US 85 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGE (PEL)
BULLET POINTS

WHAT IS A PEL?
It is an interim study that evaluates an identified transportation need or project with the goal of having the information gathered used for the full-blown NEPA study that will occur at a later date. The decision making considers environmental, community and economic goals early in planning stage and carries them through project development, design, and construction.

WHAT IS THE FINAL PRODUCT?
Using other corridor studies as building blocks, the PEL will help establish vision for the US 85 corridor. It will identify possible environmental red flags. It will look at the mobility, safety and operations of the corridor. This particular PEL will look at additional design for interchanges, intersections, and will examine the 1999 US 85 Access Control Plan. Please note that the US 85 ACP will not be eliminated, but “refreshed.”

WHAT WILL THE PEL BE USED FOR?
Information on US 85 will be gathered to address future needs for the corridor. It will identify footprints for future interchanges and intersections allowing local municipalities to reserve the right-of-way. Prioritization of future projects will be possible with the information obtained with the study.

HOW LONG WILL THE PEL TAKE?
The timeline for the study has not yet been determined, but it’s hoped that we can complete it within 12-18 months.

SPECIFIC BENEFITS:
1. Footprints for future intersections to address the existing skews.
2. Footprints for future interchanges will preserve the right-of-way reducing future costs.
3. Re-evaluate the US 85 ACP for possible amendments.
4. Alignments of frontage roads as shown in the US 85 ACP.