



LOWCOUNTRY CORRIDOR



STAKEHOLDER MEETING

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce

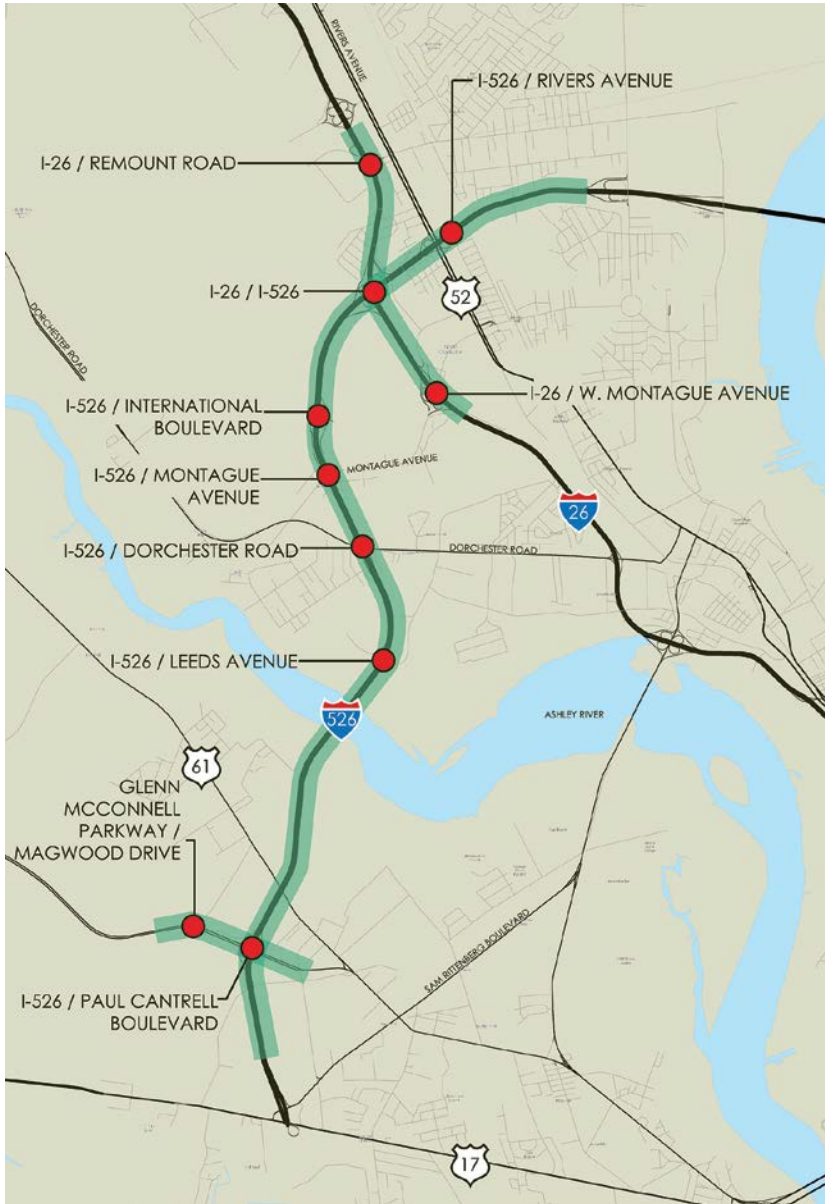
Meeting Agenda

**Welcome &
Introductions**

Project Overview

**Small Group
Session**

**Next Steps/
Conclusion**



Improvements:

