

SR 29 DESIGN MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 2015 5:00 PM

WARTBURG CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

WARTBURG, TENNESSEE

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The meeting was called into session by Mark Nagi, Community Relations Officer for Region 1 of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, at the approximate hour of 5:00 PM on 10/29/015, in Wartburg, Tennessee where the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

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**PATRICIA A. AUSTIN**  
**Court Reporter**  
**32 Hummingbird Lane**  
**Crossville, TN 38571**  
**931-707-0357**  
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1 **TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

2 **PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:**

3  
4 Danny Oliver, Freddy Miller, Mark Nagi, John Barrett, Mike  
5 Russell, Andrea Hall, Christie Brown, Stacy Weaver, Stephanie  
6 Wallis, Jordan Livesay, Kenny Kerley, Randy Plummer, Mark Parrish,  
7 Henry Reid, Dave Jordan, Gaylon Hill, Bob Woodson, Amy Cooper and  
8 David Williams

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11  
12 **THOMPSON & LITTON**

13 **PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:**

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15 Tim Mullins, Jennifer Moore, Jennifer Dawson, Joshua Lewis,  
16 William Malone, and Rebekah Stroupe

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**MINUTES**

MR. NAGI: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for being here. You folks might want to get a little bit closer to the center and you may have a better chance to take a look at the screen. My name is Mark Nagi. I'm the Community Relations Officer for Region 1 of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. We are here tonight at Wartburg Central High School to get input on the proposed widening of State Route 29 in Morgan County. The purpose of this project is to widen a section of State Route 29 from Ray Cross Road/Mossy Grove Road to State Route 62 in Wartburg, a distance of approximately 4.9 miles. The project will widen the existing 2-lanes to a 5-lane facility with 2 lanes in each direction and a center turn lane, shoulders, curbs and a grass strip. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to provide comments about this proposed project. Joining us tonight from the Tennessee Department of Transportation are: TDOT Project Management Director, Danny Oliver. TDOT's Assistant Director for Road Design, Freddy Miller. Also from TDOT are: John Barrett, Mike Russell, Andrea Hall, Christie Brown, Stacy Weaver, Stephanie Wallis, Jordan Livesay, Randy Plummer, Mark Parrish, Henry Reid, Dave Jordan, Gaylon Hill, Bob Woodson, Amy Cooper and David Williams. Also with us tonight from our consultant Thompson & Litton are Tim Mullins, Jennifer Moore, Jennifer Dawson, Joshua Lewis, William Malone and Rebekah

1 Stroupe. Once again, this is a TDOT Public Meeting, and if you  
2 want to make a comment on the record we have a couple of different  
3 ways to do so. We have a court reporter present in the front  
4 corner of the gym and also in the back corner of the gym. The  
5 court reporters are present to take down any of your comments that  
6 you would like to make if that is something you would like to do.  
7 Also we have sheets of paper and pens up front. You can write  
8 down your comments, hand them in, or you can mail them back to us.  
9 You have twenty-one days from today, that's three weeks, to have  
10 those questions recorded if you choose to have your comments a  
11 part of the record. Before we go any further, I'll ask if there  
12 are any members of the media here tonight?

13 INAUDIBLE: Morgan County Press.

14 MR. NAGI: I saw that Senator Ken Yeager is here. Are  
15 there any other officials here with us tonight?

16 OFFICIALS THAT RESPONDED: ( Some Comments inaudible)

17 Senator Ken Yeager, John Robbins representative of state  
18 representative John Mark Windle, Don Edwards County Mayor, David  
19 Hamby, David Hennessey, Michael Graff, and Lee Smith commissioner.

20 MR. NAGI: O.K. I will turn things over to Tim Mullins  
21 who will have a short presentation for us. After the presentation  
22 we will be here until 7:00 o'clock if necessary to answer any  
23 questions that you might have in a one-on-one basis. We will have  
24 representatives all over the room to answer any of your questions.  
25 So with that I will turn it over to Tim Mullins. Yes, Sir?

