



**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



**EAST END CONNECTOR
FROM NC 147 (DURHAM FREEWAY) TO
NORTH OF NC 98 (HOLLOWAY STREET)**

TIP PROJECT NO. U-0071

Durham County

Design Public Hearing

Informal Open House 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Formal Presentation 7:00 p.m.

Holton Career and Resource Center
401 North Driver Street
Durham

March 25, 2010

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PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Today's hearing is an important step in the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) procedure for making you, the public, a part of the project development process. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public input on the design of the East End Connector project.

Planning and environmental studies on the highway project are provided in the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the project. Copies of the report and maps of the project have been available for public review at the City of Durham- Transportation Division, located at City Hall Plaza (4th Floor); and the NCDOT Highway Division 5 Office located at 2612 North Duke Street. The Environmental Assessment and the hearing map also are available online at: www.ncdot.gov/projects/eastendconnector

YOUR PARTICIPATION

Public comments are welcome and we encourage you to participate by making your comments and/or questions a part of the public record. This may be done by having them recorded at the formal Public Hearing or by writing them on the comment sheet attached to this handout.

Project team members are present and happy to talk with you, explain the design, and answer your questions. You may write your comments or questions and leave them with one of the representatives, leave them in the comment box or mail them by April 30, 2010 to the following address:

Mr. Drew Joyner
NCDOT - Human Environment Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598
Email: djoyner@ncdot.gov
Phone: (919) 431-6700
Fax: (919) 431-2002

Everyone present is urged to participate in the proceedings. It is important, however, that **THE OPINIONS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS BE RESPECTED REGARDLESS OF HOW DIVERGENT THEY MAY BE FROM YOUR OWN.** Accordingly, debates, are out of place at public hearings. Also, the public hearing is not to be used as a POPULAR REFERENDUM to determine the location and/or design by a majority vote of those present.

WHAT IS DONE WITH THE INPUT?



After the comment period ends on April 30, a transcript will be prepared of all verbal comments received at the hearing. All written comments will be collected. These comments will be distributed to the NCDOT East End Connector project team for

review. A post-hearing meeting will be held among that team, which includes planners, engineers, right of way agents, and other professionals from a variety of transportation specialties who play a role in the development of the East End Connector. Other agencies, such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources will participate, as well as representatives from the City of Durham.

All spoken and written requests and comments will be discussed at the post-hearing meeting. Most issues will be resolved at that time. The NCDOT considers safety, costs, traffic service, social and property impacts, and public comments in making decisions. Complex issues may require additional study and may be reviewed by higher management, Board of Transportation Members and/or the Secretary of Transportation.

Minutes of the post-hearing meeting will be prepared and a summary will be available to the public. You may request this document on the attached comment sheet.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- The hearing comments will be reviewed at the post-hearing meeting.
- The final design will be revised for each hearing comment, as appropriate.
- The final planning document, a Finding of No Significant Impact or FONSI, will be completed.
- Final design plans will be completed.
- Purchase Right of way will be purchased.
- Construction will begin.

PROJECT FUNDING AND SCHEDULE

The proposed project is a Federal-Aid Highway Project and will be constructed under the State-Federal Aid Highway Program. Financing of this project will be 80% Federal funds and 20% State funds through the National Highway System Program. The NCDOT is responsible for the selection and scheduling of projects on the Federal Aid System, including their location, design and maintenance cost after construction. The Federal Highway Administration is responsible for the review and approval of the previously mentioned activities to ensure that each Federal Aid Project is designed, constructed and maintained to Federal Aid Standards.

Previously, right-of-way acquisition was scheduled to begin in 2010, with construction to begin in 2013. However, NCDOT is reevaluating this schedule as part of the upcoming State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and will announce a new schedule this summer.

NCDOT currently is in the process of prioritizing projects for the draft STIP, which will show the projects NCDOT can afford to fund through 2020. To learn more, visit www.ncdot.gov.

PURPOSE AND NEED OF PROJECT

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic capacity by relieving future congestion on the Durham Freeway (NC 147) and other north-south routes in downtown Durham. It will connect the Durham Freeway with US 70, providing direct access to Interstate 40 to the south and Interstate 85 to the north. The project will provide consistency with state and local land use and transportation plans. It has the potential to enhance transportation safety in the project area by diverting traffic from local streets such as Roxboro, Mangum, Gregson and Duke Streets.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NCDOT proposes the East End Connector project to provide a direct freeway connection between the Durham Freeway (NC 147) and US 70 in Durham County. The project will begin on the Durham Freeway (NC 147) near Glover Road and end on US 70 just south of Cheek Road. The proposed project also will upgrade US 70 to a freeway from Holloway Street (NC 98) to Pleasant Drive. U.S. 70 has already been upgraded to a freeway north of Holloway Street.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative shown in the Environmental Assessment is Alternative 3. This alternative is shown in detail on the public hearing maps at today's meeting. A project map is attached to this handout.