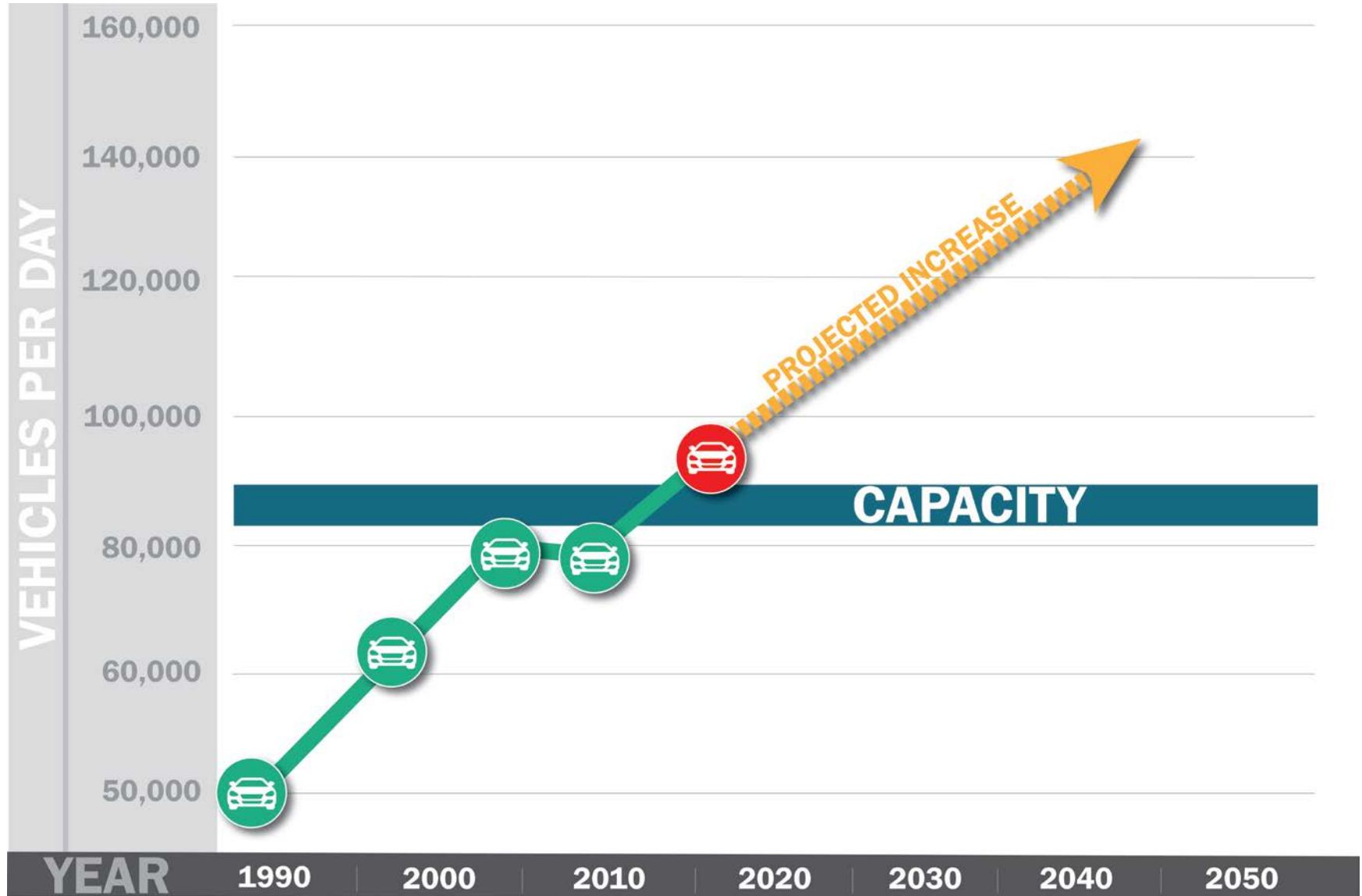
**I-526 from Rivers Ave. to
Paul Cantrell Blvd.**

Interchange Modifications:

- **Rivers Avenue**
- **I – 26**
- **International Boulevard**
- **Montague Avenue**
- **Dorchester Road**
- **Leeds Avenue**
- **Paul Cantrell Boulevard**