1 DON EDWARDS: Make sure if you have any comments that you  
2 get that on the record. Don't leave here without doing that. If  
3 you have concerns, make sure they get your comments today.

4 MR. NAGI: Absolutely. Once again, we will have a court  
5 reporter present in each corner to take your comments. Also as you  
6 walked in we gave you pens and paper, and you've got those forms.  
7 You can leave them with us or you can mail them to us within three  
8 weeks. So with that being said I will turn things over to Tim  
9 Mullins for his presentation.

10 MR. MULLINS: Thank you for coming out. As Mark mentioned  
11 I have a short presentation then we will have an open house, and  
12 we've got plans at the tables. We've got displays on the walls.  
13 We will have people in those areas if you have questions, just  
14 find somebody with a name tag and we will do our best to answer  
15 your questions. The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the  
16 proposed State Route 29, US 27, which I am used to calling State  
17 Route 29 but everybody here tells me it is 27 - from the Ray Cross  
18 Road/Mossy Grove Road to State Route 62. We have provided  
19 preliminary plans for you all to view at the tables. We are also  
20 going to receive input from the public and answer questions, and  
21 address concerns.

22 (MR. MULLINS THEN GIVES POWERPOINT PRESENTATION)

23 MR. MULLINS: The project status, this project is currently  
24 in design phase preliminarily. These first three phases,  
25 planning, environmental, and design, and budgeting. When the

1 right-of-way is budgeted then we begin the construction phase.  
2 This project is in the very preliminary.....early in the process. We  
3 are here to get your feedback and answer your questions. The next  
4 step after the design phase is complete is to go to the right-of-  
5 way. After the design is complete that will be the next step.  
6 And I think from what we have discussed, if everything moves  
7 forward and it gets budgeted, it could be a year, possibly a year.  
8 It all depends on the budget. Like I said, we are here to get  
9 everybody's comments, so I just wanted to reiterate that you can  
10 submit a written comment on the comment sheets that you got when  
11 you came in. There is a box to put those in, or you can mail them  
12 in, or you can submit an email. As Mark mentioned, it must be  
13 submitted within twenty-one days which is November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. You  
14 can also provide vocal comments. The court reporters are in each  
15 corner of the room. On the sheets that you have the contacts are  
16 Daniel Oliver who is the Project Management Director for TDOT.  
17 His phone number and email are on this sheet that you were handed,  
18 the informational sheet. And then we have Freddy Miller who is  
19 the Assistant Director for TDOT Road Design Division. And his  
20 phone number and email is on the informational sheet. Thank you  
21 all for coming out. We appreciate your participation in the  
22 design meeting. You are free to go visit the exhibits and just  
23 find one of us and we will try our best to help you. Thank you  
24 all.

1 MR. NAGI: Once again, we are here until 7:00 o'clock to  
2 answer any questions you may have. We may be here longer if  
3 necessary. Thank you very much for coming out tonight.

4 (AT THIS TIME THE AUDIENCE VIEWS EXHIBITS AND  
5 TALKS WITH TDOT REPRESENTATIVES)

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7 COMMENTS GIVEN TO THIS COURT REPORTER:

8  
9 **OBRA SEIBER:** My name is Obra Seiber.

10 COURT REPORTER: Will you spell your name for me?

11 **OBRA SEIBER:** O-B-R-A S-E-I-B-E-R. My address is Box 107  
12 Peachtree Circle. I want to know why they are extending that up  
13 there as far as they are, you know. It isn't really necessary to  
14 take the house. I think they ought to reconsider it.

15  
16 **JOHN HEIDEL:** I'm Jack Heidel, 2933 Morgan County Highway.  
17 I own parcel 119, or 118.

18 **MRS. HEIDEL:** I will go check. The ones across the road are  
19 117, 119, and 121.

