



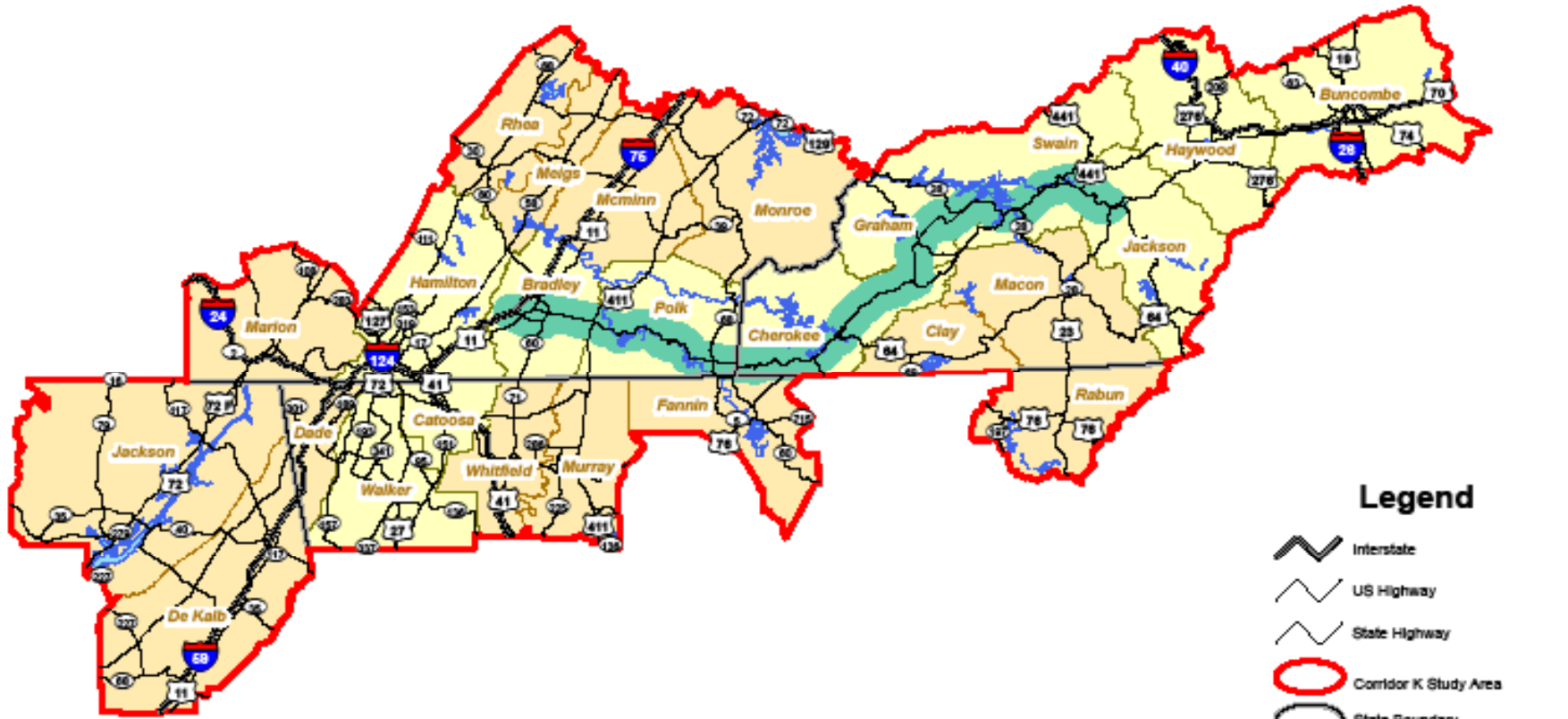
# The Corridor K Economic Development & Transportation Study

Presentation to ITED

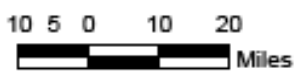
May 2011



# Corridor K Primary and Secondary Study Areas



- Legend**
- Interstate
  - US Highway
  - State Highway
  - Corridor K Study Area
  - State Boundary
  - Primary Study Area County
  - Secondary Study Area County
  - Existing US Hwy 64/74



Note: Alignment for ADHS Corridor K has not been selected. The project is intended to improve east-west transportation linkages in southeast Tennessee, northwest North Carolina, and northeast Georgia.



