

Notice of Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Approved State Route 126 Corridor Improvements, Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed widening of SR-126 in Kingsport Sullivan County, TN.

The DEIS addresses the purpose and need for the project, alternatives considered, environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures. The project involves widening a segment of SR-126 (Memorial Boulevard) along the existing alignment from East Center Street, within the City of Kingsport's City Limits east to Interstate 81 in Sullivan County. Two Build Alternatives and the No-Build Alternative are currently under consideration. The length of the proposed project is approximately 8.4 miles.

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at the Indian Springs Baptist Church, 325 Hill Rd, Kingsport, TN 37664, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The purpose of the hearing is to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the findings of the DEIS and the proposed project prior to completion of the final environmental document. A formal presentation will be made followed by a question and answer period. Representatives from TDOT will be present to address questions pertaining to the general location of the alternatives, and the social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed corridor improvements. TDOT will also have representatives available to answer questions related to the relocation assistance program, the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

The DEIS for this project was approved for circulation by the Federal Highway Administration on January 5, 2012. Copies of the document are available for public inspection at the locations listed below.

Kingsport Mayor Office
225 West Center Street
Kingsport, TN 37660

Kingsport Public Library
400 Broad Street
Kingsport, TN 37660

Kingsport Metropolitan Planning Organization
201 West Market Street
Kingsport, TN 37660

TDOT Region 1
Design Office
7345 Region Lane
Knoxville, TN 37914

An electronic copy of the DEIS is also available at: <http://www.tn.gov/tdot/SR126/>.

The public is invited to ask questions and make comments during the hearing and will be given the opportunity to make their opinions known concerning this project. Questions regarding the public hearing on this project should be directed to:

Gary King
TDOT Project Management Division
505 Deaderick Street, JKP Building
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: 615-741-4777
gary.king@tn.gov

Persons with a disability, who require aids or services to participate at the meeting, may contact Ms. Margaret Mahler at the following address no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting:

Ms. Margaret Mahler
ADA Compliance
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Suite 400, James K. Polk Building
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

or by e-mail: Margaret.Z.Mahler@tn.gov
615/741-4984 (phone)
615/532-5995 (fax)
615/253-8311 TTY Relay

A court reporter will be available to receive oral statements to be included in the project transcript. In addition, comment sheets are available for those who prefer to make written statements. Written statements and other exhibits to be included in the project transcript may be submitted by April 30, 2012 to the following address:

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

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