperating and Participating Agencies.
- Develop the agency coordination plan.
- Provide opportunities for public and agency involvement.
- Consult with and involve Native American tribal governments in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Manage and facilitate the process of resolving issues.

LEAD AGENCIES

23 United States Code (USC) Section 139 defines a lead agency as the Department of Transportation and, if applicable, any State or local governmental entity serving as a joint lead agency pursuant to that section.

23 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Section 771.111 defines the role of lead agencies.

For more information:
https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2023-title23/pdf/USCODE-2023-title23-chap1-sec139.pdf

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2024-title23-vol1/pdf/CFR-2024-title23-vol1-sec771-111.pdf

4.1.2 Cooperating and Participating Agencies

The Cooperating and Participating Agencies for the proposed project have roles and responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time, especially with regard to the development of the purpose and need statement, range of alternatives, and methodologies.
- Identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts. Participating agencies are also allowed to participate in the issue resolution process.
- Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues.

Although the roles and responsibilities of Cooperating and Participating Agencies are similar, Cooperating Agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process.

Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating Agencies will use their knowledge and expertise to assist the Lead Agencies in identifying issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential impacts and provide meaningful and timely input throughout the environmental review process. Cooperating Agencies may adopt the Lead Agency's final environmental document to fulfill their environmental documentation requirements for issuing permits or other approvals.

Agencies invited to be Cooperating Agencies will be asked to respond in writing whether they accept or decline the invitation.

Because the proposed project has the likelihood to impact streams and wetlands and require a Section 404 permit, the USACE (Memphis District) is being invited to be a Cooperating Agency. If new information reveals the need to request another agency to serve as a Cooperating Agency, TDOT will issue that agency an invitation.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

23 United States Code (USC) Section 139 and FHWA NEPA regulations (23 CFR 771.111(d)) require that those federal agencies with jurisdiction by law (with permitting or land transfer authority) be invited to be Cooperating Agencies for an EA or an EIS. Federal agencies with special expertise may be invited by the Lead Agency to become Cooperating Agencies.

For more information:
https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2023-title23/pdf/USCODE-2023-title23-chap1-sec139.pdf

https://ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-H/part-771/section-771.111

Participating Agencies

Federal, state, and local agencies that have an interest in the proposed project will be invited to be a Participating Agency. Participating Agencies agree to identify issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential impacts and agree to provide meaningful and timely input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives, and impact analysis methodologies.

If, during the progress of the proposed project, new information indicates that an agency not previously requested to be a Participating Agency has a relevant interest in the project TDOT, in consultation with FHWA, will extend an invitation to be a Participating Agency to that agency. TDOT and FHWA will consider whether this new information affects any previous decisions on the proposed project.

4.1.3 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Private Entities, and Local Officials

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private entities, and local officials cannot serve as Participating Agencies, but are part of public involvement. They are sent a Coordination Package requesting their input on the proposed project.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

As per 23 CFR 771.107, Participating Agencies are federal, state, local, or federally-recognized Indian tribal governmental units that may have an interest in the project; have been formally invited to be Participating Agencies; and have accepted an invitation to be a Participating Agency, or in the case of a federal agency, have not declined the invitation in accordance with 23 USC 139(d)(3). The category of Participating Agency is more broadly defined than the definition of Cooperating Agency, so a Cooperating Agency is also considered a Participating Agency.

For more information:
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-23/chapter-I/subchapter-H/part-771/section-771.107

https://codes.findlaw.com/us/title-23-highways/23-usc-sect-139/

4.2 Early Coordination

TDOT has prepared an Early Coordination Package, which includes an Early Coordination Request Letter and this CPIP, which identifies how input from agencies and the public will be solicited and considered, discusses coordination planned throughout the environmental review process, and provides a current schedule (including comment/review timeframes) for the major project milestones. Where applicable, the Early Coordination Package will include invitations to be Cooperating or Participating Agencies for the project. In total, an Early Coordination Package will be distributed, via email, to approximately 55[6] agencies, officials, and organizations in April 2025.

Agencies invited to be Cooperating Agencies or Participating Agencies as well as NGOs, and federal, state, and local officials that will be sent a copy of the Early Coordination Package and asked for their input are shown in Error! Reference source not found.. If new information reveals the need to request another agency or organization to serve as a consulting party, TDOT will issue that agency or organization an invitation to comment.

[6] Table 2 lists approximately 55 agencies; however, approximately 126 Early Coordination Packages will be distributed in total. In some instances, the Early Coordination Package will be distributed to multiple individuals at a single agency.

4.3 Native American Consultation

During the development of the EA and in accordance with the Section 106 requirements, TDOT will consult with parties that have interests in archaeological issues. The Native American Tribes that were identified to have interests within Lauderdale and Haywood counties are:

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma
- Cherokee Nation
- The Chickasaw Nation
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- The Quapaw Nation

5.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGENCY TO PROVIDE INPUT

FHWA and TDOT will provide opportunities for input on the EA from the Cooperating and Participating Agencies, as well as other agencies, interested stakeholders, and the public, in accordance with 23 CFR 771.119(b) and using the optional Cooperating/Participating Agency concept from 23 USC 139(d), as well as the TDOT Public Involvement Plan. These opportunities will occur at various points throughout the EA process. These general coordination points are listed below and the schedule for these coordination points are outlined in **Section 8.0**.

SECTION 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the lead federal agency or its designee (in this case TDOT) to identify the appropriate parties that need to be involved in the process of identifying effects of a proposed project to historic resources and working through the Section 106 process with such parties. This involvement is referred to as "consultation."

For more information: https://www.achp.gov/protecting-historic-properties

5.1 Early Coordination

The Early Coordination Request Letter and associated CPIP for the proposed project will be distributed to Cooperating Agencies, Participating Agencies, NGOs, and Federal, State, and Local Officials via email or distributed by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) upon request. Agencies, officials, and organizations will be given 30 days to review and provide comments. Cooperating and Participating Agencies will also be given 30 days to respond to the invitation to become Cooperating and Participating Agencies. See Section 4.2 regarding agencies that will receive the Early Coordination Package.

As the proposed project moves forward through the project development process, the Lead Agencies will continue to coordinate and involve the Cooperating and Participating Agencies through concurrence points that will be established for key decision-making milestones to ensure the agencies' participation in helping the Lead Agencies to review and provide feedback on the development of the proposed project. Currently, those anticipated milestones would include the proposed purpose and need, proposed alternatives under consideration, resources identified within the project study area and the determination of potential impacts to those resources, and the development of the draft EA and draft preliminary mitigation efforts. **Table 2** shows the preliminary

timeframes currently projected for these concurrence points, however, as the proposed project continues moving through the NEPA and project development processes, if updates to these timeframes are needed, those will be communicated to the agencies accordingly.

Table 2 Early Coordination Milestone and Review Schedule

Coordination Step	Project Milestone and Corresponding Agency Review/Action	Proposed Schedule*
Early Coordination (EC) Initiation Letter	Respond to Cooperating Agency notification/Participating Agency invitation. Review of the Coordination and Public Involvement Plan (CPIP).	Review Period Begins: Early April Review Period Ends: Early May 2025
EC Concurrence Point 1	Review of the Draft Purpose and Need and Range of Alternatives.	Review Period Begins: Mid-May 2025 Review Period Ends: Mid-June 2025
EC Concurrence Point 2	Review of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Preliminary Mitigation Plan.	Review Period Begins: Late June 2025 Review Period Ends: Late July 2025
EA Approval	Approved EA will be distributed electronically to all agencies and stakeholders.	**Early Fall 2025**
EC Concurrence Point 3	Review of Final Mitigation Plan.	Review Period: Late Fall 2025
NEPA Decision Document Approval	Approved decision document will be distributed electronically to all agencies and stakeholders.	**Winter 2025/Early 2026**

** Proposed schedule is tentative and subject to change. Individual EC timeframes are based on a 30-calendar day review/comment period.*

5.2 Notice of Availability

Once the EA has been approved, a Notice of Availability (NOA)[7] will be distributed to the Cooperating and Participating Agencies, as well as officials and organizations via email. The NOA will include a link to a digital copy of the EA, unless otherwise requested.

[7] https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-1/chapter-VI/part-601#p-01.3(Notice%20of%20Availability%20or%20NOA)

5.3 NEPA Decision Document

Once the NEPA decision document has been approved, it will be distributed to the Cooperating and Participating Agencies, as well as NGOs and Federal/State/Local Officials via email with a link to a digital copy of the final environmental document, unless otherwise requested.

5.4 Other Opportunities for Agency Involvement

The database of agencies, officials, and organizations developed as part of the Early Coordination efforts will be maintained and updated throughout the project development process. Those agencies, officials, and organizations that respond during coordination/scoping and those that participate in public meetings and/or provide input/comment during the preparation of the EA will receive notification of the availability of the EA for review and comments.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Effective communication is essential to the success of the proposed project. Communication and outreach methods planned for the proposed project are described below. As the proposed project progresses, public involvement efforts will be assessed periodically to determine if the methods of communication in use are effective or if adjustments are needed.

6.1 Project Database

A project database will be developed for use in distributing information to stakeholders and other interested parties. The initial database will be developed using GIS parcel information and will include all parcel owners within 250 feet of the centerline of the Build Alternative. The database will be expanded and updated as the project moves forward. Names can be added to the database by contacting Erick Hunt-Hawkins, TDOT Environmental Quality and NEPA Section, NEPA Team Lead, at (615) 253-5163 or by email at Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov.

6.2 Identification of Special Outreach Groups/Areas

Populations in the project area requiring special outreach to ensure they have access to information and the opportunity to make comments, regardless of their race, religion, age, income or disability will be identified. Identification of these populations will include using Census data and information obtained from groups or organizations known to have knowledge of these populations.

6.3 Media Relations

Local newspapers will be identified for use in disseminating information about the project. Minority media outlets will be included as appropriate. Notices and reminders of project meetings/hearings will be sent to these media outlets in advance of public meetings/hearings.

At a minimum, notices of public meetings/hearings will be placed in the following local newspapers:

- *Brownsville States Graphic* (Haywood County)
- *The Lauderdale County Enterprise* (Lauderdale County)

6.4 Project Website

TDOT has developed a project website, which will provide the public with an overview of the proposed project to include the proposed project's purpose and need, schedule, preliminary environmental impact information, public involvement opportunities and proposed design features. The project website is available at: https://tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html.

6.5 Public Meeting

TDOT held one public meeting to provide information to and request feedback from the public on the draft purpose and need and the range of alternatives under consideration on February 27, 2025, at the Ripley High School in Ripley, Tennessee. A postcard announcing the public meeting was mailed to residents along the project corridor on February 12, 2025. A public notice was published in *The Brownsville States-Graphic* on February 19, 2025, and the *Lauderdale County Enterprise* on February 20, 2025. The public notice was also posted on TDOT's website. Sixty-five members of the public signed the sign-in sheet. Nineteen TDOT representatives/ consultants attended the public meeting.

The public meeting was followed by a 21-day public comment period, which ended on March 20, 2025. TDOT received eight completed comment cards during the comment period. No one who provided comments stated that they were opposed to the proposed project. Concerns were expressed about noise, congestion, driveway sight distance, existing development, and impacts to historic/archaeological resources. The comments received during the public meeting will be documented by the TDOT project team and included in the EA.

6.6 Project Comment Email Address

TDOT has established an email address (TDOT.Comments@tn.gov) to capture public comments and questions about the proposed project. Comments or questions received through the TN.Gov email address would be documented by the TDOT project team and included in the EA and final environmental document.

6.7 Notice of Availability

Once FHWA approves the EA document, a NOA of the EA document will be posted to the project website and published in *Brownsville States Graphic* and *The Lauderdale County Enterprise*. The notice will identify where the EA will be available for public review, how the public can provide input, and who to contact with comments or for additional information. Copies of the EA will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Elam Ross Public Library
  1011 East Main Street
  Brownsville, TN 38012
- Lauderdale County Library
  120 Lafayette Avenue
  Ripley, TN 38063

6.8 Public Hearing

Once FHWA approves the EA document and the EA is made available for public and agency review, TDOT will hold a public hearing to formally solicit public comments on the findings presented in the EA and on the recommended Preferred Alternative. As with the public meeting, the public hearing will be followed by a 21-day public comment period. Input from the public hearing and comment period will be used by TDOT as input in the decision-making process for selection of the Selected Alternative and potential mitigation measures. This information will be documented in the final environmental document.

One public hearing will be scheduled and held in the project area. The hearing will be advertised at least 15 days prior to the date of the hearing, per 23 CFR 771.119(e), in *Brownsville States Graphic* and *The Lauderdale County Enterprise*. Flyers advertising the hearing will be mailed to organizations and individuals in the project database.

7.0 PROJECT TEAM

The SR-19 project team consists of:

- TDOT
- FHWA
- Staff of the HDR project team - the engineering/planning consultant firm responsible for preparing the environmental document

The project contact is listed below:

TDOT NEPA Project Manager
Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead Environmental Quality and NEPA Section TDOT, Environmental Division 505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900 James K. Polk Building Nashville, Tennessee 37243 Phone: 615-253-5163 Email: erick.hunt-hawkins@tn.gov

8.0 PROJECT SCHEDULE

Table 3 provides the anticipated schedule for the completion of the EA. As the proposed project moves forward through the project development process, this schedule will be evaluated and revised/updated as appropriate to address new information obtained that may warrant additional work effort or coordination time.

Table 3 Anticipated Project Schedule

Anticipated Project Schedule*	
Milestone	**Time Frame****
Initiate Early Coordination	Quarter 1 of 2025
Conduct Technical Studies	Through Quarter 2 of 2025
Public Meeting	Quarter 1 of 2025
Notice of Availability/Environmental Assessment Approval	Quarter 3 of 2025
Hold NEPA Public Hearing	Quarter 3 of 2025
Approval of Final Environmental Document/ Selection of Preferred Alternative***	Quarter 4 of 2025
Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase	FY 2026
Construction Phase	FY 2028
**Forecasted dates are subject to change.* ***Quarter 1-January through March* *Quarter 2-April through June* *Quarter 3-July through September* *Quarter 4-October through December*	****Once the final environmental document is approved by the Federal Highway Administration, the Planning and Environmental Phase is complete.*

Craig Fitzhugh
Mayor
Donna Buckner
Recorder
Rachel Jackson
Attorney

110 S Washington St
Ripley TN 38063
Phone:(731)635-4000
Fax: (731)635-2692

May 6, 2025

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins, NEPA Team Lead
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Environmental Division, Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
Suite 900, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1402

Subject: Coordination Request for State Route (SR) 19 Improvement Project from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee, Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00

Dear Mr. Hunt-Hawkins,

The City of Ripley is excited to see this project move forward in the project development process and are hopeful to see it delivered to construction as scheduled in 2029.

Ripley is the county seat of Lauderdale County and is home to approximately 8,500 residents. The rural character of our city, while supporting a close-knit community, presents challenges for economic growth and Lauderdale County is categorized as an "At-Risk" county by the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) most recent index of county economic status maps, with an unemployment rate significantly higher than the statewide average.

Transportation infrastructure provides the access to regional markets that is one of the critical needs that residents and businesses in Ripley need to thrive. Access to I-40 via SR 19 is a critical need for our community. Realizing this need, the City of Ripley applied for and was awarded a TDOT Transportation Planning Grant (TPG) for a citywide Transportation Plan in 2022. Completed in August of 2023, the Ripley Transportation Plan provides a holistic view of the city's transportation system to recommend projects and strategies that prepare the city for growth. Key to this effort was the identification of the City's top priorities, with the widening and improvements to SR-19, between Ripley and extending to Brownsville topping the list.

Board of Aldermen

Nyrita Alston
Billy Chipman
Tyler Frazier
Chakita Keeley
Kenneth Long
Austin Thompson Jr.

Safety is one of the critical needs for the improvements to SR 19. With narrow shoulders, poor roadway geometry, and frequent slow moving vehicles along with agricultural equipment utilizing SR 19, traffic backups are common and can lead to high risk behavior by motorists, at times with tragic outcomes. Additionally, the improved access will provide for travel time improvements for emergency services, one of the key metrics of survival in the health care system.

However, we view the purpose and need of this project to extend beyond the safety aspects of severe crash reduction and improved roadway geometry, but to also include improved access to the City of Ripley and its businesses, along with the surrounding farms and businesses supporting the agricultural industry that is so critical to our rural community. This upgraded access will support an improved economic outlook for our community, providing the backbone infrastructure that we can leverage with other investments to bring our community out of ARC's "At-Risk" status.

Improvements to SR 19 will also provide for more robust redundancy in our transportation network. With aging infrastructure, growing storm intensities, and the New Madrid Fault potential for earthquakes, SR 19 is a critical component of the infrastructure system that will be needed should failures on the transportation network occur.

The recruitment of Ford Motor Company to Blue Oval City, roughly 30 miles to the east via SR 19 makes the City of Ripley a prime candidate to attract suppliers, induce new jobs, and address the demand for new housing. The estimated 5,700 direct jobs plus the anticipated 21,000 indirect and induced jobs created by this multi-billion investment in the region coupled with the high quality of life in our beautiful city will certainly be an attraction for much of this growth.

We strongly support the improvements to SR 19 and believe it will have a positive overall effect on the City of Ripley through a reduction in crashes, a more favorable driving experience along the route, and an improved economic outlook for our community.

If I can provide further information to support this project, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Craig Fitzhugh
Mayor

CC: Brandon Akins, TDOT
Senator Paul Rose
Representative Chris Hurt

From:	Nelson, Dana Marie
To:	Braxton Eden
Cc:	Erick Hunt-Hawkins; Jessica Schlagenhaft; Smith, Elizabeth; Dunsmore, Erin Elizabeth; awpatrick
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] RE: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Early Coordination Request - Federal TESA Participating Agency
Date:	Wednesday, April 30, 2025 3:56:16 PM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png

This Message Is From an External Sender
This message came from outside your organization.
Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security

Braxton,

Thank you for the invitation to become a participating agency on the TDOT and FHWA environmental assessment for Project #49005-0226-14, TDOT PIN 102251.00. TVA has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project and therefore, chooses not to be a designated participating agency for this project.

Considerations:

- No TVA managed land or generation fee property associated with project area.
- Project area is outside Section 26a jurisdiction.
- No impacts to two transmission lines (L6053/L5913). Letter of no objection sent October 8, 2024.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Dana Nelson, PMP
Environment Program Manager, Generation & Valley Projects
Environmental Compliance Planning & Services

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

M: 423.329.9202 **E.** dmball@tva.gov
400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902

NOTICE: This electronic message transmission contains information that may be TVA SENSITIVE, TVA RESTRICTED, or TVA CONFIDENTIAL. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure can result in both civil and criminal penalties. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the content of this information is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by email and delete the original message.

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 4:39 PM
To: tennesseeES@fws.gov; Smith, Elizabeth <esmith14@tva.gov>

Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Jessica Schlagenhaft <Jessica.Schlagenhaft@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Early Coordination Request - Federal TESA Participating Agency

You don't often get email from braxton.eden@tn.gov. Learn why this is important

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL from outside TVA. THINK BEFORE you CLICK links or OPEN attachments. If suspicious, please click the "Report Phishing" button located on the Outlook Toolbar at the top of your screen.

Good afternoon,

Your agency has been identified by the Tennessee Department of Transportation as having an interest in the State Route 19 Project in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, we have attached the following for your agency's review:

- Coordination Request Letter
- Project Location Map
- Project Data Summary
- Project Coordination and Public Involvement Plan
- TDOT & FHWA Notice of Intent to Initiate NEPA Coordination and TESA Recommendation

Please note that comments are due back from your agency by **May 12, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | NEPA Section
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor
Email: TDOT.Env.LocalPrograms@tn.gov

COORDINATION POINT 1

Coordination Point 1

Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19

From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87
Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

October 27, 2025

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Contents

1.0 Introduction 3
1.1 Project History 3
1.2 Description of Study Area 5
2.0 Logical Termini and Independent Utility 5
3.0 Preliminary Purpose and Need 6
3.1 Increased Percentage of Severe Crashes 6
3.2 Existing Roadway Geometric Deficiencies 6
3.3 SR-19 Inconsistent with the Legislative Intent of the IMPROVE Act and the TMA 7
4.0 Consistency with Other Plans 8
5.0 Criteria for Screening Alternatives 8
6.0 Project Alternatives and Identified Preliminary Impacts 10
6.1 No-Build Alternative 10
6.2 Build Alternative 10
7.0 Agency Coordination and Public Involvement 13
7.1 Agency Coordination 13
7.2 Public Involvement 14
8.0 Next Steps 15

Tables

Table 1. Segment Crash Severity (Crash Year: 2022 to 2024) 7
Table 2. Environmental Criteria for Evaluating Alternatives 9
Table 3. Summary of Impacts Identified in the 2018 Categorical Exclusion and 2025 Updates 12
Table 4. Anticipated Agency Coordination Schedule 16

Figures

Figure 1. Project Location 4

1.0 Introduction

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to approximately 15.2 miles of State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (**Figure 1**). Since this project is proposed to be funded in part with federal transportation funds, the proposed project is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in accordance with NEPA to identify and evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and to identify measures to minimize harm.

This document serves as Coordination Point 1 *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated* package, providing agencies with information on the proposed project's preliminary purpose and need and proposed alternatives to be evaluated in the EA[1]. This coordination is done in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 771.119(b) and the optional cooperating and participating agency concept from 23 United States Code (USC) 139(d) as discussed in this proposed project's *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* (CPIP).

