



Public Informational Meeting

Proposed State Route 30 Improvement From SR 29 (US 27) to West of the Tennessee River Bridge

Dayton, Rhea County, Tennessee

April 2, 2015
Dayton Chamber of Commerce

Tennessee Department of Transportation



Public Meeting Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. • View displays
- 5:30 p.m. • Presentation followed by formal Q&A
- 6:15 p.m. • View displays and informal Q&A with staff
• Complete comment cards and provide verbal statements to the court reporter
- 7:00 p.m. • Adjourn



Purpose of this Meeting

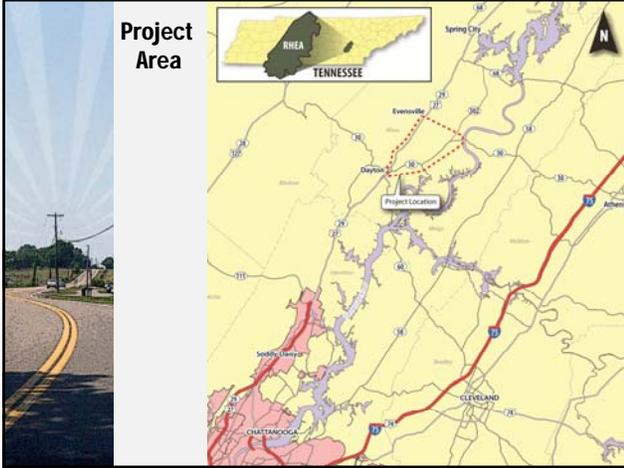
- Explain the current project status—the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phase
- Provide information regarding the Project Alternatives
- Encourage public participation in the environmental study process
- Explain next steps in the process



How to Submit Comments

Three ways to provide comment:

- Formal question and answer period.
- TDOT representatives will be available to answer questions.
- A court reporter can take your verbal comments.

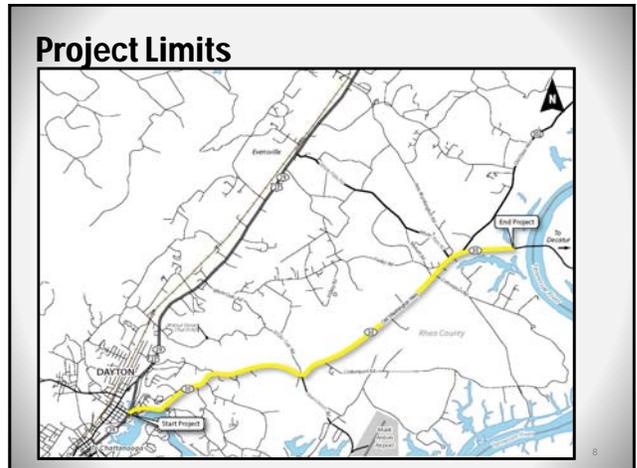


Corridor Travel Information

- A primary east-west route between the cities of Dayton and Athens and for travel to and from I-75
- The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for this road is 9,460 vehicles/day
- The 2036 projected AADT is 13,160 vehicles/day
- Average percent trucks range from 5 to 10%

Corridor Crash Information

- Rural section has a crash rate higher than the statewide average
- Roadway departure crashes accounted for 25% of all crashes
- Average lane width is 10 feet and shoulders are 1-2 feet



Project Limits

- Study area is from SR 29 to west of the Tennessee River bridge
- The existing SR 30 project area is 8.08 miles




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Project History

In 2006, Highway 30 Economic Development Coalition identifies corridor as an important route.

Coalition Action Steps:

- Identified other stakeholders
- Developed and adopted mission statement
- Obtained letters of support
- Undertook preliminary transportation planning



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Project History

- June 2006 • Highway 30 Economic Development Coalition identifies the SR 30 corridor as an "important route"
- Sept 2006 • Southeast TN Development District Technical Committee meets to discuss SR 30
- April 2007 • Southeast TN RPO develops purpose and need document and submits to TDOT
- Feb 2008 • TPR is completed and approved by TDOT
- Feb 2011 • Work begins on NEPA Environmental Assessment with 4 corridor options



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Project History (continued)

- May & June 2011 • Public meetings were held and an additional corridor option added
- Nov 2011 • After agency review, 4 options were eliminated and 2 were advanced
- Oct 2013 • The existing route was studied as an Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) option
- Aug 2014 • Work begins on NEPA Environmental Assessment with 2 Build Alternatives



