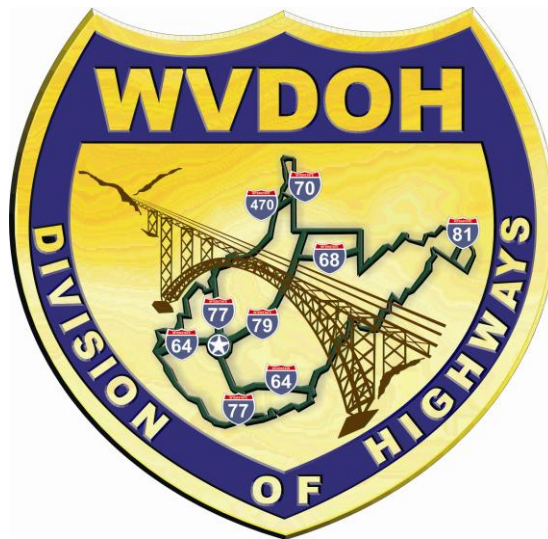


Informational Workshop Public Meeting

Mason County Courthouse

July 12, 2010

US 35 Environmental Reevaluation & Tolling Potential in Putnam & Mason Counties



**WV Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
In cooperation with the Federal Highway
Administration**

**State Project U340-35-19.00(00)
Federal Project TCSP-08WV(602)**

US 35 Environmental Reevaluation & Tolling Potential in Putnam & Mason Counties State Project U340-35-19.00(00) Federal Project TCSP-08WV(602)

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (WVDOH), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to construct US 35 from Beech Hill (Mason County Route 40) to Pliny (WV 869 Buffalo Bridge, Putnam County). The proposed project involves approximately fourteen miles of new 4 lane roadway alignment. Final design of the alignment and right-of-way acquisition is underway. The project has been developed with minimal deviation from the selected alignment in the 2000 Record of Decision (ROD).

This public meeting is being conducted to share information and accept public comments regarding the environmental effects of the proposed US 35 project. Environmental effects can include, but are not limited to, effects on natural resources (such as plants, wildlife, wetlands and streams), historic buildings and districts, archaeological sites, and local communities.

Several US 35 alignments have been evaluated beginning in the 1990s with the study performed by Niles and Associates (Niles Study). The 2000 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) explored in detail over 20 different build alternatives, including alignments from the Niles Study. The Central Alternative Option 1 was selected as the preferred alternative in 2000. This identification was based on factors including least number of residential relocations, least impact to streams and wetlands, no adverse effects to National Register eligible or listed historic properties, greater level of traffic service with other roads, economic savings and public comment.¹ In the project area from Beech Hill (Mason Co. Route 40) to Pliny (WV 869 Buffalo Bridge), the preferred alternative is located west of and parallel to the existing 2-lane US 35 facility.

The selected alternative for this project has essentially remained the same since the Record of Decision (ROD) was issued in June 2000. Slight line shifts have occurred to avoid impacts to the historic farms.

The current alignment is located behind the power transmission line that runs parallel to the river. This approximately fourteen mile section will provide the final link between the previously completed sections and sections under construction of the new 4 lane road from I-64.

In July 2009, the WVDOH sent the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (WVSHPO) a Criteria of Effect Report on four historic properties. The report reexamined the effects of the proposed US 35 Project on the Couch-Artrip House, Maplewood Farm and the General John McCausland House, which are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Woodlawn/John Morgan Farm, a National Register-eligible property. On July 29, 2009 the WVDOH received a letter from the WVSHPO stating that the location has not changed since the completion of the original Section 106 review. No changes or additions had been made to the National Register boundaries of the listed or eligible properties, and no previously unidentified historic resources have been identified. Therefore, the WVSHPO concurred that

¹ *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, 2-28.

this project will have no adverse effect on the National Register listed or eligible properties in the project area. Additional Phase 1 archaeology work has also been completed for this project with no further work recommended.

