



**Environmental Impact Statement for  
Pellissippi Parkway (Route 162) Extension  
From SR 33 to US 321 (SR 73),  
Blount County, Tennessee**

**COORDINATION PLAN FOR  
AGENCY AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

**Federal Highway Administration (Tennessee Division)**

**and**

**Tennessee Department of Transportation, Environmental Division**

**Revised December 18, 2007**

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## 1.0 PURPOSE OF COORDINATION PLAN

This Coordination Plan is intended to define the process by which the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will communicate information about the Pellissippi Parkway (Route 162) Extension Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project to the lead, cooperating, participating and other agencies and to the public. The plan also identifies how input from agencies and the public will be solicited and considered.

Since the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expected to provide funding for this project, FHWA serves as the lead federal agency for the project. TDOT, as the direct recipient of Federal funds for the project, is the joint lead agency.

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users of 2005 (SAFETEA-LU) requires that the lead agencies establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation and comment during the environmental review process.

In accordance with TDOT's 2006 Public Involvement Plan, this project requires a Level Four Public Involvement Process, a level of participation designed for projects that would require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be completed. This plan also outlines the process by which the required level of public involvement will be accomplished.

This Coordination Plan will:

- Identify the early coordination efforts;
- Identify cooperating and participating agencies to be involved in agency coordination;
- Establish the timing and form for agency involvement in defining the project's purpose and need and study area, the range of alternatives to be investigated, and methodologies, as well as in reviewing the DEIS draft and the selection of the preferred alternative and mitigation strategies.
- Establish the timing and form for public opportunities to be involved in defining the project's purpose and need and study area and the range of alternatives to be investigated, providing input on issues of concern and environmental features, and commenting on the findings presented in the DEIS.
- Describe the communication methods that will be implemented to inform the community about the project.

The Coordination Plan will be updated periodically to reflect any changes to the project schedule and other items that typically require updating over the course of the project.

## 2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

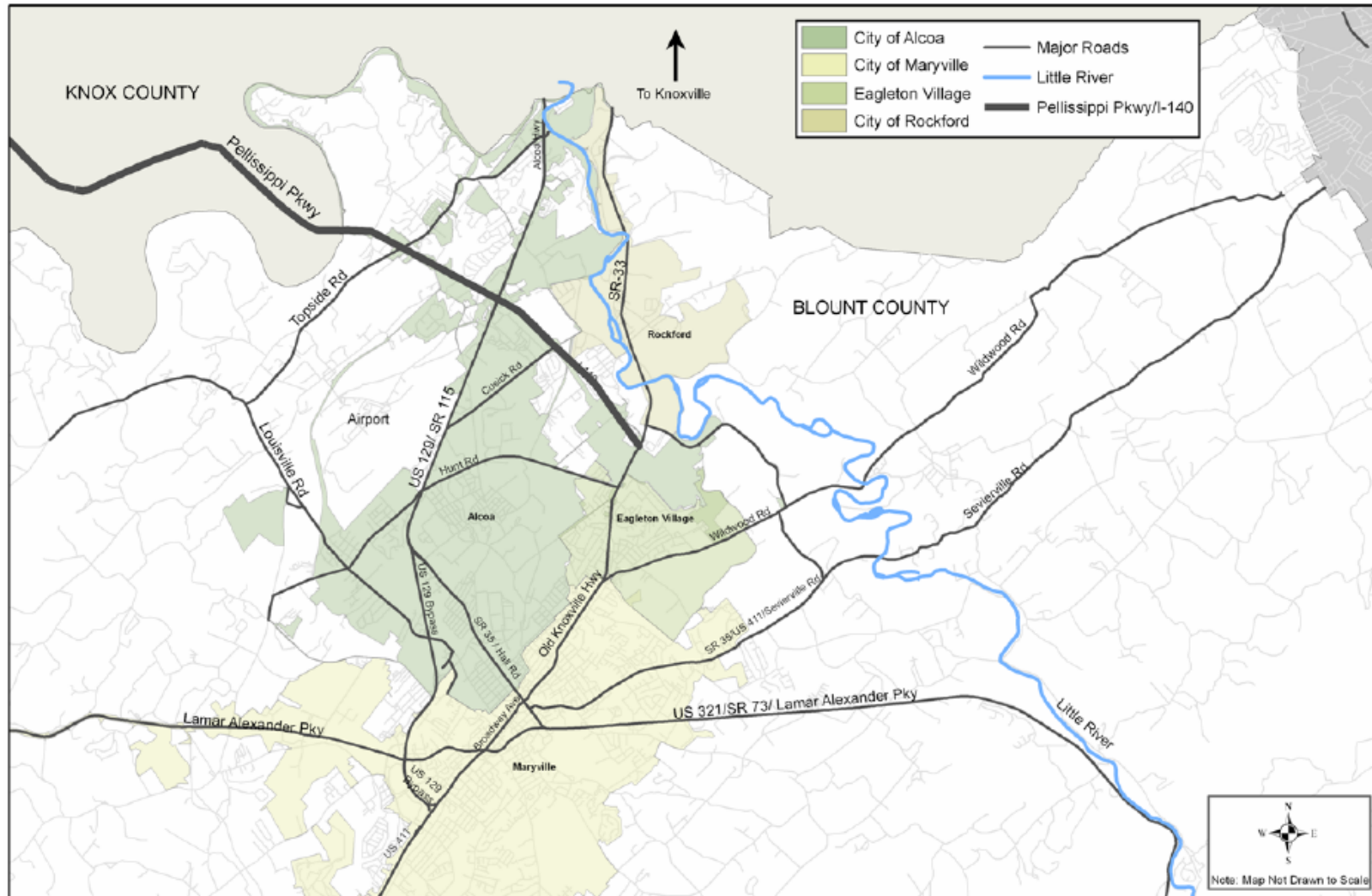
This project involves the extension of Pellissippi Parkway (State Route 162) from State Route 33 (SR 33) to U.S. Highway 321/SR 73 or East Lamar Alexander Parkway in Alcoa and Maryville, Tennessee, a distance of approximately 4.4 miles. (See Figure 1) Based on previous studies, the extension of Pellissippi Parkway has been considered necessary to improve regional and local accessibility for the general public as well as emergency vehicles, to improve traffic capacity on the existing roadway system, and to improve safety conditions on US 129/SR 115 and US 321/SR 73. As a part of this study, a Purpose and Need Statement is being developed and refined based on input from agencies and the public during the initial coordination/scoping period.

