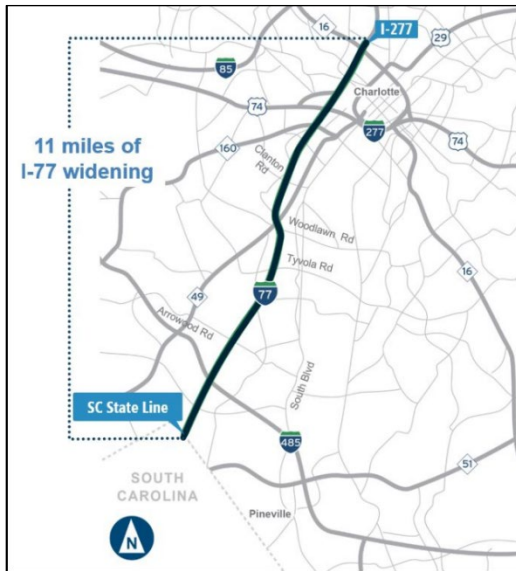


I-5718 - I-77 South Express Lanes Project Synopsis

Project Overview



As requested by the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO), NCDOT is advancing work on the I-77 South Express Lanes project (the “Project”). The Project will provide growing communities and congested I-77 traffic with additional capacity and travel options. NCDOT intends to enter into a long term Comprehensive Agreement with a Developer to design, construct, finance, operate, and maintain the requisite infrastructure improvements.

This synopsis provides a general overview of the Project characteristics prior to advertisement; such information may change in the Request for

Qualifications (RFQ) and subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP).

The Project is located in the Charlotte Metropolitan area and consists of widening 11 miles of I-77 in Mecklenburg County. The Project includes the addition of two express lanes in each direction (with shoulders) from the South Carolina state line to I-277 (Belk Freeway)/NC 16 (Brookshire Freeway). There are 13 interchanges, four grade separations (including one greenway crossing), and four railroad bridges on I-77 within the project limits.

Per state law, toll projects in North Carolina must be requested and approved by the local planning organization. This project was submitted to state prioritization by the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) in 2014. Additionally, the I-77 South Express Lanes Project is included in the CRTPO 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and in NCDOT’s 2026-2035 STIP.

Environmental Status and Permitting

NCDOT is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the Project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements. The Environmental Assessment is expected to be published for public review in Spring 2026, with a NEPA decision by FHWA expected in Winter 2026/2027. NCDOT anticipates issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Project. The Environmental Assessment and related technical reports will be made available on the project website: <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i-77-south-express-lanes>.

NCDOT is coordinating with environmental agencies during the environmental review process in anticipation of submitting permit applications after the NEPA decision for the following permits:

- (i) US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Individual Permit; and
- (ii) North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

The Developer will be responsible for all other permits or approvals necessary to construct and operate the Project, including any modifications to permits previously obtained by NCDOT. In those instances, NCDOT must legally be the permittee, the Developer will be responsible for preparing all necessary materials to support the issuance of a permit and ensure compliance with the respective permit terms.