

U-5870 & U-5785 Proposed Widening of Fire Tower Road and Portertown Road Public Meeting September 22, 2016

Project Overview

NCDOT has identified the primary purpose and need of the proposed project as being:

“to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, as well as to reduce crashes and enhance connectivity.”

The proposed improvements were identified to address the following conditions:

- Current and future predicted traffic congestion within the project corridor
- Higher crash rate along Fire Tower and Portertown Roads than statewide rate for similar roads
- Lack of access control (numerous street and driveway connections), which increases congestion and travel delays
- Lack of access control also creates conflicts between traffic turning into driveways/side streets and traffic traveling along Fire Tower and Portertown Roads
- Need for improved east-west connectivity between NC 43 and NC 33.

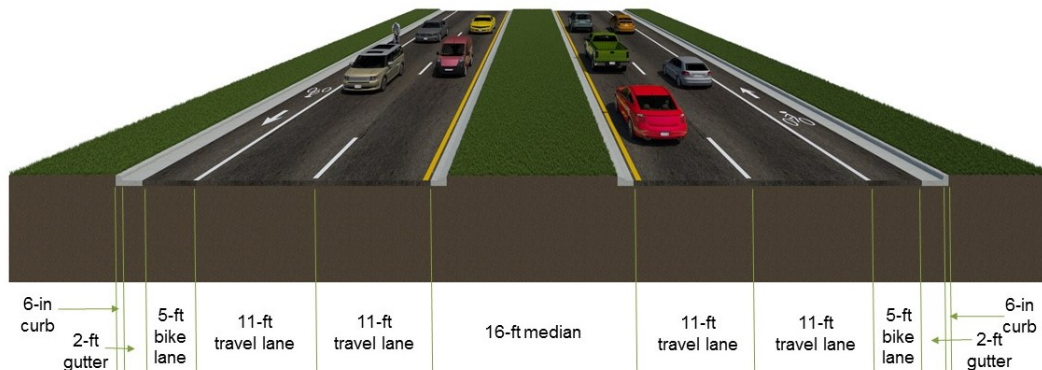
Project Description


This project involves:

- widening of Fire Tower Road from Charles Boulevard (NC 43) to Portertown Road, and Portertown Road from Fire Tower Road to 10th Street (NC 33), from a two-lane undivided road to a four-lane, raised median divided road
- constructing bicycle lanes throughout the project length
- widening of existing roundabout at Fire Tower Road and Portertown Road from one circulating lane to two circulating lanes
- constructing a new roundabout with two circulating lanes at the intersection of Portertown Road and Eastern Pines Road
- widening the existing bridge over Hardee Creek for eastbound traffic and adding a new, second bridge for westbound traffic
- upgrading the Portertown Road crossing of the Carolina Coastal Railroad tracks with new gates and signals

What would the proposed improvements look like?

The proposed improvements would widen Fire Tower Road and Portertown Road to a four-lane, raised median divided road. A five-foot bicycle lane will be added in both directions. A two-foot gutter will also be added to both sides of the road. The concrete curb will be an additional six inches. The proposed raised median will provide for left turns at median breaks. U-turn movements will be provided at multiple locations throughout the corridor.





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History

- Project funded through NCDOT Prioritization Process and internal scoping meeting held (August 2015)
- Start of Study letters mailed to various local, regional, and agency stakeholders (February 2016)
- Traffic, hydraulic, natural resource, and historic investigations (ongoing)

→ Where We Are Today

- Public meeting (September 2016)
- Functional designs
- Ongoing environmental analyses and documentation

Next Steps

- Complete designs and planning process (Early 2017)
- Second public meeting (Spring 2017)
- Right of way acquisition begins (Late 2017)
- Construction begins (2019)



