

- NCDOT Division 10 Office *
- 716 West Main Street
- Albemarle, NC 28001
- NCDOT Division 12 Office *
- 1710 East Marion Street
- Shelby, NC 28150
- GUAMP/Office of Gastonia *
- 150 South York Street
- Gastonia, NC 28052
- MUMPO/Charlotte-Mecklenburg
- Planning Department *
- 600 East Fourth Street (8th Floor)
- Charlotte, NC 28202
- Belmont Branch Library
- 125 North Central Avenue
- Belmont, NC 28012
- Bessemer City Branch Library
- 207 North 12th Street
- Bessemer City, NC 28016
- Gaston County Library
- 1555 East Garrison Boulevard
- Gastonia, NC 28054
- Lowell Branch Library
- 203 McAdenville Road
- Lowell, NC 28098
- Steele Creek Branch Library
- 13620 Steele Creek Road
- Charlotte, NC 28273
- Union Road Branch Library
- 5800 Union Road
- Gastonia, NC 28056

Jennifer Harris, PE
 1578 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1578



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The Draft EIS in its entirety and the Corridor / Design Public Hearing maps are also available for download at the NCTA's web site: www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston

The Gaston East-West Connector Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) and the Corridor / Design Public Hearing Maps are available for public review at these locations:



Gaston East-West Connector Public Hearing Announcement

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
June 22, 2009	4:00-8:00pm	Pre-Hearing Open House	GAC
June 23, 2009	2:30-6:30pm	Pre-Hearing Open House	FHS
	7:00pm start	Public Hearing	FHS
June 24, 2009	2:30-7:30pm	Pre-Hearing Open House	SPHS
June 25, 2009	2:30-6:30pm	Pre-Hearing Open House	OHS
	7:00pm start	Public Hearing	OHS

GAC - Gastonia Adult Recreation Center
 519 W. Franklin Blvd.
 Gastonia, NC 28052

FHS - Forestview High School
 5545 Union Rd.
 Gastonia, NC 28056

SPHS - South Point High School
 906 Southpoint Rd.
 Belmont, NC 28012

OHS - Olympic High School
 4301 Sandy Porter Rd.
 Charlotte, NC 28273

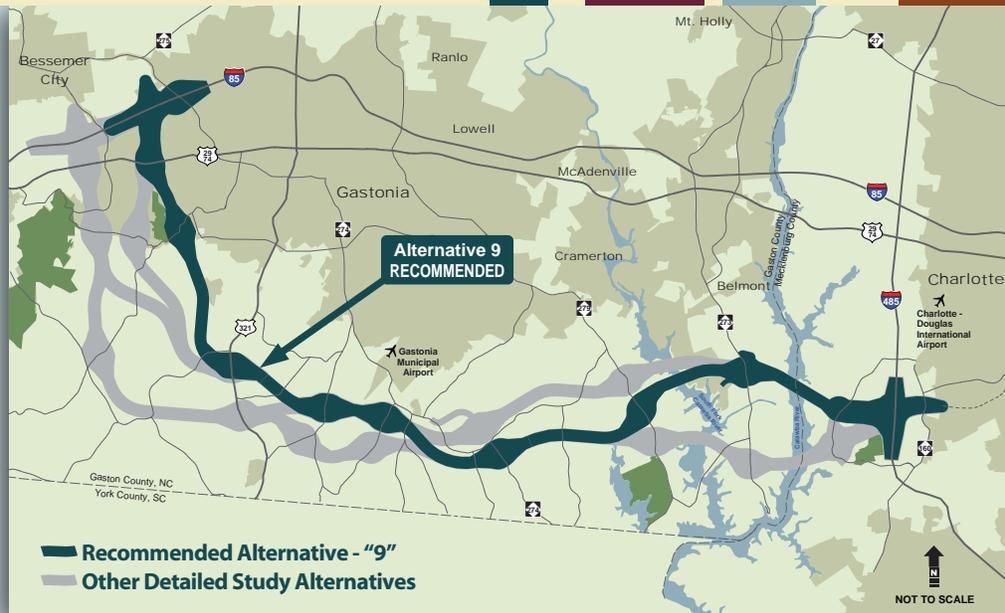
NCTA representatives will be available at the Pre-Hearing Open Houses to answer questions and receive comments relative to the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will also be provided. Interested citizens may attend during the dates mentioned on this mailing.

