

The Highway Development Process

1. Long Range Planning / Visioning

Undertaken by a community or regional authority to achieve a desired future for the area. Infrastructure projects, such as roads and highways, are often needed to support these land use or economic plans. At this stage individual projects are identified and prioritized.



2. Corridor Study

The Eastern Bypass is currently at this stage of the process.

Will determine the best corridor location for the Eastern Bypass project and will identify the project's general effects on communities and the environment. This will take about 24 months to complete. *(This stage is funded.)*



3. Alignment Study

Will determine the best location and design concept for the Bypass, within the selected corridor. Will identify the project's environmental and community effects in greater detail. Will ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), allowing an informed decision on whether to select the "build" or "no-build" alternative. *(This stage has not been funded.)*

If the "build" alternative is selected and funding is available, then the project can advance to ...



4. Design Stage

Would produce detailed construction plans from the alignment study. Required local, state, and federal permits would be obtained. *(This stage has not yet been funded.)*



5. Right-of-Way Acquisition

Land needed to build and operate the highway would be purchased. *(This stage has not yet been funded.)*



6. Construction and Operations

The project is built, operated, and maintained. *(This stage has not yet been funded.)*

Most large highway projects proceed through a multi-phase process. In the case of the Eastern Bypass, the study phase has been divided into a Corridor Study and an Alignment Study, as shown here.