

# THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION HIGHWAY CORRIDOR STUDY

Expert Working Group  
Second Meeting  
December 14, 2010  
Atlanta, Georgia

## Greeting and introductions

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## Meeting agenda

- Introductions
- Review of Previous Meeting
- Review of Updated Project Study area
- Review of Updated Project control points
- Review and Discussion of Public Involvement Plan
- Review and Discussion of Database/reports inventory
- Discussion of Illustrative Corridors
- Closeout/next meeting

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## Recap of first meeting

- Type of study
- Purpose of study
- Study area
- Control points
- Public involvement plan
- Data

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## 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

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## What the study is....

The 3rd Infantry Division Highway Corridor Study will be conducted in two phases:

- Phase I (underway now) – Conceptual Feasibility Report: identify potential alignments that connect designated urban areas, develop cost estimates and recommend implementation steps
- Phase II (optional) – Sub-Studies and Beyond: explore potential alternative alignments for potential use in a long-range planning study and subsequent NEPA studies

The Conceptual Feasibility Report developed during Phase I will be used to inform Congress of the steps that would be necessary to move the project forward and will provide a planning-level estimate of what it would cost to construct. Additional planning studies will be conducted in Phase II as directed by FHWA.

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## What this study is not.....

- States and MPOs not required to:
  - implement any alternative
  - conduct further analyses
- The study will not result in a recommendation for a particular design or alignment unless FHWA specifically asks for it, as directed by Congress.
- The study will not necessarily lead to construction of any specific highway improvement

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## What this study is not.....

- A traditional planning feasibility study.
- A feasibility study reports on:
  - the degree to which a given alternative mode, management strategy, design or location is economically justified
  - the degree to which such an alternative is considered preferable from an environmental or social perspective
  - the degree to which eventual construction and operation of such an alternative can be financed and managed.

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## Redefining the study area

- Developed with FHWA and Expert Working Group
- Identifies area of influence for traffic estimates and public involvement activities



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## Updated Project Study Area



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## Project control points

- A control point is the endpoint of a proposed highway improvement
- Control points indicate independent utility
- Primary control points are located near the places identified in legislation and other control points
- Coordinating with 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment project in the vicinity of Augusta

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## OVERALL CONTROL POINT MAP



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## Control points

- In the Savannah area: A connection between the eastern edge of Fort Stewart and the Savannah River Parkway
- In the Augusta area: A corridor crossing I-520 around Augusta or I-20 from the western edge of Augusta to a point just to the west of Fort Gordon.
- In the Lavonia area: Along I-85 from west of the Greenville Bypass to the US 441 Interchange.
- In the Knoxville area: Connect to an existing limited access highway in Knoxville.

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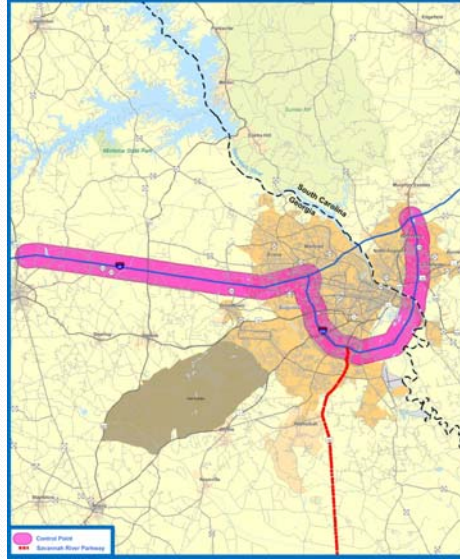
## Savannah Control Point Map



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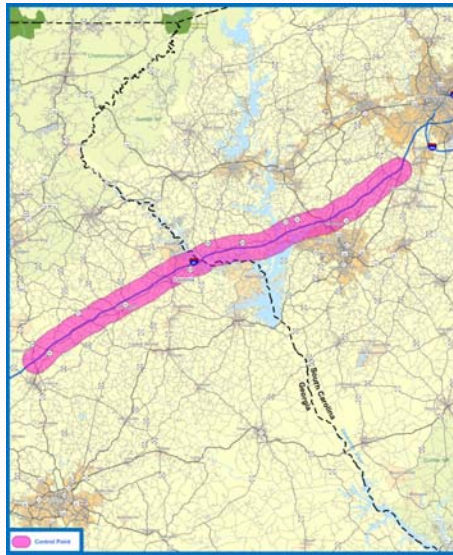


