Complete 540
Triangle Expressway
Southeast Extension

Wake County \& Johnston County


PREPARED FOR:
North Carolina Department of
Transportation (NCDOT)
Project Development \&
Environmental Analysis Branch

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

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NCDOT STIP PROJECTS R-2721, R-2828 \& R-2829 Complete 540 (Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension)

WAKE AND JOHNSTON COUNTIES

Preferred Alternative Traffic Analysis
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Prepared for:<br>The North Carolina Department of Transportation Congestion Management Section

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. Introduction

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is studying ways to improve regional mobility in southern and eastern Wake County. NCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Projects R-2721, R-2828, and R-2829, collectively known as Complete 540 Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension form the outer loop around Raleigh and surround communities in Wake and Johnston Counties, extending from the NC 55 Holly Springs Bypass to I-40 near the US 70 Clayton Bypass (Southern Wake Freeway) and then to l-495 / US 64 / US 264 Knightdale Bypass (Eastern Wake Freeway).

Project level traffic capacity analyses for the Complete 540 project were developed by HNTB North Carolina, P.C. (HNTB) on February 23, 2015, for a No-Build alternative and 17 Detailed Study Alternatives (DSA), which included 2010 Base Year, 2012 Intermediate Year, and 2035 Future Year scenarios. Based on the analysis and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, DSA 2 was selected as the Preferred Alternative for Complete 540.

HNTB North Carolina, P.C. has been contracted by the NCDOT to prepare project level traffic capacity analysis for the selected Complete 540 Preferred Alternative (DSA 2) using the Preferred Alternative (DSA 2) traffic forecast. The purpose of this traffic capacity analysis is to identify existing and projected roadway facility, interchange and intersection operations and any potential deficiencies for the major roadways surrounding and intersecting the Complete 540 functional designs for the Preferred Alternative (DSA 2) under 2016 Base Year and 2040 Design Year conditions. This report will refer to DSA 2 as the Preferred Alternative (PA) for simplicity. Figure ES-1 shows the PA corridor and the project study area for the traffic analysis. Appendix $A$ contains all figures described in this report.

Traffic volumes used in this traffic capacity analysis were based on the Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Traffic Forecast prepared by HNTB and approved by NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) on August 11, 2016. The traffic capacity analysis references the following forecast volumes for the 2016 and 2040 analysis scenarios:

- 2016 Base Year No-Build,
- 2016 Base Year Build DSA 2 (PA), and
- 2040 Design Year Build DSA 2 (PA).

Complete 540 functional designs and interchange forms evaluated in this traffic capacity analysis were based on the designs and interchange form recommendations prepared by Lochner, based upon ongoing coordination, planning, analysis and design. The designs are currently being reviewed by NCDOT.

The following sections describe existing and future transportation conditions in the project study area, the capacity analysis methodology, capacity analysis results for the 2016 Base Year and 2040 Design Year, microsimulation operations analysis, and conclusions and recommendations derived from the capacity analyses related to current functional design for the Complete 540 PA.

## 2. Existing and Future Conditions

The Complete 540 PA corridor alignment in the project study area runs primarily east-west between the existing Triangle Expressway termini at NC 55 Bypass in Apex to I-40 near Clayton. The corridor alignment then runs primarily north-south between I-40 and the existing I-540 system
interchange with I-495 / US 64 / US 264 in Knightdale. The corridor alignment crosses multiple existing freeway, arterial, and local roadway facilities. The Complete 540 PA is shown on Figure ES-1.

Under existing conditions, there are five major access-controlled freeways, numerous major and minor arterial facilities, nine existing interchanges, one planned future interchange (STIP Project \# R-2635D), and 10 existing at-grade intersections on Y-line facilities in the traffic analysis study area.

Existing traffic control information was provided by NCDOT for all signalized intersections. Other relevant study information and analysis inputs for the existing study area facilities and corridors was collected from existing aerial photography, traffic forecast and field verified in 2014 by HNTB staff.

Under future conditions, the Complete 540 project, Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension, will complete the Raleigh 540 outer loop. Construction is currently scheduled to be completed in phases. Phase I (southern portion) is between NC 55 Bypass in Apex and I-40 near the Johnston County line. Phase II (eastern portion) continues the project at I-40 and ends at I-495 / US 64 / US 264 in Knightdale. The project is located primarily in Wake County with a small portion of the project that extends into Johnston County.

Transportation demands, social and economic demands and mobility considerations are the basis for additional transportation infrastructure in southeastern Wake County. Complete 540 will link the towns of Clayton, Garner, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Apex, Cary, Knightdale, and Raleigh. It will also connect major roadways in southern Raleigh and aid in easing congestion on the l-40, I-440 (Raleigh Beltline), NC 42, NC 55, Ten Ten Road and other arterial surface streets by providing a high-speed, reliable transportation option. The Complete 540 project would increase the overall capacity of the existing study area roadway network and be expected to divert traffic from secondary roads. The Complete 540 PA corridor is approximately 30 miles in length, beginning at the existing Toll NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) and NC 55 Bypass service interchange and terminating at the existing l-540 and I-495 / US 64 / US 264 system interchange.

With construction of Complete 540, there are nine existing interchanges, one planned future interchange (STIP Project \# R-2635D) and 10 future interchanges (on and adjacent to the PA alignment), and 10 existing and 16 future at-grade intersections in the traffic analysis study area.

## 3. Methodology

## 2016 Base Year / 2040 Design Year Traffic Volume Development

Peak hour traffic volume estimates for the 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build scenarios and 2040 Design Year Build scenario were developed using daily traffic forecast information from the Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Traffic Forecast. Daily traffic data, such as Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) estimates for study area roadway segments, truck percentages, design hour volumes (DHV-factor), and peak directional flows (D-factor) were entered into NCDOT Congestion Management Section peak hour traffic volume breakout spreadsheets for each intersection and/or interchange. This traffic volume data was then entered in the capacity analysis software, as appropriate.

## Capacity Analysis

Per standards for the preparation of capacity analyses for TIP projects used by the NCDOT Congestion Management Section, the Complete 540 project study area and PA were analyzed
using methodologies set forth in the Highway Capacity Manual 2010 (Transportation Research Board, December 2010) and the accompanying Highway Capacity Software 2010 (HCS Version 6.60) for freeway facilities and unsignalized intersections. Signalized and unsignalized intersections were analyzed in Synchro Professional Version 9. Results for AM and PM peak hour timeframes are given as a Level-of-Service (LOS) for segments of freeway and intersections that correspond to a letter grade of LOS A through LOS F. In general, LOS D is the minimum threshold for acceptable peak hour traffic operations on the freeway segments and study area intersections, and was used as a benchmark in analyzing the PA functional design geometrics for the 2016 and 2040 analysis years. Table ES-1 includes the details for each analysis type.

Table ES-1 Capacity Analysis Details

| Analysis Type | Details |
| :--- | :--- |
| Freeway | Segmented the PA alignment network into separate basic freeway, weaving, merge, <br> and diverge areas in HCS Freeway Facilities Module (Freeway Facilities). Calculated <br> System <br> Analysis |
| operational statistics per HCM 2010 methods. |  |
| Intersection | Created Synchro network that included individual intersections, both signalized and <br> unsignalized, and corridors near the proposed interchange ramp terminals and <br> incorporated signal plan information. Build network analyzed all Complete 540 <br> interchange ramp terminal intersections as signalized intersections in the Design <br> Year. |

## 4. Development of Alternatives

The Build Alternative assumes construction of Complete 540 in addition other background improvements that are committed to and funded by NCDOT, local municipalities, or private development projects and would occur by the 2040 Design Year. The Complete 540 PA is shown on Figure ES-1. The roadway design (alignment, interchange forms, geometrics, design criteria) was provided by Lochner for use in the traffic capacity analysis.

## 2016 Base Year / 2040 Design Year Traffic Volume Development

Peak hour traffic volume estimates for the 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build scenarios and 2040 Design Year Build scenario were developed using daily traffic forecast information from the Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Traffic Forecast. Daily traffic data, such as Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) estimates for study area roadway segments, truck percentages, design hour volumes (DHV-factor), and peak directional flows (D-factor) were entered into NCDOT Congestion Management Section peak hour traffic volume breakout spreadsheets for each intersection and/or interchange. This traffic volume data was then entered in the capacity analysis software, as appropriate.

## 2040 Design Year Build Capacity Analysis Results

For Complete 540 PA operations, all freeway segments are expected to operate at LOS D or better, as shown in Table ES-2. For the NC 540 corridor (Triangle Expressway), between NC 55 Bypass and Veridea Parkway (formerly Old Holly Springs-Apex Road), two basic segments (OHSARI B1-D2 \& D2-B3) in the eastbound PM peak are expected to operate at (LOS E) or exceeding (LOS F) peak hour capacity. For the I-40 and US 70 corridors, all segments expected to operate at LOS D or better. On the l-495 / US 64 / US 264 corridor, results indicate that four (4) eastbound and three (3) westbound segments at (LOS E) or exceeding (LOS F) peak hour capacity.

Of the 36 study area intersections analyzed at interchange ramp terminals or adjacent Y -lines, four (4) intersections are projected to experience operational deficiencies in the 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario, as shown in Table ES-3. Three (3) of the four (4) intersections projected to experience operational deficiencies are along the NC 55 Bypass, two (2) of which are the ramp terminal intersections. The intersection of realigned Donny Brook Road/Chandler Ridge Circle/Wake Tech Drive and US 401 is expected to operate at LOS E in the AM and LOS C in the PM peak hour.

Table ES - 22040 Design Year Freeway Operations Summary*

| Scenario | Complete 540 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Eastbound |  |  |  |  |  | Westbound |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS | LOS F | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | OS | LOS F |
| 2040 Build | 12 | 35 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 28 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

*-Table shows the number of segments for each LOS
Table ES - 32040 Build Intersection Capacity Analysis Summary

| Scenario | Number of Intersections Operating at Given LOS in at |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Least One AM or PM Peak Hour* |  |  |  |  |  |

*-For signalized intersections, overall intersection LOS. For unsignalized intersections, worst-case critical movement.