Alternatives to be evaluated are expected to include: (1) No-Build; (2) Transportation System Management (TSM) activities; (3) Upgrades to existing roadways; (4) Mass Transit; and/or (5) One or more alternatives that would construct a new roadway on new location. The alternatives to be investigated in the EIS will be developed/refined based on input from agencies and the public during the initial coordination/scoping period and subsequent agency and public involvement opportunities.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project was prepared between 1999 and 2001; the EA was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on October 3, 2001. On March 5, 2002, TDOT announced the selection of Alternative A as the preferred alignment for the project and on April 24, 2002, FHWA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project. Prior to the initiation of acquisition of right-of-way, however, on July 17, 2002 a Federal Court order was issued and imposed a preliminary injunction halting continued planning, financing, contracting, land acquisition, and construction of the project. Citizens Against the Pellissippi Parkway Extension (CAPPE) had filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Nashville against officials of TDOT, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and FHWA. The lawsuit contended that FHWA should have prepared an EIS in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, and that FHWA did not properly document their decision not to prepare an EIS. FHWA rescinded the right-of-way authorization after the court order was issued. On September 5, 2002, FHWA filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Nashville to allow FHWA to voluntarily remand the EA/FONSI. That request was rejected by the court.

In early 2003, the new TDOT Commissioner requested an independent assessment of the Pellissippi Parkway Extension project. The independent assessment was conducted by the University of Tennessee's Center for Transportation Research.

**Figure 1 Project Area Map**



PELLISSIPPI PARKWAY EXTENSION EIS COORDINATION PLAN

The findings of the assessment, published in August 2003, recommended that if the project was restarted, TDOT should ask for additional input from affected land owners and interest groups as the project moves forward.

In July 2004, a federal appeals court reversed the decision of the Nashville District Court, thus allowing FHWA to withdraw the 2002 FONSI and revisit the environmental evaluation of the project. TDOT then announced its intention to conduct an EIS for the extension of Pellissippi Parkway. In 2006, TDOT contracted with a consultant team, led by PB Americas, Inc. (formerly Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas, Inc.) to conduct environmental and engineering studies as part of the preparation of the EIS.

### 3.0 INITIAL COORDINATION

On April 17, 2006, in conformance with the requirements of SAFETEA-LU, TDOT formally notified FHWA in writing of its intent to initiate the NEPA EIS process for this project. The initial coordination/scoping process was initiated in order to obtain comments and input from agencies and the public to help determine the purpose and need for the project, alternatives to be evaluated and the issues that will be examined as part of the EIS process.

#### 3.1 Notice of Intent

Following the project initiation, FHWA with assistance from TDOT prepared a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, as required by CEQ regulations 40 CFR 1501.7. The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on April 25, 2006.

Notification of the preparation of the EIS was published in project area newspapers (Knoxville News Sentinel and Maryville Daily Times), along with the announcement of two public Scoping Meetings.

#### 3.2 Initial Coordination Package

TDOT prepared an Initial Coordination Package that was distributed to approximately 58 agencies, officials, and organizations on May 10, 2006. The packages included a transmittal letter, a project summary and a project vicinity map. The project summary identified the preliminary purpose and need for the project, potential alternatives to be considered, traffic counts on specified roadways and examples of environmental concerns that will be considered throughout the course of the EIS process.

Five groups of agencies and organizations received initial coordination packages:

- Cooperating Agencies;
- Participating Agencies;
- Non-Participating Agencies and Organizations;

- Local Agencies and Organizations; and
- Section 106 Consulting Parties.

