



**U.S. Route 121 (Coalfields Expressway), Section IIIB**

**State Project No. 0121-013-772, P101; 0121-013-902, P101  
UPC 85126; 104094**

**Buchanan County**

January 13, 2015

**Angel Deem**

Environmental Division

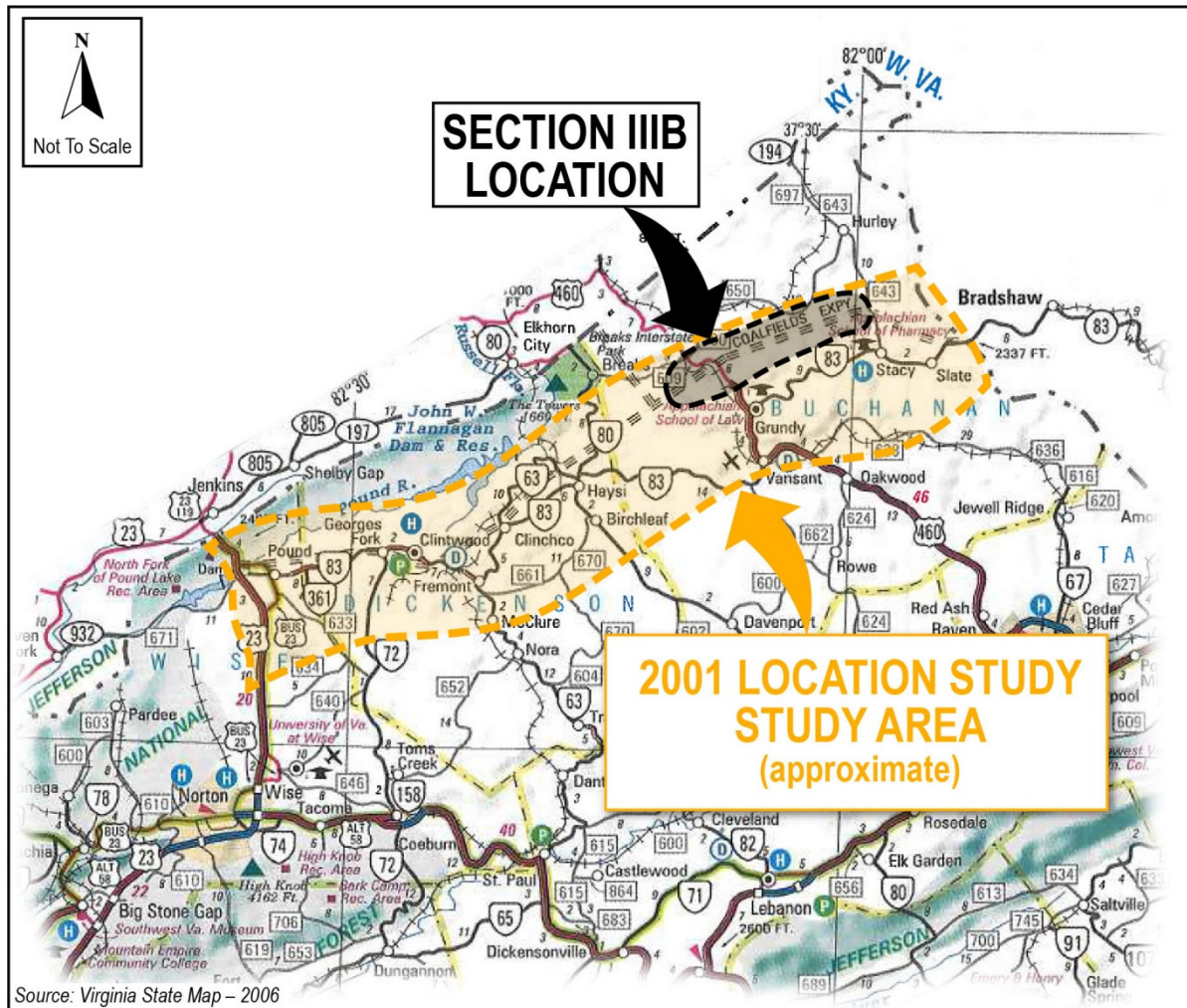
## Purpose of Presentation

- Review proposed revisions to project alignment
- Summarize environmental impacts of the proposed change
- Present summary of public hearing
  - Citizen comments
  - Interest group comments