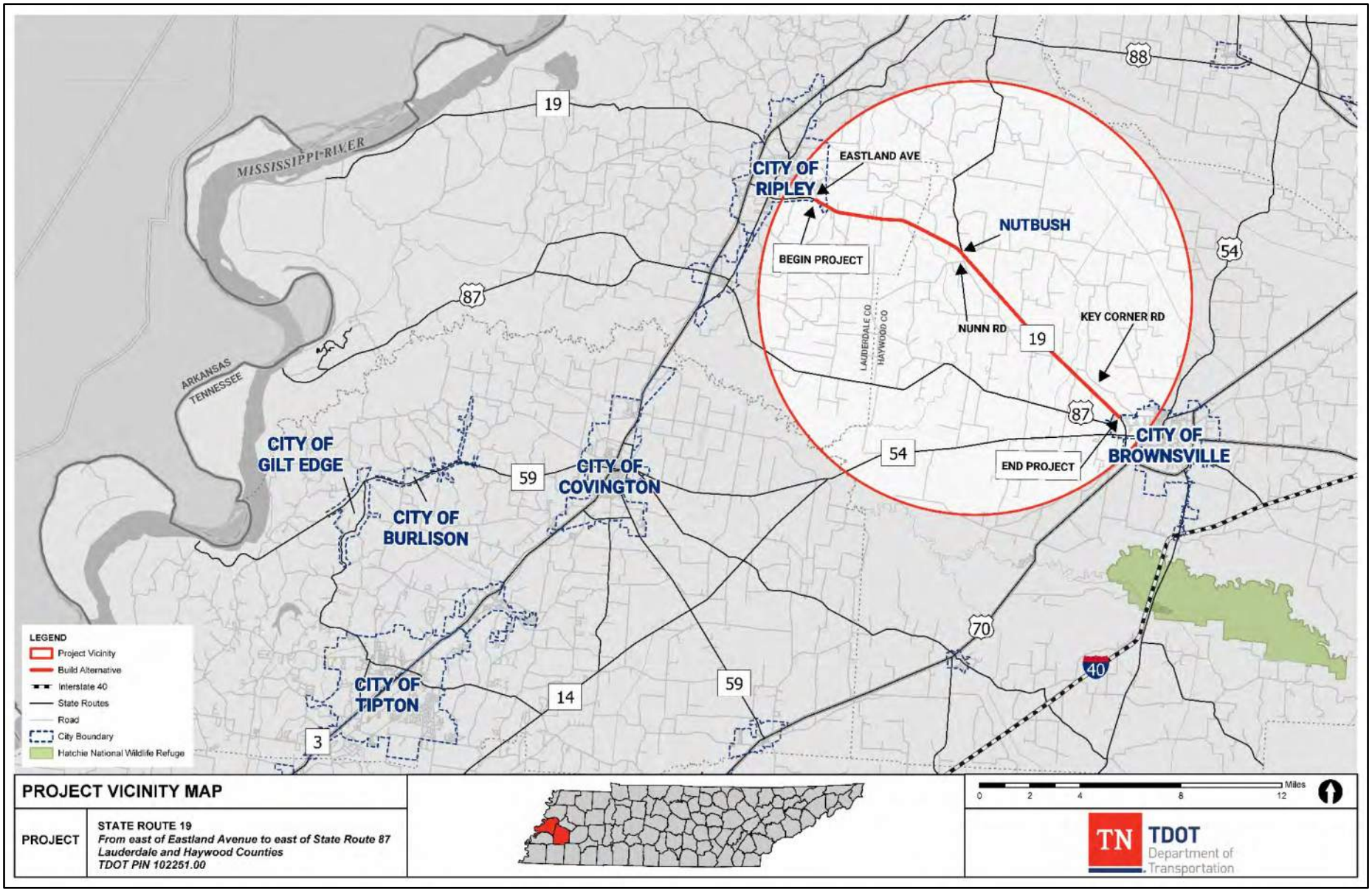
1.1 Project History

Since the late 1990s, a number of studies have been conducted to explore potential improvements to SR-19. In February 2018, FHWA approved a D-List Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project. As the design of the proposed project progressed, it became evident that the number of relocations that would be required had increased. After further coordination with FHWA in 2024 regarding the number of potential relocations, an EA was initiated.

New technical resource studies will be conducted as necessary, and the findings will be included in the EA.

[1] The *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* incorrectly references Coordination Points as Concurrence Points.

Figure 1. Project Location



1.2 Description of Study Area

The study area is located in eastern Lauderdale County and western Haywood County between the cities of Ripley to the west and Brownsville to the east. The study area is predominantly rural with mainly agricultural land use. Residential land uses tend to be scattered except near Ripley and Brownsville where residences are more concentrated due to the presence of subdivisions.

SR-19 crosses from Lauderdale County to the west through Haywood County to its terminus at Interstate 40 (I-40) southeast of Brownsville. SR-19 is a two-lane facility except for a short four-lane section as it bypasses Brownsville to the south. Additionally, the major road network in Haywood County consists of SR-54, US-79, US-70/SR-1, with each passing through Brownsville. I-40 passes through Haywood County from south to northeast.

2.0 Logical Termini and Independent Utility

In addition to identifying the proposed project's purpose and need as well as the range of reasonable alternatives to evaluate in an EA, the project sponsor must also establish that the project has "logical termini" and "independent utility". The term "logical termini" means that the proposed project has rational end points for the transportation improvement and for the environmental review process. The proposed SR-19 project begins east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County and ends east of SR-87 in Haywood County. The western terminus of the proposed project would tie into an existing section of SR-19 that matches the proposed project's typical section with two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders. SR-87 at the eastern terminus of the proposed project is a state route and a major roadway in the area that serves as a significant connector.

The term "independent utility" means that the proposed project is useable and satisfies the established purpose and need even if no additional future transportation improvements are made in the area. This proposed project does not depend on any other TDOT projects currently planned to be developed or funded for use, per TDOT's current 10-Year Project Plan[2]. As it is currently planned, should the Build Alternative be selected, it would be a standalone project and fully accessible

[2] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/build-with-us/050525TDOT10YP.pdf

and functional once complete. The defined study area is of sufficient size to address environmental issues on a broad scope.

3.0 Preliminary Purpose and Need[3]

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Reduce the rate of severe crashes
- Improve the roadway to meet current design standards
- Meet the legislative intent of the IMPROVE Act

The following preliminary needs have been identified and are discussed below:

3.1 Increased Percentage of Severe Crashes

Results of a crash analysis conducted for the proposed project based on data along SR-19 within the study area between November 19, 2021, and November 19, 2024, indicate that while no unfavorable characteristics of the roadway contribute to the overall crash rate, the percentage of suspected serious injury and fatal crashes is higher than the statewide percentage.

Table 1 shows that the percentage of fatal crashes are higher along all of the traffic study segments than the state-wide percentages. The percentage of suspected serious injury crashes are also higher than that of the state-wide average on SR-19 from Eastland Avenue to Gill Brackin Road, from Nunn Road to Jim Binford Lane, and from Jim Binford Lane to SR-87.

3.2 Existing Roadway Geometric Deficiencies

SR-19 is classified by TDOT as a Minor Arterial roadway. The existing roadway within the proposed project limits consists of two 11-foot travel lanes (one lane in each direction) with zero to 2-foot outside shoulders. According to the FHWA Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria and Procedures 2023 Edition[4], it is recommended that Minor Arterial roadways include 10- to 12-foot lane widths with 4- to 8-foot outside shoulders. The existing SR-19 roadway configuration within the limits of the proposed project does not meet current design standards for a Minor Arterial roadway.

[3] Note that the purpose and need could be refined through public and agency coordination efforts.

[4] https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/hwy-functional-classification-2023.pdf

Table 1. Segment Crash Severity (Crash Year: 2022 to 2024)

Crash Severity Designation	SR-19, from Eastland Avenue to Gill Brackin Road		SR-19, from Gill Brackin Road to Nunn Road		SR-19, from Nunn Road to Jim Binford Lane		SR-19, Jim Binford Lane to SR-87		TN State Routes	
	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes
Fatal	2	4.08%	1	33.33%	1	16.67%	1	3.23%	1,840	0.76%
Suspected Serious Injury[1]	2	4.08%	0	0.00%	1	16.67%	1	3.23%	7,071	2.92%
Suspected Minor Injury[1]	9	18.37%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	9.68%	25,539	10.55%
Possible Injury	5	10.20%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	6.45%	25,869	10.69%
Property Damage Only	31	63.27%	2	33.33%	4	66.67%	24	77.42%	181,745	75.08%
Total	**49**	**100%**	**3**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**31**	**100%**	**246,911**	**100%**

[1]Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC)6th Edition

3.3 SR-19 Inconsistent with the Legislative Intent of the IMPROVE Act and the TMA

The "Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads, and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy" (IMPROVE) Act[5] was signed into law on April 26, 2017, and went into effect on July 1, 2017. One of the main goals of the IMPROVE Act is *"providing a safe, reliable, and debt-free transportation network… [to] ensure the next generation of Tennesseans will have a robust transportation system"* (Governor Haslam, 2018)[6]. A section of the proposed project from east of Eastland Avenue to the Haywood County line has been identified as an IMPROVE Act project (IMPROVE Act Project 585) and would meet the legislative intent of the IMPROVE Act by improving an important infrastructure facility in Haywood County.

[5] https://legiscan.com/TN/text/HB0534/id/1802326

[6] https://www.tn.gov/former-governor-haslam/news/2018/1/4/haslam-announces-major-awarding-of-improve-act-transportation-projects--largest-bidding-process-in-state-history.html

Additionally, there is a need to meet the legislative intent of the 2023 Transportation Modernization Act (TMA)[7], which was signed into law and became effective on April 17, 2023. One of the main goals of the TMA is to provide the state with innovative tools to address traffic congestion, especially near urban areas, freeing up funding to invest in rural and suburban communities without raising the gas tax or taking on debt. The proposed project is anticipated to be partially funded through the TMA. The proposed project is also included in TDOT's current 10-Year Project Plan.

4.0 Consistency with Other Plans

The proposed project is consistent with state, regional, and local planning and economic development efforts. The project is currently listed in TDOT's 10-Year Project Plan (dated December 18, 2023)[8], 2025-2027 Three-Year Program[9], and 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)[10] (STIP numbers 23002019052, 23002019045, 23002019046).

5.0 Criteria for Screening Alternatives

Proposed alternatives will be evaluated based on:

- Ability to address the proposed project's purpose and need
  - Reduction in possible injury or more severe crashes
  - Correction of geometric deficiencies to meet accepted roadway design standards
- Environmental impacts, including natural, social, economic, and cultural resources impacts

The criteria that will be used to evaluate environmental impacts are shown in **Table 2**.

[7] https://www.tn.gov/tdot/build-with-us/transportation-modernization-act.html

[8] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/build-with-us/050525TDOT10YP.pdf

[9] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/three-year-program/FY-25%20Comprehensive%20Multimodal%20Program_4-4-24%20Final.pdf

[10] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/programdevelopment/Tennessee%20STIP%202023-2026%20Final_R%202-28-24.pdf

Table 2. Environmental Criteria for Evaluating Alternatives

Environmental Criteria	Measures
Community/Neighborhood Impacts	• Consistency with local land use plans • Number of residential relocations • Division of neighborhoods • Number and type of community facilities/services impacted • Number of sensitive receptors experiencing impact (noise level equal to or greater than FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC))
Business Impacts	• Number of business relocations • Change in access to existing businesses
Farmland	• Acres of farmland within right-of-way • Percentage of acres of prime farmland within right-of-way • Number and type of farms impacted • Number of farmland parcels divided • Natural Resources Conservation Service form CPA-106 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating
Streams and Wetlands	• Linear feet of stream impacted • Number of streams crossed • Acres of wetlands impacted • Number of wetlands impacted • Number of ponds impacted • Number of springs impacted
Floodplains	• Acres of floodplains/floodways impacted
Threatened and Endangered Species	• Potential impacts to federal and/or state listed/candidate species
Parks and Recreational Resources	• Acres and types of impacts to recreational resources protected under Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) • Potential change in access
Cultural Resources	• Number of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed/eligible historic and/or archaeological sites impacted • Impacts to sites/resources of interest or cultural significance to federally recognized Native American Tribes
Hazardous Materials	• Number of hazardous materials sites impacted
Air Quality	• NAAQS designation • Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs)
Noise	• Number of noise-sensitive land uses impacted
Visual Impacts	• Number of visually sensitive resources impacted • Viewer sensitivity
Reasonably Foreseeable Impacts	• Federal and non-federal activities not yet undertaken, but sufficiently likely to occur, that a responsible official of ordinary prudence would take such activities into account in reaching a decision.

6.0 Project Alternatives and Identified Preliminary Impacts

Alternatives under consideration in the EA include the No-Build Alternative and one Build Alternative.

6.1 No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative would leave the segment of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue to east of SR-87 as it currently exists except for routine maintenance and safety upgrades, as needed, or modifications that have been programmed and approved for implementation through TDOT's 25-Year Long Range Transportation Policy Plan, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), or TDOT 10-Year Project Plan. The No-Build Alternative is required by federal regulations to be evaluated in the EA and provides a baseline for comparing other alternatives.

6.2 Build Alternative

The Build Alternative proposes to widen the existing two 11-foot travel lanes of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County to two 12-foot travel lanes and widen the shoulders from 2-foot shoulders to 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved). To widen the travel lanes in this section of the proposed project, right-of-way would need to be acquired, and the travel lanes would need to be reconstructed primarily to the north side of the existing roadway in the Lauderdale County section and primarily to the south side of the roadway in Haywood County. Also, in this section of the proposed project, the following SR-19 intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Willie Paris Road
- Ross Road/Gause Lane
- Tall Oaks Cove
- Sanford Road/Conner Whitefield Road
- Watson Road/Carney Road
- Springhill Road

From just west of Gill Brackin Road to Nunn Road, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. In this section, the following SR-19 intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Forked Deer Road (SR-180)
- Nunn Road

From Nunn Road to east of Jim Binford Lane, the proposed project would widen the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes with 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved)[11]. In this section, the following SR-19 intersection is proposed to be realigned:

- Jim Binford Lane

From east of Jim Binford Lane to the project terminus east of SR-87, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. Additional right-of-way would be needed to correct erosion/slope issues from approximately 4,351 feet east of Woodlawn Road to approximately 4,411 feet west of Old SR-19 (approximately 1,700 feet) and from approximately 3,417 feet east of Patton Road to approximately 279 feet east of Westpointe Road (approximately 1,800 feet). In this section, the following intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Small Road at SR-19
- Woodlawn Road/Briar Creek Road at SR-19
- Old SR-19 at SR-19

Table 3 provides a summary of the impacts identified in the 2018 CE. The project scope in the section of the proposed project from east of Jim Binford Lane to the project terminus east of SR-87 has been reduced since the 2018 CE was approved. While the scope of the proposed project was reduced, an increased number of potential relocations are anticipated to occur, primarily on the west end of the proposed project, due to the rolling topography. New technical resources studies are being conducted utilizing updated Line and Grade plans that were distributed to TDOT technical sections on July 24, 2025. The findings will be included in the EA.

[11] Previously the project proposed to mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders from west of Gill Bracken Road to the project terminus east of SR-87, as displayed at the February 2025 public meeting and as noted in the April 2025 Coordination package.

Table 3. Summary of Impacts Identified in the 2018 Categorical Exclusion and 2025 Updates

Resource	2018 Impacts	Preliminary 2025 Updates
Relocations	5 residential, 1 business	An updated Conceptual Stage Relocation Plan (CSRP) is being completed based on the current design plans to estimate proposed relocations.
Streams	22 streams (7,650 feet)	Environmental Boundaries Reports (EBR) and updated agency coordination regarding federal or state listed plants or animals and critical habitat have been completed within the proposed project area. For the section of SR-19 from east of Binford Lane to east of SR-87, TDOT commits to perform all tree clearing during the winter season between October 1st and March 31st. With this commitment, it was determined that the proposed project is "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*).
Wetlands	11 wetlands (0.83 acres)	
Threatened/Endangered Species	Suitable summer roosting habitat for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) was identified within project limits. Determination of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" based on TDOT's commitment to implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures. Project was determined to be eligible to be placed under the Range-wide Programmatic Consultation between the FHWA, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the USFWS.	
Floodplains	Not located in a FEMA floodway, floodplain, or study area.	Based on current design plans, a section of the proposed project between Durhamville Road and Red Bird Road is in a 100-year floodplain associated with Cane Creek. A hydraulic analysis has determined that the proposed project would not increase the base flood elevation by more than one foot and that TDOT is in compliance with FEMA standards.
Air Quality	Project in counties that are in attainment for all regulated criteria pollutants.	Project is still in an area is in attainment for all regulated criteria pollutants.
Noise	Project determined to be a Type III project and noise study was not needed.	Project determined to be a Type III project and noise study is not needed.
Farmland	FPPA exemption.	FPPA exemption
Section 4(f) Resources	No 4(f) resources identified.	Project area will be reviewed to confirm if this is still accurate.
Section 6(f) Resources	No 6(f) resources identified.	No 6(f) resources identified.
Historic Resources	One National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible site within the project area. The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) concurred with No Adverse Effect determination.	The historic report will be updated and coordinated with the TN-SHPO, as necessary.
Archaeological Resources	No archaeological resources eligible for listing in the NRHP.	No archaeological resources eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Resource	2018 Impacts	Preliminary 2025 Updates
Native American Consultation (NAC)	NAC was requested on August 10, 2010. The Chickasaw Nation and Shawnee Tribe both responded that there were no known historic properties that would be affected by the proposed project	Coordination with federally recognized Native American Tribes will be updated as necessary.
Hazardous Materials	Asbestos was detected in the deck drains on Bridge No. 38SR0190003, SR-19 over Meridian Creek (LM 8.49). Two old gas stations and a country grocery store were identified as potential Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites.	Previously identified impacts remain the same. No updates necessary.

The following environmental commitments were included in the 2018 CE. They will be reviewed by TDOT, and if still applicable, they will be carried forward into the EA.

- Cliff swallow and barn swallow nests, eggs, or birds (young and adult) will not be disturbed between April 15 and July 31. From August 1 to April 14, nests can be removed or destroyed, and measures implemented to prevent further nest building at the site (e.g. closing off area using netting).
- TDOT has committed to seasonal tree removal on this project. The USFWS has given TDOT a finding of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, provided that tree cutting on this project is conducted between October 15th and March 31st.

7.0 Agency Coordination and Public Involvement

7.1 Agency Coordination

The intent of coordination with federal, state, and local agencies is to cooperatively identify important environmental resources and potential impacts, as well as to resolve issues that could delay the environmental process or that could result in denial of approvals required to implement the proposed project.

On April 11, 2025, TDOT prepared and distributed a Coordination Package to 56 federal, state and local agencies, officials, and organizations. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Memphis District was invited to be both a cooperating and participating agency for this proposed project. The following agencies were invited to be participating agencies in the proposed project:

- USACE Memphis District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- US Department of the Interior, Water Resources Division
- US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- US Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Rural Development State Office
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)
- Tennessee Historical Commission
- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture
- Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
- Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Tennessee Department of Human Services, Family Assistance
- Tennessee Department of Education
- Southwest Tennessee Rural Planning Organization
- West Tennessee Rural Planning Organization

TVA responded and chose not to be a designated participating agency for this proposed project. The Mayor of Ripley responded to the Coordination Package and was in support of the proposed project. No other state or federal agencies responded to the Coordination Package.

7.2 Public Involvement

A public meeting was held for the proposed project on February 27, 2025, at Ripley High School at 254 S. Jefferson Street in Ripley, Tennessee. Sixty-five members of the public signed the sign-in sheets for the meeting. The comment period for the public meeting ended March 20, 2025. During the official comment period, comments were received from 12 commenters. A majority of the comments stated that improvements to SR-19 needed to be made. A majority also noted that they were concerned about impacts to existing development (homes, businesses).

Once FHWA approves the EA document and it is made available for public and agency review, TDOT will hold a NEPA public hearing to formally solicit public comments on the findings presented in the EA and on the recommended Preferred Alternative. As the proposed project progresses, public involvement efforts will be assessed periodically to determine if the methods of communication in use are effective or if adjustments are needed.

For additional information on the proposed agency coordination and public involvement for the SR-19 project, please refer to the proposed project's Coordination and Public Involvement Plan (CPIP).

8.0 Next Steps

Following distribution of this Coordination Point 1 *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated* package, agencies will be provided with a 30-day review and comment period. Comments received will be included in the EA and considered as the proposed project's purpose and need and alternatives to be evaluated are further refined. At the conclusion of the 30-day review and comment period for Coordination Point 1, TDOT will continue finalizing environmental technical studies and move forward with preparation of the EA.

Participating and Cooperating agencies will be provided with the opportunity to review the EA once prepared prior to FHWA approval as part of the Coordination Point 2 *Draft Environmental Assessment* package.

After approval of the EA, agencies will be provided with the opportunity to review the Coordination Point 3 *Preliminary Mitigation Memo* package prior to approval of the final environmental document and selection of the Selected Alternative.

Table 4 provides the anticipated schedule for the completion of the EA and identifies milestones where agency coordination will be requested.

Table 4. Anticipated Agency Coordination Schedule

Anticipated Project Schedule*	
Milestone	**Time Frame****
Coordination Point 1: Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated (Current Action)	Quarter 3 of 2025
Conduct Technical Studies	Through Quarter 4 of 2025
NEPA Public Meeting	Held February 27, 2025
Coordination Point 2: Draft Environmental Assessment	Quarter 1 of 2026
Environmental Assessment Approval/ Notice of Availability	Quarter 1 of 2026
NEPA Public Hearing	Quarter 2 of 2026
Coordination Point 3: Preliminary Mitigation Memo	Quarter 3 of 2026
Approval of Final Environmental Document/ Selection of Selected Alternative***	Quarter 3 of 2026

**Forecasted dates are subject to change.*
***Quarter 1 - January through March*
Quarter 2 - April through June
Quarter 3 - July through September
Quarter 4 - October through December

****Once the final environmental document is approved by the Federal Highway Administration, the Planning and Environmental Phase is complete.*

From:	Braxton Eden
To:	donny.d.davidson@usace.army.mil; gregg.w.williams@usace.army.mil; tennesseees@fws.gov; swilliams@usgs.gov; aaron.friend@usda.gov; Arlisa.Armstrong; Kajumba.Ntale; kmiller@achp.gov; Emma Bartolo; Vincent Pontello; Patrick McIntyre; Jamie Stitt; jeff.aiken@tn.gov; Melanie Beauchamp; Deniece Thomas; Melissa Loggins; Lizzette Reynolds; smerrell@swtdd.org; Karyssa Wilson
Cc:	Erick Hunt-Hawkins; Karoleen Said; Rachel Head; Valerie Birch; Jennifer Banaszak
Subject:	SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date:	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:20:58 AM
Attachments:	Outlook-feefzoq1.png SR-19, PIN 102251.00, Coordination Point 1_FINAL.pdf

---

Good morning,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Your agency was previously identified as having an interest in the proposed project. On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19*.

TDOT is kindly requesting your review and comment on the attached Coordination Point 1 document. We ask that comments be provided by **November 28, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden

Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor

505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243

Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From:	Braxton Eden
To:	Newton, Daniel (FHWA)
Cc:	Erick Hunt-Hawkins; Karoleen Said; Sharon Schutz; Tammy Sellers; Lori Lange; Valerie Birch; Jennifer Banaszak; Russell, Jacinda (FHWA)
Subject:	Re: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1 - Notification of Agency Coordination
Date:	Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:31:49 AM
Attachments:	image001.png Outlook-osskawy3.png

Good morning,

Comment received. We will update the language as requested to identify SR-87 as a Major Collector within the project area.

If you have any further comments or questions, please reach out!

Thank you,

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From: Newton, Daniel (FHWA) <Daniel.Newton@dot.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:04 AM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Sharon Schutz <Sharon.Schutz@tn.gov>; Tammy Sellers <Tammy.Sellers@tn.gov>; Lori Lange <Lori.Lange@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>; Russell, Jacinda (FHWA) <jacinda.russell@dot.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1 - Notification of Agency Coordination

This Message Is From an External Sender
This message came from outside your organization.
Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security

Good morning Braxton,

We have reviewed the provided documentation and have one comment. Please see attached. Let me know if you have any questions.

NOTE: The following comment was provided in the actual CP1 document provided as an attachment: "The functional Classification of SR 87 is a Major Collector, possibly use that or expand connector."

Thank you,

Daniel Newton
(615) 781-5761

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Russell, Jacinda (FHWA) <Jacinda.Russell@dot.gov>; Newton, Daniel (FHWA) <Daniel.Newton@dot.gov>; Poole, Kevonte (FHWA) <kevonte.poole@dot.gov>; Hambrecht, Angelia (FHWA) <angelia.hambrecht@dot.gov>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Schutz, Sharon <sharon.schutz@tn.gov>; Tammy, Sellers <tammy.sellers@tn.gov>; Lori Lange <Lori.Lange@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1 - Notification of Agency Coordination

Some people who received this message don't often get email from braxton.eden@tn.gov. Learn why this is important

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has distributed coordination request letters to the pertinent federal, state, and local agencies as part of the State Route 19 project in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee. The purpose of this email is to provide notice of this coordination and make available copies of the transmitted materials.

