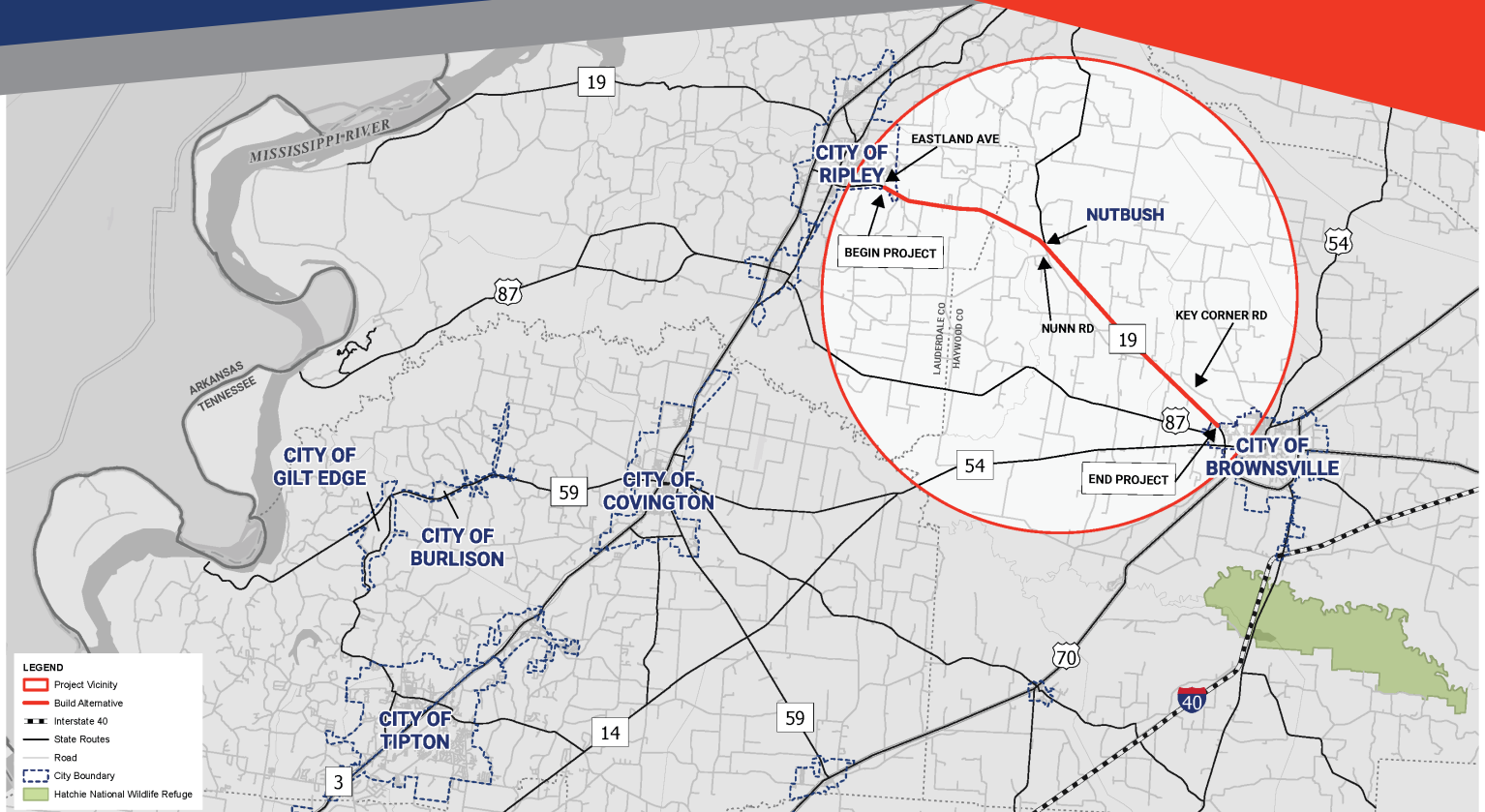


State Route 19 Improvements

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

PIN 102251.00



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?

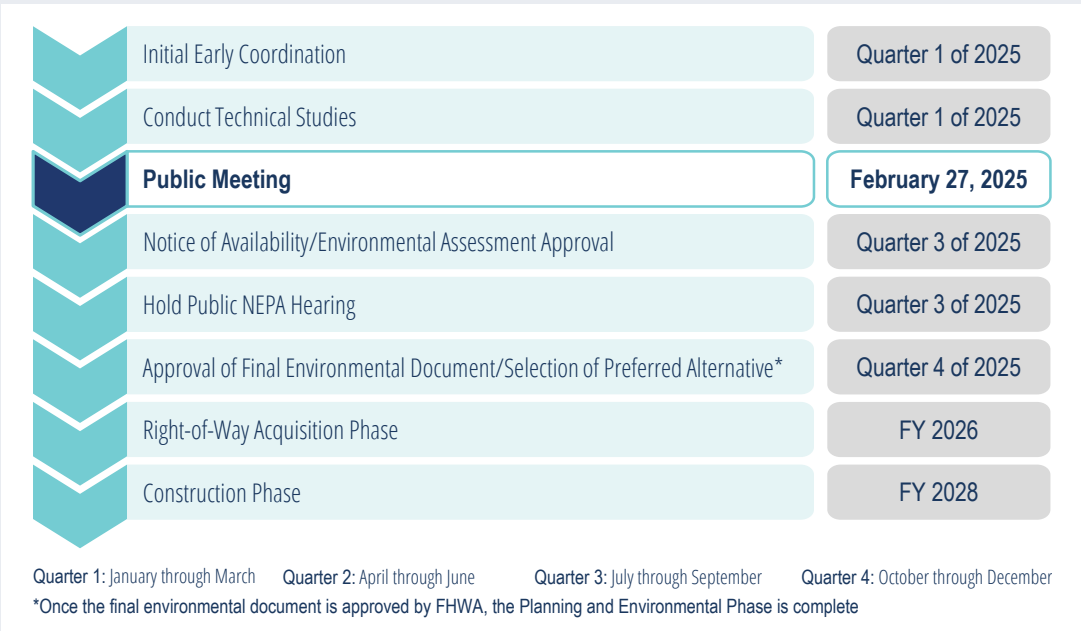
The preliminary purpose of the proposed SR-19 project has been identified as the following:

- ♦ 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.



State Route 19 | Improvements

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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 Plan⁴ and would allow for routine maintenance and safety upgrades.

Build Alternative: The Build Alternative proposes to shift the alignment to the north 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 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. 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:

