



Coalfields Expressway Briefing

January 16, 2013

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District Administrator, Bristol District

AGENDA

- Overview of the Coalfields Expressway
- Purpose & Need
- Coal Synergy
- Regional Support
- Summary of CFX Benefits
- Q & A

The Coalfields Expressway

Connectivity within Virginia



Connectivity to interstates



Purpose & Need

COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY

121

VDOT

A LEGISLATIVE MANDATE



1995

Congress designates the Coalfields Expressway (CFX) in Virginia as a **Congressional High Priority Corridor**.



1995

Virginia lawmakers pass the **Public Private Transportation Act** allowing VDOT flexibility with private enterprise to build projects more quickly and cost effectively.



2001

Federal Highway Administration approves the **Final Environmental Impact Statement** for the proposed location of the CFX.



2002

VDOT works with KBR and **begins preliminary engineering of Coalfields Expressway** as a PPTA project. Due to escalating construction cost estimates, KBR and VDOT explore more economically viable alternatives in 2005.



2006

To substantially reduce costs, Alpha, Pioneer, KBR and VDOT explore an innovative, FHWA-approved construction process being used in West Virginia called **"coal synergy."**



2008

The Federal Highway Administration approves the use of coal synergy for CFX based on the potential to **reduce costs by 45% and expedite the construction schedule.**



2011

The **first 2-mile construction segment of CFX ("Hawks Nest") is completed** to rough grade and preliminary engineering begins on two additional segments ("Pound Connector" and "Doe Branch").

Purpose & Need

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MILESTONES: CONNECTING THE APPALACHIAN REGION



1964

President's Appalachian Regional Commission tells Congress that stimulating economic growth to **help the people of Appalachia** requires overcoming the region's isolation.



1965

Congress authorizes the construction of the **Appalachian Development Highway System** to generate economic development and connect Appalachia to the rest of the nation.



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Purpose & Need: Transform a region

	Economic	Mobility	Safety	Capacity	Time
Without CFX	High unemployment. Poverty rate twice the state average.	Present routes mostly two-lane with severe topography.	Accident rate 13% higher than state average.	Local roads already near capacity in the 1990s.	Currently, over 4 ½ hours to drive Pound to Beckley.
With CFX	29,359 jobs during construction. \$4.1 billion Virginia economic impact.	Improved access to health care, employment and education.	Improves safety and reduces head-on collisions.	Opportunity for all to enjoy region's recreation and beauty.	With CFX, less than 2 ½ hours to drive Pound to Beckley.

Coal Synergy: A viable funding solution

- “Coal Synergy” means coal partners’ larger earth movers prepare the road bed. Coal companies recover marketable coal reserves, and that **saves 45% of the cost.**
- Coal synergy helps the region diversify its economy and reduce dependence on coal.
 - “A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity...”
VA Coalfield Economic Development Authority

With Coal Synergy
\$2.8 Billion

VS.

Without Coal Synergy
\$5.1 Billion

Regional Support Sustained over the project.

- Support: all local Boards of Supervisors, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Authorities and Planning District Commissions.
- Local citizen support documented at all public hearings.

"The significance of the [CFX] Expressway cannot be overstated – it is essential to ... help Buchanan County and all of Southwest Virginia to help itself."

*Robert Craig Horn,
Buchanan County Administrator
November 6, 2012 letter to Bristol
District Administrator*