## 5. Summary and Recommendations

The Complete 540 traffic capacity analysis was completed to evaluate 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build, and 2040 Design Year Build peak hour traffic operations for the Complete 540 Preferred Alternative and surrounding freeway facilities and nearby intersections within the traffic analysis study area.

Based on the 2016 Base Year capacity analysis, all the No-Build and Build PA freeway and intersection facilities are projected to operate at acceptable LOS D or better.

Based on the 2040 Design Year capacity analysis, the following conclusions and recommendations are presented for study area facilities and intersections:

## Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Corridor

All Complete 540 PA freeway segments and interchange design configurations are projected to operate at LOS D or better in the 2040 Design Year, based on the current functional designs for Complete 540 as a six-lane, toll facility.

Of the 36 study area intersections analyzed at interchange ramp terminals or adjacent Y -lines, only 4 intersections are projected to experience operational deficiencies. Three (3) of the four (4) intersections potentially experiencing operational deficiencies are the two interchange ramp terminal intersections along NC 55 Bypass. This is due to the high vehicular volume and limited capacity along NC 55 Bypass. The intersection of realigned Donny Brook Road/Chandler Ridge Circle/Wake Tech Drive and US 401 is expected to operate at LOS E in the AM and LOS C in the PM. Reasonably feasible laneage improvements were considered and implemented at these four (4) intersection locations as part of the Complete 540 project.

## NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) Corridor

Based on the 2040 Design Year Build PA analysis results, two basic segments (OHSARI B1-D2 \& D2-B3) between NC 55 Bypass and Veridea Parkway (formerly Old Holly Springs-Apex Road) in the eastbound PM peak experience projected operational deficiencies. This is mainly due to the limited capacity between the eastbound off-ramp and on-ramps at Old Holly Springs-Apex Road. All the westbound segments are expected to operate at LOS D or better.

## I-540 Corridor

The existing section of l-540 from I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to US 64 Business is projected to operate at acceptable LOS D or better with construction of Complete 540 and I-540 planned widening to an 8-lane facility as per 2040 MTP.

## l-40 Corridor

Based on the 2040 Design Year Build PA analysis results, the existing sections of I-40 are projected to operate at acceptable LOS C or better, with construction of Complete 540 and I-40 planned widening to a 10-lane facility with eight (8) general purpose lanes and two (2) managed lanes as per the 2040 MTP. The PA proposes a five-leg system interchange with I-40 and US 70 and provides acceptable interchange spacing between US 70 and NC 42. The potential impacts of Complete 540 on l-40, US 70, US 70 Business and the system interchange operations will be re-evaluated to complete an interstate access report.

## US 70 Corridor

The existing section of US 70 from I-40 to NC 42 is projected to operate at acceptable LOS D or better with construction of Complete 540 in 2040 Design Year.

## I-495 / US 64 / US 264 Corridor

Capacity analysis results indicate that I-495 / US 64 / US 264 is operating near or over capacity with operational deficiencies in the 2040 Design Year Build AM and PM peak hours. In the 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario, I-495 / US 64 / US 264 from Hodge Road to Smithfield Road is projected to operate at LOS E or F for 4 of 13 eastbound segments and 3 of 13 westbound segments as a six-lane freeway facility. Construction of Complete 540 proposes modifying the existing directional system interchange with I-495 / US 64 / US 264 and I-540 by connecting the forth leg and constructing a flyover and a loop ramp. The system interchange was planned, designed and constructed to accommodate the future completion and connection of the 540 loop. This interchange modification would add one eastbound and one westbound freeway merge on I-495 / US 64 / US 264. The potential impacts of Complete 540 on I-495 / US 64 / US 264, l-540 and the system interchange operations will be re-evaluated to complete an interstate access report.

## Ramp Demand-to-Capacity Ratios

Based on the analysis, all the ramps at the Complete 540 at I-40/US 70 Bypass system interchange are projected to operate with demand to capacity ( $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ) ratios less than 1 in both the AM and PM peak hours. At the Complete 540, I-540 and I-495 / US 64 / US 264 system interchange, the ramps from westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 in the AM peak and the loop ramp from southbound I-540 to eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 in the PM peak hour are projected to operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio greater than (>) 1. To operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio less than (<) 1, the westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 would require two continuous lanes to merge with the eastbound ramp and on to l-540. The loop ramp from southbound I-540 to eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 (Location \# 10) would require two lanes to operate at d/C ratio less than (<) 1. The ramps from eastbound and westbound I-495 / US 64
/ US 264 to northbound I-540 in the AM peak, from eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 in the PM peak and from southbound I-540 to westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 in the AM peak hour are nearing capacity ( $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio $>0.85$ ). If the demand for any of these ramps nearing capacity exceed the estimated demand in 2040, an additional lane may be necessary to operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio less than (<) 1. Where ramp volumes are projected to be near or exceed capacity, the feasibility of providing two lanes should be considered during the project development process.




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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is studying ways to improve regional mobility in southern and eastern Wake County. NCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Projects R-2721, R-2828, and R-2829, collectively known as Complete 540 Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension form the outer loop around Raleigh and surround communities in Wake and Johnston Counties, extending from the NC 55 Holly Springs Bypass to I-40 near the US 70 Clayton Bypass (Southern Wake Freeway) and then to I-495 / US 64 / US 264 Knightdale Bypass (Eastern Wake Freeway).

Project level traffic capacity analyses for the Complete 540 project were developed by HNTB North Carolina, P.C. (HNTB) on February 23, 2015, for a No-Build alternative and 17 Detailed Study Alternatives (DSA), which included 2010 Base Year, 2012 Intermediate Year, and 2035 Future Year scenarios. Based on the analysis and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, DSA 2 was selected as the Preferred Alternative for Complete 540.

HNTB North Carolina, P.C. has been contracted by the NCDOT to prepare project level traffic capacity analysis for the selected Complete 540 Preferred Alternative (DSA 2) using the Preferred Alternative (DSA 2) traffic forecast. The purpose of this traffic capacity analysis is to identify existing and projected roadway facility, interchange and intersection operations and any potential deficiencies for the major roadways surrounding and intersecting the Complete 540 functional designs for the Preferred Alternative (DSA 2) under 2016 Base Year and 2040 Design Year conditions. This report will refer to DSA 2 as the Preferred Alternative (PA) for simplicity. Figure 1 shows the PA corridor and the project study area for the traffic analysis. Appendix A contains all figures described in this report.

Traffic volumes used in this traffic capacity analysis were based on the Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Traffic Forecast prepared by HNTB and approved by NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) on August 11, 2016. The traffic capacity analysis references the following forecast volumes for the 2016 and 2040 analysis scenarios:

- 2016 Base Year No-Build,
- 2016 Base Year Build DSA 2, and
- 2040 Design Year Build DSA.

Complete 540 functional designs and interchange forms evaluated in this traffic capacity analysis were based on the designs and interchange form recommendations prepared by Lochner, based upon ongoing coordination, planning, analysis and design. The designs are currently being reviewed by NCDOT.

The following sections describe existing and future transportation conditions in the project study area, the capacity analysis methodology, capacity analysis results for the 2016 Base Year and 2040 Design Year, microsimulation operations analysis, and conclusions and recommendations derived from the capacity analyses related to current functional design for the Complete 540 PA.

## 2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following pages describe the context of the proposed project, the existing transportation system in the Complete 540 project study area and data collection activities conducted for the study.

### 2.1. Project Corridor Description

The Complete 540 PA corridor alignment in the project study area runs primarily east-west between the existing Triangle Expressway termini at NC 55 Bypass in Apex to I-40 near Clayton. The corridor alignment then runs primarily north-south between I-40 and the existing I-540 system interchange with I-495 / US 64 / US 264 in Knightdale. The corridor alignment crosses multiple existing freeway, arterial, and local roadway facilities. Most of the project study area features lower density rural/suburban development.

Future PA interchange spacing is well over one mile between interchanges, except for the segment from Poole Road to I-495 / US 64 / US 264. In addition to the proposed interchanges, the PA corridor will have numerous grade separations with natural features, railroads, and minor y-line local roadways. There are numerous existing roadway facilities, primarily surface arterial roadways, that parallel the proposed corridor alignment.

The proposed Complete 540 PA is being studied as a six-lane, toll facility and designed for a 75mile per hour (mph) design speed, with access limited to service and system interchanges with existing y-line facilities. Similar to existing Triangle Expressway, Complete 540 is being planned for all-electronic tolling with overhead toll gantries. No toll booths or speed reductions are required with this type of toll facility. No specific lane restrictions, truck climbing lanes, transit, nonmotorized transportation, or High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) features are planned for Complete 540.

The general project study area and the spatial relationship of the PA corridor alignment to connecting transportation facilities, municipalities and notable physical and natural features in the region is shown in Figure 1.

### 2.2. Study Area Transportation Facilities

The future location of the PA alignment in relation to existing No-Build surface street intersections and existing freeway crossings and freeway segments included in the No-Build and Build analyses is shown in Figure 1. General descriptions and information for selected existing study area roadways to be included in the Complete 540 intersection and freeway capacity analyses are found in Table 1.