### 3.2.1 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating Agencies are those governmental agencies specifically requested by the lead agency to participate during the environmental evaluation process for the project. FHWA's 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 EIS. Cooperating Agencies for this project are the US Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (Corps of Engineers) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). These Cooperating Agencies were also invited to be participating agencies.

If new information reveals the need to request another agency to serve as a Cooperating Agency, TDOT will issue that agency an invitation.

### 3.2.2 Participating Agencies

SAFETEA-LU (Section 6002) created a new category of agencies to participate in the environmental review process for EISs. These are federal and non-federal governmental agencies that may have an interest in the project because of their jurisdictional authority, special expertise and/or statewide interest. These participating agencies are formally invited to participate in the environmental review of the project. In addition to TVA and the Corps of Engineers, eight other federal, state and regional agencies/divisions are being asked to be participating agencies for this project. The designated Participating Agencies are shown in Table 1, on the following page.

If, during the progress of the project, new information indicates that an agency not previously requested to be a Participating Agency does indeed have authority, jurisdiction, acknowledged expertise or information relevant to the project, then TDOT, in consultation with FHWA, will promptly extend an invitation to that agency to be a Participating Agency. TDOT and FHWA will consider whether this new information affects any previous decisions on the project.

### 3.2.3 Non-Participating Agencies and Organizations

Initial Coordination Packages were sent to 39 Non-Participating agencies. This group includes federal and state agencies and organizations with statewide interests. A complete list of the agencies receiving this package is included in Appendix A.

**Table 1 Lead, Cooperating and Participating Agencies**

<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Point of contact</b>
Tennessee Division FHWA	Lead Federal Agency	Leigh Ann Tribble, Environmental Program Engineer
TDOT	Lead State Agency	Mike Russell, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District	Cooperating/Participating Agency	District Engineer, Regulatory Functions Branch (ORNOP-F)
Tennessee Valley Authority	Cooperating/Participating Agency	Mr. Jon Loney, Environmental Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Participating Agency	Mr. Lee A. Barclay, Field Supervisor
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	Participating Agency	Dale Ditmonson, Superintendent
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4	Participating Agency	Heinz J. Mueller, Chief, Environmental Assessment Office, EIS Review Section
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)	Participating Agency	Saya Qualls, Chief Engineer
TDEC Division of Water Pollution Control	Participating Agency	Paul E. Davis, Director
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	Participating Agency	Robert Todd, NEPA Contact
State Historic Preservation Office, Tennessee Historical Commission	Participating Agency	Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director
Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization	Participating Agency	Jeffrey A. Welch, Transportation Planning Coordinator ,

### 3.2.4 Local Agencies and Organizations

Nine local agencies and private organizations received the Initial Coordination Package. A listing of those agencies is also included in Appendix A.

### 3.2.5 Section 106 Early Coordination

The National Historic Preservation Act requires the federal agency or its designee (in this case TDOT) 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 process with such parties. This “involvement” is referred to as “consultation.” As a part of the consultation requirements for Section 106, a separate initial coordination package was sent to six parties with interests in historical and archaeological issues. The Blount County Mayor was invited to request status as a Section 106 consulting party, as were five Native American Tribes:

- Cherokee Nation;
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians;
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma;
- Shawnee Tribe; and
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians.

If new information reveals the need to request another agency or organization to serve as a consulting party, TDOT will issue that agency an invitation.

#### 4.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

The participating agencies for this project have roles and responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in the NEPA process starting 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; and
- Reviewing and providing comment on the preliminary draft of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the preferred alternative.

The participating agencies will have defined opportunities for meaningful participation in the decision-making process for the project. Specific opportunities are provided via the agency concurrence points that have been defined for this project.

#### 4.1 Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement Concurrence Points

TDOT has developed and is finalizing its Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement for the Environmental and Regulatory Coordination of Major Transportation Projects, referred to as TESA or the Agreement. In addition to TDOT and FHWA, signatories to the TESA will include eight federal agencies and authorities, three state agencies, and the eleven Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the state. Signatory agencies are not required to participate in every project; they will participate only in those specific projects that affect their area of jurisdiction, expertise, or interest.

The Agreement establishes a single decision-making process to identify and address agency issues at four key points (referred to as concurrence points), during the planning and NEPA process. While the Agreement is not yet

formalized, TDOT has committed to apply the principles of the Agreement for the Pellissippi Parkway Extension EIS project.

The agencies listed above in Table 1 will be participating in the concurrence point points at the following four major milestones in the environmental review process for the Pellissippi Parkway Extension EIS:

- 1) Purpose and Need and Study Area;
- 2) Project Alternatives to be Evaluated in the DEIS and Methodologies for Conducting Evaluation;
- 3) Adequacy of the Pre-Draft DEIS;
- 4) Designation of Preferred Alternative and Preliminary Mitigation;

The process for coordination associated with each of the major milestones (concurrence points) for this project is discussed below.

