



Tennessee Department of  
Transportation, Environmental Division  
James K. Polk Building, 9th Floor  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243



# INTERSTATE 40/STATE ROUTE 194 (Project Blue Oval)

*Haywood, Tipton, and Fayette Counties, Tennessee*  
FALL 2022

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

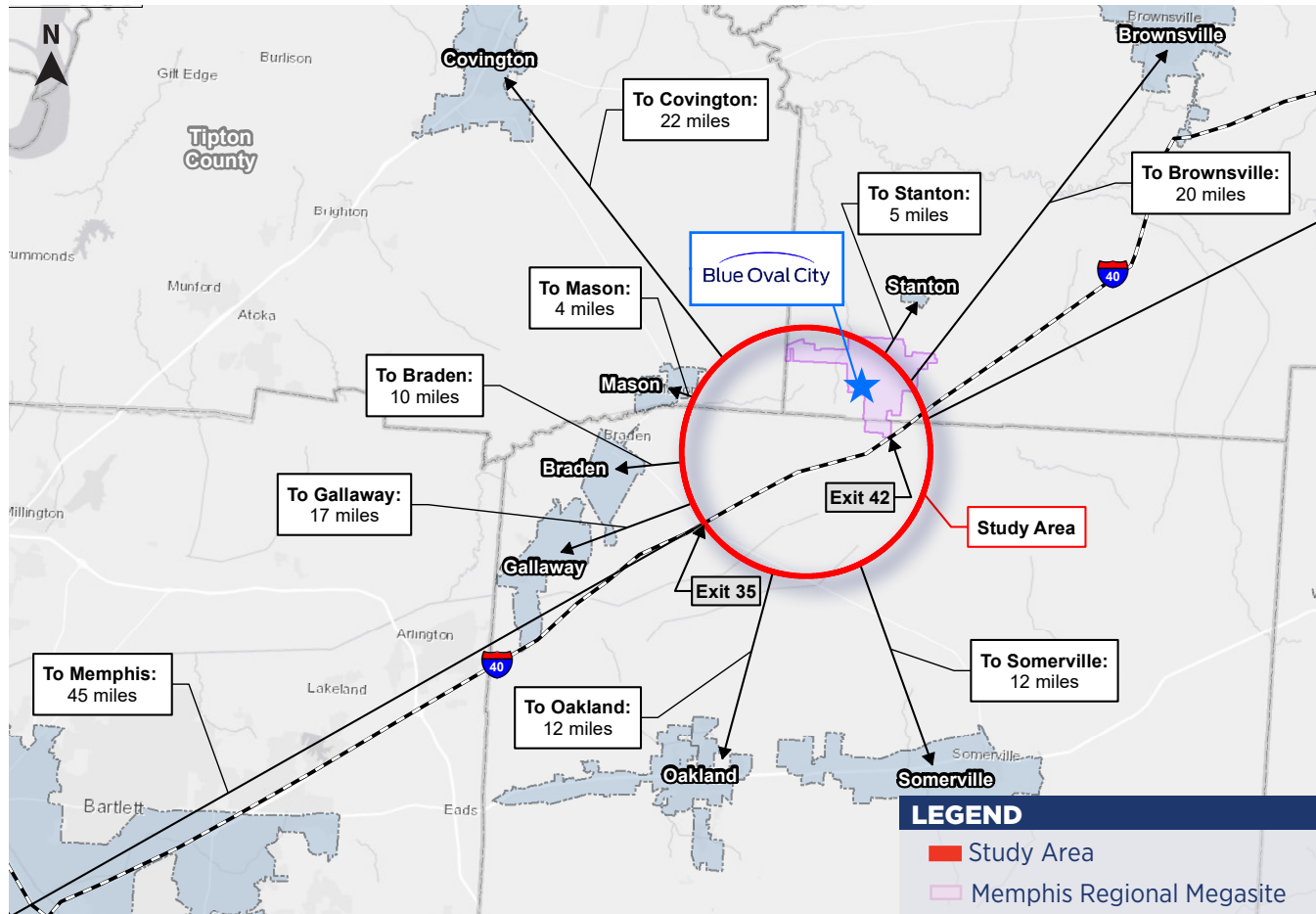
The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes various roadway improvements in Fayette, Haywood, and Tipton Counties. The roadway improvements are being considered to serve the imminent industrial development at the Ford Motor Company Campus (Blue Oval City), located at the Memphis Regional Megasite in Haywood County, Tennessee.

