

Item 4

Update Presentation on the I-40/I-75 Corridor - Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

**PRESENTER: CHRISTIE BROWN, TDOT REGION 1 AND BRAD THOMPSON, VICE
PRESIDENT, STV INC.**

NO ACTION REQUIRED



West Knoxville Priority Investment Project

Knoxville Regional TPO Technical Committee Update

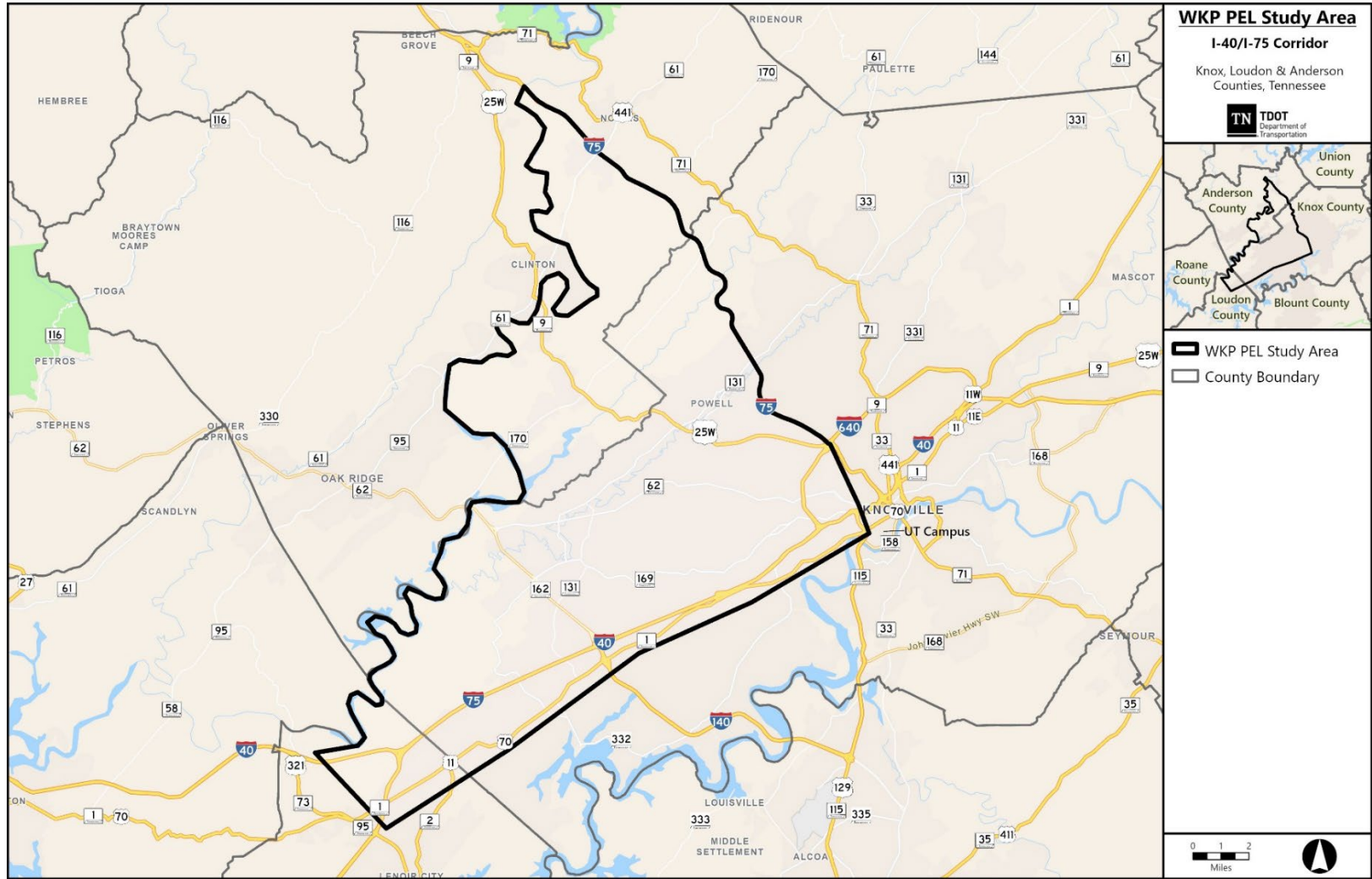
October 14, 2025

Discussion Topics

- Study Overview
 - Project Development Process
 - What is a PEL?
- PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products
- Public Meetings
- Project Timeline

