

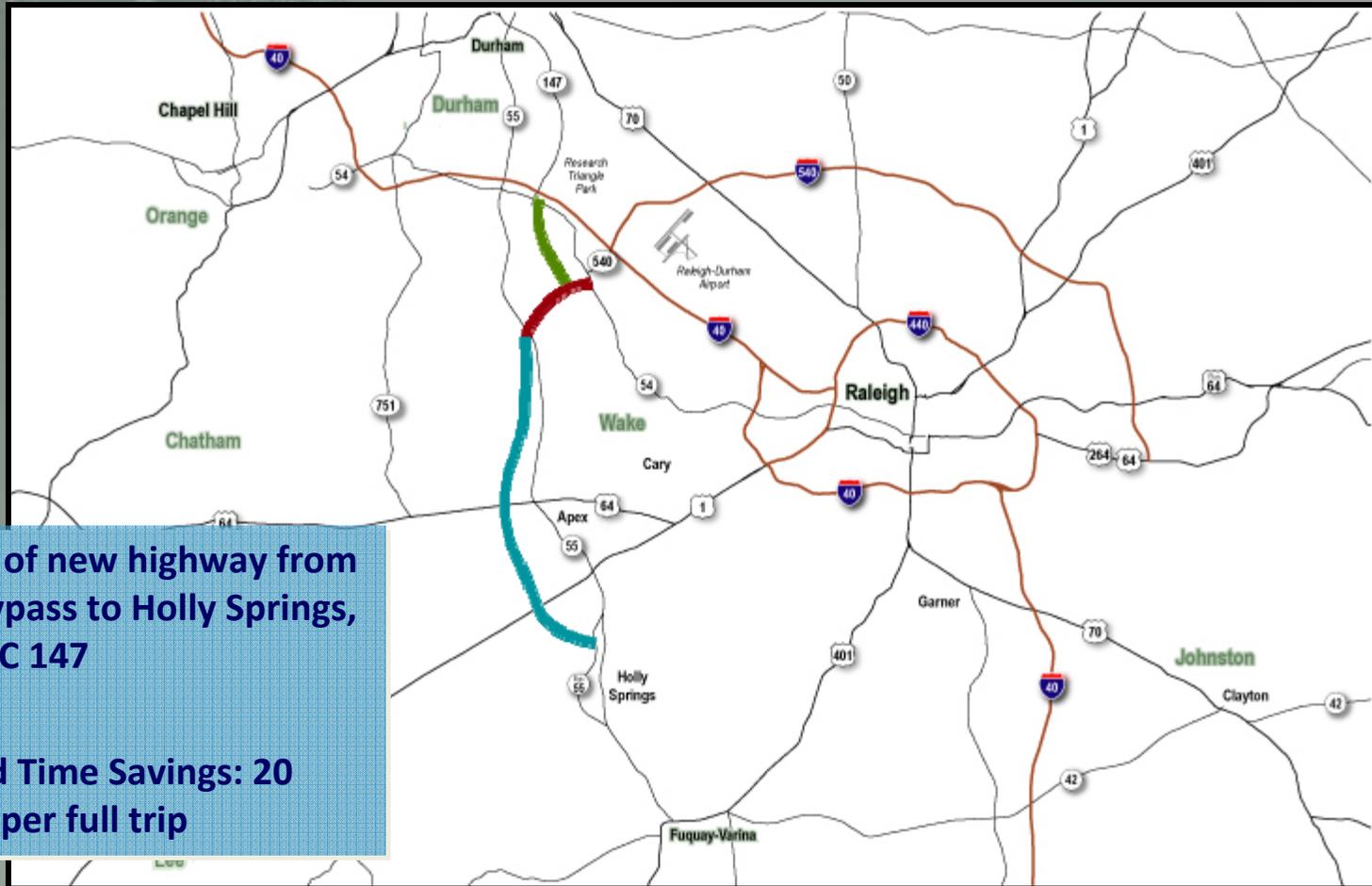


Triangle Expressway Southeast Connector

Public Information Workshop

January 27, 2010

Triangle Expressway



- 18 miles of new highway from NC 55 Bypass to Holly Springs, I-40 at NC 147
- Expected Time Savings: 20 minutes per full trip

