

TDOT's proposed "Orange Route" generates discussion

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The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) wants to alleviate congestion on I-40 with a new parkway called the Orange Route.

The proposed road would bypass I-75 south of Clinton, travel through Hardin Valley and reconnect in Loudon County.

At a public hearing Tuesday night, TDOT leaders and citizens met to discuss the Orange Route.

TDOT's Travis Brickey said, "We need to look at all other routes to try to have a safety valve, a release valve for some of that traffic to get around town."

But many people are not satisfied with the future plans. Mark W. Richey, a parkway opponent said, "The money's better spent on safer roads, on roads that need improvement, on finishing the roads they've started downtown and get through that bottleneck."

The next public meeting will be held Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Claxton Elementary School.

The advisory group will make their final comments on the proposed Orange Route to TDOT in March.