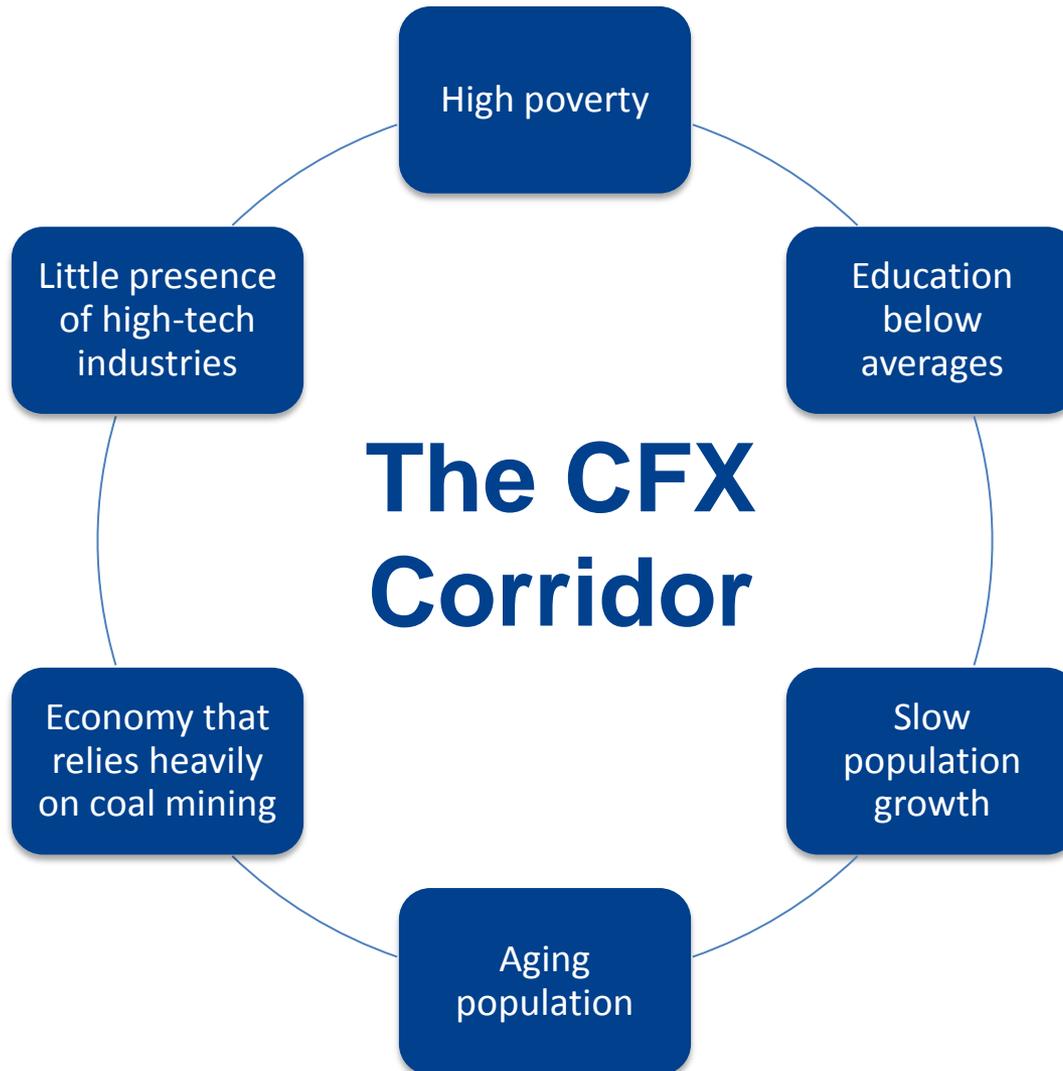
"This project represents the future of the economic development for Dickenson County. And just as important, to the improvement of the lives of our citizens."

*G. David Moore, Jr.,
Dickenson County Administrator
November 15, 2012 letter to
Bristol District Administrator*

"LENOWISCO believes this could be the most transforming transportation initiative in the history of the region."

*Glen A. Skinner,
Executive Director,
LENOWISCO Planning
District Commission
November 27, 2012 letter to
Bristol District Administrator*

CFX, an economic lifeline to a region that suffers from:



Summary of CFX Benefits

- **During Construction:**

- 29,359 construction jobs over 17 years
- VA economic impact: \$4.1 **billion**

- **After construction:**

- 372 new service jobs
- Annual VA impact \$41.4 million
- Plus \$28.3 million annual savings from travel efficiencies

- Safer, quicker travel times
- Better access to jobs, education, healthcare, recreation
- Reduce population loss



- Port of Virginia benefits from quicker and easier access to America's marketplace.
- Reduces trucking costs for region's agriculture and manufacturing industries
- Increases recreation & tourism

- Economic development opportunities for localities
- Increased tourism
- Diversifying regional economy

Q & A

