# I-77 South Express Lanes

## STIP Project I-5718 | Mecklenburg County

Connecting Communities, Expanding Transit & Modernizing Regional Mobility

## At a Glance

**Corridor Limits**
11 miles from the SC state line to the I-277/N.C. 16 interchange (Brookshire Freeway)

**Current Volume**
160,000+ vehicles/day; crash rates are 2.8x the statewide average for urban interstates

**Current Travel Times**
Highly variable, fluctuating from 10 to 60 minutes

**Proposed Scope**
Add two express lanes in each direction; modernize bridges and existing general-purpose lanes

**Project Model**
Public-private partnership (P3), locally approved by CRTPO

## Project Background & Need

### Locally Prioritized

Rooted in the regional 2007 Fast Lanes Study, the project was submitted by the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) for state prioritization in 2014, and formally incorporated into CRTPO's adopted 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

### NCDOT's Role

NCDOT serves as the technical delivery partner to execute locally approved infrastructure goals.

### Corridor Modernization

In addition to adding two express lanes in each direction, the project will replace aging bridges and reconstruct 11 miles of mainline interstate to improve overall traffic and safety.

## Funding & Community Investment

### Project Cost

Updated cost estimate is currently underway.

### State Funding

Up to $600 million committed by NCDOT.

### Private Developer Capital

Bridges the remaining gap through a Public-Private Partnership (P3), delivering the corridor decades sooner without depleting state funds for other regional projects.

### Additional $100M Bonus Allocation

Generated automatically under state law for toll projects, providing $100 million dedicated to local infrastructure projects along the corridor.

### At Least $300M Community Benefits Commitment

Shaped by the community, the private development partner is required to invest $300 million toward:

- Multimodal infrastructure for improved connectivity (pedestrian crossings, bike paths and transit access)
- Neighborhood stability and anti-displacement programs
- Environmental mitigation and replacement green spaces
- Local workforce development and economic mobility

**I-77 South Express Lanes Community Engagement Center**

**Mon - Fri: 10 AM - 6 PM**
In-person & Virtual

**Saturday: 9 AM - 1 PM**
Virtual Only

**Sunday: Closed**

## Neighborhood Stability & Sensitive Design

**Early Planning Stage**
Current design concepts are only 10–15% complete, allowing ongoing community input to shape the final design through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

**Preserving Historic Neighborhoods**
By refining the design, NCDOT eliminates all residential displacements in historic communities (including McCrorey Heights, Wesley Heights, and Biddleville). Traditional widening would have displaced 41 homes.

**Park & Creek Preservation**
The elevated structure reduces physical impacts to Frazier Park and surrounding waterways.

**Compassionate Relocation Support**
If any relocations prove unavoidable, homeowners and tenants will receive fair market compensation, relocation assistance and ongoing individualized casework.

**Corridor Reconnection**
Concepts explore cap park structures, landscaped overcrossings and greenway connections to knit neighborhoods back together across the interstate.




## Transit, Fair Tolling & Economic Opportunity

**Free Public Transit**
CATS express buses will ride the express lanes free of charge, ensuring rapid, reliable bus service without requiring separate busway construction.

**Carpooling Incentive**
Vehicles with 3 or more occupants (HOV 3+) ride free.

**Equitable Tolling Safeguards**
- This project will incorporate toll rate caps.
- A dedicated low-income discount program will be established.

**Local Business & Job Growth**
Estimated to support ~5,700 construction jobs annually and for this project of this size, NCDOT anticipates several hundred million dollars in small business participation.

## Milestones & Public Participation

**Late 2026**
- Community Engagement Center Reopens
  - November 2026
- Community & Developer Listening Sessions
  - December 2026
- Working Group Selection
  - December 2026
- First Draft Request for Proposals (RFP)
  - December 2026

**2027**
- Second Public Hearing
  - Fall 2027
- Developer Proposals Submitted
  - Fall 2027
- Final Community Benefits Submitted
  - Mid 2027
- Final Design
  - Late 2027
- Developer Selection
  - Late 2027
- Construction Begins
  - TBD

**For more information on the project:**

ncdot.gov/projects/i-77-south-express-lanes

1-800-254-0498

Para services de interpretacion, llame al 1-800-481-6494