Neighborhood Information Meetings
Southside, September 25, 2013
Northside, October 22, 2013
Downtown, October 23, 2013
Westside, October 29, 2013
Eastern Communities, October 30, 2013
Purpose of This Meeting

- Update on project status
- Describe the environmental review process
- Learn what is important to you
- Encourage community involvement
I-81 Corridor

- Major corridor and trade route
- National: 855 miles from Tennessee to Canada
- Regional: major north-south route through Central New York providing a connection to the east-west Thruway
- Local: primary access point to Downtown and University Hill
**I-81 Challenge** planning study

- Planning study undertaken by NYSDOT and SMTC
- Goal - identify issues for 12-mile corridor and prioritize projects for corridor
  - Viaduct identified as a priority area
- Participation by nearly 3,000 people
- Study completed (Summer 2013)
Summary of Issues

- **Structural Condition**
  - Localized deck failure more frequent

- **Safety Issues**
  - Accident rate more than three to five times the statewide average

- **Geometric Deficiencies**
  - Shoulder width, ramp spacing, curvature, etc.

- **Capacity Issues**
  - Severe congestion in the am and pm peak hour

- **Maintenance Issues**
  - Storm water, snow and ice control, general maintenance

- **Costs to the Community**
  - Emergency response hindered, divides the community
Evolution

I-81 Challenge Planning Study (NYSDOT/SMTC)

Community input is encouraged throughout the process

I-81 Viaduct Project Environmental Review Process (FHWA/NYSDOT)

Preferred Alternative
I-81 Viaduct Facts

- Built 1966-1968 (approximately 50 years)
- Project area: 3.5 miles, 183 bridge spans – crosses 18 streets
- Impacts on the region – geographic, social, economic, and environmental
- Built with minimal community input
Purpose of the Project

I-81 Viaduct project purpose

- Consider how transportation infrastructure can enhance **economic growth** and **vitality** in greater Syracuse
- Create an improved corridor that:
  - meets **transportation needs**
  - supports **long-range planning** efforts
  - moves **people and goods** safely and efficiently
- Address structural **deficiencies** and **nonstandard** highway features
**GOAL:** Improve safety and create an efficient regional and local transportation system within and through greater Syracuse

**GOAL:** Provide transportation solutions that enhance the livability, sustainability, and economic vitality of greater Syracuse
Environmental Review (NEPA)

- Notice of Intent
- Scoping Process
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Public Review
- Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Record of Decision

We are here
Public Participation Throughout
What Is Scoping?

- Scoping provides an opportunity for the public to:
  - Comment on the purpose and need, goals and objectives, range of alternatives
- Initial public scoping meeting: November 13
- Narrow a broad list of options down to a reasonable range of alternatives to be studied further in the EIS
A NEPA EIS is a comprehensive document which:

- Identifies potential impacts for each project alternative
- Answers questions regarding potential impacts

What’s in an EIS?
Topics include:
- Transportation
- Land Use and Community Character
- Socioeconomic Conditions
- Visual Resources and Aesthetic Considerations
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy and Climate Change
- Noise and Vibration
- Natural Resources
- Hazardous and Contaminated Materials
- Construction Effects
Have Your Voice Be Heard

- Neighborhood meetings throughout Syracuse
- Visit the project website – www.i81Opportunities.org
- E-mail us: i81Opportunities@dot.ny.gov
- Sign up for our mailing list
- Come to the Scoping Meetings – initial scoping meeting to be held November 13 at The Oncenter
- Participate in the Stakeholders’ Committee
- Extensive public participation opportunities throughout the project
Next Steps

- Neighborhood Information Meetings in October
- Scoping Information Packet
- Initial Public Scoping Meeting, November 13
- Future Public Scoping Meeting
- Responses to Scoping Comments
- Draft EIS
- Public Hearing
- Distribution of the Final EIS
- Record of Decision