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Bristolinfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Public Hearing

# Coalfields Expressway, Section I and Section II

State Project No. 0121-013-772, PE-101; UPC 85126  
Federal Project No. NH-962-2(004)  
Wise, Dickenson, and Buchanan Counties

Monday, August 13, 2012, 5 - 7 p.m.  
Central High School – Cafeteria  
716 Birchfield Road, Wise, VA 24293

Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 5 - 7 p.m.  
Russell Prater Elementary School  
8433 Lovers Gap Road, Vansant, VA 24656

## A JOINT PROJECT OF:

The Virginia Department of Transportation

The Federal Highway Administration

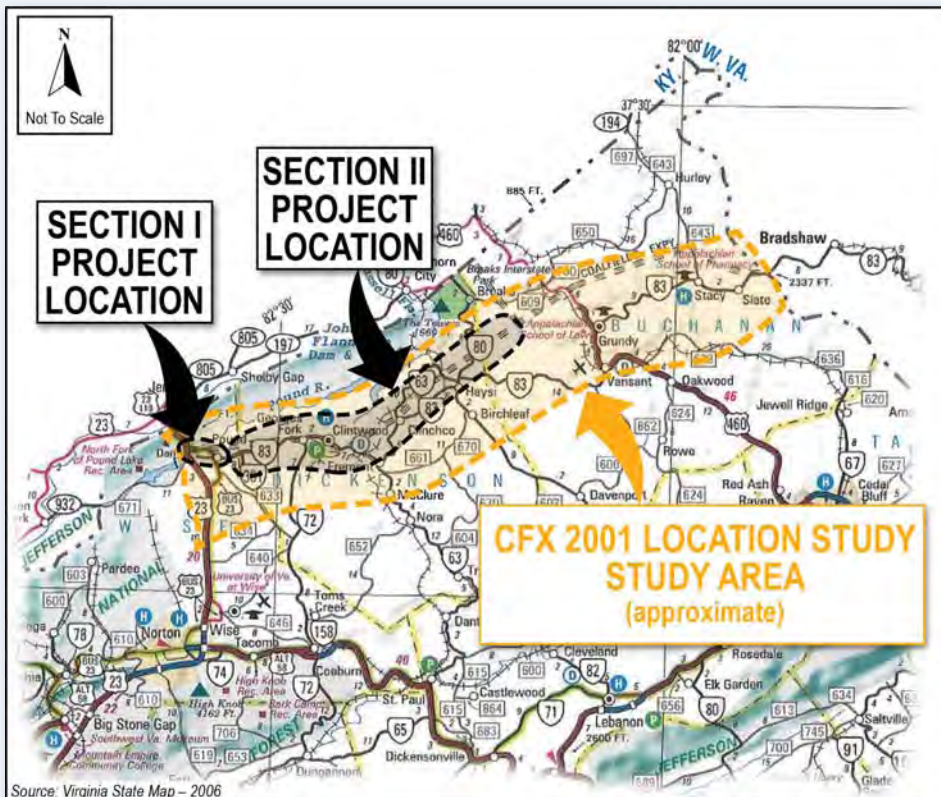
## Welcome

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has evaluated changes to Sections I and II of the proposed Coalfields Expressway (CFX, U.S. Route 121). CFX Section I extends approximately 2.5 miles from Route 23 to Route 83. CFX Section II extends approximately 26 miles through Wise, Dickenson, and Buchanan Counties from the east end of CFX Section I to the proposed Route 460 Connector (where CFX Section IIIA begins).

## Purpose of the Hearing

The purpose of this hearing is to provide a public opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing body, to offer comments or submit written material concerning the proposed projects. We invite you to review the findings of the Environmental Assessment and other information about changes to the proposed location of the CFX roadway and discuss the projects with VDOT representatives who are here to answer your questions. All comments received will be considered prior to a final decision by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

## Background



The purpose of constructing the CFX is to improve mobility and safety, support economic development, and satisfy Congressional initiatives. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the CFX were completed in 2001. The ROD identified Alternative F1 as the selected alternative and noted that the project would be designed and constructed in numerous phases. Under provisions of the Virginia Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA), VDOT's PPTA private partners have proposed revisions to Alternative F1. An environmental reevaluation was completed for the changes to CFX Section I and an Environmental Assessment was prepared to serve as a reevaluation of the FEIS as it pertains to Section II of the CFX.