Study Area

- 17 miles of the I-40/I-75 corridor west of Knoxville
 - I-40/I-75 Interchange to the I-640 Interchange
- Northern area included to consider by-pass alternatives to I-40/I-75



Project Development Process

PD&E Study

Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Mainline Improvements

I-40 Interchange at Watt Road

I-40 Interchange at Campbell Station Road

Additional Potential Projects

Preliminary Engineering & National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



Final Design

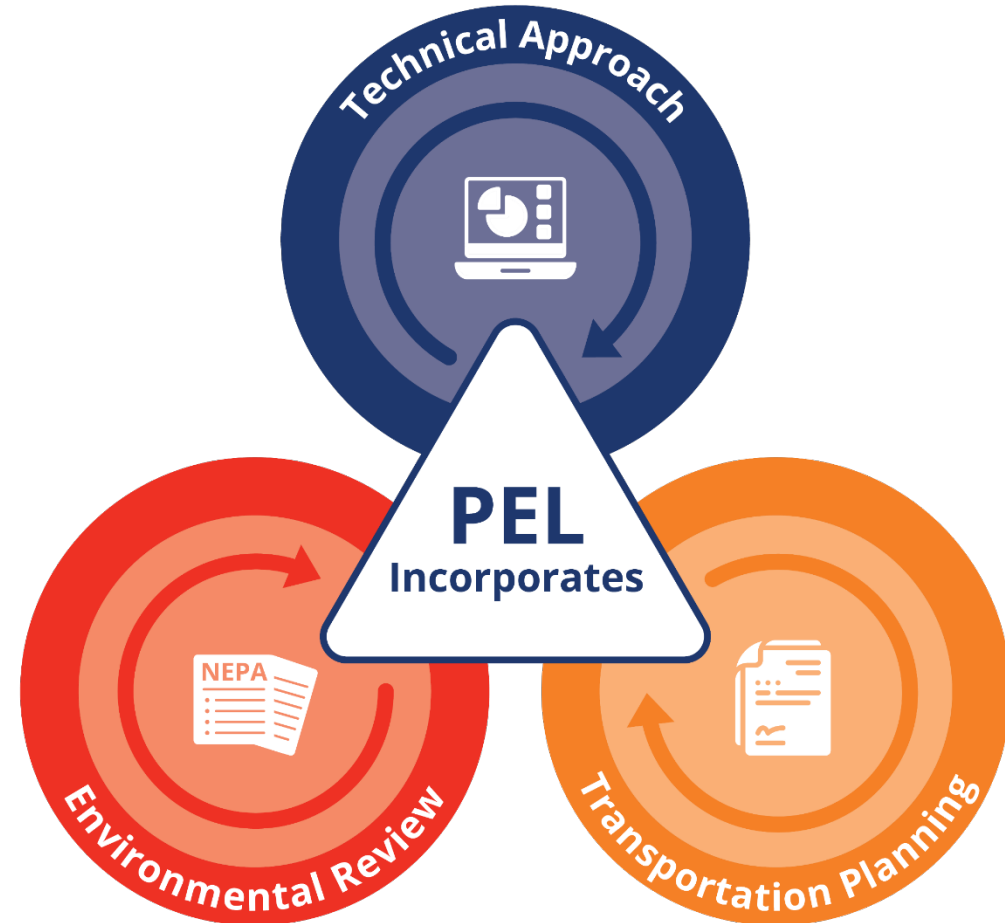


Construction



Operate & Maintain

What is a PEL Study?



What is a PEL Study?

The WKP PEL Study will follow the Statutory PEL Approach, which will allow for the formal adoption of planning products into NEPA.

Desired Outcomes

- Define purpose and need
 - Preliminary screening of alternatives and elimination of unreasonable alternatives
 - Other planning decisions and analysis
 - Adopt planning decisions under 23 U.S.C 168
-
- Reduction of duplication by elimination of alternatives from detailed analysis



Authorities

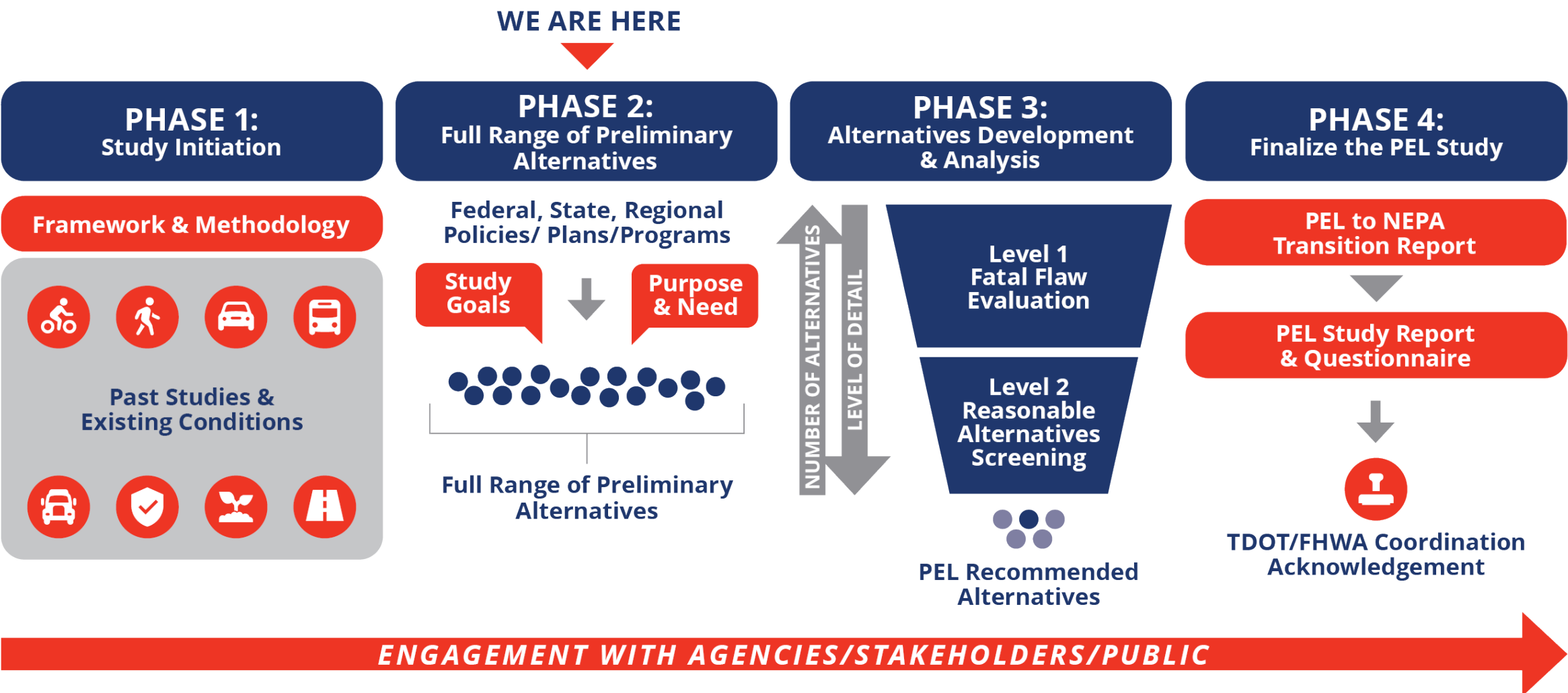
Integration of planning and environmental review statute