Please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19.*

Should the Federal Highway Administration have any comments or concerns, we kindly request that they be received by **November 28, 2025**.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MEMPHIS DISTRICT
167 NORTH MAIN STREET B-202
MEMPHIS, TN 38103-1894

October 30, 2025

Braxton Eden
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Mr. Eden:

This is in response to your Coordination Point #1 Package, Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee received in a letter dated October 29, 2025.

As you requested, this information was reviewed by our office. Based on our review, our office acknowledges that the information provided in the *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated* is adequate. Therefore, our office acknowledges concurrence with the submitted information.

The Memphis District, Regulatory Division is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, we invite you to complete a Customer Service Survey. Your comments, positive or negative, will not affect any current or future dealing with the Corps of Engineers. Survey location: https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/

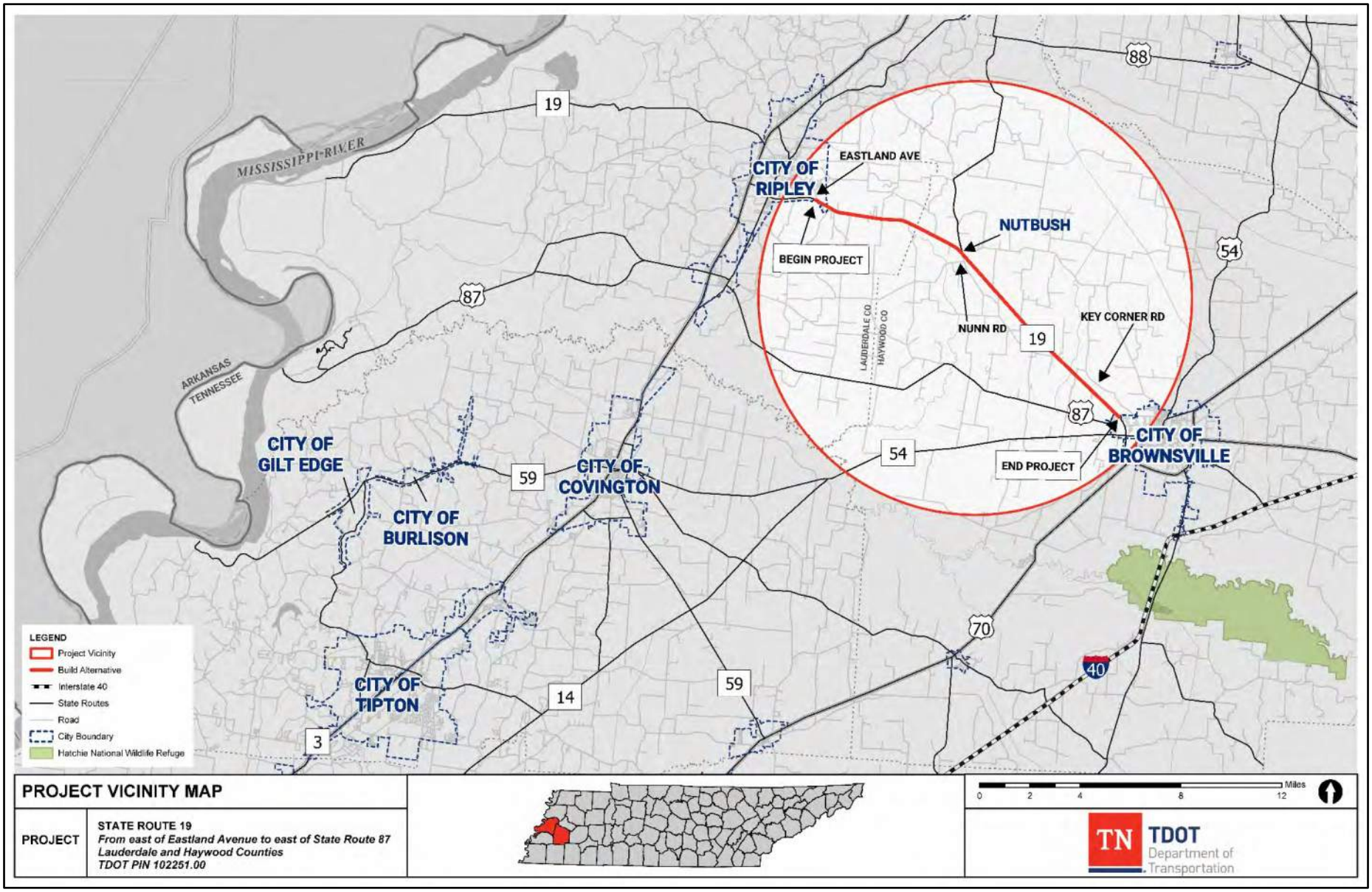
If you have questions, please contact Brandi Harms at (901) 544-0735 and refer to File No. MVM-2025-263.

Sincerely,

Mitch Elcan
Supervisor, Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Figure 1. Project Location



From: Tennessee ES, FWS
To: Braxton Eden
Subject: Automatic reply: [EXTERNAL] SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:22:16 AM

This Message Is From an External Sender
This message came from outside your organization.
Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security

Due to a lack of appropriations funding, office personnel are currently out of the office on furlough and will return once appropriations funding is approved by Congress and the Government returns to normal operation. During this time, we will not have access to government email and will return your message or review your submittal in the order it is recieved when normal operations resume.

Thank you.

From: Williams, Sarah P
To: Braxton Eden
Subject: Automatic reply: [EXTERNAL] SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:22:14 AM

This Message Is From an External Sender
This message came from outside your organization.
Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security

You have reached Sarah Williams. Due to the lapse in appropriations, I am prohibited from conducting work as a Federal employee, including returning phone calls and emails, until further notice. If you urgently need to speak with someone at the USGS regarding emergencies or matters of protecting life and property, call (703) 648-7411 or (703) 648-7412. For more information on the shutdown, please visit the Department of the Interior website at www.doi.gov. Thank you.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Tennessee State Office
675 U.S. Courthouse
801 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

November 25, 2025

Tennessee Department of Transportation
Environmental Division/Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
ATTN: Braxton Eden
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Mr. Eden,

RE: Evaluation of the proposed improvements to State Route 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Thank you for sharing the Coordination Point 1 document, dated October 27, 2025, for our review of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee

A review of the draft EA for this project was completed by the Tennessee-NRCS State Technical Leads and the State Cultural Resources Specialist. Given that there is no NRCS involvement in the project, NRCS has no additional comments and respectfully defers to the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes, and other interested parties concerning the project.

Sincerely,

SHELDON L. HIGHTOWER
State Conservationist

cc: Linda Ortiz, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Nashville, TN

From:	Braxton Eden
To:	linda.ortiz
Cc:	Hightower, Sheldon - FPAC-NRCS, TN; Erick Hunt-Hawkins; Birch, Valerie; Banaszak, Jennifer; Jessica Schlagenhaft; Karoleen Said
Subject:	Re: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date:	Monday, December 1, 2025 9:16:42 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png Outlook-vlbiyi3c.png

Good morning,

Thank you for reviewing the Concurrence Point 1 document for the subject project. TDOT will continue to coordinate with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes, and other interested parties concerning the proposed project as it develops.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please let us know.

Thank you,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden

Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From: Ortiz, Linda - FPAC-NRCS, TN <linda.ortiz@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 5:58 PM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Cc: Hightower, Sheldon - FPAC-NRCS, TN <sheldon.hightower@usda.gov>; Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security

This message is being sent on behalf of Sheldon L. Hightower, Tennessee State Conservationist.

Good evening, Mr. Eden,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed improvements to State Route 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennesse. Attached please find NRCS

response.

Linda I. Ortiz
State Resource Conservationist
Nashville State Office | Ecological Science Division

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
675 U.S. Courthouse, 801 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203
Office: (615)-277-2587 | Mobile: (615)-306-0063
email: linda.ortiz@usda.gov | website: www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:17 PM
To: Hightower, Sheldon - FPAC-NRCS, TN <sheldon.hightower@usda.gov>; Jaynes, Patrick - RD, TN <Patrick.Jaynes@usda.gov>; Andy Holt <Andy.H.Holt@tn.gov>; cpate@swtdd.org; Hannah Walker <hwalker@midsouthdd.org>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Good afternoon,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Your agency was previously identified as having an interest in the proposed project. On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19*.

TDOT is kindly requesting your review and comment on the attached Coordination Point 1 document. We ask that comments be provided by **November 28, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden

Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor

505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243

Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

From:	Braxton Eden
To:	Bowen, Kristina
Cc:	Kajumba.Ntale; Erick Hunt-Hawkins
Subject:	Re: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date:	Monday, November 17, 2025 8:15:45 AM
Attachments:	image001.png Outlook-0jxgpyma.png

Kristina,

Thank you for reviewing the Coordination Point 1 document and providing your concurrence. We will include this concurrence in our Environmental Assessment.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From: Bowen, Kristina <Bowen.Kristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 12:17 PM
To: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Cc: Kajumba.Ntale <Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

This Message Is From an External Sender
This message came from outside your organization.
Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins
TDOT Environmental Division
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900
James K. Polk Building
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: EPA Comments on Coordination Point 1 Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19

Dear Mr. Hunt-Hawkins:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Coordination Point 1 Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route (SR) 19 in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, proposes to widen two travel lanes from 11-foot travel lanes to 12-foot travel lanes with the addition of 10-foot shoulders. TDOT also proposes to realign several intersections.

The purpose of the project is "reduce the rate of severe crashes, improve the roadway to meet current design standards, and meet the legislative intent of the Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads, and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy (IMPROVE) Act". TDOT has requested review of Coordination Point 1. Based on our preliminary review, the EPA concurs with Coordination Point 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Coordination Point 1 for SR-19. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the email below.

Kristina Bowen
NEPA Section
U.S. EPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-562-8399
bowen.kristina@epa.gov

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:21 PM
To: donny.d.davidson@usace.army.mil; gregg.w.williams@usace.army.mil; tennesseees@fws.gov; swilliams@usgs.gov; aaron.friend@usda.gov; Arlisa.Armstrong <Arlisa.Armstrong@usda.gov>; Kajumba, Ntale <Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov>; kmiller@achp.gov; Emma Bartolo <Emma.Bartolo@tn.gov>; Vincent Pontello <Vincent.Pontello@tn.gov>; Patrick McIntyre <Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov>; Jamie Stitt <Jamie.Stitt@tn.gov>; Jeff.Aiken@tn.gov; Melanie Beauchamp <Melanie.Beauchamp@tn.gov>; Deniece Thomas <Deniece.Thomas@tn.gov>; Melissa Loggins <Melissa.Loggins@tn.gov>; Lizzette Reynolds <Lizzette.Reynolds@tn.gov>; smerrell@swtdd.org; Karyssa Wilson <kwilson@midsouthdd.org>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Rachel Head <Rachel.Head@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

You don't often get email from braxton.eden@tn.gov. Learn why this is important

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Good morning,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Your agency was previously identified as having an interest in the proposed project. On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19*.

TDOT is kindly requesting your review and comment on the attached Coordination Point 1 document. We ask that comments be provided by **November 28, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0435

DAVID W. SALYERS, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

November 25, 2025

Via Electronic Mail to Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division
Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Tennessee Department of Transportation:

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Tennessee Department of Transportation's (TDOT) Coordination Point 1 for the State Route (SR) 19 project. The proposed project entails improvements to approximately 15.2 miles of SR-19 in Haywood and Lauderdale Counties including widening the travel lanes from 11 to 12 feet and expanding shoulders from 2 feet to 10 feet. The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the rate of severe crashes, improve the roadway to meet current design standards, and meet the legislative intent of the IMPROVE Act.

TDEC is the environmental and natural resource regulatory agency in Tennessee with delegated responsibility from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate sources of air pollution; solid and hazardous waste; underground storage tanks; and water resources. TDEC has reviewed Coordination Point 1and offers the following comments regarding the Build Alternative:

Division of Air Pollution Control

- **Air Quality Impacts:** Several actions could negatively impact air quality on a short-term basis. TDEC recommends that you evaluate such potential impacts prior to any clearing, demolition, or construction. Such impacts may include, but are not limited to, air pollution from construction equipment, open burning associated with land clearing activities, and fugitive dust. Local air quality conditions are available online at https://www.airnow.gov/.
- **Asbestos:** If this project involves the demolition of structures, be advised that there are federal regulations enforced by the EPA and TDEC's Division of Air Pollution Control regarding asbestos renovation and demolition activity. These regulations apply to any building or structure known to contain asbestos and to any facilities proposed to be demolished. When any structures are proposed to be demolished, an asbestos demolition notification must be provided in advance, and proper pre demolition surveys must be conducted to identify any regulated asbestos containing material (ACM) present. Prior to any building demolition, all facilities must be examined for ACM, and all potential ACM in the buildings proposed for demolition must be

handled and disposed of in accordance with the applicable Federal, state, and local regulations. Tennessee's asbestos regulations can be found in Chapter 1200-03-11 of the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Regulations (TAPCR).

- **Idling:** Truck traffic associated with construction projects generate emissions of PM, CO, NO_2, SO_2, VOC, and CO_2, and TDEC recommends the operation of trucks with up-to-date emission control technologies and proper maintenance to minimize vehicle and equipment emissions. The Department also recommends the adoption of best practices to minimize vehicle idling to minimize the impact of mobile source emissions on ambient air quality.
- **Open Burning:** If disposal of trees or vegetation is necessary during construction, TDEC recommends the evaluation of alternatives to open burning. Tennessee's open burning regulations can be found at https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-03/1200-03-04.pdf.
- **Fugitive Dust:** If fugitive dust will be generated from construction activities, TDEC recommends the use of wet suppression or other measures to minimize the generation of fugitive dust.

General Comments

- For any permitting inquiries, please contact the appropriate TDEC division directly.
- For an understanding of the impact that the clearing of any trees or other natural obstructions may have to rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, please refer to the TDEC's Division of Natural Areas (DNA) Environmental Review webpage.

TDEC appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on Coordination Point 1. Please note that these comments are not indicative of approval or disapproval of the proposed projects or activities contained within. Please contact me should you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Emma Bartolo (Nov 25, 2025 10:12:06 CST)

Emma Bartolo
TDEC, Office of Policy and Planning
Davy Crockett Building, Fifth Floor
500 James Patterson Pkwy,
Nashville, TN 37243
Emma.Bartolo@tn.gov

From:	Braxton Eden
To:	Emma Bartolo
Cc:	Erick Hunt-Hawkins; Jessica Schlagenhaft; Karoleen Said; Birch, Valerie; Banaszak, Jennifer; Benjamin Webb
Subject:	Re: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date:	Wednesday, December 3, 2025 10:25:20 AM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png Outlook-decrigg5.png

Emma,

Thank you for providing your comments on the proposed improvements to SR-19. Please see the below responses to each of the identified resources/comments in your letter:

Air Quality: To mitigate temporary construction-related pollutant emissions, TDOT's construction specifications will apply to this proposed project. Construction procedures will be governed by TDOT's *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*, as amended by the most recent applicable supplements. All construction equipment shall be maintained, repaired, and adjusted to keep it in full satisfactory condition.

Asbestos: In accordance with TDEC Rules Chapter 1200-01-20, ACM abatement work will be performed by an accredited contractor using accredited abatement workers and supervisors. Abatement of these materials should be accomplished per SP202ACM Special Provision Regarding Removal of Asbestos-Containing Material. ACM abatement should be completed prior to any demolition activities if possible. Prior to the demolition or rehabilitation of any structure (bridge or building), the contractor will be required to submit the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants standard 10-day notice of demolition to the TDEC Division of Air Pollution Control (per *TDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction* (January 1, 2021) Sections 107.08 D and 202.03).

Idling: To mitigate temporary construction-related pollutant emissions, TDOT's construction specifications will apply to this project. Construction procedures will be governed by TDOT's *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*, as amended by the most recent applicable supplements. All construction equipment shall be maintained, repaired, and adjusted to keep it in full satisfactory condition.

Open Burning: TDOT will consider disposal of landscape waste material other than open burning. If open burning is necessary, BMPs will be used and TDOT will coordinate with the appropriate agencies per TDOT's *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*, as amended by the most recent applicable supplements.

Fugitive Dust: Construction activities will generate intermittent and temporary construction-related pollutant emissions and dust. Contractor's will be required to follow the procedures in TDOT's *Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction*, as amended by the most recent applicable supplements to minimize construction impacts.

General Comments: TDOT will contact the TDEC division for all permitting inquiries as the proposed project continues to develop. The proposed project has been reviewed by TDOT

Ecology Section staff and it was determined that Condition #1 of the Memorandum of Agreement between TDOT, FHWA, and TDEC-DNA is met resulting in no adverse effects to state listed plant species or their habitats.

TDOT is currently completing the Environmental Assessment for the subject project and will include your comments in the official project record.
If you have any additional comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From: Emma Bartolo <Emma.Bartolo@tn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 1:30 PM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Subject: RE: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached comment letter on behalf of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regarding the proposed improvements to SR 19.

Please note that these comments are not indicative of approval or disapproval of the proposed projects or activities contained within. For any further questions or clarifications, please feel free to contact me at Emma.Bartolo@tn.gov.

I hope you have a great Thanksgiving and extended holiday weekend!

Thank you,
Emma Bartolo

TN Department of Environment & Conservation
Emma Bartolo| Policy Analyst
Office of Policy & Planning

Davy Crockett Tower, 5th Floor
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
c. 432-480-2250
emma.bartolo@tn.gov

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:21 AM
To: donny.d.davidson@usace.army.mil; gregg.w.williams@usace.army.mil; tennesseees@fws.gov; swilliams@usgs.gov; aaron.friend@usda.gov; Arlisa.Armstrong <Arlisa.Armstrong@usda.gov>; Kajumba.Ntale <Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov>; kmiller@achp.gov; Emma Bartolo <Emma.Bartolo@tn.gov>; Vincent Pontello <Vincent.Pontello@tn.gov>; Patrick McIntyre <Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov>; Jamie Stitt <Jamie.Stitt@tn.gov>; Jeff.Aiken@tn.gov; Melanie Beauchamp <Melanie.Beauchamp@tn.gov>; Deniece Thomas <Deniece.Thomas@tn.gov>; Melissa Loggins <Melissa.Loggins@tn.gov>; Lizzette Reynolds <Lizzette.Reynolds@tn.gov>; smerrell@swtdd.org; Karyssa Wilson <kwilson@midsouthdd.org>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Rachel Head <Rachel.Head@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Good morning,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Your agency was previously identified as having an interest in the proposed project. On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19*.

TDOT is kindly requesting your review and comment on the attached Coordination Point 1 document. We ask that comments be provided by **November 28, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
th

James K. Polk Building, 9 Floor
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From:	Brian Yarbro
To:	Braxton Eden
Cc:	Lori Paisley
Subject:	FW: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date:	Thursday, November 6, 2025 1:23:18 PM
Attachments:	Outlook-feefzog1.png image001.png SR-19 PIN 102251.00 Coordination Point 1_FINAL.pdf

---

Braxton,

Good afternoon! I am reaching out to provide you all with feedback from the Department of Education. Please see the comments in the attached document. Please let me know if you have any questions! Thanks!

Brian Yarbro | Senior Director of School Safety & Transportation
Office of Operations - Coordinated School Health
Andrew Johnson Tower, 10th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243
629-259-4952
brian.yarbro@tn.gov
tn.gov/education

#TNBestforAll

We will set all students on a path to success

From: Lizzette Reynolds <Lizzette.Reynolds@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:31 AM
To: Brian Yarbro <Brian.Yarbro@tn.gov>
Cc: Lori Paisley <Lori.Paisley@tn.gov>
Subject: FW: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:21 AM
To: donny.d.davidson@usace.army.mil; gregg.w.williams@usace.army.mil; tennesseees@fws.gov; swilliams@usgs.gov; aaron.friend@usda.gov; Arlisa.Armstrong <Arlisa.Armstrong@usda.gov>; Kajumba.Ntale <Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov>; kmiller@achp.gov; Emma Bartolo <Emma.Bartolo@tn.gov>; Vincent Pontello <Vincent.Pontello@tn.gov>; Patrick McIntyre <Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov>; Jamie Stitt <Jamie.Stitt@tn.gov>; Jeff.Aiken@tn.gov; Melanie Beauchamp <Melanie.Beauchamp@tn.gov>; Deniece Thomas <Deniece.Thomas@tn.gov>; Melissa Loggins <Melissa.Loggins@tn.gov>; Lizzette Reynolds <Lizzette.Reynolds@tn.gov>; smerrell@swtdd.org; Karyssa Wilson <kwilson@midsouthdd.org>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>;

Rachel Head <Rachel.Head@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Good morning,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Your agency was previously identified as having an interest in the proposed project. On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19*.

TDOT is kindly requesting your review and comment on the attached Coordination Point 1 document. We ask that comments be provided by **November 28, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden

Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor

505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243

Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

Coordination Point 1

Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19

From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87
Lauderdale and Haywood Counties, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

October 27, 2025

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Summary of Comments on Coordination Point 1

This page contains no comments

Contents

1.0 Introduction 3
1.1 Project History 3
1.2 Description of Study Area 5
2.0 Logical Termini and Independent Utility 5
3.0 Preliminary Purpose and Need 6
3.1 Increased Percentage of Severe Crashes 6
3.2 Existing Roadway Geometric Deficiencies 6
3.3 SR-19 Inconsistent with the Legislative Intent of the IMPROVE Act and the TMA 7
4.0 Consistency with Other Plans 8
5.0 Criteria for Screening Alternatives 8
6.0 Project Alternatives and Identified Preliminary Impacts 10
6.1 No-Build Alternative 10
6.2 Build Alternative 10
7.0 Agency Coordination and Public Involvement 13
7.1 Agency Coordination 13
7.2 Public Involvement 14
8.0 Next Steps 15

Tables

Table 1. Segment Crash Severity (Crash Year: 2022 to 2024) 7
Table 2. Environmental Criteria for Evaluating Alternatives 9
Table 3. Summary of Impacts Identified in the 2018 Categorical Exclusion and 2025 Updates 12
Table 4. Anticipated Agency Coordination Schedule 16

Figures

Figure 1. Project Location 4

This page contains no comments

1.0 Introduction

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to approximately 15.2 miles of State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (**Figure 1**).[1] Since this project is proposed to be funded in part with federal transportation funds, the proposed project is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in accordance with NEPA to identify and evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and to identify measures to minimize harm.

This document serves as Coordination Point 1 *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated* package, providing agencies with information on the proposed project's preliminary purpose and need and proposed alternatives to be evaluated in the EA[1]. This coordination is done in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 771.119(b) and the optional cooperating and participating agency concept from 23 United States Code (USC) 139(d) as discussed in this proposed project's *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* (CPIP).

1.1 Project History

Since the late 1990s, a number of studies have been conducted to explore potential improvements to SR-19. In February 2018, FHWA approved a D-List Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project. As the design of the proposed project progressed, it became evident that the number of relocations that would be required had increased. After further coordination with FHWA in 2024 regarding the number of potential relocations, an EA was initiated.

