



TDOT Seeks Public Input on I-24 Expansion; Dade Leaders Attend Chattanooga Meeting

Posted on **July 11, 2025** by **Carey Fauscett-Anderson**

TRENTON, Ga. (July 11, 2025) The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has announced plans to widen a 10-mile segment of Interstate 24 from the I-24/I-59 interchange in Dade County, Georgia, to near I-124 (US-27) in downtown Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. The project is intended to expand the existing four lanes to six, with the goal of relieving congestion and improving traffic flow along this key regional corridor, though the long-term impact on congestion remains to be seen.

County Officials Attend TDOT Planning Meeting - On July 10, Commissioner Bill Pullen, Economic Director Evan Stone, and Director of Communications Carey Fauscett-Anderson attended a public meeting hosted by TDOT in Chattanooga to discuss the I-24 widening project. The meeting was part of TDOT's environmental review and preliminary engineering phase, which is actively seeking public feedback.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the planning process by reviewing details and submitting input through the TDOT project page. A direct link to the planning site will be included alongside this announcement on the county website.

It is important to note that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) was not present at the meeting, and at this time, Dade County has not received any information from GDOT regarding the Georgia segment of the project.

Anticipated Project Schedule

Activity	Proposed Timeline
Initiate Early Coordination	2024
Design & NEPA Public Meeting	July 2025
Preliminary Design	Next Few Months
Environmental Assessment (EA)	Late 2025/Early 2026
Public Hearings	Early 2026
Approved EA/Anticipated Finding of No Significant Impact	Early/Mid 2026
Right-of-Way	Late 2026
Construction	2027

*Dates are estimates and subject to the availability of Transportation Modernization Fund dollars and final design approvals.

Construction Method - TDOT will use the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) delivery model, selecting a contractor during the design process to ensure constructability and cost efficiency.

Environmental Review and Public Involvement - An Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently under way in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). TDOT will host two public meetings to present design options, discuss potential impacts, and gather public input. Meeting dates and locations will be shared publicly as they are confirmed.

Local Impact

- **Traffic Relief:** Additional lanes are intended to ease daily commuter congestion between northwest Georgia and Chattanooga.
- **Economic Growth:** Improved freight movement is expected to bolster regional commerce and tourism.
- **Safety Enhancements:** Updated design standards aim to address existing bottlenecks and accident-prone areas.

Stay Informed - Residents may follow project updates by visiting the official TDOT project page or by contacting the Dade County Administrative Office. A direct link to the TDOT planning site will be made available on the Dade County Government website.

For media inquiries, please contact Carey Fauscett-Anderson, Director of Communications, at canderson@dadecounty-ga.gov or 423-290-6655.