



Complete 540

Triangle Expressway Southeast Extension
PO Box 30923
Raleigh, NC 27622



PLANNING STUDY & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NEWSLETTER 5 ■ NOVEMBER 2015

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Now Available for Review

The Complete 540 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been published by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Along with other important information, the Draft EIS contains a summary of the impacts associated with the alternative route locations under consideration for the project.

The Draft EIS, along with maps showing the alternative routes, is available for review at many area planning departments, at the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization office in downtown Raleigh, and at NCDOT offices in Raleigh and Durham. The Draft EIS by itself, without the route maps, is available at several area libraries. A complete list of public review locations, with addresses, is shown inside this newsletter. These documents are also available for review and downloading on the project website at www.ncdot.gov/complete540.

Public Hearing Scheduled

With the Complete 540 Draft EIS now approved for public distribution, the formal review period has begun. This is a period of time for the public to thoroughly review the Draft EIS and to provide comments. The formal comment period for the Draft EIS will end on January 8, 2016. All comments received before this date will become part of the official record of the project.

An important part of the formal comment period is the public hearing process. Public hearings provide an opportunity for the public to make verbal comments for the project record in a formal setting. All comments, whether submitted before, during, or after the public hearing, become part of the project record, provided they are received by January 8, 2016.

NCDOT has scheduled one formal public hearing and three informal public meetings as part of the Draft EIS review

period. Unlike the public hearings, the public meetings are an opportunity for the public to ask questions and discuss the project with NCDOT representatives informally, and at any time during the posted hours.

A live broadcast of the December 9 hearing presentation will also be available via the Internet. Please visit the project website for details.

Public Meetings and Hearing Locations and Hours

Monday, December 7, 2015

Barwell Road Elementary School
3925 Barwell Road, Raleigh 27610
Public Meeting: 6 PM to 8 PM

Note: Public meeting only—no formal hearing on this date.

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Holly Springs High School
5329 Cass Holt Rd, Holly Springs 27540
Public Meeting: 6 PM to 8 PM

Note: Public meeting only—no formal hearing on this date.

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Wake Tech Community College - Student Services Building
9101 Fayetteville Rd, Raleigh 27603
Public Meeting: 4 PM to 6:30 PM; Hearing: 7 PM

Note: This hearing presentation will be streamed live. See project website for details.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons who wish to participate in these events. To receive special services, please contact the NCDOT by phone at 919-707-6085 or email complete540@ncdot.gov. Please provide adequate notice prior to the date of the meeting so that arrangements can be made.

Get Involved, Stay Informed

The objective of this study's community outreach program is to solicit input through an open, dynamic process that includes as many residents, business owners, property owners, local agencies, community groups and other stakeholders within the project study area as possible. This process is intended to involve people early and often, and to share information as it becomes available. A variety of techniques are being used to ensure meaningful involvement from the community.

Public participation and feedback is integral to the project development process. By sharing your ideas and concerns, you can help us identify appropriate transportation solutions in your community. We encourage you to attend one of

the public meetings or the public hearing described in this newsletter. Questions about these events, or about the study in general, can be submitted in any of the following ways:

Email | complete540@ncdot.gov

Website | www.ncdot.gov/projects/complete540/

Telephone | 1-800-554-7849

US Mail | Mr. Jamille Robbins, North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

mySidewalk

In addition to the public meetings and hearings, NCDOT is using an online public engagement tool called **mySidewalk** to provide the public and our stakeholders another way to learn more about the process and provide feedback. All comments submitted using **mySidewalk** will carry the same weight as any other comment, whether written or verbal. This forum can be accessed at:

engageNCDOT.mysidewalk.com



Si desea recibir una copia de este boletín en Español, por favor llame al número de teléfono 1-800-481-6494, o envíe un correo electrónico a complete540@ncdot.gov. Servicios de intérprete estarán disponibles en la junta para las personas que hablan Español y no hablan Inglés o si tienen una capacidad limitada para leer, hablar o entender el Inglés. Para obtener más información sobre estos servicios, por favor llame al número de teléfono 1-800-481-6494.

The Complete 540 study is being developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and includes the preparation of an EIS.

