



April 2, 2009

## City of Lakeland

Mr. Gary Fottrell  
Environmental Program Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
404 BNA Drive, Suite 508  
Nashville, Tennessee 37217

Subject: Canada Road Project, From State Route 1 (U.S. Highway 70) to U.S. Interstate 40; PIN 107036.00

Dear Mr. Fottrell:

In accordance with SAFETEA-LU (Section 6002), 23 USC 139(e), we are informing you of our intent to begin the NEPA process for the above referenced project. The City of Lakeland has committed to a Context Sensitive Solutions approach to develop alternatives for further NEPA studies. Upon review of the previously submitted Purpose and Need Statement and due to projected alternatives on a new location, in and adjacent to residential development and recreational areas, and the requirement of new right of way, this project was previously identified as an Environmental Assessment level of study.

The proposed project is located in northeast Shelby County in the City of Lakeland and within the Memphis Metropolitan Area. The purpose of this project is to improve the major road connection between State Route (SR) 1 (U.S. Highway 70) and Interstate 40 (I-40) for enhanced regional and local transportation mobility by providing a 4-lane divided roadway through the residential land-use area and a 5-lane section through the commercial area just north of I-40.

This project was initiated at the request of the City of Lakeland, Tennessee. Lakeland, Memphis/Shelby County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Shelby County Government have collaborated throughout the development process to ensure that the transportation needs envisioned by the local community are coordinated. This Canada Road project from SR-1 to I-40 has been on the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan since 1980 and has been included in the MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Wherry", is written over the typed name and title.

Robert P. Wherry  
City Manager