

The logo features the word "SALEM" in large, light blue, sans-serif capital letters. Below it is a white rectangular box with an orange border containing the text "RIVER · CROSSING" in black, sans-serif capital letters. The bottom of the logo is a blue wavy shape representing water. The background of the slide is a light blue wavy pattern.

SALEM

RIVER · CROSSING

Alternatives Development Process

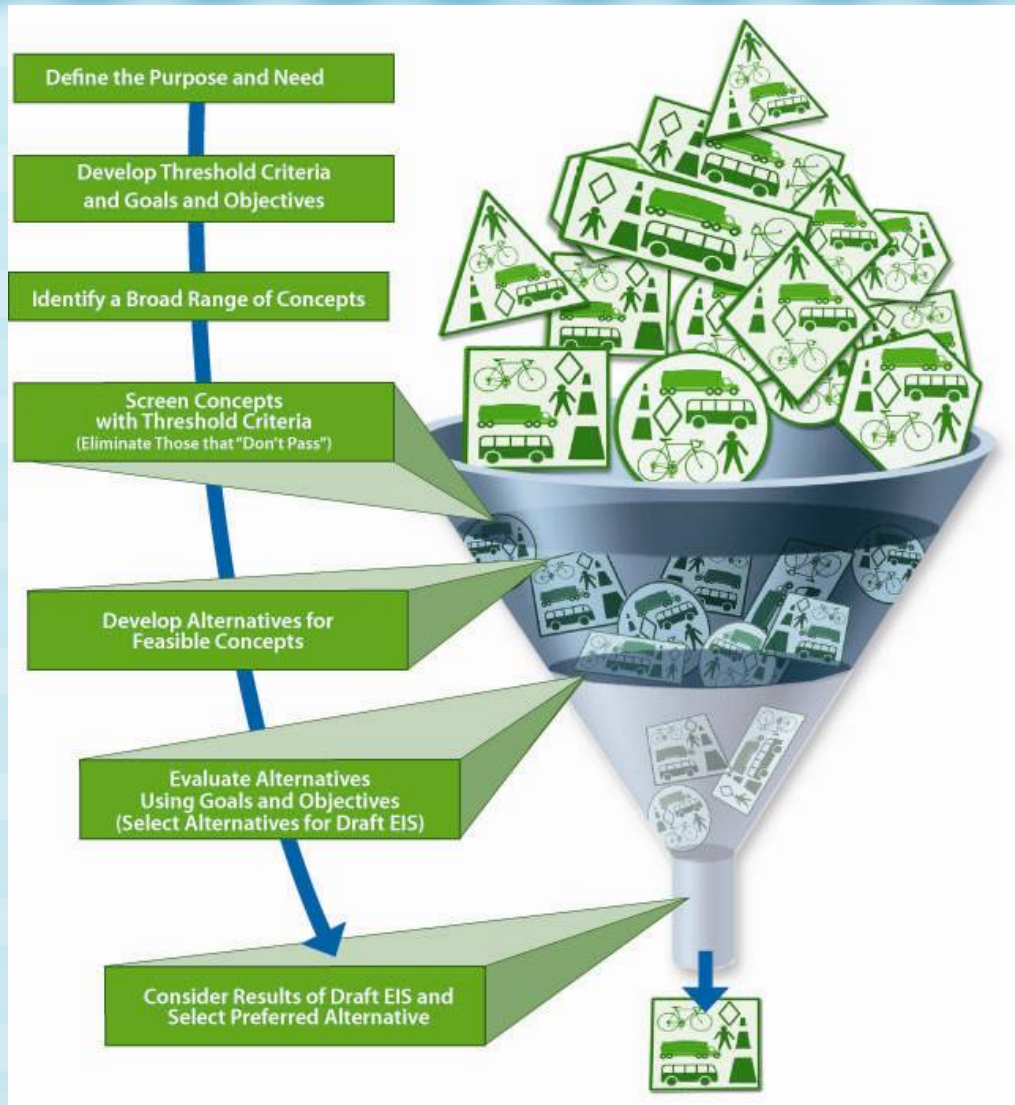
Salem River Crossing Task Force
March 21, 2007

What are the remaining steps in the process?