## Coalfields Expressway Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA) Alternative

The proposed alignments of the PPTA Alternative and Alternative F1, as well as the typical cross-section for the new roadway, are shown in the figures on the adjacent page. The PPTA Alternative shifts the proposed CFXII alignment as much as two to three miles; however, it is still within the study area considered in the FEIS, crosses similar terrain, and involves substantially similar environmental and social conditions as the selected Alternative F1, while also providing a somewhat straighter alignment.

The PPTA Alternative would take advantage of coal recovery within the proposed right-of-way to substantially reduce the amount of public funds needed to complete the project. While both Alternative F1 and the PPTA Alternative would meet the purpose and need, the PPTA Alternative would reduce costs approximately 45% compared to VDOT's traditional design-bid-build process.

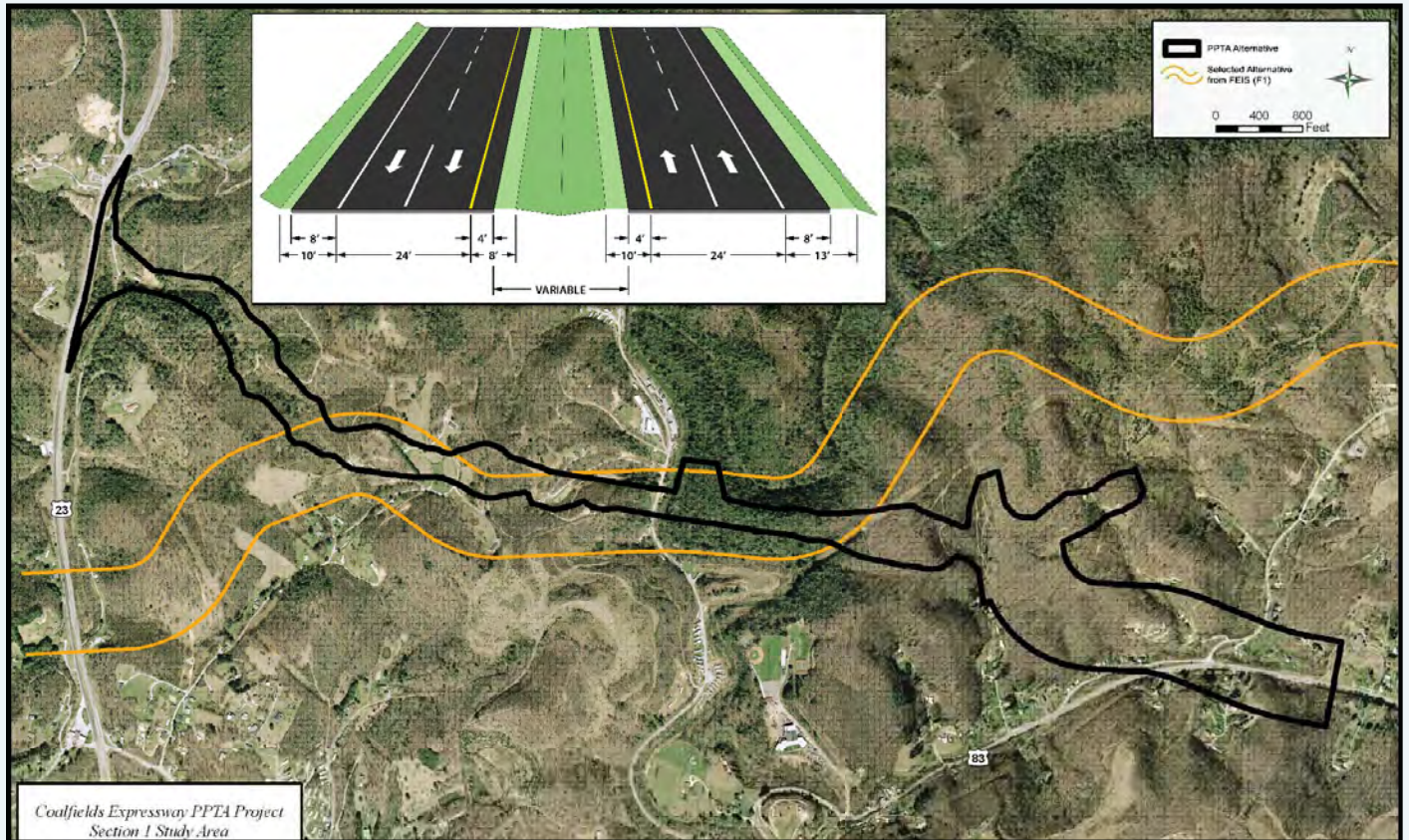
