



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

1578 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-1578

DAVID W. JOYNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2008

Contact: Beau Memory, NCTA (919) 571-3006

NCTA TO HOLD PUBLIC WORKSHOPS FOR PROPOSED GARDEN PARKWAY

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold three citizens' informational workshops to discuss the proposed Garden Parkway (also known as the Gaston East-West Connector) project.

Meetings will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Olympic High School, 4301 Sandy Porter Road, Charlotte;
- Thursday, Aug. 7, at South Point High School, 906 South Point Road, Belmont; and
- Monday, Aug. 11, at Gastonia Adult Recreation Center, 519 W. Franklin Boulevard, Gastonia.

Citizens are invited to drop in during the workshops and speak individually with agency representatives about the project plans. Representatives will present information, answer questions and receive comments regarding the proposed project. The informal setting is designed to promote discussion on the purpose and need for the project, study alternatives, stakeholder concerns and future steps in the project development process. The same information will be presented at all three workshops. Citizens may also provide comments or questions about the project by calling NCTA at (919) 571-3000, sending an e-mail to gaston@ncturnpike.org or by mail to: Jennifer Harris, P.E., NCTA; 1578 Mail Service Center; Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1578.

NCTA proposes to improve east-west travel through Gaston County by constructing a new facility between I-85 west of Gastonia and I-485/N.C. 160 near the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport in western Mecklenburg County. Several alternative corridor locations for this new facility are part of the study. As part of the project, NCTA will study the feasibility and impacts of developing the proposed project as a toll road. Additional project information can be found at www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston.

In July, the North Carolina General Assembly approved an annual appropriation of \$35 million beginning in 2010 to aid in the construction of a section of the Garden Parkway from U.S. 321 to I-485/N.C. 160. Depending on the route chosen, this section of the Garden Parkway will stretch approximately 21.5 to 23.7 miles. Construction is expected to begin in 2010 and open to traffic 2015.

NCTA will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in the workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact NCTA at (919) 571-3000.