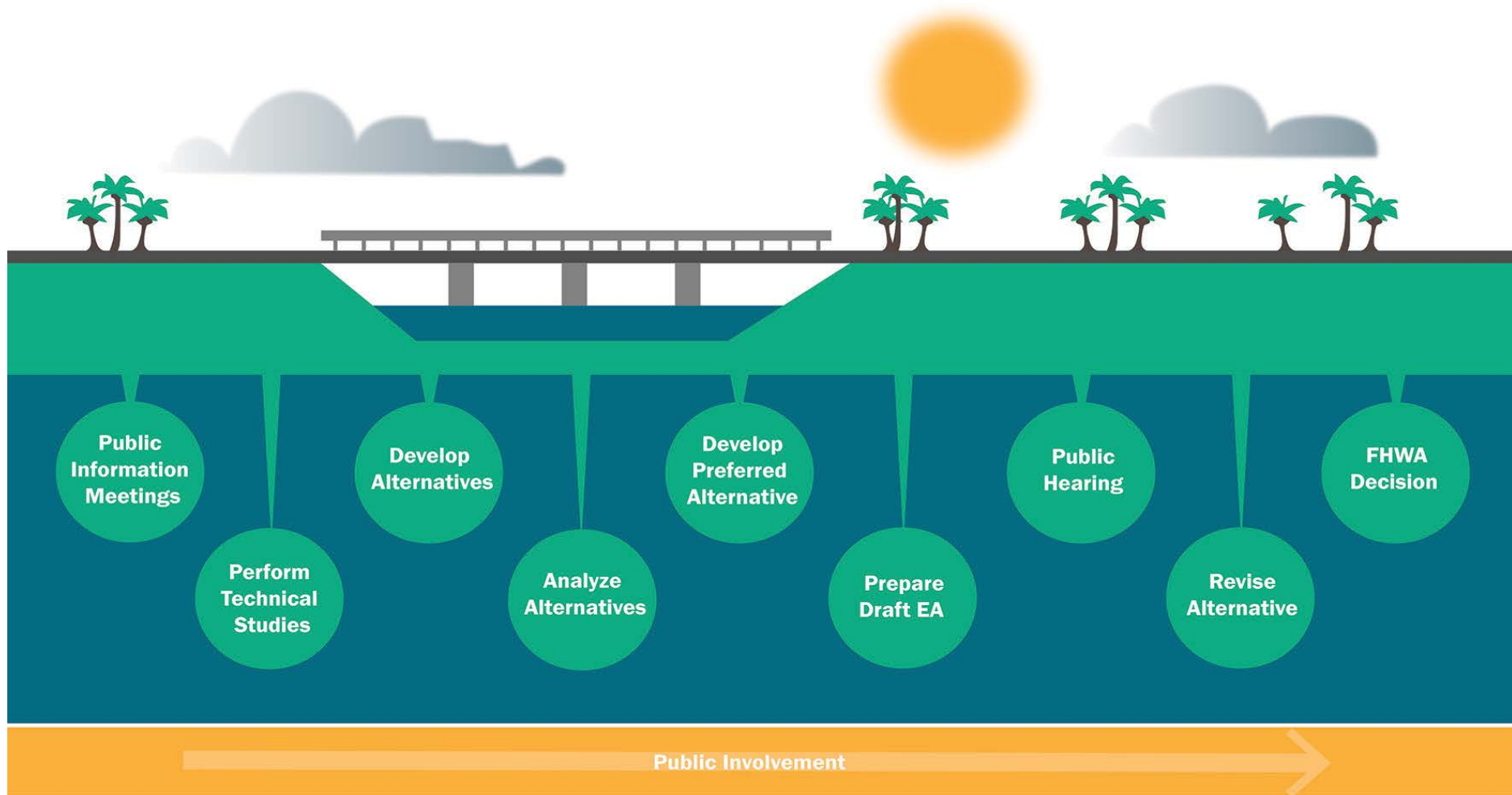
- Different Project from the I-526 (Mark Clark) Extension
- Funded for Engineering, Right-of Way, and Construction
- Improvements to Existing Transportation Infrastructure along I-526
- Modifications to Existing Interchanges





CRASHES BY INTERCHANGE





Improvements planned for congested section of I-526

By LIZ SEGREST
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A congested, accident-prone area of Interstate 526 could be widened and improved to accommodate the influx of drivers in the Lowcountry.