Table 1 Existing Study Area Roadways

| Build Corridor Interchange \# | $\begin{gathered} \text { Build Corridor } \\ \text { Analysis } \\ \text { Intersection ID\#s } \end{gathered}$ | SR Number / Shield | Road Name | Functional Classification* | Study Area Cross Sections | 2015 AADT\# | Speed Limit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 10-11 | 55 | NC 55 Bypass | Principal Arterial | 4 lane divided | 28,000-35,000 | 55 |
| 2 | 20-26 | 1152 | Holly Springs Road | Minor Arterial | 2 lane undivided | 13,000 | 45 |
| 2 | 23 | 1300 | Kildaire Farm Road | Minor Arterial | 2 lane undivided | 20,000 | 45 |
| 3 | 30-31 | 1386 | Bells Lake Road | Major Collector | 2 lane undivided | 4,600 | 45 |
| 4 | 40-46 | 401 | US 401 | Principal Arterial | 4 lane divided | 33,000-35,000 | 55 |
| 4 | 42 | 1503 | Donny Brook Road | Major Collector | 2 lane undivided | 3,000 | 45 |
| 4 | 42 | 2779 | Old McCullers Road | Local | 2 lane undivided | N/A | 35 |
| 5 | 50-52 | 1006 | Old Stage Road | Minor Arterial | 2 lane undivided | 10,000 | 45 |
| 6 | 60-67 | 50 | NC 50 (Benson Road) | Minor Arterial | 2 lane undivided | 15,000-17,000 | 55 |
| 6 | 66 | 1010 | Cleveland School Road | Major Collector | 2 lane undivided | 8,000 | 55 |
| 8 | 80-82 | 2700 | White Oak Road | Major Collector | 2 lane undivided | $8,000^{\wedge \wedge}$ | 45 |
| 8 | 82 | 2555 | Raynor Road | Major Collector | 2 lane undivided | 6,800 ${ }^{1}$ | 45 |
| 9 | 90-91, 105 | ${ }^{\text {Bus }}$ | US 70 Business | Principal Arterial | 4 lane divided | 29,000-36,000 | 55 |
| 10 | 100-101, 103 | 5204 | Old Baucom Road | Local | 2 lane undivided | 960^ | 55 |
| 10 | 100-104 | 2542 | Rock Quarry Road | Minor Arterial | 2 lane undivided | 4,900 | 55 |
| 11 | 102, 110-111 | 2555 | Auburn-Knightdale Road | Major Collector | 2 lane undivided | 2,800^^ $-3,700^{\wedge \wedge}$ | 45 |
| 12 | 120-122 | 1007 | Poole Road | Minor Arterial | 2 lane undivided | 10,000 | 45 |
| 12 | 122 | 2516 | Hodge Road | Major Collector | 2 lane undivided | 1,2002-12,000 | 45 |
| 7 | N/A | 40 | I-40 | Interstate | 4-6 lane divided | 60,000-84,000 | 65-70 |
| 7, 19 | N/A | $7{ }^{\text {BYPass }}$ | US 70 Bypass (Clayton Bypass) | Freeway | 4 lane divided | 28,000 | 70 |
| 1-12, 20 | N/A | 540 | NC 540 | Freeway | 6 lane divided | 13,000-20,000 | 70 |
| 13-14 | N/A | 540 | I-540 | Interstate | 6 lane divided | 50,000-58,000 | 70 |
| 13, 15-16 | N/A | 495 | I-495 | Interstate | 6 lane divided | 73,000-78,000 | 70 |
| 13, 15-16 | N/A | ${ }_{\text {8veass }}^{64}$ | US 64 Bypass / US 264 | Freeway | 6 lane divided | 59,000-70,000 | 70 |
| 14 | N/A | ${ }_{64}^{\text {Eussuss }}$ | US 64 Business | Principal Arterial | 6 lane divided | 31,000-36,000 | 45 |
| * - As defined on the NCDOT Functional Classification Map (http://ncdot.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?layers=029a9a9fe2 <br> \# - Obtained from the NCDOT AADT Web Map (https://ncdot.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=b7a26d6d8abd419f8 ^2014 AADT <br> ^^2013 AADT (2014 AADT either not counted or an outlier) <br> 1 - Raynor Road AADT at station (just south of US 70 BUS) likely significantly higher than actual volumes just north of White Oak Road. <br> 2 - Low 1,200 AADT value on Hodge Road is south of Poole Road. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

$\therefore 540$

## Study Area Roadways

There are five major access-controlled freeways within the traffic forecast study area: I-40, I-540, NC 540, I-495 / US 64 / US 264 (Knightdale Bypass), and US 70 Bypass (Clayton Bypass). The following are descriptions of the major roadways within the traffic forecast study area:

- I-40 is the primary freeway corridor for regional connectivity between Raleigh, Research Triangle Park (RTP), Durham and Chapel Hill in the Triangle. I-40 varies from a four-lane to a six-lane freeway in the traffic analysis study area. The posted speed limit ranges from 65 to 70 miles per hour ( mph ) through the traffic analysis study area.
- I-540 is an existing loop freeway around the northern portions of Wake County. It currently spans from I-40 on the western side of Wake County to l-495 / US 64 / US 264 near Knightdale in eastern Wake County. The facility features a six-lane cross section in the study area, with auxiliary lanes at interchanges and a posted speed limit of 70 mph .
- NC 540, also referred to as Triangle Expressway, is an existing freeway facility that is an extension of I-540 in western Wake County from I-40 to NC 55 Bypass near Holly Springs. The facility features a six-lane cross section with a posted speed limit of 70 mph . NC 540 from NC 54 (near RTP) to NC 55 Bypass is a toll facility.
- I-495 / US 64 / US 264 (Knightdale Bypass) is an existing controlled access freeway in the traffic forecast study area providing access to areas of east Wake County to I-440 and further to I-95. In the traffic forecast study area, I-495 / US 64 / US 264 features a six-lane crosssection, with auxiliary lanes at interchanges and a posted 70 mph speed limit. Currently, the route is designated I-495 from I-440 to I-540 and US 64 / US 264 east of I-540 with plans to designate the entire facility, from I-440 to I-95 in Rocky Mount, as I-495 in the future.
- US 70 Bypass (Clayton Bypass) is an existing controlled access freeway in the traffic forecast study area providing access to areas of Johnston County to I-40. In the traffic forecast study area, US 70 Bypass contains a four-lane cross-section, with auxiliary lanes at interchanges and a posted speed limit of 70 mph .

Other major roadways that are specifically included in the project study area include NC 55 Bypass, Holly Springs Road, Bells Lake Road, US 401, Old Stage Road, NC 50 (Benson Road), White Oak Road, US 70 Business, Rock Quarry Road, Auburn-Knightdale Road, and Poole Road. These existing thoroughfares are primarily multi-lane and two-lane facilities with 35,45 , or 55 mph speed limits in the traffic forecast study area and provide regional connectivity and access throughout Wake County, with future interchange connections to the proposed PA corridor.

## Y-Lines and Grade Separated Facilities

Along the Complete 540 PA corridor, there are 17 proposed grade separations of the NC 540 freeway including railroads and intersecting minor study area roadways that have no interchange access to NC 540. These facilities within the Complete 540 project corridor are currently planned to cross NC 540 via overpasses or underpasses, per the functional designs, and are subject to change. The grade separated facilities are identified in Table 2, but were not studied specifically for any traffic operations impacts in this document, since they will not directly impact Complete 540 operations.

Table 2 Y-Line Grade Separated Facilities*

| Y Line | Crossing Type |
| :--- | :---: |
| Old NC 55 (E. Williams St.) | Underpass |
| SR 1301 (Sunset Lake Road) [western crossing] | Overpass |
| SR 1301 (Sunset Lake Road) [eastern crossing] | Overpass |
| SR 1389 (Pierce-Olive Road) | Overpass |
| SR 1387 (West Lake Road) | Overpass |
| SR 1578 (Deer Meadow Road) | Overpass |
| SR 1404 (Johnson Pond Road) | Overpass |
| SR 1375 (Lake Wheeler Road) | Underpass |
| SR 2722 (Old McCullers Road) | Underpass |
| Norfolk Southern Railroad | Underpass |
| SR 2723 (Fanny Brown Road) | Overpass |
| SR 2725 (Holland Church Road) | Overpass |
| SR 2727 (Sauls Road) | Overpass |
| SR 2731 (Jordan Road) | Overpass |
| Southern Railway | Underpass |
| SR 1004 (E. Garner Road) | Underpass |
| SR 2552 (Battle Bridge Road) | Overpass |
| Orps and |  |

* Overpass and underpass locations are preliminary and subject to change.

Along the proposed NC 540 corridor, multiple Y-line facilities are impacted and re-routed/realigned based on proximity to the proposed NC 540 corridor and interchange ramp terminals. Below is a list of notable Y -line facilities impacted:

- SR 1300 (Kildaire Farm Road) realigned to the north, across from SR 3921 (Sancroft Drive at SR 1152 (Holly Springs Road)
- SR 1503 (Donny Brook Road) realigned to the south, joining Chandler Ridge Circle, across from Wake Tech Way at US 401
- SR 2779 (Old McCullers Road) severed from US 401 and realigned to Wake Tech internal circulation
- SR 2555 (Raynor Road) realigned to the west to be across from a realigned Tiffany Creek Drive at SR 2700 (White Oak Road)
- SR 5204 (Old Baucom Road) realigned to the south at intersection with SR 2542 (Rock Quarry Road)


### 2.3. Study Area Interchanges / Intersections

The following paragraphs describe existing geometrics and traffic control at all study area interchanges and intersections. Refer to Figures 4.1 to 4.5 for additional schematic details, including laneage between intersections.

## Existing Study Area Interchanges

NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) \& NC 55 Bypass The existing Toll NC 540 six-lane freeway facility currently terminates at the NC 55 Bypass four-lane divided facility. This service interchange is a partial cloverleaf design and features single-lane loop ramps in the northeast and southeast interchange quadrants with free-flowing entry/exit movements for each movement. This interchange is designed to accommodate future Complete 540.


## I-40 \& US 70 Business

The US 70 Business interchange with I-40 is a partial cloverleaf design with loop ramps in the northeast, southeast, and northwest interchange quadrants. The interchange features single and dual lane onramps and off-ramps with free-flowing entry/exit movements for all ramp terminals, except for one. The I-40 EB to US 70 Business Westbound ramp terminal is signalized. US 70 Business is an existing four-lane divided facility.

## I-40 \& US 70 (Clayton Bypass)

US 70 Bypass (Clayton Bypass), opened to traffic in 2008, terminates at a system interchange with I-40. This system interchange is a trumpet interchange design with two lanes on the l-40 eastbound off-ramp flyover and a single lane on all other ramps.


## I-495 \& Hodge Road

The Hodge Road service interchange with I-495 is a partial cloverleaf design with loop ramps in the northwest and southwest interchange quadrants. Signalized ramp terminals exist on both sides of the Hodge Road overpass. This study analyzes only the mainline freeway facilities at this interchange since the roadway design project limits for Complete 540 do not extend to the ramp terminals at this interchange.