Additional funding sources were examined for the construction of the final fourteen miles of the US 35 project. A Toll Feasibility Study was completed in late 2009 and in 2010 to evaluate if it is viable to use tolls as a funding source to complete the new US 35. This project is being studied in partnership with the West Virginia Parkways Authority. The Parkways Authority will be conducting further public meetings regarding more specific tolling information, including rates.

The purpose of this informational workshop public meeting is to afford participants an opportunity to ask questions and state their views and opinions on the Environmental Reevaluation and Tolling Potential along proposed US 35. There will be a short presentation at 6 PM to provide an overview of the US 35 project. The remainder of the workshop is devoted to informal discussions between the public and WVDOH personnel, including engineers, project managers, right-of-way specialists, environmental specialists and others. Please feel free to browse the displays and ask any questions.

Those wishing to file written comments may send them to Gregory Bailey, P.E., Director, Engineering Division, West Virginia Division of Highways, Capitol Complex Building Five-Room 450, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305-0430 on or before August 16, 2010.

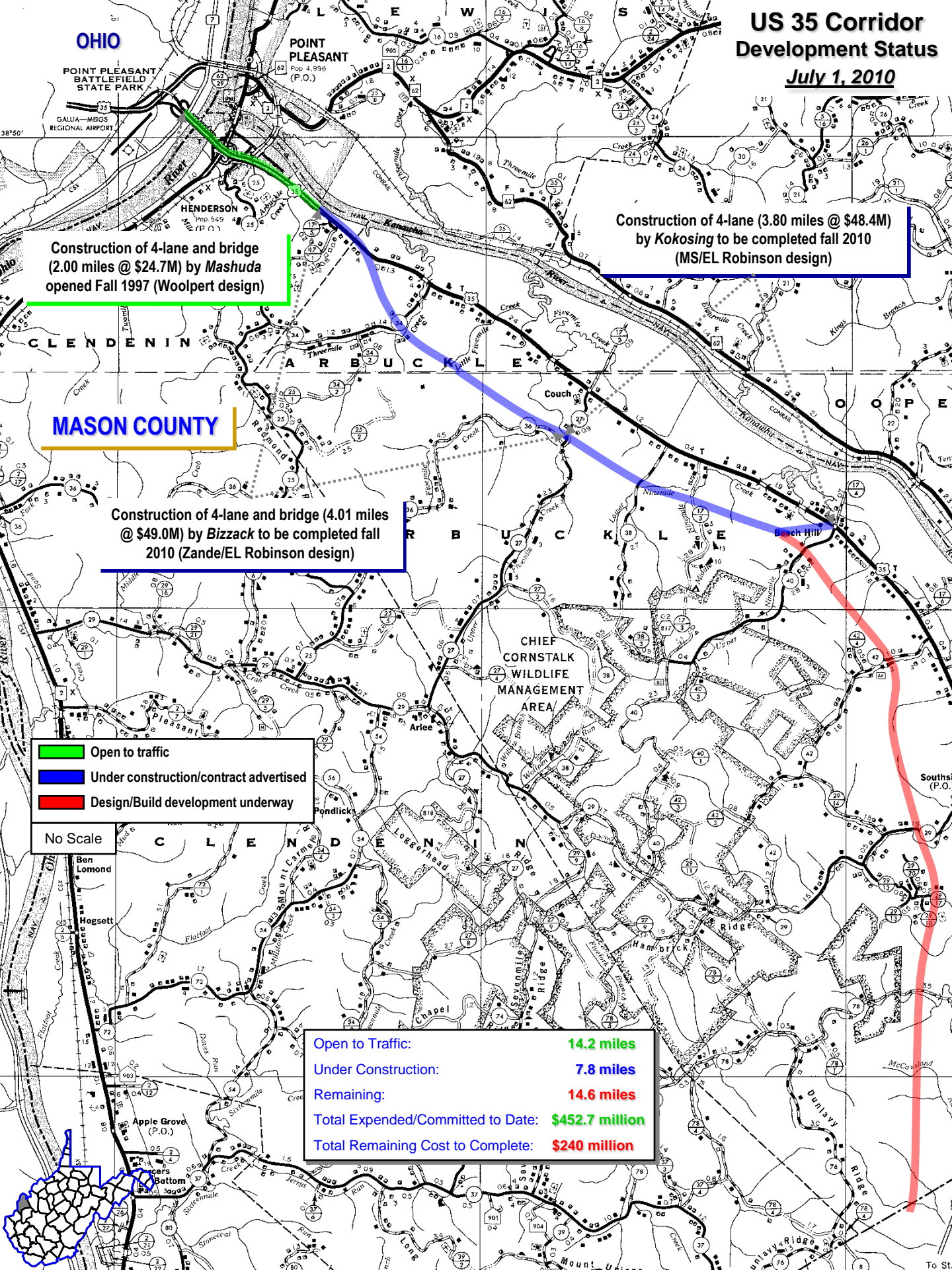
US 35 Project Schedule