The proposed roadway improvements include a south-north extension of State Route (SR) 194 (proposed SR-194 extension) on new alignment from the existing intersection at SR-59 and SR-194 in Fayette County to a new intersection with SR-1 (US-70) in Tipton County, a new interchange on I-40 at proposed Exit 39, a west-east connector (proposed SR-468) on new alignment between the proposed SR-194 extension and existing SR-222 and interchange modifications on I-40 at existing Exit 42. The proposed improvements would total approximately 13.7 miles in length.

Because the proposed project involves a new connection to an interstate facility, the project is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). TDOT and FHWA are preparing an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the NEPA to identify and evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed project and to identify measures to minimize harm.



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN): 132132.01



## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The 4,100-acre Memphis Regional Megasite was developed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 2006 and was ultimately purchased by the State of Tennessee in 2009. Currently, one existing interstate interchange serves the Memphis Regional Megasite at SR-222 (Exit 42). In addition, north-south connectivity from the existing roadway network is limited in this portion of northwest Fayette County with SR-222 being the only north-south route with a direct connection in and around the Memphis Regional Megasite.

On September 27, 2021, Governor Bill Lee announced that the Ford Motor Company had selected the Memphis Regional Megasite for a vehicle and battery manufacturing campus. The Ford Motor Company Campus (Blue Oval City) is expected to occupy approximately 3,600 acres of the total Memphis Regional Megasite acreage. In total, approximately 5,800 jobs are expected to be created at the Ford Motor Company Campus (Blue Oval City) which is anticipated to increase travel demand for commuter traffic once site operations are underway. In addition, the amount of freight traffic both entering and exiting the Memphis Regional Megasite is anticipated to increase when the Memphis Regional Megasite is fully developed and operational.

While the Ford Motor Company Campus (Blue Oval City) would be entirely confined to the existing Memphis Regional Megasite, additional industrial, commercial, or residential development is anticipated to be developed at or near the Memphis Regional Megasite in the future. This projected increase in both commuter and freight traffic is anticipated to further increase the travel demand within the existing roadway network.

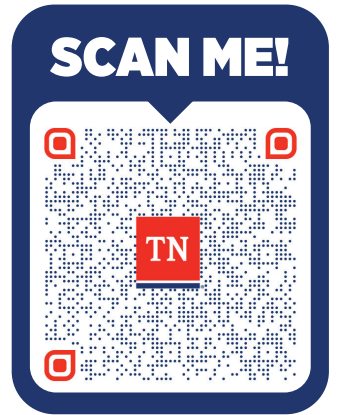
## WANT TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT INTERSTATE 40/STATE ROUTE 194 (Project Blue Oval)?

### Attend one of TDOT's Neighborhood Pop-Up Events!

TDOT will be hosting a series of neighborhood pop-up events in Haywood, Tipton, and Fayette Counties to gather feedback and comments about the proposed project. These pop-up events will be held at a variety of times and locations during November 2022 where participants can stop-by informally and speak with members of the TDOT project team responsible for the development of NEPA reviews and documentation for the project. We encourage you to check the TDOT project website or scan the QR code to the right to find the location/date/time that is most convenient for you.

Information about the Neighborhood Pop-Up Events can either be found by scanning the QR code or by reviewing the project website:

[tinyurl.com/ProjectBlueOval](https://tinyurl.com/ProjectBlueOval)



### Want to ask a question or make a comment about the project?

Please use the following methods to make a comment or ask a question to the TDOT project team. Comments provided/postmarked by **December 17, 2022** will be included in the Environmental Assessment that TDOT is currently preparing.

- ★ **Toll Free Number** – Please call 1 (800) 558-6564 (toll free) and leave a voicemail to:
  - ★ **Ask a Question about the Project** – A TDOT representative will respond to your question within 7 business days.
  - ★ **Leave a Verbal Comment** – If you require additional information before you make your comment, please request that information by **December 10, 2022**, so TDOT can be sure to get a response to you in time for you to provide your comment by the deadline.
  - ★ **Request to be Added to the Project Outreach Database** – In addition to your name and number, please also leave your mailing address and email address.
- ★ **Comment Card**- Please use the postage paid comment card included within this flier to provide your comments to TDOT. If you would rather provide your comment via the project website, please visit [tinyurl.com/ProjectBlueOval](https://tinyurl.com/ProjectBlueOval) to complete an electronic comment card.
- ★ **Email**- Send an email to [TDOT.Exit39@tn.gov](mailto:TDOT.Exit39@tn.gov) by **December 17, 2022**.
- ★ **Letter**- Mail a written statement by **December 17, 2022**, to the following address:

