



Coalfields Expressway, Sections I & II

**State Project No. 0121-013-772, PE 101; UPC 85126
Federal Project No. NH-962-2(004)**

Wise, Dickenson, and Buchanan Counties

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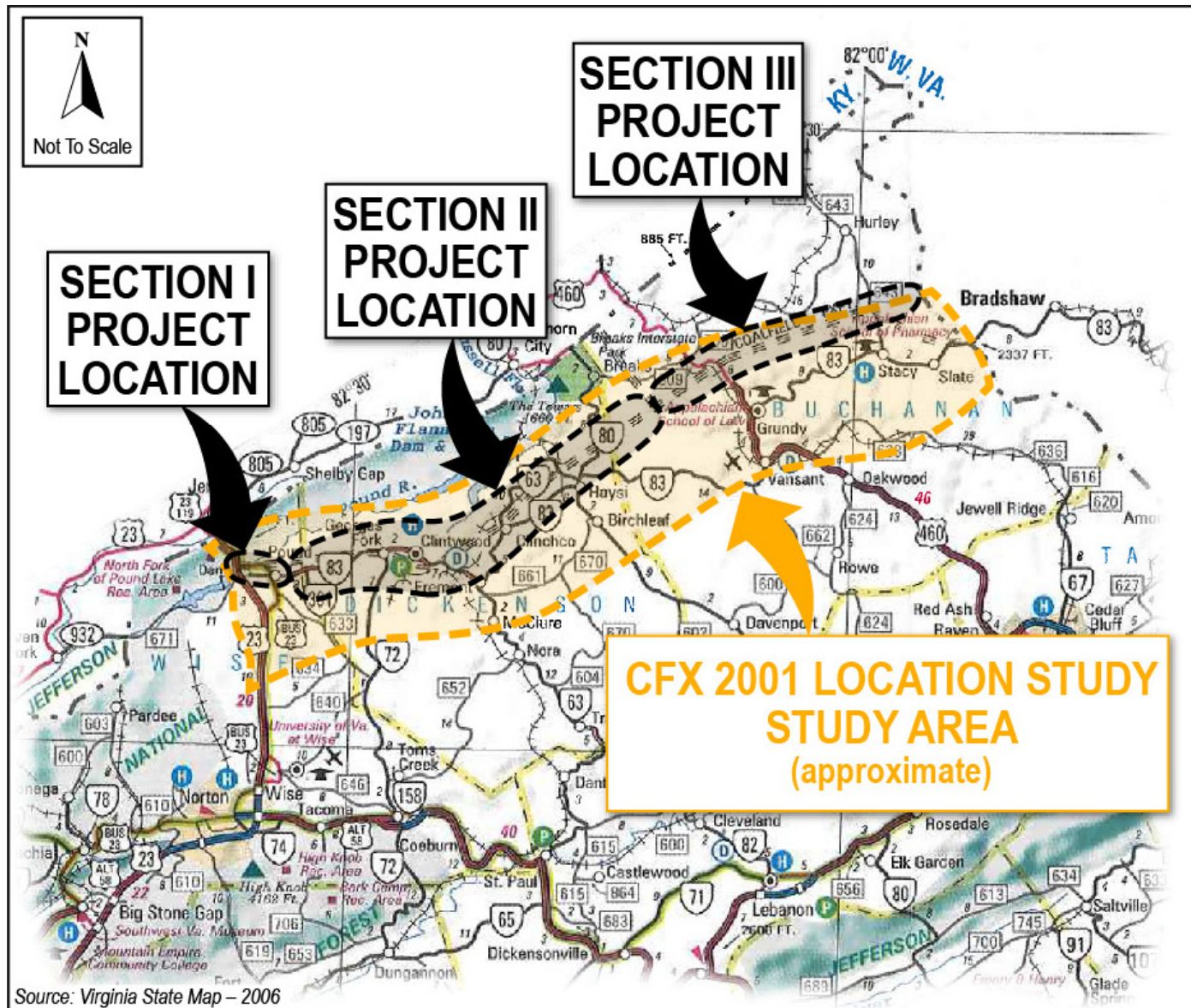
PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