## Existing Transportation Conditions in the Corridor K Region

- Multiple purpose of US 64- recreation, commuter, & movement of goods
- Unsafe- 263 crashes from 2004-2006
- High truck percentage- 9% or more
- Difficult to maintain or to make minor improvements
- Traffic operation- slow speeds & unable to pass slower traffic



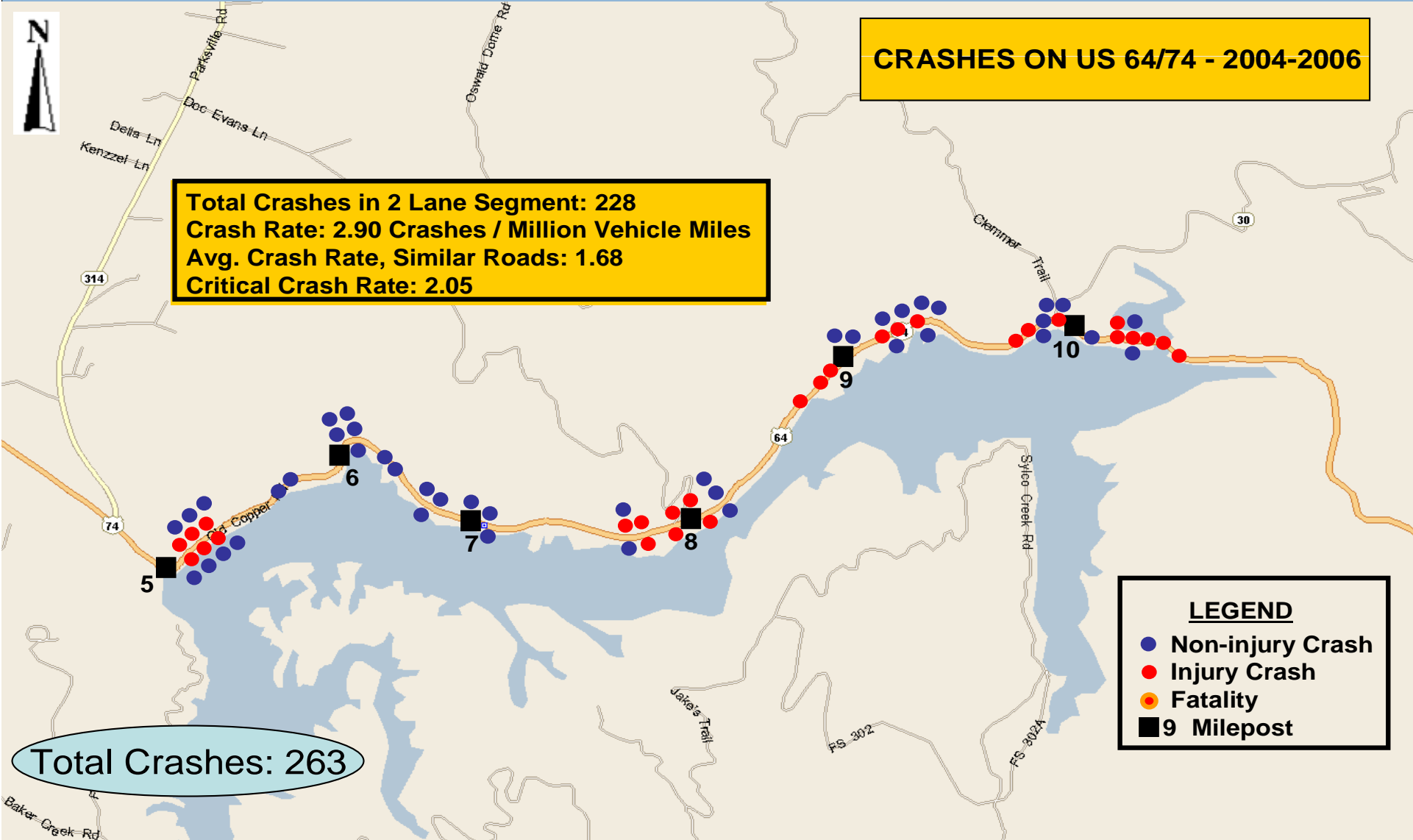
**CRASHES ON US 64/74 - 2004-2006**

**Total Crashes in 2 Lane Segment: 228**  
**Crash Rate: 2.90 Crashes / Million Vehicle Miles**  
**Avg. Crash Rate, Similar Roads: 1.68**  
**Critical Crash Rate: 2.05**

