



Fire Tower Road and Portertown Road Widening Project

Transportation Improvement Program Projects No. U-5870 and No. U-5785

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen Fire Tower Road (SR 1708) and Portertown Road (SR 1726) to a four-lane, raised median divided road, from Charles Boulevard (NC 43) to 10th Street (NC 33) in the City of Greenville. NCDOT STIP Project U-5785 would widen from Charles Boulevard to 14th Street (SR 1704), and STIP Project U-5870 would widen from 14th Street to 10th Street; the two projects are being combined together by NCDOT Division 2. Other work includes: bicycle and pedestrian improvements, widening the existing roundabout at Fire Tower and Portertown roads from one circulating lane to two circulating lanes; building a roundabout with two circulating lanes at the intersection of Portertown and Eastern Pines roads; upgrading the Carolina Coastal Railroad crossing on Portertown Road with new gates and signals; and, reconfiguring the existing bridge over Hardee Creek for eastbound traffic and adding a second bridge for westbound traffic.

YOUR ROLE AT TONIGHT'S MEETING

The focus of the meeting tonight is on the changes that have been made since the last public meeting in September 2016, including designs for improvements to the Charles Blvd/ Fire Tower Road intersection and Arlington/Fire Tower Road intersection and the surrounding street network. Additional design changes are outlined on page 2 of this handout. We invite you to learn about these changes, ask questions, and provide your comments.

- **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.
- **Maps** - View the project design maps that are posted on the walls.
- **Ask questions** - NCDOT staff and project team members are on-hand and ready to answer your questions.
- **Information Stations** - Visit the information tables set up around the room for Traffic, Noise, and Right-of-Way questions.
- **Provide Your Input** - Please fill out the comment form that is found at the back of this handout. You can complete it tonight, or return your comments by mail or email (addresses are on the comment form). Comments are due by September 1, 2017.

Project Website: <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/FireTowerPortertownWidening/>

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST PUBLIC MEETING?

Design Modifications – Based on comments received at the public meeting, several modifications have been made to the designs, including:

- Retaining walls have been added in some locations to reduce impacts
- Designs have been modified at Kittrell Road, Willow Run, and 14th Street, and have been extended a small distance along Portertown Road south of the new roundabout
- Designs for U-turns have been revised to have a smaller footprint to reduce impacts
- Reduced right-of-way widths, where possible, to minimize impacts to adjacent properties
- Additional intersection improvements have been added at Charles Boulevard and Arlington Boulevard (see below).

All design modifications are shown on the updated maps.

Additional Intersection Improvements – As discussed at the September 2016 meeting, additional improvements are needed at the Charles Boulevard/Fire Tower Road intersection and at the Arlington Boulevard/Fire Tower Road intersection to accommodate predicted levels of future traffic. Improvements to the street network surrounding these intersections are also included in the project designs. After presenting conceptual designs to City Council in February 2017 for approval, more detailed design work was undertaken and a draft version of the additional intersection improvements was presented to adjacent business owners at a meeting in June 2017. Design modifications were made based on their input, and these improvements are shown on maps at today's meeting and are detailed in this handout and can also be found online: <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/FireTowerPortertownWidening/>. The map on the following page (Figure 1) displays proposed new turning movements for the additional surrounding area. To better understand the change in travel patterns for the Charles Boulevard/Fire Tower Road intersection see Figures 2-5. To better understand the change in travel patterns for the Arlington Boulevard/Fire Tower Road intersection see Figures 6-9.

Noise Study – NCDOT completed a noise study of the project to evaluate traffic and construction noise impacts, and to consider potential noise abatement measures (e.g., noise walls). The study recommended further evaluation of six potential noise walls along the project. Information about the noise study is available at the Noise table at the public meeting.

Coordination with Utilities – Coordination continues with the different utilities in the project corridor to determine where utilities will need to be relocated as a result of the road improvements. The road designs have been updated to show the anticipated easements for the utility work. Coordination will continue as the designs are finalized.