## Environmental Impacts

CATEGORY	SECTION I REEVALUATION*		SECTION II EA	
	ALTERNATIVE F1	PPTA ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE F1	PPTA ALTERNATIVE
Total Area within Limits of Disturbance (acres)	195	155	1,135	2,075
Homes Displaced	7	25	95	53
Businesses Displaced			5	0
Schools Displaced			0	0
Churches Displaced			0	2
Cemeteries Displaced			1	3
Other Community Facilities (rescue squads, fire stations, etc.) Displaced			0	0
Prime and Unique Farmland (acres)			0**	98
Other Farmland (acres)			99	0
Forest (acres)			720	2,008
Section 4(f) Property Use (acres)			0	0
Parks and Recreational Resources			0	0
Historic Properties Affected			0	0
Length of Streams Impacted (miles)	0.4	1.8	4	12
Wetlands Displaced (acres)	0	3.6	2	34
Floodplains Crossed (acres)			0	14
Noise Impacts (Number of Receptors Impacted)			1	1
Hazardous Material Sites Impacted (number of sites)			0	0

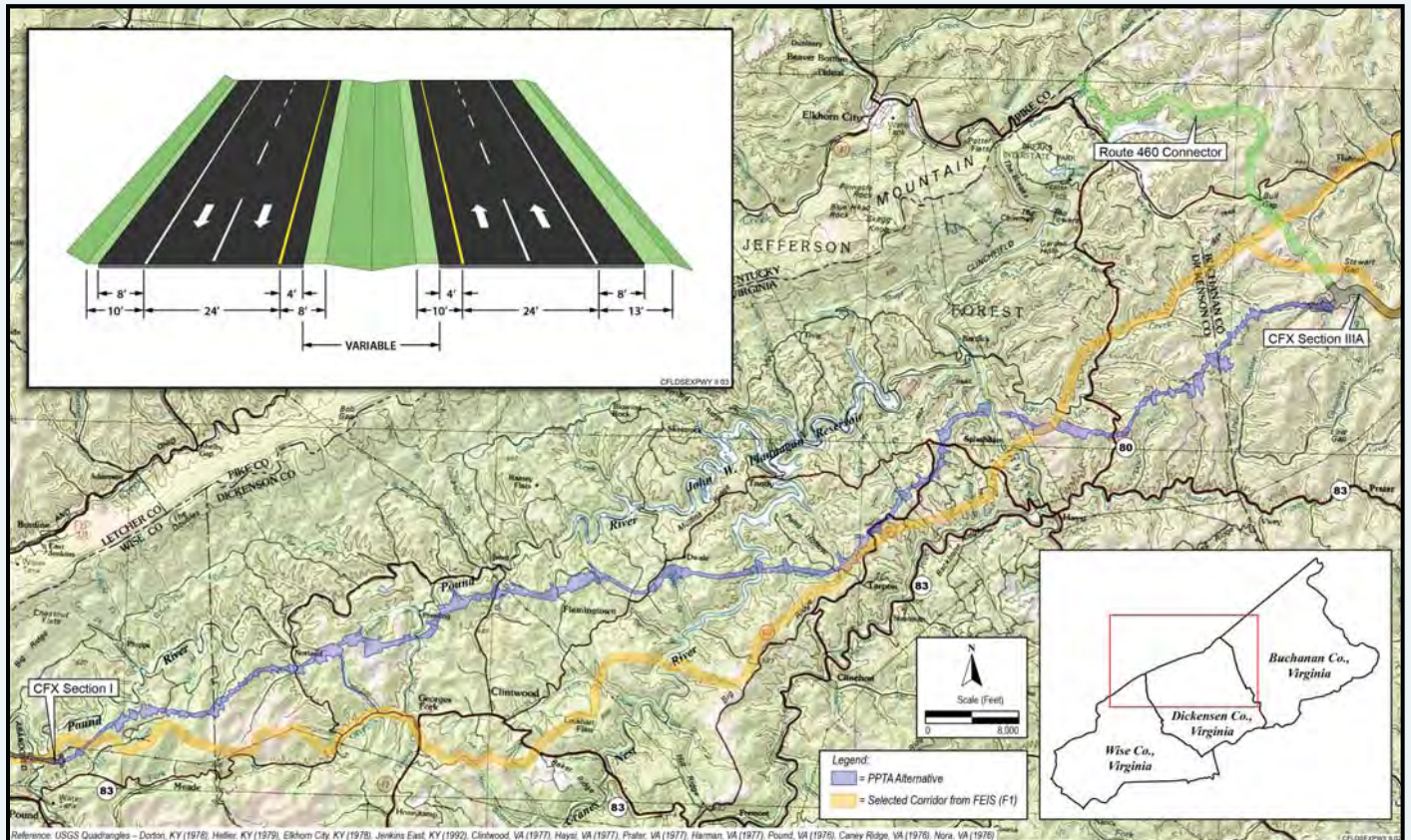
\* Gray shading represents minimal to no change in impacts between Alternative F1 and the PPTA Alternative.

