

What's New?

- ◆ **Alternatives Eliminated.** Since the last series of Citizen's Informational Workshops in early 2006, one corridor segment (K1D) was eliminated from study, resulting in the elimination of four of the original 16 Detailed Study Alternatives (DSAs). Segment K1D would interfere with a planned landfill necessary for operations at Duke Power's Allen Steam Station. The remaining 12 DSAs (see enclosed map) are undergoing more detailed evaluation.
- ◆ **Tolling Issues.** The project is being studied only as a toll facility. Non-toll alternatives are no longer being studied.
- ◆ **Report Updates.** The updated Statement of Purpose and Need and Alternatives Screening Report are now available for download from the project website.
- ◆ **Engineering Designs.** Preliminary engineering designs have been prepared for the DSAs. The preliminary right-of-way boundaries are shown within the Detailed Study Alternative corridors on the project maps displayed tonight. Please note these are preliminary and subject to change.
- ◆ **Project Interchange at US 29-74.** Due to proximity to I-85 and the presence of wetlands and floodplains, the NCTA may decide not to provide a project interchange at US 29-74. NCTA would appreciate your input on this decision.

What Happens Next?

- ◆ The comments received at this series of workshops will be incorporated into the continuing project development process, including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- ◆ The updated Statement of Purpose and Need and Alternatives Screening Report will be finalized.
- ◆ The remaining 12 DSAs will be carried through to the next phase of more detailed study as a toll facility. This next phase includes identification of a NCTA-Recommended Alternative and development of the DEIS, which is scheduled for completion in January 2009.
- ◆ There will be an opportunity for the public to review the DEIS. Public hearings will be held in early spring 2009 to receive comments on the DEIS and the proposed locations and designs of the DSAs.
- ◆ Please refer to the project schedule for the complete project timeline.
- ◆ A decision on whether to eliminate the project interchange at US 29-74 will be made after the DEIS.

Gaston East-West Connector Project Schedule

January 2009

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and NCTA-Recommended Alternative

Spring 2009

Public Hearings on DEIS

Summer 2009

Preferred Alternative Selected

Summer 2010

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

Fall 2010

Record of Decision (ROD)

Spring 2015

Project open to traffic

Project schedule subject to change



Example toll road rendering

Contact Information

For additional information, please contact:

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Want to learn more?

Visit the project website at:

www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston

Have questions?



Call the Project Hotline at:

800.475.6402



Or email us at:

gaston@ncturnpike.org

Gaston East-West Connector

"Garden Parkway"

STIP Project No. U-3321
Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties

Citizens Informational Workshops

4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

August 6, 2008

Olympic High School
Charlotte, NC

August 7, 2008

South Point High School
Belmont, NC

August 11, 2008

Gastonia Adult Recreation Center
Gastonia, NC



Gaston East-West Connector

WELCOME to the third series of Citizens Informational Workshops for the Gaston East-West Connector hosted by the North Carolina Turnpike Authority. Thank you for participating in tonight's workshop and providing your input on the project.

What to do tonight...

