Presentation snapshot

- Project overview
- Environmental review process
- Stakeholder coordination
- What’s ahead?
- Rock slide overview
PROJECT OVERVIEW
Project history

- Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965
- Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS)
- Overseen by Appalachian Regional Council (ARC)
- Mission of ADHS is to promote economic development in the 13-state Appalachian Region
- 3,090 mile network of highways comprised of 29 corridors
Project history

Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS)

September 30, 2010

Source: Appalachian Regional Commission
Project history

Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS)

Tennessee

Source: Appalachian Regional Commission
Study area

Corridor K
Study Area

Cherokee National Forest

Little Frog Mountain

Big Frog Mountain

Ducktown

Tennessee Department of Transportation

American Regions Corporation

Federal Highway Administration
Study area

- 85% national forest land
- Three designated wilderness areas
- 300,000 visitors per year
- Recreational opportunities (whitewater rafting, hiking and mountain biking)
- 1996 Olympic Games at Ocoee Whitewater Center
- Nation’s first National Forest Scenic Byway
Project need

- Current design does not meet highway standards
- Lacks roadway shoulders
- Susceptible to road closures
- Minimal sight distance at curves
- Inadequate space for guardrails
- Limited detours in case of rockslides, accidents or inclement weather
Project purpose

• Safe, reliable and efficient east-west transportation route
• Improve regional transportation linkages
• Preserve environmental quality
• Support local, regional, and state land use and transportation goals
• Enhance sustainable economic growth in the region
Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

- Defining context and place
- Engaging stakeholders and public
- Building consensus to make decisions
- Utilizing flexibility in design
- Thinking creatively about solutions
Planning efforts

- Transportation Planning Report *(complete)*
  - Corridor–level planning analysis
  - Evaluated various transportation options
  - Integrated technical information and community input early
- Environmental review *(underway)*
  - Refine study alternatives
  - **Collect data and conduct fieldwork**
  - Analyze potential effects to resources
  - Develop Environmental Impact Statement
Key steps in developing alternatives

- **Corridor-Level Planning**
  - 10 corridor options
  - Transportation Planning Report

- **Screening**
  - Options screened using a variety of criteria
  - 6 alternatives recommended for further study

- **Environmental Review**
  - Alternatives carried forward for analysis in Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
  - TDOT selects a preferred alternative

*Stakeholder input was used in the development of study alternatives.*
Six alternatives for further study
Environmental review

- Federal and state environmental regulations
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- State process to coordinate with agencies (Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement)
Key steps

• Public and agency scoping
• Data collection
• Analysis of impacts
• Draft Environmental Impact Statement
• Final Environmental Impact Statement
• Record of Decision
What topics are being studied?

- Air quality
- Community/social resources
- Ecology and natural resources
- Economics
- Energy
- Farmland
- Floodplains
- Hazardous materials
- Historical and archaeological resources
- Land use
- Noise
- Parks and recreation
- Geology and soils
- Tribal and cultural resources
- Vegetation
- Visual resources
- Water quality
- Wetlands
Geology and soils

- Pyritic formations
- Susceptibility to rock slides
- Heavy metals
- Encapsulation
- Water quality impacts
Fieldwork and data collection

• Currently collecting data on environmental and community resources
• Results published in technical reports and studies
• Geotechnical investigations
STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION
Meetings and events

• Public meetings
• Local officials briefings
• Briefings with regional economic, environmental, and utility leaders
• Citizens Resource Team meetings
• Agency meetings
• Staffing at local events
• Other government and organization briefings
Agency coordination

- Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement (TESA)
  - Agency concurrence at key milestones
  - CP 2 complete: “Project Alternatives to Be Evaluated in the Environmental Document”
- Project agency meetings
- Ongoing agency coordination
Technical working groups

- Technical input from community members and agencies
- Citizens Resource Team working groups
- Technical working groups
  - Geotechnical
  - Aquatic resources
  - Design
WHAT’S AHEAD?
What’s ahead?

• TDOT will confirm which alternatives to study in the EIS
• Data will be collected on the alternatives
• Potential effects will be analyzed
• The team will develop the Draft EIS
• Ongoing public involvement
ROCK SLIDE OVERVIEW
ROCK SLIDE US 64 NOVEMBER 10, 2009 LOG MILE 17.6

ROCK SLIDE US 64 JANUARY 18, 2010 LOG MILE 10.9

MAINTENANCE WORK US 64 15 MPH CURVE
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