#### 4.1.1 Concurrence Point 1 - Purpose and Need and Study Area

Based upon comments received during the scoping period from agencies and the public, a draft purpose and need for the project will be prepared and submitted by TDOT to FHWA for internal review. Upon incorporation of comments from FHWA, TDOT will prepare and forward to the participating agencies a purpose and need and study area package. The package will include a history of the project, this coordination plan, and a summary of public and agency input received to date. Additionally, the package may include:

- A. Description of core objectives of the proposed action, and any secondary objectives;
- B. Explanation of the basis for the project objectives in terms of:
  1. Relevant Federal, state and/or local policies, which may include transportation, economic conditions, land use conditions, and other conditions;
  2. Relevant data that may include information on transportation conditions, economic conditions, land use conditions, and other conditions;
  3. Public and agency comments regarding the project's objectives.
- C. Description of the evaluation criteria that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of an alternative in meeting the purpose and need of the project and explanation of how those evaluation criteria will be utilized.

- D. Description of any other factors, besides purpose and need that will be considered in the screening of alternatives, such as cost and environmental factors;
- E. Demonstration of the project's logical termini and independent utility;
- F. A list of local and regional planning efforts that may impact or involve the project; and
- G. A map detailing the study area.

The participating agencies will be given 45 days from receipt of the package to review and provide a response; a reminder will be sent to the agencies 14 days before the end of the review period. At the end of the 45-day period, TDOT will receive a concurrence, a non-concurrence, a request for a 15-day time extension, or request for cessation of formal concurrence from each agency. TDOT will assume concurrence from those agencies from whom it has not heard at the end of the 45-day period. The output of Concurrence Point 1 should include concurrence from the participating agencies on:

- The purpose and need and the study area of the project;
- The coordination plan;
- Appropriate methodologies to be used and the level of detail required in the analysis of each alternative; and
- Preliminary range of alternatives to be considered, including different modes.

Additionally, the agencies will provide input on environmental features and resources of concern.

Based on the output of Concurrence Point 1, TDOT will revise as appropriate the Purpose and Need statement, the study area description, the coordination plan, and draft methodologies. Following this activity, TDOT will hold a public workshop on alternatives at which time the public will once again be given the opportunity provide input on the Purpose and Need statement and alternatives to be evaluated.

#### 4.1.2 Concurrence Point 2 – Project Alternatives to be Evaluated

Based on the output of Concurrence Point 1 as well as the public workshop on alternatives, and any general alternatives analysis conducted during the project development process, TDOT will prepare a Project Alternatives to be Evaluated Package. The package to be forwarded to the participating agencies may include the following information:

- Revised purpose and need statement and study area;
- Revised coordination plan;

- Revised methodologies to be used and level of detailed required in the analysis of each alternative;
- A summary table of all project alternatives to be evaluated and their effectiveness in addressing the purpose and need of the project, as well as a map showing the location of the project alternatives;
- Qualitative results of the preliminary alternatives analysis and environmental screening (based on existing data sources and GIS inventories);
- Discussion of the No-Build Alternative;
- Narrative describing the rationale why each of the proposed alternatives is being carried into the DEIS, including what alternatives were considered for inclusion but later eliminated along with the rationale why they were abandoned; and
- Where substantial impacts are anticipated, refined scopes and methodologies of studies, including the spatial and temporal limits of indirect and cumulative impact analyses.

The participating agencies will be given 45 days from receipt of the package to review and provide a response; a reminder will be sent to the agencies 14 days before the end of the review period. At the end of the 45-day period, TDOT will receive a concurrence, a non-concurrence, a request for a 15-day time extension, or request for cessation of formal concurrence from each agency. TDOT will assume concurrence from those agencies from whom it has not heard at the end of the 45-day period. The output of Concurrence Point 2 should include concurrence from the participating agencies on

- The alternatives to be carried forward into the DEIS;
- Any revisions to the purpose and need statement and the study area of the project;
- Any revisions to the coordination plan; and
- The refined scopes and methodologies to be used and the level of detail required in the analysis of each alternative.

#### 4.1.3 Concurrence Point 3 – Preliminary Draft DEIS Document

Based on the output of Concurrence Point 2 and the subsequent detailed investigation of alternatives and analysis of impacts, TDOT will prepare and forward a Preliminary DEIS document to the participating agencies for their review and comment.

The participating agencies will be given 45 days from receipt of the package to review and provide a response; a reminder will be sent to the agencies 14 days before the end of the review period. At the end of the 45-day period, TDOT will receive a concurrence, a non-concurrence, a request for a 15-day time extension, or request for cessation of formal concurrence from each

agency. TDOT will assume concurrence from those agencies from whom it has not heard at the end of the 45-day period.

The output of Concurrence Point 3 should include concurrence from the participating agencies on the adequacy of the preliminary draft DEIS. The agencies will be asked to specify whether additional information is needed to fulfill other applicable environmental reviews or consultation requirements. In addition, the participating agencies will specify any additional information needed to comment adequately on the draft DEIS analysis of site-specific effects associated with the granting or approving by the agency of necessary permits, licenses, or entitlements.

