



US 64 Asheboro Bypass & Zoo Connector

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit
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US 64 Asheboro Bypass & Zoo Connector

Transportation Improvement Program Project Number R-2536



ISSUE # 2

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Project Schedule

Spring 2014

Present New Zoo Connector Design

Summer 2014

Project Reevaluation Due

Fall 2014

Begin Design-Build Process

PUBLIC MEETING

MAY 8, 2014

**W. David Stedman
Education Center,
4401 Zoo Parkway,
Asheboro**

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Project Assistance

For questions about this project, please contact:

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Project Overview

The proposed project consists of improvements to the US 64 corridor in the Asheboro area and upgraded access to the North Carolina Zoological Park in Randolph County. The preferred alternative proposes to build the US 64 Bypass from west of the intersection of US 64 and Stutts Road to just east of the intersection of US 64 and SR 2256 (Dewey Road) on new location. The proposed Bypass will be a fourteen mile long, four lane, divided facility with no driveway access permitted. A new two-lane Zoo Connector will also be constructed from the proposed bypass to the North Carolina Zoo. NCDOT has recently updated the proposed design of the Zoo Connector and will present it at the upcoming public meeting.

A Transportation Corridor Official Map Act Public Hearing was held in November 2012 to present the proposed protected corridor for the Asheboro Bypass. The corridor, to date, has not been protected due to the continued environmental studies, current schedule and funding changes (Zoo Connector) over the last 16 months.

The total cost for this project as listed in the 2013-2023 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is estimated to be \$377,550,000.

Upcoming Public Meeting

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has scheduled a Public Meeting to present the updated Zoo Connector design to the public. **The purpose of the upcoming public meeting is to obtain comments on the updated Zoo Connector design and also to inform citizens about the current schedule, the design build process, and the expected construction timeframes.** Note that no other changes to the remainder of the project (Asheboro Bypass) are currently proposed. No formal presentation will be made; however, NCDOT representatives will be available to discuss the project on a one-on-one basis throughout the meeting.

CONTACT US

Written comments and questions are welcomed and may be mailed or emailed. Please reference Project # R-2536 in your comments.