20 **JOHN HEIDEL:** The home is on parcel 118. They are going to  
21 take better than half of our front yard. It would really help the  
22 home if they would just move the road a little bit more on 117 and  
23 119. The home is an eighty year old home place occupied by five  
24 generations of my family. There are big hemlock trees in the yard  
25 there that are eight to a hundred feet tall. The existing right-

1 of-way is going to come pretty close to our circle drive. It  
2 doesn't look like it would cost no more to move the road over a  
3 little bit onto parcel 117 since they are going to take that  
4 building anyway. It has already been slated to be taken. If they  
5 could move over even fifty to a hundred feet it would really help  
6 our home. We plan to leave it to our children, so that's  
7 basically what would help us - if they would just move the right-  
8 of-way over a little bit to 117 and 119.

9  
10 **DONNA DAUGHERTY:** My name is Donna Daugherty. I am here on  
11 behalf of Andy and Margaret Jones, 105 Aslinger Road, Wartburg,  
12 Tennessee, 37887. My mom and dad has passed away and the property  
13 belongs to Donna Daugherty, Sheila Oren, Beverly Underwood, and  
14 Barry Keith Jones. Barry Keith Jones is the trustee. We are  
15 ready to sell our property. We have been wanting to put it up for  
16 sale and we are at a standstill because the state is coming  
17 through taking the land and no one will buy our property right  
18 now. We are ready to sell, and hope to be one of the first ones  
19 you contact when the time comes.

20  
21 **RICHARD MONKHOUSE:** My name is Richard Monkhouse, 2601 Morgan  
22 County Highway, Wartburg, Tennessee, 37887. My question is will  
23 accessibility to the highway while construction is going on be  
24 impaired? I run a business out of my home and I've got to be sure  
25 I can get in and out every single day.

1 **FRANK SUSAK:** My name is Frank Susak and I own a piece of  
2 property where the 4-lane goes through. It is at 3485 Morgan  
3 County Highway. I think it is a good thing for the whole county.  
4 And hopefully it will stimulate growth throughout the whole  
5 county. And I appreciate them doing this. Thank you very much.

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7 **RICK NEWPORT:** I am Rick Newport, 2470 Morgan County Highway,  
8 Quality Oil Company. I support the project. I think it is a very  
9 good project. The only concern I have is concerning my business:  
10 what it will do to me during the construction phase. Other than  
11 that I am very pleased with the situation. I think Morgan County  
12 really needs it. I think it will be good for our county and  
13 really be good for everyone concerned. I hate to see the  
14 neighborhood change, but it is to everyone's betterment, so  
15 therefore I support the project and I would like to see it  
16 completed as soon as possible. The only other concern I have is  
17 mainly how it will affect me during the construction phase, and  
18 hopefully we can work through that, maybe get to where they  
19 wouldn't shut me down completely. Me and my wife was talking  
20 about how it is going to change the neighborhood, and it certainly  
21 will, but at the same time for our grandkids and our great-  
22 grandkids I think we really need it, and we are really looking  
23 forward to it. The thing I like about this project is that it  
24 will open Morgan County up and give us access to an interstate  
25 highway. Therefore businesses are probably going to be ten or

1 fifteen minutes at the most from the interstate and they might  
2 locate here. So our citizens and everyone else might have a  
3 better financial opportunity, and might be able to get new  
4 businesses and companies in here that will help our economy to  
5 grow and to give our kids and their kids a better way of life. I  
6 really support this project whole heartedly. Thank you for taking  
7 my comment.

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9 **THIS WAS ALL THE COMMENTS OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC TO THIS COURT**  
10 **REPORTER.**

11  
12 (WHEREUPON, THE DESIGN PUBLIC MEETING WAS  
13 ADJOURNED AT THE APPROXIMATE HOUR OF 7:00 PM)

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20 **NOTE:** *Written comments and all other documents are*  
21 *being delivered to the Tennessee Department of Transportation by*  
22 *their personnel, and were not given to this court reporter to make*  
23 *as exhibits.*

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25 (Continued on Page 11)

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CERTIFICATION

I, **Patricia A. Austin**, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing Design Public Meeting in Wartburg, Tennessee on 10/29/15 and that pages 1 through 11, inclusive, constitute a true and accurate transcription of the minutes of this meeting to the best of my knowledge and ability.

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**PATRICIA A. AUSTIN, LCR #573**

Notary Public at Large for the State of TN

My commission expires 5/7/19