

# What is involved in an "improvement" project?

The proposed improvements to NC 109 will involve state and federal funds. Any agency that proposes a project involving federal funds must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under NEPA, an agency must study the adverse and beneficial environmental impacts of alternatives that meet a project's purpose and need and identify the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA). This planning process can be divided into the ten steps described below.

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## Planning Process Steps

<b>STEP 1</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data Collection</li><li>• Inventory of Planning Issues</li><li>• Transportation Needs Study</li><li>• First Citizens Informational Workshops</li></ul>
<b>STEP 2</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of Preliminary Alternatives</li><li>• Documentation of Community Concerns</li><li>• Preliminary Field Studies</li><li>• Second Citizens Informational Workshop</li><li>• Selection of Alternatives for Detailed Study</li></ul>
<b>STEP 3</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detailed Studies of Alternatives</li><li>• Preliminary Designs</li><li>• Detailed Field Surveys</li><li>• Environmental Analysis</li></ul>
<b>STEP 4</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)</li><li>• Third Citizens Informational Workshop</li></ul>
<b>STEP 5</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Combined Corridor / Design Public Hearing</li></ul>
<b>STEP 6</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of Comments on the DEIS</li><li>• Review of Public Hearing Transcript</li><li>• Selection of Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)</li></ul>
<b>STEP 7</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preliminary Design Refinement</li><li>• Additional Field Studies</li><li>• Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)</li></ul>
<b>STEP 8</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design Public Hearing</li></ul>
<b>STEP 9</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Right of Way Acquisition</li></ul>
<b>STEP 10</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction</li></ul>