I-540 \& I-495 / US 264 / US 64
l-540 currently terminates at a system interchange with I-495 / US 64 / US 264. This system interchange is a trumpet interchange design with a one lane flyover and loop ramp. This interchange is designed to accommodate future Complete 540.

## US 264 / US 64 (Knightdale Bypass) \& Smithfield Road

The Smithfield Road service interchange with US 64 / US 264 is a traditional diamond interchange design. Signalized ramp terminals exist on both sides of the US 64 / US 264 overpass. This study analyzes only the mainline freeway facilities at this interchange since the roadway design project limits for Complete 540 do not extend to the ramp terminals at this interchange.

## US 64 Business \& I-540

The US 64 Business service interchange with I-540 is a diamond interchange design with a loop ramp in the southwest interchange quadrant. Signalized ramp terminals exist on both sides of the US 64 Business overpass. This study analyzes only the mainline freeway facilities at this interchange since the roadway design project limits for Complete 540 do not extend to the ramp terminals at this interchange.

## I-40 \& NC 42

The NC 42 interchange with $\mathrm{I}-40$ is a diamond interchange design with a loop ramp in the southeast interchange quadrant. Signalized ramp terminals exist on both sides of the NC 42 overpass. This study analyzes only the mainline freeway facilities at this interchange since the roadway design project limits for Complete 540 do not extend to the ramp terminals at this interchange.

## US 70 \& NC 42

The NC 42 interchange with US 70 is a diamond interchange design. Signalized ramp terminals exist on both sides of the NC 42 overpass. This study analyzes only the mainline freeway facilities at this interchange since the roadway design project limits for Complete 540 do not extend to the ramp terminals at this interchange.


## Existing Study Area Intersections

HNTB analyzed 12 existing at-grade intersections in the No-Build and Build scenarios, that are expected to be impacted by the Complete 540 PA alignment. Table 3 provides a list of existing intersections and their existing traffic control details.

Table 3 Existing Study Area Intersection Details

| Intersection | Study ID \# | Traffic Control | Signal Phases | Signal Operation | Cross walk | Ped Signals |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NC 55 Bypass and Mid-block U-turn | 1 | Unsignalized | N/A | N/A | No | No |
| NC 55 Bypass and Old Smithfield Road | 2 | Unsignalized | N/A | N/A | No | No |
| NC 55 Bypass and NC 540 EB Ramps | 3 | Unsignalized | N/A | N/A | No | No |
| NC 55 Bypass and NC 540 WB Ramps | 4 | Unsignalized | N/A | N/A | No | No |
| Holly Springs Road (SR 1152) and Kildaire Farm Road (SR 1300) | 11 | Signal | 3 | Coordinated | No | No |
| US 401 and Donny Brook Road (SR 1503) / Old McCullers Rd (SR 2779) | 15 | Signal | 5 | Coordinated | No | No |
| US 401 and Wake Tech Drive / Chandler Ridge | 14 | Signal | 5 | Coordinated | Yes | Yes |
| NC 50 and Cleveland Road (SR 1010) / Stevens Oaks Drive (SR 5324) | 20 | Signal | 3 | Free-Run | No | No |
| White Oak Road (SR 2700) and Raynor Road (SR 2555) | 23 | Unsignalized | N/A | N/A | No | No |
| Rock Quarry Road (SR 2542) and Auburn-Knightdale Road (SR 2555) | 28 | Signal | 2 | Free-Run | No | No |
| Rock Quarry Road (SR 2542) and Old Baucom Road (SR 5204) | 31 | Unsignalized | N/A | N/A | No | No |
| Poole Road (SR 1007) and Hodge Road (SR 2516) | 34 | Signal | 3 | Free-Run | No | No |

Coordinated = Coordinated Signal Control (Closed Loop System)

### 2.4. Data Collection

Field verification of existing conditions and operations within the study area, including geometrics, traffic control devices, speed limits, and traffic patterns, was completed on June 16, 2016. In June 2016 HNTB received the most recent traffic signal plans in the study area from the NCDOT Transportation Mobility and Safety Division. The 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) documents were obtained from Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO).
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## 3. METHODOLOGY

The following pages describe the traffic volume development and capacity analysis methodologies used in this technical memorandum.

### 3.1. 2016 Base Year and 2040 Design Year Traffic Volume Development

The Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Traffic Forecast, prepared by HNTB North Carolina, was used to develop the AM and PM peak hour traffic volumes analyzed in this study. Appendix B contains the traffic forecast used in this report. Refer to the original traffic forecast documentation for additional details on the traffic counts conducted to support the traffic forecast.

Raw count data was not directly used in the 2016 Base Year traffic analyses for Complete 540. 2016 Base Year volumes that were analyzed in this report are a product of the final traffic forecast data that included daily traffic estimates/directional splits/design hourly volume estimates that were reduced to AM and PM peak hour information. Appendix $C$ contains the traffic forecast breakout peak hour traffic volumes

Daily traffic flows and design data (DHV and D) were entered into the NCDOT Congestion Management Section peak hour breakout spreadsheets for conversion into peak hour volumes at each study area intersection. The peak hour breakout spreadsheet results were converted into individual AM and PM peak hour movements for the proposed Complete 540 interchange forms in a separate conversion spreadsheet developed by HNTB. Both the peak hour breakout spreadsheets and the interchange conversion spreadsheets are found in Appendix C.

Traffic flows were balanced between ramp terminals at each interchange, and were balanced (through the Freeway Facilities software data entry) for mainline segments along existing and proposed Complete 540 alignments based on an entry input volume and subsequent peak hour breakout on-ramp/off-ramp volumes. In this manner, the existing freeway and proposed Complete 540 freeway systems were balanced with a different methodology (and results) than if individual interchange mainline volume breakouts were analyzed in individual HCS freeway segment analyses.

### 3.2. Capacity Analysis Methodology

Evaluating traffic operations on suburban arterials and uninterrupted flow freeway facilities is generally done by the determination of level of service (LOS) criteria. The level of service on a freeway segment, arterial corridor, or individual intersection correlates qualitative aspects of traffic flow to quantitative terms. This enables transportation professionals to take the qualitative issues, such as congestion and substandard geometrics, and translate them into measurable quantities, such as operating speeds, flow densities, and vehicular delays. The 2010 Highway Capacity Manual (HCM 2010) characterizes level of service by letter designations A through F. Level of service A represents ideal low-volume traffic operations, and level of service F represents oversaturated, high-volume traffic operations.

LOS for intersections is determined by average delay per vehicle, while LOS for freeway facilities is primarily determined by vehicular density of a defined freeway segment, merge/diverge area or weaving section. Level of service letter designations and criteria for arterial intersections (seconds of delay per vehicle) and for freeway facilities (average density in passenger cars per mile per lane ( $\mathrm{pc} / \mathrm{mi} / \mathrm{ln}$ )) are described in Table 4.

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The AM and PM peak hour results of this analysis are based on the LOS and delay procedures presented in the HCM 2010. To obtain optimized signal timings for the future traffic conditions, the timing optimization software Synchro Professional Version 9.0 was used to evaluate an optimal cycle length and phasing for the projected peak hour traffic volumes. Existing intersection signal plans were used in the analysis to develop cycle lengths, phasing, splits and intersection coordination along the project study area's arterial facilities (where applicable). NCDOT Congestion Management Section Capacity Analysis Guidelines were used in developing all other scenario timings for Build scenarios and/or future year analyses. SimTraffic Professional was used for microsimulation.

All freeway analyses, such as basic freeway segments and ramp merges and diverges, were analyzed using the Highway Capacity Software (HCS) 2010 freeway facilities system module (Freeway Facilities). Freeway Facilities allows the integration of individual segment analyses into corridor analysis to study potential multi-segment operational issues.

To simplify the process of organizing analysis results for all No-Build Alternative and Build Alternative scenarios, an identification scheme was developed for all freeway segments and study area intersections. Build Complete 540 freeway segments were analyzed in the HCS Freeway Facilities software package in the 2016 and 2040 analysis years, for the AM and PM peak hours, and in the eastbound and westbound directions. Segments are numbered sequentially in the eastbound/northbound direction and then the westbound/southbound direction. Each identification also includes a preceding letter designation for basic freeways (B), diverge ramp areas (D), merge ramp areas $(M)$ and weaving sections $(W)$ in the project study area.

To aid in the organizational process for analyzing surface street at-grade intersections and to assist in individual corridor signal coordination optimization, each Y-line facility intersecting Completing 540 was separated and numbered as individual zones in Synchro (1-12). Individual signalized and unsignalized study area intersections are then numbered 1-36 moving from west to east and south to north through the study area.

Table 4 Intersection \& Freeway Segment Level of Service (LOS) Characteristics

|  | Intersection |  | Freeway |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Level of Service Description | Per Vehicle Delay Signal Control (seconds) | Per Vehicle Delay Stop Control (seconds) | Basic Freeway Segment Density (pc/mi/ln) | Merge/Diverge/ Weaving Area Density (pc/mi/ln) |
| LOS A <br> Free flow <br> Freedom to select desired speed / maneuver is extremely high General level of comfort and convenience for motorists is excellent | < 10.0 | < 10.0 | 0-11.0 | <= 10.0 |
| LOS B <br> Stable flow <br> Other vehicles in the traffic stream become noticeable Reduction in freedom to maneuver from LOS A | 10.0-20.0 | 10.0-15.0 | >11.0-18.0 | >10.0-20.0 |
| LOS C <br> Stable flow <br> Maneuverability/operating speed are significantly affected by other vehicles General level of comfort and convenience declines noticeably | 20.0-35.0 | 15.0-25.0 | >18.0-26.0 | >20.0-28.0 |
| LOS D <br> High density but stable flow <br> Speed and freedom to maneuver are severely restricted <br> General level of comfort / convenience is poor <br> Small increases in traffic will generally cause operational problems | 35.0-55.0 | 25.0-35.0 | >26.0-35.0 | >28.0-35.0 |
| LOS E <br> Unstable flow <br> Speed reduced to lower but relatively uniform value <br> Volumes at or near capacity level <br> Comfort and convenience are extremely poor <br> Small flow increases/minor traffic disturbances will cause breakdowns | 55.0-80.0 | 35.0-50.0 | >35.0-45.0 | >35.0 |
| LOS F <br> Forced or breakdown flow <br> Volumes exceed roadway capacity <br> Formation of unstable queues <br> Stoppages for long periods of time because of traffic congestion | > 80.0 | > 50.0 | > 45.0 | Demand exceeds capacity |

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### 3.2.1. Freeway Analysis Methodology

The initial procedure for freeway analysis input into the HCS 2010 freeway facilities module (Freeway Facilities) involved the segmentation of existing (NC 540, I-40, US 70, I-495 / US 64 / US 264, I-540) and the proposed freeway facility (Complete 540). The functional design file for the PA was reviewed and segmented appropriately depending on its alignment, proposed interchange forms and geometric characteristics. Segments fall into the following categories - basic freeway segments, merge areas, diverge areas, weaving segments and collector-distributor facilities.