July 2010

- **Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) completed in 2000**
 - **Record of Decision (ROD) completed in 2000**
- **Criteria of Effects Report cleared by the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (WVSHPO) in July 2009**
 - **Toll Feasibility Studies completed in 2009 & 2010**
 - **Informational Public Meetings (WVDOH) July 12 & 13, 2010**
 - **Tolling Public Hearings (WV Parkways Authority) tentatively September 2010**
 - **Finance Plan Submission (WVDOH)- September 2010 (Following Public Hearings)**
 - **Environmental Reevaluation Submission (NEPA) to FHWA - October 2010 (Following Public Comments from Parkways Authority Public Hearings)**
 - **Federalize US 35 Project (FHWA)- October 2010 (Following NEPA Approval)**
 - **Section under construction (7.8 miles) to be completed in the fall of 2010**
 - **Award Project (14.62 mile gap section)- tentatively October 2010**
 - **Project Completion- tentatively October 2013**

US 35 Corridor Development Status

July 1, 2010



Construction of 4-lane and bridge (2.00 miles @ \$24.7M) by Mashuda opened Fall 1997 (Woolpert design)

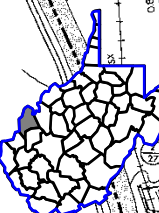
Construction of 4-lane (3.80 miles @ \$48.4M) by Kokosing to be completed fall 2010 (MS/EL Robinson design)

Construction of 4-lane and bridge (4.01 miles @ \$49.0M) by Bizzack to be completed fall 2010 (Zande/EL Robinson design)