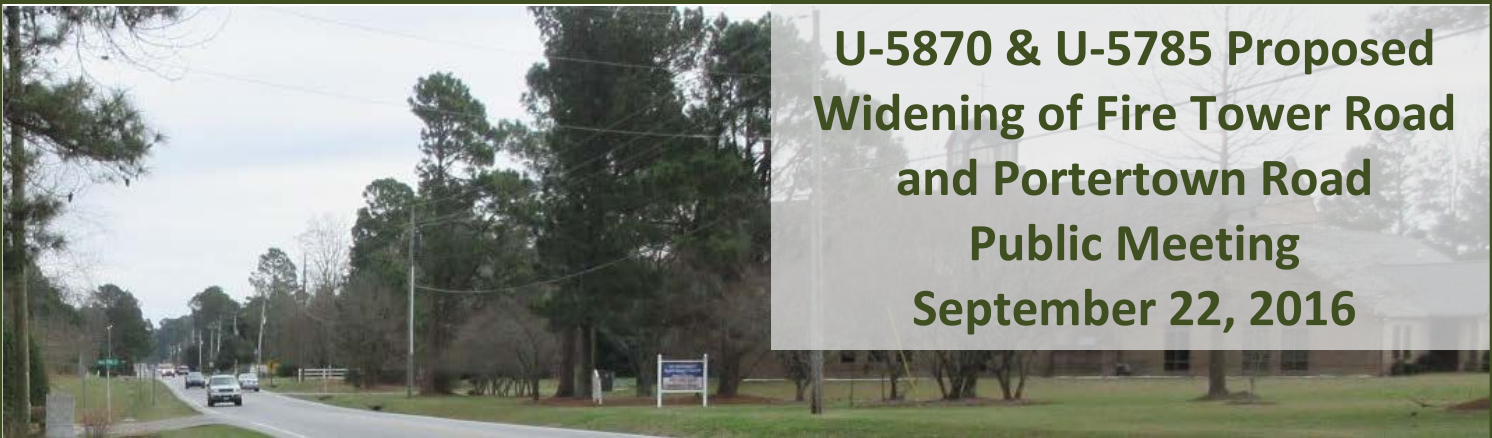
What We've Heard

During our initial outreach efforts, we've heard questions and comments from the residential and business communities and other stakeholders about the following:

- Traffic congestion
- Property impacts
- Planned transit routes
- Bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs
- Natural resources

The meeting is informal and open to the public; NCDOT Staff and Project Team Members are available to talk with you, answer questions, and address any concerns. This handout includes the following:

- Project Map
- Information on How to Stay Involved
- Information on How to Contact Us
- Title VI Non-discrimination Form
- Comment Sheet



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How to Participate in Tonight's Meeting

1) ***Sign In***

Sign in at the registration table and provide your contact information to receive future mailings. We will include a summary of today's meeting, with the number of attendees, in the project record.

2) ***Learn About the Project and Ask Questions***

A short video presentation provides general information about the project. Maps and other materials are also available to help you learn more about the project. Project team members wearing name tags are present to answer your questions and discuss the project.

3) ***Provide Your Input***

This handout includes a comment sheet. We would appreciate your thoughts about the project to help us understand stakeholder needs. Please submit your comments at the comment station tonight, or by mail or e-mail to the address on the comment sheet by **October 6, 2016**.

How to Stay Involved

The Project Team will review the public input provided at this meeting and explore options to incorporate changes and address concerns where feasible. We will continue to develop the project and present our progress at a second public meeting in the Spring of 2017. To stay connected to the project, visit the project web page at: **www.ncdot.gov/projects/FireTowerPortertownWidening**

You may also contact the following members of the Project Team with questions, comments, or concerns:

Contact List

Maria Rogerson, P.E. (NCDOT Division 2)

Project Engineer

P.O. Box 1587

Greenville, NC 27835-1587

(252) 439-2830

marogerson@ncdot.gov

Dwayne Alligood, P.E. (Vaughn & Melton)

