

ALTERNATIVES WORKSHOP

SR-162/PELLISSIPPI PARKWAY EXTENSION

BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE



Presented by the Tennessee Department of Transportation

October 25, 2007

Workshop Purpose

- ◆ Provide an update of the EIS study
- ◆ Present the revised Purpose and Need
- ◆ Seek public input on the alternatives to be studied
- ◆ Discuss next steps in the EIS process



Workshop Format

- ◆ 5 to 6 PM - Introduction & Group Presentation
 - Review of Early Comments
 - Purpose and Need
 - Initial Alternatives
- ◆ 6 to 7 PM - Breakout for Alternatives
- ◆ 7 to 8 PM - Group Discussion / Q&A Session



NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that projects receiving federal funding or requiring federal actions (e.g. permits) undergo an environmental review process.

The project cannot proceed until this requirement is successfully completed.

Project Status

- ◆ Past studies led to this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- ◆ EIS initiated April 26, 2006
- ◆ Public Scoping Workshop held June 06
- ◆ Public comments have been reviewed
- ◆ Environmental screening conducted
- ◆ Traffic forecasts and LOS analysis conducted
- ◆ Purpose & Need Statement drafted

Expectations for this Workshop

- ◆ Most important discussion of the project
- ◆ Explains the existing transportation problem (not the solution)
- ◆ Helps determine which solutions to the problem will be studied
- ◆ Describes why TDOT is proposing to spend funds on the project

Results of Scoping

- ◆ 295 comments provided between May and December 2006
 - Comment cards
 - Oral comments to court reporter
 - Emails and letters
- ◆ Variety of opinions offered:
 - 200 comments supporting the extension
 - 84 comments opposing the extension

Transportation Needs

Here's what we heard you say in 2006...

- ◆ Congestion on Alcoa Highway and SR 33.
- ◆ Existing roads need to be upgraded: Sevierville Road, Alcoa Highway, SR 33, and US 411.
- ◆ The extension would save time and add convenience to the commute to Knoxville and/or Oak Ridge.
- ◆ Tourists should be routed around, not through, Maryville.
- ◆ A more direct route from Knoxville to Townsend is needed.

Transportation Needs

Here's what we heard you say in 2006...

- ◆ Through traffic is putting a strain on local roads.
- ◆ A result of Pellissippi Parkway ending at SR 33, residents of the Jackson Hills subdivision have a hard time getting out of their subdivision.
- ◆ The area east of Alcoa and Maryville is growing, and improvements to road network are necessary to meet future traffic demands.
- ◆ The extension will increase mobility for emergency vehicles.

Issues of Concern

Here's what we heard you say in 2006...

- ◆ Extension will cause overcrowding of the Smoky Mountains National Park
- ◆ Extension will spur development of farmlands that the County cannot handle
- ◆ Extension will change the rural character of the area
- ◆ Health of the downtown district may be affected if the extension is built

Issues of Concern

Here's what we heard you say in 2006...

- ◆ Concerned about impacts to:
 - Farmlands
 - Little River and streams
 - Wildlife and habitats
 - Air quality
 - Noise

Agency Comments

What agencies listed as concerns:

- ◆ 303(d) listed streams
- ◆ Erosion and sediment control measures
- ◆ Federal and State listed species in Little River Watershed; Rare species documented within a 1-mile radius of the general project area: duskytail darter, tangerine darter, longhead darter, snail darter, and the fine-rayed pigtoe.
- ◆ Two water supply intakes along the Little River for the Cities of Maryville and Alcoa

Agency Comments

What agencies listed the following concerns:

- ◆ Prime farmland
- ◆ Karst limestone areas (sinkholes)
- ◆ Properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places
- ◆ Air quality impacts
- ◆ Possible environmental justice concerns impacts (low income and limited English proficient communities)
- ◆ 450-acre Research & Development (R&D) Park at SR-33 & I-140 terminus

Section 106 Consultation

- ◆ 6 consulting party invitations sent out by TDOT and FHWA
- ◆ One Indian Tribe (Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma) responded, asking to be notified if any items were discovered.

Alternatives Comments

<i>Alternative</i>	<i># comments</i>
No Build Alt.	54
TSM Alt.	51
Build Alt.	145
2-Lane	4
4-Lane	98
5-Lane	25
Other (i.e., improve existing roads)	23

Alternatives Comments

Here's what we heard you say...