**Total Crashes: 263**

**LEGEND**

- Non-injury Crash
- Injury Crash
- Fatality
- 9 Milepost

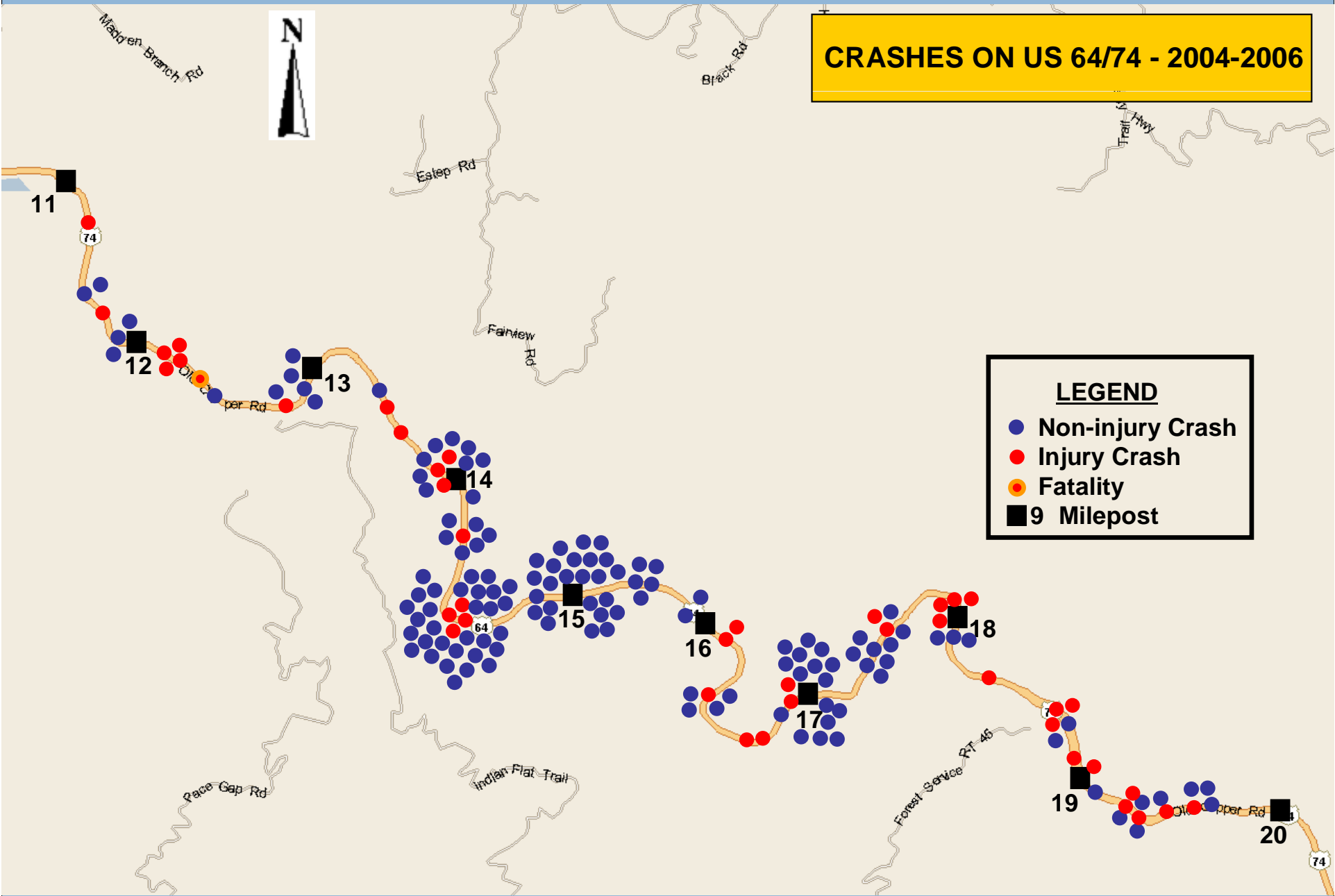


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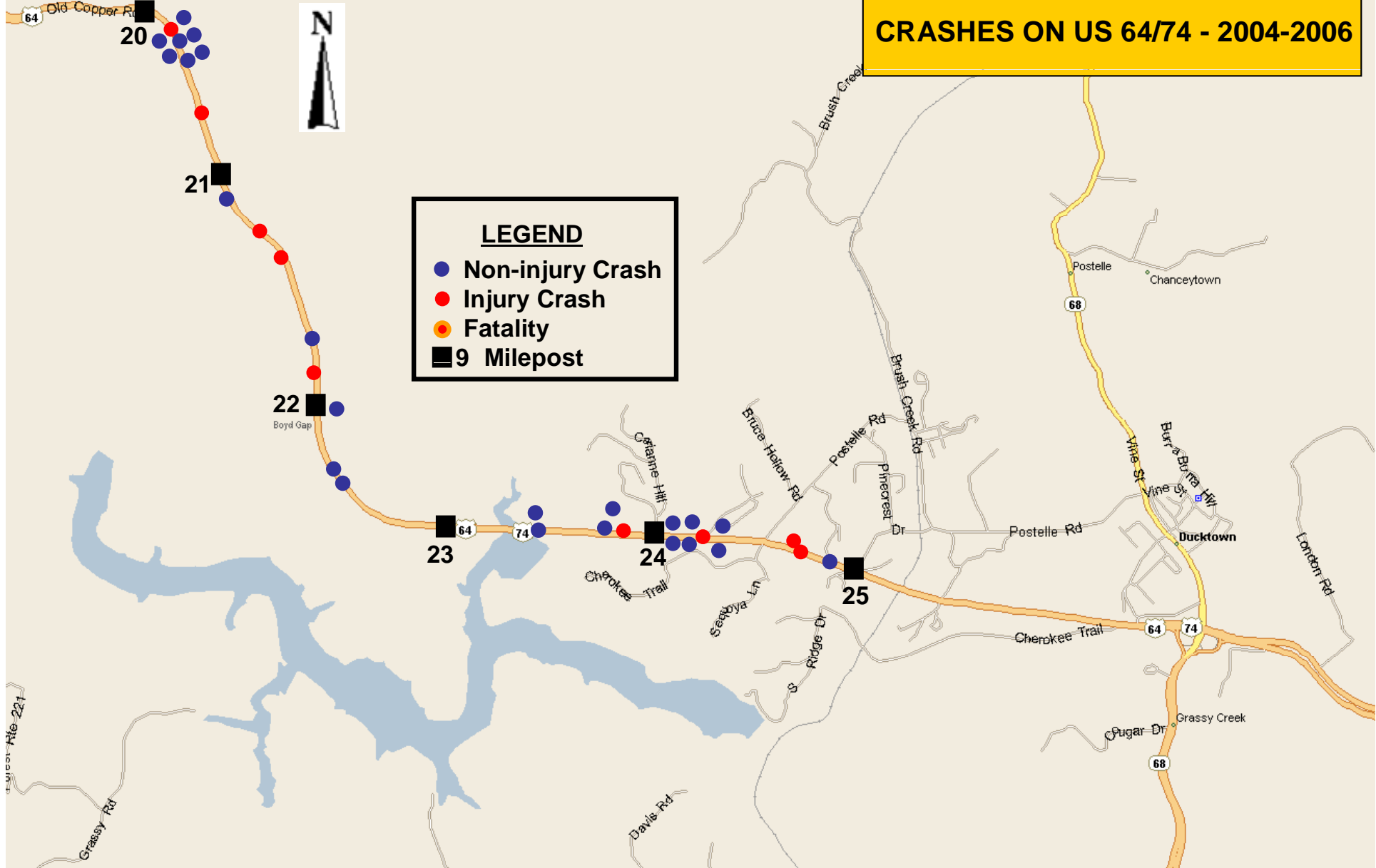


# CRASHES ON US 64/74 - 2004-2006



**LEGEND**

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## Corridor K Region

- Primary study area population: 1.4 million
- Population growth lags behind the 3-states