After segmentation, geometric and traffic flow inputs were entered into Freeway Facilities for each segment. For a basic freeway segment, these inputs and typical values used in this analysis) include:

- Traffic volumes were generated from NCDOT Forecast non-adjustable peak hour breakouts for the first entering mainline segment only.
- Four 15-minute time periods with demand adjustment factors of 0.89, 1.00, 1.11 and 1.00 were applied to the hourly demand to replicate a 0.90 peak hour factor. See Appendix $D$ for additional information.
- The number of lanes varies depending on existing geometrics, planned MTP improvements to existing freeway facilities or PA design. The standard PA design is for a six-lane divided facility in most locations, with three travel lanes in each direction. Auxiliary lanes are proposed along Complete 540 at the following locations:
- In both eastbound and westbound directions between Veridea Parkway (Old Holly Springs-Apex Road) and NC 55 Bypass,
- In both northbound and southbound directions between I-495 / US 64/ US 264 and Poole Road, and
- In both northbound and southbound directions between Complete 540/US 70 Bypass and NC 42.
- The terrain type is assumed to be "Rolling" for this area per the Design Criteria.
- The Base Free Flow Speed was assumed to be 5 mph greater than posted speed limits.
- The Truck Percentages were calculated from the Traffic Forecast as being equal to the percent Duals plus the percent TTST divided by two for all the peak hour mainline study area entry segments only. The truck percentages for all other mainline segments were calculated based on on/off-ramp percentages.
- Lane Width set to 12 feet.
- Right Shoulder Lateral Clearance set to 6 feet.
- Segment Lengths were determined by aerial photography or functional designs between upstream/downstream merge/diverge points.

The Freeway Facilities inputs for merging and diverging areas contain additional input parameters beyond the basic freeway segment information. These parameters, and typical values used in this analysis, include:

- On-Ramp/Off-Ramp volumes were generated from NCDOT Forecast non-adjustable peak hour breakouts.
- The location of Ramp Relative to Freeway was set to Right for all segments, given the PA alignment.
- Acceleration/Deceleration Lane Lengths were determined from aerial photography, field measurement or functional designs.
- The Free Flow Speeds on Ramps were set 50 mph for cloverleaf/flyover on/off ramps/diamond on/off ramps and 30 mph for loop ramps
- The Truck Percentage was taken from Traffic Forecast (Duals+TTST/2) for peak hour Y-lines.

The Freeway Facilities inputs for weaving areas contain additional input parameters beyond the basic freeway segment and ramp segment information. These parameters, and typical values used in this analysis, include:

- On-Ramp/Off-Ramp volumes were generated from NCDOT Forecast non-adjustable peak hour breakouts and factored counts.
- The location of Ramp Relative to Freeway was set to Right for all segments, given the PA alignment.
- Acceleration/Deceleration Lane Lengths were determined from aerial photography, field measurement or functional designs.
- The Free Flow Speeds on Ramps were set to 30 mph for loop ramps.

After inputs were entered into Freeway Facilities and checked, output data for each segment was collected for the segment density and corresponding LOS. In addition, system-wide information (by freeway direction) from Freeway Facilities was compiled and compared for the study alternatives.

The following Freeway Facilities analysis assumptions for service interchanges were also implemented in the development of the Freeway Facilities network files:

- On-Ramp/Off-Ramp Volumes (Maximum 1-lane ramp demand of 2,200 vehicles per hour. Where ramp demands exceeded 2,200 vehicles per hour, ramp lane was increased from 1 to 2-lanes). One exception to this assumption is at the NC 55 Bypass interchange. The off-ramp from eastbound NC 540 to southbound NC 55 Bypass and the on-ramp loop from northbound NC 55 Bypass to westbound NC 540 are analyzed as single-lane ramps to adhere to the existing configuration.
- Acceleration/Deceleration Lane Lengths (Maximum input distance of 1,500 feet. All distances exceeding 1,500 feet were reduced to 1,500 feet).
- Drop Lanes (Due to Freeway Facilities analysis limitations, an off-ramp was analyzed to remove volumes from the mainline to create the effect of a drop lane).

Additionally, the demand-to-capacity ( $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ) ratios for ramp roadways at the two system interchanges were checked for potential capacity issues using the method described in HCM 2010. The following parameters and assumptions were used in the analysis:

- On-Ramp/Off-Ramp volumes were generated from NCDOT Forecast non-adjustable peak hour breakouts.
- The Free Flow Speeds on the ramps were set 50 mph for cloverleaf/flyover on/off ramps/diamond on/off ramps and 30 mph for loop ramps
- The Truck Percentage was taken from Traffic Forecast (Duals+TTST/2) for peak hour Y-lines.
- The maximum capacity a single lane ramp was 2,200 passenger cars/hour (pc/h) for flyover ramps and 2,100 pc/h for loop ramps.

The capacity of each ramp roadway was determined by multiplying the number of lanes by the single-lane capacity of the ramp. The $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratios were calculated by dividing the demand flow rate by the overall capacity of the ramp roadway.

Detailed output from Freeway Facilities and the d/C ratio summary tables can be found in Appendix D.

### 3.2.2. Signalized Intersection Analysis Methodology

Signalized intersection capacity analyses were performed using Synchro Professional Software Version 9.0 for all scenarios. GIS-based roadway centerline information and georeferenced aerial photography were obtained from NCDOT and NC OneMap to establish a base map for developing the proper spatial orientation of the Synchro roadway network for the separate y-line arterial roadway corridors that have existing interchanges with I-40/US 264 or future PA interchanges with Complete 540 corridors that are being analyzed for this study. Per direction from NCDOT Congestion Management staff, no analysis of the Y-line ramp terminal intersections intersecting I-40, I-495 / US 64 / US 264 or US 64 Business beyond actual PA design footprints were made for this study.

HNTB 2016 Base Year PA traffic forecast volume data for the AM and PM peak hours was entered into the Synchro networks. Current signal plans were obtained from NCDOT and used for the 2016 No-Build Alternative inputs for signal phasing and timing (cycle length, splits, offset, and coordination). Additional signal timing details that comply with NCDOT Congestion Management practices and recommendations were also updated (lost time, no right-turn-onred, PHF, etc.) for the AM and PM peak hours.

2016 Build analysis and 2040 Design Year Build analysis included updates to Synchro inputs and parameters as follows:

- Traffic volume updates for each alternative from traffic forecast breakouts
- Optimization of cycle lengths/splits/offsets for the 2016 Base Year Build alternative
- Further optimization checks for 2040 Build alternatives
- Updating intersection control from unsignalized to signalized between No-Build and Build and/or base and future year scenarios, if warranted based on unsignalized intersection capacity analysis results and Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) peak hour signal warrant criteria/thresholds
- Permissible changes in signal phasing in situations where phase orders could improve performance and complied with NCDOT Congestion Management policies/guidelines
- Synchro default lane utilization factors (LUFs) were updated at intersections where dual left turns and/or downstream lane drops were present using the calculation methods outlined in the NCDOT research report titled False Capacity for Lane Drops by Lee, et al. (2005).
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### 3.2.3. Unsignalized Intersection Analysis Methodology

Unsignalized intersection capacity analyses were performed using the HCS 2010 Unsignalized report for two-way stop-controlled intersections in Synchro Professional Software Version 9.0. There are six existing unsignalized, two-way stop-controlled intersections in the project study area that were included in this analysis:

- NC 55 Bypass and Mid-block U-turn
- NC 55 Bypass and Old Smithfield Road
- NC 55 Bypass and NC 540 Eastbound Ramps
- NC 55 Bypass and NC 540 Westbound Ramps
- White Oak Road and Raynor Road
- Rock Quarry Road and Old Baucom Road

Unsignalized intersection analysis inputs were identical to the input methodology used for the signalized intersections and complied with NCDOT Congestion Management practices.

Microsimulation runs were performed using the SimTraffic software package for 2016 Base Year No-Build, 2016 Base Year Build PA and 2040 Design Year Build PA scenarios for the AM and PM peak hour conditions. The models were run for one hour with a 15-minute seeing period where traffic was loaded onto the network. Ten (10) model runs were conducted with 1-10 number seeds. SimTraffic queuing and blocking results were compiled as a check of 95th percentile queue length results from the Synchro output and as a general visual check of individual intersection operations. No direct comparisons were made between Synchro and SimTraffic results for vehicular delay and LOS.

Summary tables showing the LOS, delay, Synchro 95th percentile queues and SimTraffic maximum queues for each of the analysis scenarios are included in Appendix E. Detailed Synchro LOS and delay reports and SimTraffic queueing and blocking reports are also included in Appendix E.

## 4. DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

This Complete 540 technical memorandum includes analysis of the following scenarios:

- 2016 Base Year No-Build,
- 2016 Base Year Build PA, and
- 2040 Design Year Build PA.

