



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated Nov. 1, 2017

Q. What is Fortify?

- A. The N.C. Department of Transportation is rebuilding the 11.5-mile stretch of I-40 and I-440 in south Raleigh – two of the Triangle’s busiest roads – as part of a 10-year plan to reduce congestion and enhance mobility throughout the area. The project includes:
- Replacing the pavement along the southern stretch of I-40/I-440
 - Extending the lanes between ramps in each direction at:
 - U.S. 1/64 (Exit 293) / Gorman Street (Exit 295)
 - Gorman Street (Exit 295)/Lake Wheeler Road (Exit 297)
 - Extending the deceleration lane (off-ramp) for Rock Quarry Road (Exit 300B)
 - Rehabilitating 14 bridges within the project zone

Q. Why is the project necessary?

- A. The project is first and foremost about safety. The 30-year-old pavement and the materials underneath it are cracking and crumbling because of a chemical reaction – alkali-silica reactivity – beneath the road caused by a substance used in paving several decades ago. Replacing the pavement is necessary to ensure the safety of all motorists who use this busy section of highway every day.

Q. What is the project's timeline?

- A. Stage I, rebuilding I-440, began in May 2013 with crews replacing the 3-mile section from the I- 40, U.S. 64, and I-440 interchange – known as "the 40 split" – to just north of the U.S. 64/264 Knightdale Bypass. Crews completed work in summer 2015.

Stage II, on I-40, started in early 2015 to replace the pavement from U.S. 1/64 to the I-40 split. All travel lanes are expected to be open by late 2017. Resurfacing and related work necessary will complete the project in 2018.

Q. Where can I go for information and updates?

- A. NCDOT's website, FortifyNC.com, connects motorists with comprehensive project information as well as other resources for drivers and employers. This includes alternate transit options, project maps and links to live traffic cameras through a partnership with [WRAL News](http://WRALNews.com). FortifyNC.com also includes links to social media to stay engaged with NCDOT and other commuters.

Q. How will this project affect my commute?

- A. More than 100,000 vehicles travel on this weakened section every day, and a project like this one will have an impact on traffic. The goal is to get at least 30,000 vehicles off the road during the heaviest commute times – weekday mornings from 6 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and weekday evenings from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Stay informed and ahead of traffic back-ups with the latest traffic updates via [FortifyNC.com](https://www.fortifync.com), [WRAL News](https://www.wral.com) and social media. Follow [@fortifyNC](https://twitter.com/fortifyNC) and [@NCDOT_Triangle](https://twitter.com/NCDOT_Triangle) on Twitter.

Q. What is NCDOT doing to help?

- A. NCDOT is working with the contractor, Granite Construction, to keep three lanes open in both directions for most of the I-40 rebuild portion of the project – where a majority of vehicles travel.

NCDOT has also invested \$12 million in public transportation to add more buses and routes and to identify new park-and-ride options.

Q. What alternate routes do you recommend?

- A. While NCDOT has no specific recommended routes, drivers are encouraged to seek out the alternate routes that work best for them. Talk to neighbors and coworkers for their suggestions.

There are also many navigational tools and free mobile apps, such as Beat the Traffic and Waze, that can help in finding the best alternate route for your daily commute. Find links to mobile apps, maps and share information about alternate routes at [FortifyNC.com](https://www.fortifync.com).

Q. Where can I find information on bus routes and schedules?

- A. The best source is [GoTriangle.org](https://www.gotriangle.org) for information. NCDOT is offering expanded transit services through its transit partners, GoTriangle (formerly Triangle Transit) and GoRaleigh (formerly Capital Area Transit) during the project.

Daily express bus routes to downtown Raleigh are available from park-and-ride lots in Wake and Johnston counties, including Clayton, Garner, Knightdale, Wendell and Zebulon.

A vanpool program compliments expanded transit services and is available for Johnston County commuters during the I-440 stage of the project, and for Wake County commuters during the I-40 stage.

Q. What else can we do?

- A. Consider alternative commuting options. Check out additional tools, materials and other information to expand your commuting options, including transit, carpooling and vanpooling, bicycling, teleworking and alternative work schedules to help to alleviate traffic.

Share information. The Employer Resources section of [FortifyNC.com](https://www.fortifync.com) also includes a toolkit with communication tools such as videos, presentations, posters, fact sheets and frequently asked questions.