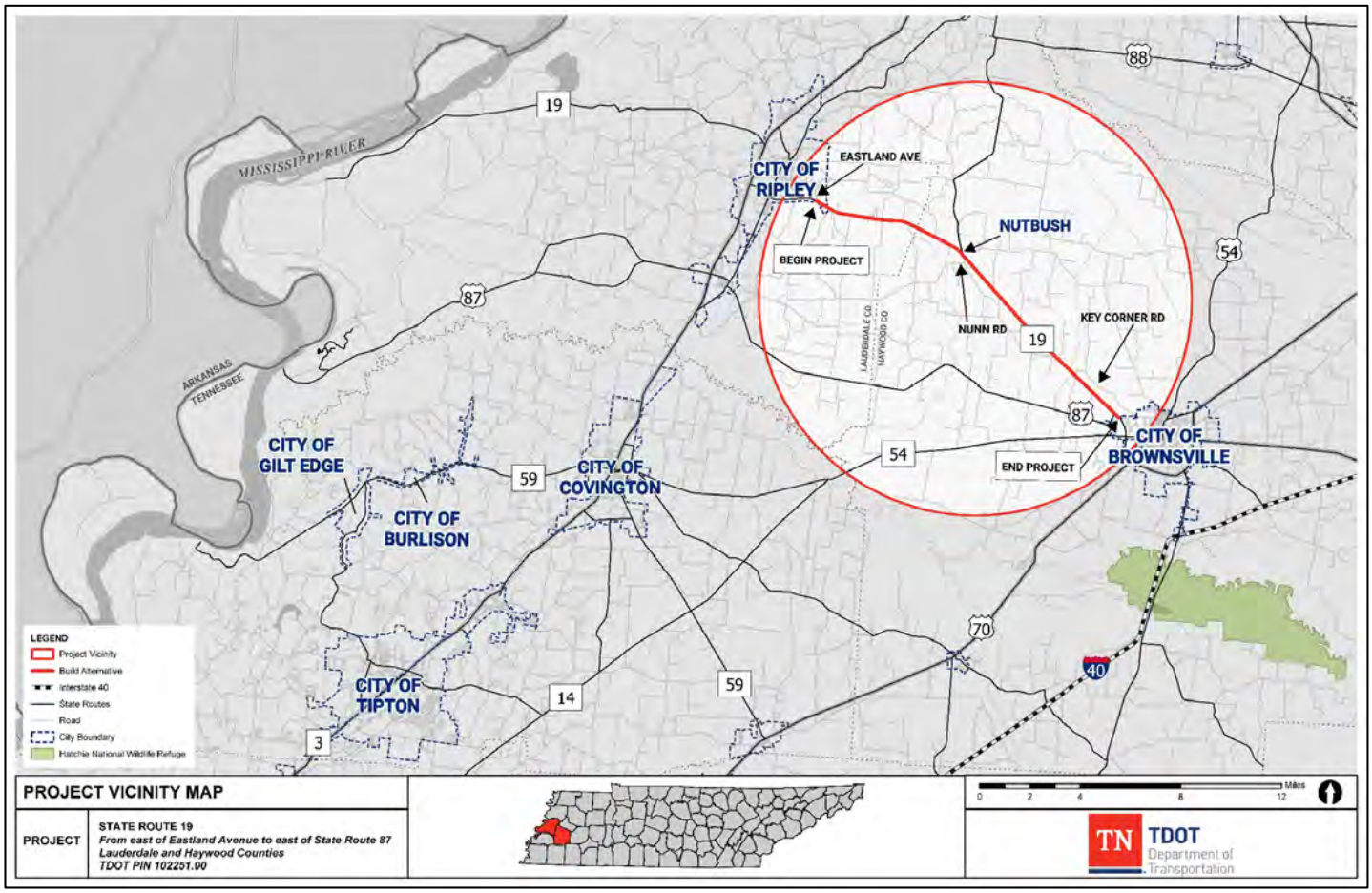
New technical resource studies will be conducted as necessary, and the findings will be included in the EA.

[1] The *Coordination and Public Involvement Plan* incorrectly references Coordination Points as Concurrence Points.

Number: 1 Author: CA21487 Subject: Comment on Text Date: 11/5/2025 2:47:03 PM

TN Department of Education Note: There are no schools that are on SR-19, in which school traffic should not be directly impacted. Haywood Middle School is the closest to the proposed construction site.

Figure 1. Project Location



This page contains no comments

1.2 Description of Study Area

The study area is located in eastern Lauderdale County and western Haywood County between the cities of Ripley to the west and Brownsville to the east. The study area is predominantly rural with mainly agricultural land use. Residential land uses tend to be scattered except near Ripley and Brownsville where residences are more concentrated due to the presence of subdivisions.

SR-19 crosses from Lauderdale County to the west through Haywood County to its terminus at Interstate 40 (I-40) southeast of Brownsville. SR-19 is a two-lane facility except for a short four-lane section as it bypasses Brownsville to the south. Additionally, the major road network in Haywood County consists of SR-54, US-79, US-70/SR-1, with each passing through Brownsville. I-40 passes through Haywood County from south to northeast.

2.0 Logical Termini and Independent Utility

In addition to identifying the proposed project's purpose and need as well as the range of reasonable alternatives to evaluate in an EA, the project sponsor must also establish that the project has "logical termini" and "independent utility". The term "logical termini" means that the proposed project has rational end points for the transportation improvement and for the environmental review process. The proposed SR-19 project begins east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County and ends east of SR-87 in Haywood County. The western terminus of the proposed project would tie into an existing section of SR-19 that matches the proposed project's typical section with two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders. SR-87 at the eastern terminus of the proposed project is a state route and a major roadway in the area that serves as a significant connector.

The term "independent utility" means that the proposed project is useable and satisfies the established purpose and need even if no additional future transportation improvements are made in the area. This proposed project does not depend on any other TDOT projects currently planned to be developed or funded for use, per TDOT's current 10-Year Project Plan[2]. As it is currently planned, should the Build Alternative be selected, it would be a standalone project and fully accessible

[2] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/build-with-us/050525TDOT10YP.pdf

Number: 1 Author: CA21487 Subject: Comment on Text Date: 11/5/2025 2:47:23 PM

TN Department of Education Note: One item of consideration here is the fact that Haywood and Lauderdale County School Districts may need to be notified in advance of the initiative in order to provide ample time for any modification of school bus routing as both districts have transportation services on this roadway on a daily basis.

and functional once complete. The defined study area is of sufficient size to address environmental issues on a broad scope.

3.0 Preliminary Purpose and Need[3]

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Reduce the rate of severe crashes
- Improve the roadway to meet current design standards
- Meet the legislative intent of the IMPROVE Act

The following preliminary needs have been identified and are discussed below:

3.1 Increased Percentage of Severe Crashes

Results of a crash analysis conducted for the proposed project based on data along SR-19 within the study area between November 19, 2021, and November 19, 2024, indicate that while no unfavorable characteristics of the roadway contribute to the overall crash rate, the percentage of suspected serious injury and fatal crashes is higher than the statewide percentage.

Table 1 shows that the percentage of fatal crashes are higher along all of the traffic study segments than the state-wide percentages. The percentage of suspected serious injury crashes are also higher than that of the state-wide average on SR-19 from Eastland Avenue to Gill Brackin Road, from Nunn Road to Jim Binford Lane, and from Jim Binford Lane to SR-87.

3.2 Existing Roadway Geometric Deficiencies

SR-19 is classified by TDOT as a Minor Arterial roadway. The existing roadway within the proposed project limits consists of two 11-foot travel lanes (one lane in each direction) with zero to 2-foot outside shoulders. According to the FHWA Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria and Procedures 2023 Edition[4], it is recommended that Minor Arterial roadways include 10- to 12-foot lane widths with 4- to 8-foot outside shoulders. The existing SR-19 roadway configuration within the limits of the proposed project does not meet current design standards for a Minor Arterial roadway.

[3] Note that the purpose and need could be refined through public and agency coordination efforts.

[4] https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/hwy-functional-classification-2023.pdf

Page: 6

Number: 1 Author: CA21487 Subject: Comment on Text Date: 11/5/2025 2:36:05 PM

TN Department of Education Note: Expansion of the roadway in regards to shoulders would greatly benefit the safety of student transportation via a school bus as it allows for more room to avoid crashes.

There are also portions of this roadway that have steep drainage ditches that increase the potential for school bus rollover accidents due to the limited shoulder space available.

Table 1. Segment Crash Severity (Crash Year: 2022 to 2024)

Crash Severity Designation	SR-19, from Eastland Avenue to Gill Brackin Road		SR-19, from Gill Brackin Road to Nunn Road		SR-19, from Nunn Road to Jim Binford Lane		SR-19, Jim Binford Lane to SR-87		TN State Routes	
	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes	Number of Crashes	Percent of Crashes
Fatal	2	4.08%	1	33.33%	1	16.67%	1	3.23%	1,840	0.76%
Suspected Serious Injury[1]	2	4.08%	0	0.00%	1	16.67%	1	3.23%	7,071	2.92%
Suspected Minor Injury[1]	9	18.37%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	9.68%	25,539	10.55%
Possible Injury	5	10.20%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	6.45%	25,869	10.69%
Property Damage Only	31	63.27%	2	33.33%	4	66.67%	24	77.42%	181,745	75.08%
Total	**49**	**100%**	**3**	**100%**	**6**	**100%**	**31**	**100%**	**246,911**	**100%**

[1]Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC)6th Edition

3.3 SR-19 Inconsistent with the Legislative Intent of the IMPROVE Act and the TMA

The "Improving Manufacturing, Public Roads, and Opportunities for a Vibrant Economy" (IMPROVE) Act[5] was signed into law on April 26, 2017, and went into effect on July 1, 2017. One of the main goals of the IMPROVE Act is *"providing a safe, reliable, and debt-free transportation network… [to] ensure the next generation of Tennesseans will have a robust transportation system"* (Governor Haslam, 2018)[6]. A section of the proposed project from east of Eastland Avenue to the Haywood County line has been identified as an IMPROVE Act project (IMPROVE Act Project 585) and would meet the legislative intent of the IMPROVE Act by improving an important infrastructure facility in Haywood County.

[5] https://legiscan.com/TN/text/HB0534/id/1802326

[6] https://www.tn.gov/former-governor-haslam/news/2018/1/4/haslam-announces-major-awarding-of-improve-act-transportation-projects--largest-bidding-process-in-state-history.html

This page contains no comments

Additionally, there is a need to meet the legislative intent of the 2023 Transportation Modernization Act (TMA)[7], which was signed into law and became effective on April 17, 2023. One of the main goals of the TMA is to provide the state with innovative tools to address traffic congestion, especially near urban areas, freeing up funding to invest in rural and suburban communities without raising the gas tax or taking on debt. The proposed project is anticipated to be partially funded through the TMA. The proposed project is also included in TDOT's current 10-Year Project Plan.

4.0 Consistency with Other Plans

The proposed project is consistent with state, regional, and local planning and economic development efforts. The project is currently listed in TDOT's 10-Year Project Plan (dated December 18, 2023)[8], 2025-2027 Three-Year Program[9], and 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)[10] (STIP numbers 23002019052, 23002019045, 23002019046).

5.0 Criteria for Screening Alternatives

Proposed alternatives will be evaluated based on:

- Ability to address the proposed project's purpose and need
  - Reduction in possible injury or more severe crashes
  - Correction of geometric deficiencies to meet accepted roadway design standards
- Environmental impacts, including natural, social, economic, and cultural resources impacts

The criteria that will be used to evaluate environmental impacts are shown in **Table 2**.

[7] https://www.tn.gov/tdot/build-with-us/transportation-modernization-act.html

[8] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/build-with-us/050525TDOT10YP.pdf

[9] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/three-year-program/FY-25%20Comprehensive%20Multimodal%20Program_4-4-24%20Final.pdf

[10] https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/programdevelopment/Tennessee%20STIP%202023-2026%20Final_R%202-28-24.pdf

This page contains no comments

Table 2. Environmental Criteria for Evaluating Alternatives

Environmental Criteria	Measures
Community/Neighborhood Impacts	• Consistency with local land use plans • Number of residential relocations • Division of neighborhoods • Number and type of community facilities/services impacted • Number of sensitive receptors experiencing impact (noise level equal to or greater than FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC))
Business Impacts	• Number of business relocations • Change in access to existing businesses
Farmland	• Acres of farmland within right-of-way • Percentage of acres of prime farmland within right-of-way • Number and type of farms impacted • Number of farmland parcels divided • Natural Resources Conservation Service form CPA-106 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating
Streams and Wetlands	• Linear feet of stream impacted • Number of streams crossed • Acres of wetlands impacted • Number of wetlands impacted • Number of ponds impacted • Number of springs impacted
Floodplains	• Acres of floodplains/floodways impacted
Threatened and Endangered Species	• Potential impacts to federal and/or state listed/candidate species
Parks and Recreational Resources	• Acres and types of impacts to recreational resources protected under Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) • Potential change in access
Cultural Resources	• Number of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed/eligible historic and/or archaeological sites impacted • Impacts to sites/resources of interest or cultural significance to federally recognized Native American Tribes
Hazardous Materials	• Number of hazardous materials sites impacted
Air Quality	• NAAQS designation • Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs)
Noise	• Number of noise-sensitive land uses impacted
Visual Impacts	• Number of visually sensitive resources impacted • Viewer sensitivity
Reasonably Foreseeable Impacts	• Federal and non-federal activities not yet undertaken, but sufficiently likely to occur, that a responsible official of ordinary prudence would take such activities into account in reaching a decision.

This page contains no comments

6.0 Project Alternatives and Identified Preliminary Impacts

Alternatives under consideration in the EA include the No-Build Alternative and one Build Alternative.

6.1 No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative would leave the segment of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue to east of SR-87 as it currently exists except for routine maintenance and safety upgrades, as needed, or modifications that have been programmed and approved for implementation through TDOT's 25-Year Long Range Transportation Policy Plan, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), or TDOT 10-Year Project Plan. The No-Build Alternative is required by federal regulations to be evaluated in the EA and provides a baseline for comparing other alternatives.

6.2 Build Alternative

The Build Alternative proposes to widen the existing two 11-foot travel lanes of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County to two 12-foot travel lanes and widen the shoulders from 2-foot shoulders to 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved). To widen the travel lanes in this section of the proposed project, right-of-way would need to be acquired, and the travel lanes would need to be reconstructed primarily to the north side of the existing roadway in the Lauderdale County section and primarily to the south side of the roadway in Haywood County. Also, in this section of the proposed project, the following SR-19 intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Willie Paris Road
- Ross Road/Gause Lane
- Tall Oaks Cove
- Sanford Road/Conner Whitefield Road
- Watson Road/Carney Road
- Springhill Road

This page contains no comments

From just west of Gill Brackin Road to Nunn Road, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. In this section, the following SR-19 intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Forked Deer Road (SR-180)
- Nunn Road

From Nunn Road to east of Jim Binford Lane, the proposed project would widen the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes with 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved)[11]. In this section, the following SR-19 intersection is proposed to be realigned:

- Jim Binford Lane

From east of Jim Binford Lane to the project terminus east of SR-87, the proposed project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders. Additional right-of-way would be needed to correct erosion/slope issues from approximately 4,351 feet east of Woodlawn Road to approximately 4,411 feet west of Old SR-19 (approximately 1,700 feet) and from approximately 3,417 feet east of Patton Road to approximately 279 feet east of Westpointe Road (approximately 1,800 feet). In this section, the following intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Small Road at SR-19
- Woodlawn Road/Briar Creek Road at SR-19
- Old SR-19 at SR-19

Table 3 provides a summary of the impacts identified in the 2018 CE. The project scope in the section of the proposed project from east of Jim Binford Lane to the project terminus east of SR-87 has been reduced since the 2018 CE was approved. While the scope of the proposed project was reduced, an increased number of potential relocations are anticipated to occur, primarily on the west end of the proposed project, due to the rolling topography. New technical resources studies are being conducted utilizing updated Line and Grade plans that were distributed to TDOT technical sections on July 24, 2025. The findings will be included in the EA.

[11] Previously the project proposed to mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders from west of Gill Bracken Road to the project terminus east of SR-87, as displayed at the February 2025 public meeting and as noted in the April 2025 Coordination package.

This page contains no comments

Table 3. Summary of Impacts Identified in the 2018 Categorical Exclusion and 2025 Updates

Resource	2018 Impacts	Preliminary 2025 Updates
Relocations	5 residential, 1 business	An updated Conceptual Stage Relocation Plan (CSRP) is being completed based on the current design plans to estimate proposed relocations.
Streams	22 streams (7,650 feet)	Environmental Boundaries Reports (EBR) and updated agency coordination regarding federal or state listed plants or animals and critical habitat have been completed within the proposed project area. For the section of SR-19 from east of Binford Lane to east of SR-87, TDOT commits to perform all tree clearing during the winter season between October 1st and March 31st. With this commitment, it was determined that the proposed project is "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*).
Wetlands	11 wetlands (0.83 acres)	
Threatened/Endangered Species	Suitable summer roosting habitat for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) was identified within project limits. Determination of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" based on TDOT's commitment to implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures. Project was determined to be eligible to be placed under the Range-wide Programmatic Consultation between the FHWA, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the USFWS.	
Floodplains	Not located in a FEMA floodway, floodplain, or study area.	Based on current design plans, a section of the proposed project between Durhamville Road and Red Bird Road is in a 100-year floodplain associated with Cane Creek. A hydraulic analysis has determined that the proposed project would not increase the base flood elevation by more than one foot and that TDOT is in compliance with FEMA standards.
Air Quality	Project in counties that are in attainment for all regulated criteria pollutants.	Project is still in an area is in attainment for all regulated criteria pollutants.
Noise	Project determined to be a Type III project and noise study was not needed.	Project determined to be a Type III project and noise study is not needed.
Farmland	FPPA exemption.	FPPA exemption
Section 4(f) Resources	No 4(f) resources identified.	Project area will be reviewed to confirm if this is still accurate.
Section 6(f) Resources	No 6(f) resources identified.	No 6(f) resources identified.
Historic Resources	One National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible site within the project area. The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office (TN-SHPO) concurred with No Adverse Effect determination.	The historic report will be updated and coordinated with the TN-SHPO, as necessary.
Archaeological Resources	No archaeological resources eligible for listing in the NRHP.	No archaeological resources eligible for listing in the NRHP.

This page contains no comments

Resource	2018 Impacts	Preliminary 2025 Updates
Native American Consultation (NAC)	NAC was requested on August 10, 2010. The Chickasaw Nation and Shawnee Tribe both responded that there were no known historic properties that would be affected by the proposed project	Coordination with federally recognized Native American Tribes will be updated as necessary.
Hazardous Materials	Asbestos was detected in the deck drains on Bridge No. 38SR0190003, SR-19 over Meridian Creek (LM 8.49). Two old gas stations and a country grocery store were identified as potential Underground Storage Tank (UST) sites.	Previously identified impacts remain the same. No updates necessary.

The following environmental commitments were included in the 2018 CE. They will be reviewed by TDOT, and if still applicable, they will be carried forward into the EA.

- Cliff swallow and barn swallow nests, eggs, or birds (young and adult) will not be disturbed between April 15 and July 31. From August 1 to April 14, nests can be removed or destroyed, and measures implemented to prevent further nest building at the site (e.g. closing off area using netting).
- TDOT has committed to seasonal tree removal on this project. The USFWS has given TDOT a finding of "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat, provided that tree cutting on this project is conducted between October 15th and March 31st.

7.0 Agency Coordination and Public Involvement

7.1 Agency Coordination

The intent of coordination with federal, state, and local agencies is to cooperatively identify important environmental resources and potential impacts, as well as to resolve issues that could delay the environmental process or that could result in denial of approvals required to implement the proposed project.

This page contains no comments

On April 11, 2025, TDOT prepared and distributed a Coordination Package to 56 federal, state and local agencies, officials, and organizations. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Memphis District was invited to be both a cooperating and participating agency for this proposed project. The following agencies were invited to be participating agencies in the proposed project:

- USACE Memphis District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- US Department of the Interior, Water Resources Division
- US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- US Department of Agriculture, Tennessee Rural Development State Office
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)
- Tennessee Historical Commission
- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture
- Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
- Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Tennessee Department of Human Services, Family Assistance
- Tennessee Department of Education
- Southwest Tennessee Rural Planning Organization
- West Tennessee Rural Planning Organization

TVA responded and chose not to be a designated participating agency for this proposed project. The Mayor of Ripley responded to the Coordination Package and was in support of the proposed project. No other state or federal agencies responded to the Coordination Package.

7.2 Public Involvement

A public meeting was held for the proposed project on February 27, 2025, at Ripley High School at 254 S. Jefferson Street in Ripley, Tennessee. Sixty-five members of the public signed the sign-in sheets for the meeting. The comment period for the public meeting ended March 20, 2025. During the official comment period, comments were received from 12 commenters. A majority of the comments stated that improvements to SR-19 needed to be made. A majority also noted that they were concerned about impacts to existing development (homes, businesses).

This page contains no comments

Once FHWA approves the EA document and it is made available for public and agency review, TDOT will hold a NEPA public hearing to formally solicit public comments on the findings presented in the EA and on the recommended Preferred Alternative. As the proposed project progresses, public involvement efforts will be assessed periodically to determine if the methods of communication in use are effective or if adjustments are needed.

For additional information on the proposed agency coordination and public involvement for the SR-19 project, please refer to the proposed project's Coordination and Public Involvement Plan (CPIP).

8.0 Next Steps

Following distribution of this Coordination Point 1 *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated* package, agencies will be provided with a 30-day review and comment period. Comments received will be included in the EA and considered as the proposed project's purpose and need and alternatives to be evaluated are further refined. At the conclusion of the 30-day review and comment period for Coordination Point 1, TDOT will continue finalizing environmental technical studies and move forward with preparation of the EA.

Participating and Cooperating agencies will be provided with the opportunity to review the EA once prepared prior to FHWA approval as part of the Coordination Point 2 *Draft Environmental Assessment* package.

After approval of the EA, agencies will be provided with the opportunity to review the Coordination Point 3 *Preliminary Mitigation Memo* package prior to approval of the final environmental document and selection of the Selected Alternative.

Table 4 provides the anticipated schedule for the completion of the EA and identifies milestones where agency coordination will be requested.

This page contains no comments

Table 4. Anticipated Agency Coordination Schedule

Anticipated Project Schedule*	
Milestone	**Time Frame****
Coordination Point 1: Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated (Current Action)	Quarter 3 of 2025
Conduct Technical Studies	Through Quarter 4 of 2025
NEPA Public Meeting	Held February 27, 2025
Coordination Point 2: Draft Environmental Assessment	Quarter 1 of 2026
Environmental Assessment Approval/ Notice of Availability	Quarter 1 of 2026
NEPA Public Hearing	Quarter 2 of 2026
Coordination Point 3: Preliminary Mitigation Memo	Quarter 3 of 2026
Approval of Final Environmental Document/ Selection of Selected Alternative***	Quarter 3 of 2026

**Forecasted dates are subject to change.*
***Quarter 1 - January through March*
Quarter 2 - April through June
Quarter 3 - July through September
Quarter 4 - October through December

****Once the final environmental document is approved by the Federal Highway Administration, the Planning and Environmental Phase is complete.*

This page contains no comments

From:	Brian Yarbro
To:	Braxton Eden
Cc:	Lori Paisley; Erick Hunt-Hawkins; Karoleen Said; Valerie Birch; Jennifer Banaszak
Subject:	RE: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date:	Friday, November 7, 2025 9:20:01 AM
Attachments:	image003.png image004.png image001.png

Thanks!