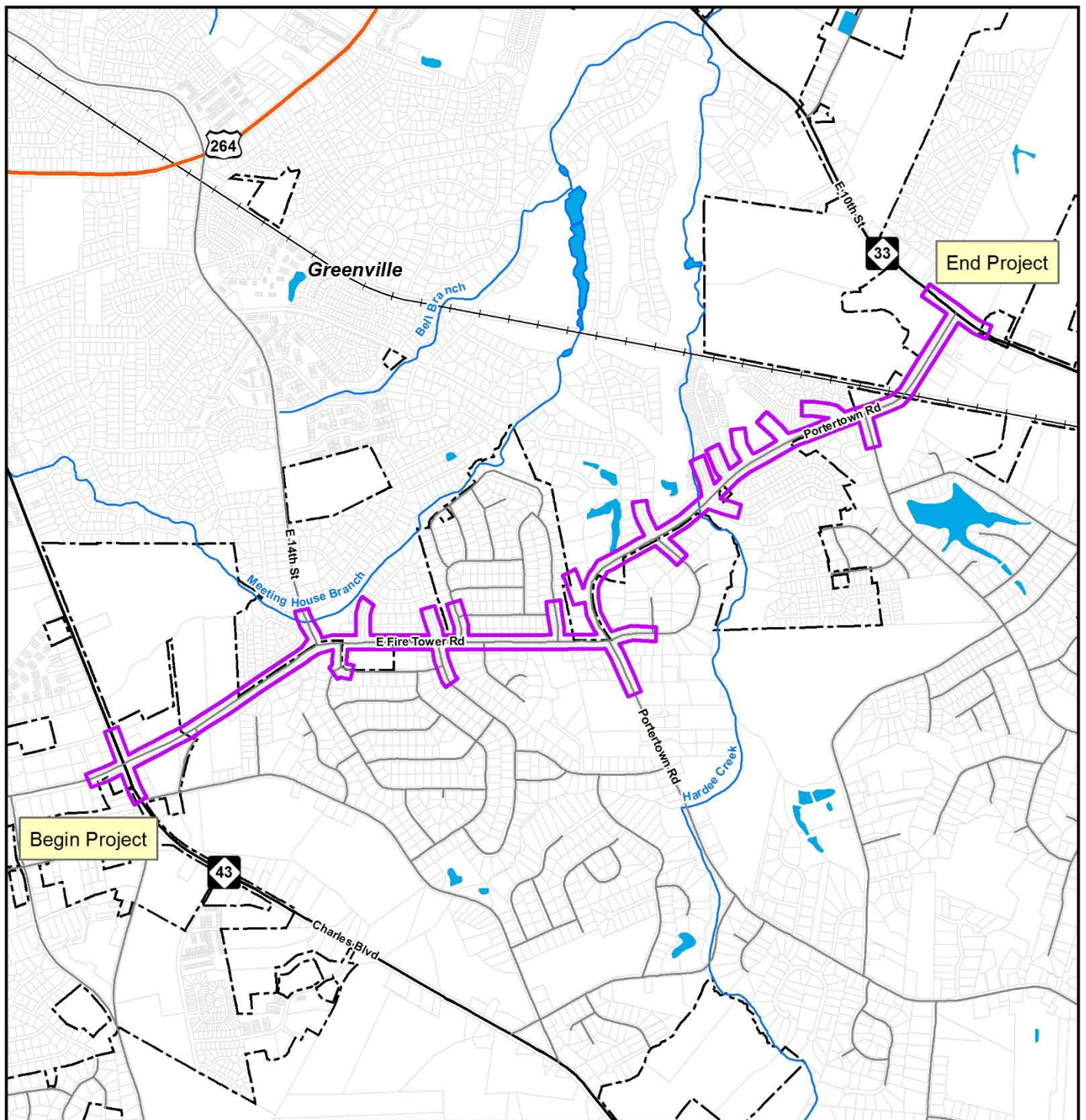
Consultant Project Manager

3115 Trent Road

New Bern, NC 28562

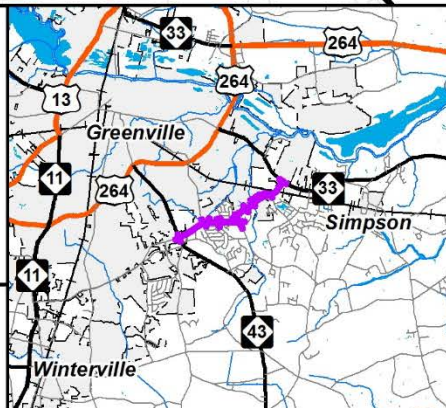
(252) 229-4506

dhalligood@vaughnmelton.com



Transportation

0 1,000 2,000 Feet



NCDOT STIP Projects U-5785 & U-5870

WIDEN SR 1708 (FIRETOWER RD) FROM
NC 43 (CHARLES BLVD) TO NC 33 IN
GREENVILLE, PITT COUNTY

- U-5785 & U-5870 Project Limit
- US Routes
- NC Routes
- Secondary Routes
- 24K Hydrography
- Open Water
- Parcel
- Municipal Limit

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: Public Meeting Location: Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation Building at Alice Keene Park, Greenville, NC | Date: September 22, 2016 |
| STIP No.: U-5870 and U-5785 Project Description: Widening of Fire Tower Road and Portertown Road from Charles Boulevard (NC 43) to 10 th Street (NC 33) in the City of Greenville, Pitt County | |

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) assures that no person(s) shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any of the Department's programs, policies, or activities, based on their race, color, national origin, disability, age, income, or gender.

Completing this form helps meet our data collection and public involvement obligations under Title VI and NEPA, and will improve how we serve the public. Please place the completed form in the designated box on the sign-in table, hand it to an NCDOT official or mail it to the PDEA-Human Environment Section, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598. All forms will remain on file at the NCDOT as part of the public record.

| | |
|---|---|
| Zip Code: _____ Street Name: (i.e. Main Street) _____ 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 | Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female 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 Have a Disability: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Race/Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <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"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

How did you hear about this meeting? (newspaper advertisement, flyer, and/or mailing) _____

For more information regarding Title VI or this request, please contact the NCDOT Title VI Section at (919) 508-1830 or toll free at 1-800-522-0453, or by email at slipscomb@ncdot.gov.