- Within Corridor K region 16.9% of workforce has a Bachelor's degree or higher compare to 27% nationally



# Study Conclusions

- **Transportation improvements can enhance economic sustainability**
- **Transportation infrastructure needed for tourism**
- **Some businesses will not survive without improved connections**



# Study Conclusions

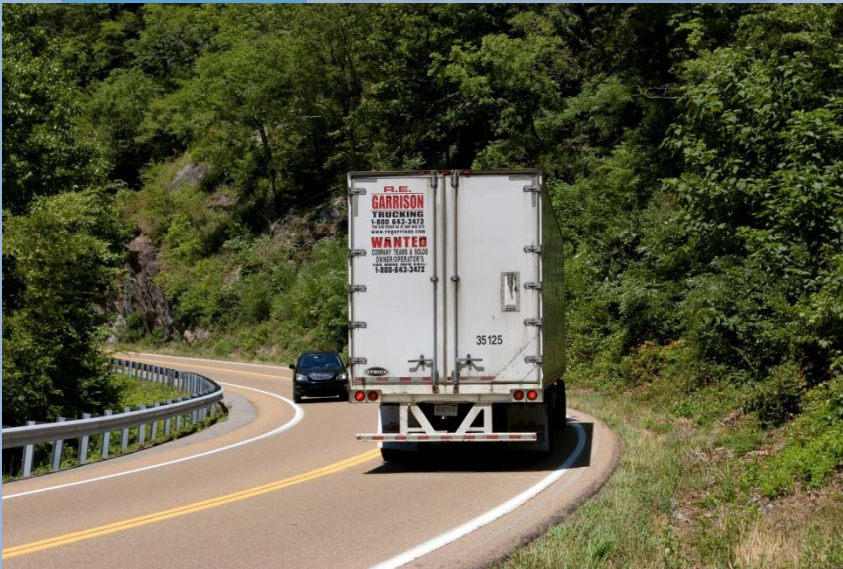
- Access to Atlantic coast ports is critical to businesses.
- Impacts of globalization more than expected
- 41% already use east coast ports





