

High Speed Ground Transportation

Atlanta GA to Chattanooga TN

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High Speed Ground Transportation

Atlanta, GA to Chattanooga TN

Phase 1 – Purpose and Need 16 Months

- ✓ Collect Data
- ✓ Analyze the existing conditions
- ✓ Conduct Scoping Activities and Input

Phase 2 – Alternatives Analysis 23 Months

- ✓ Identify and evaluate conceptual Alternatives
- ✓ Identify six alternatives for detailed evaluation
- Evaluate environmental and social impacts
- Evaluate economic and ridership impacts

Phase 3 – Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Documentation 15 Months

- Draft EIS
- Selection of preferred Alternatives
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision

TOTAL TIME 35 MONTHS



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What Has Been Done?

Purpose

To enhance intercity passenger mobility in northwest Georgia, and part of Tennessee, by expanding passenger transportation capacity, increasing overall personal and business mobility and providing an alternative to highway and air travel in a manner that is safe, reliable, and cost-effective while avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating effects on affected neighborhoods and the environment.



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Need

The project addresses the following needs in the corridor

- Existing and Future Transportation Demand and Travel Growth
- Provision of Total Throughput versus Highway Capacity
- Enhancement of Airport Access
- Maintenance or Improvement of Regional Air Quality
- Safety Deficiencies in Corridor



High Speed Ground Transportation

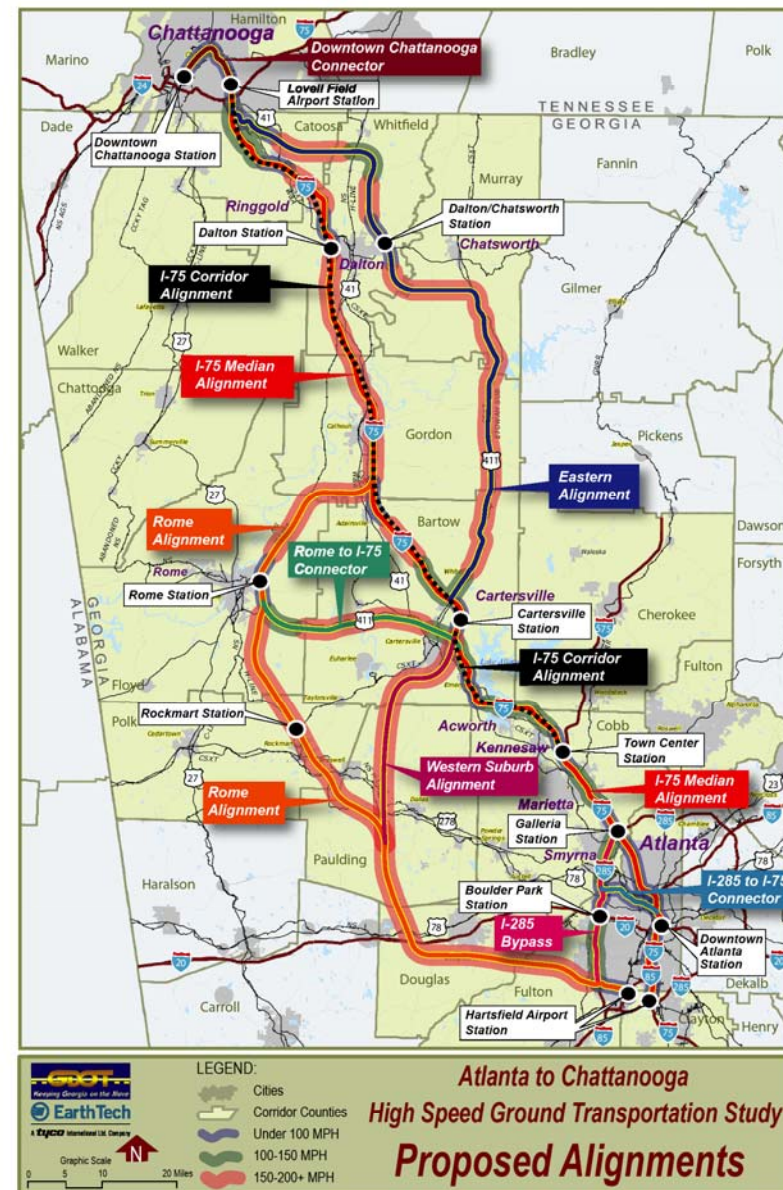
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Need cont.

- Promotion of Economic Development
- Reduction of Energy Consumption
- Enhancement of Intermodal Connections and Relationships
- Social Demands of Various Population Groups
- Support of Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Smart Growth Initiatives
- Provision of a Critical Link in a Future Southeast US Region High Speed Ground Transportation System



15 General Alignments initially were identified by previous studies, local government agencies, study team, and the public.



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Where We Are.

Alternatives Analysis

General alignments initially identified by previous studies, local government agencies, study teams, and the public.

Alternatives were screened in three categories:

Mobility, Environmental, Financial/ Economic

Screening was by a simple unweighted 3 point scale.

Final Analysis

To get to one alignment for the two technologies.



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Why One Alignment?

A single alignment will reduce the time of study for the two competing technologies, Magnetic Levitation and High Speed Steel Wheel on Steel Rail.

The study of a single alignment for the two competing technologies will return the program to the original time and execution schedule.



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What Remains To Be Done

Environmental Impact Study Documentation

Preparation and review of draft Environmental Impact Statement

Identification of the preferred alternatives

Public hearings to be held and comments taken and addressed

Preparation and review of Final Environmental Impact Statement

Final documentation forwarded to Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Highway Administration for review.

Record of Decision, based on study results and public comment issued by Federal Co-Agencies



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Magnetic Levitation Project Selection Program Grant

Published in Federal Register on October 30, 2008

\$45 million available to three identified projects east of the Mississippi River:
Pittsburgh, Baltimore – Washington DC, Atlanta - Chattanooga

Application narrative written by the current project consultants.
Reviewed and submitted by GDOT

Match funding provided by Dalton/ Whitfield Chamber of Commerce,
Southeastern Economic Alliance, City of Chattanooga

Application submission date was January 5, 2009

Application has been verified as having been retrieved by Federal Railroad
Administration



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Scope of work

Magnetic Levitation Project Selection Program Grant

- 1) Identification and Resolution of Magnetic Levitation System Challenges
- 2) Initiation of Corridor Preservation (right of way) Activities
- 3) Investigate and Expedite Environmental Compliance
(Tier 2 NEPA Activities)
- 4) Investigate Operating Conditions
- 5) Create a Bi-State Authority



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Questions

