

Southern Beltway Projects Summary

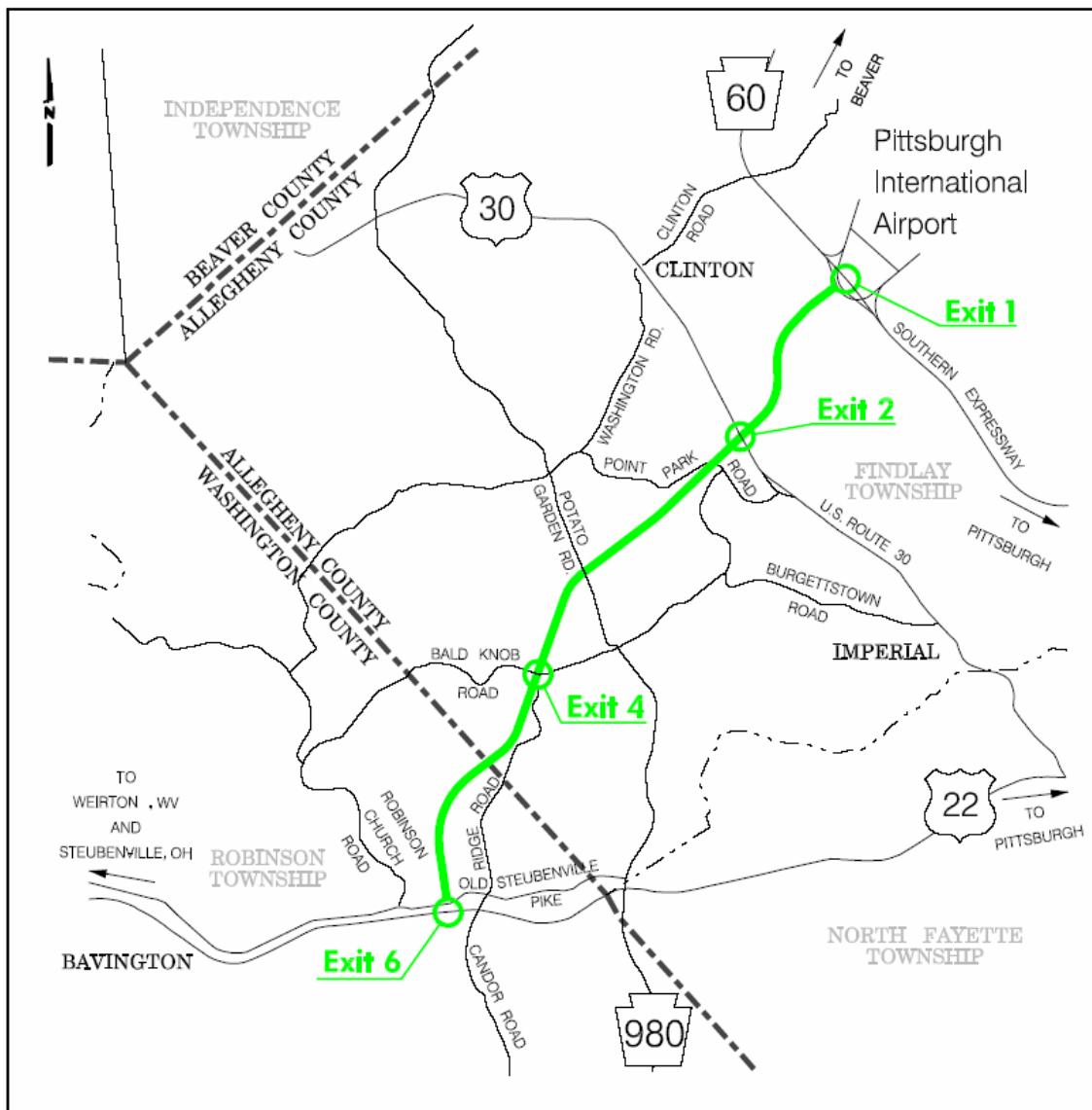
The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is proposing the construction of a 30-mile, tolled four-lane limited-access highway, known as the Southern Beltway that will be located between PA Route 60 near the Pittsburgh International Airport and the Mon/Fayette Expressway (PA Route 43) near Finleyville, Pennsylvania. The Southern Beltway consists of three projects for independent development based on logical project end points, differing project needs, and differing scheduling and funding opportunities. The three project areas extend from PA Route 60 to U.S. Route 22, U.S. Route 22 to Interstate 79, and Interstate 79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway. Each of the three projects is self-standing and will not curtail or obligate improvements in other project areas along the corridor.

