



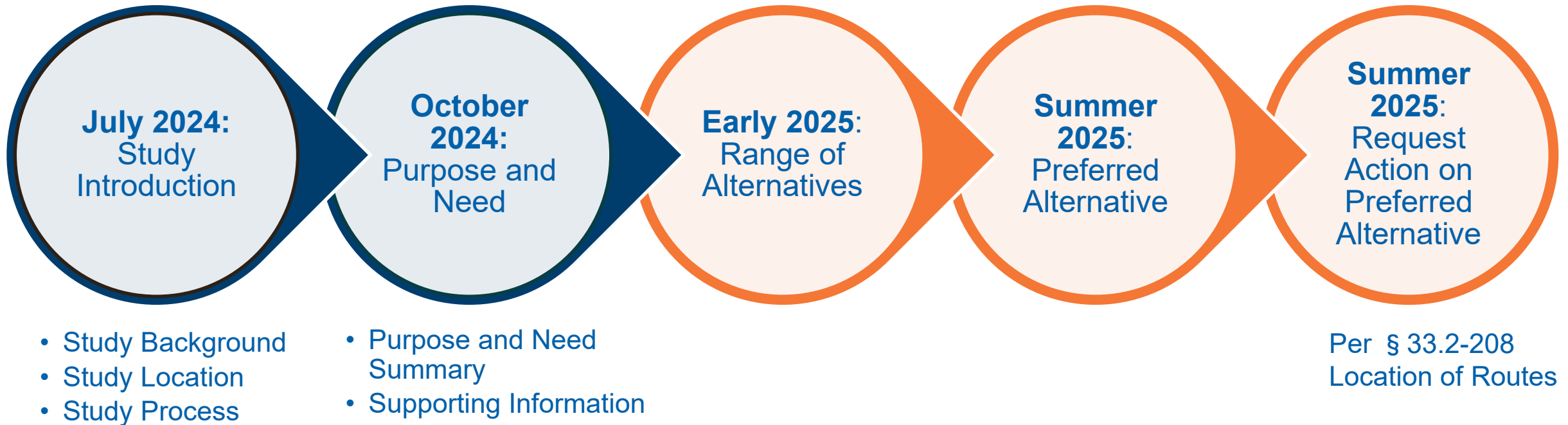
POWHITE PARKWAY PROJECT

Purpose and Need Briefing

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Presentations to CTB on the Powhite Parkway EIS



Chesterfield County Powwhite Projects

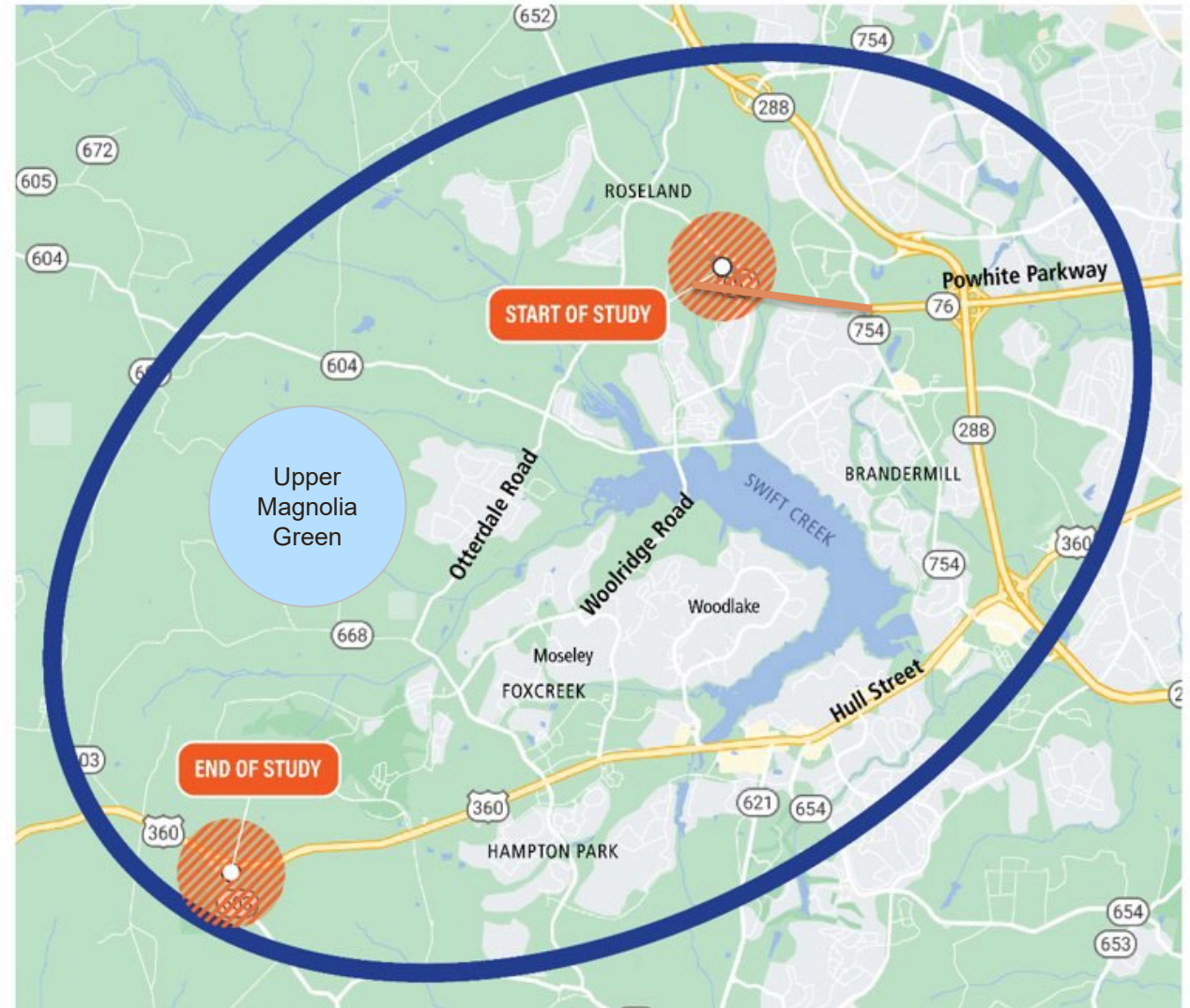
Subject of EIS Study: Woolridge Road to Hull Street Road on new alignment

