

# 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
<b>Savannah to Augusta</b>
<b>Augusta to Lavonia</b>
<b>Lavonia to Knoxville</b>



# 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

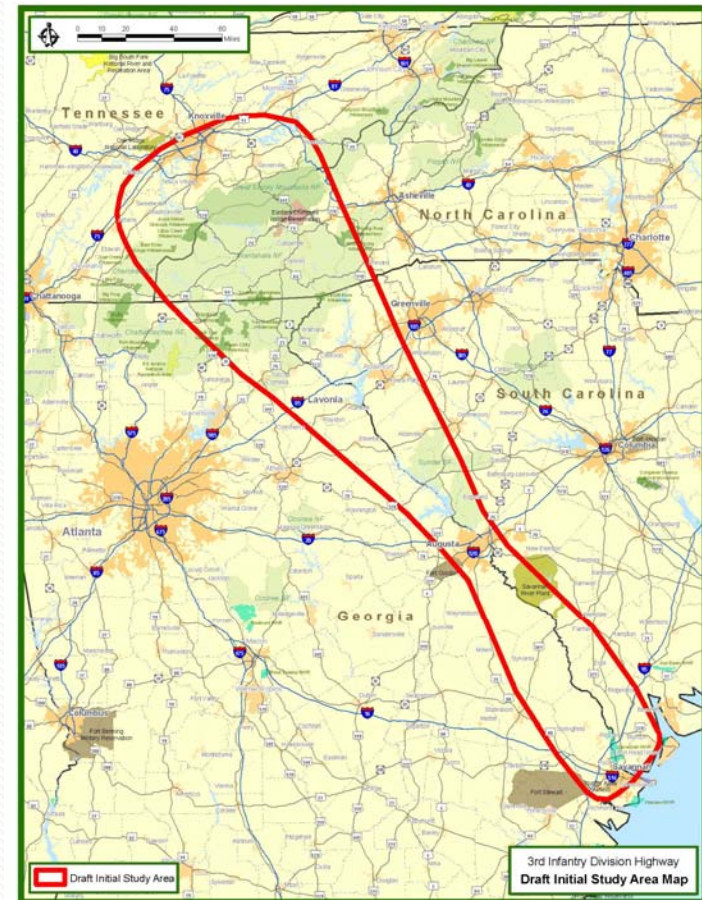


# Break

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:
  - John Mettelle, WSA  
(859) 254-5759  
[JMettelle@wilbursmith.com](mailto:JMettelle@wilbursmith.com)