23 U.S.C 168

Efficient environmental reviews statute

23 U.S.C 139(f)(4)(E)(ii)

PEL Process



PEL Planning Products & Deliverables

The Study Team has produced numerous deliverables in support of the PEL Study (Phase 1 of the PD&E) which includes:



July 2025

Traffic Analysis Framework



August 2025

Traffic Volume Development



Sept 2025

PEL Framework



Sept 2025

Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Plan



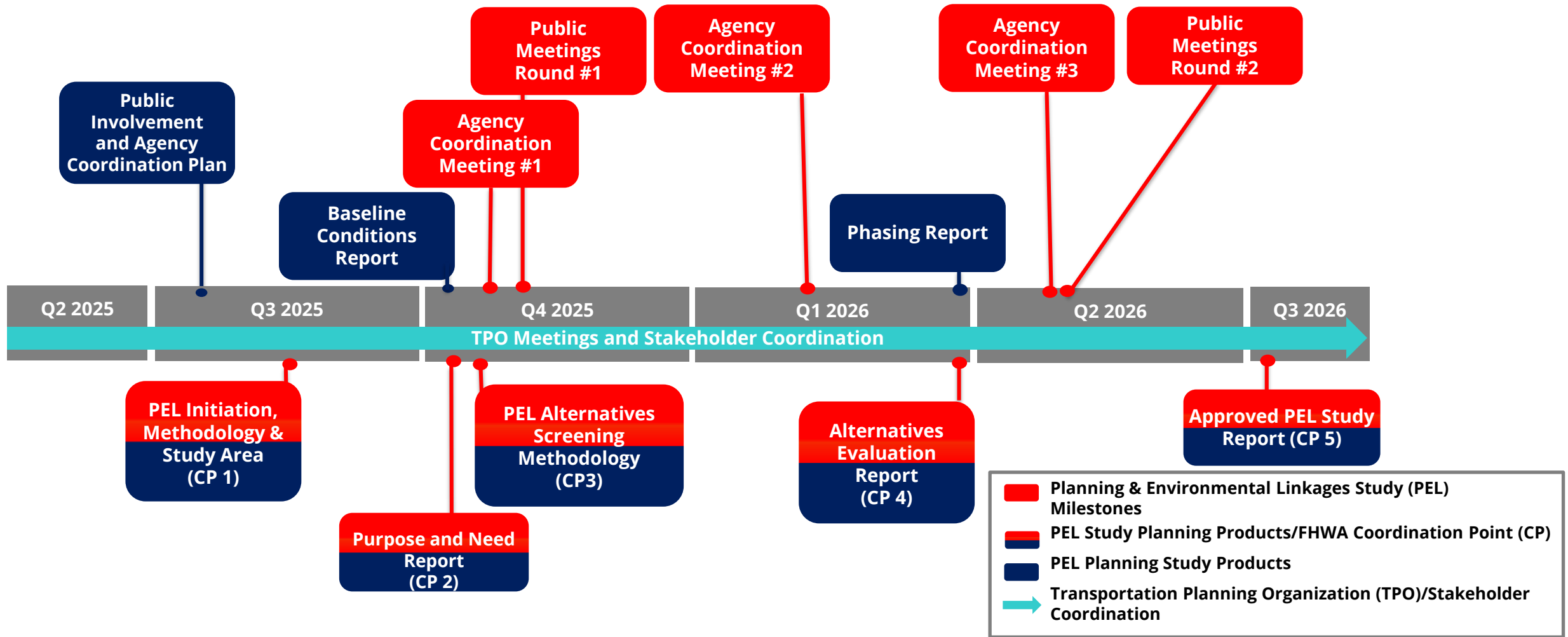
Sept 2025

Weigh Station Alternatives Report

PEL Deliverables Under Development

- **November 2025**
Public Meeting materials
- **Q4 2025**
Baseline Conditions Report
- **Q4 2025**
Draft Purpose and Need
- **Q4 2025**
Alternative Screening Methodology
- **Q1 2026**
Traffic & Revenue Calibration
- **Q1 2026**
I-75 Bypass Travel Demand Model

PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products



PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products

Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Plan

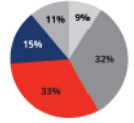
- Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Plan
 - Public Meetings
 - Agency Coordination/Technical Working Group Meetings
 - Currently in review by FHWA
- **Anticipated Completion: October 2025**



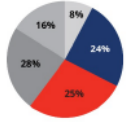
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION PLAN | CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Figure 1-2. Educational Attainment

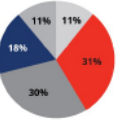
Anderson County



Knox County



Loudon County



Source: United States Census Bureau. 2023 ACS 5-year estimates. ACS 815003 - Census Bureau Tables.

