



Eco-Logical Pilot Project- Free Bridge Area Congestion Relief March 19th Alternatives Discussion Process

Purpose: At the March 19th meeting the Stakeholder Team will be asked to develop a list of **no more than 10** potential project alternatives that should continue forward in the Free Bridge Congestion Relief project assessment process outlined below.

Project Alternatives Assessment Process: The alternatives chosen at the March 19th meeting will be assessed using a variety of tools. The steps for this assessment process are outlined below.

Step 1: Stakeholder Team will develop a list of no more than 10 potential project alternatives to be studied further as part of the Free Bridge Congestion Relief project.

Step 2: The chosen alternatives will be sent to an **engineering firm** for further assessment. The engineering firm will determine **construction feasibility** and **project cost estimates** only.

Step 3: Based on the findings from the engineering firm, the Stakeholder Team will determine which projects should continue on for further analysis with the **updated Regional Eco-Logical Framework Tool**, **supplemental impact analysis** (non-environmental impacts, where feasible), and the **MPO's Travel Demand Model**.

Step 4: Stakeholder Team will review the potential project alternatives that have been analyzed using the Regional Eco-Logical Framework, supplemental impact analysis and the MPO's Travel Demand Model to determine what **mitigation options** seem most appropriate for the remaining alternatives. The Stakeholder Team can also decide if **any of the alternatives should be considered further**.

Step 5: **If** any potential project alternatives are remaining at this point, then the Stakeholder Team will decide **if** and **how** they want to **recommend** these potential project alternatives as **prospective transportation improvements** for the community.

NOTE: The Stakeholder Team will have **decision-making power regarding which potential project alternatives are assessed** through this process. However, **if consensus cannot be reached** regarding which potential project alternatives should be assessed, then (for purposes of completing the grant project) **the MPO will need to default to the seven alternatives** presented at the November 18th Free Bridge Congestion Relief meeting (attached map). If the stakeholders do not reach consensus regarding which alternatives should be considered, then **these seven alternatives will be considered through steps 1 through 4, but no further**. Furthermore, it will be noted that **these alternatives are being**

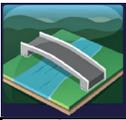
considered only as an exercise. Given that the MPO has to assess projects in order to complete the grant project, we would very much encourage that the stakeholder team try to reach consensus regarding potential project alternatives.

March 19 Meeting Discussion Process: In order to facilitate the discussion regarding potential project alternatives, the Stakeholder Team will begin this task in small groups of five, with the goal of develop up to three potential project alternatives per group. Reference maps with information regarding existing development, eco-logical impacts, terrain and other relevant information will be available for review. Furthermore, each group will have a base map of the study area that they can use to sketch their potential alternatives.

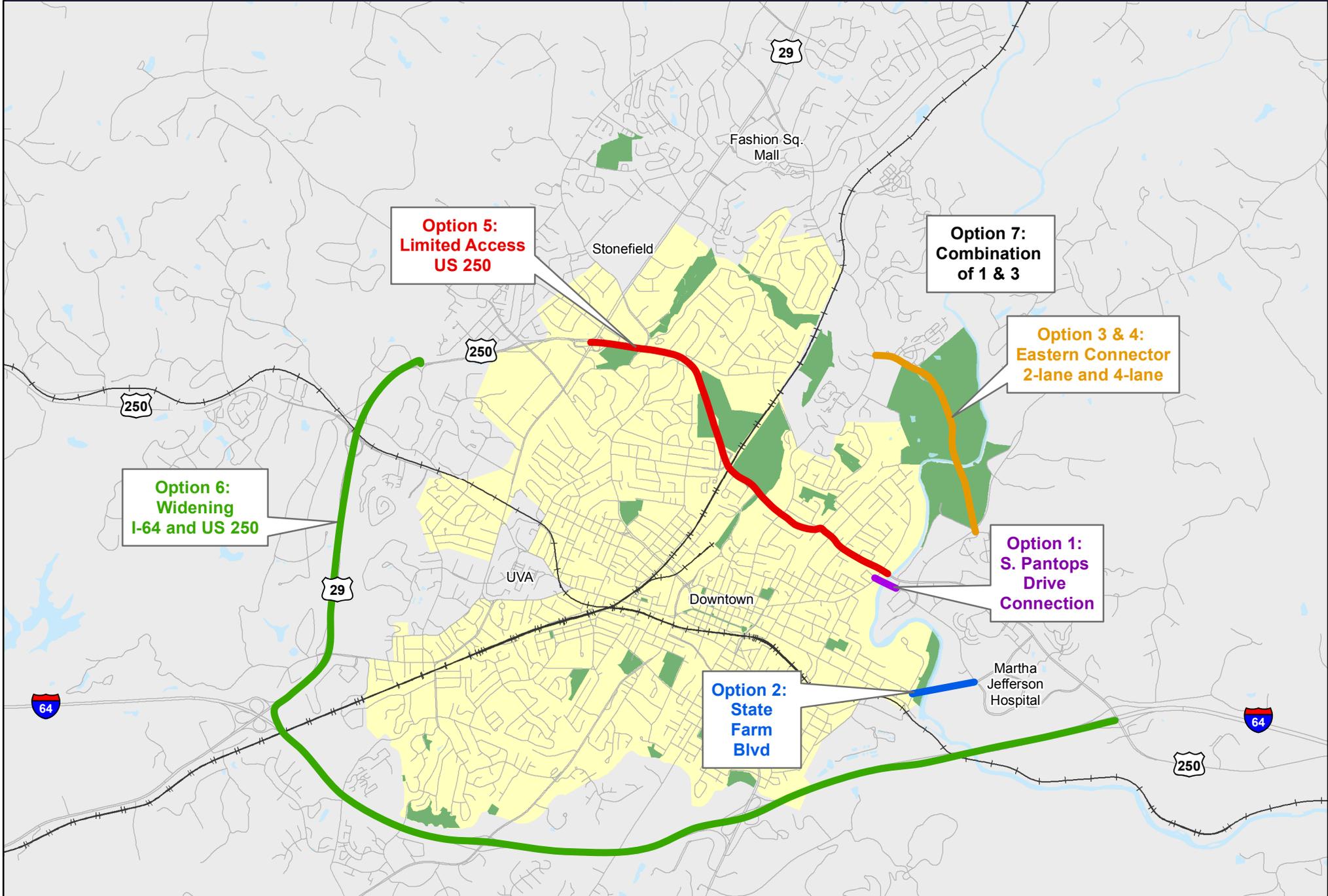
These small groups will then combine into large groups of ten, where the developed project alternatives will be discussed. At this time the new groups will determine if any of the potential project alternatives developed overlap or can be combined. **The larger groups will seek to present three potential alternatives but may not present any more than six for consideration.**

Finally, each of the large groups will present their potential alternatives to the entire Stakeholder Team. The team, as a whole, will then determine if any projects overlap or can be combined. The Team will then have to discuss which of the projects should be placed on the list of 10 alternatives.

It should be reiterated that the Stakeholder Team does not have to recommend any potential project alternatives, but the MPO does have to implement the outlined assessment process (above) in order to complete the grant. Given that this discussion could be challenging, MPO staff encourages the Stakeholders to **focus on potential project alternatives they would like to see considered**, rather than focusing on alternatives they would NOT like to see considered. The assessment process is just that, an assessment. For anything to advance to a point of recommendation the Stakeholder Team would have to come to a reasonable consensus and develop an agreement.



Free Bridge Congestion Relief, Previously Considered Alternatives



NOTE: These alignments are meant to show approximate locations. They are not true alignments.