A 2040 Design Year No-Build scenario is not included. Per Section 8 of the Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Traffic Forecast, "The Complete 540 project team considered the preparation of a 2040 Future Year No-Build (FYNB) traffic forecast in conjunction with the preparation of the Future Year Build (FYB) traffic forecast for the preferred alternative. A 2040 FYNB traffic forecast has not been developed. Various alternative means and methods are being explored at this time to quantitatively assess FYNB and FYB traffic forecast scenarios based on traffic operations and traffic conditions."

The following section describes the Build PA alternative analyzed in the report.

### 4.1. Complete 540 Build Preferred Alternative Description

The Complete 540 PA corridor follows the orange, green, mint, and green segment corridors as displayed in Exhibit 1 below and in Figure 1 included in Appendix A.

Exhibit $1 \quad$ Complete 540 Preferred Alternative (PA)


The Complete 540 PA corridor is comprised of three corridor segments. The first segment is the Orange Corridor for the southern section of the project. The Orange Corridor begins at the Triangle Expressway and NC 55 Bypass interchange in Holly Springs and travels eastward to the I-40 and US 70 Bypass interchange near the border of Wake and Johnston Counties. The Orange Corridor primarily runs to the south of and parallel to SR 1010 (Ten Ten Road) for most its alignment. The Orange Corridor includes planned interchanges at NC 55 Bypass, SR 1152 (Holly Springs Road), SR 1386 (Bells Lake Road), US 401, SR 1006 (Old Stage Road), NC 50, and I40.

The second corridor segment is the Green Corridor for the eastern section of the project. The Green Corridor begins at the I-40 and US 70 interchange and heads north/northeast to the existing I-540 and I-495 / US 64 / US 264 interchange. The Green Corridor has planned interchanges with I-40, SR 2700 (White Oak Road), US 70 Business, SR 2542 (Rock Quarry Road), SR 2555 (Auburn-Knightdale Road), SR 1007 (Poole Road), and I-495 / US 64 / US 264.

The third corridor segment is the Mint Corridor. The Mint Corridor has interchanges at the same locations as the Green Corridor. The only difference between the two alignments is that the section of the project between Rock Quarry Road and Auburn Knightdale Road has a proposed alignment slightly further to the east in the Mint Corridor option.

Table 5 summarizes the proposed interchange forms for the PA corridor along the southern and eastern sections of NC 540.

Table $5 \quad$ Interchange Forms for the Preferred Alternative

| Interchange | Interchange \# | Proposed Interchange Form* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NC 55 Bypass \& NC 540 | 1 | 6 Ramp Partial Cloverleaf with Loops in Quadrants A \& D |
| Holly Springs Road \& NC 540 | 2 | Diverging Diamond |
| Bells Lake Road \& NC 540 | 3 | Partial Cloverleaf with Loops in Quadrants A \& C |
| US 401 \& NC 540 | 4 | 6 Ramp Partial Cloverleaf with Loops in Quadrants A \& C |
| Old Stage Road \& NC 540 | 5 | Diamond |
| NC 50 \& NC 540 | 6 | Half Tight Diamond with Loop in Quadrant B |
| I-40/US 70 \& NC 540 | 7 | Dreamcatcher |
| White Oak Road \& NC 540 | 8 | Partial Cloverleaf with Loops in Quadrants B \& C |
| US 70 Business \& NC 540 | 9 | 6 Ramp Partial Cloverleaf with Loops in Quadrants A \& C |
| Rock Quarry Road/Old <br> Baucom Road \& NC 540 | 10 | Partial Cloverleaf with Loops in Quadrants A \& D |
| Auburn-Knightdale Road \& NC <br> 540 | 11 | Partial Cloverleaf with Loops in Quadrants A \& D |
| Poole Road \& NC 540 | 12 | Half Tight Diamond with Loop in Quadrant B |
| US 64/264 \& NC 540 | 13 | Semi directional with Loops in Quadrant B \& D |

*     - Proposed interchange forms selected by the project team are preliminary and subject to change.


### 4.2. 2040 Design Year Build PA Alternative Assumptions

The 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario assumes that the Complete 540 project will be constructed along with committed to and fiscally constrained 2040 MTP projects. Based on information collected to date for the Complete 540 project, the additional improvements shown in Table 6 are currently anticipated (or approved in the 2040 CAMPO MTP) in the project study area by the 2040 Design Year. Therefore, the project assumes the additional improvements from the 2040 MTP in the 2040 Design Year.

Additionally, NCDOT STIP Project R-2635D, also referred to as Access 540, proposes to convert the existing grade separation of Veridea Parkway (formerly Old Holly Springs-Apex Road) over NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) to a partial cloverleaf interchange and construct auxiliary lanes
between US 1 and NC 55 Bypass. The project is currently scheduled to be open to traffic in 2017. R-2635D functional design plans, prepared by HNTB, were reviewed and incorporated into the freeway analysis only. A partial cloverleaf, with loop ramps in the northeast and southeast quadrants, was analyzed in Freeway Facilities by inserting diverge and merge segments into the existing NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) freeway network configuration. The 2040 Design Year Build freeway analysis was updated from the 2016 Base Year to include this interchange adjacent to the Complete 540 western project termini at NC 55 Bypass. It was assumed that all existing roadway geometrics, laneage, and traffic control would remain consistent with 2016 Base Year information along all other areas.

NCDOT is currently evaluating five alternatives for reconfiguration of the I-40 and NC 42 interchange as part of STIP I-4739 project. However, a preferred alternative and interchange form is yet to be determined. Therefore, a preferred interchange form was not assumed in the Complete 540 analysis. HNTB is coordinating with the NCDOT and STIP I-4739 project team to coordinate the connectivity between the two projects.

Table 62040 MTP Changes to Study Area Roadways

| SR <br> Number | Road Name | Segment | Number of Lanes |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Existing | 2040 MTP |
|  | I-40 | Exit 306 (US 70 Business) to Exit 312 (NC 42) | 4 | $10^{1}$ |
| - | I-540 | Exit 24 (US 64 Business) to Exit 26 (US 64/264) | 6 | $8^{1}$ |
| - | US 64 / US 264 | Exit 422 (Hodge Road) to Exit 425 (Smithfield Road) | 6 | 8 |
| - | US 70 | Exit 318 (1-40) to Exit 320 (NC 42) | 4 | 4 |
| - | US 401 | Ten Ten Road to Tech Road | 4 | 6 |
|  | NC 50 | Ten Ten Road to Cleveland School Road | 2 | 4 |
| - | NC 55 Bypass | E Williams Street to Old Smithfield Road | 4 | 6 |
| - | US 70 Business | I-40 to NC 42 | 4 | 6 |
| 1007 | Poole Road | Hodge Road to Clifton Road | 2 | 4 |
| 1152 | Holly Springs Road | Ten Ten Road to Kildaire Farm Road | 2 | $4^{2}$ |
| 1152 | Holly Springs Road | Kildaire Farm Road to Sunset Lake Road | 2 | $4^{2}$ |
| 1006 | Old Stage Road | Ten Ten Road to Banks Road | 2 | 4 |
| 1010 | Cleveland School Road | NC 50 to NC 42 | 2 | 2 |
| 2542 | Rock Quarry Road | Battle Bridge Road to E. Garner Road | 2 | 4 |
| 1386 | Bells Lake Road | Ten Ten Road to Optimist Farm Road | 2 | 2 |
| 2700 | White Oak Road | Raynor Road to Carley Circle | 2 | 4 |
| 2555 | Auburn-Knightdale Road | Battle Bridge Road to Grasshopper Road | 2 | 2 |
| 1503 | Donny Brook Road | Lake Wheeler Road to US 401 | 2 | 2 |
| 2555 | Raynor Road | White Oak Road to Twain Drive | 2 | 2 |
| 5204 | Old Baucom Road | Rock Quarry Road to Brown Field Road | 2 | 2 |
| 2516 | Hodge Road | US 264/64 to Poole Road | 2 | 2 |
| 2779 | Old McCullers Road | US 401 to Ten Ten Road | 2 | 2 |

[^1]
## 5. FREEWAY SEGMENT ANALYSIS

This section presents the capacity analysis for freeway facilities for 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build and 2040 Design Year Build PA scenarios within the Complete 540 project study area. AM and PM peak hour traffic volumes and existing/proposed lane geometrics were entered into the HCS 2010 Freeway Facilities software module. Detailed segment measures of effectiveness results for the worst-case AM and PM peak hour for the Complete 540 are presented in Tables 12 and 13.

### 5.1. 2016 Base Year Analysis

This analysis uses the 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build peak hour traffic volumes and existing/proposed lane geometrics to evaluate traffic operations on the Complete 540, NC 540, I40, US 70, I-495 / US 64 / US 264 and I-540 uninterrupted flow facilities in the project study area. The analysis determines individual freeway segment and system-wide density and LOS measures of effectiveness for 2016 Build PA scenario.

### 5.1.1. $\quad 2016$ No-Build Scenario Results

All the segments along existing freeway facilities perform at an acceptable LOS D or better in the AM and PM peak hours. Figure 2 provides a sheet key for the No-Build freeway segment figures. Figures 3.1 to 3.5 schematically show 2016 Base Year No-Build existing laneage and intersection traffic control for roadways in the study area, along with the scheme for freeway segment identification numbers.

### 5.1.2. 2016 Build PA Scenario Results

For Complete 540 PA operations, all freeway segments are expected to operate at LOS D or better. For the US 70 and I-495 / US 64 / US 264 corridors, all freeway segments are projected to operate at LOS D or better. For the I-40 corridor, the eastbound segment results indicate that corridor operations and segment densities will slightly worsen from the No-Build scenario with two (2) segments at near capacity (LOS E) to one (1) segment at near capacity and another one exceeding peak hour capacity (LOS F). The results for the westbound segments indicate that corridor operations and segment densities will slightly improve from the No-Build scenario with seven (7) segments to six (6) segments in Build scenario near (LOS E) or exceeding (LOS F) peak hour capacity in Build.

Figure 4 provides a sheet key for the Build PA freeway segment figures. Figures 5.1 to 5.9 schematically show 2016 Base Year Build volumes, intersection traffic control, freeway segment identification numbers and LOS for the PA.