1.3.4. Income

As shown in Table 1-3, median household incomes vary by county, with Knox County at \$71,662, Loudon County at \$80,296 and Anderson County at \$63,171.

Table 1-3. Median Household Incomes

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (IN 2023 DOLLARS)	ANDERSON COUNTY	KNOX COUNTY	LOUDON COUNTY	TENNESSEE
2019-2023	\$63,171	\$71,662	\$80,296	\$67,097

Source: ACS, Income Data, 2023²⁴

Financially challenged households may hold multiple jobs, making traditional Public Meetings and public engagement events difficult to attend. By considering these factors, outreach strategies can be more inclusive and effective, addressing the specific needs and characteristics of Knoxville's population.

1.4. PIACP Goals

The PIACP goals will consist of educating the community and stakeholders about the proposed WKP PEL Study and mitigating potential barriers that could hinder public involvement. Public involvement is a critical aspect of the PEL process; therefore, engaging

²⁴ U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Anderson County, Tennessee; Loudon County, Tennessee; Knox County, Tennessee Accessed June 2025.

1-10

August 2025

DRAFT - DELIBERATIVE



TDOT
Department of
Transportation



Build
With
Us



West
Knoxville
Priority Investment Project

22

PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products

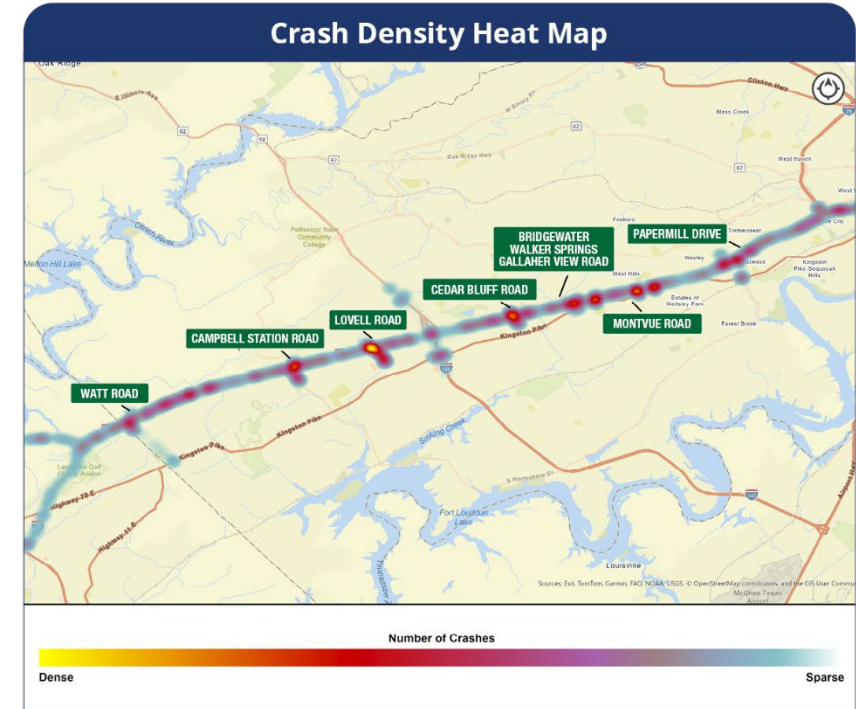
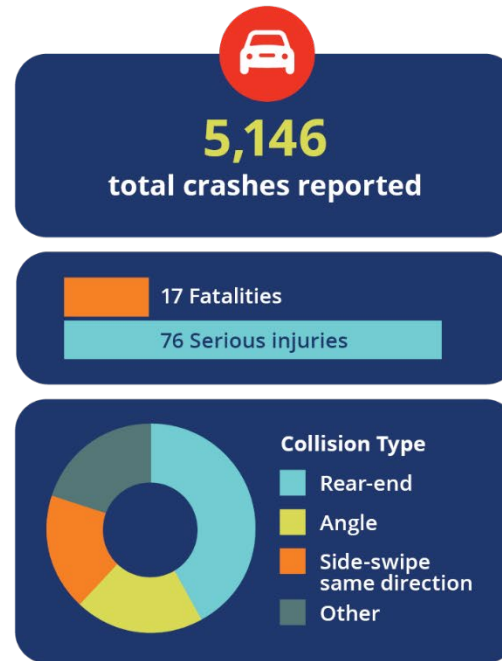
Framework & Methodology Agreement

