

March 8, 2010

TDOT, Project Comments
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 700
James K. Polk Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

Re: Corridor K along the Ocoee Gorge

Dear Sirs:

The best options for the Corridor K along the Ocoee Gorge in Polk County are the no-build option and the spot improvement option. No decision should be made until U. S. 64 reopens and we are able to see the improvements made while the rockslide was being cleared.

I realize that the rockslide has inconvenienced many people; however, a new highway does not mean that the new highway won't be closed by rockslides. So many highways are closed this year with the combination of a wet winter with extremely cold temperatures that we can be certain that this type closure will happen again. With I-40, U. S. 64, and the area around Pidgeon Forge closed by rockslides, we tend to think that it only happens here. However, I-70 through Glenwood Canyon in Colorado is also closed from a rock slide. If it can happen to this remarkably engineered highway, it can and will happen anywhere. Because we choose to live in the mountains, roads closed by rock slides are the trauma nature visits on us. We could have hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes but have been spared real problems that make our road closure seem minor.

This is not to diminish the need for improved secondary roads that would help people get back and forth to hospitals, school, and work. Eastern Tennessee has several routes that need improvement and would make matters easier in case of another rock slide on U.S. 64.

No, I don't live in Eastern Tennessee; I live in the North Georgia Mountains. However, as a citizen of the United States, I own a portion of Eastern Tennessee. It is called the Cherokee National Forest. I don't want to see a major highway ruining this land of ours.

Sincerely,

Lucy E. Bartlett
P. O. Box 264
Tiger, GA 30576