



WELCOME

PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION

Allegheny Mountain Realignment

Project Briefing

September 26, 2024



Please scan QR
Code to view the
Project Website

Turnpike Project Leadership

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PTC Project Manager

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PTC Assistant Chief Engineer - Design



Design Team

Bowman

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Gary Graham, PE - Assistant Project Manager

Subconsultant Firms



Purpose of the Briefing

Primary Goals

- Preliminary Engineering & Design Kick-off
- Share the status of the project and public outreach opportunities
- Explain what to expect during Preliminary Engineering and how the environmental studies will help the team to minimize impacts
- Explain how field studies will be conducted and how property owners are notified
- Engage, listen and discuss community feedback and questions

Getting the Word Out

Who's been invited:

- Elected Officials
- Environmental Resource Agencies
- Property Owners
- Stakeholders
- Interested residents

How:

- Direct Mail
- Email
- Media Advisory
- Website Updates



Briefing Format

Live Presentation

- Followed by questions and answers
- Please hold all questions to the end of the presentation



Presentation Outline

01

Project Overview

02

Public Involvement

03

Design Schedule

04

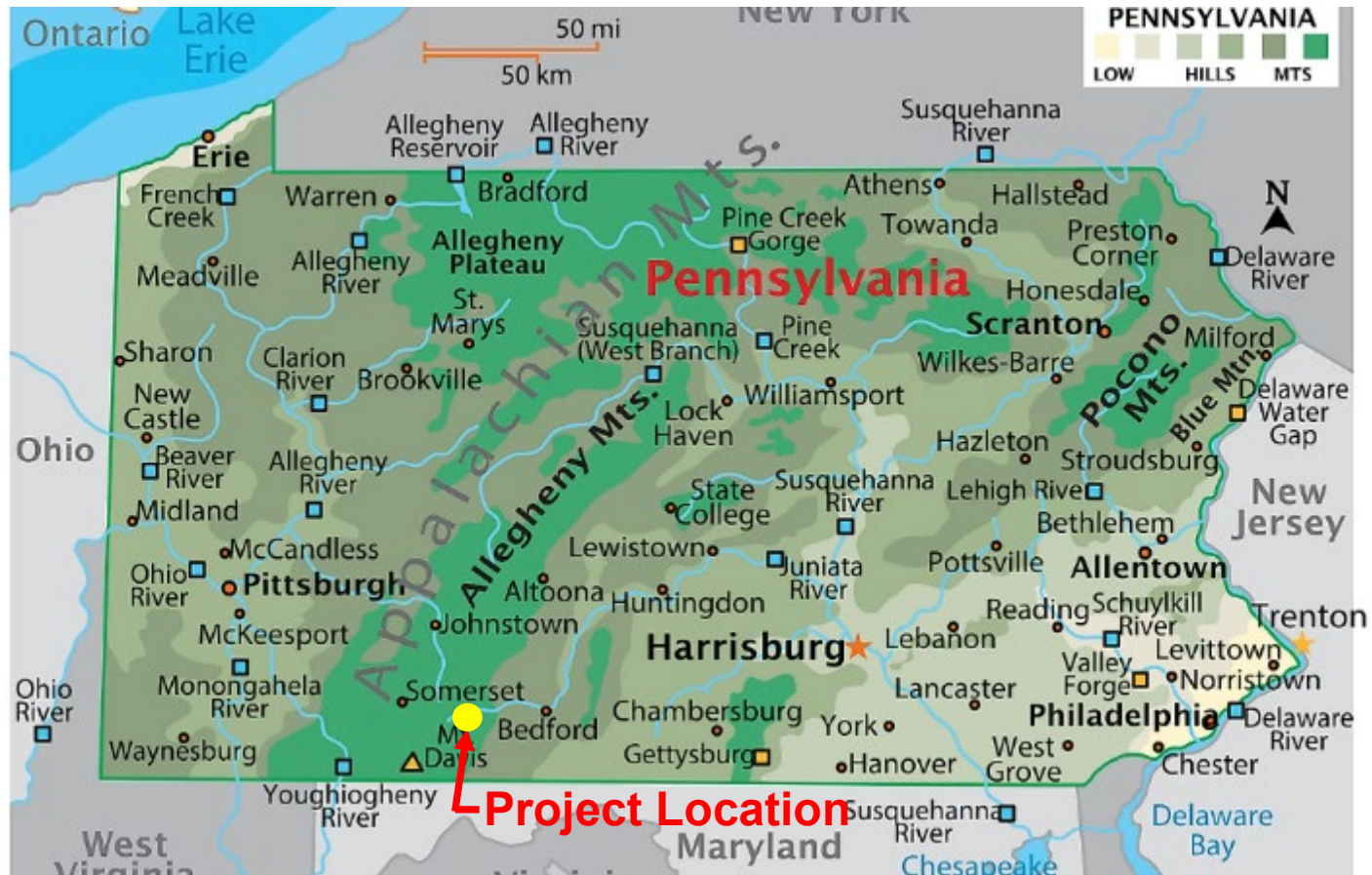
Preliminary Design Process

05

Questions



Project Location



Project Location



Project Needs

Project was initiated as a result of increasing concerns regarding:

- Traffic congestion
- Frequency and severity of accidents in the vicinity of the tunnel
 - Fatal accident rates for the tunnel and approaches are three (3) times higher than the entire turnpike system
 - Most often within the curve on the eastern side of the tunnel
 - Rear-end collisions in a stopped traffic condition
 - First responder challenges with narrow median, limited or no shoulder, and distance from interchanges
- Physical and structural condition of the tunnel
- Rerouting of hazardous materials onto alternate routes

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project remains to:

- Alleviate traffic congestion within the project corridor by increasing the capacity of the roadway.
- Increase safety for motorists and first responders.
- Improve system linkage and continuity for hazardous material carriers between Ohio and Breezewood.

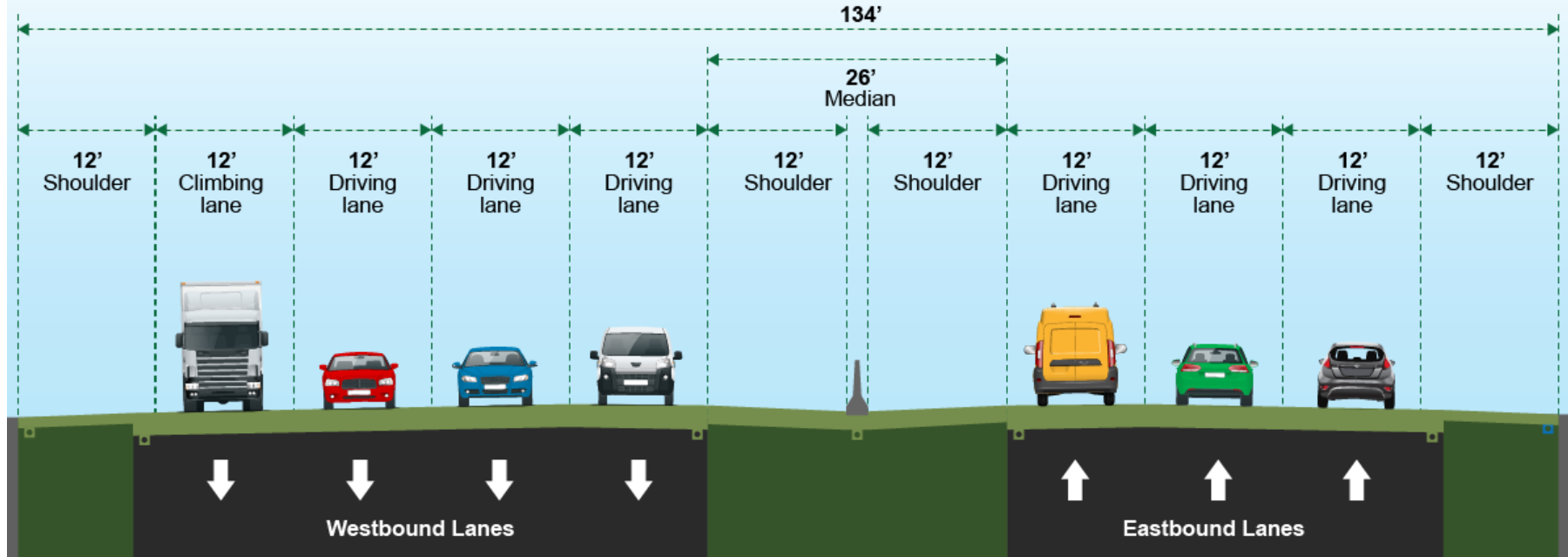
Project Location



Preferred Alignment



New Roadway Section



Preferred Alignment Meets Needs

- Numerous alignments have been evaluated over the years and presented to resource agencies, elected officials, and the public
- Northern alignments could not be the preferred alignment because it was determined that no definitive benefits resulting from these alignment options could outweigh the adverse impacts to the Indiana bat population
- Provides a balanced combination of minimization/avoidance for environmental impacts
- Meets current design standards
- Additional permitting and documentation required to go to construction
- Environmental studies to continue to remain in compliance with federal and state environmental regulations

