

[<<Back](#)

Opponents of Knoxville bypass cite report on cancer risk

December 8, 2006

By [TIM MILLER](#)
6 News Anchor/Reporter

KNOXVILLE (WATE) -- A group of citizens opposed to the planned Knoxville bypass, or Orange Beltway, say they have proof the new highway would be a health risk to people living and working nearby.

They call themselves CABOL, Citizens Against the Beltway Orange Location, and they're hoping a new report changes minds at the governor's office and at TDOT.

CABOL recently asked a Billings, Mt., environmental consultant Timothy Quarles to investigate the possible negative health implications of the highway.

He determined since the route takes it through four valleys, Bull Run, Raccoon, Wolf, and Hardin, particulates from fuel, especially diesel, could be trapped with nowhere to go.

That, he said, would create a corridor of asthma, leukemia, and other forms of cancer.

The report also states students at Hardin Valley elementary and the new high school currently under construction could be at higher risk.

David Burkhalter II is a member of CABOL and their legal counsel. The Hardin Valley resident would be right in the middle of where the proposed highway would go through.

Burkhalter defended the report. "We didn't suggest to him what his findings should be. We merely asked him to give us the potential health impact if this orange route is constructed, and that's what he did."

We wanted to get TDOT's take on this report, but local and state officials told us they hadn't received it yet and didn't feel comfortable commenting.

Julie Oaks, a spokesperson from TDOT headquarters in Nashville, told 6 News the selection of the orange route is "still a pretty solid decision."

CABOL wants the state to pull the plug on the project or go with an alternate route. If not, they're considering legal action to stop any construction.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2006 WorldNow and WATE. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