## Augusta Control Point Map



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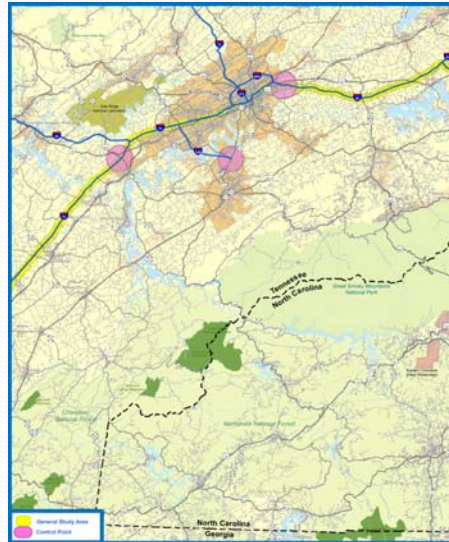
## Lavonia Control Point Map



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## Knoxville Control Point Map



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## Revisions to PIP

The PIP was revised as follows:

- Defined type and context of the study
- Focused the PI strategies on Phase I
- Refined key messages
- Refined/expanded the discussion of the appropriate PI tools for the study
- Revised study area description based on Control Point memo
- Incorporated FHWA preferences/comments, as appropriate
- Incorporated comments from 1<sup>st</sup> EWG meeting

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## Public Involvement Plan

- Key involvement strategies:
  - EWG
  - Project website
  - Newsletters
  - Media/announcements



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## Goals

- Consistency with pertinent public involvement policies and plans within study area
- Keep study message simple, including the origins of study and the limits of what was put in legislation
- Efficient use of resources warranted by study budget

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## Key messages

- The law (SAFETEA-LU) directs that this study be undertaken, and it is being performed by ICF under contract to FHWA.
- The law requires the study document the steps and cost necessary to designate and construct a highway connecting the cities of... FHWA will submit a report to Congress with this information.
- The study will not recommend whether or not to build a project in the corridor.
- No preferred alignment for the corridor has been or will be established. No particular design level, including Interstate design standards, will be recommended.

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## Key messages

- The 3rd Infantry Division Highway Corridor has not been designated as a future interstate. The ICF Team is looking at potential corridors within the study area as defined by law.
- The study will incorporate the results of previous planning efforts and public input.
- The public will be provided opportunities to provide feedback on the study, including draft concepts and reports.
- There is currently no funding identified beyond Phase II to support long-range planning, environmental review or construction. These activities must be initiated and undertaken at the state or regional level.

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## Public involvement tools

- Stakeholder involvement and public information activities
  - Expert working group
  - FHWA web site
- Recommendations for public involvement
  - To support Tasks 1 through 11, focusing on Task 5 (control points) and in particular Task 7 (alignments and designs)
  - To supplement optional sub-studies (beyond June 2011)

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## Update on FHWA Website

- Existing page will be modified
- New Main Page
- Will include: Introduction, The Corridors, Statutory Language, FAQs (which will include the original FAQs and information from the "Origin of Section 1927" and "Interstate Designation" pages), and a new Study Structure Page (highlighting the primary tasks in the SOW)
- Plus links to both studies

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Website Contents

- Fact Sheet
- Overview and Scope
- Project Schedule/Calendar
- EWG
- Data Sources
- Control Points
- Study alignments
- Design Levels
- Cost Estimates
- Draft Report
- Final Report
- Comments/Contact (form based with a subject field so the public can select from the pool of topic areas)

## Database/reports inventory

- Catalog of existing studies, reports, analyses, plans, databases and similar materials
- Will be sharing and comparing with relevant information cataloged for the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment study
- Spatial database:
  - land use
  - environmental features
  - demographic data
  - geographic data
  - traffic information
- Facilitate public comment on possible alternatives
- Will be used to evaluate alternative alignments for cost and steps needed to construct

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## Illustrative corridors

- Just a starting point
- Looking for EWG input on potential corridors and resource sensitivity
- Intent is to assist and focus Tasks 7 and 8
- In the technical memorandum for Task 7, ICF will discuss if more or fewer alignment/design level alternatives are appropriate.

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## Illustrative corridors



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## Illustrative corridors



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## Corridor design levels

- 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

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## Closeout/next meeting

- Recap of meeting
- Questions/comments
- Future meetings
- Contact information:
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