Legend:

 Termini of EIS study

 EIS Study Area

 Widening and Extension of Powwhite Parkway from Charter Colony Parkway to Woolridge Road (separate project)



PURPOSE AND NEED

- As lead federal agency, FHWA develops a Purpose and Need focused on the necessary transportation improvements in the study area.
- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require an EIS to “summarize the underlying purpose and need for the proposed agency action.”*
- As described by AASHTO**, the purpose and need sets the Lead Federal Agency’s goals for the study and serves as the primary criteria in the alternative screening process.
- The Purpose and Need is focused on the given federal action and need not address ancillary benefits or goals of other actions.

* 40 CFR 1502.13

** AASHTO Practitioner’s Handbook: Defining the Purpose and Need and Determining the Range of Alternatives for Transportation Projects.

DEVELOPMENT OF A PURPOSE AND NEED

- **Scoping – Completed**
 - Solicit input from agencies and the public on potential issues, constraints, and identified needs
 - Review previous VDOT, regional, and local studies, plans, and existing traffic data
- **Present Potential Need Items to Agencies – Completed**
 - Present scoping findings to agencies and receive feedback from agencies
 - Have received preliminary concurrence from environmental review agencies*
- **Draft Purpose and Need Chapter – In Progress**
 - Document current and future needs for Chapter 1 of NEPA document
 - Includes more detail obtained through study process

*Cannot request formal concurrence until after FHWA issues the Notice of Intent.

PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

The purpose of the Powhite Parkway Project is to enhance options for potential transportation improvements that would enhance travel conditions from Hull Street Road to Woolridge Road in western Chesterfield County, Virginia. In order to meet the purpose, the Project must address the following needs:



Relieve congestion on existing roadways and at intersections within the project study area



Improve regional connectivity and accessibility between Hull Street Road and Woolridge Road

RELIEVE CONGESTION

- **Existing travel speed conditions**
 - ~25% of roadway segments in study area experience severe congestion
- **Existing signalized and unsignalized intersection delays**
 - ~50% of intersections evaluated in study area experience moderate/severe congestion
- **Public comments emphasize capacity and congestion issues**

An alternative's ability to meet this need element will be assessed by reduction of intersection delays, travel time, and traffic volumes

IMPROVE REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- **Existing Regional Connectivity is impacted by heavy traffic**
 - There are few free-flowing options for through traffic
 - Existing freeways/expressways experience moderate/severe congestion
 - Existing Minor Arterials/Major Collectors are subject to heavy traffic movement
 - Not intended for such high traffic numbers, results in moderate/severe congestion
- **Future travel demand**
 - Anticipated increase in population (~80%), housing (~80%), and employment (~250%) in Study Area

An alternative's ability to meet this need element will be assessed by reduced travel time and increased accessibility to employment and residential zones.

NEXT STEPS with CTB

Activity	Timeframe*
Public Involvement on Range of Alternatives	November 2024
CTB Briefing on Range of Alternatives	Early 2025
CTB Action on Location Decision/Preferred Alternative	Summer 2025
Draft Environmental Impact Statement	Late 2025

*Schedule subject to change as NEPA process advances