- ◆ Do not extend Pellissippi Parkway
- ◆ Improve existing roads first
- ◆ Establish a transit system
- ◆ Build the extension as planned
- ◆ Build the extension on an alignment that is as straight as possible and is least disruptive to landowners.
- ◆ Build the extension as an arterial rather than a freeway to provided greater access and reduced speeds

Improvements to Existing Roads

Here's what we heard you say...

- ◆ Align intersection at Wildwood Road and SR 33 (Broadway)
- ◆ Add a center turn lane on SR 33 (Broadway)
- ◆ Install traffic signal at SR 33 and Sam Houston School Road
- ◆ Coordinate signal timing throughout the area;
- ◆ Improve intersection of SR 33 and existing PPE.
- ◆ Construct a northbound on-ramp at Cusick Road/I-140 interchange.

Improvements to Existing Roads

Here's what we heard you say...

- ◆ Improve the following roads
 - Davis Ford Road
 - Peppermint Road
 - Sam Houston School Road
 - US 411 (straighten curves, add center turn lane)
 - Ellejoy Road
 - River Ford Road

Traffic Forecast Study

- ◆ Origin-Destination Study
 - License tag survey in November/December 2006
 - ◆ over 100,000 tags surveyed
 - Segment and Intersection volumes for 2006, 2015, and 2035

Traffic Forecast Study

Location of Counts:

- Station 1 - US 129, north of Airway Drive
- Station 2 – I-140, west of US 129
- Station 3 – SR 33, north of Rockford Heights Road
- Station 4 – US 321, east of John Helton Road
- Station 5 – US 129, between SR 35 and Louisville Road
- Station 6 – SR 35/US 411, east of Peppermint Hills Road
- Station 7 – US 411/US 129, southwest of William Blount Drive
- Station 8 – US 321, west of William Blount Drive