The study includes the following steps:

STEP 1

- Collect data; identify local needs
- Define purpose and need of project
- Hold public input events

STEP 2

- Identify possible routes
- Gather community concerns
- Conduct field studies
- Hold public input events
- Select potential routes for detailed study

STEP 3

- Study potential routes in detail; prepare roadway designs of alternative routes
- Conduct engineering studies
- Conduct field surveys
- Conduct environmental analysis

STEP 4

- Prepare and distribute Draft EIS

STEP 5

- Hold formal public hearing

STEP 6

- Review all comments made on the Draft EIS
- Select preferred route

STEP 7

- Develop preliminary engineering designs
- Conduct additional field studies
 - Prepare and distribute Final EIS
 - Receive final federal approval of project route (Record of Decision)

STEP 8

- Begin final design; conduct Design Public Hearing*
- Begin permit acquisition, financing, right-of-way acquisition, and construction activities*

* Assuming project approval and availability of funding.

WE ARE HERE



Procedure for Making Verbal Comments

At the public hearing, opportunities to provide verbal comments in a formal setting are provided. Each individual who wishes to speak is allowed three minutes to make their statement. Should anyone wish to speak for a longer time, that person may do so for another three minutes, but only after all others who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so.

Those who would like to make a comment during the formal proceedings are asked to complete a “speaker card.” These cards will be distributed at the hearing sign-in table. NCDOT staff will collect these cards and call on individuals to speak in the order in which they were received.

Individuals who wish to make verbal comments but would rather not do so not in a formal setting may take advantage of the comment recording station that will be available during the project’s public meetings. Regardless of which method is chosen to make verbal comments, a verbatim transcript of those comments will be prepared and will be included in the project record.

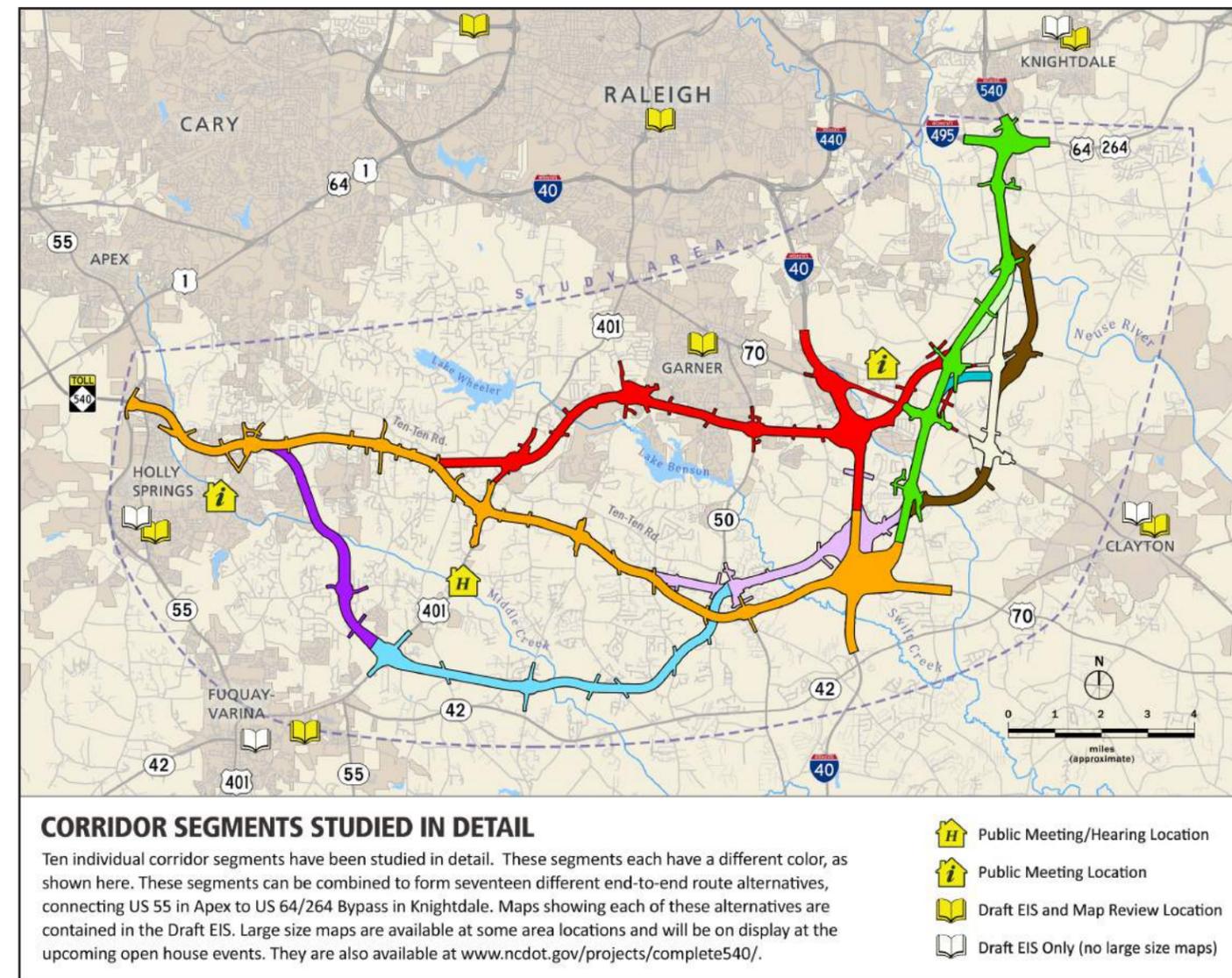
Please note that, as described on the front page of this newsletter, written comments will also be accepted and carry the same weight as verbal comments.

