

A large majority of locally owned businesses and Chamber of Commerce members know it's better for their livelihoods and the region's economic health.

Q: Who is opposed to the current DOH's Proposed Route?

A: People who live, work, and recreate in Tucker County. The alternative "Northern Route" is supported by over 5,000 petition signers. In addition, 88 of every 100 commenters asked for the Northern Route when the Division of Highways renewed the project in 2019.

Q: Has Corridor H accommodated other communities by avoiding the towns to protect their character?

A: Yes. Corridor H has been constructed around Elkins, Corrick's Ford Battlefield in Parsons, and Greenland Gap. Business owners in Davis and Thomas don't want it to be routed right through their adjoining towns and trails.

Q: What do business owners and residents say about the DOH's Proposed Route?

A: "Visual, noise and light pollution will undermine our best tourist attraction."

ABOUT US

We are an alliance of business owners and residents in the Tucker County Towns of Davis and Thomas. We believe that the West Virginia Division of Highway's (WVDOH) current "preferred route" for Corridor H is flawed and unacceptable.

We favor a "Northern Route" that will not damage the economic value of our quaint, people-friendly, historic mountain towns.

We make our livings from the small town feel of this area and its wild beauty which attracts many visitors, vitalizing our economy. When the DOH's Proposed Route was designed 30 years ago little thought was given to preserving our area's unique cultural, historical and environmental integrity, the things that draw people here to visit and live.

Our diverse business community strongly favors the selection of a "Northern Route" that would respect and value aspects of our regional economy, while allowing for full highway access.



Learn more at:
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**A Better Route
for
Corridor H**





Q: Would the DOH's Proposed Route reduce traffic in Thomas?

A: Yes, but its truck route would dump the trucks back on Route 32 and force them through a complicated intersection at Davis to get on the Corridor. The Northern Route is simpler and safer.

Q: How do property owners feel about the DOH's Proposed Route?

A: A survey of homeowners sponsored by the Town of Davis showed that 45% supported the Northern Alternative Route, and only 14% supported the DOH's Proposed Route.

Q: Will the towns of Davis or Thomas be sued if they do not agree to endorse the DOH's Proposed Route?

A: No. The towns of Thomas and Davis were not parties to the Corridor H settlement agreement reached in 2000. In fact, there is a substantial likelihood that DOH will itself be sued if it pursues their current Proposed Route, delaying Corridor H construction.

Q: In a nutshell, what are the biggest negative impacts of the DOH's Proposed Route?

A: Whether Corridor H goes over or under Route 32, it will be an intrusive and unnecessary interruption of the familiar landscape between Thomas and Davis and forever change the mountaintop. A giant elevated roadway going through the Blackwater Industrial Complex will degrade the scenic, rural character of Blackwater Falls, West Virginia's most-visited State Park.

Q: How would a route dividing the two towns change the character of Davis and Thomas?

A: It would severely impact the planned family-friendly rail trail project and proposed connector trail between the two towns. DOH's Proposed Route would cross the rail trail 3 different times. It will undoubtedly damage the character of nearby Blackwater Falls State Park—our State's most visited park—with noise and light pollution.

Q: Will the DOH's Proposed Route assure safe and convenient travel for local drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists on WV-32?

A: No. Not under any scenario: bridge, underpass, or at-grade crossing.

The "preferred route" would divide the towns of Davis and Thomas, severely impacting the Blackwater Canyon and Historical Area.



Q: Will selecting a better route for Corridor H prevent it from being built?

A: No. The design of Corridor H is not final, and a final environmental impact process is ongoing as of summer 2022 but is not yet completed. This process specifically requires the WVDOH to explore alternative routes. While the DOH now claims that all other routes are infeasible, this is clearly not true, as earlier studies have shown. DOH is not addressing how their route negatively impacts the reason why people come here in the first place, which is an insult to the local businesses who have raised concerns.

Q: Where would the DOH's Proposed Route cross the Blackwater Canyon?

A: The DOH's Proposed Route would cross the North Fork of the Blackwater River at the historic districts of Coketon and Douglas plus go through Monongahela National Forest land. A huge, elevated concrete and metal overpass would be the first thing that hikers and bikers on the Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail from Thomas would encounter.