Triangle Expressway

Began Construction in August 2009



Triangle Parkway Segment Open to Traffic in 2011

Western Wake Segment Open to Traffic in 2012



Southeast Connector Facts:

- **Total project length is about 30 miles**
- **Extends from NC 540 (Triangle Expressway) at NC 55 near Apex to I-540 (Northern Wake) at US 64/US 264 Bypass near Knightdale**
- **Remainder of 540 loop**
- **Provides an expressway connection to RTP and Durham via the Triangle Expressway and NC 147**
- **Construction will likely occur in two phases**



Project History:

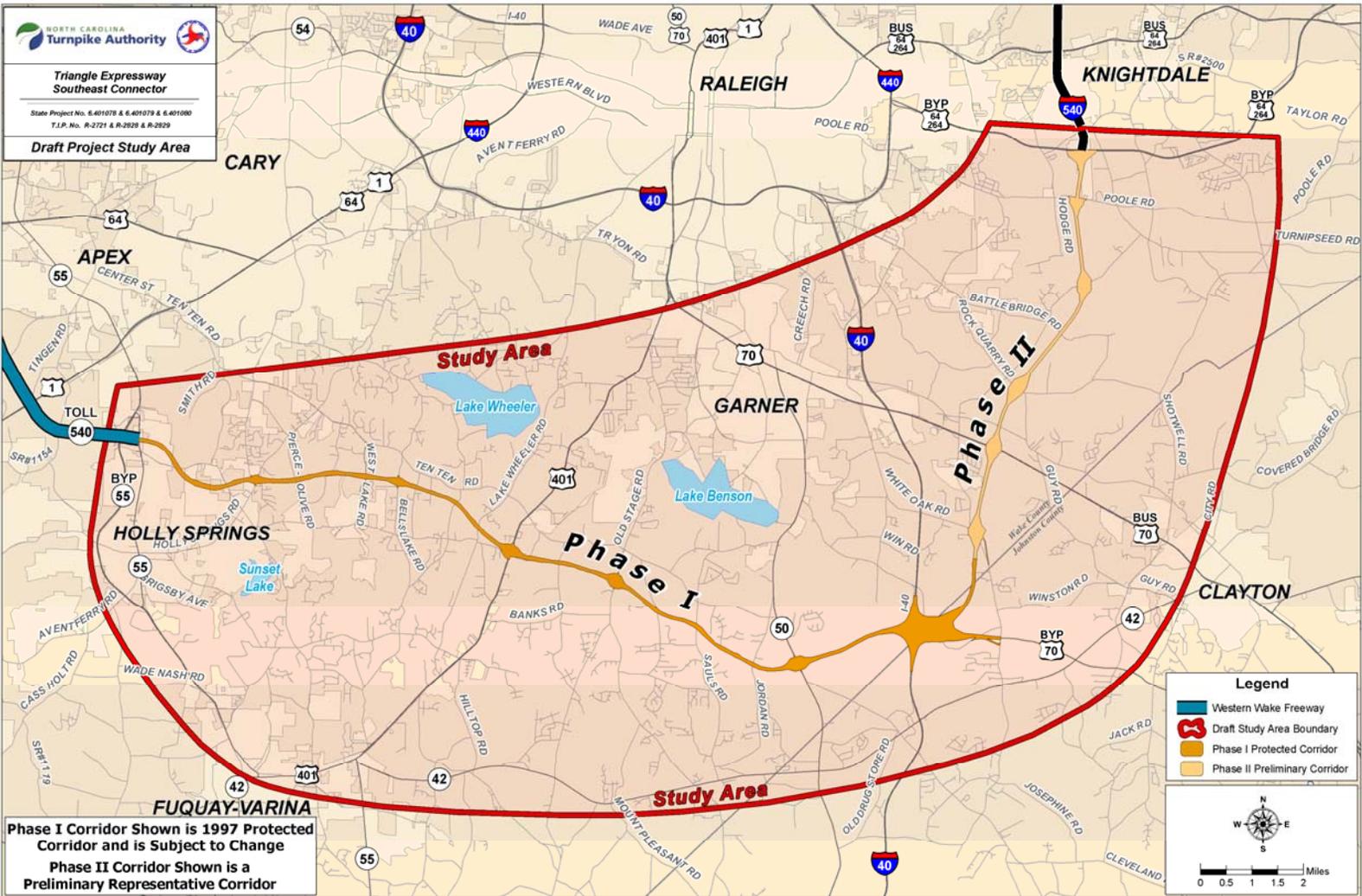
1996/97 – NCDOT files Protected Corridor for Southern Wake Expressway