Based on the output from this concurrence point, TDOT will finalize the DEIS for submittal to FHWA. Based on FHWA's approval of the DEIS for circulation, one or more public hearings will be conducted in accordance with NEPA requirements and requirements in the project's Public Involvement Plan.

#### 4.1.4 Concurrence Point 4 – Preferred Alternative and Preliminary Mitigation

Based on the output of Concurrence Point 3, along with TDOT and FHWA's consideration of any issues, concerns and/or opportunities identified during the public hearings and comment period for the DEIS, TDOT will prepare a Preferred Alternative and Preliminary Mitigation Package. The package to be forwarded to the participating agencies may include the following information:

- Narrative describing the various elements of the preferred alternative;
- Rationale for recommending the preferred alternative;
- A preliminary mitigation summary describing the various elements of the proposed mitigation, including a map locating the elements of the preferred alternative and preliminary mitigation; and
- A summary of major public and agency comments and responses to those comments.

The participating agencies will be given 45 days from receipt of the package to review and provide a response; a reminder will be sent to the agencies 14 days before the end of the review period. At the end of the 45-day period, TDOT will receive a concurrence, a non-concurrence, a request for a 15-day time extension, or request for cessation of formal concurrence from each agency. TDOT will assume concurrence from those agencies from whom it has not heard at the end of the 45-day period.

The output of Concurrence Point 4 should include concurrence from the participating agencies on the selection of the preferred alternative and preliminary mitigation. When avoidance of impacts to a resource is not practicable, participating agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise will assist TDOT in determining appropriate and practicable mitigation,

including all practicable measures to minimize harm. If the agency determines that it does not have enough information to make a recommendation on mitigation measures, it will comment to that effect. If the project impacts are deemed substantial by a regulatory agency to the extent that permits would probably be denied, the participating agencies will advise the lead agencies to modify the project to reduce impacts. If this is not effective, the signatory agencies to the TESA agree to implement issue resolution to see if the project can be appropriately modified.

Based on the output from this concurrence point, TDOT will select a preferred alternative and prepare the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) document for submittal to FHWA.

Based on FHWA's approval of the FEIS, the FEIS will be made available for public and agency review for a minimum of 30 days. This period is the last period during which comments on the environmental evaluation process will be received from the public and agencies. Upon addressing the comments received in the comment period, the FEIS will be forwarded by TDOT to FHWA with a request for a Record of Decision (ROD).

#### 4.1.5 Other Opportunities for Agency Involvement

Those agencies that are not "Participating Agencies" as defined in SAFETEA-LU will also have opportunities to provide input and comments on the project as it moves forward. The database of agencies developed as part of the Initial Coordination efforts will be maintained and updated throughout the EIS process. Those agencies that responded to the initial coordination/scoping and those that participated in public meetings and/or provided input/comment during the preparation of the DEIS will receive notification of the availability of the DEIS.

Comments may be received at any point during the development of the EIS analysis.

## 5.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

As required by NEPA and by TDOT's Public Involvement Plan, a project specific plan for public input has been developed and is documented in this overall coordination plan. This plan describes strategies for encouraging public input and describes the opportunities to be provided to the public to encourage early and ongoing involvement in the project development process. As required by SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, the public will be provided opportunities to provide specific input on the Purpose and Need and the range of alternatives.

## 5.1 Strategies for Encouraging Public Involvement

### 5.1.1 Database of Names

TDOT's Environmental Division maintains an initial coordination list that includes the names of federal, state and other agencies (such as regional planning agencies) and local governments that TDOT will coordinate with for this project. The list also includes private entities that have requested to be included in initial coordination. The entities on the list were sent copies of the initial coordination package, and will be sent notices of public meetings, copies of project mailings and newsletters, and notice of the availability of the approved DEIS for review and comment. As appropriate, persons, organizations, and agencies on this list will also receive other correspondence related to the project.

The Environmental Division's current database will be supplemented by the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (Knoxville TPO) contact and mailing list for the Blount County area. The database will be expanded as the project moves forward. Names of persons and organizations attending public meetings or requesting additional information will be added.

### 5.1.2 Community Groups Briefings

Briefings with community/civic groups, business groups, or other interested groups or organizations over the course of the EIS process will be used as an opportunity to introduce the project, provide project updates, and receive public input on the project. Approximately eight community group briefings are expected to be held in the project area throughout the development of the EIS.

### 5.1.3 Local Government Officials Briefings

Briefings with local government officials will be used as an opportunity to introduce the project to city/county/local officials, provide updates at project milestones, and facilitate the flow of information between the officials, TDOT and FHWA. Approximately four local government officials briefings are expected to be held in the project area throughout the development of the EIS.

Local officials expected to be invited to these briefings include:

- Blount County Mayor and County Engineer;
- Mayors of Maryville, Alcoa, Rockford, and Townsend and City Managers;
- East Tennessee Development District;
- Knoxville Area Transportation Planning Organization (Knoxville TPO);

- East Tennessee Rural Planning Organization (RPO) South; and
- Representatives of area Chambers of Commerce.

The first local government officials briefing was held during the scoping period. The other briefings will occur at various milestones during the project, to be determined by the Project Team and as requested by local officials.

