



North Carolina Department of Transportation NC 109 IMPROVEMENTS

May 2009

State Project No. 8.1172401

Issue No. 6

TIP No. R-2568C

This newsletter is the sixth in a series published by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to help keep the public informed about the NC 109 Improvements study. This newsletter provides an opportunity, prior to the upcoming publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the public to comment on the project purpose and need. This newsletter also provides information on the status of the project and contact information for public questions and comments.

Project maps, copies of newsletters, comment sheets and other materials are available on the project website:

www.ncdot.org/projects/NC109Improvements

NCDOT Seeks Public Input on Project's Purpose and Need and Alternatives

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is distributing this newsletter to provide area residents with information about the NC 109 Improvements project and provide citizens with an opportunity to review and comment on the purpose of and need for the project and project alternatives. This newsletter contains a description of the project and its status, the project purpose and need statement, a summary of project alternatives being studied, next steps in the project development process and project contact information.

The proposed project will improve NC 109 between Old Greensboro Road and I/40/US 311. The proposed project is designated as project number R-2568C in the NCDOT 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In August 2006, the Project Team selected five alternatives for detailed study, in part based on comments made by the public and local officials at two rounds of Citizens Informational Workshops.

The five project alternatives are shown on the map on page 3. Corridor 1 would up-

grade existing NC 109 between Old Greensboro Road and I-40. The remaining four corridors would largely follow new alignments, with Corridors 3 and 6 tying back into NC 109 near I-40 and Corridors 4 and 5 terminating at US 52.

A formal statement of the purpose of and need for the project was developed by the Project Team in September 2004 and presented to the public in an October 2005 newsletter and November 2005 Citizens Informational Workshops. NCDOT has begun preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project and will publish the DEIS during the spring of 2010. A Notice of Intent (NOI) that NCDOT is preparing the DEIS for the NC 109 Improvements project will soon be published in the Federal Register. With the publication of the NOI, NCDOT is affording an additional opportunity for the public to comment on the purpose and need for the project. The purpose and need statement is presented on page 2 of this newsletter, along with contact information for submitting any questions about the project purpose and need.

Project Schedule

Complete Draft Environmental Impact Statement	Spring 2010
Select Preferred Alternative	Summer 2010
Complete Final Environmental Impact Statement	Fall 2011
Right-of-Way Acquisition	Post Year*
Construction	Post Year*

**Right-of-way acquisition and construction for this project are not included in NCDOT's 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This means funding will be set aside in the future, and right-of-way acquisition and construction will take place after 2015.*

For more information regarding the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) visit:

www.ncdot.org/planning/development/TIP

NCDOT Seeks Public Input	1
Project Schedule	1
Purpose and Need	2
Project Status	2
Alternatives Map	3
Contact Information	4

Steps in the NC 109 Project Development Process

Step 1

Data Collection
Inventory of Planning Issues
Transportation Needs Study
First Citizens Informational Workshops

Step 2

Development of Preliminary Alternatives
Documentation of Community Concerns
Preliminary Field Studies
Second Citizens Informational Workshops
Selection of Alternatives for Detailed Study

Step 3

Detailed Studies of Alternatives
Preliminary Designs
Detailed Field Surveys
Environmental Analysis

We Are Here →

Step 4

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
Third Citizens Informational Workshop

Step 5

Corridor Public Hearing

Step 6

Review of Comments on the DEIS
Review of Public Hearing Transcript
Selection of Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)

Step 7

Preliminary Design Refinement
Additional Field Studies
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
Record of Decision (ROD)

Step 8

Design Public Hearing

Step 9

Right-of-Way Acquisition

Step 10

Construction

Project Purpose and Need

The project development, environmental, and engineering studies for the NC 109 Improvements Project are being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Under NEPA, any agency (in this case FHWA through NCDOT) that undertakes a project involving federal funds is required to comply with the provisions of NEPA. These provisions include the disclosure of impacts associated with each of the alternatives that meet the purpose of and need for the project. The following statement of purpose and need for the proposed project is presented for citizens' review and comment. Please submit any questions or comments that you may have on the purpose and need statement to Mr. Vince Rhea, NCDOT Project Engineer, no later than June 22, 2009. Mr. Rhea's contact information is included on the back page of this newsletter.

The need to improve NC 109 is demonstrated by the following existing and projected conditions: capacity deficiencies, above-average accident rates, and deficient roadway geometry. In order to address the stated needs, the purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, traffic flow, and level of service along the NC 109 corridor in the project study area.