#### INTERSTATE 40/STATE ROUTE 194 (BLUE OVAL PROJECT)

Kimley-Horn  
10 Lea Avenue, Suite 400  
Nashville, TN 37210

## PROJECT CONTACT



For further information regarding the Interstate 40/State Route 194 (Project Blue Oval) project, please contact:

### Mr. Steve Sellers

Tennessee Department of Transportation, Blue Oval City Program Manager  
Phone: 615.741.0786. | Email: [Steve.Sellers@tn.gov](mailto:Steve.Sellers@tn.gov)



## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Transportation projects are developed in four phases: Planning, Environmental, Design, Right-of-Way, and Construction. Below is a timeline of milestones for project completion.

INTERSTATE 40/STATE ROUTE 194 (PROJECT BLUE OVAL) - Anticipated Project Schedule		
Milestone	Anticipated Time Frame for Completion*	
 Conduct Environmental Technical Studies	Quarter 4 of 2022	
 Neighborhood Pop-Up Events in Fayette, Tipton and Haywood counties	Quarter 4 of 2022	
 Environmental Assessment Approval	Quarter 2 of 2023	
 Hold NEPA Public Hearing	Quarter 2 of 2023	
 Approval of Final Environmental Document**	Quarter 3 of 2023	
 Right-of-Way Acquisition Phase	On-Going	
 Construction Phase	2025 through 2026	

Quarter 1 - January through March  
 Quarter 2 - April through June  
 Quarter 3 - July through September  
 Quarter 4 - October through December

\* Forecasted Dates are Subject to Change

\*\* Once the final environmental document is approved by the Federal Highway Administration, the Planning and Environmental Phases are complete.



## NEED AND PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The needs for the proposed Interstate 40/State Route 194 (Project Blue Oval) has been identified as the following:

- ★ Support Ongoing Development in the Region
- ★ Existing Operational Deficiencies
- ★ Insufficient Connectivity to the Memphis Regional Megasite and the Surrounding Area

The purpose of the proposed Interstate 40/State Route 194 (Project Blue Oval) has been identified as the following:

- ★ Accommodate Ongoing Development in the Region
- ★ Improve Traffic Operational Efficiency
- ★ Improved Connections to the Memphis Regional Megasite and the Surrounding Area

## ALTERNATIVES UNDER STUDY

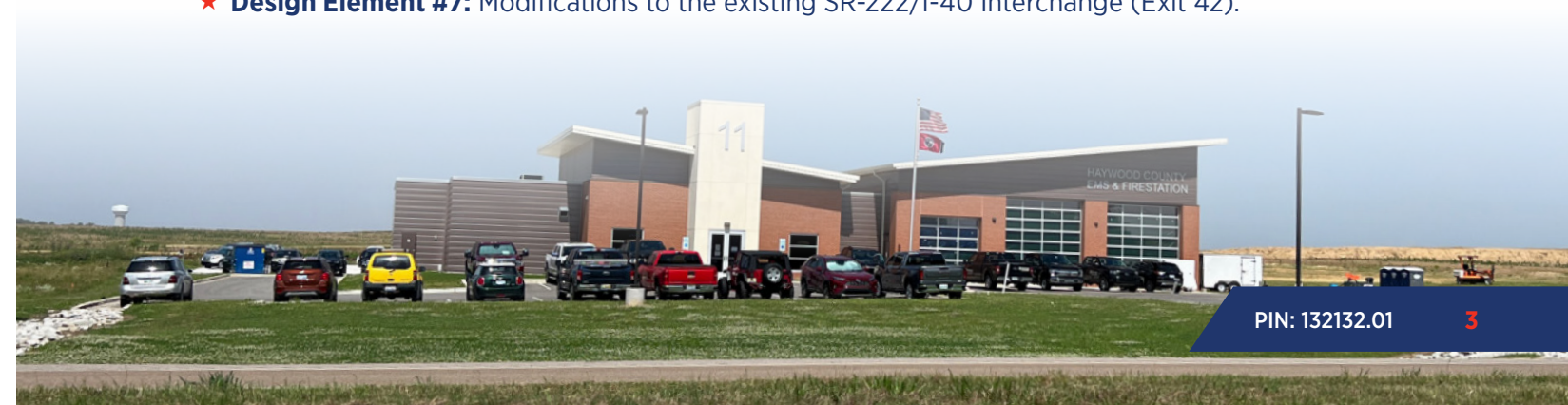
### NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE

The No-Build Alternative is required by federal regulations to be evaluated in the NEPA document and provides a baseline for comparing against other project alternatives. The No-Build Alternative would leave the project area surrounding the Memphis Regional Megasite as it currently exists, other than routine maintenance of the existing roadway system as needed.