### 5.2. 2040 Design Year Analysis

This analysis uses the 2040 Design Year Build peak hour traffic volumes and future planned/proposed freeway geometrics to evaluate traffic operations on the Complete 540, NC 540, I-40, US 70, I-495 / US 64 / US 264 and I-540 uninterrupted flow facilities in the project study area. Like the 2016 scenario evaluations, this analysis determines individual freeway segment and system-wide density and LOS measures of effectiveness for the 2040 Build PA scenario.

### 5.2.1. $\quad 2040$ Build PA Scenario Results

For Complete 540 PA operations, all freeway segments are expected to operate at LOS D or better. For the NC 540 corridor, between NC 55 Bypass and Veridea Parkway (formerly Old

Holly Springs-Apex Road), two basic segments (OHSARI B1-D2 \& D2-B3) in the eastbound PM peak are expected to operate at (LOS E) or exceeding (LOS F) peak hour capacity. For the l-40 corridor, results indicate that corridor operations and segment densities will slightly improve from the No-Build scenario, with all segments expected to operate at LOS D or better. For the US 70 corridor, all freeway segments are projected to operate at LOS D or better. On the I-495 / US 64 / US 264 corridor, results indicate that four (4) eastbound and three (3) westbound segments at (LOS E) or exceeding (LOS F) peak hour capacity.

Figures 6.1 to 6.9 show the traffic volumes, intersection traffic control, freeway segment identification numbers and LOS for the study area intersections in the 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario. The 2040 Design Year Build PA laneage and future 2040 MTP laneage assumptions are shown in Figures 7.1 to 7.9.

Tables 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 provide an overall summary and comparison of LOS results for the AM and PM peak hour LOS for basic freeway sections, merges, diverges and weaves across all three scenarios. Detailed segment measures of effectiveness results for the AM and PM peak hours are presented in Tables 12 and 13. Appendix D contains the detailed HCS 2010 Freeway Facilities output files and corridor summary tables.

Complete 540 and I-540 will form a continuous freeway facility corridor once Complete 540 is constructed; therefore, these facilities are included in the Complete 540 corridor summary Tables 7, 12 and 13. NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) would also be part of the continuous freeway facility corridor but was included in a separate table as this section was analyzed separately under the R-2635D project.

Table $7 \quad$ Freeway Operations Summary - Complete 540

| Scenario | Complete 540 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Eastbound |  |  |  |  |  | Westbound |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS | LOS F | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS | LOS F |
| 2016 No-Build | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2016 Build | 55 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2040 Build | 12 | 35 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 28 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

*-Table shows the number of segments for each LOS
Table 8 Freeway Operations Summary - NC 540

| Scenario | NC 540 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Eastbound |  |  |  |  |  | Westbound |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | OS | LOS F | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | OS | LOS F |
| 2016 No-Build | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2016 Build | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2040 Build | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

*-Table shows the number of segments for each LOS
Table $9 \quad$ Freeway Operations Summary - I-40

| Scenario | 1-40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Eastbound |  |  |  |  |  | Westbound |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS E | LOS F | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS | LOS F |
| 2016 No-Build | 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| 2016 Build | 2 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 2040 Build | 2 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*-Table shows the number of segments for each LOS

NCDOT STIP R-2721, R-2828 \& R-2829
Complete 540 Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension
Preferred Alternative - Traffic Analysis Technical Memorandum
Table 10 Freeway Operations Summary - US 70

| Scenario | US 70 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Eastbound |  |  |  |  |  | Westbound |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS E | LOS F | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS E | LOS F |
| 2016 No-Build | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2016 Build | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2040 Build | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*-Table shows the number of segments for each LOS
Table 11 Freeway Operations Summary - I-495 / US 64 / US 264

| Scenario | I-495 / US 64 / US 264 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Eastbound |  |  |  |  |  | Westbound |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS | LOS F | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS | LOS F |
| 2016 No-Build | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2016 Build | 0 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 2040 Build | 0 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 0 |

*-Table shows the number of segments for each LOS

### 5.3. Ramp Demand-to-Capacity Ratios

The capacity and operations of freeway ramps at system interchanges can have a major impact on roadway network and corridor operations. Deficiencies in freeway ramp capacity can cause upstream and downstream operational issues on the subject freeway facility and adjacent freeway/Y-line facilities. Therefore, the demand flow rate on the ramps at the two system interchanges were checked against the capacity of ramp roadways. Based on the analysis, all the ramps at the Complete 540 at I-40/US 70 Bypass system interchange are projected to operate with demand to capacity ( $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ) ratios less than (<) 1 in both the AM and PM peak hours. At the Complete 540, l-540 and I-495 / US 64 / US 264 system interchange, the ramps from westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 (Location \# 2) in the AM peak and the loop ramp from southbound I-540 to eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 (Location \# 10) in the PM peak hour are projected to operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio greater than (>) 1. To operate at d/C ratio less than (<) 1, the westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 (Location \# 2) would require two continuous lanes to merge with the eastbound ramp and on to l-540. The loop ramp from southbound I-540 to eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 (Location \# 10) would require two lanes to operate at d/C ratio less than (<) 1. The ramps from eastbound and westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 (Location \# 1) in the AM peak, from eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 (Location \# 3) in the PM peak and from southbound I-540 to westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 (Location \# 8) in the AM peak hour are nearing capacity ( $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio > 0.85). If the demand for any of these ramps nearing capacity exceed the estimated demand in 2040, an additional lane may be necessary to operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio less than (<) 1. Where ramp volumes are projected to be near or exceed capacity, the feasibility of providing two lanes should be considered during the project development process. The d/C ratio summary tables for 2040 Build PA scenario and figures (Figure D. 1 and Figure D.2) showing location numbers are included in Appendix D.

Table 12 Complete 540 Detailed Freeway Operations Summary - AM Peak


NCDOT STIP R-2721, R-2828 \& R-2829

Table 13 Complete 540 Detailed Freeway Operations Summary - PM Peak


## 6. INTERSECTION CAPACITY ANALYSIS

This section presents the capacity analysis for all the intersections for 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build and 2040 Design Year Build PA scenarios within the Complete 540 project study area. LOS results and additional intersection details for these scenarios are found in the raw Synchro/SimTraffic output sheets in Appendix E. A tabular results summary across all scenarios is found in Table 14 on the following pages.

The anticipated changes to the study area at-grade intersections between the No-Build and Build analyses are listed below:

- Ramp terminal intersections at the interchange of NC 540 and NC 55 Bypass were converted from unsignalized to signalized control. At the eastbound ramps, only the southbound left-turn, northbound through and right-turn, and westbound right-turn movements will be under signal control. The southbound through and eastbound rightturn movements will operate under free-flowing conditions. At the westbound ramps, the northbound right-turn movement will operate under free-flowing conditions while all other movements will be under signal control.
- The Old Smithfield Road and Mid-block U-turn intersections along NC 55 Bypass were converted from unsignalized to signalized control due the heavy volumes and the wide cross-section along NC 55 Bypass. At the Old Smithfield Road intersection, only the southbound through and northbound left-turn movements will operate under signal control. The northbound through will operate under free-flowing condition while the eastbound right-turn and westbound right-turn will operate under stop-control. Per the HCS Peak Hour Signal Warrants Analysis module results, this intersection meets the MUTCD peak hour signal warrant threshold in both 2016 and 2040 Build PA scenarios. At the Mid-block U-turn intersection, the southbound U-turn and northbound through will operate under the signal control while the southbound through will operate under free-flowing conditions.


### 6.1. 2016 Base Year Analysis

This analysis uses the 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build peak hour traffic volumes and existing and proposed geometrics to evaluate traffic operations at all the intersections in the project study area.

### 6.1.1. 2016 No-Build Scenario Results

For the 2016 No-Build alternative AM and PM peak hour scenarios, 8 out of the 12 analyzed intersections operate at LOS D or better in the AM and PM peak hours. The two ramp terminal intersections at the interchange of NC 540 and NC 55 Bypass were not analyzed because they currently operate under free-flow conditions with the existing geometric configuration. Intersections that experience deficient overall LOS in at least one peak hour include:

- Holly Springs Road and Kildaire Farm Road Drive in the PM (LOS E) peak hour, due to high vehicular delays for the eastbound right-turn movement from Kildaire Farm Road to Holly Springs Road.
- NC 50 and Cleveland School Road / Stevens Oaks Drive in the AM peak hour (LOS E), due to limited capacity for the westbound right-turn movement from Cleveland School Road to NC 50, southbound left-turn movement from NC 50 to Cleveland School Road and due to heavy opposing traffic for the northbound through movement along NC 50.
- White Oak Road and Raynor Road in both the AM (LOS F) and PM (LOS F) peak hours, due to the high vehicular delay for the southbound shared left and right-turn movements on Raynor Road.


### 6.1.2. $\quad 2016$ Build PA Scenario Results

For the 2016 Build PA AM and PM peak hour scenarios, it was assumed that all existing signalized intersections in the project study area would be re-optimized, to reflect anticipated traffic volume changes that were included in the Complete 540 traffic forecast data. These changes had a positive effect on operations at the NC 50 and Cleveland School Road / Stevens Oaks Drive intersection, Rock Quarry Road and Auburn Knightdale Road intersection, and the Poole Road and Hodge Road intersection, with AM and PM peak hour LOS improving to LOS C or better. No intersections, including the new ramp terminal intersections added in the Build PA scenario, are expected to operate at an overall LOS E or LOS F in the 2016 Base Year.

At the White Oak Road and Raynor Road intersection, the southbound exclusive left and shared through/right-turn approach will operate at LOS F under stop control in both AM and PM peak hours. Per the HCS Peak Hour Signal Warrants Analysis module results, this intersection meets the MUTCD peak hour signal warrant threshold in both 2016 and 2040 Build PA scenarios, and therefore was analyzed as a signalized intersection in both scenarios. Consideration should be given to operating this intersection as unsignalized and monitor it for future signalization. With the signalization, this intersection is expected to operate at LOS B during both peaks in the 2016 Build PA scenario.

