

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Rebekah Hammonds  
**OFFICE:** 615-741-7446

## **Nashville Interstate Projects Get Major Head Start** Planning and Environmental Linkages Study to Inform Future Interstate Projects

**Nashville, Tenn.** — The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has initiated a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study of the Downtown Nashville Interstate Corridors (DNIC) that will give the department a head start on future interstate projects and accelerate the typically decades-long completion process. In accordance with Title 23 of the United States Code Section 168 (23 U.S.C. 168), TDOT intends to adopt the planning products and recommendations that result from the DNIC PEL Study.

The PEL Study currently underway will provide planning products for TDOT to use in future decision-making regarding the network of interstates in and around Nashville. The Study may also recommend future Choice Lanes projects on the interstate network based on the data collected. Once a future interstate project, such as Choice Lanes, receives funding, the preliminary planning and environmental work completed under the PEL Study may transition to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the funded project.

A PEL Study follows an early, collaborative approach that considers the benefits and impacts of proposed transportation system improvements to the environment, community and economy. Its primary goal is to gather information and input, including from the public, early to inform the environmental review process. As such, TDOT's DNIC PEL Study follows state and federal guidance on setting up the environmental technical study area, which documents natural, cultural and community resources within a broader study area than the immediate potential project footprint. By documenting all resources within this broader area, TDOT can better plan for and potentially mitigate any impacts to these resources as projects progress.

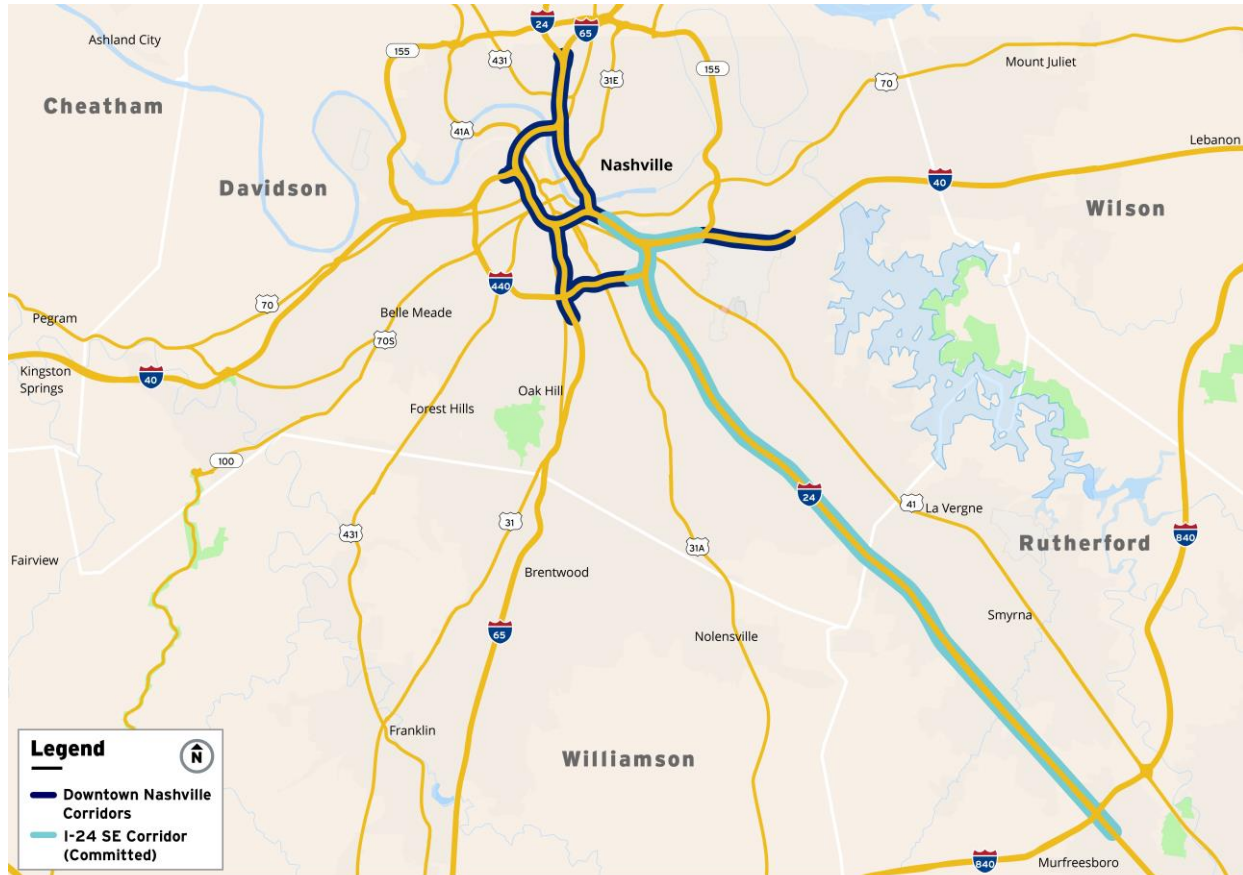
TDOT's intention for the PEL Study is to address unreliable travel times and regional connectivity issues along the Downtown Nashville Interstate Corridors. The proposed Study would identify alternatives that provide more reliable travel times and improve regional mobility for commuters, including those commuting via passenger vehicles and public transit.

Updated study information is available on the PEL Study website at: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/government/g/planning-studies/downtown-nashville-interstate-corridors-planning-and-environmental-linkages--pel--study-website-.html>

For other questions about the project, please contact:  
Rebekah Hammonds [rebekah.hammonds@tn.gov](mailto:rebekah.hammonds@tn.gov)

Any comments regarding this public notice should be provided in writing and sent to the address

below or by email to [TDOT.BuildWithUs@tn.gov](mailto:TDOT.BuildWithUs@tn.gov).



Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study  
**Downtown Nashville Interstate Corridors PEL**