#### 5.1.4 Identification of Special Outreach 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 or information obtained from groups or organizations known to have knowledge of these populations.

#### 5.1.5 Media Relations

Local newspapers, radio and television stations will be identified for use in disseminating information about the project. Minority media outlets will be included. TDOT will send notices and reminders of project meetings to these media outlets in advance of public meetings.

Specific newspapers to be used are the Knoxville News-Sentinel and The Daily Times (Maryville).

#### 5.1.6 Project Newsletters

Approximately six project newsletters are expected to be prepared to keep the project area residents, business and property owners, interested citizens, civic groups, schools, local agency officials, and local public officials informed of the status of the project. Expected milestones for newsletters are as follows, and/or as deemed necessary by the Project Team;

- Following Scoping Meetings, to describe results of scoping, to inform the public how to comment, and to announce an Alternatives Workshop;
- Following the Alternatives Workshop, to present the results of the session;
- Prior to the DEIS Public Hearings, to announce the hearing dates and the availability of the DEIS for review, and to present some of the DEIS findings;
- Once the Preferred Alternative has been selected; and
- To announce the availability of the FEIS.

### 5.1.7 Project Website Content

The website for the project, <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/>, will be updated with newsletters, public meeting announcements and transcripts, and other project information as needed.

### 5.1.8 Frequently Asked Questions

To provide direct answers to some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) posed by the public, FAQ sheets may be prepared and distributed via TDOT's project website, and hardcopies will be available at briefings, public meetings and other public involvement events. These questions/answers will be updated as new information becomes available.

### 5.1.9 Comment Forms

Comment forms will be provided at all public meetings and smaller group meetings to encourage participants to provide their comments on the project. The comment form will also be available on the project website.

Comments may be provided in writing or electronically. Comments will be accepted at any time during the EIS process. All comments will be reviewed and incorporated as appropriate.

### 5.1.10 Notice of Availability of DEIS

A notice of availability of the DEIS document will be published in the local papers. The notice will identify where the DEIS 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 DEIS will be available for public inspection at the Blount County Library, at the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, and at the TDOT Region 1 Office in Knoxville. The DEIS will also be available on TDOT's website.

## 5.2 Public Workshops and Hearings

Several public meetings and hearings have been or will be held during the EIS process to provide information on the project, to solicit public input. The meetings and hearings will be conducted in conformance with NEPA requirements and TDOT's most current Public Involvement Plan. The latest plan is found at <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/documents/pipsept07.pdf>.

## 5.3 Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings were held in the project area in June 13, 2006. At those meetings, TDOT updated the public on the status of the project to date (since the last public hearing on the EA) with a short overview presentation. Information stations were staffed around the room with hard copies of project area maps for the public to use to present ideas for alternatives and to identify transportation problems. Comment forms and a court reporter were available at the meetings.

The public was specifically asked to provide input on the transportation needs for the project, the range of alternatives that should be considered, and issues of concern to be addressed in the EIS.

During the official scoping period (April 25 through July 5, 2006), 211 public comments were received by letters, emails, completed comment forms distributed at the scoping meetings, and statements to a court report at the scoping meetings. These comments have been reviewed and are being used by TDOT to define the type of issues of public concern and to develop and refine the purpose and need for the project.

Following the close of the scoping period, TDOT continued to accept comments on the project, posting a comment form on the website that can be used to provide comments or as a guide to encourage ongoing input on the project.

#### 5.4 Public Alternatives Meetings

On October 25, 2007, a public alternatives meeting was held in the project area to give the public another early opportunity to provide their input on the draft Purpose and Need Statement and alternatives to be evaluated in the DEIS. As a part of this workshop, the public was asked to review the draft Purpose and Need statement, to help identify preliminary alternatives that would address the purpose and need, and confirm or identify additional issues of concern. The workshop include a formal presentation, breakout groups, and a wrap-up with the full group. Approximately 156 people attended the three-hour session.

The expected outcome of the workshop will be a range of alternatives to be carried forward to the TESA Concurrence Points 1 and 2 and to be examined in the DEIS. Final decisions by FHWA regarding the purpose and need of the project and the range of reasonable alternatives to be considered in the DEIS will not be made until after this meeting.

A second public alternatives meeting will be held once the comments from the October public meeting have been reviewed and incorporated and TESA concurrence point 1 has been completed. This second meeting will present the revised purpose and need statement and ask for public input regarding the refined set of alternatives.

#### 5.5 Public Informational Meeting

Prior to the completion of the DEIS, another public meeting may be held to share results of technical studies. The purpose of the meetings is to share the preliminary findings of the technical investigations, so that the public can have meaningful input prior to the final preparation of the DEIS for circulation. Potential context sensitive solutions will be discussed with the public during this meeting.

## 5.6 DEIS Public Hearing

Once FHWA approves the DEIS document for public and agency review, TDOT will hold public hearings to receive comments from the public on the official findings presented in the DEIS and on the project. Input from the public hearing and public comment period will be used by TDOT to make a decision on the selection of the preferred alternative and preliminary mitigation measures.

