

THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION HIGHWAY CORRIDOR STUDY

Expert Working Group
Kick-off Meeting
September 16, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia



Greeting and introductions

THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION HIGHWAY CORRIDOR STUDY



Meeting agenda

- Project team
- Expert Working Group
- About the project

-Break-

- Study area
- Project control points
- Public Involvement Plan
- Database/reports inventory
- Closeout/next meeting



Project team

- FHWA:
 - Stefan Natzke, Task Monitor
- ICF Team:
 - Project Manager - John Mettelle, WSA



Expert Working Group

- A group with particular knowledge about a specific topic area or geographic area that is formed to examine a particular situation or problem and provide unstructured suggestions about the topic.



Expert Working Group

- Purpose of group
- Selection process, current members and gaps
- Roles and responsibilities:
 - Attend meetings
 - Review data and technical analyses
 - Share information
 - Achieve consensus
 - Make recommendations



About the project

- Project history
- Statutory basis
- Project approach
- Key milestones and schedule:
 - Determine control points
 - Select alternative alignments and design levels
 - Conduct analysis and develop report
 - Recommend sub-studies and final report



Overarching principles

- Respect the statutory language
- Follow the contract and Statement of Work
- Coordinate with the EWG, agencies and the public
- Be consistent with FHWA guidance on major project cost estimates
- Be consistent with 23 CFR 450 Appendix A, Linking Transportation Planning and NEPA
- Stay on schedule
- Submit all work products to FHWA for review and approval



What the study is.....

- Two parts:
 - **Part 1** – Develop cost and steps to complete as required by statute
 - **Part 2** - Recommend sub-studies, evaluate benefits and disclose potential environmental impacts
- Part 1
 - must be complete before Part 2 begins
 - guides Part 2
- Part 2
 - based upon input of EWG and the public
 - Recommendations will be made to FHWA by contractor

What the study is....

- A segment refers to one of several sections that fit together to form the project corridor
- Evaluate four alternatives for each segment
- Lavonia to Knoxville segment is an exception with five alternatives

Segments
Savannah to Augusta
Augusta to Lavonia
Lavonia to Knoxville



What the study is....

- At least one alternative in each segment shall include:
 - Interstate standard design level
 - substantial portions of existing highways
 - For Lavonia to Knoxville, at least one alternative outside of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- An alternate may include an alignment with a design level that changes
 - Example: freeway for a portion of the segment and an expressway for another portion of the segment



What the study is....

Primary Tasks

Task 1: Kick-off meeting

Task 2: Inventories

Task 3: Expert Working Group

Task 4: Project website

Task 5: Control points

Task 6: Public involvement

Task 7: Study alignments and design levels

Task 8: Detailed spatial analysis

Task 9: Draft estimates and costs

Task 10: Final report

Task 11: Recommendations of sub-studies



What this study is not.....

- States and MPOs not required to:
 - implement any alternative
 - conduct further analyses
- Recommendations on design level or alignment will not be made unless requested by FHWA

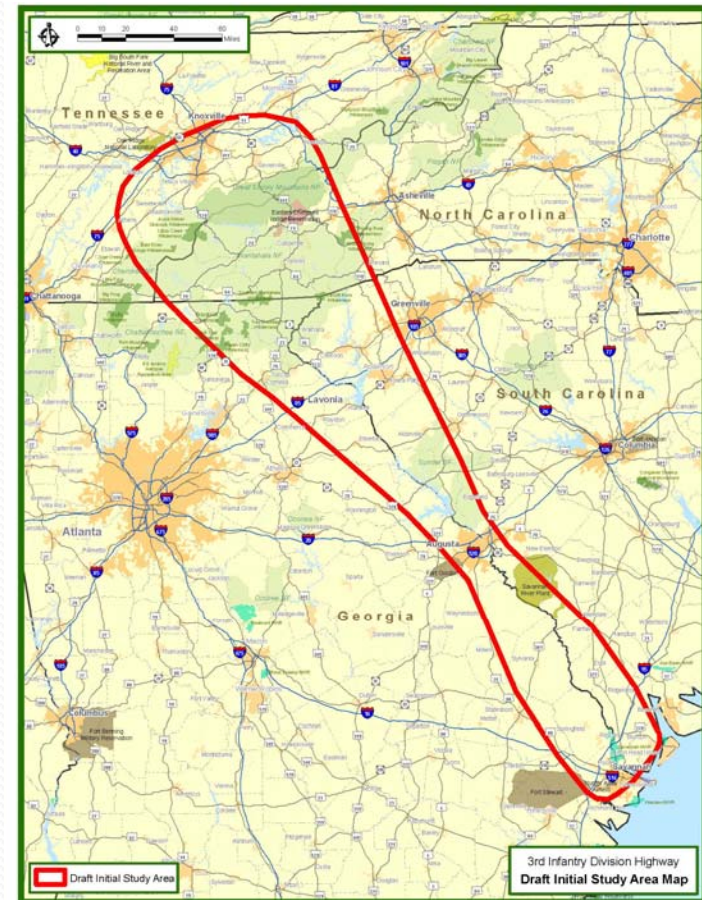


Break

THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION HIGHWAY CORRIDOR STUDY

Defining the study area

- To be developed with FHWA and Expert Working Group
- Identifies area of influence for traffic estimates and public involvement activities
- Between Knoxville and Savannah
- Along the eastern Georgia boundary and through the southwest corner of North Carolina





Project control points

- A control point is the endpoint of a proposed highway improvement
- Control points indicate independent utility
- Route should link Savannah, Georgia, Augusta, Georgia and Knoxville, Tennessee (SAFETEA-LU)
- Control points may be cities or other points
- Primary control points are located near the places identified in legislation and other control points (e.g., where a possible alignment crosses an intercity highway)

Public Involvement Plan

- Purpose of Plan
- Key messages
- Goals and objectives
- Project context
- Stakeholders
- Key involvement strategies:
 - EWG
 - Project website
 - Newsletters
 - Media/announcements





Database/reports inventory

- Catalog of existing studies, reports, analyses, plans, databases and similar materials
- Spatial database:
 - land use
 - environmental features
 - demographic data
 - geographic data
 - traffic information
- Facilitate public comment on possible alternatives



Closeout/next meeting

- Questions/comments
- Future meetings
- Contact information:
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