1997 – NCDOT starts Southern Wake Expressway Corridor Study & EIS

1998 – Development of travel demand model and traffic forecasts

1999 – Southern and Eastern Wake Expressway Segments are combined

2000 – Development of travel demand model and traffic forecasts





Protected Corridor:

- NCDOT filed in 1996/97 under the Transportation Corridor Official Map Act
- NCDOT has 3 years once a building permit is applied for to either purchase the property or approve the permit
- Over 30 parcels have been purchased by NCDOT
- This study will evaluate multiple potential routes



Project History:

2001 – NCDOT resumes project study

2002 – CAMPO evaluates project funding

2005 – Local Governments request consideration of Western, Southern and Eastern Wake Expressways as toll facilities due to funding shortfalls

2006-2009 – NCTA develops Triangle Expressway as a toll facility

2009 – Project studies continue by NCTA



Current Activities:

- **Contacting Property Owners**
- **Field Surveys**
- **Identify Study Area Constraints**
- **Project Newsletter**
- **Coordination with Local Communities**
- **Agency Coordination**
- **Developing Potential Routes**



Field Surveys:

- **Properties within and near protected corridor**
- **Conducted by project representatives**
- **Surveys for wetlands, streams, protected species**
- **Limited property disturbance**

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

Based on Federal Law

- **National Environmental Policy Act**
 - Facilitates collaborative decision making
 - Ensures environmental considerations are a major component of project decision making



What is an EIS?

Assessment of Questions:

- Is a project really needed?
- Where should the project route go?
- What are reasonable possible routes?
- What are the concerns and can they be addressed?



What is an EIS?

What Do We Study?

- Study area
- Detailed studies of impacts – positive and negative
 - Community
 - Natural environment



Who is Involved?

Federal and State Agencies

•Transportation

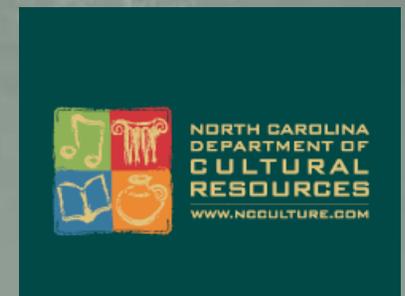
- Lead State Agency or Agencies
- FHWA

•Environmental Resource and Regulatory

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- NC Division of Water Quality
- NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- NC Historic Resources Office



US Army Corps of Engineers





Who is Involved?

Local Stakeholders

- Residents
- Property Owners
- Traveling Public
- Local Governments
 - MPO
 - Towns and Cities
 - Counties
- Elected Officials



What are the Major Steps in the EIS Process?

Draft EIS

- Recommended Alternative (Route)
- Major Project Milestone

Final EIS

- Preferred Alternative (Route)

Record of Decision or “ROD”

- Selected Alternative (Route)
- Final Route Approval

Preliminary Purpose and Need Concepts

- Will incorporate public input

- Need

- Mobility for movement of people and goods
- Limited alternatives for efficient travel in the study area
- Existing and projected traffic congestion

- Purpose

- Primary: Improve transportation mobility
- Other desirable outcomes
 - Reduce congestion on existing roadways
 - System linkage
 - Economic competitiveness



Schedule:

- **Start of Study – early 2010**
- **Alternative Route Development – 2010**
- **Citizens Informational Workshops – 2010**
- **Design and Technical Studies – 2011**
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement – 2012**
- **Final Environmental Impact Statement – 2013**
- **Record of Decision – 2013**
- **Phase I Open to Traffic – 2019**

Schedule is draft and under development



Aerial Tour of the Project

- Protected corridor
- Does not represent a selected alignment
- Photography from Google Earth



How Much Will Tolls Cost?

- Toll rates have not been set
- All toll revenue is used to finance, operate and maintain the road
- Tolls on similar facilities range from 10 to 20 cents a mile
- Legislation requires that once the road is paid for, the toll be removed



How Will Tolls be Collected?

The North Carolina Toll Road Experience





Questions?

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