- Review proposed revisions to project alignment
- Summarize environmental impacts of the proposed change
- Present summary of public hearing
 - Citizen comments
 - Agency & interest group comments

PROJECT HISTORY

- 1995** National Highway System Designation Act identifies CFX in Virginia as High Priority Corridor
- 2000** Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 4-lane divided highway on new location; Location Public Hearing; CTB endorses Alternative F1
- 2001** FHWA issues ROD for Alternative F1
- 2006-07** PPTA/Coal Synergy proposal, corridor revisions to take advantage of coal reserves to offset construction costs;
Corridor split into sections for environmental reevaluations.
- 2008** CFX Section III A & C (Hawks Nest & Rockhouse) Reevaluations approved by FHWA
- 2009** CFX Section I (Pound Bypass) Reevaluation approved by FHWA
- 2012** CFX Section II Environmental Assessment to reevaluate environmental impacts

Study Area / Project Location



CFX Section I

- Referred to as Pound Bypass
- Extends approximately 2.5 miles from Route 23 to Route 83, East of Pound in Wise county
- Majority of this section of the CFX corridor was studied previously
 - 2 segments of the approved F1 corridor (segment 159 & portion of segment 118A)
 - A portion of segment 150 - evaluated in the FEIS but not selected
 - Approximately 3,000' of this section was not studied previously
- NEPA Reevaluation completed and approved by FHWA in 2008

CFX Section II

- **Extends approximately 26 miles through Wise, Dickenson & Buchanan Counties**
 - From east end of CFX Section 1 in Wise County to the proposed Route 460 Connection where CFX Section IIIA begins in Buchanan County
- **Proposed changes to this section are within the study area of the FEIS but extend outside of the approved F1 corridor**
- **Environmental Assessment prepared in 2012 to reevaluate this section of CFX and to determine if:**
 - **Changes result in significant environmental impacts not previously evaluated**
 - **New information or circumstances relevant to environmental concerns & bearing on the proposed action result in significant environmental impacts not previously evaluated**



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

CATEGORY	SECTION I REEVALUATION*		SECTION II EA	
	ALTERNATIVE F1	PPTA/COAL SYNERGY ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE F1	PPTA/COAL SYNERGY 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

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Public Hearing : August 13 – 14, 2012

258 total persons in attendance

EA, Technical Reports and Reevaluation made available

Comment period on EA: Ended August 24, 2012

of Comments Received: 119

Via comment sheets, emails, letters, and oral comments

When asked *What is your opinion of the PPTA Alternative?*:

- *80 in support of PPTA Alternative*
- *29 opposed to PPTA Alternative*

Frequent concerns cited in comments include: access to towns/properties; fair homeowner compensation; impacts from mining; need for further study.

In addition, approximately 48,000 form emails were received as a result of a nationwide “action” campaign organized by the Sierra Club generally suggesting that a supplemental EIS is needed to fully address environmental matters.

Of these, 42 originated in Wise, Dickenson, or Buchanan Counties

FEDERAL AGENCY COMMENTS

US Environmental Protection Agency

EA lacks sufficient detail to adequately analyze impacts and does not appear to consider a full range of alternatives.

It may be appropriate to prepare a supplemental EIS. It is not clear that the current EA would support a FONSI determination.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Six species federally listed or proposed for listing whose ranges intersect the project area, four of which may be impacted. Future surveys required prior to construction.

US Army Corps of Engineers

An alternatives analysis sufficient for the Corps to make a LEDPA determination is not available.

Recommend preparation of a supplemental or new EIS.

LOCAL AGENCY & INTEREST GROUP COMMENTS

Town of Pound

Concern about potential isolation of Pound under the Section I PPTA/Coal Synergy Alternative and would like the addition of service roads or small exits to enable access.

Sierra Club

Submitted on behalf of themselves, Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, and Appalachian Voices

Believe that there is a need for a supplemental EIS due to: addition of surface coal mining and valley fills as an integral piece of the project; impacts they believe have not been adequately evaluated.

NEXT STEPS

- **CTB Action on Proposed alignment change to Sections I & II at the February 2013 meeting**
- **Following CTB action the EA on Section II will be revised and submitted to FHWA for their action**