One or two public hearings will be scheduled to be held in the project area. The hearing(s) will be advertised in local newspapers. Flyers advertising the hearing(s) will be mailed to organizations and individuals on the database.

## 6.0 SCHEDULE

Table 2 presents the tentative schedule for the completion of the EIS and issuance of a ROD for this project. This schedule will be revised/updated as the project moves forward and new information is revealed that may result in schedule adjustments.

**Table 2 Tentative Project Schedule**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
EIS Initiation	May 2006
NEPA Scoping with Scoping Meetings	May through mid July 2006
Development of Purpose and Need (delayed by need for expanded Traffic Study)	June 2006 through September 2007
Public Workshop on Purpose & Need and Alternatives	October 25, 2007
TESA Concurrence Pt. #1, Purpose & Need	December 2007 – January 2008
2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Workshop on Alternatives	February – March 2008
TESA Concurrence Pt. #2, Alternatives	March – April 2008
Alternatives Evaluation & Impact Assessment	Spring – Summer 2008
Prepare DEIS	Summer – Fall 2008
FHWA & TDOT Reviews	Fall 2008 – Winter 2009
TESA Concurrence Point #3, DEIS	Winter 2009
NOA/Circulate DEIS/Public comment Period	Winter – Spring 2009
Selection of Preferred Alternative	Summer 2009
TESA Concurrent Point #4, Preferred Alternative	Summer 2009
Prepare FEIS	Summer – Fall 2009
FHWA & TDOT Reviews	Fall 2009 – Winter 2009

Notice of Availability and Circulation of FEIS	Winter 2010
Record of Decision	Spring 2010

**Appendix**  
**List of Agencies and Organizations Receiving**  
**Coordination Packages**

**Type: Participating and Cooperating Agency**

Mr. Jon Loney, Environmental Manager  
Environmental Policy and Planning  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Suite WT8C  
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499

Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt, District Engineer  
Regulatory Functions Branch (ORNOP-F)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
3701 Bell Road  
Nashville, TN 37214-2660

**Type: Participating Agency**

Commissioner James H. Fyke  
Attention: Ms. Kim Glassman  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
L & C Tower, 20th Floor  
401 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-0454

Mr. Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
Environmental Assessment Office  
EIS Review Section  
Environmental Protection Agency  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Mr. Lee A. Barclay, Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
446 Neal Street  
Cookeville, TN 38501

Mr. Dale Ditmonson, Superintendent  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
107 Park Headquarters Road  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Mr. Richard Tune, Interim Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Tennessee Historical Commission  
Clover Bottom Mansion  
2941 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

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**Type: Participating Agency, continued**

Mr. Paul E. Davis, Director  
 Division of Water Pollution Control  
 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
 L & C Annex, 6th Floor  
 401 Church Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243-1534

Mr. Jeffrey A. Welch, AICP  
 Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
 Metro Planning Commission of Knoxville and Knox County  
 City/County Building, Suite 403  
 400 Main Street  
 Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. Robert Todd, NEPA Contact  
 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
 Ellington Agricultural Center  
 P.O. Box 40747  
 Nashville, TN 37204

**Type: Non-Participating Agency or Organization**

Office of Economic Analysis (RRP-32)  
 Federal Railroad Administration  
 400 Seventh Street, SW  
 Washington, D.C. 20590

Ms. Laverne F. Reid, Manager  
 Memphis Airport District Office  
 Federal Aviation Administration  
 2862 Business Park Drive, Bldg G  
 Memphis, TN 38118-1555

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
 The Old Post Office Building, Suite 809  
 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Ms. Pearl Young  
 Office of Federal Activities, EIS Filing Section  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 Mail Code 2252-A, Room 7241  
 Ariel Rios Building (South Oval Lobby) 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20460

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**Type: Non-Participating Agency or Organization, continued**

Mr. Tom Chappell, Regional Engineer  
 Forest Service - R-8  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 1720 Peachtree Road, NW  
 Atlanta, GA 30309

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 P.O. Box 2010  
 Cleveland, TN 37320

Ms. Susan Fruchter  
 Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 Department of Commerce  
 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
 Room 5805  
 Washington, D.C. 20230

Mr. Tim Dieringer, Director  
 Office of Surface Mining  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 530 Gay Street, S.W., Suite 500  
 Knoxville, TN 37902

District Chief, Water Resources Division  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 630 Grassmere Park, Suite 100  
 Nashville, TN 37211

Office of Environmental Affairs  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 USGS National Center, MS-423  
 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
 Reston, VA 20192

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Main Interior Building, MS 2342  
 1839 C Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Harry Walls, Environmental Officer  
 U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
 Five Points Plaza Building, 4th Floor  
 40 Marietta Street  
 Atlanta, GA 30303

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**Type: Non-Participating Agency or Organization, continued**

Mr. William R. Straw  
 Regional Environmental Officer  
 Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road  
 Atlanta, GA 30341-4148

Federal Regulatory Commission  
 888 First Street, N.E.  
 Washington, D.C. 20426

