



U.S. 158 Improvements

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
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U.S. 158 Improvements

Transportation Improvement Program Project No.'s. R-2582
& R-2584



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U.S. 158 Improvements Newsletter

Notice of Proposed Project:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improvements to the US 158 corridor from the I-95/ NC 46 Interchange West of Garysburg to the Murfreesboro Bypass in Northampton County. The proposed action will include a combination of both widening existing US 158, and the construction of new location bypasses near the towns of Garysburg, Jackson, Faisons Old Tavern, and Conway.

CONTACT US

Written comments and questions are welcomed and may be mailed or emailed to:
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
Attn: Matthew Potter, P.E.
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Contact By Phone: (919) 733-7844 ext. 227

Email: mwpotter@ncdot.gov

Why Is This Project Needed?

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic flow, increase safety, and to improve access to existing and potential future industry along the US 158 corridor in Northampton County.

Project Schedule

- **July 19, 2010**
Jackson Bypass Design Public Meeting
- **Summer 2010**
Finalization of Preferred Alternative
- **Fall 2010**
Final Environmental Impact Statement
- **2014**
Begin Right of Way Acquisition

Project Assistance

For questions about this project, please contact the Project Planning Engineer:

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mwpotter@ncdot.gov

Project Overview

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improvements to the US 158 corridor from the I-95/ NC 46 Interchange West of Garysburg to the Murfreesboro Bypass in Northampton County. The proposed action will include a combination of both widening existing US 158, and the construction of new location bypasses near the towns of Garysburg, Jackson, Faisons Old Tavern, and Conway. The facility is proposed to be a four-lane roadway (12-foot lanes), separated by a 46-foot grass median, limited access control, and several new interchanges.

The proposed widening of US 158 to a four-lane, median divided roadway along with the proposed relocated parts of US 158 on New location will provide an improved east-west route for Northampton County. Travel speeds, level of service, and access will be improved along the US 158 corridor.

Corridor Public Hearing Results & Merger Team Meeting

NCDOT held Corridor Public Hearings on September 22nd, 25th, and 30th, 2008. Citizens were encouraged to comment on the proposed improvements and to provide opinions on a preferred alternative. In total, approximately 298 citizens attended the three Hearings. Citizen feedback and results from detailed environmental studies were presented to the project Merger Team, a team comprised of representatives from both State and Federal Environmental Agencies, on March 26, 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to achieve a consensus on the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)/ Preferred Alternative.

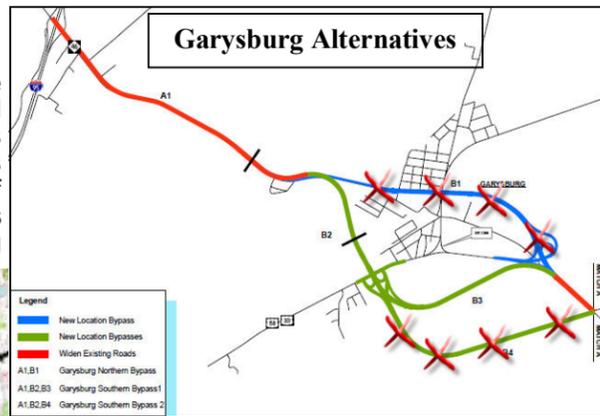
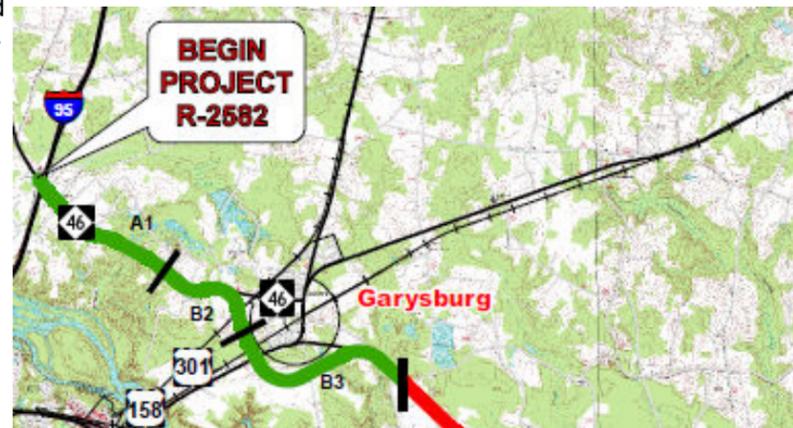
The Merger Team meeting resulted in concurrence on a preferred alternative for three of the four communities (Garysburg, Faisons Old Tavern, and Conway). The preferred alternatives for these communities are **Garysburg Southern Bypass 1** (Sections A1, B2, B3), **Faisons Northern Bypass 2** (Sections F2, F6, F10), and **Conway Northern Bypass 2** (Sections G1, G6, G7, H1). For more detail on these preferred alternatives see pages 2 and 3.