Brian Yarbro | Senior Director of School Safety & Transportation
Office of Operations - Coordinated School Health
Andrew Johnson Tower, 10th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243
629-259-4952
brian.yarbro@tn.gov
tn.gov/education

#TNBestforAll

We will set all students on a path to success

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 9:17 AM
To: Brian Yarbro <Brian.Yarbro@tn.gov>
Cc: Lori Paisley <Lori.Paisley@tn.gov>; Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: Re: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Hi Brian,

Thank you for your comments on the Coordination Point document. We will ensure that they are included in our Environmental Assessment.

In response to your comment on bus routing through the project area, we confirmed with the Project Manager that the proposed SR-19 project will comply with the TDOT Work Zone Design Manual (2022) to ensure all relevant stakeholders—including nearby school districts—are notified of any construction activities that could affect existing school bus routes within the project area.

If you have any further comments or questions, please reach out!

Thank you,

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From: Brian Yarbro <Brian.Yarbro@tn.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 6, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Cc: Lori Paisley <Lori.Paisley@tn.gov>
Subject: FW: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Braxton,

Good afternoon! I am reaching out to provide you all with feedback from the Department of Education. Please see the comments in the attached document. Please let me know if you have any questions! Thanks!

Brian Yarbro | Senior Director of School Safety & Transportation
Office of Operations - Coordinated School Health
Andrew Johnson Tower, 10th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243
629-259-4952
brian.yarbro@tn.gov
tn.gov/education
#TNBestforAll

We will set all students on a path to success

From: Lizzette Reynolds <Lizzette.Reynolds@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:31 AM
To: Brian Yarbro <Brian.Yarbro@tn.gov>
Cc: Lori Paisley <Lori.Paisley@tn.gov>
Subject: FW: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 11:21 AM
To: donny.d.davidson@usace.army.mil; gregg.w.williams@usace.army.mil; tennesseees@fws.gov; swilliams@usgs.gov; aaron.friend@usda.gov; Arlisa.Armstrong <Arlisa.Armstrong@usda.gov>;

Kajumba.Ntale <Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov>; kmiller@achp.gov; Emma Bartolo <Emma.Bartolo@tn.gov>; Vincent Pontello <Vincent.Pontello@tn.gov>; Patrick McIntyre <Patrick.McIntyre@tn.gov>; Jamie Stitt <Jamie.Stitt@tn.gov>; Jeff.Aiken@tn.gov; Melanie Beauchamp <Melanie.Beauchamp@tn.gov>; Deniece Thomas <Deniece.Thomas@tn.gov>; Melissa Loggins <Melissa.Loggins@tn.gov>; Lizzette Reynolds <Lizzette.Reynolds@tn.gov>; smerrell@swtdd.org; Karyssa Wilson <kwilson@midsouthdd.org>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Rachel Head <Rachel.Head@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Good morning,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Your agency was previously identified as having an interest in the proposed project. On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19*.

TDOT is kindly requesting your review and comment on the attached Coordination Point 1 document. We ask that comments be provided by **November 28, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden

Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor

505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243

Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From:	Braxton Eden
To:	Chris Pate
Cc:	Tom Skehan; Erick Hunt-Hawkins; Karoleen Said; Valerie Birch; Jennifer Banaszak
Subject:	RE: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1
Date:	Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:52:24 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Chris,

Thank you for your review and determination. We will make sure these comments are accommodated within our Environmental Assessment.

Thank you,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden

Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From: Chris Pate <cpate@swtdd.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Cc: Tom Skehan <tskehan@swtdd.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security

I looked at floodplain management references and rural connections (in Haywood County and Lauderdale) yesterday and do not have any comments or concerns.

Chris Pate, Southwest Tennessee Development District Regional Planner and Rural Planning Organization Coordinator

102 East College Street

Jackson, TN 38301

Telephone: (731) 668-6430 Fax: (731) 668-6421

Mobile: (731) 225-7325

Email: cpate@swtdd.org

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2025 9:23 AM
To: Chris Pate <cpate@swtdd.org>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: RE: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Chris,

Thank you for your review of the document. If you need anything else, please reach out!

Thank you,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section

Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

From: Chris Pate <cpate@swtdd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:42 PM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

I received the document and am reviewing for any concerns.

Chris Pate, Southwest Tennessee Development District Regional Planner and Rural Planning Organization Coordinator

102 East College Street

Jackson, TN 38301

Telephone: (731) 668-6430 Fax: (731) 668-6421

Mobile: (731) 225-7325

Email: cpate@swtdd.org

From: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:16 PM
To: sheldon.hightower@usda.gov <sheldon.hightower@usda.gov>; Patrick.Jaynes@usda.gov <Patrick.Jaynes@usda.gov>; Andy Holt <Andy.H.Holt@tn.gov>; Chris Pate <cpate@swtdd.org>; Hannah Walker <hwalker@midsouthdd.org>
Cc: Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Karoleen Said <Karoleen.Said@tn.gov>; Valerie Birch <Valerie.Birch@tn.gov>; Jennifer Banaszak <Jennifer.Banaszak@tn.gov>
Subject: SR-19, Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee, PIN 102251.00 - Coordination Point 1

Good afternoon,

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood County, Tennessee.

Your agency was previously identified as having an interest in the proposed project. On behalf of Erick Hunt-Hawkins, please see the attached Coordination Point 1: *Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Evaluated for State Route 19*.

TDOT is kindly requesting your review and comment on the attached Coordination Point 1 document. We ask that comments be provided by **November 28, 2025**.

If your agency requires additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you in advance,

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Braxton Eden
Environmental Division | Environmental Quality and NEPA Section
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 900, Nashville, TN 37243
Email: Braxton.Eden@tn.gov

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 PUBLIC MEETING

State Route 19

From East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to East of State Route 87 in Haywood County, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

Public Meeting Summary

Summary of Public Comments from the February 27, 2025, Public Meeting and Comment Period (February 27, 2025 through March 20, 2025)

TDOT
Department of Transportation

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction 3
2.0 Alternatives Under Consideration 5
2.1 No-Build Alternative 5
2.2 Build Alternative 5
3.0 Public Meeting 7
3.1 Notification of the February 27, 2025, Public Meeting 7
3.2 Description of the February 27, 2025, Public Meeting 7
3.3 Methods for Public Comment 9
3.4 Public Comment Summary 10
4.0 Future Public Engagement 12
4.1 Notice of Availability 12
4.2 Public Hearing 12

List of Figures

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map 4
Figure 2. Proposed Build Alternative 6
Figure 3. QR Code 9

List of Tables

Table 1. February 27, 2025, Public Meeting - Total Comments Received by Comment Method 10
Table 2. Comment received by Comment Card, Online Comment Card and Telephone for February 27, 2025 Public Meeting 10

Appendices

Appendix A February 27, 2025, Public Meeting Materials
Appendix B February 27, 2025, Comments Received

1.0 Introduction

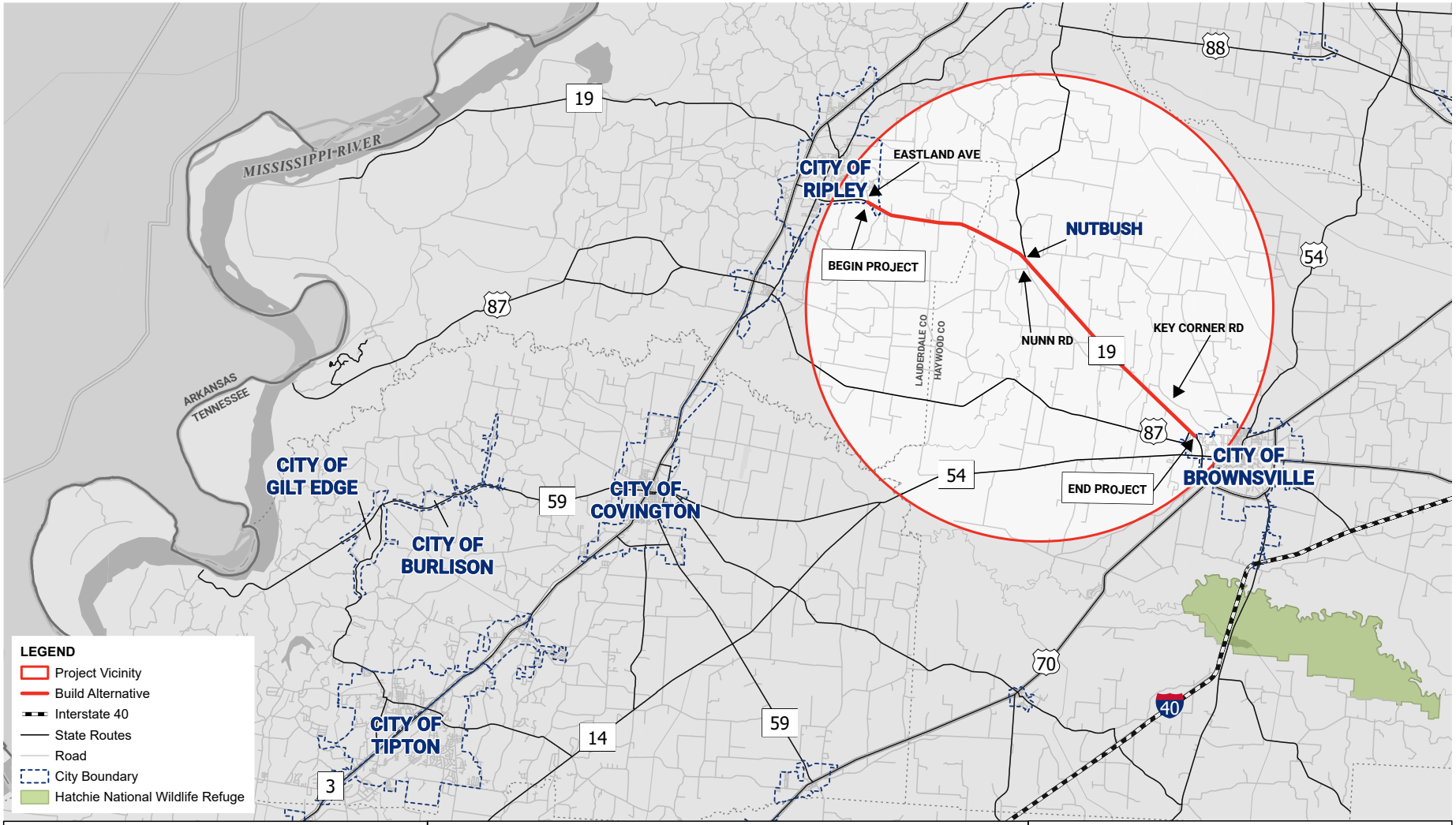
The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to widen and realign State Route (SR) 19 from East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to East of SR 87 in Haywood County, Tennessee (**Figure 1**).

Because the proposed project involves the use of federal funds, the project is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).[1] TDOT and FHWA are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with NEPA to identify and evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and to identify measures to minimize harm.

This Public Meeting Summary has been prepared by TDOT to document the public engagement efforts completed for the SR-19 project through March 20, 2025.

1 https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-10352/pdf/COMPS-10352.pdf

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map



2.0 Alternatives Under Consideration

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

2.1 No-Build Alternative

In accordance with the implementing regulations for NEPA, the No-Build Alternative has been retained for detailed study and serves as a benchmark for comparison with the Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative would retain the existing state route and roadway configuration throughout the SR-19 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.

2.2 Build Alternative[5]

The proposed Build Alternative (**Figure 2**) would widen the two existing 11-foot travel lanes of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County to two 12-foot travel lanes and widen the shoulders from 2-foot shoulders to 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved). Along this section of the proposed project, the following intersections are proposed to be realigned:

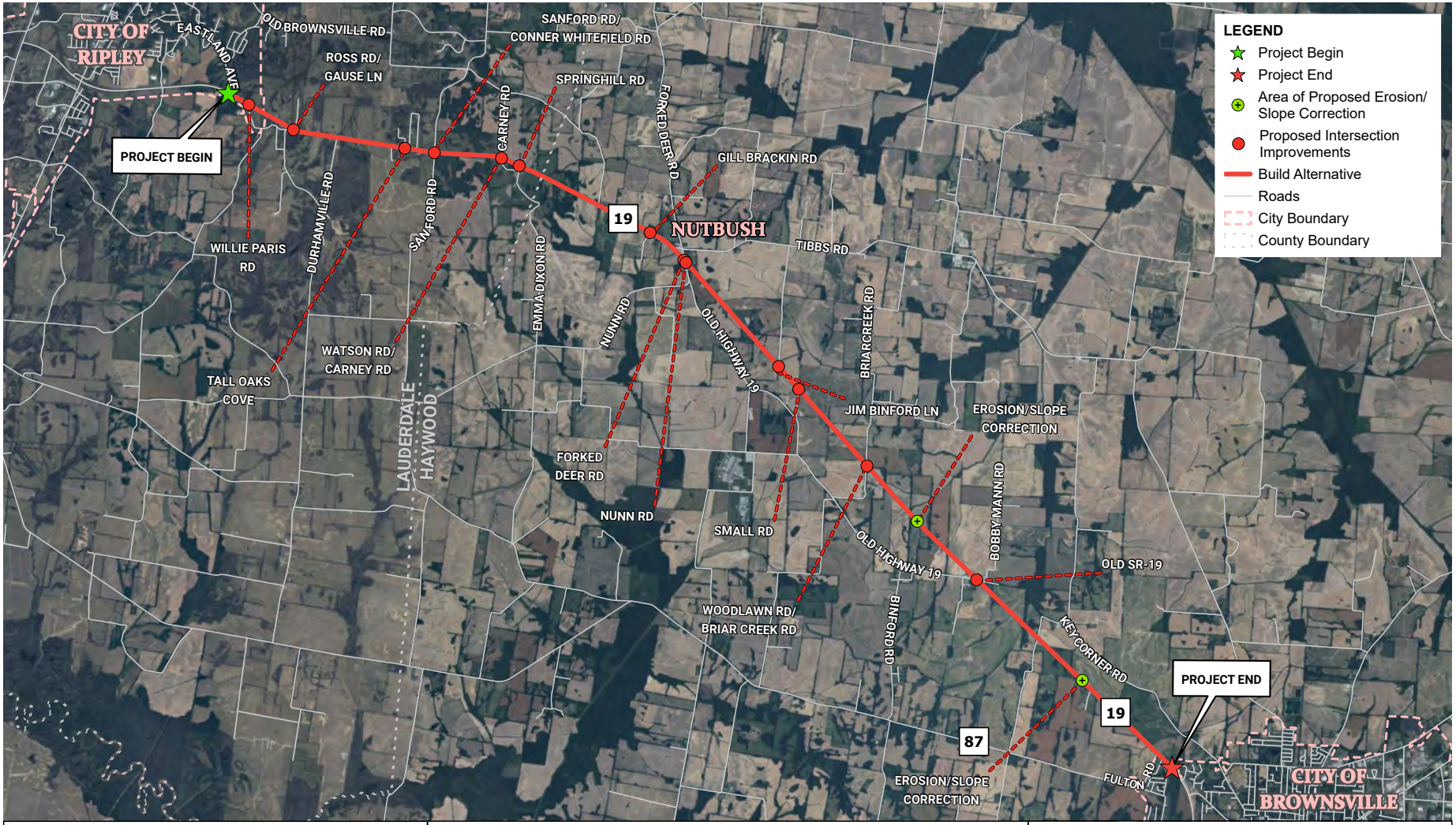
- Willie Paris Road at SR-19
- Ross Road/Gause Lane at SR-19
- Tall Oaks Cove at SR-19
- Sanford Road/
  Conner Whitefield Road at SR-19
- Watson Road/Carney Road at SR-19
- Springhill Road at SR-19

Additionally, from just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project end east of SR-87, the proposed Build Alternative would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct erosion and slope issues in two locations, and would realign the following intersections:

- Forked Deer Road at SR-19
- Nunn Road at SR-19
- Jim Binford Lane at SR-19
- Small Road at SR-19
- Woodlawn Road/Briar Creek Road at SR-19
- Old SR-19 at SR-19

2 https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/25-year-transportation-policy-plan.html
3 https://www.tn.gov/tdot/program-development-and-administration-home/program-development-and-administration-state-programs.html
4 https://www.tn.gov/tdot/build-with-us.html
5 Since the February 27, 2025 public meeting and subsequent comment period, TDOT has revised the design of the proposed project. This document reflects the design of the proposed project as presented during the February public meeting. The current proposed project design will be evaluated in the EA and the public will be solicited for comment during future public outreach.

Figure 2. Proposed Build Alternative



PROPOSED BUILD ALTERNATIVE	
PROJECT	STATE ROUTE 19 *From east of Eastland Avenue to east of State Route 87* *Lauderdale and Haywood Counties* *TDOT PIN 102251.00*

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

3.0 Public Meeting

In order to meet the intent of NEPA and develop an EA, TDOT held a public meeting on February 27, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. CST to 7:00 p.m. CST at the Ripley High School Cafeteria at 254 S. Jefferson Street in Ripley, Tennessee to provide an opportunity for the public to speak to TDOT representatives and ask questions about the proposed project and current NEPA effort as well as review design plans associated with the Build Alternative.

3.1 Notification of the February 27, 2025, Public Meeting

The February 27, 2025 public meeting was publicized in several ways:

- A public meeting postcard was mailed to property owners adjacent to the project area on February 12, 2025;
- A public notice was posted to TDOT's SR-19 website;[6]
- A public notice was advertised in *The Brownsville States-Graphic* on February 19, 2025; and
- A public notice was advertised in the *Lauderdale County Enterprise* on February 20, 2025.

Copies of the public notices and the meeting postcard are included in **Appendix A**.

3.2 Description of the February 27, 2025, Public Meeting

The meeting included a sign-in table, a PowerPoint presentation, and displays showing the proposed Build Alternative. As participants arrived, they were asked to sign in and pick up a meeting handout and comment card. TDOT representatives were available to answer any questions.

A total of 65 members of the public signed the sign-in sheet for the public meeting. Nineteen TDOT representatives/consultants attended the public meeting.

The following sections further describe elements of the public meeting.

Sign-In and Informational Handout

As each member of the public arrived, they were asked to sign in and were provided an informational handout. The four-page handout provided the following:

- High-level description of the proposed project
- Project location map
- Preliminary purpose and need for the proposed project
- Description of the proposed project alternatives
- Draft project schedule
- Information on how to submit a comment
- Information on TDOT's right-of-way and relocation process

A copy of the informational handout is included in **Appendix A**.

6 https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html

PowerPoint Presentation

A pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation that was repeated on a loop throughout the duration of the public meeting provided the public with the following information:

- TDOT's project development process
- Preliminary purpose and need for the proposed project
- Project history
- Alternatives currently under consideration
- Resources analyzed in an EA
- Project next steps
- Anticipated project schedule
- Ways to provide comments on the proposed project
- Information on TDOT's right-of-way and relocation process
- Project contacts for further information

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included in **Appendix A**.

Project Website

Digital copies of the design meeting materials (PowerPoint presentation, design displays, and meeting handout) were posted to the project website and were available for download at: www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html.

Project Displays

Displays showing the proposed Build Alternative alignment and proposed right-of-way lines were posted in the meeting space in two places. Members of the TDOT project team were present to assist the public and answer questions.

Copies of the displays provided at the meeting are located in **Appendix A**.

Right-Of-Way Station

Representatives from TDOT's ROW division were available to provide information and respond to questions regarding TDOT's acquisition and relocation processes. They were also available to meet with individuals to review specific properties and discuss potential ROW impacts.

3.3 Methods for Public Comment

Following the February 27, 2025, public meeting, the public could submit official comments or questions to TDOT in the formats detailed below. Please note that TDOT requested that all official comments be submitted by March 20, 2025. In total, the comment period length was 21 days.[7]

Additional information regarding the methods for public comment is available under the Public Comment Summary below.

Comment Card

As previously mentioned, pre-addressed comment cards were distributed at the public meeting. Members of the public had the option to leave their comment card with the TDOT project team at the public meeting or take the comment card home to mail at a later date. Additionally, the comment card, PowerPoint presentation, project displays, and project informational handout were available for download via the project website for interested individuals to print and mail at a later time.

Letter

Members of the public had the option to submit their comments via U.S. mail to the following TDOT project address:

NEPA Public Meeting
Attn: SR-19 Project
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

Email

Members of the public had the option to email comments to the following email address:

TDOT.comments@tn.gov with *State Route 19 Project* in the subject line.

Online

Members of the public had the opportunity to complete an online comment form available on the SR-19 project website at www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html or by scanning the QR code (**Figure 3**). This code was printed on the public meeting notification postcard, embedded within the PowerPoint Presentation, and included in the project informational handout.

Figure 3. QR Code

7 Per the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Public Involvement Plan, 21 days is the standard comment response period following a public meeting. https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/community-relations/public-involvement-plan.pdf

3.4 Public Comment Summary

In order for comments to be included in this public comment summary, TDOT asked that completed comment cards, letters, and emails be postmarked or emailed by March 20, 2025. All comment cards, letters and emails postmarked by March 20, 2025 are included in this public comment summary. Copies of the comment materials are available in **Appendix B**. Additional comments will continue to be accepted and considered throughout the development of the proposed project.

During the official comment period (February 27, 2025 through March 20, 2025), two verbal comments via telephone, five comment cards, five online comments and no letters were received (**Table 1**). The twelve comments and TDOT's responses are summarized in **Table 2**.

Table 1. February 27, 2025, Public Meeting - Total Comments Received by Comment Method

Comment Method					Total
Comment Cards	Email Comments	Online Forms	Letters	Telephone Calls	
5	0	5	0	2	***12***

Table 2. Comment received by Comment Card, Online Comment Card and Telephone for February 27, 2025 Public Meeting

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (Check all that apply)	
Comment Card Response Option	**Total**
Concerned Citizen	4
Affected Resident	6
Affected Landowner	8
Affected Business	0
What do you like and/or dislike about the No-Build Alternative?	
Comment Card Comment	**TDOT Response**
Bolandineh (Linda) Coffman None	Comment noted.
Stephanie Smith (I) think more improvements (are) necessary to help with traffic flow and dangerous areas.	A traffic and crash study is currently underway as part of the environmental review (NEPA) process. The findings of the study will be included in the Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed project.
Ramona McCage Improvements need to be made.	Comment noted.
Rick Nelson This Hwy needs the proposed improvements.	Comment noted.
John McBroom Yes, like, add additional shoulders to existing SR-19.	Comment noted.
Devin McBroom Add to existing road.	Comment noted.
Beth Rose Yes, Like, add additional shoulders to existing SR-19.	Comment noted.
What do you like and/or dislike about Build Alternative A?	
Comment Card Comment	**TDOT Response**
Bolandineh (Linda) Coffman 1. 4-Lanes 2. 2 Lanes Super	Comment noted.
Stephanie Smith Might be (an) alternative but concerned about traffic flow at my address.	A traffic and crash study is currently underway as part of the environmental review (NEPA) process. The findings of the study will be included in the Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed project.