The initial phase of the Connector (referred to as the "Build Section" in the Environmental Assessment) includes two lanes in each direction, divided by a 50-foot median, plus merge lanes where needed. A future phase of the Connector (referred to as the "Ultimate Section" in the Environmental Assessment) would add one lane in each direction, constructed in the median. A figure showing what a typical section of the roadway will look like for each phase of the project is included on page 7.

The project is 3.61 miles in length. The project will be designed to interstate standards with full control of access (no driveways or intersections permitted; access at interchanges only) from NC 147 on the west to US 70 on the east. Utilities relocation is estimated to cost \$5.3 million. Right of Way is estimated to cost \$43.9 million. Construction is estimated to cost \$133 million, for a total project cost of \$182.2 million. Impacts of the project are listed in the table below.

Project Impacts	
Residences	16
Businesses	9
Churches	1 Church 1 Church Office
Cemeteries	1 0 Gravesites
Wetlands	0.29 acres
Ponds	1.13 acres
Streams	5,700 linear feet

C. R. Wood Park

C. R. Wood Park is owned by the City of Durham and located on South Commonwealth Avenue, between East End Avenue and Angier Avenue. The proposed East End Connector will lie to the southeast of the park and will require the use of about 0.08 acre of land from the park. The land impacted is undeveloped, wooded and contains no recreational facilities. Based on coordination with officials from the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Department, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) finds that the East End Connector will not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the park for protection under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Therefore, pending the review of comments from this public hearing, FHWA intends to determine that the use of land from the park constitutes a de minimus (or very minimal) Section 4(f) impact as defined in 23 CRF 774.17. The City of Durham concurs that the East End Connector will have no adverse effect on the park.

Also, C. R. Wood Park is within the boundary map for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant number 37-00118 and is covered by Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act of 1965.

NCDOT TRAFFIC NOISE ABATEMENT POLICY

“Noise abatement” means to reduce noise impacts. This is typically accomplished by installing noise walls.

A location for which a potential noise wall has been identified is shown on the public hearing map as a noise sensitive area. This location is on the north side of the East End Connector between the NC 147 and US 70 interchanges in the vicinity of Rowena Avenue. More detailed analysis has been completed since the Environmental Assessment was signed. This analysis determined that the noise sensitive area met the reasonable and feasible criteria within the NCDOT Traffic Noise Abatement Policy.

Noise wall construction will occur pending approval by owners of properties next to the proposed wall who will have a substantial amount of noise blocked by the wall. NCDOT will send these property owners a ballot by registered mail asking for a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote on the construction of a noise wall. If more than half of these property owners vote for the construction of a noise wall, then the wall will be constructed as part of the project.

The NCDOT Traffic Noise Abatement Policy states that Federal and State governments are no longer responsible for providing noise abatement measures for new development for which building permits are issued within the noise impact areas of the proposed highway project after the “Date of Public Knowledge”.

The "Date of Public Knowledge" of the location and potential noise impacts of a proposed highway project will be the approval date of the final environmental document, e.g., Categorical Exclusion (CE), State or Federal Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or State or Federal Record of Decision (ROD).

1. After this date, the federal and state governments are no longer responsible for providing noise abatement measures for new development within the noise impact area of the proposed highway project.

2. The criteria (i.e., trigger date) for determining when undeveloped land is "planned, designed and programmed" for development will be the approval of a building permit for an individual lot or site.

3. It is the responsibility of local governments and private landowners to ensure that noise-compatible designs are used for development permitted after the Date of Public Knowledge.

The “Date of Public Knowledge” for this project will be the date of the federal Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI is expected to be completed in late 2010.

RIGHT-OF-WAY PROCEDURES

After the final design is complete, the proposed right-of-way limits will be staked on the ground. If you are an affected property owner, a Right-of-Way Agent will contact you and arrange a meeting. The agent will explain the plans and advise you as to how the project will affect you. The agent will inform you of your rights as a property owner. If permanent right-of-way is required, professionals who are familiar with real estate values will evaluate or appraise your property. The evaluations or appraisals will be reviewed for completeness and accuracy; then, the Right-of-Way Agent will make a written offer to you. The current market value of the property at its highest and best use when appraised will be offered as compensation. The Department of Transportation must:

1. Treat all owners and tenants equally.
2. Fully explain the owner's rights.
3. Pay just compensation in exchange for property rights.
4. Furnish relocation advisory assistance.

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

If you are a relocatee, that is, if your residence or business is to be acquired as part of the project, additional assistance in the form of advice and compensation is available. You will be provided with assistance on locations of comparable housing and/or commercial establishments, moving procedures, and moving aid. Moving expenses may be paid for you. Additional monetary compensation is available to help homeowners cope with mortgage increases, increased value of comparable homes, closing costs, etc. A similar program is available to assist business owners. The Right-of-Way Agent can explain this assistance in greater detail.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

