

**NOTICE OF A
PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSE MEETING AND COMBINED TRANSPORTATION
CORRIDOR OFFICIAL MAP ACT AND DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING
FOR PROPOSED U.S. 1 IMPROVEMENTS FROM SANDHILL ROAD SOUTH OF
ROCKINGHAM TO MARSTON ROAD EAST OF HAMLET**

TIP Project No. R-2501

Richmond County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold a pre-hearing open house meeting, followed by a combined Transportation Corridor Official Map Act and Design Public Hearing for the proposed improvements to U.S. 1 from Sandhill Road (State Road 1971) south of Rockingham to Marston Road (S.R. 1001) east of Hamlet on Tuesday, October 30, 2012, at the Richmond County Senior High School, located at 838 U.S. Hwy. 1 North in Rockingham. The open house will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the formal hearing at 7 p.m.

NCDOT representatives will be available at the open house to answer questions and receive comments concerning the proposed project and the Transportation Corridor Official Map Act. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will be provided at the pre-hearing open house. Interested citizens may drop in anytime at the open house.

The public hearing will consist of an explanation of the proposed transportation improvements to U.S. 1 and the effects that the "Protected Corridor" will have on properties that lie within the proposed path. Only the segment of the project from just south of the U.S. 74 Bypass to just south of Fox Road (State Road 1606) will be within the protected corridor. For more information about the Transportation Corridor Official Map Act, citizens can reference General Statute 136-44.50.

The formal hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions and/or comments. The presentation and public comments will be recorded and a written transcript will be prepared. Anyone wishing to speak at the formal hearing may register to do so at the pre-hearing informal open house meeting immediately prior to the formal hearing or by contacting Drew Joyner by phone or email as shown below.

Speakers will be called in the order they registered and have three minutes to allow a fair opportunity for all those wishing to speak. Additional spoken comments will be received after those who registered have finished their comments. Additional comments may be submitted to Joyner until November 30, 2012.

NCDOT proposes to widen U.S. 1 to a four-lane; median-divided roadway with no driveway access along the new roadway and partial control of access on the widened roadway. A five-lane roadway with no control of access along existing U.S. 1 from about 1.5 miles north of Fox Road to Marston Road is proposed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement signed in December 2011. However, NCDOT now recommends a four-lane roadway with a raised median in this portion of the project. Interchanges are planned at the U.S. 74 Bypass, Airport Road, U.S. 74 Business, and Wiregrass Road/County Home Road.

The purpose of the project is to reduce travel time, reduce congestion in downtown Rockingham by diverting through traffic and truck traffic from local streets, and improve mobility on the designated U.S. 1 Strategic Highway Corridor. Additional right-of-way acquisition and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for the project.

A map showing the location and design of the project and protected corridor, as well as a copy of the approved environmental document (Final Environmental Impact Statement) are available for public review at:

- 1) NCDOT District Engineer's Office
Highway Division 8
219 Clemmer Road
Rockingham, NC 28379
- 2) Richmond County Courthouse
114 East Franklin Street
Rockingham, NC 28379
- 3) Rockingham City Hall
514 Rockingham Road
Rockingham, NC 28379
- 4) Hamlet City Hall
201 Main Street
Hamlet, NC 28345

The maps are online at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>. Search the project using "R-2501" and click on "Show More" in order to view the Design Public Hearing Maps.

For more information, please contact:

Drew Joyner
NCDOT - Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598
Phone: (919) 707-6077
Email: djoyner@ncdot.gov

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 Joyner as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.