The primary purpose of the Southern Beltway is to improve east-west mobility, freight movement and transit connections; stimulate local development; and link the economically distressed Monongahela River Valley (Mon Valley) with the Pittsburgh International Airport. The Southern Beltway will enable people and goods to move through the region safely and efficiently; increase accessibility to areas of the region that are in a state of redevelopment and new growth; and improve access to other areas which can provide markets to enhance the economic vitality of the region. The three Southern Beltway Projects in each of the aforementioned specific areas will improve capacity, safety, and travel times and would contribute to the overall accessibility and mobility of the transportation network.

The PA-60 to US 22 (Findlay Connector) Portion

The PA-60 to U.S. 22 portion of the Southern Beltway Project, known as the Findlay Connector, is in Findlay Township, Allegheny County and Robinson Township, Washington County. The Findlay Connector will provide transportation mobility and safety improvements, and will enhance future development plans near Pittsburgh International Airport. Approximately 6,500 vehicles per day (in design year 2025) will use the Findlay Connector to enter or exit Pittsburgh International Airport from U.S. Route 22 West without using PA Route 60. Construction is expected to conclude by September 2006.

PA-60 to U.S. 22 (Findlay Connector)



Exit 1 – Pittsburgh International Airport, PA Route 60

Exit 2 – Clinton, Imperial, U.S. Route 30

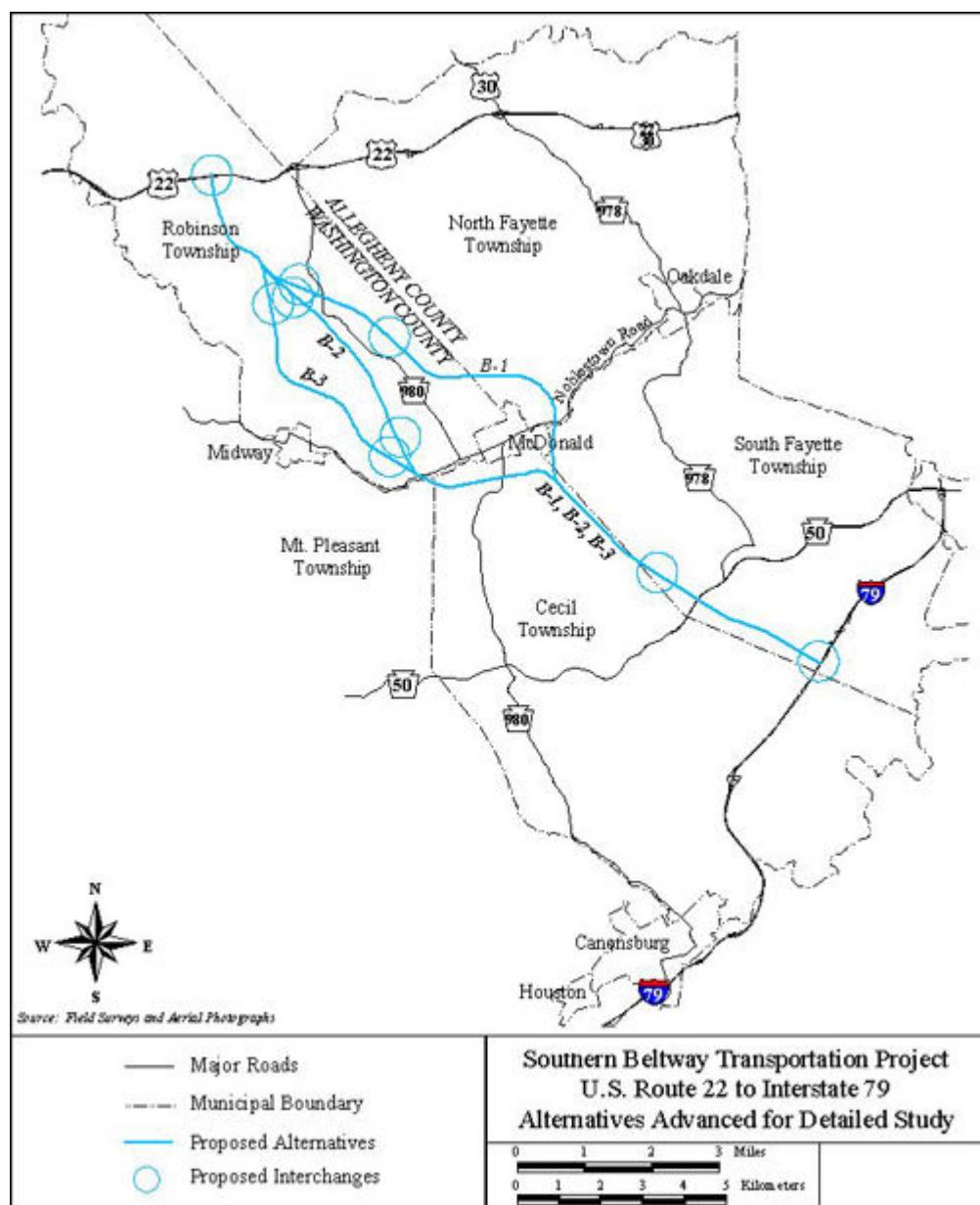
Exit 4 – Bald Knob Road

Exit 6 – U.S. Route 22

October, 2002

The U.S. Route 22 to Interstate 79 Portion