Senior Transportation Advisor  
 Appalachian Regional Commission  
 166 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20235

Mr. Wilton Burnett, Jr., Director of Special Projects  
 TDECD NEPA Contact  
 Department of Economic and Community Development  
 W.R. Snodgrass Tower, 11th Floor  
 312 8th Avenue North  
 Nashville, TN 37243

Mr. Reggie Reeves, Director  
 Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage  
 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
 L & C Tower, 14th Floor  
 401 Church Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243-0447

Mr. Kent Taylor, Director  
 Division of Ground Water Protection  
 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
 L & C Tower, 10th Floor  
 401 Church Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243-1540

Mr. David Draughon, Director  
 Division of Water Supply  
 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
 L & C Tower, 6th Floor, 401 Church Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243-1549

Mr. James Ford, State Conservationist  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 U.S. Courthouse - Room 675  
 Nashville, TN 37203

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**Type: Non-Participating Agency or Organization, continued**

Mr. Mike Apple, Director  
 Division of Solid/Hazardous Waste Management  
 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
 L & C Tower, 5th Floor  
 401 Church Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243-1535

Deputy Commissioner Terry Oliver  
 NEPA Contact  
 Tennessee Department of Agriculture  
 Ellington Agricultural Center  
 Nashville, TN 37204

Mr. Barry Stephens, Director  
 Division of Air Pollution Control  
 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
 L & C Annex, 9th Floor  
 401 Church Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243-1531

Mr. Robert (Bob) V. Woods, Director  
 Tennessee Aeronautics Division  
 Tennessee Department of Transportation  
 484 Knapp Boulevard, Building 4219  
 Nashville, TN 37217

Diane Davidson, Transportation Director  
 Public Transportation, Waterways, and Rail Division  
 Tennessee Department of Transportation  
 James K. Polk Building, 18th Floor  
 505 Deaderick Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243

Ms. Lori Kirby, Director  
 Title VI Program, Civil Rights Office  
 Tennessee Department of Transportation  
 James K. Polk Building, Suite 1800  
 505 Deaderick Street  
 Nashville, TN 37243-0347

Mr. Tom Fusco, Executive Administrative Assistant  
 Tennessee Department of Education  
 Andrew Johnson Tower, 6th Floor  
 710 James Robertson Parkway  
 Nashville, TN 37243-0376

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**Type: Non-Participating Agency or Organization, continued**

Tennessee State Library and Archives  
403 7th Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243-0312

Blount County Public Library  
508 N. Cusick Street  
Maryville, TN 37804

Mr. Dan Hawk, Urban Regional Director  
East Tennessee Section  
Tennessee Planning Office  
5401 Kingston Pike  
Suite 210  
Knoxville, TN 37919

Tennessee Environmental Council  
One Vantage Way, Suite D-105  
Nashville, TN 37212-4348

Ms. Wendy Smith  
World Wildlife Fund  
2021 21st Avenue, South, Suite 200  
Nashville, TN 37212-4348

Mr. Michael Butler  
Tennessee Wildlife Federation  
300 Orlando Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37209-3257

Ms. Gabby Call  
The Nature Conservancy  
2021 21st Avenue South, Suite C-400  
Nashville, TN 37212

Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club  
2021 21st Ave. South, Suite 436  
Nashville, TN 37212

Ms. Liz Dixon, Sierra Club  
10417 Victoria Drive, #C  
Knoxville, TN 37922

Tennessee Trails Association  
P.O. Box 41446  
Nashville, TN 37204

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**Type: Non-Participating Agency or Organization, continued**

James D. Hoskins Library  
 University of Tennessee  
 Serials Department  
 1401 Cumberland Avenue  
 Knoxville, TN 37996-4000

Ms. Nina Gregg  
 Citizens Against Pellissippi Parkway Extension  
 PO Box 494  
 Alcoa, TN 37701

**Type: Local Agencies and Organizations**

Mr. Mark Hairr  
 General Manager  
 Knoxville Area Transit  
 1135 East Magnolia Avenue  
 Knoxville, TN 37917

Mr. Dewey Roberts  
 President  
 NAACP-Knoxville Chapter  
 P.O. Box 14096  
 Knoxville TN 37914

Mr. Terry Bobrowski  
 East Tennessee Development District  
 P.O. Box 19806  
 Knoxville, TN 37939-2806

Blount County Executive  
 Blount County Courthouse  
 341 Court Street  
 Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Mr. John Lamb, Director of Planning  
 Blount County Planning Department  
 Blount County Courthouse  
 327 Court Street  
 Maryville TN 37804-5906

Glenn Cardwell, President  
 Smoky Mountain Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 5078  
 Sevierville, TN 37864-5078

**Type: Local Agencies and Organizations, continued**

Amanda Wild, Historic Preservation Planner  
East Tennessee Development District  
P.O. Box 19806  
Knoxville, TN 37939-2806

Mrs. Inez Burns  
Blunt County Historian  
1308 Brannon Drive  
Maryville, TN 37801

Blount County Historic Society  
P.O. Box 4986  
Maryville ,TN 37802-4986