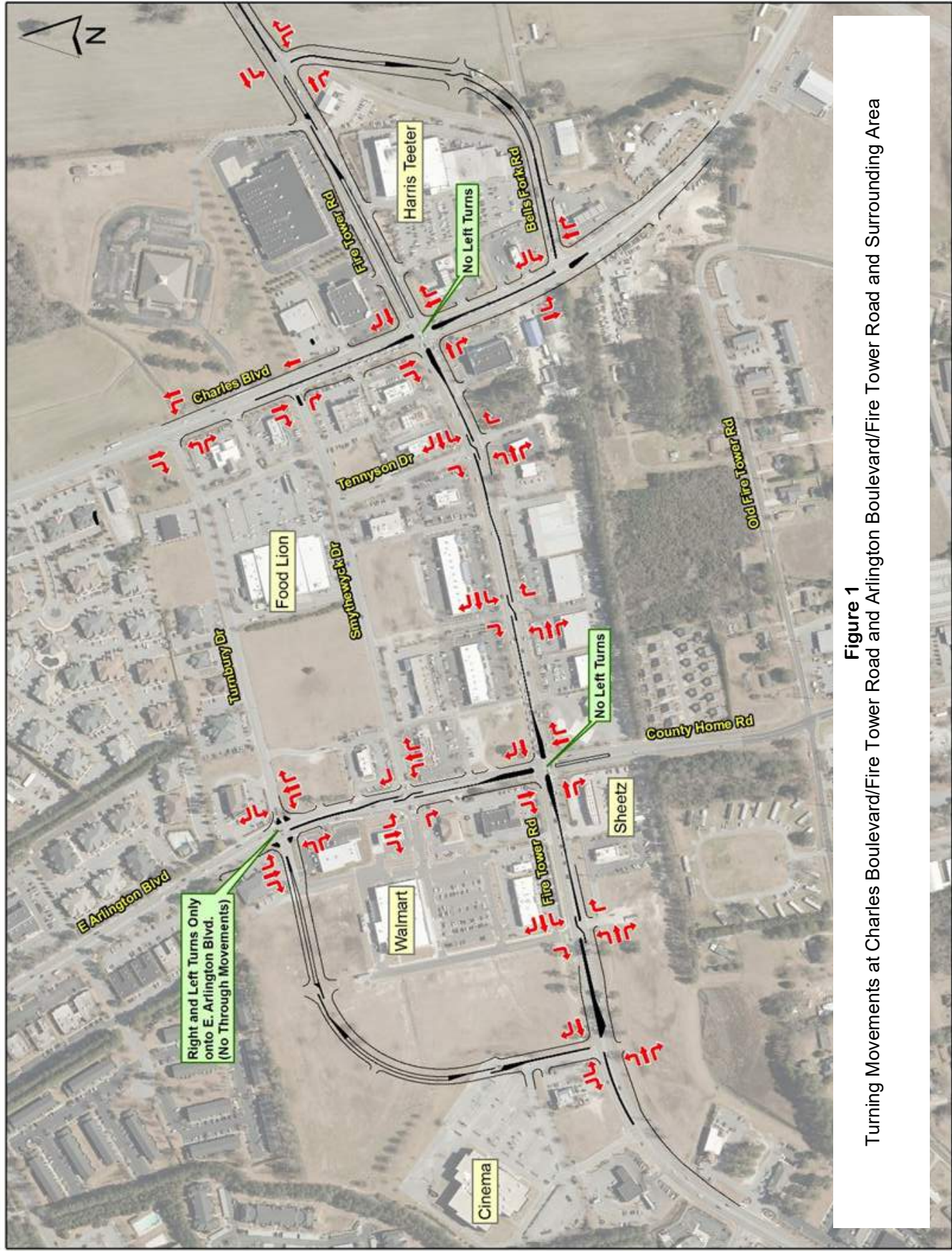
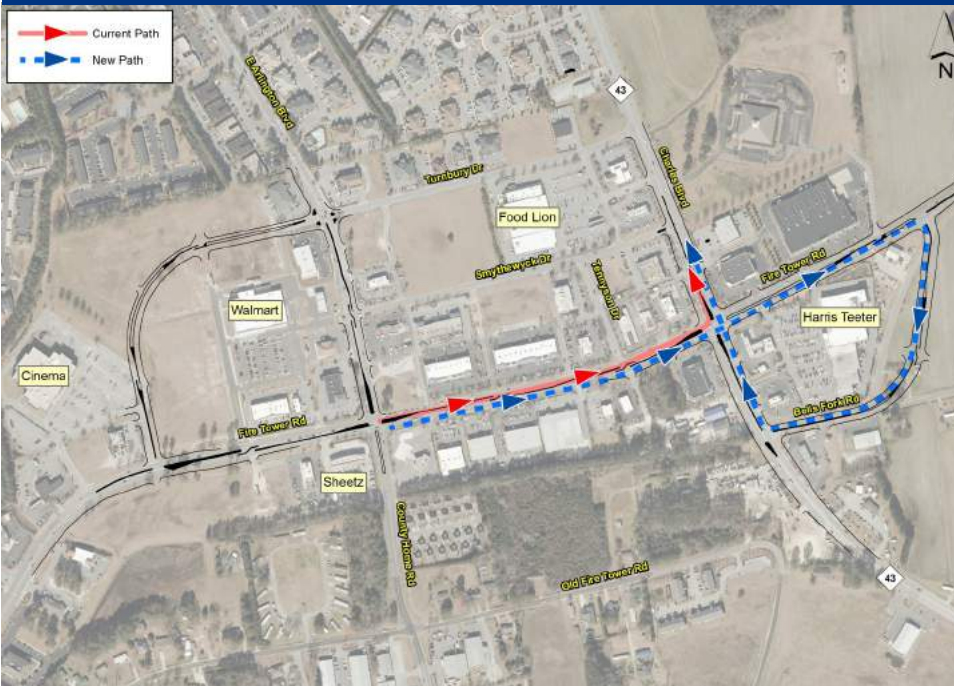


