

For Immediate Release
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TDOT Studies Project Report
Results of 15 project UT Review are delivered to TDOT

Nashville, Tennessee—A comprehensive independent study exploring fifteen proposed road construction projects in Tennessee is complete and the results are now in the hands of the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

The study involved a series of "Listening Sessions" held around the state at the request of TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely, by the UT Center for Transportation Research.

Shortly after taking over at TDOT, Commissioner Nicely engaged the Center to undertake the review. Dr. Stephen Richards, the Center's Executive Director guided the team that gathered and analyzed community input on the projects which would impact the state from Memphis to Knoxville at a total cost of more than a billion dollars. The projects targeted for study had generated considerable controversy and had come to Governor Phil Bredesen's attention while he was running for office last year.

The Center was charged with the mission of providing an assessment upon which the department could base decisions for future action, not with making definitive decisions on whether the projects would be continued.

"I have formed Project Review Teams within TDOT to examine the results of this study," Nicely said. "I expect the teams to carefully examine it and report to me in a few weeks. I hope to make decisions, project by project, within the next sixty days or so."

The Listening Sessions focused on collecting information from citizens, communities, city planners, and government officials about how the fifteen projects were determined as necessary in the first place. UT researchers also reviewed project alternatives and the extent to which citizen input had taken place during the project planning process.

"This will be a very important tool in the decision-making process," Nicely added.

The UT Listening Session TDOT project list follows. To read a report (pdf format), click on its name.

- [SR 840 South](#)
- [Wolf River Parkway in Memphis](#)
- [SR 451--Cookeville area](#)
- [US 127 \(State Route 28\) South of Crossville](#)
- [US 64 from Cleveland to US 411](#)
- [SR 475--Knoxville Beltway \(orange route\)](#)
- [James White Parkway Extension—Knoxville](#)
- [Pellissippi Parkway Extension](#)
- [US 321\(SR 35\)—Greene County](#)
- [SR 840 North](#)
- [Walnut Grove Relocation Project in Memphis](#)
- [Jackson East Bypass](#)
- [US 127 \(State Route 28\) North of Crossville](#)
- [Highway 321 Between Gatlinburg and Cosby](#)
- [SR 357 Extension in Sullivan County](#)

**A radio actuality with Commissioner Nicely is available at 1-800-860-6808 or on the web site. To access the online actuality, [click here](#).