



## UPDATED: TDOT announces approval for Orange Route recommendations

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The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) on Monday announced that the agency, along with Governor Bredesen, have accepted all of the recommendations for the new Knoxville Parkway submitted by the Regional Parkway Design Resource Team.

The Parkway is also known as the Orange Route.

Commissioner Gerald Nicely made a public announcement Monday during a special session of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), held in Knoxville.

The Resource Team was charged with studying alignment options, the number of interchanges and the implementation of the proposed State Route 475, Knoxville Parkway.

The Parkway would be approximately 28 miles long and would connect I-40 / I-75 southwest of Knoxville to I-75 north of Knoxville. This route would allow vehicles to travel between either I-75 south or I-40 west and I-75 north without traveling through west Knoxville. The Parkway would also provide an alternate route for I-40/ I-75 in case of emergencies or during construction or maintenance operations.

The recommendations include:

- Interchanges at Pellissippi Parkway and Clinton Highway (U.S. 25W) with interchanges that tie in to I-75 in Loudon and Anderson Counties.

- 70 mph design speed (with posted speed to be determined).

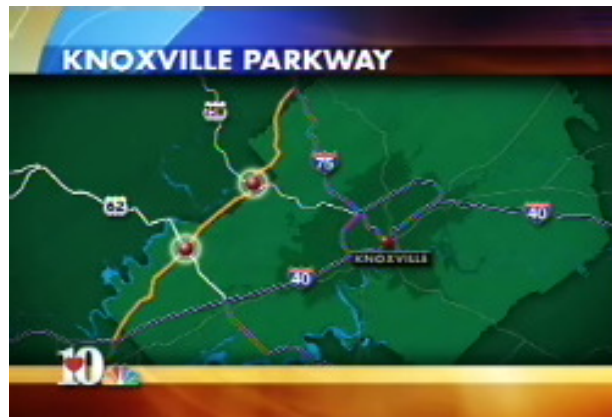
- Four-lane divided highway with 52-foot depressed median.

- Twelve-foot travel lanes with 12-foot outside shoulders.

- Seeking "scenic" or Tennessee Parkway designation to prohibit billboards.

Information gathered by the Resource Team is currently being incorporated into the draft environmental study being prepared according to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) standards. Additional environmental studies for the Parkway were included in TDOT's 3-year program for Fiscal Year 2007.

In April, 2004 the Resource Team began applying a process called Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) to the original corridor. CSS is a process to plan, design, construct, maintain and operate a transportation system in order to establish and achieve



transportation, community, and environmental goals while balancing safety and mobility and the preservation of scenic, aesthetic, historic, environmental and other community values.

TDOT and the Resource Team conducted twelve public workshops at various locations along the proposed route. Over 2,700 citizens attended and approximately 1,749 comments were received. From March, 2004 to May, 2006 there were 255 emails to Info@KnoxvilleParkway.com and 397 calls to the project hotline.

Members of the Regional Parkway Design Resource Team:

Roy Arthur, Beaver Creek Task Force Association

John Benditz, Tennessee Institute of Transportation Engineering

Edgar Faust, Hardin Valley Community

Greg Fay, East Tennessee Economic Development Authority

Steve Fritts, Tennessee Technological Corridor

Carolyn Greenwood, Karns Community

Brian Jenks, Anderson County Government

Bill McMaster, Heiskell Community

Chip Miller, Loudon County Government

Karn Nolt, Knox County Government

David Orr, Sierra Club

Mac Post, Powell Community

Robert Shaw, Citizens against the Beltway Orange Location

Wes Stowers, Knoxville Area Chamber

Darcy Sullivan, Urban Transportation Issues Committee

Roland, Terrell, Solway Community

Carl Tindell, Better Roads in North Knoxville

Sharon Todd, Claxton Community

Bruce Wuethrich, Knox County Government

