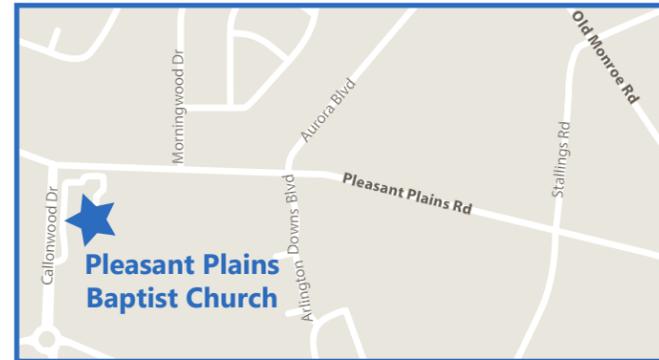




STIP No. I-5507 Project Team
 North Carolina Department of Transportation
 Project Development & Environmental Analysis Unit
 Attn: Angela Sanderson
 1548 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

Firstname Lastname
 Address 1
 City, State ZIP

Public Meetings



WHERE:

Pineville United Methodist Church
 110 S Polk St, Pineville, NC 28134

WHEN: April 15, 2015 **TIME:** 4 – 7 PM

NCDOT will hold two public meetings within the study area for these projects. Interested citizens may attend either meeting at any time during the above mentioned hours to ask questions, collect information, or offer suggestions.

WHERE:

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church
 3316 Pleasant Plains Rd, Matthews, NC 28105

WHEN: April 16, 2015 **TIME:** 4 – 7 PM

Contact Us

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-254-0498

NCDOT is seeking your input! Comments and questions are welcomed and may be submitted via phone, mail, or e-mail to:

Angela M. Sanderson
 NCDOT Project Development and
 Environmental Analysis Unit
 1548 Mail Service Center,
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548
 E-mail: amsanderson@ncdot.gov
 Phone: (919) 707-6042

Radha Krishna Swayampakala
 RS&H
 1520 South Boulevard, Suite 200
 Charlotte, North Carolina 28203
 E-mail: I-485ExpressLanes@rsandh.com
 Phone: (704) 752-0610

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons who wish to participate in this meeting. Persons requiring these services are requested to call Ms. Sanderson at (919) 707-6042 as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

I-485 Express Lanes

STIP Project No. I-5507 | Charlotte, Mecklenburg County

Issue 1 \ \ March 2015

Project Overview

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has started initial planning for I-485 Express Lanes along I-485 in southern Mecklenburg County. The project would add one express lane in each direction on I-485 between I-77 and U.S. 74 (Independence Boulevard), providing travel time reliability and improving traffic flows on this critical transportation corridor. This segment of I-485 carries between 65,000 and 112,000 vehicles per day and experiences congestion on a regular basis. In coordination with other projects in south/south eastern Mecklenburg County, this project will serve as part of a larger network of express lanes to offer drivers a new traffic choice - pay a fee and ride on the express lanes to avoid traffic delays or continue driving on the general purpose lanes for free.

What Are Express Lanes?

Express Lanes are lanes that allow drivers to choose to pay a fee for a more reliable, quicker trip along a corridor. The management of the lanes can vary from vehicle occupancy criteria to a set price to a payment that varies based on the travel demand at any given time.

Why Do We Need Express Lanes?

With the growing population, North Carolina faces increasing demand to improve the state's infrastructure. Limited funding, right-of-way restrictions and environmental concerns make adding more lanes an increasingly complex challenge. Recently express lanes have emerged as the most practical solution for providing a reliable travel option and improving mobility in urban, highly congested corridors. They also provide a longer-term management solution than more traditional improvements.

How Do Express Lanes Work?

Express lanes operate using an electronic tolling system with transponders mounted on the vehicles to collect tolls. Video cameras capture license plates of users without transponders, who are billed by mail and pay a slightly higher rate to cover the cost of collection. There would be no toll plazas and no stopping to pay tolls. Motorists will see signs noting the toll rate, and they will have the option to move into the express lanes or remain in the free general purpose lanes.

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 antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494

Your Input is Essential

Two informal public meetings will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 15 and 16, 2015. NCDOT representatives will be available during the open-house style setting to provide information, answer questions and collect comments regarding the proposed project. These comments and concerns will be taken into consideration as the project moves forward. You are welcome to attend at any time during the meeting hours, as there will not be a formal presentation. If you are unable to attend, you may send your comments to Angela Sanderson at the email address or mailing address on page 4.

I-5507 Schedule

April 15 and 16, 2015
 Public Meetings

August 2015
 Complete
 Environmental Studies

2017
 Right-of-Way Acquisition
 and Construction

NOTE: NCDOT will hold two public meetings within the study area for these projects. Interested citizens may attend either meeting to ask questions, collect information, or offer suggestions.

Project History

In 2007, NCDOT partnered with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), City of Charlotte and other regional agencies to produce the Fast Lanes Study. This study analyzed existing and planned highways in 10 counties to identify locations where express lanes could improve traffic flows. The initial findings identified I-485 in southern Mecklenburg County and U.S. 74 (Independence Boulevard) between Uptown and I-485 for additional studies including evaluations of physical designs, operational requirements and preliminary revenue and costs studies.

In April 2014, the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) adopted the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This 2040 MTP includes project I-5507, which proposes one express lane in each direction between I-77 and U.S. 74, to be constructed by 2025. In December 2014, the NCDOT released the Draft 2016-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which proposes to begin this project construction in 2017.



† **STIP No. U-5526:** Convert existing and proposed busway on U.S. 74 (Independence Boulevard) to express lanes from I-277 to Idlewild Road.

‡ **STIP No. U-2509:** Upgrade U.S. 74 (Independence Boulevard) from Idlewild Road to I-485 to provide additional capacity and safety, and construct new express lanes.



Where Do We Go From Here?

NCDOT's project team will now consider the environmental impacts of, and alternatives to, the proposed route. The team will do this by:

- Reviewing traffic capacity,
- Studying natural resources,
- Identifying community features, and
- Organizing public involvement activities.

Over the next few months, NCDOT project team members will be visiting your area. You may notice biologists, engineers, planners, surveyors and architectural historians surveying the area. Each has a different field of expertise that provides information the project team needs to develop an effective project as well as minimize the impacts to the community and environment.

Team members may snap photographs, take measurements or mark locations.

These markers are only surveying and documenting the area.

As representatives of the State of North Carolina, we strive to treat you and your land, home or business with respect and courtesy. NCDOT asks that you allow our staff on your property to conduct the necessary studies. If the highest standards of customer service are not observed, please contact the project team at 1-800-254-0498.