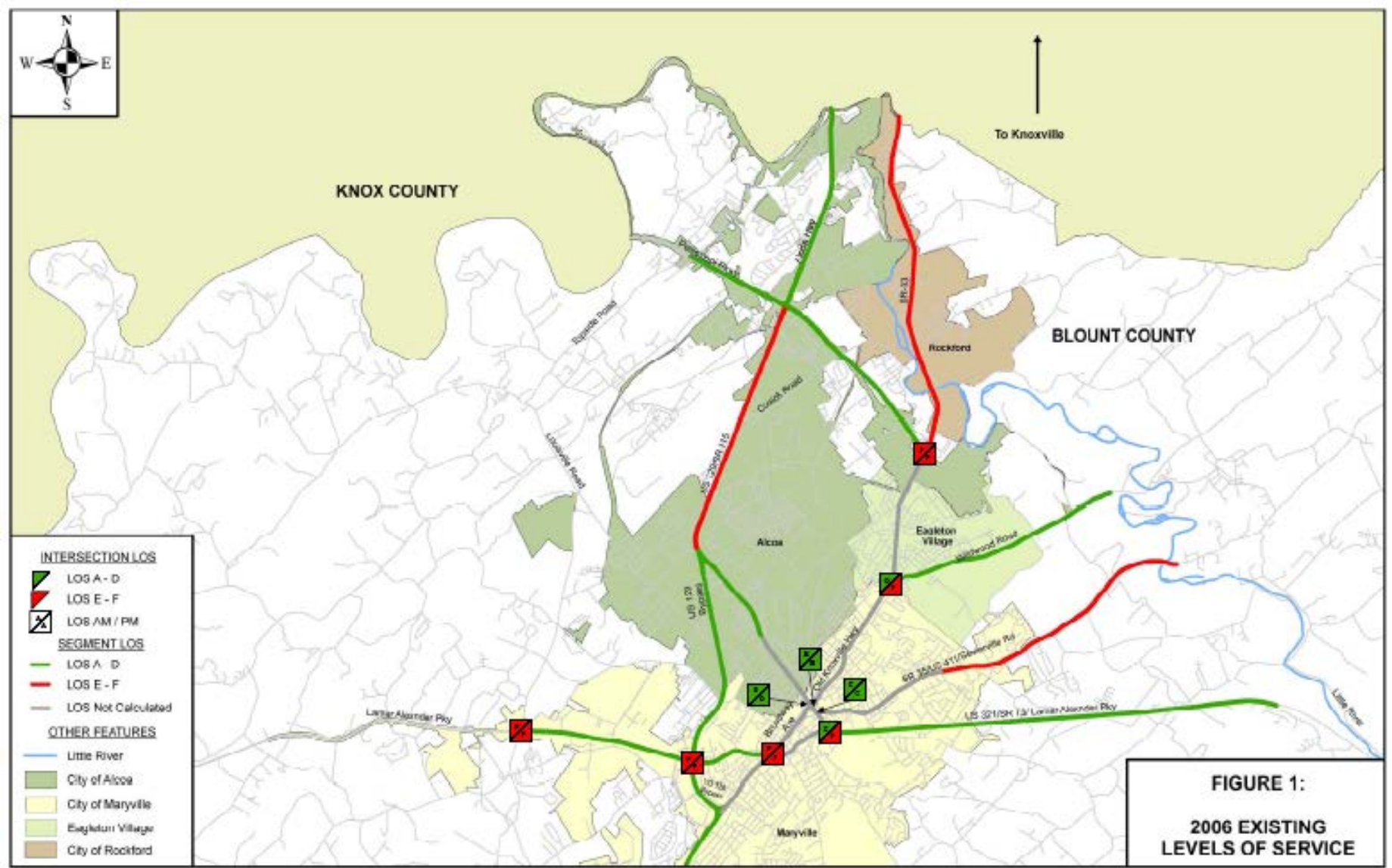
SR-162 / Pellissippi Parkway Extension



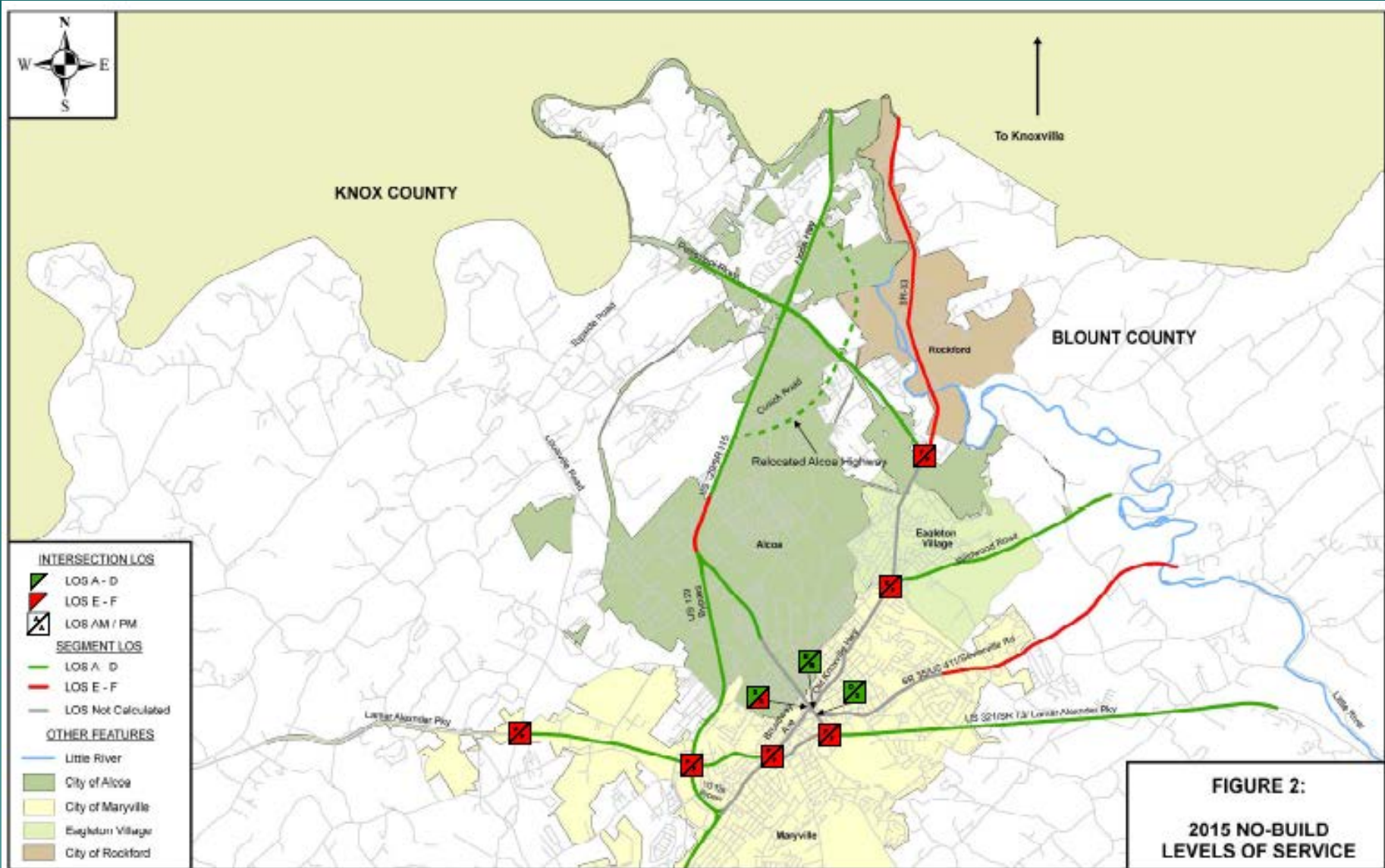