Public Feedback to be Addressed

- Environmental impacts/wildlife
- Water Quality
- Safety
- SR 219 Completion
- Community Impacts
- Property access
- Public input process



Q: Environmental Impacts/Wildlife

- The PTC continues to **comply with state and federal environmental laws** and the agencies continue to be consulted
- During Preliminary Engineering, the preferred alternative will continue to be studied in more detail and refined to **reduce the footprint of the project**
- **Innovative solutions** to protect the environment are being studied such as wildlife crossings and habitat improvements for plants and wildlife
- For any resource impact that can't be avoided mitigation options will be explored **in collaboration with state and federal agencies**

Q: Water Quality

- We will establish a **water quality monitoring program that builds on past research** and will monitor quality and flow to protect the local water supply
- The Project Team will comply with the **Federal Clean Water Act** and state regulations to protect the water supply
- The preliminary design process will include **collaboration with the local water authorities** and property owners with wells and septic systems
- **Watersheds will be studied** in more detail during this phase

Q: Safety

- **Improve safety** for highway workers, first responders, and the half a million drivers who travel the roadway every day
- **Truck climbing lane** will be added for truck traffic
- Narrow median and shoulders will be increased to **aid mobility and safety**
- Potential **weather-related impacts** will be explored through preliminary engineering

Q: SR 219 Completion

- **US-219 North-South Corridor**
 - Provides a roadway connection between Somerset to I-68
 - Provides redundant and efficient travel for north/south trips
 - US-219 Study doesn't consider a planned Breezewood I-70/I-76 direct connection
 - Will further explore the potential change of the regional traffic patterns through preliminary engineering

Q: Community Impacts

- Efforts will be made to **minimize property impacts** as part of preliminary engineering
- Potential impacts to **trees, wells and natural springs** will be explored as part of preliminary engineering
- Access to properties will be maintained

Q: Property Access

- **Contact information** gathered during the public notification process will be used to:
 - Used to **communicate** with property owners and discuss access to their land prior to operations
 - **Provide schedules** for access and types of activities
 - Ensure that any **special circumstances** are discussed
 - Field crews will **minimize disturbance** of the property
- Coordination with property owners will continue **throughout** the project

Q: Public Involvement Process



Project Information Updates - Website Hub

- Current Project Information
- Meeting Notices
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contact Us
- Subscribe for Updates



Newsletters/Email Updates



Frequent Communication with Property Owners

Special Group Meetings

Project Briefings/Public Meetings



Please scan QR Code to
view the Project Website

<https://www.paturnpike.com/traveling/construction/site/allegheny-mountain-realignment>



Design Schedule



- Environmental coordination will be ongoing throughout the duration of the project
- This project is funded through toll revenue. No federal funding involved.

Preliminary Eng. Design Process

Year One

- **Perform Field Surveys**
- **Public Briefing**
 - Public comments received at the briefing will be evaluated and incorporated as appropriate
- **Resource Agency Coordination**
- **Perform Environmental Field Studies**
 - Additional bat studies
 - Additional Threatened and Endangered Species studies
 - Wetland Delineation
 - Biological Assessment
 - Waterway Permitting
 - Geotechnical Studies



Preliminary Eng. Design Process

Year 2-4

- Resource Agency Coordination
- Refine selected alignment to minimize impacts
- Complete Preliminary Design of the Roadway and Bridges
- Feasibility and constructability reviews

End of Year 4

- Preliminary Design process concludes
- Public Meeting with details on proposed right-of-way impacts

Year 5

- Final Design begins (Estimated as a 4 Year Process)
- Resource Agency Coordination and Permitting
- Public comment will be evaluated and incorporated as appropriate



Project Contacts

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Feedback Welcome

- **Complete the comment form by 10.25.24 and return through any of the following:**
 - During Project Briefing
 - Mail
 - Email
 - Website
- **Direct to:**
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Allegheny Mountain Realignment Project
Between Milepost 121-126
Allegheny and Stonycreek Townships, Somerset County

Comment Form

Thank you for attending the Project Briefing for the Allegheny Mountain Realignment Project. Please use the form below to share your feedback and provide additional details in the space provided. The completed form may be submitted today or before **October 10, 2024**. Details on how to submit the form after the meeting may be found on the backside of this form.

1. Do you think the project information was presented clearly?

a. Yes ____
b. No ____
c. No opinion ____
Please provide any additional clarification:

2. Were you able to get your questions answered?

a. Yes ____
b. No ____
Please provide any additional clarification:

3. How best describes your interest in the project?

Property Owner	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Public Official	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Emergency Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Freight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marship	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Somerset Township	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Thank You for Participating