Concurrence was not reached on a preferred alternative for a Jackson Bypass; however, Old Jackson Bypass (Section D1) and Southern Jackson Bypass (Section C1,E2, E4) were eliminated from further consideration. The Merger Team requested slight modifications for each of the two remaining Jackson Bypass alternatives. Modifications to the Extended Northern Jackson Bypass and the Northern Jackson Bypass required that the alignments be shifted out of the original study corridor shown at the Corridor Public Hearings. **Therefore, the NCDOT will hold an additional Jackson Bypass Design Public Meeting on Monday July 19, 2010.** The meeting will provide citizens the opportunity to review the modifications and to comment on the remaining alternatives. For more information on the upcoming Jackson Bypass Design Public Meeting please see page 3.

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Garysburg Recommendation

Based on the results of the environmental studies and input from the surrounding community, Garysburg Northern Bypass (Sections A1, B1) and Garysburg Southern Bypass 2 (Sections A1, B2, B4) were eliminated as viable alternatives. As a result **Garysburg Southern Bypass 1** (Sections A1, B2, and B3) was chosen as the preferred alternative for this section of the proposed project. The figure to the right shows the three alternatives studied, the alternatives eliminated from consideration, and the resulting preferred alternative.



Project Vicinity Map

Faisons Old Tavern & Conway Recommendation

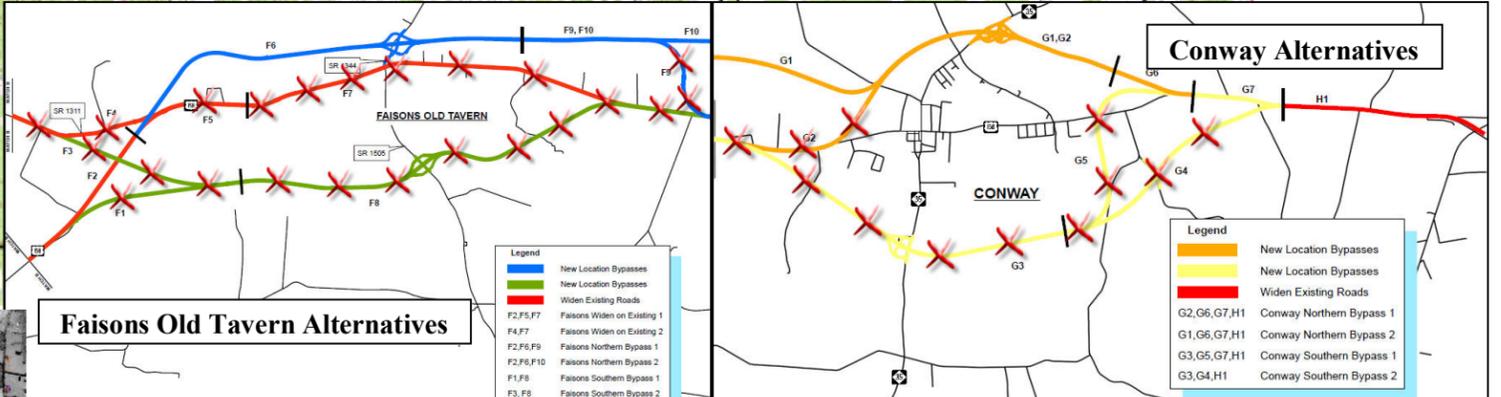
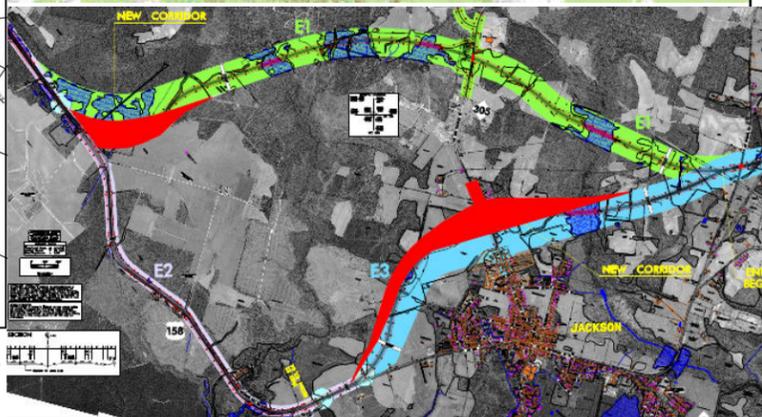
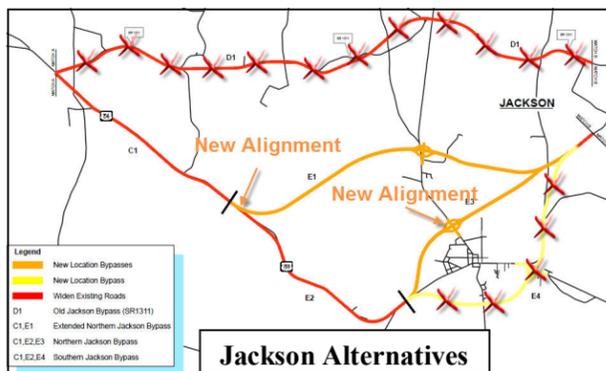
Faisons Old Tavern & Conway alternatives were evaluated together. Due to the complexity of potential alternative combinations between the two communities, it was determined that each possible combination should be evaluated based on total combined impacts. Combinations were eliminated based on comments received at the public hearing and the anticipated impact to the surrounding environment.