Public Notice on “De Minimis” Impact to Parklands

Each of the potential routes under consideration for the Complete 540 project would, to some extent, affect public park resources in the project’s study area. Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 gives special protection to public parks and recreational resources. Under Section 4(f), these resources cannot, in most cases, be disrupted by highway projects unless it can be shown that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to doing so. However, FHWA is provided with a method, known as a “*de minimis* impact determination,” in cases where the official with jurisdiction over the park or recreational property concurs that the project would not adversely affect the property.

With this newsletter, the FHWA and NCDOT are providing public notice of proposed *de minimis* impact determinations under Section 4(f) for the Complete 540 project’s potential effects on three recreational resources in the project area. These three resources are the Town of Cary’s Middle Creek School Park, the Watershed Extension Loop Trail in the Clemmons Educational State Forest (managed by the North Carolina Forest Service), and the Neuse River Trail (managed by the City of Raleigh). As documented in the project’s Draft EIS, the study’s Section 4(f) evaluation showed that the potential effects on each of these resources would not adversely affect their recreational characteristics.

Comments on the proposed *de minimis* determination may be submitted to the NCDOT (as shown on the back page of this newsletter). The comment period for the *de minimis* determinations ends January 8, 2016.



Draft EIS and Map Review Locations

Printed copies of the Draft EIS and, at some locations, maps of the routes being considered are available for public review as shown below. Electronic copies are available on the project website at www.ncdot.gov/projects/complete540/.

Draft EIS and Route Map Locations:

- NCDOT District Office – Wake County**
4009 District Dr., Raleigh
919-733-3213
- Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Org.**
421 Fayetteville St., Suite 203, Raleigh
919-996-4400
- Holly Springs Dept. of Planning & Zoning**
128 South Main St., Holly Springs
919-557-3908
- Fuquay-Varina Planning Department**
401 Old Honeycutt Rd., Fuquay-Varina
919-552-1429
- Garner Planning Department**
900 Seventh Ave., Garner
919-773-4449

- Clayton Planning Department**
111 East Second St., Clayton
919-553-5002
- NCDOT Highway Division 5 Office***
2612 N. Duke Street, Durham
919-220-4799 (*not shown on above map)

Locations for Draft EIS only (no maps):

- Knightdale Development Services**
950 Steeple Square Court, Knightdale
919-217-2241
- Holly Springs Community Library**
300 W. Ballentine St., Holly Springs
919-577-1660
- Fuquay-Varina Community Library**
133 S. Fuquay Ave. Fuquay-Varina
919-557-2788

- Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library**
100 S. Church St., Clayton
919-553-5542
- East Regional Library**
946 Steeple Square Ct., Knightdale
919-217-5300

Please Note:

Representatives from each of these locations have graciously agreed to make the Complete 540 project’s documents available for public review. It is important to remember, however, that the staff at these locations are not prepared to answer questions about this project. Any questions you may have can be sent to the NCDOT, as shown on the back page of this newsletter.