Ramona McCage Improvements are needed. I want to know how it will affect my property. How far will it take up my yard? Will I be able to stay here or at least on the property? I have lived here since 1971 (8262 Hwy 19W, Brownsville).	As currently proposed, proposed roadways improvements in that vicinity are anticipated to remain within the boundaries of the existing right-of-way; however, the plans are subject to change as the project progresses.
Rick Nelson Would be in support of this project.	Comment noted.
John McBroom Must detour around. Dislike Eastland to Gill Brackin. Add shoulders and intersection to full 15 miles. Not some hit and miss. If resurfacing, do with additional shoulders. Even detour to correct and alignment at the same time.	Comment noted.
Beth Rose Must detour around. Dislike Eastland to Gill Brackin. Add shoulders and intersection to full 15 miles. Not some hit and miss. If resurfacing, do with additional shoulders. Even detour to correct and alignment at the same time.	Comment noted.

What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)	
Comment Card Comment	**Total**
Impacts to the Environment (streams, wetlands, soils, threatened and endangered species)	1
Impacts to Existing Development (homes, businesses)	11
Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources	2
Impacts to Communities	6
Other ◆ Concerned (about) the noise and congestion of the construction. Also, how it will affect the noise levels after construction.	A noise analysis and traffic and crash analysis are currently underway as part of the environmental review (NEPA) process. The findings of the studies will be included in the Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed project.

What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)	
Comment Card Response Option	**Total**
Traffic Operational Deficiencies	4
Regional Connectivity	3
Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies	4
Other	◆ Dangerous Intersections ◆ Heavy traffic from morning and evening commuters ◆ Size of trucks and farm equipment

Additional Comments	
Comment Card Comment	**TDOT Response**
Pamela Bainter-Ball My house (4255 Hwy 19E) and the drive/easement sits on a hill. It is risky getting out as it is. It seems this will hinder sight of traffic once construction begins.	A traffic and crash study is currently underway as part of the environmental review (NEPA) process. The findings of the study will be included in the Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed project.
Stephanie Smith Hwy 19 is high commercial/freight route. Need to adjust Hwy to fit the needs.	A traffic and crash study is currently underway as part of the environmental review (NEPA) process. The findings of the study will be included in the Environmental Assessment being prepared for the proposed project.
Shelton Barbee *(via telephone)* Wanted to know if property will be impacted during construction at his property on SR-19 East.	Current plans do not show any impacts to the property at this time; however, the plans are subject to change as the project progresses.
Joan Parks *(via telephone)* Wanted to know if property will be impacted during construction.	Current plans do not show any impacts to the property at this time; however, the plans are subject to change as the project progresses.

4.0 Future Public Engagement

4.1 Notice of Availability

Once FHWA approves the EA document, a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the EA document will be posted to the project website and published in the local newspapers, *The Brownsville States-Graphic* and the *Lauderdale County Enterprise.* The notice will identify where the EA will be available for public review, how the public can provide input, and who to contact with comments or for additional information. Copies of the EA will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Elam Ross Public Library
  1011 East Main Street
  Brownsville, TN 38012
- Lauderdale County Library
  120 Lafayette Avenue
  Ripley, TN 38063

4.2 Public Hearing

Once FHWA approves the EA document and the EA is made available for public and agency review, TDOT will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the findings presented in the EA and on the project. Input from the public hearing and comment period will be considered by TDOT in the decision-making process for selection of the Preferred Alternative and potential mitigation measures. This information will be documented in the final environmental document.

The public hearing will be held in the SR-19 project area and, if warranted, will also include virtual components. The hearing will be advertised in the local newspapers, *The Brownsville States-Graphic* and the *Lauderdale County Enterprise.*

Appendix A

February 27, 2025,
Public Meeting Materials

Postcard Invitation

Public Meeting

February 27, 2025
from 5PM–7PM

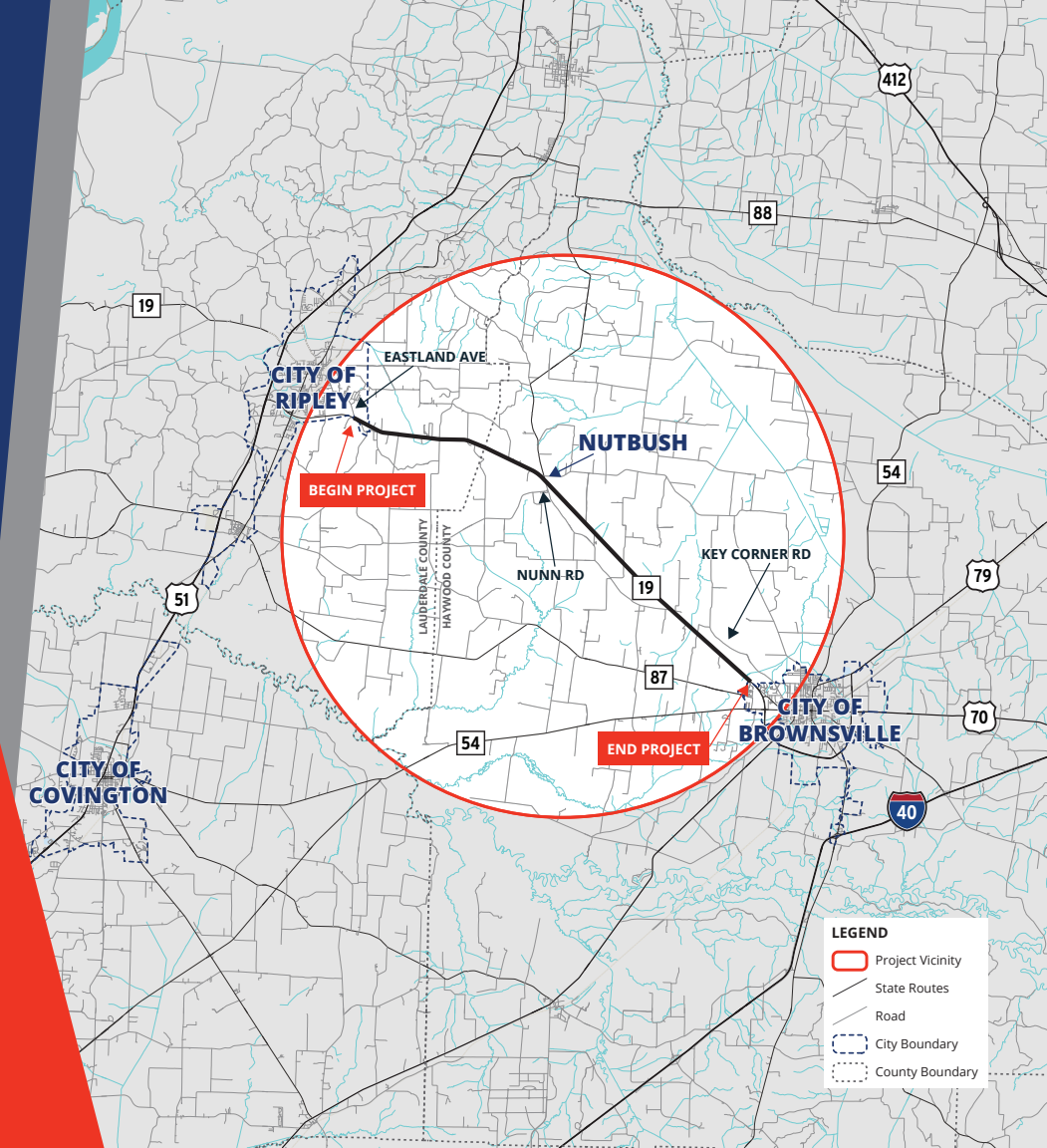
Ripley High School Cafeteria
254 S Jefferson Street
Ripley TN, 38063

State Route 19
Improvements

From East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to East of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

TDOT
Department of Transportation



TDOT
Department of Transportation

James K. Polk Building
Suite 900
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

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-19 project as well as the range of alternatives under consideration.

Project information will be delivered through a PowerPoint presentation followed by an open house where the TDOT project team will be available to discuss the proposed project and review displays with the public.

To learn more, scan QR Code or visit
www.TN.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html

Persons having a disability that requires aids or services to participate at the meeting should contact Ms. Shanna Waelty by telephone at (615) 741-0465, TTY Relay (877) 831-0298, or email shanna.wealty@tn.gov no less than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Anyone with questions regarding the Public Meeting should contact:

Ben Webb
TDOT Region 4 Project Management
(731) 747-5006
benjamin.webb@tn.gov

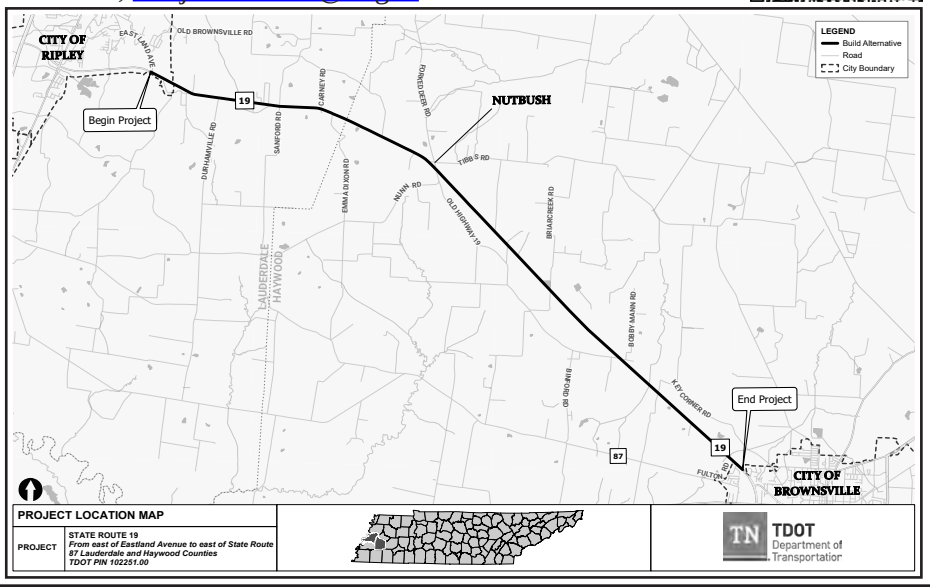
Erick Hunt-Hawkins
NEPA Team Lead
(615) 253-5163
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov

Newspaper Ads

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Meeting
for State Route (SR) 19
From East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County
to East Of SR-87 in Haywood County, TN - PIN 102251.00
Thursday, February 27, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm CT
Ripley High School Cafeteria
254 S. Jefferson Street, Ripley, TN 38063

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee. The project length is approximately 15.4 miles. The project would widen the two travel lanes to 12 feet with 10-foot shoulders (8 foot paved), correct geometric deficiencies, and realign several intersections from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Bracken Rd in Haywood County. The project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, realign several intersections, and address two areas with erosion issues from just west of Gill Bracken Road to the project terminus east of SR-87. The public meeting will provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on the purpose and need for the proposed SR-19 project as well as the range of alternatives under consideration. Project displays will be available to view and TDOT project team members will be available to answer questions. Persons with a disability who require aids or services to participate at the meeting may contact **Ms. Shanna Waelty** at the following address no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting: **Ms. Shanna Waelty**, ADA Compliance, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 1200, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee; By Phone: (615) 741-0465; TTY Relay: (877) 831-0298; Email: shanna.waelty@tn.gov. Following the public meeting on February 27, 2025, public meeting materials will be available for download from the project website at: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html. Materials will include the project displays, public meeting handout, PowerPoint presentation, and comment card. **COMMENTS:** Submit a completed comment card at the public meeting or complete an online comment form available on the SR-19 project website at: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html, send an email to TDOT.comments@tn.gov, or mail a completed comment card or letter to: NEPA Public Meeting, Attn: SR-19 Project, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0332 Comments received or postmarked by **March 20, 2025,** will be included in the official summary of the public meeting. TDOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, color, disability, or national origin. Anyone with questions regarding the meeting should contact: Ben Webb, PE, PMP, Project Manager, TDOT Region 4 Project Management, 300 Benchmark Place, Jackson, TN 38301, 731-747-5006, Benjamin.webb@tn.gov

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Meeting for State Route (SR) 19 From East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to East Of SR-87 in Haywood County, TN - PIN 102251.00

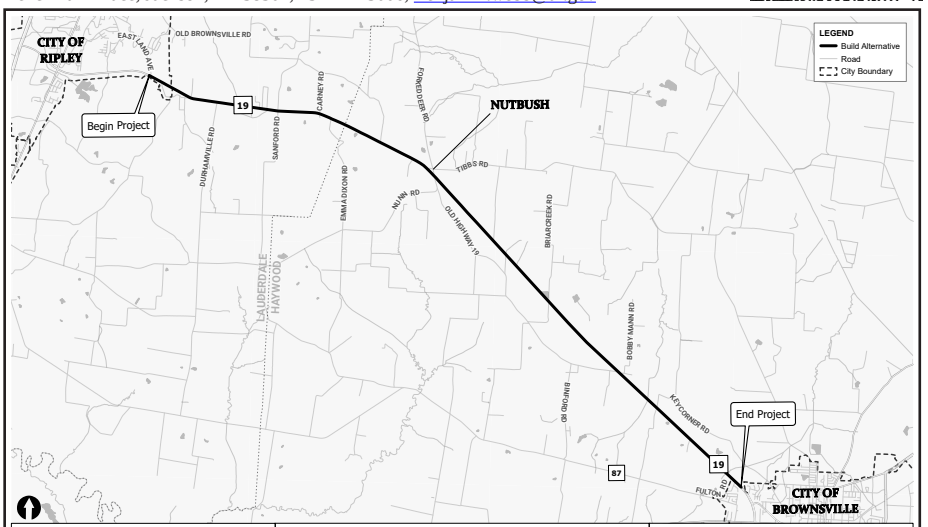
Thursday, February 27, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm CT

Ripley High School Cafeteria

254 S. Jefferson Street, Ripley, TN 38063

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County, Tennessee. The project length is approximately 15.4 miles. The project would widen the two travel lanes to 12 feet with 10-foot shoulders (8 foot paved), correct geometric deficiencies, and realign several intersections from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to just west of Gill Bracken Rd in Haywood County. The project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, realign several intersections, and address two areas with erosion issues from just west of Gill Bracken Road to the project terminus east of SR-87. The public meeting will provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on the purpose and need for the proposed SR-19 project as well as the range of alternatives under consideration. Project displays will be available to view and TDOT project team members will be available to answer questions. Persons with a disability who require aids or services to participate at the meeting may contact **Ms. Shanna Waelty** at the following address no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting: **Ms. Shanna Waelty**, ADA Compliance, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 1200, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee; By Phone: (615) 741-0465; TTY Relay: (877) 831-0298; Email: shanna.waelty@tn.gov. Following the public meeting on February 27, 2025, public meeting materials will be available for download from the project website at: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html. Materials will include the project displays, public meeting handout, PowerPoint presentation, and comment card. **COMMENTS:** Submit a completed comment card at the public meeting or complete an online comment form available on the SR-19 project website at: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html, send an email to TDOT.comments@tn.gov, or mail a completed comment card or letter to: NEPA Public Meeting, Attn: SR-19 Project, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0332 Comments received or postmarked by **March 20, 2025,** will be included in the official summary of the public meeting. TDOT is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, color, disability, or national origin. Anyone with questions regarding the meeting should contact: Ben Webb, PE, PMP, Project Manager, TDOT Region 4 Project Management, 300 Benchmark Place, Jackson, TN 38301, 731-747-5006, Benjamin.webb@tn.gov

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

PROJECT	STATE ROUTE 19 *From east of Eastland Avenue to east of State Route 87 Lauderdale and Haywood Counties* *TDOT PIN 102251.00*

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

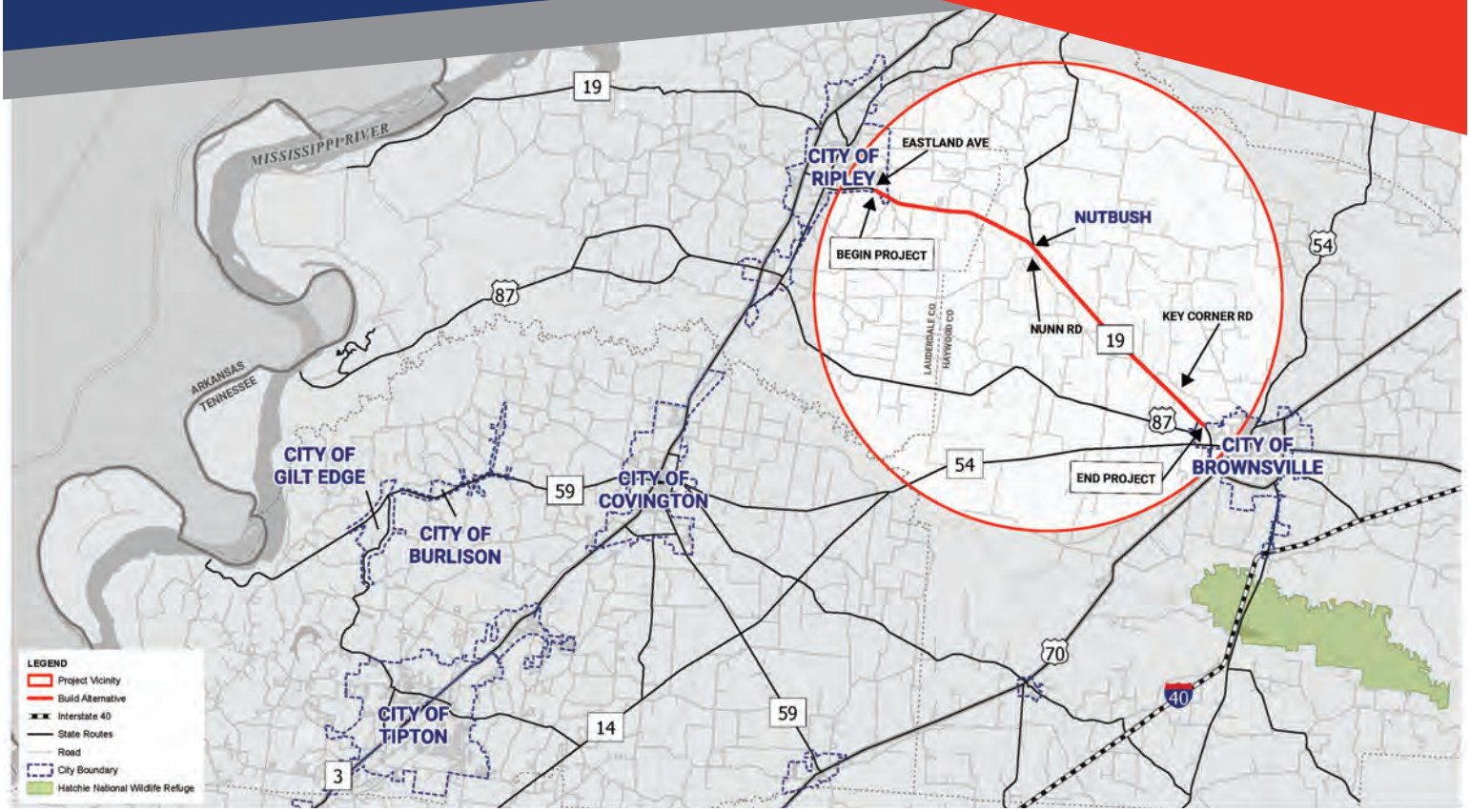
Informational Handout

State Route 19 Improvements

From East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to East of State Route 87 in Haywood County, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

TN TDOT Department of Transportation



Project Overview

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to State Route (SR) 19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to east of SR-87 in Haywood County. The length of the proposed project is approximately 15.4 miles.

Purpose of the Meeting

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 identify measures to minimize harm. The project cannot proceed until this requirement has been successfully completed.

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-19 project as well as the range of alternatives under consideration.

During the public meeting, project information will be delivered through a PowerPoint presentation followed by an open house where members of the TDOT project team will be available to discuss the proposed project and review displays with members of the public.

Project History

Since the late 1990s, a number of studies have been conducted to explore potential improvements to SR-19. In February 2018, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved a D-List Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project. As design of the proposed project progressed, it became evident that there were changes that required further coordination with FHWA. After further coordination with FHWA in 2024, an Environmental Assessment was initiated.

Why is the Project Needed?

The following preliminary needs for the proposed SR-19 project have been identified as follows:

- Increased percentage of severe crashes
- Geometric roadway deficiencies along SR-19 (limited shoulders, sight distance, etc.)

What is the Purpose?

The preliminary purpose of the proposed SR-19 project has been identified as the following:

- Reduce severity of crashes
- Improve the roadway to meet current design standards

What is the 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. Note that forecasted dates are subject to change.

Initial Early Coordination	Quarter 1 of 2025
Conduct Technical Studies	Quarter 1 of 2025
Public Meeting	**February 27, 2025**
Notice of Availability/Environmental Assessment Approval	Quarter 3 of 2025
Hold Public NEPA Hearing	Quarter 3 of 2025
Approval of Final Environmental Document/Selection of Preferred Alternative*	Quarter 4 of 2025
Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase	FY 2026
Construction Phase	FY 2028

Quarter 1: January through March **Quarter 2:** April through June **Quarter 3:** July through September **Quarter 4:** October through December

*Once the final environmental document is approved by FHWA, the Planning and Environmental Phase is complete

State Route 19 | Improvements

From East of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to East of State Route 87 in Haywood County, Tennessee

PIN 102251.00

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

What Alternatives are Being Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment?

A No-Build Alternative and one Build Alternative are being evaluated in the EA. Each alternative is described below.

No-Build Alternative: In accordance with the implementing regulations for NEPA (40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(d)),[1] the No-Build Alternative has been retained for detailed study and serves as a benchmark for comparison with the 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,[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 widen the existing two 11-foot travel lanes of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County to two 12-foot travel lanes and widen the shoulders from 2-foot shoulders to 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved). In order to widen the travel lanes in this section of the project, right-of-way would need to be acquired, and the travel lanes re-constructed primarily to the north side of the existing roadway in the Lauderdale County section and mostly to the south side of the roadway in Haywood County to west of Gill Brackin Rd. In this section of the project, the following intersections are proposed to be realigned:

- Willie Paris Road at SR-19
- Ross Road/Gause Lane at SR-19
- Tall Oaks Cove at SR-19
- Sanford Road/Conner Whitefield Road at SR-19
- Watson Road/Carney Road at SR-19
- Springhill Road at SR-19

The project would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders from west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus east of SR-87. Additional right-of-way would be needed to correct erosion/slope issues from approximately 4,351 feet east of Woodlawn Road to approximately 4,411 feet west of Old SR-19 (approximately 1,700 feet) and from approximately 3,417 feet east of Patton Road to approximately 279 feet east of Westpointe Road (approximately 1,800 feet). The following intersections are proposed to be realigned from west of Gill Brackin Road to the project terminus:

- Forked Deer Road at SR-19
- Nunn Road at SR-19
- Jim Binford Lane at SR-19
- Small Road at SR-19
- Woodlawn Road/Briar Creek Road at SR-19
- Old SR-19 at SR-19

1 https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-V/subchapter-A/part-1502/section-1502.14
2 https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/25-year-transportation-policy-plan.html
3 https://www.tn.gov/tdot/program-development-and-administration-home/program-development-and-administration-state-programs.html
4 https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/build-with-us/Updated%2010-Year%20Project%20Plan_21.pdf

What are the 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 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 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 TDOT 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: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/right-of-way-division/relocation-office.html.