Figure 1
Turning Movements at Charles Boulevard/Fire Tower Road and Arlington Boulevard/Fire Tower Road and Surrounding Area

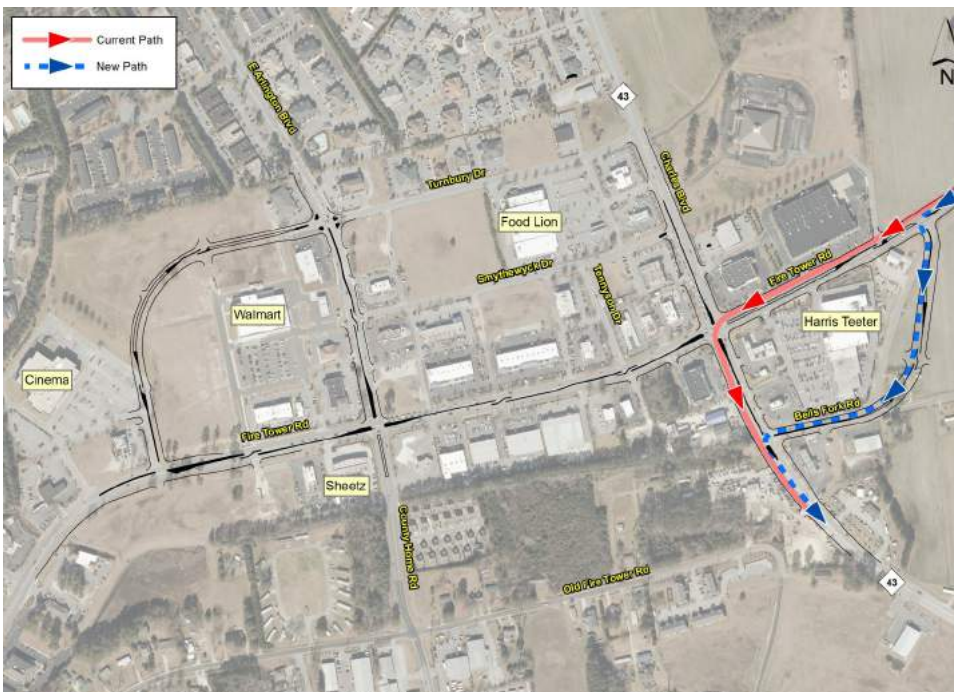
► Charles Boulevard and Fire Tower Road Intersection Key Turning Movements Explained



If I am driving east on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Portertown Road), how do I go north on Charles Boulevard (headed towards downtown)?

Go through the Charles Boulevard intersection, turn right onto Kittrell Road, then turn right onto Charles Boulevard.