## Project History

- 1995** National Highway System Designation Act identifies CFX in Virginia as High Priority Corridor
- 2000** Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 4-lane divided highway on new location; Location Public Hearing; CTB endorses Alternative F1 and designates the future CFX as U.S. Route 121 in Virginia
- 2000** FHWA issues ROD for Alternative F1
- 2001** PPTA proposal, corridor revisions to take advantage of coal reserves to offset construction costs;  
Corridor split into sections of independent utility for environmental reevaluations
- 2008** U.S. Route 121 Section IIIA (Hawks Nest) & Section IIIC (Rockhouse) Reevaluations approved by FHWA
- 2009** U.S. Route 121 Section I (Pound Bypass) Reevaluation approved by FHWA
- 2012** U.S. Route 121 Section II Environmental Assessment (CTB endorsed alignment change in Feb 2013); SEIS currently underway
- 2014** U.S. Route 121 Section IIIB Environmental Studies document to assess proposed changes to alignment

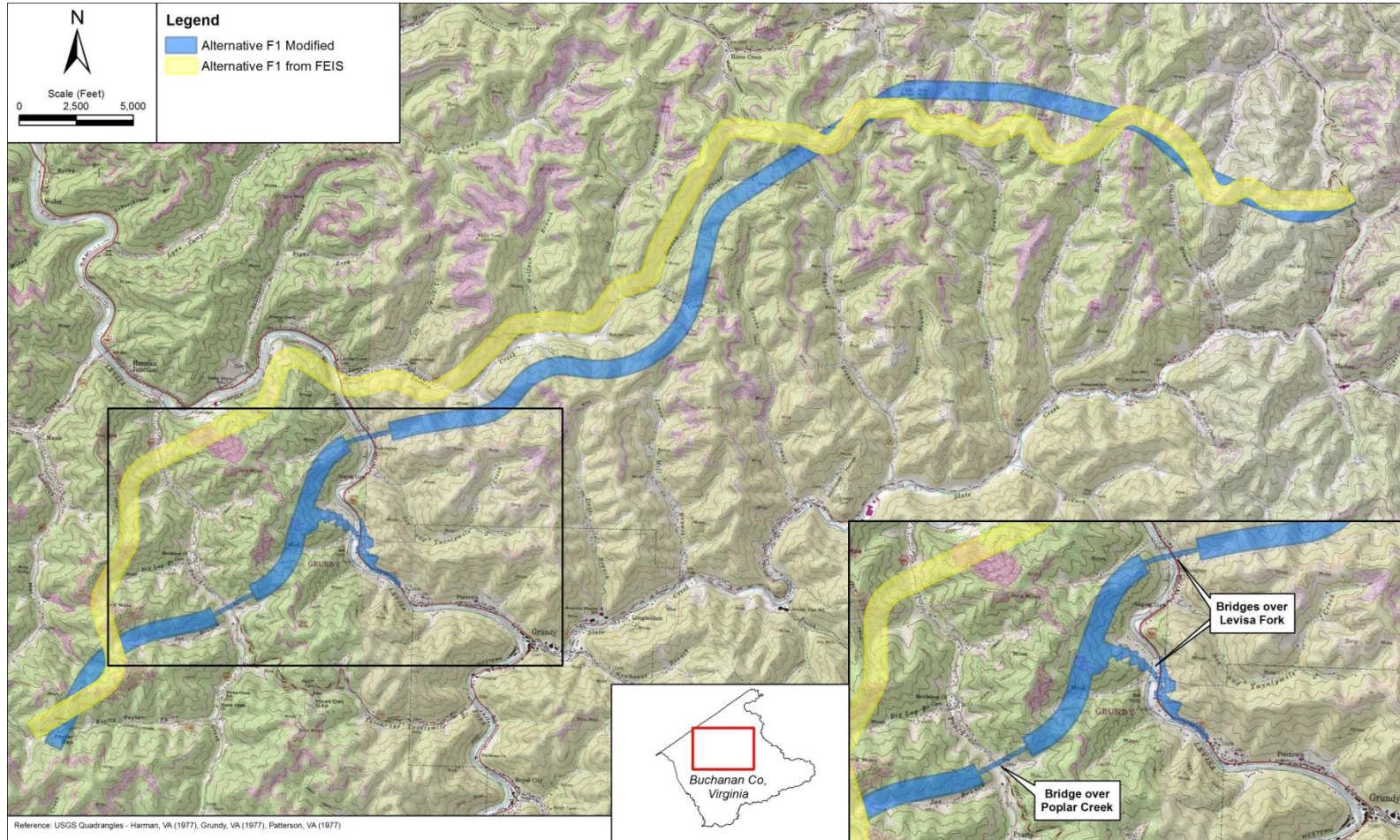
# Study Area / Project Location



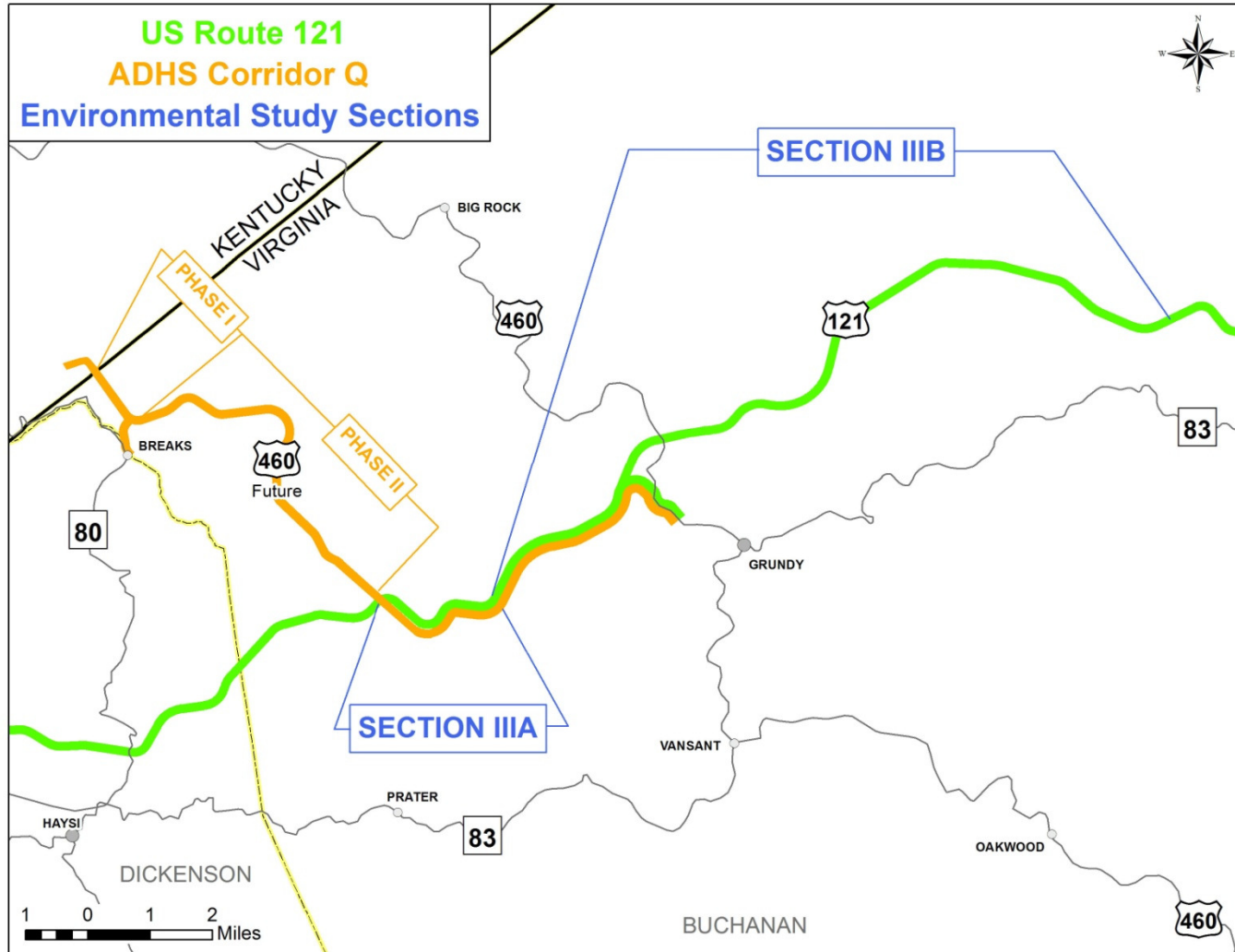
## U.S Route 121 Section IIB

- Extends approximately 13.7 miles from Route 614 to Route 643 in Buchanan County
- Proposed changes to this section are within the study area of the FEIS but extends outside of the approved F1 corridor at points