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 either valued using a Nominal Payment Parcel (NPP) or 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 contact **Ms. Sally Norville,** *TDOT Region 4 ROW Representative* at sara.h.norville@tn.gov or (731) 935-0124.

How Do I Submit 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. Below are the ways you can ask questions and submit comments.

For additional information please contact the following TDOT representatives:

Ben Webb, P.E., PMP
TDOT Region 4 Project Management
Benjamin.Webb@tn.gov
(731) 747-5006

Erick Hunt-Hawkins
TDOT NEPA Team Lead
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov
(615) 253-5163

Public comments received or postmarked by **March 20, 2025** will be included in the official summary of the public meeting.

Written Comments:

- Send a comment card or letter by mail to:
  NEPA Public Meeting
  Attn: SR-19 Project
  Tennessee Department of Transportation
  Suite 700
  James K. Polk Building
  505 Deaderick St.
  Nashville, TN 37243-0332
- Send an email to TDOT.comments@tn.gov using the subject line ***State Route 19 Project***
- Complete an online comment form available on the SR-19 project website https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html or by scanning the QR code:

Digital Presentation

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

State Route 19 Improvements

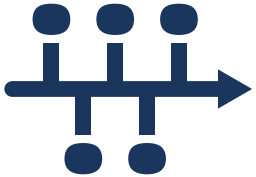
Public Meeting

February 27, 2025

Purpose of Tonight's NEPA Public Meeting

To provide information on:

Project Status



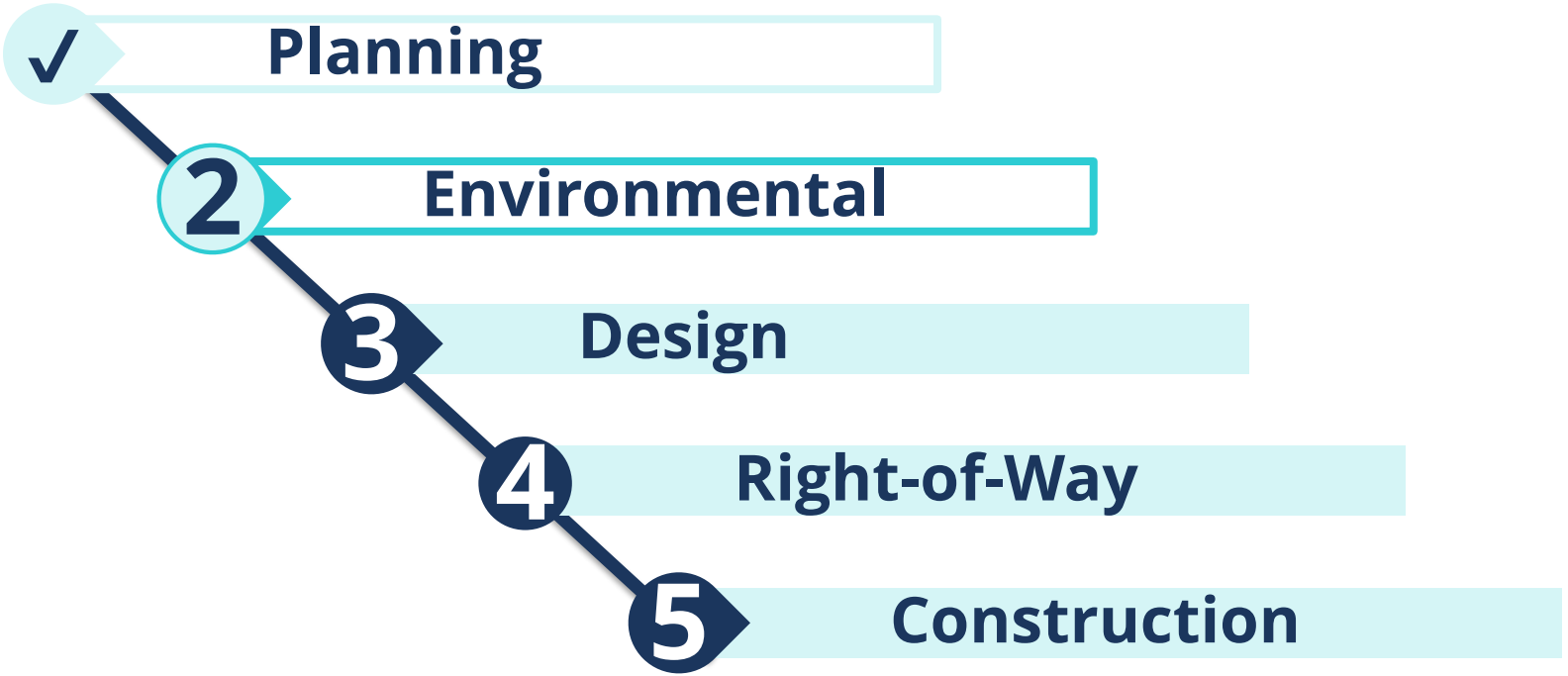
Project Schedule

Purpose and Need

Range of Alternatives Under Consideration

To answer your questions and gather your feedback

Overview of the TDOT Project Development Process



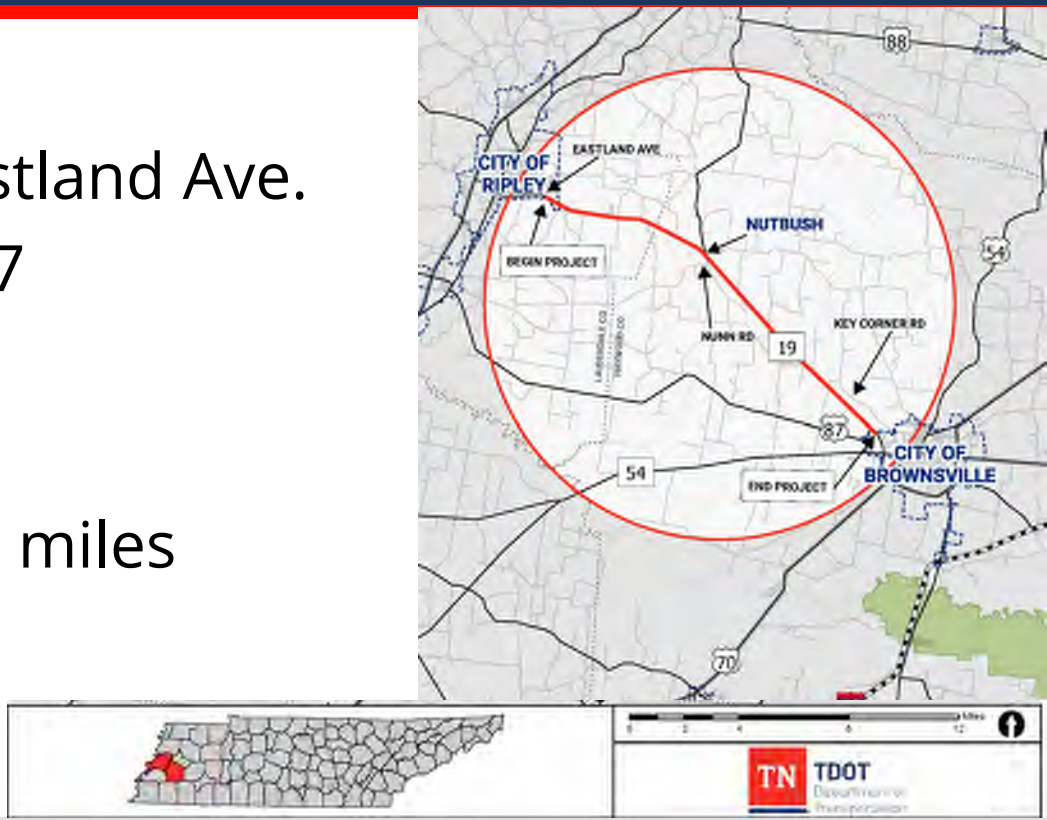
Project Location

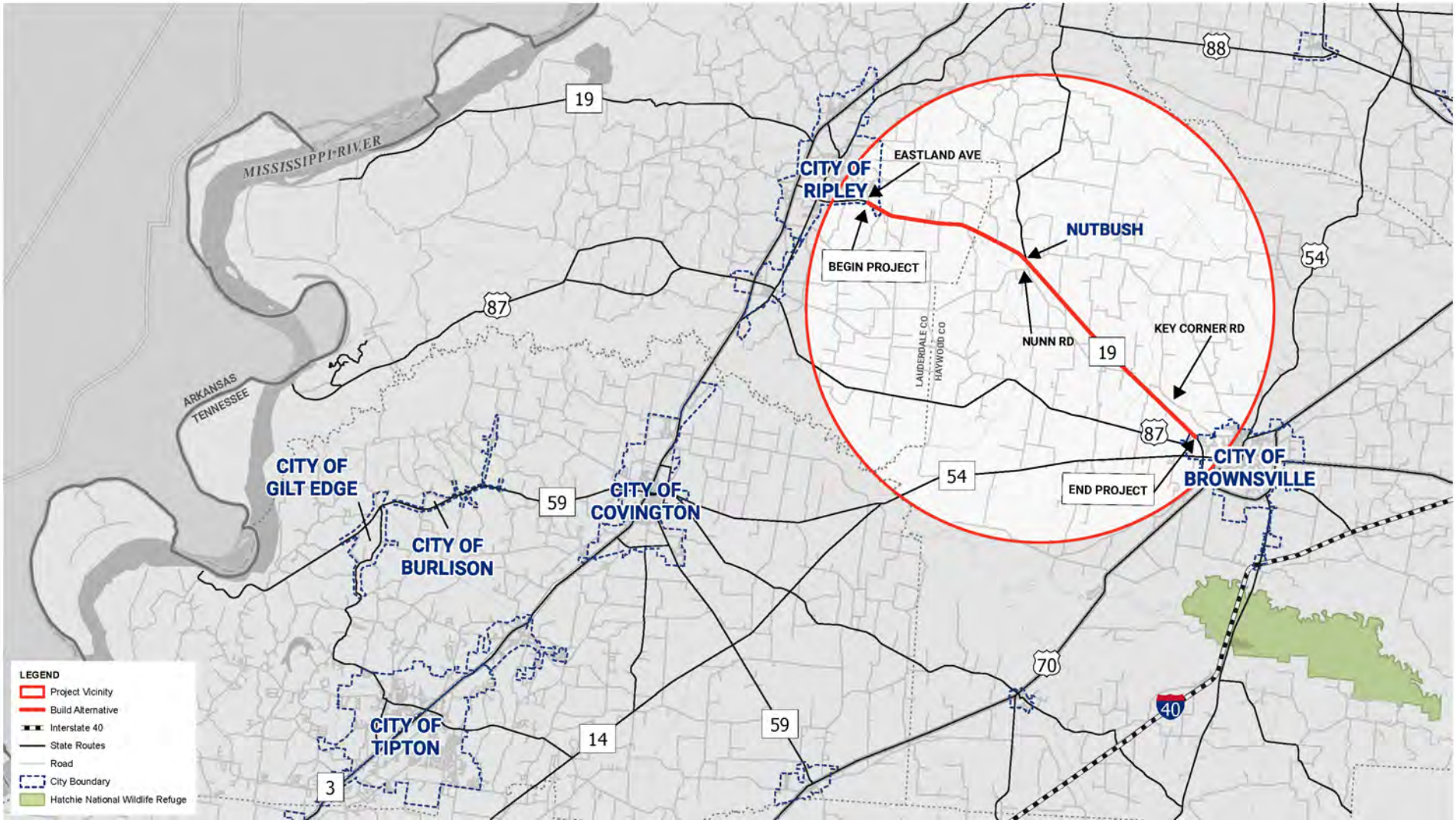
Project Termini

- Begin Project: east of Eastland Ave.
- End Project: east of SR-87

Project Length

- Total project length: 15.4 miles




MISSISSIPPI RIVER
ARKANSAS
TENNESSEE
CITY OF RIPLEY
EASTLAND AVE
BEGIN PROJECT
NUTBUSH
NUNN RD
KEY CORNER RD
END PROJECT
CITY OF BROWNSVILLE
LAUDERDALE CO
HAYWOOD CO
CITY OF GILT EDGE
CITY OF BURLISON
CITY OF COVINGTON
CITY OF TIPTON
19
88
87
54
59
14
3
70
40
LEGEND
Project Vicinity
Build Alternative
Interstate 40
State Routes
Road
City Boundary
Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

Preliminary Purpose and Need

Preliminary Need:

- Increased percentage of severe crashes
- Geometric roadway deficiencies

Preliminary Purpose:

- Reduce severity of crashes
- Improve roadway to meet current design standards

Project History

1996	TDOT Feasibility Study for improvements to SR-19
2003	TDOT Advanced Planning Report (APR) recommends widening SR-19 to four lanes along entire project from Ripley to Brownsville.
2009	TDOT Transportation Planning Report (TPR) prepared in response to public opposition to a four-lane roadway. TPR determined that localized improvements and increasing the lane widths of the existing travel lanes and shoulders in many areas along the project were warranted.
2018	A D-List Categorical Exclusion (CE) was approved for the SR-19 project.
2024 –	• Design plans were developed for the proposed project • The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and TDOT move the project forward as an Environmental Assessment (EA) based on anticipated number of relocations. • An EA is currently under development

Alternatives Being Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment

Two alternatives are currently being evaluated in the EA:

- No-Build Alternative
- Build Alternative

- **No-Build Alternative:**
  - In accordance with regulations, the No-Build Alternative has been retained for detailed study and serves as a benchmark for comparison with the Build Alternative.
  - Would retain the existing roadway configuration except for any modifications identified in TDOT's 25-Year Long Range Transportation Policy Plan, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the TDOT 10-Year Project Plan.
  - Would allow for routine maintenance and safety upgrades.

Alternatives Being Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment

Build Alternative:

- **From east of Eastland Avenue to just west of Gill Brackin Road:**
  - Would widen the existing two 11-foot travel lanes of SR-19 from east of Eastland Avenue in Lauderdale County to west of Gill Brackin Road in Haywood County to two 12-foot travel lanes and widen the shoulders from 2-foot shoulders to 10-foot shoulders (8-foot paved).
  - In order to widen the travel lanes in this section of the project, right-of-way would need to be acquired, and the travel lanes reconstructed primarily to the north side of the existing roadway in the Lauderdale County section and primarily to the south side of the roadway in Haywood County to west of Gill Brackin Rd.
  - The following intersections are proposed to be realigned:
    - Willie Paris Road at SR-19
    - Ross Road/Gause Lane at SR-19
    - Tall Oaks Cove at SR-19
    - Sanford Road/Conner Whitefield Road at SR-19
    - Watson Road/Carney Road at SR-19
    - Springhill Road at SR-19

Alternatives Being Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment

Build Alternative:

- **From just west of Gill Brackin Road to the project end east of SR-87**:
  - Would mill and resurface the existing 11-foot travel lanes and shoulders
  - Would correct erosion/slope issues in two locations
  - Proposes realigning the following intersections:
    - Forked Deer Road at SR-19
    - Nunn Road at SR-19
    - Jim Binford Lane at SR-19
    - Small Road at SR-19
    - Woodlawn Road/Briar Creek Road at SR-19
    - Old SR-19 at SR-19

Resources Analyzed in an Environmental Assessment

- Land use
- Transportation
- Relocations
- Cultural resources
- Floodplains
- Streams and wetlands
- Threatened and endangered species
- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Section 4(f) resources
- Farmland
- Air quality
- Noise
- Hazardous materials
- Visual resources

Next Steps

- **NEPA**
  - Complete environmental technical studies and draft the EA.

- **Future Public Engagement**
  - To further engage the public, following FHWA approval of the EA, TDOT will:
    - Make the approved EA available for public review (including the results of all technical studies).
    - Hold a public hearing to present the findings of the environmental technical studies.
    - Invite feedback and comments from the public on the EA.

Anticipated Schedule

Quarter 1: January through March **Quarter 2**: April through June **Quarter 3**: July through September **Quarter 4**: October through December

*Once the final environmental document is approved by FHWA, the Planning and Environmental Phase is complete

How to Submit Comments

- Complete a comment card at the public meeting and drop in the box at the sign-in table.

- Send a Comment Card or Letter by mail to:

  NEPA Public Meeting
  Attn: SR-19 Project
  Tennessee Department of Transportation
  Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
  505 Deaderick Street
  Nashville, TN 37243-0332

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

* Public comments received or postmarked by **March 20, 2025** will be included in the official summary of the public meeting.

How to Submit Comments

- Email comments to:
  TDOT.comments@tn.gov
  use the subject line *State Route 19 Project*

- Complete an online comment form available on the SR-19 project website at
  https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html
  or by scanning the QR code

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

* Public comments received or postmarked by **March 20, 2025** will be included in the official summary of the public meeting.

Right-of-Way Acquisition

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) follows a federally mandated process to acquire property, which includes:

- Notice to property owners
- Independent Third-Party Conducted Appraisals
- Fair Market Value offered for proposed acquisitions
- Relocation Assistance Program for eligible affected property owners

Full details of TDOT's Right-of-Way Acquisition process can be found in the TDOT ROW Manual at:
www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tdot/right-of-way-division/ROW_Procedures_Manual.pdf

If you have a question regarding the TDOT Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation process, speak to a TDOT ROW Representative tonight or contact:

Sally Norville
TDOT Region 4
Email: sara.h.norville@tn.gov
Phone: 731-935-0124

For More Information

Mr. Ben Webb, PE, PMP

TDOT Region 4 Project Manager

Benjamin.Webb@tn.gov

731-747-5006

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins

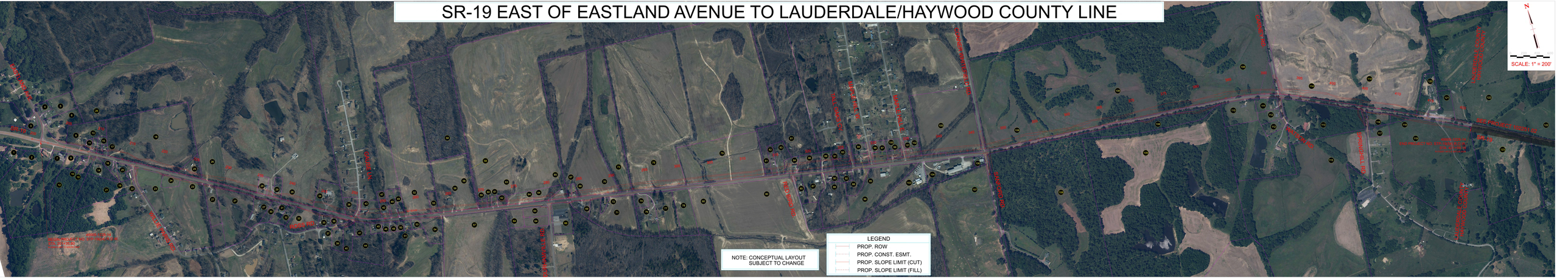
TDOT NEPA Team Lead

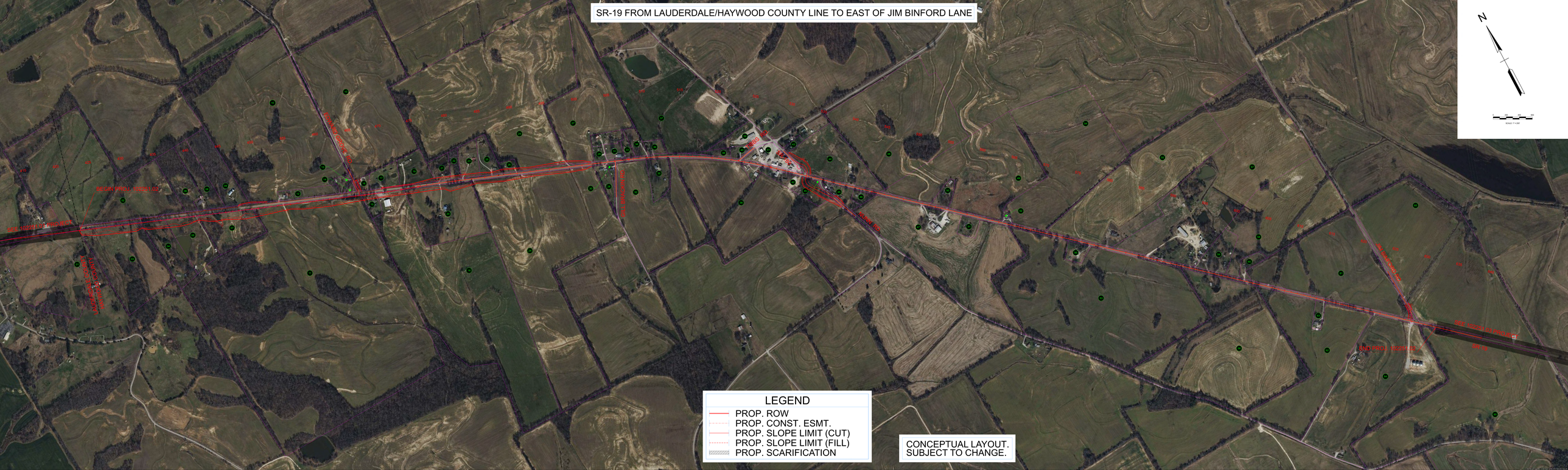
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov

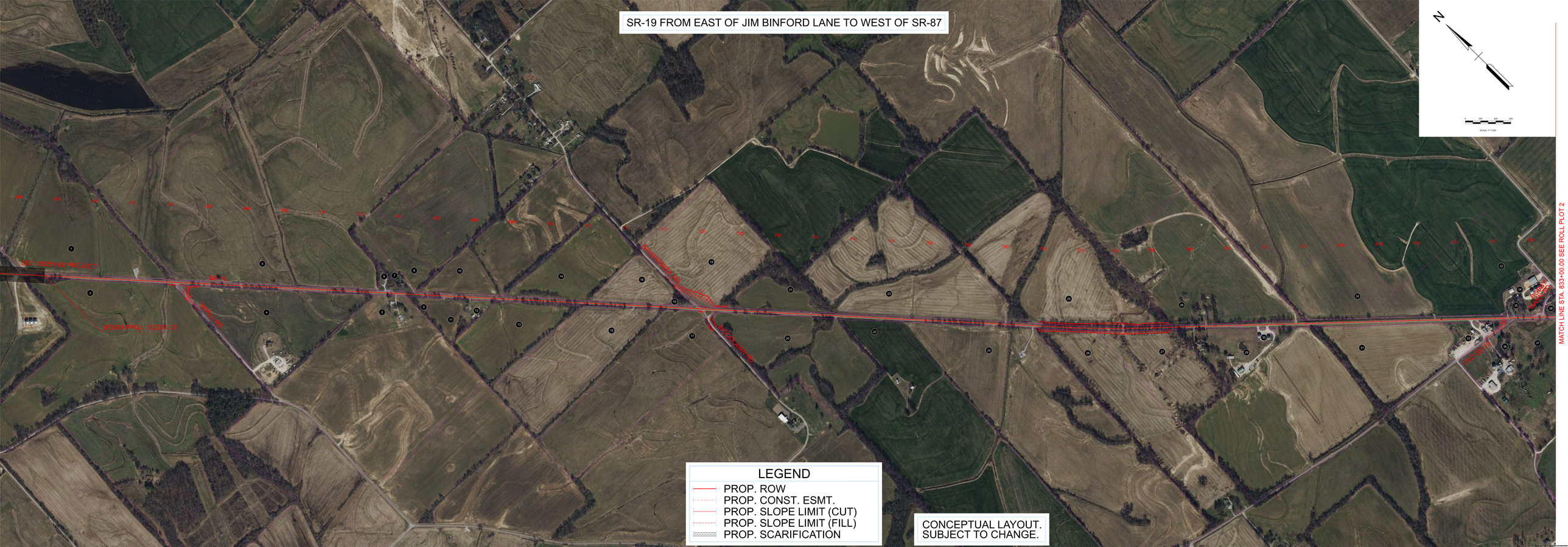
615-253-5163

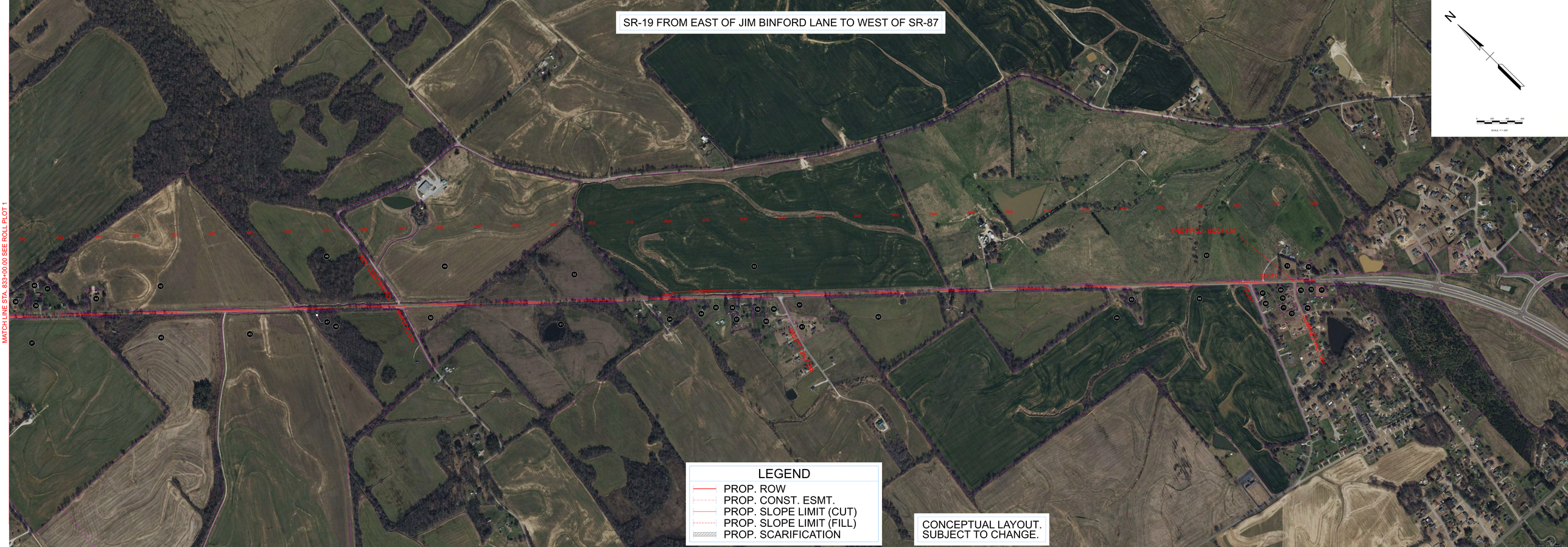
Project Displays

SR-19 EAST OF EASTLAND AVENUE TO LAUDERDALE/HAYWOOD COUNTY LINE




SR-19 FROM LAUDERDALE/HAYWOOD COUNTY LINE TO EAST OF JIM BINFORD LANE
BEGIN PROJ. 12201.02
END PROJ. 12201.02
LAUDERDALE/HAYWOOD COUNTY LINE
EXISTING CENTER LINE
PROP. CENTER LINE
SR-19
SR-19
PROP. CENTER LINE
SR-19
BEGIN PROJ. 12201.01
END PROJ. 12201.01
LEGEND
PROP. ROW
PROP. CONST. ESMT.
PROP. SLOPE LIMIT (CUT)
PROP. SLOPE LIMIT (FILL)
PROP. SCARIFICATION
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT.
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
N


SR-19 FROM EAST OF JIM BINFORD LANE TO WEST OF SR-87
N
SCALE: 1" = 200'
BEGIN PROJ. 102201.03
END 102201.02 PROJECT
CR 13
Binford Rd
Jim Binford Rd
OLD SR 19
MATCH LINE STA. 833+00.00 SEE ROLL PLOT 2
LEGEND
PROP. ROW
PROP. CONST. ESMT.
PROP. SLOPE LIMIT (CUT)
PROP. SLOPE LIMIT (FILL)
PROP. SCARIFICATION
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT.
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.


SR-19 FROM EAST OF JIM BINFORD LANE TO WEST OF SR-87
MATCH LINE STA. 833+00.00 SEE ROLL PLOT 1
N
0
200
400
600
SCALE: 1" = 200'
NEW CONNECTOR RD
PATTON LN
STEPHENS DR
END PROJ. 1023231 (3)
SR-19
SR-87
SUNRISE DR
LEGEND
PROP. ROW
PROP. CONST. ESMT.
PROP. SLOPE LIMIT (CUT)
PROP. SLOPE LIMIT (FILL)
PROP. SCARIFICATION
CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT.
SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Appendix B

February 27, 2025,
Comments Received

Your Name: (LINDA) BOLAND NEH COFFMAN Date: [redacted]

Mailing Address: [redacted] BROWNSVILLE, TN [redacted]

County of Residence: [redacted]

Phone Number (optional): [redacted]

E-mail Address (optional): _____

☐ Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.

Would you like to receive future mailings about the project? YES ☑ NO ☐

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

*Please make sure to include your name and/or address on your submitted comment form in order to be included in the official record.

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

ADD POSTAGE

Return Comments Postmarked by MARCH 20, 2025 to:

NEPA Public Comments
Attn: SR-19 Project
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

For additional project information, contact:

Mr. Ben Webb, P.E., PMP
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Region 4 Project Management
300 Benchmark Pl. Jackson TN 38301
Benjamin.Webb@TN.gov
731-747-5006

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins
Tennessee Department of Transportation
NEPA Team Lead
Suite 900, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 3724309332
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov
615-253-5163

YOU MUST TAPE CLOSED BEFORE MAILING

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM
State Route (SR) 19 Roadway Improvements Project
in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties from
From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87
TDOT PIN 102251.00

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to improve State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties. TDOT would like your input on the proposed project. Additional options for providing comments as well as additional Information on the proposed project are available on the project website: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html

Please note that the comment period ends ***March 20, 2025***

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☑ Concerned Citizen ☐ Affected Resident ☐ Affected Landowner ☐ Affected Business

What do you like and/or dislike about the following?

No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.

NONE

Build Alternative A – Proposes the following:
From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements.

From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections.

The alignment will be shifted to the north to the Lauderdale County line and to the south in Haywood County from the county line to west of Gill Brackin Road

1) 4 Lanes
2) 2 Lanes - Supper

What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)

☑ Impacts to the Environment (*streams, wetlands, soils, threatened and endangered species*)
☑ Impacts to Existing Development (*homes, businesses*)
☐ Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources
☑ Impacts to Communities
☐ Other

What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)

☑ Traffic Operational Deficiencies
☑ Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies
☑ Regional Connectivity
☐ Other

Additional Comments: Morning and Evening Commuters heavy traffic. Size of Trucks and farm Equipment

Your Name: Gordon Lee Date: [redacted]

Mailing Address: [redacted] Ripley TN [redacted]

County of Residence: Lauderdale

Phone Number (optional): [redacted]

E-mail Address (optional) [redacted]

☐ Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.

Would you like to receive future mailings about the project? YES ☒ NO ☐

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

*Please make sure to include your name and/or address on your submitted comment form in order to be included in the official record.

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

ADD POSTAGE

Return Comments Postmarked by MARCH 20, 2025 to:

NEPA Public Comments
Attn: SR-19 Project
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

For additional project information, contact:

Mr. Ben Webb, P.E., PMP
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Region 4 Project Management
300 Benchmark Pl. Jackson TN 38301
Benjamin.Webb@TN.gov
731-747-5006

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins
Tennessee Department of Transportation
NEPA Team Lead
Suite 900, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 3724309332
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov
615-253-5163

YOU MUST TAPE CLOSED BEFORE MAILING

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM
State Route (SR) 19 Roadway Improvements Project
in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties from
From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87
TDOT PIN 102251.00

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to improve State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties. TDOT would like your input on the proposed project. Additional options for providing comments as well as additional Information on the proposed project are available on the project website: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html

Please note that the comment period ends ***March 20, 2025***

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ Concerned Citizen ☐ Affected Resident ☒ Affected Landowner ☐ Affected Business

What do you like and/or dislike about the following?

No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.

Build Alternative A – Proposes the following:
From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements.

From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections.

The alignment will be shifted to the north to the Lauderdale County line and to the south in Haywood County from the county line to west of Gill Brackin Road

What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)

☐ Impacts to the Environment (*streams, wetlands, soils, threatened and endangered species*)
☒ Impacts to Existing Development (*homes, businesses)*
☐ Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources
☐ Impacts to Communities
☐ Other_____

What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)

☐ Traffic Operational Deficiencies
☐ Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies
☐ Regional Connectivity
☐ Other_____

Additional Comments:

Your Name: Nita Faye Lee Date: [redacted]

Mailing Address: [redacted] Ripley, TN [redacted]

County of Residence: Lauderdale Co.

Phone Number (optional): [redacted]

E-mail Address (optional): [redacted]

☑ Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.

Would you like to receive future mailings about the project? YES ☑ NO ☐

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

*Please make sure to include your name and/or address on your submitted comment form in order to be included in the official record.

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

ADD POSTAGE

Return Comments Postmarked by MARCH 20, 2025 to:

NEPA Public Comments
Attn: SR-19 Project
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

For additional project information, contact:

Mr. Ben Webb, P.E., PMP
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Region 4 Project Management
300 Benchmark Pl. Jackson TN 38301
Benjamin.Webb@TN.gov
731-747-5006

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins
Tennessee Department of Transportation
NEPA Team Lead
Suite 900, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 3724309332
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov
615-253-5163

YOU MUST TAPE CLOSED BEFORE MAILING

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM
State Route (SR) 19 Roadway Improvements Project in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties from From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87
TDOT PIN 102251.00

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to improve State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties. TDOT would like your input on the proposed project. Additional options for providing comments as well as additional Information on the proposed project are available on the project website: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html

Please note that the comment period ends ***March 20, 2025***

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ Concerned Citizen ☐ Affected Resident ☒ Affected Landowner ☐ Affected Business

What do you like and/or dislike about the following?

No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.

Build Alternative A – Proposes the following:
From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements.

From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections.

The alignment will be shifted to the north to the Lauderdale County line and to the south in Haywood County from the county line to west of Gill Brackin Road

What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)

☐ Impacts to the Environment (*streams, wetlands, soils, threatened and endangered species*)
☒ Impacts to Existing Development (*homes, businesses)*
☐ Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources
☐ Impacts to Communities
☐ Other_____

What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)

☐ Traffic Operational Deficiencies
☐ Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies
☐ Regional Connectivity
☐ Other_____

Additional Comments:

Your Name: Stephanie Smith Date: [redacted]

Mailing Address [redacted]

County of Residence: Lauderdale

Phone Number (optional) [redacted]

E-mail Address (optional) [redacted]

☒ Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.

Would you like to receive future mailings about the project? YES ☒ NO ☐

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

*Please make sure to include your name and/or address on your submitted comment form in order to be included in the official record.

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

ADD POSTAGE

Return Comments Postmarked by MARCH 20, 2025 to:

NEPA Public Comments
Attn: SR-19 Project
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

For additional project information, contact:

Mr. Ben Webb, P.E., PMP
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Region 4 Project Management
300 Benchmark Pl. Jackson TN 38301
Benjamin.Webb@TN.gov
731-747-5006

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins
Tennessee Department of Transportation
NEPA Team Lead
Suite 900, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 3724309332
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov
615-253-5163

YOU MUST TAPE CLOSED BEFORE MAILING

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM
State Route (SR) 19 Roadway Improvements Project in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties from From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87
TDOT PIN 102251.00

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to improve State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties. TDOT would like your input on the proposed project. Additional options for providing comments as well as additional information on the proposed project are available on the project website: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html

Please note that the comment period ends ***March 20, 2025***

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- [x] Concerned Citizen
- [x] Affected Resident
- [x] Affected Landowner
- [ ] Affected Business

What do you like and/or dislike about the following?

No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.

Think more improvements necessary to help with traffic flow & dangerous areas

Build Alternative A – Proposes the following:
From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements.

From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections.

The alignment will be shifted to the north to the Lauderdale County line and to the south in Haywood County from the county line to west of Gill Brackin Road

might be alternative but concerned about traffic flow at my address

What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)

- [ ] Impacts to the Environment (*streams, wetlands, soils, threatened and endangered species*)
- [x] Impacts to Existing Development (*homes, businesses)*
- [ ] Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources
- [x] Impacts to Communities
- [ ] Other

What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)

- [ ] Traffic Operational Deficiencies
- [x] Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies
- [x] Regional Connectivity
- [x] Other Dangerous intersections

Additional Comments:

Hwy 19 high commercial/freight route now Need to adjust Hwy to fit the needs

Your Name: Pamela Bainter-Ball Date: [redacted]

Mailing Ad[redacted] Ripley [redacted]

County of Residence: Lauderdale

Phone Number (optional): [redacted]

E-mail Address (optional) [redacted]

☑ Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.

Would you like to receive future mailings about the project? YES ☑ NO ☐

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

*Please make sure to include your name and/or address on your submitted comment form in order to be included in the official record.

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

ADD POSTAGE

Return Comments Postmarked by MARCH 20, 2025 to:

NEPA Public Comments
Attn: SR-19 Project
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

You may submit additional pages if the space provided is not adequate for your comments.

For additional project information, contact:

Mr. Ben Webb, P.E., PMP
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Region 4 Project Management
300 Benchmark Pl. Jackson TN 38301
Benjamin.Webb@TN.gov
731-747-5006

Mr. Erick Hunt-Hawkins
Tennessee Department of Transportation
NEPA Team Lead
Suite 900, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 3724309332
Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov
615-253-5163

YOU MUST TAPE CLOSED BEFORE MAILING

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM
State Route (SR) 19 Roadway Improvements Project in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties from From East of Eastland Avenue to East of SR-87
TDOT PIN 102251.00

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to improve State Route (SR) 19 in Lauderdale and Haywood Counties. TDOT would like your input on the proposed project. Additional options for providing comments as well as additional Information on the proposed project are available on the project website: https://www.tn.gov/tdot/projects/region-4/state-route-19.html

Please note that the comment period ends ***March 20, 2025***

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☑ Concerned Citizen ☑ Affected Resident ☑ Affected Landowner ☐ Affected Business

What do you like and/or dislike about the following?

No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.

Build Alternative A – Proposes the following:
From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements.

From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections.

The alignment will be shifted to the north to the Lauderdale County line and to the south in Haywood County from the county line to west of Gill Brackin Road

What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)

☐ Impacts to the Environment (*streams, wetlands, soils, threatened and endangered species*)
☑ Impacts to Existing Development (*homes, businesses)*
☐ Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources
☑ Impacts to Communities
☑ Other Afraid of the noise & congestion of the construction. Concerned Also, how it will affect the noise levels after construction.

What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)

☐ Traffic Operational Deficiencies
☐ Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies
☐ Regional Connectivity
☐ Other_____

Additional Comment
My house ([redacted] the drive/pavement sits on a hill, it is risky getting out as it is. It seems this will hinder sight of traffic once construction begins.

Form Name: Comment form SR 19 Roadway Improvements Project
Submission Time: [redacted]
Browser:
IP Address:
Unique ID:
Location:

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (Check All that Apply)	Affected Resident
No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.	Improvements need to be made.
Build Alternative A – Proposes the following: From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travels and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements. From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections	Improvements are needed. I want to know how it will affect my property. How far will it take up my yard? Will I be able to stay here or at least on the property. I have lived here since 19[redacted]. [redacted],Brownsville
What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)	Impacts to Existing Development (homes, businesses)
What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)	Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies
Name	Ramona McCage
Mailing Address	[redacted] Brownsville, TN [redacted]
County of Residence:	Haywood
Email (Optional):	[redacted]
Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices	Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.
Would you like to receive future mailings about the project?	Yes

Form Name: Comment form SR 19 Roadway Improvements Project
Submission Time: [redacted]
Browser:
IP Address:
Unique ID:
Location:

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (Check All that Apply)	Affected Landowner
No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.	This Hwy needs the proposed improvements.
Build Alternative A – Proposes the following: From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travels and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements. From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections	Would be in support of this project.
What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)	Impacts to Existing Development (homes, businesses)
What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)	Traffic Operational Deficiencies Regional Connectivity Roadway (Geometric) Deficiencies
Name	Rick Nelson
Mailing Address	[redacted] Ripley, TN [redacted]
County of Residence:	Lauderdale
Phone (optional):	[redacted]
Email (Optional):	[redacted]
Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices	Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.

Would you like to receive future mailings about the project?	Yes

Form Name: Comment form SR 19 Roadway Improvements Project
Submission Time: [redacted]
Browser: [redacted]
IP Address: [redacted]
Unique ID: [redacted]
Location: [redacted]

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (Check All that Apply)	Affected Resident Affected Landowner
No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.	Yes, like, add additional shoulders to existing sr-19
Build Alternative A – Proposes the following: From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travels and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements. From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections	Must be detour around. Dislike Eastland to gill brackin. Add shoulders and intersection to full 15 miles. Not some hit and miss. If resurfacing do with additional shoulders. Even detour to correct and alignment at same time.
What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)	Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources Impacts to Existing Development (homes, businesses) Impacts to Communities
What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)	Traffic Operational Deficiencies
Name	John Mcbroom
Mailing Address	[redacted] Ripley , TN 3[redacted]
County of Residence:	Lauderdale
Phone (optional):	[redacted]
Email (Optional):	[redacted]
Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices	Check here if you would like to receive e-mail notices.

Would you like to receive future mailings about the project?	Yes

Form Name: Comment form SR 19 Roadway Improvements Project
Submission Time: [redacted]
Browser: [redacted]
IP Address: [redacted]
Unique ID: [redacted]
Location: [redacted]

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (Check All that Apply)	Concerned Citizen Affected Resident Affected Landowner
No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.	Add to existing road
What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)	Impacts to Historic and/or Archaeological Resources Impacts to Existing Development (homes, businesses) Impacts to Communities
What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)	Traffic Operational Deficiencies
Name	Devin Mcbroom
Mailing Address	[redacted] Ripley , TN [redacted]
County of Residence:	Lauderdale
Would you like to receive future mailings about the project?	No

Form Name: Comment form SR 19 Roadway Improvements Project
Submission Time: [redacted]
Browser: [redacted]
IP Address: [redacted]
Unique ID: [redacted]
Location: [redacted]

Which best describes your primary interest in the project? (Check All that Apply)	Affected Resident Affected Landowner
No-Build Alternative – No improvements made to existing SR-19 other than routine maintenance.	Yes, like, add additional shoulders to exiting sr -19
Build Alternative A – Proposes the following: From east of Eastland Avenue to west of Gill Brackin Road: widen two existing 11-foot travels and 2-foot shoulders to two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders, with several intersection improvements. From west of Gill Brackin Road to east of SR-87: mill and resurface the two existing 11-foot travel lanes and 2-foot shoulders, correct some slope/erosion issues, and improve several intersections	Must be detour around. Dislike Eastland to gill brackin. Add shoulders and intersection to full 15 miles. Not some hit and miss. If resurfacing do with additional shoulders. Even detour to correct and alignment at same time.
What issues and concerns do you have about the project? (Check all that apply)	Impacts to Existing Development (homes, businesses) Impacts to Communities
What do you see as the transportation needs of the area? (Check all that apply)	Other
Name	Beth Rose
Mailing Address	[redacted] Ripley, TN [redacted]
County of Residence:	Lauderdale
Email (Optional):	[redacted]
Would you like to receive future mailings about the project?	Yes

From: Birch, Valerie
To: Banaszak, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Joan and Terry Parks
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 2:21:46 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Valerie Birch, AICP
D 629.228.7516 M

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Benjamin Webb <Benjamin.Webb@tn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Cc: Birch, Valerie <Valerie.Birch@hdrinc.com>; Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>
Subject: Joan and Terry Parks

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Braxton,

I am following up about a phone call I had Friday morning with Joan Parks. She called me with questions regarding the meeting and the project. Due to personal reasons, she won't be able to attend the meeting this Thursday. Her main concern was whether her house would be impacted. Her property is at [redacted]. I explained to her that we are proposing take a portion of her land [redacted] but no proposed impacts to her house. Mrs. Parks mentioned the need of repaving for SR 19 and the need to fix the ditch across from Westpointe Drive. She stated that truck drivers will often move into the lane opposite of the ditch due to safety concerns. For your records, her phone number is [redacted] Let me know if you need anymore information.

Ben Webb, P.E., PMP | Project Manager
Region 4 Project Management
300 Benchmark Pl, Jackson, TN 38301
c. 731-747-5006
benjamin.webb@tn.gov

From:	Birch, Valerie
To:	Banaszak, Jennifer
Subject:	FW: Shelton Barbee
Date:	Wednesday, February 26, 2025 2:21:58 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Valerie Birch, AICP
D 629.228.7516 **M**

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Benjamin Webb <Benjamin.Webb@tn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 12:54 PM
To: Braxton Eden <Braxton.Eden@tn.gov>
Cc: Birch, Valerie <Valerie.Birch@hdrinc.com>; Erick Hunt-Hawkins <Erick.Hunt-Hawkins@tn.gov>; Nichole Lawrence <Nichole.Lawrence@tn.gov>
Subject: Shelton Barbee

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

All,

I spoke with Mr. Barbee this afternoon regarding the 102251.02 project. He lives at [redacted]. He was reaching out to see if his property was to be impacted by any widening. After looking at the plans, I explained that the widening proposed at this time doesn't show any impacts to his property.

Shelton Barbee
[redacted]

Ben Webb, P.E., PMP | Project Manager
Region 4 Project Management
300 Benchmark Pl, Jackson, TN 38301
c. 731-747-5006
benjamin.webb@tn.gov