- ◆ Adopt evaluation framework
- ◆ Develop initial concepts
- ◆ Use threshold criteria to screen down to concepts that meet the Purpose and Need
- ◆ Take concepts that meet thresholds and develop them further into a **range of alternatives**
- ◆ Use goals and objectives to evaluate performance of alternatives
- ◆ Based on performance results, select short list of **alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS**
- ◆ Prepare Draft EIS
- ◆ Based on results of Draft EIS and public input, select a **Preferred Alternative**
- ◆ Document Preferred Alternative and selection process in Final EIS
- ◆ Prepare and sign **Record of Decision (FHWA)**

How does a "concept" become an "alternative"?

We are here



Decision Milestones



What factors shape concept development?

- ◆ Purpose and Need
- ◆ Stakeholder issues and concerns (Goals and Objectives)
- ◆ Regulatory and policy requirements
 - ◆ State
 - Highway Mobility Standards (v/c ratio)
 - Major Improvements Policy
 - ◆ Federal
 - NEPA “reasonable range of alternatives” requirement

What elements make up a “concept”?

- ◆ River crossing
- ◆ Connections to existing system (both sides)
- ◆ “Off-project” improvements (if needed)
- ◆ Bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- ◆ Transit
- ◆ Demand management and system management

River Crossing - Examples:

- ◆ Existing bridge improvements
- ◆ New bridge (various locations/alignments)
 - ◆ Limited access (expressway) options
 - ◆ Arterial system options
- ◆ Other types of physical crossings?

For any bridge alternative, bridge type and aesthetics will be developed after selection of alternatives to be studied in the Draft EIS

Connections to Existing System - Examples:

- ◆ Interchange (for expressway/limited access options)
- ◆ Intersections (for arterial system options)
- ◆ Others?

“Off-Project” Improvements - Examples:

- ◆ Intersection improvements
- ◆ Additional lanes
- ◆ News street connections

- ◆ Bike lanes
- ◆ Sidewalks
- ◆ Off road trail/path
- ◆ Other connectivity improvements

Transit Improvements - Examples:

- ◆ More transit service (frequency and number of lines)
- ◆ Park and ride lots
- ◆ Express lanes
- ◆ Dedicated capacity (bus rapid transit, queue jump lanes, etc.)

System Management & Demand Management - Examples:

System Management (get more from existing system)

- ◆ Signal timing
- ◆ Priority lanes (e.g., for buses)

Demand Management (reduce or shift travel demand)

- ◆ Flex time
- ◆ Expanded car pool/van pool
- ◆ Land use/jobs-housing balance
- ◆ Pricing and tolling

Financial Strategy

- ◆ While physical improvement concepts are being developed, also identify a range of financing options
 - ◆ Federal, state, local, user fees/tolls, etc.
- ◆ For each financing option, assess:
 - ◆ Potential revenue generated
 - ◆ Likely level of public support
 - ◆ Institutional and legislative requirements
 - ◆ Effects on travel demand
- ◆ Evaluate options using Goals and Objectives
- ◆ Select financing options to be studied in the Draft EIS

How much detail will “concepts” have?

- ◆ Enough to evaluate concepts against Threshold Criteria, including:
 - ◆ Engineering alignment
 - ◆ Traffic operations

Not cost estimates, environmental, or community impacts – those come after screening against the Threshold Criteria

What types of alternatives could be in the EIS?

- ◆ No Build Alternative (required)
 - ◆ Do nothing, except those improvements already programmed
- ◆ Build Alternatives
 - ◆ Existing bridge and related improvements?
 - ◆ New bridge and related improvements?
 - ◆ “Low build” (for example: minor roadway improvements plus transit, etc.)?
 - ◆ Other?

Next Steps

- ◆ Technical team develops initial *concepts* – now
- ◆ Preliminary review by Project Mgmt Team - April
- ◆ First presentation to Task Force – May