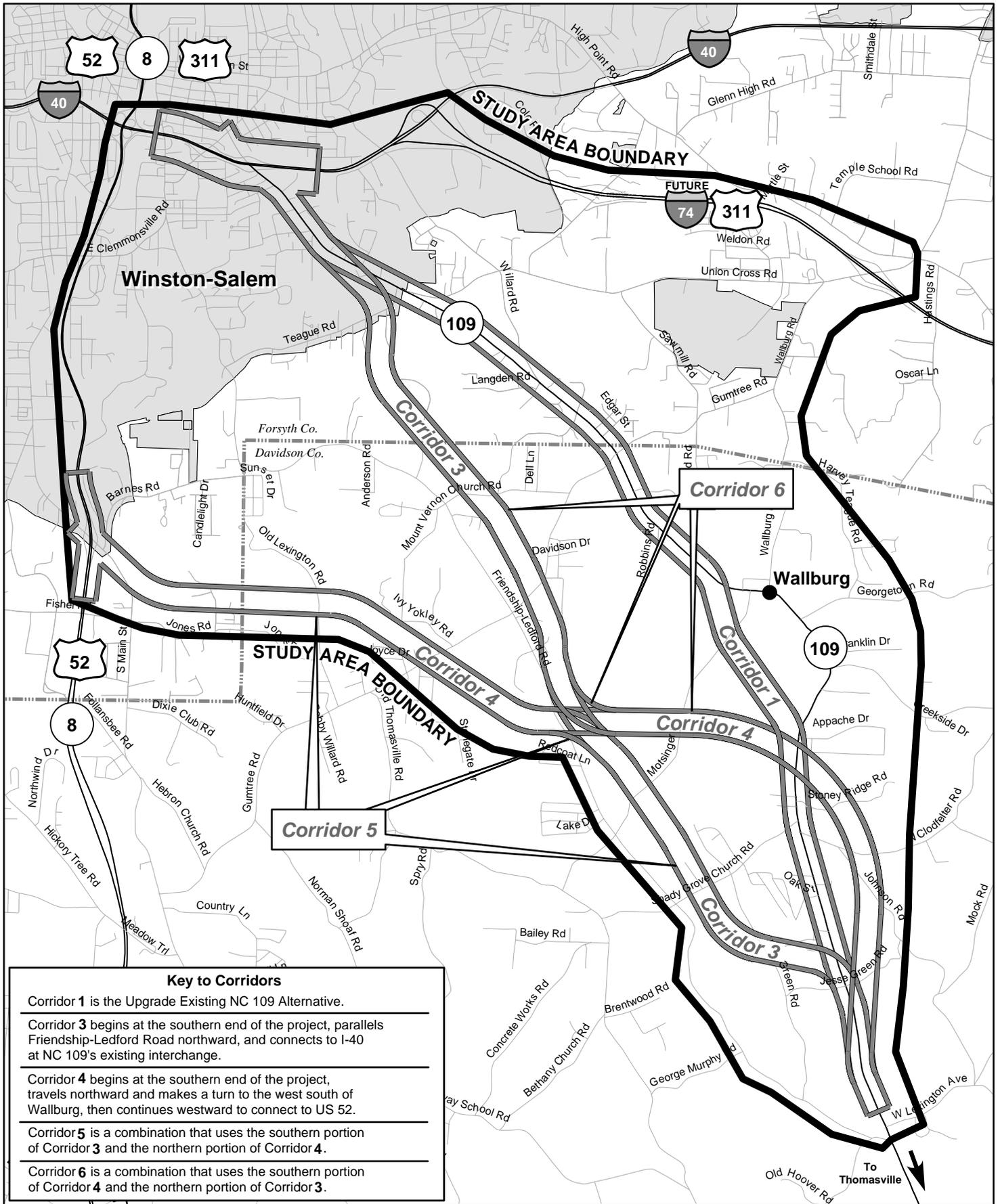
Project Status and Next Steps

In compliance with NEPA, as amended, NCDOT is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed project. The DEIS is a federally required environmental document that generally describes the purpose and need for the project, identifies project alternatives, and evaluates project alternatives for impacts to the human and natural environments. As part of the NEPA process, the NCDOT is providing citizens this opportunity to review and comment on the project's purpose and need statement (above) and alternatives.

The eight-step project development process used to fulfill NEPA requirements is shown in the chart to the left. The NC 109 project is currently completing Step 3.

Project staff have completed extensive field surveys and data collection to identify the potential impacts of each alternative on surrounding communities and the natural environment. Project engineers are refining more detailed designs for each project alternative to minimize potential impacts within each corridor and are identifying and comparing the potential impacts of all of the alternatives.

The DEIS for the NC 109 Improvements project is scheduled to be available for public review and comment in early 2010. Following publication of the DEIS, NCDOT will hold a Public Hearing to obtain public feedback on the project alternatives and the potential effects of each alternative.



Key to Corridors

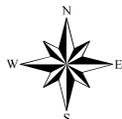
Corridor 1 is the Upgrade Existing NC 109 Alternative.

Corridor 3 begins at the southern end of the project, parallels Friendship-Ledford Road northward, and connects to I-40 at NC 109's existing interchange.

Corridor 4 begins at the southern end of the project, travels northward and makes a turn to the west south of Wallburg, then continues westward to connect to US 52.

Corridor 5 is a combination that uses the southern portion of Corridor 3 and the northern portion of Corridor 4.

Corridor 6 is a combination that uses the southern portion of Corridor 4 and the northern portion of Corridor 3.




 North Carolina Department of Transportation
NC 109 IMPROVEMENTS
 State Project No. 8.1172401 TIP Project No. R-2568
Alternatives Selected for Detailed Study
 (August 2006)



North Carolina Department of Transportation

NC109 IMPROVEMENTS

**P.O. Box 30923
Raleigh, NC 27622**

The next public meeting will be a Public Hearing to be held after the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), scheduled for spring 2010. The next newsletter will be mailed prior to the workshops to as an update to the project's status.

Please visit the project website to learn more about the project and to submit comments or questions:

www.ncdot.org/projects/NC109Improvements

NC 109 Improvement Study Contact Information

Mr. Vince Rhea, P.E.

Project Development Engineer

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development and Environmental Analysis
Branch
1548 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548
vrhea@ncdot.gov

TOLL-FREE HOTLINE: 1-800-554-7849
(8:00 am-5:00 pm weekdays)

EMAIL: NC109@hwlochner.com

WEBSITE: www.ncdot.org/projects/NC109Improvements