\*\* Based on input from Natural Resources Conservation Service and limited availability of soils data.

# Section I



# Section II



## Environmental Review

An Environmental Assessment was prepared and approved for public availability by FHWA for Section II. Copies of the document are available for review here tonight, or it can be reviewed on VDOT's web site at [http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/bristol/coalfields\\_expressway.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/bristol/coalfields_expressway.asp).

## Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Bristol District Office, Civil Rights Division, at the above address or telephone (276-669-6151) or TTY/TDD 711.

## Schedule

Date	Event
January 8, 2009	FHWA approved the Reevaluation for Section I
June 13, 2012	Environmental Assessment approved by FHWA for public availability
August 13 and 14, 2012	Public Hearing
August 24, 2012	Final day to submit comments
October 2012	Location Decision by the Commonwealth Transportation Board
November 2012	Environmental Assessment revised, as appropriate, based on hearing comments and CTB decision
December 2012	Final Decision on the Environmental Assessment by FHWA

## Right-of-Way and Relocation Assistance

Information about right-of-way purchase is provided in VDOT's brochure entitled "Right-of-Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available here from VDOT's Right-of-Way representatives. After this meeting, information and questions regarding right-of-way should be directed to:

Mr. Michael Black  
Bristol Acquisition Team Lead  
870 Bonham Road  
Bristol, Virginia 24201  
276-669-6151

## What's Next?

The study team will review and evaluate the comments you provide to us tonight and during the comment period. The comments, along with other information developed during the study, will then be forwarded to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for consideration in reaching a decision on the PPTA Alternative. Following the public availability period, the Environmental Assessment (EA) will be revised as appropriate to reflect changes in the proposed action or mitigation measures resulting from comments received on the EA or at the public hearing. It will then be submitted to FHWA, along with a copy of the public hearing transcript, the recommendation of the preferred alternative, and a request that a final decision be made by FHWA.

Estimated start dates for right-of-way acquisition and construction are shown below:

	Section I	Section II
Right-of-Way	Fall 2013	Summer 2013
Construction	Fall 2014	Summer 2014

## Get Involved

Please review the maps and displays and share your thoughts by using the comment sheet provided with this brochure. You may leave your comments in the box provided at tonight's meeting. You may also record your comments orally at the designated recording station.

If you are not ready to provide your comments tonight, you may submit them by **August 24, 2012** to the following address, which is also preprinted on the back of the comment sheet:

Mr. Michael Russell, P.E.  
District Administrator  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
870 Bonham Road  
Bristol, Virginia 24201

You also can submit comments by email to at:

**[Bristolinfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Bristolinfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov)**

Please reference "Coalfields Expressway Public Hearing Comment" in the subject line.