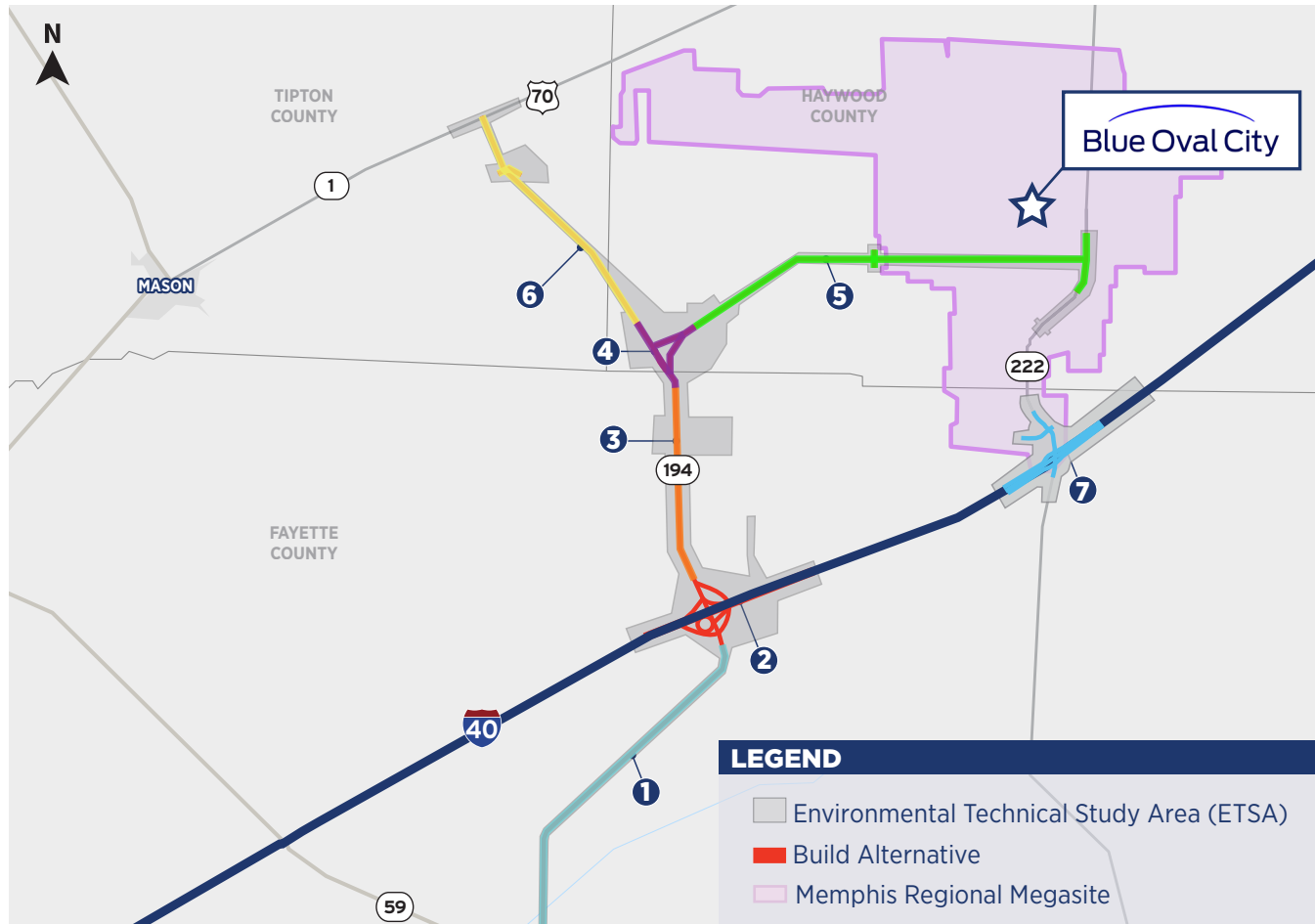
### BUILD ALTERNATIVE

The Build Alternative proposes to construct the following seven design elements:

- ★ **Design Element #1:** Construction of a northern extension of SR-194 from the existing intersection of SR-59/SR-194 in Fayette County to the proposed SR-194/I-40 Interchange (Exit 39).
- ★ **Design Element #2:** Construction of a new interchange (Exit 39) where proposed SR-194 and I-40 intersect.
- ★ **Design Element #3:** Construction of the SR-194 extension between the proposed SR-194/I-40 Interchange (Exit 39) and the proposed SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange.
- ★ **Design Element #4:** Construction of the SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange.
- ★ **Design Element #5:** Construction of the Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) between SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange and existing SR-222.
- ★ **Design Element #6:** Construction of the SR-194 extension between the proposed SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange and existing SR-1 (US-70).
- ★ **Design Element #7:** Modifications to the existing SR-222/I-40 Interchange (Exit 42).







An Environmental Technical Study Area (ETSA) was developed for the project using conceptual-level roadway design plans and extends beyond the immediate footprint of the proposed Build Alternative's design elements. The ETSA boundaries for the proposed project encompass an area that is generally 150-500 feet on either side of the proposed roadway centerline.

(#) Denotes a particular design element

## Build Alternative Design Elements

**DESIGN ELEMENT 1**  
Construction of a northern extension of SR-194 from the existing intersection of SR-59/SR-194 in Fayette County to the proposed SR-194/I-40 Interchange (Exit 39).

**DESIGN ELEMENT 2**  
Construction of a new interchange (Exit 39) where proposed SR-194 and I-40 intersect.

**DESIGN ELEMENT 3**  
Construction of the SR-194 extension between the proposed SR-194/I-40 Interchange (Exit 39) and the proposed SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange.

**DESIGN ELEMENT 4**  
Construction of the SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange.

**DESIGN ELEMENT 5**  
Construction of the Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) between SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange and existing SR-222.

**DESIGN ELEMENT 6**  
Construction of the SR-194 extension between the proposed SR-194/Blue Oval City Connector (Proposed SR-468) Interchange and existing SR-1 (US-70).

**DESIGN ELEMENT 7**  
Modifications to the existing SR-222/I-40 Interchange (Exit 42).

## PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

TDOT is currently evaluating the environmental impacts related to the Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative will also be carried forward, as a baseline against which to compare the Build Alternative.

In order to complete the environmental technical studies for the proposed project, an Environmental Technical Study Area (ETSA) was developed by TDOT. An ETSA is developed for a project in order to document natural, cultural, and community resources within a broader study area than the immediate project footprint. That way, if the Build Alternative's alignment shifts during the development of the proposed project, TDOT staff are aware of any resources that are present in that larger study area.

The ETSA for the project is based on conceptual level roadway design plans and extends beyond the immediate footprint of the proposed improvements described under the Build Alternative. The ETSA boundaries for the proposed project encompass an area that is generally 150-500 feet on either side of the proposed centerline. The ETSA for the Build Alternative encompasses approximately 1,742 acres.

Several environmental technical studies are still under development, the results of which will be formally published in the Environmental Assessment that TDOT is currently preparing. The public will be asked to provide comment on the anticipated environmental impacts during the Public Hearing which is tentatively scheduled for early Quarter 2 of 2023.

### Examples of environmental technical studies under development include:

- ★ Air Quality
- ★ Noise
- ★ Conceptual Stage Relocation Plan (Residential and Business Relocations)
- ★ Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act- Historic Architecture, Archaeology and Native American Consultation
- ★ Traffic and Safety Engineering Studies
- ★ Natural Resources- Threatened and Endangered Species, Streams, Wetlands, Water Quality, and Floodplains
- ★ Environmental Justice (Identification of Minority and Low-Income Populations)
- ★ Hazardous Materials

## RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION PROCESS

A relocation study or Conceptual Stage Relocation Plan is being prepared as part of the Environmental Assessment to estimate the number of persons who may be displaced by the project. This data will be correlated with an inventory of available rental and sales housing locations. This information will be included as part of the approved Environmental Assessment expected to be released for public review in Quarter 2 of 2023.

If you have a question regarding the TDOT Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation Process, please call **1 (800)-558-6564** and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, and question/comment. Questions will be responded to within 7 business days by a TDOT representative. For more information about the TDOT Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation Process, see the TDOT Right-of-Way website ([www.tn.gov/tdot/right-of-way-division.html](http://www.tn.gov/tdot/right-of-way-division.html)).