Thank you for your participation!



Attn: Diane Wilson
NCDOT - PDEA
Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Widening of Fire Tower Road and Portertown Road U-5870 and U-5785 Comment Sheet

Please Print

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone/ E-mail address: _____

Would you like to be added to our project mailing list?

☐ YES

☐ NO

How did you hear about the meeting? (Please check all that apply)

☐ Postcard

☐ Newspaper

☐ Family/Friend

☐ Other: _____

The purpose of tonight's Public Meeting is for citizens to come together collectively to share thoughts and ideas regarding the proposed widening of Fire Tower Road and Portertown Road, from Charles Boulevard (NC 43) to 10th Street (NC 33) in the City of Greenville. North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) staff and the project team are here to answer questions and hear your comments and/or concerns regarding this information. Please complete this comment sheet, and either return it today to the comment table, or you can mail it to the address listed below.

1. Please describe how you use Fire Tower and Portertown Roads (e.g., live along them, commute on them, visit people/businesses along them) and how often you use them.

2. NCDOT has identified the primary purpose and need of this project as being to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion, as well as to reduce crashes and enhance connectivity. Do you think the proposed plans will improve safety and traffic operations? Why or why not?

3. Do you think there are other needs for this project in addition to those presented at the meeting?

4. Share with us your comments about the project maps that you viewed tonight. Was the information clear? Could you understand the maps? Can you suggest anything that would make them clearer?

5. Please list other comments, questions or concerns about the proposed project that you want to bring to the project team's attention.

Please return this sheet to comment table

or

mail comments by October 6, 2016 to:

U-5870 and U-5785 Project Team

NCDOT Division 2

P.O. Box 1587

Greenville, NC 27835-1587

or

email comments by October 6, 2016 to:

marogerson@ncdot.gov

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS PUBLIC MEETING.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.