



Updated

TDOT Accepts Orange Route for Knoxville Parkway



Artist rendering of the Knoxville Parkway at Hardin Valley Road. (courtesy: TDOT)

Knoxville (WVLT) - TDOT hopes it has the solution to the traffic nightmares in West Knoxville and West Knox County.

Monday it approved a recommended route for the new Knoxville Parkway.

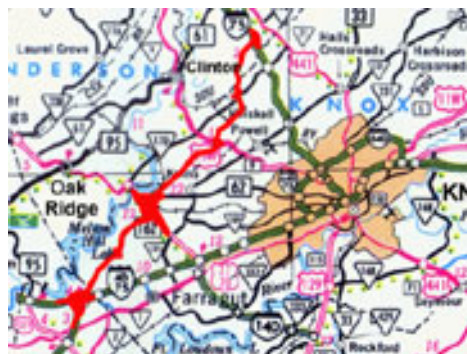
The four lane divided highway would begin at the I-40 /75 split in Loudon County and end on I-75 in Anderson county, a distance of about 27 miles.

Along the way two interchanges, one at Pellissippi and one at Clinton Highway.

TDOT hopes it eases traffic and pollution, but residents aren't so sure.

Volunteer TV's Stephen McLamb has the details.

The Parkway is expected to be constructed along what is known as the Orange Route. Some in the area say it needs to be farther out like the Blue Route proposal and others say it's only going to bring air pollution to a now rural area.



The new Knoxville Parkway, marked in red, will bypass Knoxville. (courtesy: TDOT)

The **Knoxville Parkway** is now full speed ahead after recommendations for the four lane were accepted by the Governor which includes setting a seventy mile per hour speed limit.

"Limiting the number of interchanges to only four and to look at the possibility of prohibiting billboards," says Gerald Nicely from TDOT.

Not all who attended the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization meeting were pleased. Some say it will only expand Knoxville's air pollution problem to the proposed area.

"The residents there, the children there whom I'm most concerned about, will be exposed to cancer causing pollution from the diesel trucks," says David Burkhalter.

The Parkway is expected to make it's way through the Hardin Valley Road area and some here feel the route proposal is not far enough away from the city.

"By the time it's built it will be obsolete, just like 640 was. They should go ahead and build the Blue Route and be done with it like they should have done when they built 75," says Clinton Miller.

TDOT officials hope the route will alleviate problems with air pollution in the city while diverting traffic, easing congestion into Knoxville on I-75.

"We certainly think it's going to divert traffic, particularly off 75 North, somewhat off 40 East and West," Nicely says.

Some feel it will cut down traffic congestion, but others say there are easier ways.

"They should hurry up and get the interstate done, get all the construction out of the way and things would move a lot smoother," says Allen Feerer.

The project's not a cheap one.

It comes with a \$600 million dollar price tag and will take up to twenty years to build.

[More on the Knoxville Parkway \(Orange Route\)](#)



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