# Study Conclusions

- Backups on US 64/75 challenge region's employers
- Reliability of the workforce is affected by traffic conditions caused by accidents, rock slides, oversize vehicles, and tourist traffic





# Study Conclusions

- Many employers reliant on truck transportation, have higher than average expenditures for transportation
- Lack of east-west connections, existing roadway deficiencies, and safety concerns limit economic development opportunities in the region



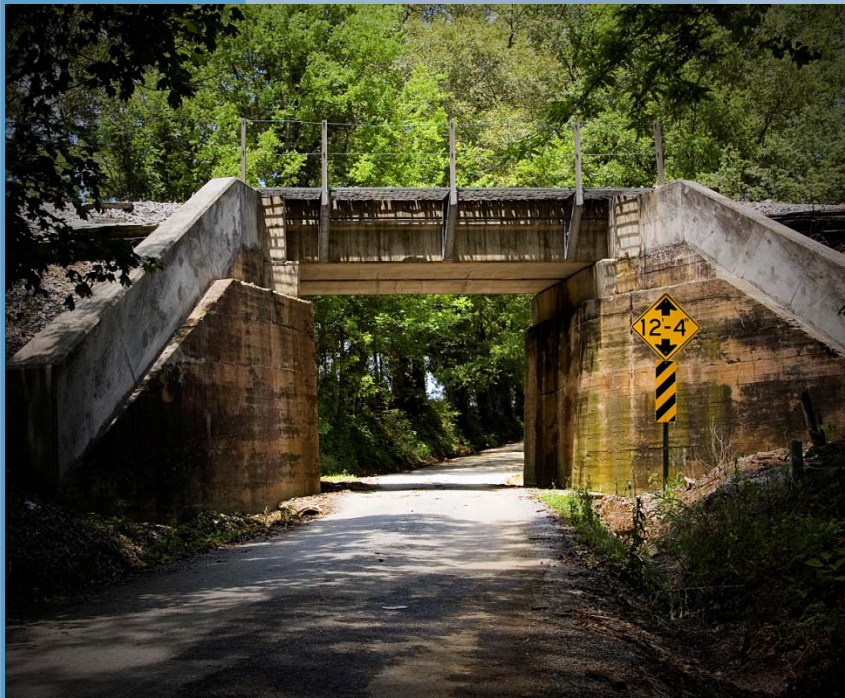
# Study Conclusions

- US-64/74 deficiencies have been addressed to the extent possible.
- TDOT constrained by topography, the rivers, and environmental concerns
- Crashes and fatal accidents after improvements indicate additional improvements needed





# Study Conclusions



- Transportation needs of tourism differ from transportation needs of other business sectors
- Road as destination
- Road as means of moving goods and people



# Study Conclusions

- Business and Tourism are vital to region's economy
- Accommodating these transportation needs may suggest options to separate users in the future



# There is an Economic Development need for Corridor K



- Improved east-west highway connections estimated to attract over 7,000 new jobs within five years
- If average salary is only \$30,000 creates additional \$210 million in personal income for region



- 3,300 of the 7,000 new jobs would be created in existing businesses
- Largest gains in professional scientific and technical service industry
- Jobs in entrepreneurial tourism would grow by 628 jobs
- 616 new jobs in administrative and support services





## Other Factors of Competitiveness

- 136 Business and Industrial Parks in region
- Seven Universities, Six Community Colleges
- Available industrial buildings
- Business incentives
- Excellent north-south transportation links both roadway and rail
- Available workforce, competitive labor



## Barriers to Economic Development

- Higher transportation and supply costs
- Limited access to ports
- Timeliness to receive materials and parts
- Access to workforce and skills
- Access to larger market areas and more customers
- Tourism limited by safe connections, marketing budgets, and perceptions



## Corridor K Vision

### Statement

Maintain a strong regional economy that balances the quality of our natural environment with a vibrant and prospering economic base in such a way that we preserve our cultural heritage; continue to respect our natural resources and our quality of life; and foster a renewed reverence for our history while we encourage the growth of quality jobs, improved education and new investment enabling our people to prosper



# Thank You

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