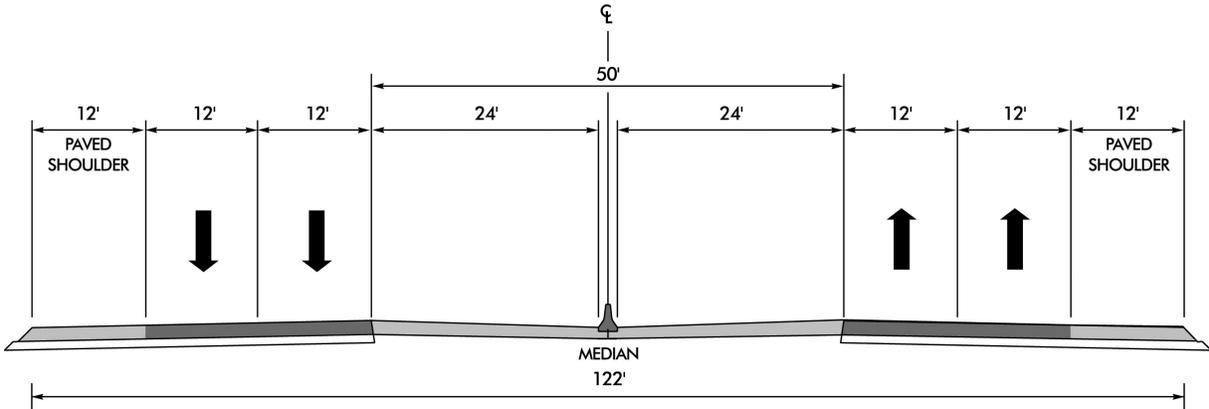
As mentioned above, please leave comments in the comment box at the hearing or send them to Mr. Joyner at the address on page 1. Additional information can be found at the project website:

www.ncdot.gov/projects/eastendconnector

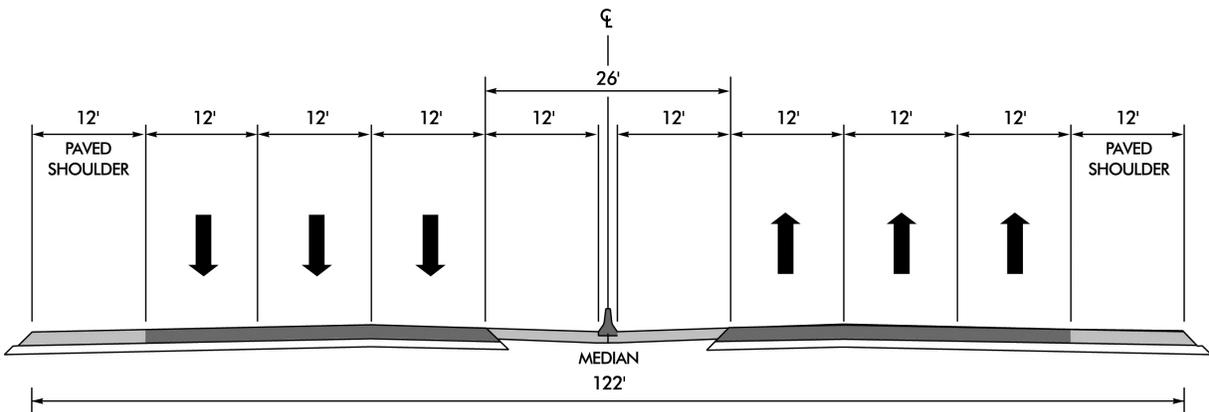
or by calling the East End Connector Project Hotline (toll-free):

1-800-734-7062

Proposed Typical Sections East End Connector



Initial Phase (Two Lanes in Each Direction)



Future Phase (Three Lanes in Each Direction)

Title VI Public Involvement Form

Completing this form is **completely** voluntary. You are not required to provide the information requested in order to participate in this meeting.

Meeting Type: Design Public Hearing	Date: 03/25/10
Location: Holton Career & Resource Center	
TIP No.: U-0071	
Project Description: Durham East End Connector	

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other civil rights provisions of Federal statutory law, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) assures that no person(s) affected by its programs, policies, or activities, shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, disability, age, income, or gender.

This form helps the State DOT meet its statutory obligations for data collection and public involvement under Title VI and NEPA. Please place completed forms in the designated box on the registration table or mail it to the NCDOT Office of Civil Rights, Title VI Section at 1511 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1511.

Completed forms will be held on file at the NCDOT as part of the public record.

Zip Code: _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Street Name: (i.e. Main Street) _____	Age: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older <input type="checkbox"/> 30-44
Total Household Income: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47,000 – \$69,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 – \$19,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000 – \$93,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 – \$30,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$94,000 – \$117,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$31,000 – \$46,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$118,000 or greater	Disabled: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Race/Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	National Origin: (if born outside the U.S.) <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican <input type="checkbox"/> Central American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> South American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____

For further information regarding Title VI or this process, please contact the NCDOT Title VI Section at (919) 508-1808 or toll free at 1-800-522-0453, or by email at slipscomb@ncdot.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation!



**NCDOT Office of Civil Rights
Title VI Section
1511 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1511**

COMMENT SHEET

**East End Connector
Design Public Hearing
TIP No. U-0071
Durham County**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:

Comments may be mailed by April 30, 2010 to:

Mr. Drew Joyner
NCDOT - Human Environment Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Phone: (919) 431-6700 FAX: (919) 431-2002

Email: djoyner@ncdot.gov



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NCDOT - Human Environment Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598