Level of Service Analysis

◆ Summary

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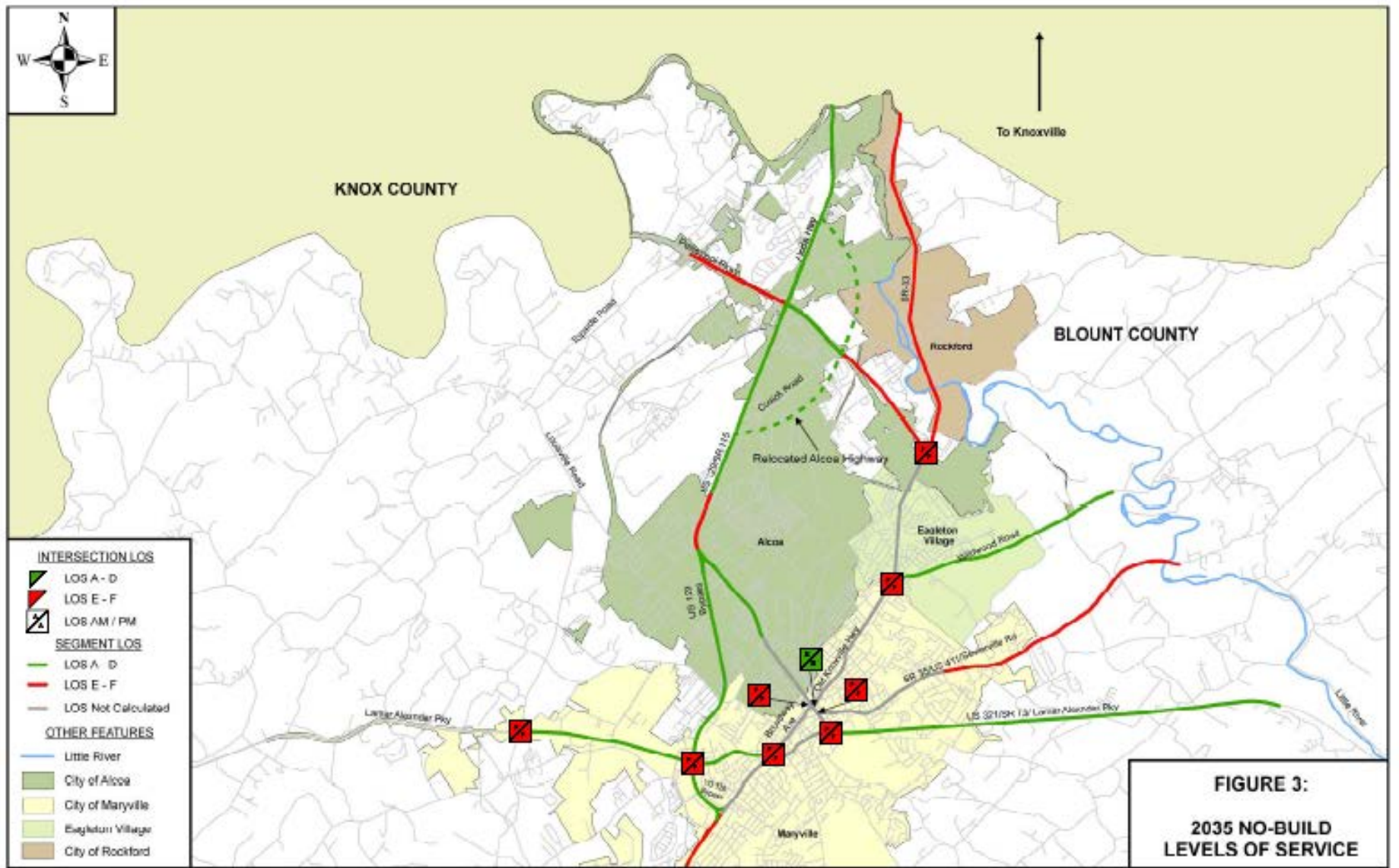


