



Balfour Parkway – STIP Project No. R-5744

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development & Environmental Analysis (PDEA) Unit
Attention: Mr. John Williams, PE, NCDOT-PDEA Unit
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Your comments, participation and input are important!

NCDOT encourages your participation and welcomes your comments on the proposed Balfour Parkway project. The project team is seeking comments from the public, local officials, and resource/regulatory agencies about study area features, concerns with roadway travel through the study area and the proposed project. The information being collected will help to identify important issues, topics, and resources that will be considered as alternatives are developed.

NCDOT will hold public meetings throughout the project planning process to provide information and get public feedback. More information will be provided at key project milestones and as meetings are scheduled.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

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Project Information

Project information can be found at the following website:
www.ncdot.gov/projects/BalfourParkway

For Spanish Language Assistance:

Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan llamando al 1-800-481-6494.



Balfour Parkway

Proposed new location roadway from N.C. 191 to U.S. 64 north of Hendersonville

STIP Project No. R-5744

This newsletter is the first of several that will be prepared during the planning process for Balfour Parkway. The purpose of this first newsletter is to introduce the project, notify the community that studies are underway, request input and provide general information about the planning process.

Project Introduction

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has started project development, environmental and engineering studies for Balfour Parkway, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Project Number R-5744. Balfour Parkway is included in the area's 2008 Comprehensive Transportation Plan as a new four-lane, median-divided roadway which provides an east-west connection from N.C. 191 (Haywood Road) to U.S. 64, north of Hendersonville.

Why is the Project Needed?

Local topography has focused both development and major transportation facilities into a number of parallel corridors, running generally northwest-to-southeast. I-26 concentrates traffic, as well as development, at a few interchanges and creates an additional east-west barrier to travel across Henderson County. U.S. 64 is the only option for east-west travel through the area and is becoming increasingly congested.

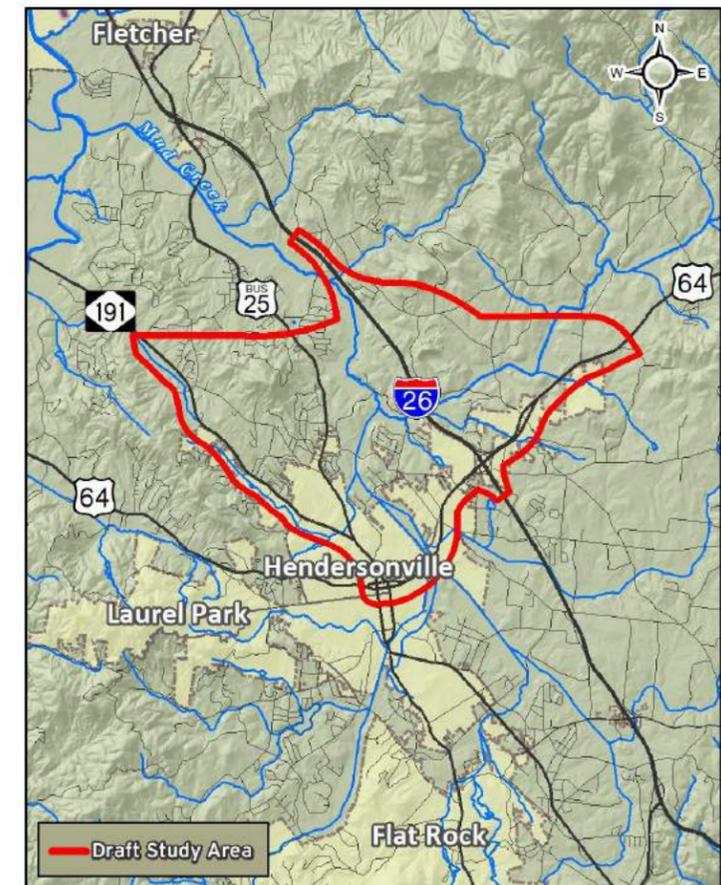
Because of the lack of east-west roadways and physical constraints to travel, motorists take indirect routes, which increases travel time and traffic volumes on main roads. The result is a transportation system with recurring congestion and excessive travel delays.

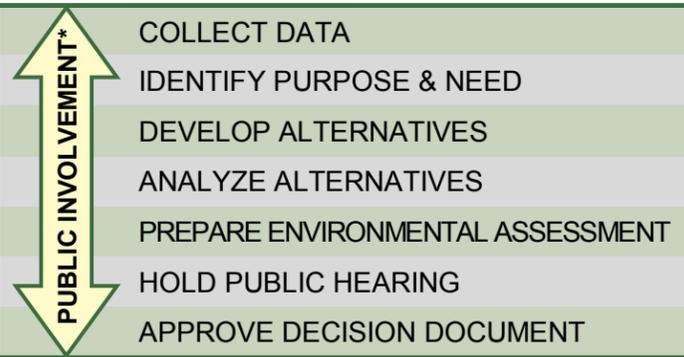
In addition, large trucks do not have an efficient route through the area, and must travel through Hendersonville. Hendersonville's Comprehensive Plan states that citizens identified cut-through truck traffic as a significant challenge facing the downtown.

Project Planning Process & Schedule

The proposed project is following a process outlined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA is a law that requires federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of their proposals, document the analysis, and make this information available to the public. An environmental document called an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared for this project. The general steps in the planning process are outlined on page 2.

The EA will be completed by the end of 2020 with a final decision document in 2021. The purchase of property (right of way acquisition) is scheduled to begin in 2022.





*Public involvement opportunities will be provided throughout the planning process.

Development of the Project Study Area

The existing east-west route through Hendersonville follows N.C. 191, U.S. 25 Business and U.S. 64. The Draft Study Area includes the existing route and the area where a new road may be located. Outlined in red on the map to the right, the Draft Study Area is much larger than the actual amount of land that would be directly impacted by the project and is subject to change as more information about the area is collected. **The yellow shading indicates the area where fieldwork will begin.** This project is in the early stages of the planning process and alternatives have not yet been developed.

Fieldwork to Start Soon!

As part of the planning process, NCDOT will identify and document environmental resources so that impacts can be avoided or reduced. Streams and wetlands are examples of resources that will be identified during the review process.

Over the next several months, engineers, geologists, surveyors and others representing NCDOT will be working on properties in the project study area to collect data necessary for the Environmental Assessment and design of this transportation project. Other State and Federal Agency representatives relevant to the project may also be present with NCDOT staff to ensure that the data collected conforms to matters within their respective jurisdictions.

These representatives will be wearing highly reflective safety vests and will be locating and measuring features such as utilities, property corners, transportation features, and the limits of streams and wetlands. They will use wooden stakes and various colors of flagging, or ribbons, hung on trees and shrubs as part of their work. The stakes and flagging do not indicate the location of the proposed transportation project, but they are very important in our planning and environmental project development process. Please do not disturb these stakes and flagging.