  - Approximately 30% of the total length overlaps with the approved F1 corridor
  - Remainder is generally parallel or offset by up to 1.5 miles
  - Modification provides a connector to existing Route 460 at Grundy, approximately 1.2 miles long
- **Environmental Studies document prepared to assess:**
  - Environmental consequences resulting from proposed change
  - Changes in the affected environment
  - Changes in regulatory requirements and guidance

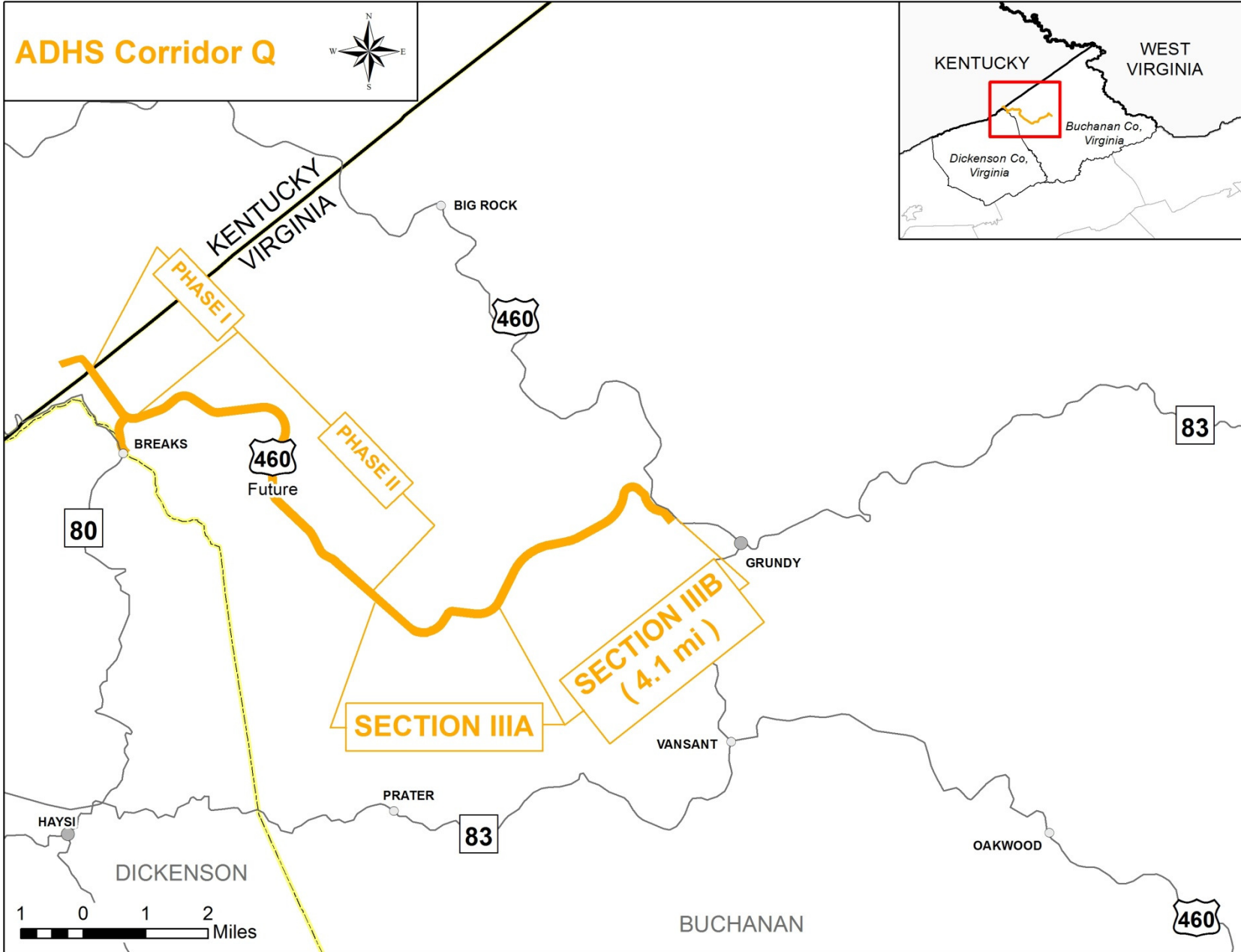
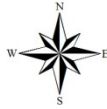
# U.S. Route 121 IIB Project Corridor: Approved vs. Proposed