Figure 2 Fire Tower Road Eastbound to Charles Boulevard Northbound



If I am driving west on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Pitt Community College), how do I go south on Charles Boulevard (headed towards Vanceboro)?

Turn left onto Kittrell Road (before the Charles Boulevard intersection), then turn left onto Charles Boulevard.

Figure 3 Fire Tower Road Westbound to Charles Boulevard Southbound

► Charles Boulevard and Fire Tower Road Intersection Key Turning Movements Explained (continued)



If I am driving north on Charles Boulevard (headed towards downtown), how do I go west on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Pitt Community College)?

Turn right onto Kittrell Road (before the Fire Tower Road intersection), then turn left onto Fire Tower Road.

Figure 4 Charles Boulevard Northbound to Fire Tower Road Westbound



If I am driving south on Charles Boulevard (headed towards Vanceboro), how do I go east on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Portertown Road)?

Go through the Fire Tower Road intersection, turn left onto Kittrell Road, then turn right onto Fire Tower Road.

Figure 5 Charles Boulevard Southbound to Fire Tower Road Eastbound

► **Arlington Boulevard and Fire Tower Road**

Key Turning Movements Explained



If I am driving east on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Portertown Road), how do I go north on Arlington Boulevard (headed towards downtown)?

Turn left onto the new unnamed road (before the Arlington Boulevard intersection), then turn left onto Arlington Boulevard.

Figure 6 Fire Tower Road Eastbound to Arlington Boulevard Northbound



If I am driving west on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Pitt Community College), how do I go south on Arlington Boulevard (headed towards Vanceboro)?

Go through the Arlington Boulevard intersection, turn right onto the new unnamed road, then turn right onto Arlington Boulevard.

Figure 7 Fire Tower Road Westbound to Arlington Boulevard Southbound

► Arlington Boulevard and Fire Tower Road

Key Turning Movements Explained (continued)



If I am driving north on Arlington Boulevard (headed towards downtown), how do I go west on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Pitt Community College)?

Go through the Fire Tower Road intersection, turn left onto the new unnamed road, then turn right onto Fire Tower Road.

Figure 8 Arlington Boulevard Northbound to Fire Tower Road Westbound



If I am driving south on Arlington Boulevard (headed towards Vanceboro), how do I go east on Fire Tower Road (headed towards Portertown Road)?

Turn right onto the new unnamed road (before the Fire Tower Road intersection), then turn left onto Fire Tower Road.

Figure 9 Arlington Boulevard Southbound to Fire Tower Road Eastbound

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The project team will evaluate comments received following tonight's meeting, and work to finalize the designs. The timeline below outlines the project history, and the next steps leading to construction in 2019.

Right-of-Way Procedures - After decisions are made regarding the final design, the proposed right-of-way limits will be staked in 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, and 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:

- Treat all owners and tenants equally
- Fully explain the owner's rights
- Pay just compensation in exchange for property rights
- 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 also be provided with assistance regarding 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. Pamphlets are available at the sign-in table. Additional information about the right-of-way process can also be found here: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/ROW/Pages/ROW-Support.aspx>.

Project Timeline

Project Start

August 2015	Project funded through NCDOT Prioritization Process
September 2016	Public meeting held
Spring 2017	Environmental analysis & Functional designs using public input

* Where We Are Today

July 2017	Public meeting
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Next Steps

December 2017	Environmental planning document approved
June 2018	Right of way acquisition begins
2019	Construction begins

Contact List

For questions or comments about the project, please contact one of these Project Team members:

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

Project Website: <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/FireTowerPortertownWidening/>

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: July 31, 2017
STIP No.: Project Description:	

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: _____	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	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) 508-1896 or toll free at 1-800-508-1886, or by email at sddickens@ncdot.gov.

Thank you for your participation!



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

Please Place
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2. Please provide your comments about the proposed designs at the Charles Boulevard/Fire Tower Road and the Arlington Boulevard/Fire Tower Road intersections.

3. 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?

4. Please list any 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 September 1, 2017 to:

U-5870 and U-5785 Project Team

c/o Three Oaks Engineering

324 Blackwell Street, Suite 1200

Durham, NC 27701

or

email comments by September 1, 2017 to:

firetower@threeoaksengineering.com

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS PUBLIC MEETING.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.