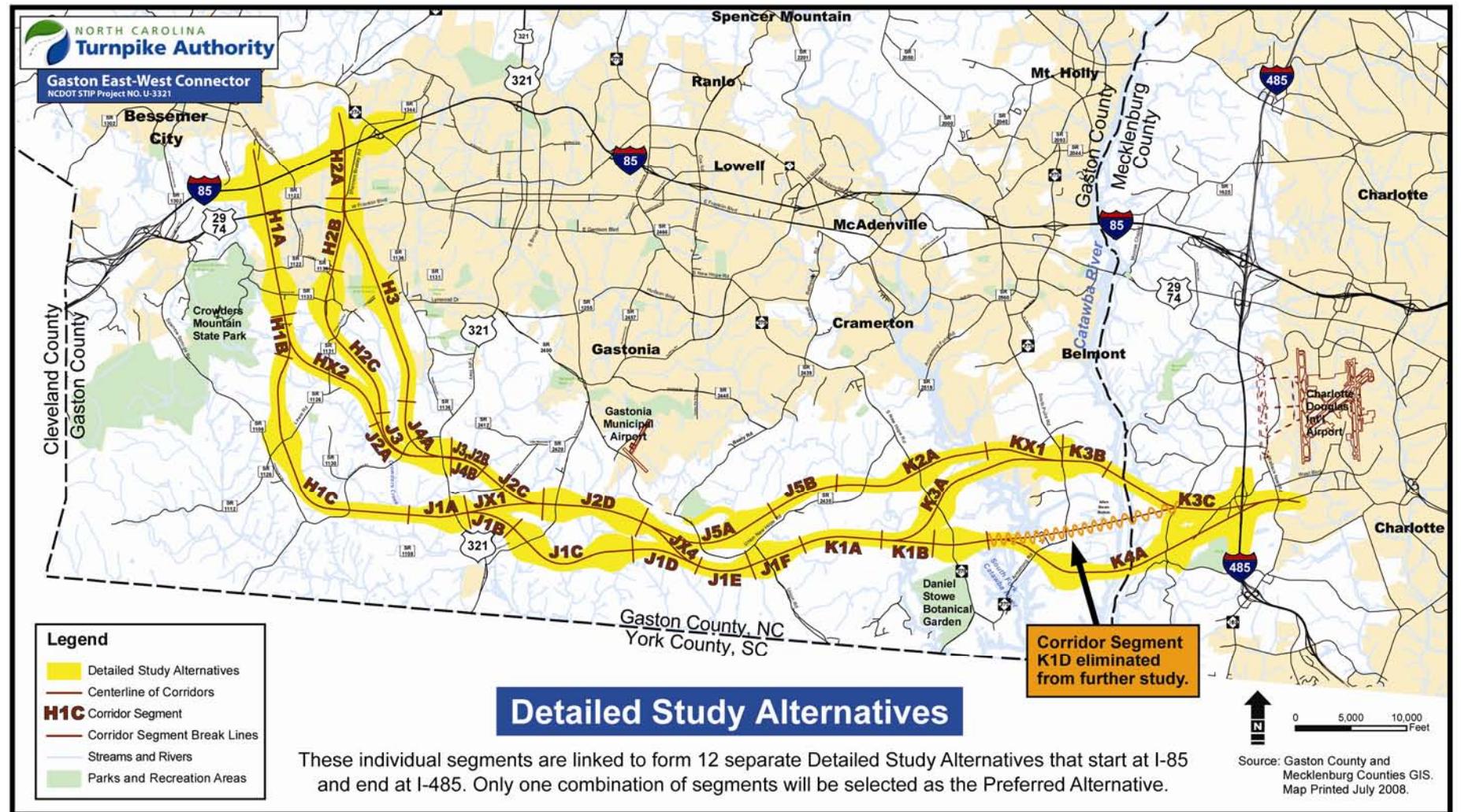
READ this handout—It contains information about the project purpose, alternatives, current project activities, and the project schedule.

VIEW the slideshow—It provides information on the Detailed Study Alternative selection process, tolling, and the project in general.

REVIEW the project displays—Maps and aerial photographs on display show the project study area and the detailed study corridors.

TALK with the Project Team—We are here to answer your questions and discuss the project one-on-one.

TELL us what you think—Your input counts! Fill out a comment sheet or discuss your comments with a Project Team representative.



Detailed Study Alternatives

These individual segments are linked to form 12 separate Detailed Study Alternatives that start at I-85 and end at I-485. Only one combination of segments will be selected as the Preferred Alternative.

Workshop Purpose

The purpose of these workshops is to familiarize citizens with the project and to provide an opportunity for comment on the project, including comment on the following:

- ◆ Detailed Study Alternatives to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- ◆ Updated Statement of Purpose and Need. The original statement was prepared in 2002. The project purpose is still the same but the traffic projections and background information have been updated.
- ◆ Whether or not to have a project interchange at US 29-74.

What's Happened So Far?

The first Citizens Informational Workshops were held in September and December 2003 to introduce the project to the public and receive input on the Purpose and Need and locations of preliminary alternatives. Following the workshops, a wide range of preliminary alternatives were evaluated and the Project Team selected the ones that best serve the project's purpose and need while minimizing impacts to the human and natural environments. These alternatives were recommended for more detailed study. In January and February 2006, there was a second series of Citizens Informational Workshops to introduce and receive comments on the Detailed Study Alternatives. See the "What's New" section in this newsletter for the latest project developments.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the proposed action is to improve east-west transportation mobility in the area around the City of Gastonia, between Gastonia and the Charlotte metropolitan area, and particularly to establish direct access between the rapidly growing area of southeast Gaston County and west Mecklenburg County.

Project Description

This project would construct a new toll road, about 22 miles long, from I-85 to I-485. This toll road is currently proposed to be six lanes wide, with interchanges at major road crossings.

Candidate Toll Road Project

In October 2002, the North Carolina General Assembly established a law creating the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA). The law prohibits NCTA from tolling existing roads. NCTA is authorized to study, develop, construct, operate, and maintain up to nine toll roads in the state. The Garden Parkway is one of five approved toll candidate projects.