SR-162 / Pellissippi Parkway Extension



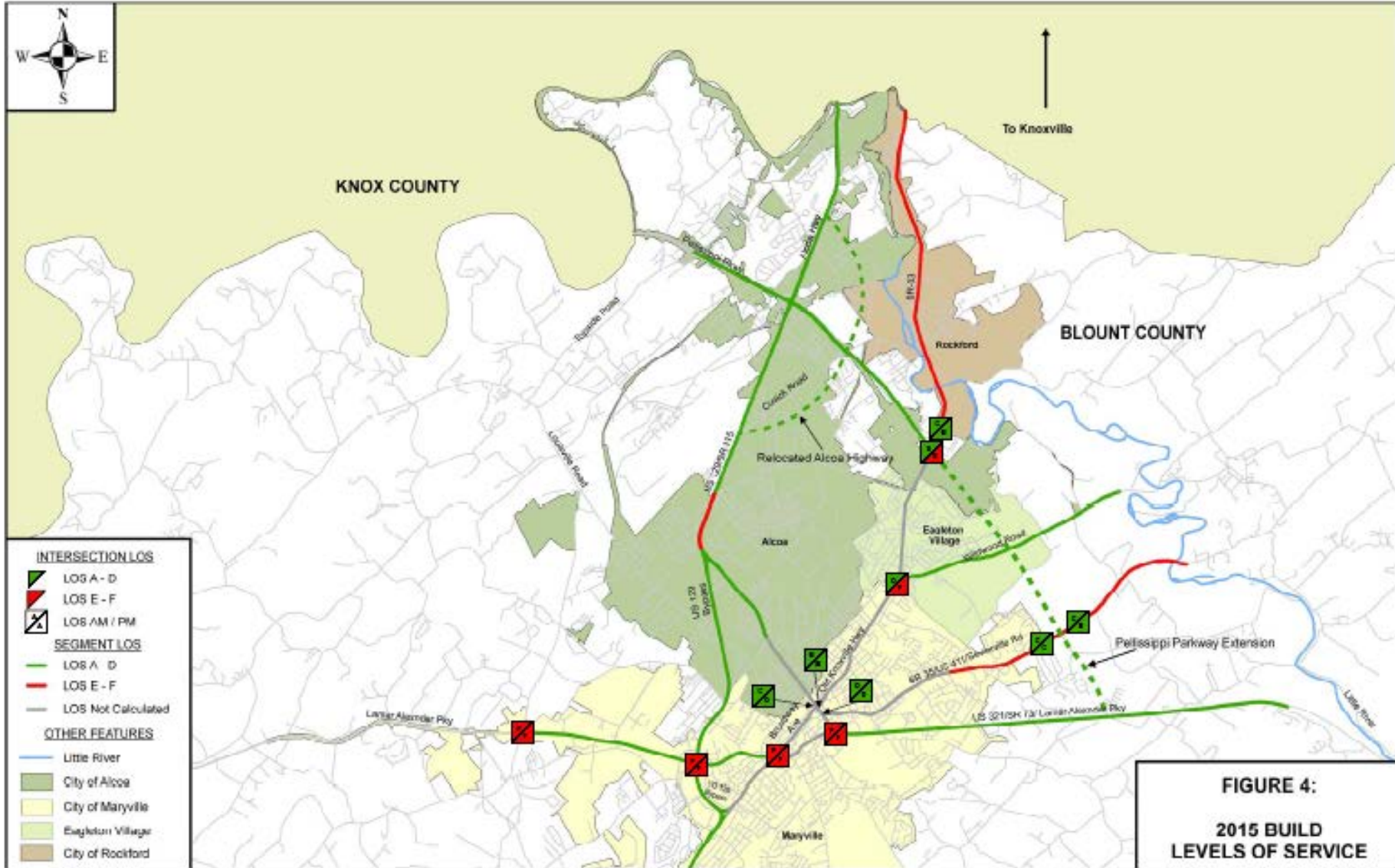
Note: The Relocated Alcoa Highway is shown for conceptual purposes only; no specific alignment or location has been determined.