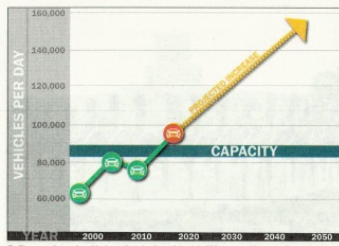
The S.C. Department of Transportation is studying a nearly eight-mile stretch of the interstate between Rivers Avenue in North Charleston and Savannah Highway in West Ashley.

This project is separate from the long-time I-526 extension plan, which recently lost state funding.

The study area includes the massive, busy interchange of Interstates 26 and 526.

"Whenever you have congestion, you have accidents... We see significant safety issues out there, particularly at the interchanges," said Joy Riley, the S.C. DOT manager for the 526 Lowcountry Corridor Project.

Commuters typically come to a crawl during morning and evening rush hours on this span of I-526. Accidents often



Traffic congestion and accidents continue to plague Interstate 526 as more drivers use the road each year. The S.C. Department of Transportation is now studying ways to increase I-526 capacity to keep pace with the Lowcountry's growing population. (Image Provided)

residents using the interstate, Charleston International Airport's ever-increasing traffic volume, and the opening of new businesses in the area.

will decrease driver wait times and crashes.

"Back when the last segment of 526 was completed in 1992, there were about 50,000 vehicles, and you can see that now we're already getting above capacity and it's just going to continue to grow... We are designing for the future and what we feel future traffic levels are going to be," Riley said.

Nearly 90,000 cars travel between I-26 and International Boulevard each day, according to Stantec principal Rick Day. The North Charleston-based engineering firm, which plans and designs roadways, is working as a consultant with the DOT on the project.

The North Charleston side of I-26 averages around 70,000 cars a day. That decreases to around 40,000 cars a day in the area where I-526 dead-ends in West Ashley.

"You can see the growth," Day said. "It's going to really go a lot higher over the next 20 years plus."

The 526 Lowcountry Corridor Project will decrease driver wait times and crashes.



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Relief on the horizon for congested portion of I-526

Diane Knich [@dianeknich](#)
Oct 17, 2016 8:00 pm [12](#) [7](#) [13](#) [14](#)



Morning commuters make their way through the I-526 and I-26 interchange Wednesday, which likely will improve in coming years as the state Department of Transportation completes a series of projects in the area, wato.com

One of South Carolina's busiest interchanges — where Interstates 526 and 26 meet — is dangerous, especially for trucks. But help is on the way.

The intersection's entry points are cloverleafs instead of the long, sweeping ramps and overpasses of newer interchanges. And the cloverleafs get narrower near where they merge with fast-moving



