

**NOTICE OF A PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSE
AND CORRIDOR PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE PROPOSED U.S. 70 HAVELOCK BYPASS**

TIP Project No. R-1015

Craven County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a Corridor Public Hearing for the proposed U.S. 70 Havelock Bypass on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center, located at 201 Tourist Center Drive.

An informal Pre-Hearing Open House will be held prior to the public hearing in the lobby of the Center. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will be provided and is encouraged. Interested citizens may drop in anytime during the open house between 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The public hearing will begin at 7 p.m., and will explain the proposed project corridor locations. Citizens will be able to speak, ask questions and/or turn in comments immediately following the formal presentation. The presentation and public comment period will be recorded and a written transcript will be prepared.

Anyone wishing to speak at the public hearing may register at the sign-in table during the pre-hearing workshop hours. Speakers will be called in the order they sign in and have a three-minute time limit. This way, everyone who would like to speak will have an opportunity to do so.

Anyone who would like to speak and did not sign in will have the opportunity after those who registered have spoken. Written comments bear the same weight as spoken comments.

The proposed project will be constructed on a new location (bypass) on the southwest side of Havelock and U.S. 70. The proposed road begins north of the Havelock city limits and extends south for about 10 miles to the Craven-Carteret County line.

The proposed road will be a four-lane, median-divided highway that will provide a high-speed alternative to the heavily-congested existing U.S. 70 through Havelock. The project is currently scheduled for right-of-way acquisition to begin in 2013, followed by construction starting in 2015. These dates are tentative and subject to change.

NCDOT presented three bypass alternatives to the public in May 1998. Corridor 3 was originally selected as the preferred alternative. Preliminary design plans were prepared for Corridor 3, and the associated potential impacts were further assessed and evaluated. Based on the magnitude of the potential impacts from Corridor 3, it was

determined that another environmental study was needed to further evaluate all three corridors in greater detail.

The new findings of potential impacts to all three corridors are now included in a new environmental document that was prepared and approved by the Federal Highway Administration in September. This document, known as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and the revised corridor maps displaying the proposed location(s) of the U.S. 70 Havelock Bypass, are currently available for public review at the following locations:

City of Havelock – City Clerk’s Office, 1 Governmental Drive, Havelock; and

Havelock Tourist and Event Center, 201 Tourist Center Drive, Havelock.

The maps can also be found online at:

http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/hearingmaps_by_county/

For more information, please contact Eileen Fuchs, NCDOT- Human Environment Unit, by phone at (919) 707-6067 or via email at eafuchs@ncdot.gov. Additional written comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted to Ms. Fuchs until Jan. 6, 2012.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Fuchs as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.