SR-162 / Pellissippi Parkway Extension



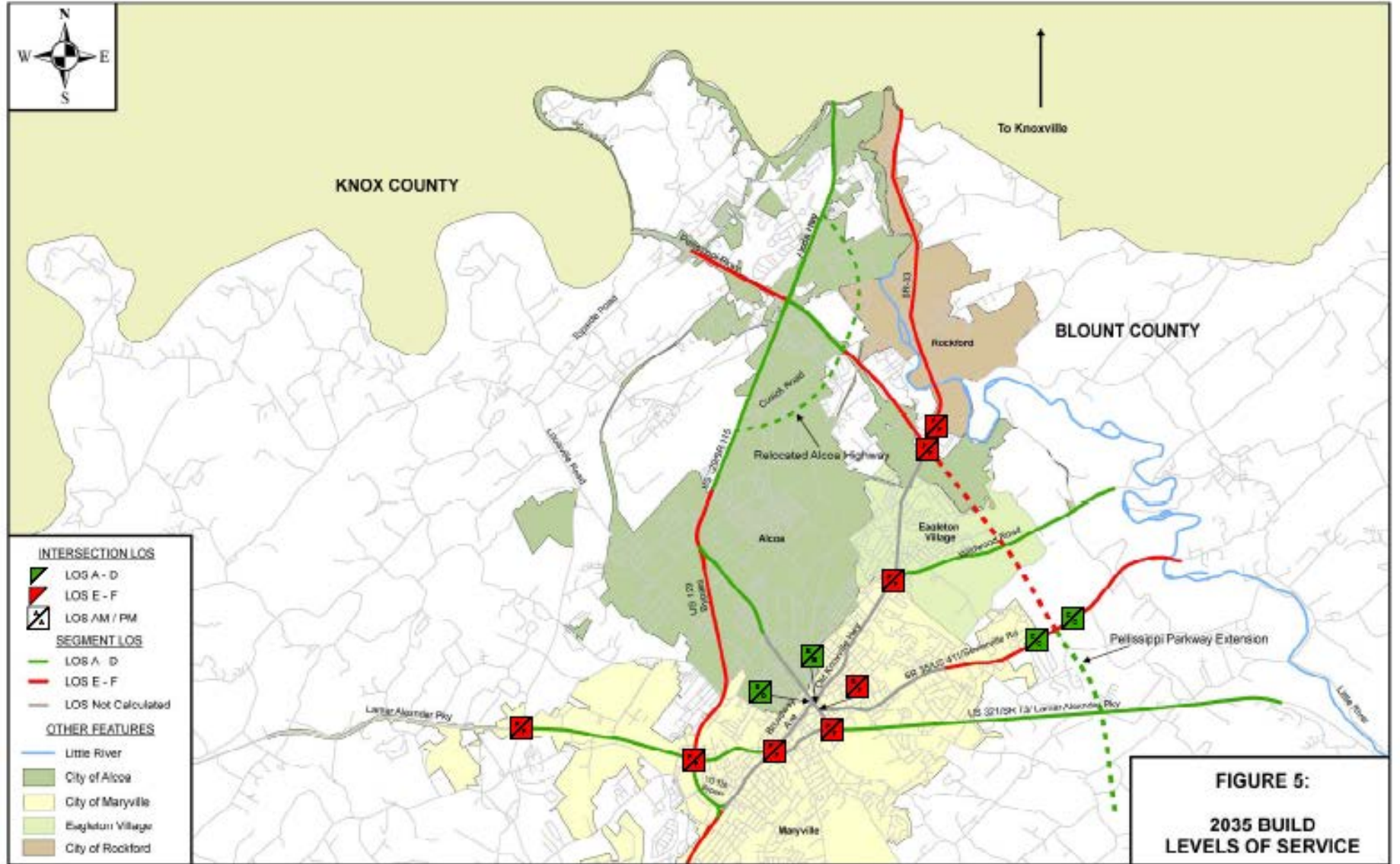
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SR-162 / Pellissippi Parkway Extension