The HCS Peak Hour Signal Warrants Analysis reports are included in Appendix F. Summary figures showing traffic volumes and overall intersection LOS for the 2016 No-Build (Existing) scenario can be found in Figures 3.1 to 3.5. Figures 5.1 to 5.9 show the traffic volumes, intersection traffic control, freeway segment identification numbers and LOS for the study area intersections in the 2016 Base Year Build PA scenario. A 2016 Base Year Build PA Laneage figure is not provided in this report; however, the summary figures provided for the 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario shows where additional 2040 MTP laneage was added to the 2016 Base Year Build laneage.

### 6.2. 2040 Design Year Analysis

As mentioned in Section 4, a 2040 Design Year No-Build scenario was not included in this analysis. A comparison of 2040 Design Year No-Build and Build traffic conditions using the Triangle Regional Model (TRM) as a tool will be included in the Complete 540 Quantitative Indirect and Cumulative Effects (ICE) documentation.

This section presents future anticipated roadway network changes and capacity analysis results for the 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario in the AM and PM peak hours for the intersections within the Complete 540 project study area.

### 6.2.1. $\quad 2040$ Build PA Scenario Results

Of the 36 study area intersections analyzed at interchange ramp terminals or adjacent Y -lines, four (4) intersections are projected to experience operational deficiencies, as shown in Table 14.

As per the 2040 MTP, NC 55 Bypass will be widened to a six-lane facility by the year 2030. Three (3) of the four (4) intersections projected to experience operational deficiencies are along NC 55 Bypass, two (2) of which are the ramp terminal intersections. The NC 55 Bypass and NC 540 westbound ramps intersection is expected to operate at LOS F in the AM peak hour. The partial signal at NC 55 Bypass and NC 540 eastbound ramps intersection is expected to operate at LOS F in the AM and LOS E in the PM peak hour. This is due to the high vehicular volume and limited capacity along NC 55 Bypass.

The intersection of realigned Donny Brook Road/Chandler Ridge Circle/Wake Tech Drive and US 401 is expected to operate at LOS E in the AM and LOS C in the PM. The addition of the eastbound Donny Brook Road traffic to the eastbound Chandler Ridge Circle traffic in the Build PA scenario resulted in increased delay at this intersection. All other intersections are expected to operate at an overall LOS D or better in the 2040 Design Year.

Figures 6.1 to 6.9 show the traffic volumes, intersection traffic control, freeway segment identification numbers and LOS for the study area intersections in the 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario. The 2040 Design Year Build PA laneage and future 2040 MTP laneage assumptions are shown in Figures 7.1 to 7.9.

Table 14 Detailed Intersection Capacity Analysis Results Summary


Table 14 (Continued) Detailed Intersection Capacity Analysis Results Summary


X (X) - AM (PM) Peak Hour Level of Service; \#\#.\# (\#\#.\#) - AM (PM) Peak Hour Delay in Seconds Per Vehicle
Cell Shading - Green $=$ LOS A - D, Orange $=$ LOS E, Red $=$ LOS F;
BOLD/ITALIC = Intersection/Approach/Movement that has Operational Deficiencies (LOS E or F)

* Unsignalized Intersection - No Overall or Approach LOS/Delay Reported by HCM Methodology


## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Complete 540 traffic capacity analysis was completed to evaluate 2016 Base Year No-Build and Build, and 2040 Design Year Build peak hour traffic operations for the Complete 540 Preferred Alternative and surrounding freeway facilities and nearby intersections within the traffic analysis study area. The recommended freeway, arterial, interchange and intersection geometrics and intersection control for the Complete 540 PA are presented in Figures 7.1 to 7.9. Recommended and analyzed geometrics for the PA are included in the detailed capacity analysis outputs from HCS Freeway Facilities and Synchro/SimTraffic in Appendices $E$ and $F$, respectively.

Based on the 2016 Base Year capacity analysis, all the No-Build and Build PA freeway and intersection facilities are projected to operate at acceptable LOS D or better.

Based on the 2040 Design Year capacity analysis, the following conclusions and recommendations are presented for study area facilities and intersections:

## Complete 540 Preferred Alternative Corridor

All Complete 540 PA freeway segments and interchange design configurations are projected to operate at LOS D or better in the 2040 Design Year, based on the current functional designs for Complete 540 as a six-lane, toll facility, as shown in Table 15.

Of the 36 study area intersections analyzed at interchange ramp terminals or adjacent Y -lines, only 4 intersections are projected to experience operational deficiencies as shown in Table 16. Three (3) of the four (4) intersections potentially experiencing operational deficiencies are the two interchange ramp terminal intersections along NC 55 Bypass. This is due to the high vehicular volume and limited capacity along NC 55 Bypass. The intersection of realigned Donny Brook Road/Chandler Ridge Circle/Wake Tech Drive and US 401 is expected to operate at LOS E in the AM and LOS C in the PM. Reasonably feasible laneage improvements were considered and implemented at these four (4) intersection locations as part of the Complete 540 project.

## NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) Corridor

Based on the 2040 Design Year Build PA analysis results, two basic segments (OHSARI B1-D2 \& D2-B3) between NC 55 Bypass and Veridea Parkway (formerly Old Holly Springs-Apex Road) in the eastbound PM peak experience projected operational deficiencies. This is mainly due to the limited capacity between the eastbound off-ramp and on-ramps at Old Holly Springs-Apex Road. All the westbound segments are expected to operate at LOS D or better.

## I-540 Corridor

The existing section of l-540 from I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to US 64 Business is projected to operate at acceptable LOS D or better with construction of Complete 540 and I-540 planned widening to an 8-lane facility as per 2040 MTP.

## l-40 Corridor

Based on the 2040 Design Year Build PA analysis results, the existing sections of I-40 are projected to operate at acceptable LOS C or better, with construction of Complete 540 and I-40 planned widening to a 10-lane facility with eight (8) general purpose lanes and two (2) managed lanes as per the 2040 MTP. The PA proposes a five-leg system interchange with I-40 and US 70 and provides acceptable interchange spacing between US 70 and NC 42 . The potential impacts
of Complete 540 on I-40, US 70, US 70 Business and the system interchange operations will be re-evaluated to complete an interstate access report.

## US 70 Corridor

The existing section of US 70 from I-40 to NC 42 is projected to operate at acceptable LOS D or better with construction of Complete 540 in 2040 Design Year.

## I-495 / US 64 / US 264 Corridor

Capacity analysis results indicate that I-495 / US 64 / US 264 is operating near or over capacity with operational deficiencies in the 2040 Design Year Build AM and PM peak hours. In the 2040 Design Year Build PA scenario, I-495 / US 64 / US 264 from Hodge Road to Smithfield Road is projected to operate at LOS E or $F$ for 4 of 13 eastbound segments and 3 of 13 westbound segments as a six-lane freeway facility. Construction of Complete 540 proposes modifying the existing directional system interchange with I-495 / US 64 / US 264 and I-540 by connecting the forth leg and constructing a flyover and a loop ramp. The system interchange was planned, designed and constructed to accommodate the future completion and connection of the 540 loop. This interchange modification would add one eastbound and one westbound freeway merge on I-495 / US 64 / US 264. The potential impacts of Complete 540 on I-495 / US 64 / US 264, I-540 and the system interchange operations will be re-evaluated to complete an interstate access report.

## Ramp Demand-to-Capacity Ratios

Based on the analysis, all the ramps at the Complete 540 at I-40/US 70 Bypass system interchange are projected to operate with demand to capacity ( $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ) ratios less than 1 in both the AM and PM peak hours. At the Complete 540, I-540 and I-495 / US 64 / US 264 system interchange, the ramps from westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 in the AM peak and the loop ramp from southbound I-540 to eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 in the PM peak hour are projected to operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio greater than (>) 1. To operate at d/C ratio less than (<) 1, the westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 would require two continuous lanes to merge with the eastbound ramp and on to l-540. The loop ramp from southbound I-540 to eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 (Location \# 10) would require two lanes to operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio less than (<) 1. The ramps from eastbound and westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 in the AM peak, from eastbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 to northbound I-540 in the PM peak and from southbound I-540 to westbound I-495 / US 64 / US 264 in the AM peak hour are nearing capacity ( $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio $>0.85$ ). If the demand for any of these ramps nearing capacity exceed the estimated demand in 2040, an additional lane may be necessary to operate at $\mathrm{d} / \mathrm{C}$ ratio less than (<) 1. Where ramps volumes are projected to be near or exceed capacity, the feasibility of providing two lanes should be considered during the project development process.

Table 15 Overall Freeway Operations Summary

| Scenario | Complete 540 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Eastbound |  |  |  |  |  | Westbound |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS E | LOS F | LOS A | LOS B | LOS C | LOS D | LOS E | LOS F |
| 2016 No-Build | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2016 Build | 55 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2040 Build | 12 | 35 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 28 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

*-Table shows the number of segments for each LOS

Table 16 Overall Intersection Capacity Analysis Summary

| Scenario | Number of Intersections Operating at Given LOS in at Least One AM |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | or PM Peak Hour* |  |  |  |  |  |

*-For signalized intersections, overall intersection LOS. For unsignalized intersections, worst-case critical movement.

## APPENDIX

## Appendix A - Figures

1) Traffic Analysis Study Area
2) No Build Traffic Analysis Figures Sheet Key
3) 3.1 - 3.5) 2016 No-Build Laneage, Volumes, LOS \& ID
4) Build Traffic Analysis Figures Sheet Key
5) 5.1 - 5.9) 2016 Build Laneage, Volumes, LOS \& ID
6) $6.1-6.9) \quad 2040$ Build PA Volumes, LOS \& ID
7) 7.1 - 7.9) 2040 Build PA Laneage \& LOS











SR 1152
(Holly Springs Road)










SR 1152
(Holly Springs Road)










SR 1152
(Holly Springs Road)









[^0]:    Transportation Research Board, Highway Capacity Manual. Washington, D.C.: National Research Council, 2010.

[^1]:    1 - Includes 2 Managed Lanes.
    ${ }^{2}$ - Analyzed 6-lane section at NC 540 interchange and 4-lane section at project limits.

