U.S. Route 58/Martin Luther King (MLK) Freeway Extension Location Study

City of Portsmouth

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Overview:

- Project History
- Purpose and Need
- Project Description
- Potential Impacts
- Recommendation / Next Steps

PROJECT HISTORY

- 1990:
  - FHWA signs EA, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approves location of Alternative E
- 1998:
  - CTB approved the proposed major design features with minor modification for private property access
- 2007:
  - the Department completed an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) which identified design deficiencies with the original interchange configuration proposed for Alternative E. The IJR developed several alternative options to address identified design deficiencies, and in consultation with FHWA, Virginia Division, the Department selected Alternative E Option 4 for further analysis through the IJR process
- 2008:
  - Based on the preferred alternative identified in the IJR the Department documented the MLK Freeway extension location study in an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, which was approved by the Federal Highway Administration April 7, 2008
  - The Department held a location public hearing May 14th

PURPOSE AND NEED

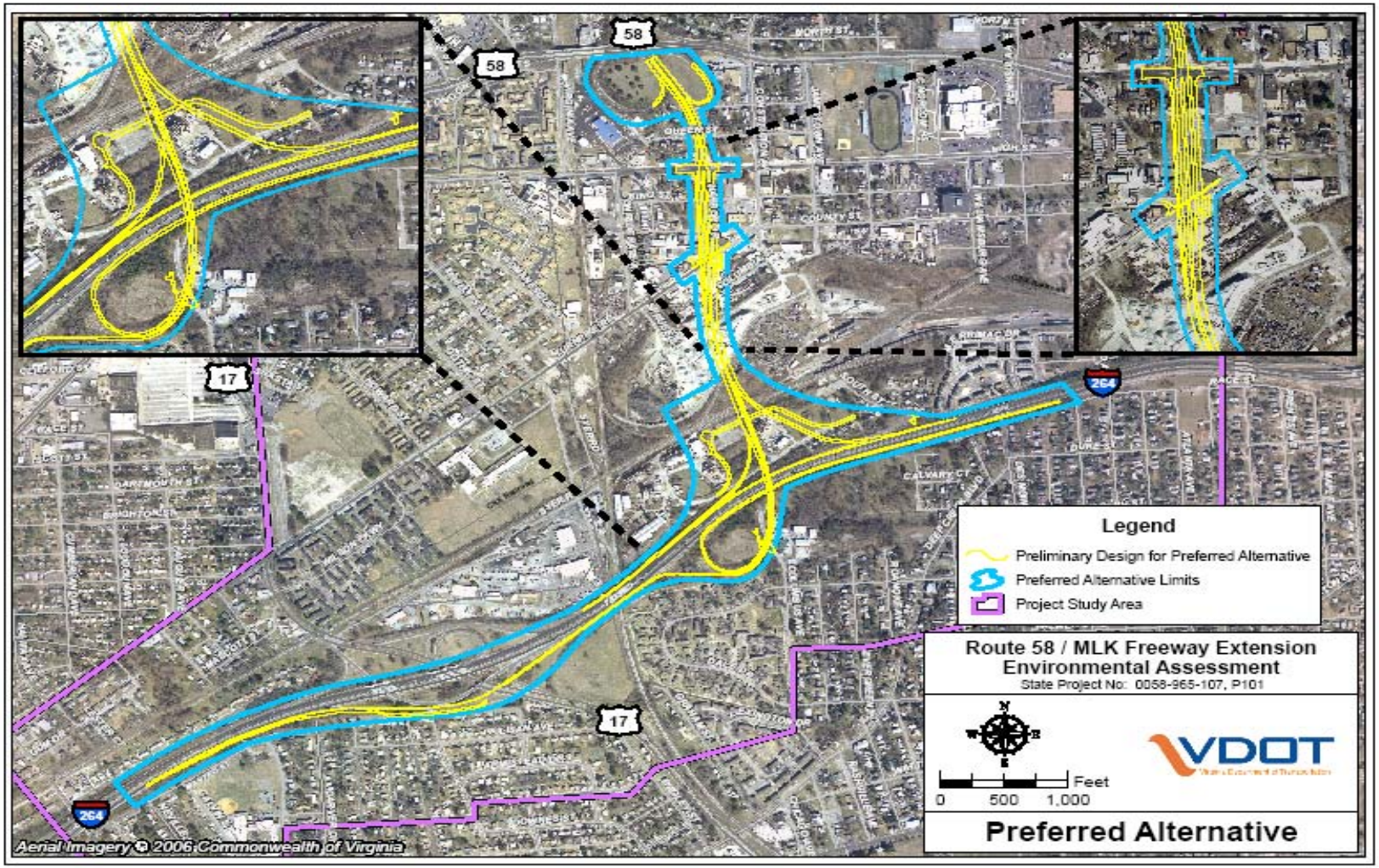
- Improve highway system linkage and continuity by providing a direct, limited access freeway connection between existing US Route 58/MLK Freeway and I-264

- Reduce through traffic, including heavy truck traffic and related congestion on local streets

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- North-South link between existing U.S. Route 58/MLK Freeway and I-264
- Four lanes, limited access
- New location
- Preliminary estimated cost is $195 million (2007)

MLK Freeway Extension Location Map



SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 21 Potential residential relocations
- 9 Potential business relocations
- 125 Potential residential noise impacts
- 1 Eligible historic property affected
  - 24.8 acres of 4(f) property used

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

- Public hearing conducted on May 14, 2008
  - 119 persons in attendance
- 45 citizen comments were received via comment surveys, e-mail, letters, and oral comments

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT SUMMARY

Summary Comments

- 27 Comment Sheets were submitted:
  - 22 (81%) support Alternative E, Option 4
  - 1 (04%) support the No Build Alternative
  - 4 (15%) were non committal on the Alternative
  - 13 (48%) support tolls
  - 9 (33%) do not support tolls
  - 5 (19%) were non committal on tolling
- 15 Comments were orally recorded:
  - 3 responses indicated a need to add on/off ramps on High Street
  - 3 responses indicated a need to maintain interstate access (ramp closers)
  - 3 responses expressed concern with moving a second time due to a transportation project (I-264)
  - Several other responses expressed concern over tolling, pedestrian access, noise, and street closures
- 3 Comments were submitted by letter/e-mail
  - 1 supports Alternative E, Option 4
  - 1 supports the No Build Alternative
  - 1 neither opposed or supported project

VDOT RECOMMENDATION / NEXT STEPS

- Alternative E, Option 4
  - City of Portsmouth conditionally supports
- PPTA Solicitation for Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/MLK Extension Conceptual Proposals Due
  - September 29, 2008
- Revised Environmental Assessment
  - September, 2008
- Finding of No Significant Impact
  - November, 2008

DOWNTOWN TUNNEL/MIDTOWN/MLK EXTENSION PPTA PROJECT MAP



- I-264 and MLK Interchange (Interstate system)
- Downtown Tunnel (Interstate system)
- Midtown Tunnel & MLK Extension (Primary System)