Ultimately a northern bypass of both Faison's Old Tavern and Conway was chosen as the preferred alternative. **Faisons Northern Bypass 2** (Sections F2, F6, F10) and **Conway Northern Bypass 2** (Sections G1, G6, G7, H1) will have less overall impact on both communities and will provide a favorable operational advantage of more full control of access section of US 158.



Jackson Recommendation

As a result of the environmental studies and input from the surrounding community both the Old Jackson Bypass alternative and the Southern Jackson Bypass alternative were eliminated from consideration. Both alternatives were eliminated due to their high impact on the natural environment and little support from the surrounding communities.



What is next??

Due to changes in the Proposed Jackson alignments, further community input is necessary to make a final determination between the Extended Northern Jackson Bypass and the Northern Jackson Bypass. Therefore, an additional **Jackson Bypass Design Public Meeting** will be held at the **Northampton County Cultural Wellness Center, 9536 Hwy 305 North, Jackson, NC, 27845 on July 19, 2010, between 4:00 pm and 7:00pm**. NCDOT representatives will be available to explain what changes have occurred, receive your comments, and answer any questions you might have.

Once comments are received (due by August 19, 2010), NCDOT will coordinate with the Merger Team to determine the preferred alternative. The final preferred Jackson Bypass alternative will be added to the previous recommended alternatives chosen for Garysburg, Faison's Old Tavern, and Conway. This combination of alternatives will be the final Preferred Alternative for the project corridor. Additional advertised public meetings, to discuss the final Preferred Alternative, will be scheduled for all four communities at a later date. For additional information on TIP Project R-2582/84 please see the project website at the link below.

Project Website: <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/Projects/Search/Detail.aspx?find=2503>