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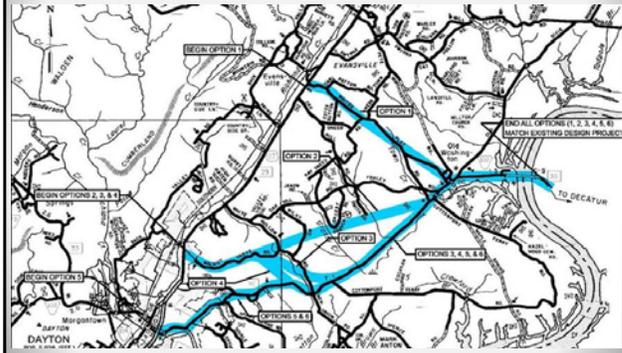
Transportation Planning Report (TPR)

- Completed in February 2008
- Five (5) options were developed for the proposed SR 30 improvement



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Preliminary SR 30 Study Corridors



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Preliminary Purpose and Need

- Provide an improved east-west route for the region
- Provide a more efficient evacuation route for the nuclear plants
- Improve regional mobility/connectivity
- Improve safety/correct geometric deficiencies/increase capacity

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Public Outreach

- The 5 corridor options were presented to the public on May 19, 2011 in Spring City and June 11, 2011 in Dayton
- An additional option (White Oak option) was added because of comments



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What is NEPA?

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969

- A law requiring evaluation of potential social and environmental impacts of a project
- Documents both the positive and negative impacts and potential mitigation
- A requirement for projects or actions using federal funds
- The SR 30 project includes federal funds and is subject to NEPA requirements

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NEPA Study Type

- Based on the TPR and a field review of the preliminary impacts, TDOT and FHWA determined the NEPA Document level to be:
 - Categorical Exclusion
 - **Environmental Assessment (EA) - prepared for projects when the impacts are uncertain**
 - Environmental Impact Statement

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Current Project Phase: NEPA Environmental Assessment

Components of an EA:

- Develop the project *Purpose and Need*
- Evaluate the alternatives to ensure the proposed project addresses the purpose and needs of the project
- Conduct studies of the foreseeable effects of the project (both positive and negative)
- Documentation of findings including any mitigation
- Decision makers use the information to select an alternative

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Potential Environmental Impacts

Preliminary Screening identified potential issues:

- Study area contains residences, schools, churches, a hospital, parks, cemeteries, historic areas in the Old Washington Area and other institutional uses




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Potential Environmental Impacts

- Quarries and a landfill in study area



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Potential Environmental Impacts

- Potential impacts to blue line streams and caves



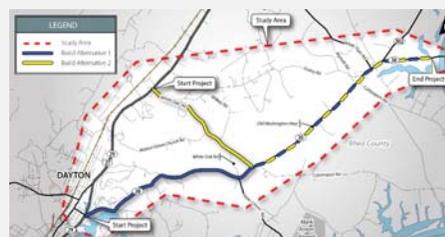
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Build Alternatives

- In November 2011, after preliminary environmental review and agency coordination, the only option selected to move forward was the White Oak Road option (Build Alternative 2)
- In October 2013, an EPD Study was conducted for the existing SR 30 and it was added back as an option (Build Alternative 1)

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Build Alternatives (continued)



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Studies Included in the Impact Evaluation

Human Environment

- Social
- Environmental Justice
- Historic
- Archaeological
- Noise
- Recreational
- Air Quality
- Traffic
- Crashes
- Relocations

Natural Environment

- Streams and Wetlands
- Rare & Endangered Species
- Floodplains
- Terrestrial
- Caves
- Hazardous Materials
- Geotechnical Study

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Rare & Endangered Species

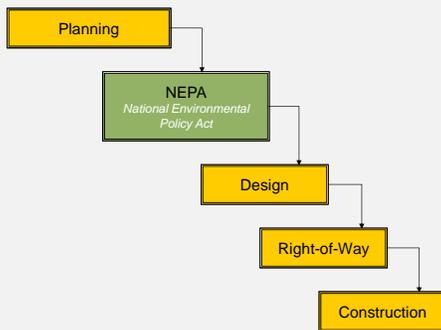
- Environmental studies will be conducted in the Summer of 2015 to determine the presence of the following federal/state-listed threatened or endangered species:



- Gray bat
- Indiana bat
- Northern long-eared bat
- Other species as needed

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Overview of Project Phases



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Next Steps

- Summarize public, local government, and agency comments - summer 2015
- Finalize technical studies to identify impacts - fall 2015
- Prepare the Draft NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) - spring 2016



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Next Steps *(continued)*

- Hold public hearing - summer 2016
- Obtain approval for final NEPA EA - fall 2016



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Comments

REMEMBER . . .

Your comments are very important to us!

How to Comment:

- Fill out a comment card **tonight**.
- Take a comment card with you and **mail** it.
- Mail in a letter with your comments.
- Speak to the court reporter.
- Participate in the question-and-answer session.
- All comments provided through the means listed above, which are received within 21 days of the meeting date, will be included in the official record.

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Contact Information

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Questions/Comments

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