# Relationship between ADHS Corridor Q and Section IIIB of U.S. Route 121



# ADHS Corridor Q





## Summary of Potential Impacts

CATEGORY	ALTERNATIVE F1 2001 FEIS VALUES	ALTERNATIVE F1 UPDATED VALUES	ALTERNATIVE F1 MODIFIED
Total Area within Alternative (acres within 750-foot corridor)	1,369	1,369	1,220
Homes	41	40	28
Businesses	1	1	0
Schools	0	0	0
Churches	1	0	0
Cemeteries	0	0	0
Other Community Facilities (rescue squads, fire stations, etc.)	0	0	0
Prime and Unique Farmland (acres)	0	0	0
Forest (acres)	444.8	1,264	1,091
Section 4(f) Property (acres)	0	0	0
Parks and Recreational Resources	0	0	0
Historic Properties affected	0	0	0
Length of Streams (miles)	1.6	1.8	2.6
Wetlands (acres)	0.36	0	0
Floodplains filled (acres)	0	0	0
Noise Impacts (Number of Receptors Impacted)	0	0	0
Hazardous Material Sites Impacted (number of sites)	4	1	0

## Public Hearing Summary

**Public Hearing : September 23, 2014**

**183 total persons in attendance**

**Environmental Studies Document made available**

**Comment period ended October 6, 2014**

**# of Comments Received: 92**

**Via comment sheets, emails, letters, and oral comments**

**When asked *Do you support the proposed Alternative F1 Modified?*:**

- *56 support*
- *4 opposed*

**When asked *Are there environmental issues or other concerns that you have regarding the proposed changes to U.S. Route 121 Section IIIB?*:**

- *43 no*
- *14 yes*
  - *Impacts to WOUS, wildlife habitat, and air quality in general and as a result of coal synergy approach*
  - *Relocation impacts*

## Interest Group Comments

### Southern Environmental Law Center

- Submitted on behalf of themselves, Sierra Club, Appalachian Voices, and Southern Appalachian Mountains Stewards
- Believe that a single, comprehensive SEIS is necessary to analyze the fundamental changes in the nature of the U.S. Route 121 project to allow for surface coal mining and the coal synergy partnership
- Believe that the SEIS must analyze a full range of alternatives, including alternatives that do not involve coal mining

## Next Steps

- **CTB Action on proposed alignment change to Section IIIB at the February 2015 meeting**
- **Following CTB Action, FHWA will act on the location change**



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