

TDOT Update

October 2008

TDOT issues first newsletter on the EIS for the PPE.

You may have received in the mail last week the ‘Pellissippi Parkway Extension Project Newsletter’ dated October 2008. This TDOT publication reports on activities related to the EIS, some of which have been completed and others which are underway or still to come. You can read the newsletter on-line at

<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/news.htm>

Of particular interest to CAPPE are the following items from the newsletter:

- In the section titled ‘Refinement of Preliminary Alternatives and Corridors’ we read that the purpose and need for the project have not changed. Among the stated needs is ‘Improve roadway safety on the existing roadway network, including the “Maryville core.” – but we still have never seen any traffic data or analysis that shows how the PPE would improve traffic flow in the Maryville core!
- In the section titled ‘Concurrence Reached on the Alternatives to be Evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)’ we read that two routes for four-lane interstates remain among the options. There is also a new alternative: ‘upgrade two-lane network’ that has been added. There is more detail about this and the other alternatives on the TDOT website at

<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/alternatives.htm>

The new alternative is described as follows:

The alternative concept of upgrading a two-lane network of existing roads to serve as a two-lane connection between SR 33 and US 321 emerged during the course of this study based on discussions with the public about travel needs and environmental concerns. This upgraded network was seen as a way to improve some of the currently deficient two-lane roads in the study area and provide a more direct connection between SR 33 and US 321 east of Maryville without having a new freeway-type facility. A route using existing Sam Houston, Peppermint Road, Hitch Road and Helton Road has been identified. Under this alternative, now referred to as Corridor D, an improved two-lane roadway would be constructed using the existing roadway alignment where possible, while straightening curves and realigning intersections and using new location to provide a continuous route.

The TDOT website also shows a timeline at

<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/timeline.htm>

The timeline shows release of the Draft EIS is anticipated for Spring or Summer 2009, with public hearings and comment on the DEIS in Summer 2009.

Blount County Planning Department holding ‘Green Infrastructure Workshops

Please plan to attend one or more of these local workshops, during which participants will have opportunities to identify locations for conservation, preservation, protection, parks and trails in Blount County. Bring your friends and neighbors!

Green Infrastructure Workshops

- October 13 - Middlesettlements
- October 14 - Heritage High School
- October 16 - Friendsville Elementary School
- October 20 - William Blount HS 9th Gr. Acad.
- October 21 - Alcoa Service Center - Universal St.
- October 27 - Townsend Elementary School
- October 28 - Porter Elementary School
- October 30 - Maryville City Hall - Hensley Room

Registration: 6:15 PM Workshop: 6:30 to 8:00

Facilitated by Alcoa, Blount County, and Maryville Planning Departments and Local Planning Assistance Office with assistance from TVA and Southeast Watershed Forum.

For more information and directions visit
www.blounttn.org/planning or call 273-5750