- Goals
- Expectations
- Level of analysis
- Coordination points
- Agreement on the anticipated schedule
- Currently in review by FHWA
- **Anticipated Completion: October 2025**

PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products

Baseline Conditions Report

- Existing traffic, engineering, & environmental constraints
- Includes Previous Studies & Corridor History
- **Anticipated Completion: October 2025**



PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products

Purpose and Need Report

- Document study goals & objectives
- States the needs of the corridor
- Serves as the basis for the evaluation of alternatives
- **Anticipated Completion: November 2025**

Identified Goals



Improve travel time



Accommodate current & anticipated capacity



Provide congestion relief & improved Level of Service (LOS)



Enhance freight & goods movement



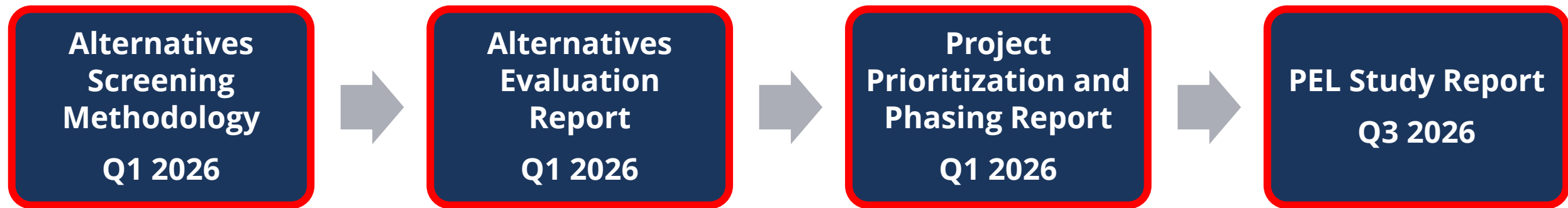
Improve safety



Address limited funding & accelerate project delivery leveraging funding & delivery mechanisms authorized by TMA

PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products

Upcoming Reports and Planning Products



Public Meetings – Round 1

Public Meeting Locations

November 10

Farragut Community Center Assembly Hall

November 12

Pellissippi State Community College – J.L. Goins
Administration Building

November 13

City of Knoxville Public Works Service Center –
Community Room

Public Meeting Format

- All meetings will include the same information and follow an open-house format, with multiple content stations.

Stations	Content
What is a PEL Study?	• Study Location Map • Draft Purpose & Need • Project development process • Study Timeline
Existing Conditions	• Traffic congestion • Crash/safety • Environmental • Design deficiencies
Alternatives Screening Methodology	• Diagram showing the Alternatives Screening Process
Pre-Recorded Presentation	• Presentation playing on a loop, including applicable project information.
Comments and Survey	• Blank comment forms • Online survey tool

PEL Study Tasks & Planning Products

Knoxville Regional TPO Future Meetings

- TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board
 - Anticipated upcoming meetings, prior to key milestones
 - Alternatives development and screening
 - Round 2 of public meetings
 - Additional option for monthly meetings

Questions?



Thank you!