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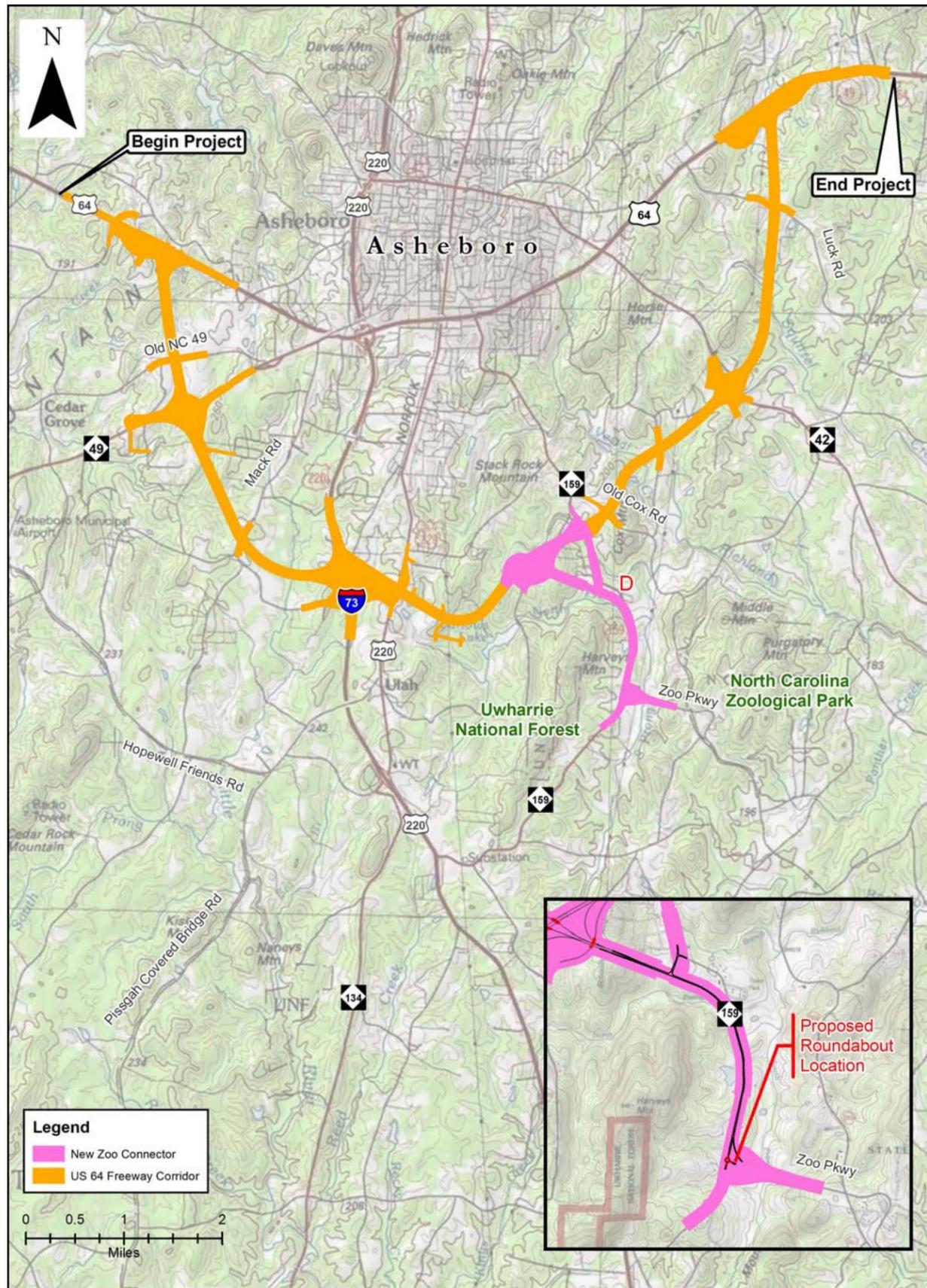
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AECOM (Consultant)

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Contact By Phone: (704) 556-5047

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Project History

In May 2004, Alternative 29 was selected as the Preferred Alternative for this project. A Design Public Hearing was held in March 2008 to present the final design of the project to the public. Approximately 400 people attended the public hearing, with 32 comments received by the close of the comment period. Most comments were related to the following issues:

- Noise effects and location of noise walls
- Adverse effect of the project schedule on home sales
- Safety at service road intersections near the interchanges of US 64 and NC 49

Shortly after the 2008 hearing, project studies were suspended due to funding limitations. These studies were reinitiated in 2011 following a decision to convert the US 64 Asheboro Bypass into a Design-Build project. A public hearing was held on November 8, 2012 to present the proposed protected project corridor to the public, and only minor design changes have occurred since that time. Due to the accelerated project schedule, the corridor has not been registered with Randolph County at this time.

The location and design of the US 64 Asheboro Bypass and the Zoo Connector have been selected, and any major changes would require further study. As of 2013, all sections of the project were funded, including the Zoo Connector.

Purpose and Need

The primary purposes of this proposed project include:

- Improving traffic flow and levels of service (LOS) on existing US 64
- Reducing congestion and thereby improving safety on existing US 64
- Enhancing higher speed regional travel on the US 64 Intrastate Corridor
- Improving access to the North Carolina Zoological Park

Updated Zoo Connector Design and Bypass Interchanges

The study area for Section D (see inset) was expanded in 2013 to allow for the evaluation of a revised alignment for the Zoo Connector, which would now connect to NC 159 north of the Zoo Parkway. A roundabout is also being proposed at the intersection of NC 159 and Zoo Parkway. As part of the proposed design change to the Zoo Connector, the proposed Asheboro Bypass interchange with existing NC 159 would be eliminated and future Bypass traffic would be expected to use the Zoo Connector.

For the US 64 Freeway Corridor shown above, NCDOT is considering changing the interchange type and reducing the footprint/areas at the proposed interchange of NC 49.