



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

I-77 South Express Lanes

I-277/ Brookshire Freeway to South Carolina Line

Project Fast Facts

- Last widened in 1990s from four to six-lanes
- Per state law, toll projects in NC must be approved by the local planning organization
 - CRTPO first submitted a toll lanes concept for the I-77 South corridor during P3.0 in 2014
 - Included in the most recent round of prioritization as I-5718 A&B
- Proposed improvements include:
 - Adding express lanes or general purpose and express lanes
 - Reconstruction of interchanges and non-interchange bridges
 - Adding access points and direct connectors to the express lanes
- Updated capital cost estimate (August 2024): ~ \$3.2 billion
- This project will implement managed lanes recommended in the 2007 Fast Lanes Study and CRTPO 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

- This project is part of a network of express lanes in the Charlotte region connecting to I-77 North and I-485

Latest News & Next Steps

- As CRTPO has requested, and as required by federal law for projects receiving federal financial assistance, NCDOT analyzed Public-Private Partnership (P3) and NC Turnpike Authority delivery methods for the I-77 South Express Lanes project
- The comparative analysis evaluated areas such as risk, financial feasibility, benefit-cost, and value-for-money
- The analysis showed a traditional toll delivery is not currently financially feasible due to escalating project costs and less funding capacity
- The analysis also showed a P3 delivery approach is likely financially feasible
- In October 2024, CRTPO requested NCDOT move forward with a P3 delivery process
- CRTPO also created a working group in partnership with NCDOT to identify priorities for the project and to develop

key terms to inform the Request for Qualifications process

- These key terms were developed with the working group over the course of seven months
- The low and high financial key terms are available in the document section of the project website:
<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i-77-south-express-lanes/Pages/project-documents.aspx>
- NCDOT is scheduled to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in August
- NCDOT is also currently engaged in the NEPA process, conducting small group meetings in local communities as part of the environmental work:
 - More than 20 meetings have reached over 500 residents so far
 - Formal public meetings are planned for fall 2025

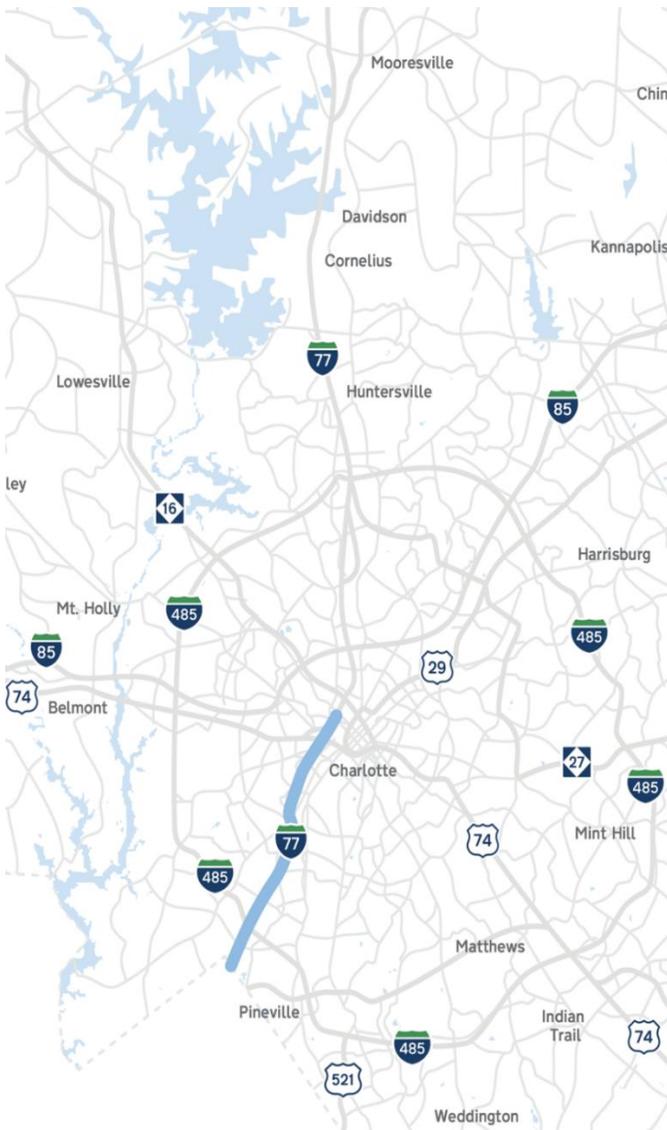
Project Background

- **2007:** Transportation planners from the Charlotte region, NCDOT and SCDOT examined the feasibility of managed lanes on interstates in the Charlotte area, known as the “Fast Lanes Study”
 - The I-77 Express Lanes South project was identified in this study
- **2014:** CRTPO approved the project list for scoring for the FY 2016-2025 STIP, including a project to widen I-77 South from I-485 to I-277 with express lanes
- **2022:** The draft FY 2024-2033 STIP included funding only for the preliminary engineering for the project to widen I-77

South from I-485 to I-277 with express lanes

- **February 2023:** CRTPO voted for NCDOT to conduct a comparative analysis of potential P3 delivery, and a public toll option delivered through NCTA
- **August 2024:** The comparative analysis findings were presented to CRTPO, stating a traditional toll delivery approach was not currently financially feasible due to less funding capacity and project cost increases. The analysis also found a P3 delivery approach was likely financially feasible, significantly reducing the funding gap by transferring financial risks to the developer while allowing the project to move forward with less public funding.
- **October 2024:** The CRTPO Board voted for NCDOT to continue with a P3 delivery process. A working group of CRTPO board members and NCDOT staff was formed to discuss project priorities and identify key terms prior to a future RFQ.
- **Fall 2024 – Spring 2025** – The I-77 South Express Lanes Working Group met over the course of seven months, and approved the terms during the May 2025 meeting.
 - All meeting materials are available on the project website:
<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i-77-south-express-lanes/Pages/work-group-documents.aspx>
 - NCDOT also facilitated 22 meetings with P3 developers during the working group process

to receive feedback on the key
rms.



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the project, contact:

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