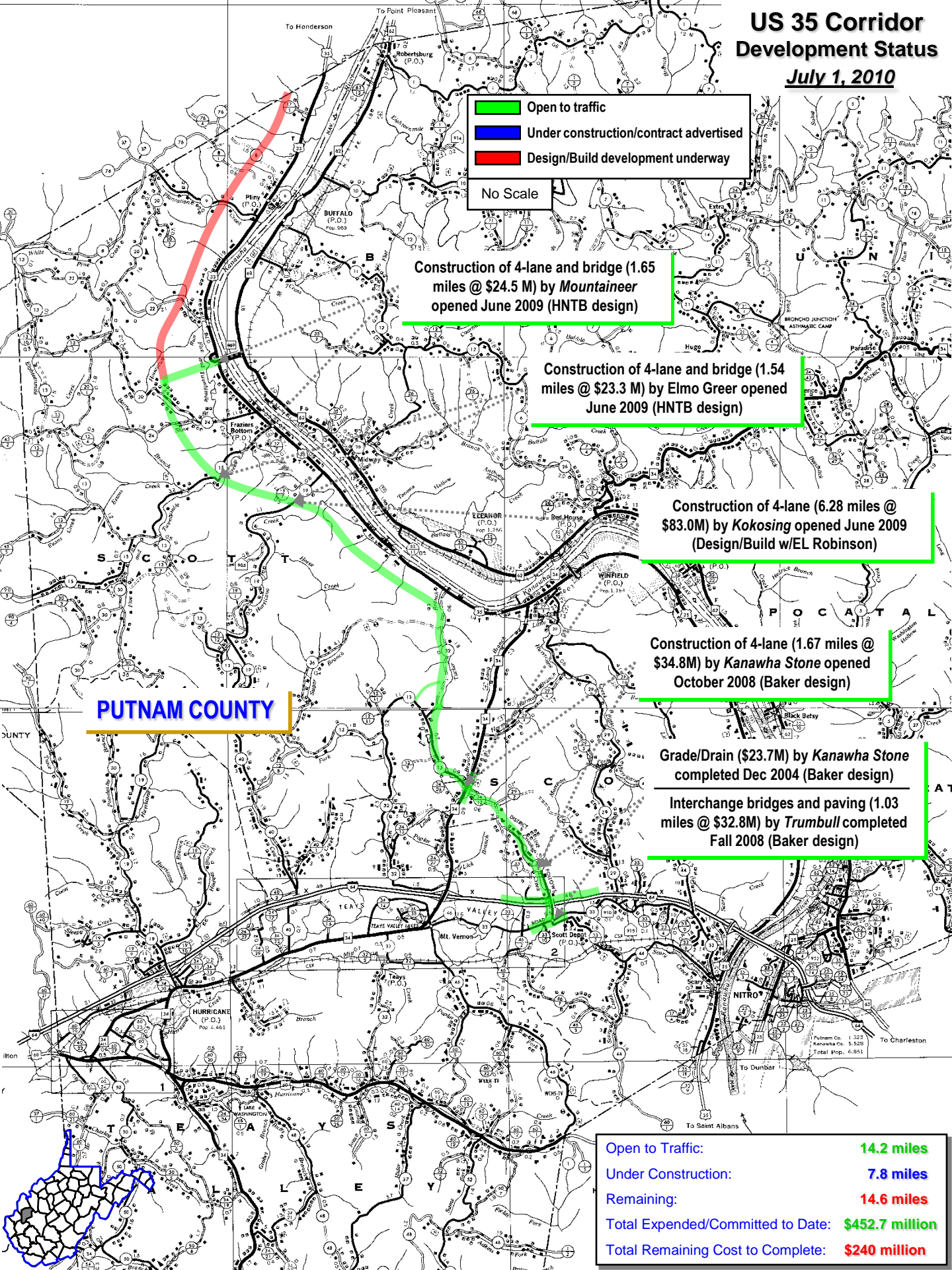
- █ Open to traffic
- █ Under construction/contract advertised
- █ Design/Build development underway

No Scale

Open to Traffic:	14.2 miles
Under Construction:	7.8 miles
Remaining:	14.6 miles
Total Expended/Committed to Date:	\$452.7 million
Total Remaining Cost to Complete:	\$240 million



US 35 Corridor Development Status July 1, 2010



Open to traffic
 Under construction/contract advertised
 Design/Build development underway
 No Scale

Construction of 4-lane and bridge (1.65 miles @ \$24.5 M) by *Mountaineer* opened June 2009 (HNTB design)

Construction of 4-lane and bridge (1.54 miles @ \$23.3 M) by *Elmo Greer* opened June 2009 (HNTB design)

Construction of 4-lane (6.28 miles @ \$83.0M) by *Kokosing* opened June 2009 (Design/Build w/EL Robinson)

Construction of 4-lane (1.67 miles @ \$34.8M) by *Kanawha Stone* opened October 2008 (Baker design)

Grade/Drain (\$23.7M) by *Kanawha Stone* completed Dec 2004 (Baker design)

Interchange bridges and paving (1.03 miles @ \$32.8M) by *Trumbull* completed Fall 2008 (Baker design)

PUTNAM COUNTY

Open to Traffic:	14.2 miles
Under Construction:	7.8 miles
Remaining:	14.6 miles
Total Expended/Committed to Date:	\$452.7 million
Total Remaining Cost to Complete:	\$240 million