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SR-162 / Pellissippi Parkway Extension



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Traffic Study

- ◆ Origin-Destination Study

Traffic Study

- ◆ Origin-Destination Study

Need for Project

- ◆ Lack of a northwest/east connection east of Alcoa and Maryville to help serve:
 - Expanding residential development in northeastern Blount County
 - Increasing demand for trips between Maryville/Alcoa and Knoxville.
- ◆ An incomplete regional roadway (Pellissippi Parkway (SR 162) between I-40 and US 321).
- ◆ Traffic congestion and poor levels of service on major arterial roads in study area (US 129, SR 33, US 411 and US 321);
- ◆ High crash incidents in the Maryville core that through travelers between the northwestern and eastern portions of the county must pass.

Purpose of Project

Core transportation objectives of the proposed project:

- ◆ Enhance regional transportation system linkages
- ◆ Improve circumferential mobility by providing travel options to the existing radial roadway network
- ◆ Assist in achieving acceptable traffic flows on the local transportation network
- ◆ Assist in improving roadway safety on the existing roadway network, including the Maryville core.

Purpose of Project

Secondary objectives of the proposed project:

- ◆ Support community and growth management goals
- ◆ Minimize adverse impacts to neighborhoods and businesses
- ◆ Minimize adverse impacts to farmlands
- ◆ Minimize adverse impacts to the natural and cultural environment

Alternatives to be Considered

- ◆ No-Build
- ◆ Transportation System Management (TSM)
- ◆ Public Transit
- ◆ Improve existing roadways in NE Blount County
- ◆ Extend Pellissippi Parkway on new location

No-Build Alternative

- ◆ Examines what would happen if Pellissippi Parkway is not extended and no improvements were made to the existing road network
- ◆ Serves as a baseline to which other alternatives are compared.
- ◆ Often does not meet the project's purpose and need.

Transportation System Management

- ◆ Uses construction, operational, and institutional actions to make the most productive and cost effective use of existing transportation facilities and services
- ◆ Improvements to existing SR-33 and SR-35:
 - Signal timing
 - Shoulder improvements
 - Turn lanes

Public Transit

- ◆ Options:
 - Fixed route bus service in Alcoa/Maryville
 - Regional rail service
- ◆ Highly dependent on land use density
- ◆ Unlikely due to low density development patterns in area

Improve Existing Roads

- ◆ Improve a network of existing roads in the northeastern quadrant of Blount County to serve as an eastern bypass:
 - Sam Houston School Road
 - Peppermint Road
 - Hitch Road
 - Davis Ford Road
 - Helton Road

Build Alternative (Extension)

- ◆ New 4-lane divided roadway
 - two corridors to be studied

NEXT PROJECT STEPS

Obtain concurrence on purpose and need from resource agencies



Review public comments from this meeting and refine project alternatives



Meet with resource agencies for concurrence on alternatives that will move forward in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



Complete Technical Studies



Write Draft EIS

Estimated Timeline

- ◆ Develop/Refine Alternatives – Fall 2007
- ◆ Technical Studies – Fall 2007/Spring 2008
- ◆ Prepare DEIS – Spring/Summer 2008
- ◆ Draft EIS circulated & public hearings – Winter 2009
- ◆ Final EIS complete – Fall 2009

We Need Your Help

- ◆ Look at the maps of the project area.
- ◆ Identify areas of potential concern (i.e., wetlands, cemeteries, historic structures).
- ◆ Tell us what alternatives should be considered to meet the purpose and need for the project (i.e. no-build, TSM, transit, improve existing roadways, new four-lane roadway).

How Can You Comment?

- ◆ Submit statement to court reporter
Please see representative at the court reporter's table.
- ◆ Submit written comments today
Comment forms provided in information packets.
- ◆ Mail comments to TDOT
Comments must be postmarked by **November 15, 2007**.
- ◆ Visit project Website
www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/

For More Information Contact:

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Or visit the website at:

www.tdot.state.tn.us/pellissippi/