The U.S. Route 22 to Interstate 79 Southern Beltway Project is needed to provide transportation mobility and safety improvements, and to serve future development plans in the corridor south and west of the City of Pittsburgh. The project area for the U.S. Route 22 to Interstate 79 Project is located approximately 15 miles west of the City of Pittsburgh and encompasses the Boroughs of Canonsburg, Houston, Midway, and McDonald, as well as portions of Robinson, Mount Pleasant and Cecil Townships in Washington County, and the Borough of Oakdale and portions of South Fayette and North Fayette Townships in Allegheny County. Three alternatives have been advanced for detailed study within the DEIS, the B-1 Alternative, the B-2 Alternative, and the B-3 Alternative



The Interstate 79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway Portion

The Interstate 79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway Project of the Southern Beltway would support the orderly economic development of the area between Interstate 79 and the Mon/Fayette Expressway. The existing local roads were built to serve early farming and mining communities. These roadways are characterized by steep grades, sharp curves, and narrow lanes and shoulders. These roads are not capable of providing the needed capacity and are inadequate to serve the projected growth in this area. The proposed project would provide a modern transportation facility, which would help meet the future traffic demands for the area.

The Interstate 79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway Project is currently in Step 5 (Detailed Alternatives Analysis) of PennDOT's 10-Step Transportation Project Development Process. The project area for the I-79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway Southern Beltway Transportation Project was divided into two sections to facilitate the development and analysis of the alternatives. Section 1, the western portion, starts at I-79 and runs to the North Strabane/Nottingham Township boundary. Section 2, the eastern portion, runs from the North Strabane/Nottingham Township boundary to the Mon/Fayette Expressway. Any of the alternatives in Section 1, could be coupled with any alternative in Section 2 in order to form a project alternative.