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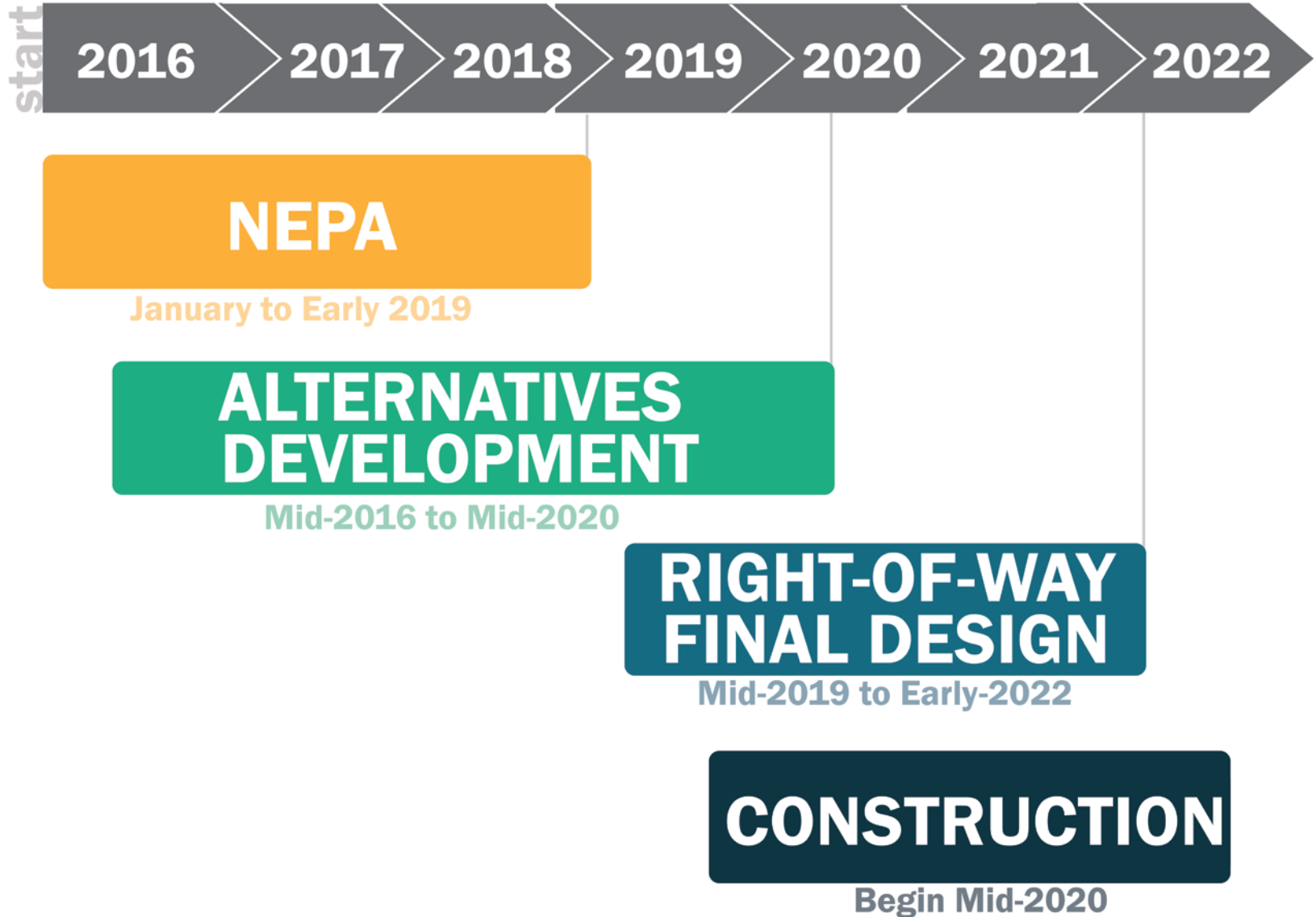


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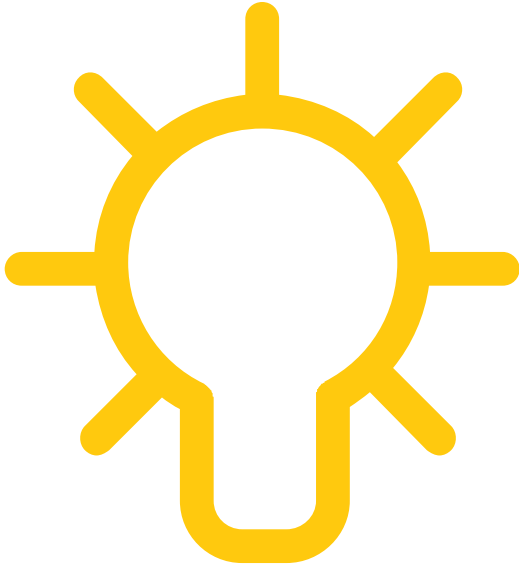


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/526LCSurvey>



What is YOUR role as a stakeholder?

- Represent Larger User Groups
- Identify Specific Concerns / Information About Corridor
- Discuss Risks and Opportunities
- Compliment Public Involvement Efforts
- Meet Periodically Throughout the Project



Let us know your **IDEAS!**

1. Where are congested areas that need to be addressed?
2. Where are the accident prone areas?
3. Do you know of any natural or man-made features that are important in the project boundary?
4. What is your biggest concern about this project?

Project Team

- **Summarize the Concerns Expressed by the Public**
- **Map the Environmental and Human Constraints**
- **Begin the Development of Alternatives**
- **Begin to Analyze the Alternatives for Traffic Benefits and Environmental Impacts**



Stakeholders

- **Next Meeting: Spring 2017**

website



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION TODAY.**



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**Less congestion.
Safer roads.**

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