The formal Public Hearings for the proposed project will begin at 7:00 p.m. on June 23 and June 25. The Hearings will begin with a presentation on the proposed corridor locations, design features, the state – federal relationship, and right of way and relocation requirements and procedures. The Hearings will then be open for statements and comments. Anyone wishing to speak at the formal Hearings may register to do so at the Pre-Hearing Open Houses, immediately prior to the formal Hearing, or in advance by calling Ms. Pat Puryear at (919) 571-3000 or by sending an email to gaston@ncturnpike.org.

Maps displaying the location and design of the project and copies of the Draft EIS are available on the project web site at: www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston and at the locations listed on the front. Locations marked with an * will have a reduced size set of the maps to be on display at the Corridor/Design Public Hearing. A Citizens Summary (a brief summary highlighting the major topics discussed in the Draft EIS) is available on the project web site and at review locations.

Comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted to Ms. Jennifer Harris, NCTA, at 1578 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1578, phone (919) 571-3000, or email gaston@ncturnpike.org. Citizens may also call the Project Hotline (800-475-6402). Comments should be submitted by July 17, 2009 in order to receive full consideration.

NCTA will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in the workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Harris by Monday, June 15, 2009 so that arrangements can be made.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston**

What is the difference between a Public Hearing and a Pre-Hearing Open House?

Public Hearing

- At a formal public hearing, individuals are given the opportunity to make oral comments regarding the subject project before the entire audience.
- A public hearing is facilitated by an informed project representative. Rules will identify the order of speakers and provide a time limit for speakers.
- All comments, both for and against, will be added to the public record and taken under consideration prior to decisions made about the project.
- Public hearings are required and governed by law (23 USC 128) and agency regulations.

Pre-Hearing Open House

- Open houses are informal in nature and opportunities to speak before the entire audience are not provided.
- A pre-hearing open house provides an opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues concerning a project with informed project representatives.
- All comments, both for and against, will be added to the public record and taken under consideration prior to decisions made about the project.
- An open house is not required by law. However laws regarding accessibility and discrimination are still applicable.

PUBLIC NOTICE



US Army Corps of Engineers.

(Required by the US Army Corps of Engineers for a wetland and/or stream permit)

The North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) has submitted an application to the Corps of Engineers (Corps), Wilmington District regarding a potential requirement for Department of the Army (DA) authorization to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (including wetlands) associated with the proposed Gaston East-West Connector (STIP U-3321). This application will be evaluated by the Corps to compare alternatives as described in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) pursuant to applicable procedures under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

This notice is being sent to all interested parties and property owners adjacent to one or more of the proposed alternatives. In addition to NCTA's request for comments on the project, the Corps is soliciting public comment on the merits of this proposal and on the alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS through a Public Notice with a comment deadline of July 17, 2009. This Public Notice, including plans, is available for review on the NCTA web site (www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston/deis.asp) and the Corps, Wilmington District web site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands.

At the close of this comment period, NCTA, North Carolina Department of Transportation, FHWA and the Corps District Commander will evaluate and consider the comments received, as well as the expected adverse and beneficial effects of the proposed road construction, to select the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA). The identification of the LEDPA is not an authorization to begin construction. A final DA permit may be issued once the Corps' review process is complete, impacts to the aquatic environment have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable and a compensatory mitigation plan for unavoidable impacts has been approved. Copies of the Public Notice are also available by request from the Asheville Regulatory Field Office, Attn: Steven Lund, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 208, Asheville, NC 28801-5006, telephone 828-271-7980. Written comments can be submitted to this address by the comment deadline.