



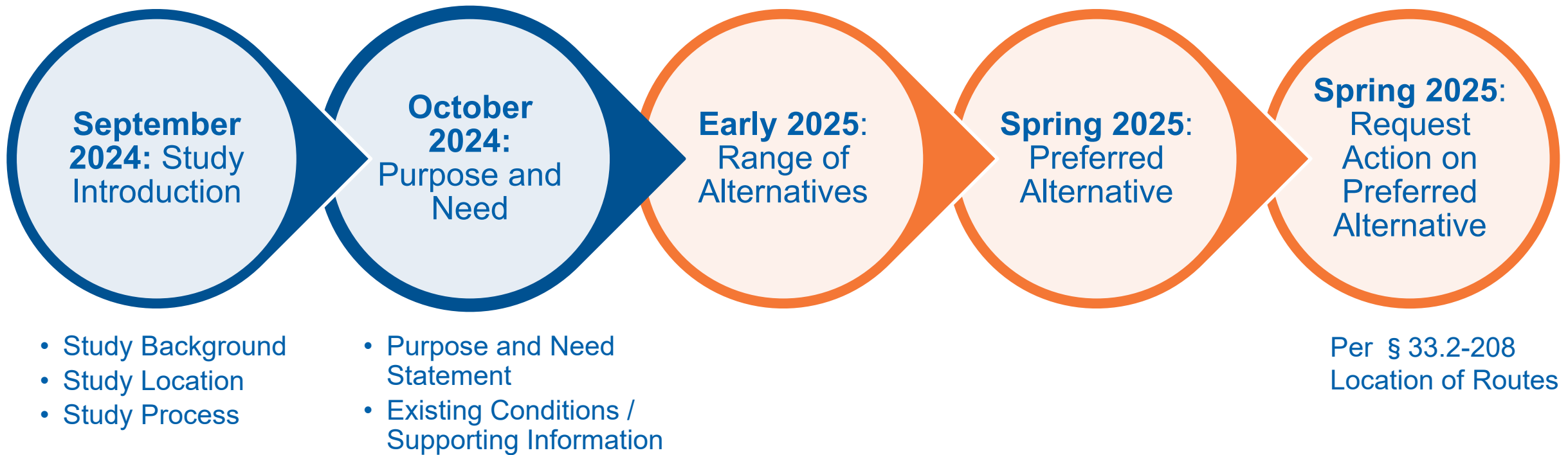
# **NIMMO PARKWAY PHASE VII-B PROJECT**

## **Purpose and Need Briefing**

| Scott Smizik, Assistant Environmental Division Director

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# PRESENTATIONS TO CTB ON NIMMO PARKWAY PHASE VII-B EIS



# NIMMO PARKWAY PHASE VII-B EIS STUDY AREA



## Legend

- Study Area
- Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Military Base
- Build Alternatives Alignment
  - Nimmo Parkway
  - Sandbridge Road

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Two-lane roadway with no shoulders, suitable recovery area, or emergency pull-off
- Does not meet current design standards



Source: Google Earth 2023

# PURPOSE AND NEED

- As lead federal agency, FHWA develops a Purpose and Need focused on the necessary transportation improvements in the study area.
- 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 EIS 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

## Developing 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
- Review EA's purpose and need and supporting documentation

- **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 NEPA process

\*Cannot request formal concurrence until after FHWA issues the Notice of Intent (NOI).

# PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

**The purpose of the Project is to provide reliable access and connectivity to the Sandbridge Community. In order to meet the purpose, the Project must address the following needs that limit reliable access and connectivity:**

- Flooding
- Roadway deficiencies
- Crashes and other obstructions



# RELIABLE ACCESS

## Reliable access to the Sandbridge Community is needed due to:

- Obstructions, vehicle crashes, and summer congestion, which reduce mobility along Sandbridge Road to and from the Sandbridge Community
- Flooding on Sandbridge Road due to wind-driven tides, rain events, or large storms, which cuts off access to the Sandbridge Community.

**Public comments support the data collected on the impact safety and flooding have on reliable access**

**An alternative's ability to meet this need element will be assessed by reducing the impact flooding, crashes, and other events have on reliable access to and from the Sandbridge Community**

# CONNECTIVITY

## **Enhanced connectivity to the Sandbridge community is needed due to:**

- Lack of alternative public routes to provide emergency response access to the Sandbridge Community.
- Risk of evacuation due to hurricanes or other emergencies.

**An alternative's ability to meet this need element will be assessed by improving emergency response and/or evacuation for the Sandbridge Community.**

# NEXT STEPS with CTB

Activity	Timeframe*
CTB Briefing on Range of Alternatives	Early 2025
Public Hearing and Comment Period to Inform CTB Action on Location Decision/Preferred Alternative	Spring 2025
CTB Action on Location Decision/Preferred Alternative	Spring 2025
Draft Environmental Impact Statement	Fall 2025

\*Schedule subject to change as NEPA process advances

