I-95 Improvements in Lumberton, Robeson County

I-74 (Exit 13) to U.S. 301/Fayetteville Road (Exit 22)

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Project No. I-6064

September 2020

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OVERVIEW

This is an update on the N.C. Department of Transportation's STIP Project I-6064, which proposes to widen I-95 and make other improvements in Lumberton, Robeson County. The NCDOT appreciates your interest in this project. This handout is an update to the newsletter mailed to residents in May 2020 and meant to notify interested persons about project updates and upcoming public involvement opportunities.

Due to Covid-19, NCDOT will not be holding an in-person public meeting at this time. Instead, informational materials about the project have been posted to the project webpage at ncdot.gov/projects/i-95-widening-lumberton. You are encouraged to review project videos, design maps, and other information on the project webpage, and provide feedback.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

A Virtual Public Meeting will be conducted on **Sept. 29, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.,** during which time project representatives will be available to discuss the proposed improvements, answer questions, and receive comments regarding the I-6064 project. Details on how to participate in this virtual meeting are listed below.

Public Input is an important part of the project development process and helps us understand the needs of the community. Along with participating in the upcoming virtual meeting, there are several ways you can share your feedback:

Email your comments to I95-Lumberton@publicinput.com

Telephone comments can be provided on a dedicated phone line at **855-925-2801** and enter project code **8812** when prompted.

Written comments can be provided on the comment sheet included in this handout and returned by U.S. mail.

In addition, information may be reviewed and comments or questions submitted through the NCDOT Project Webpage:
ncdot.gov/projects/i-95-widening-lumberton

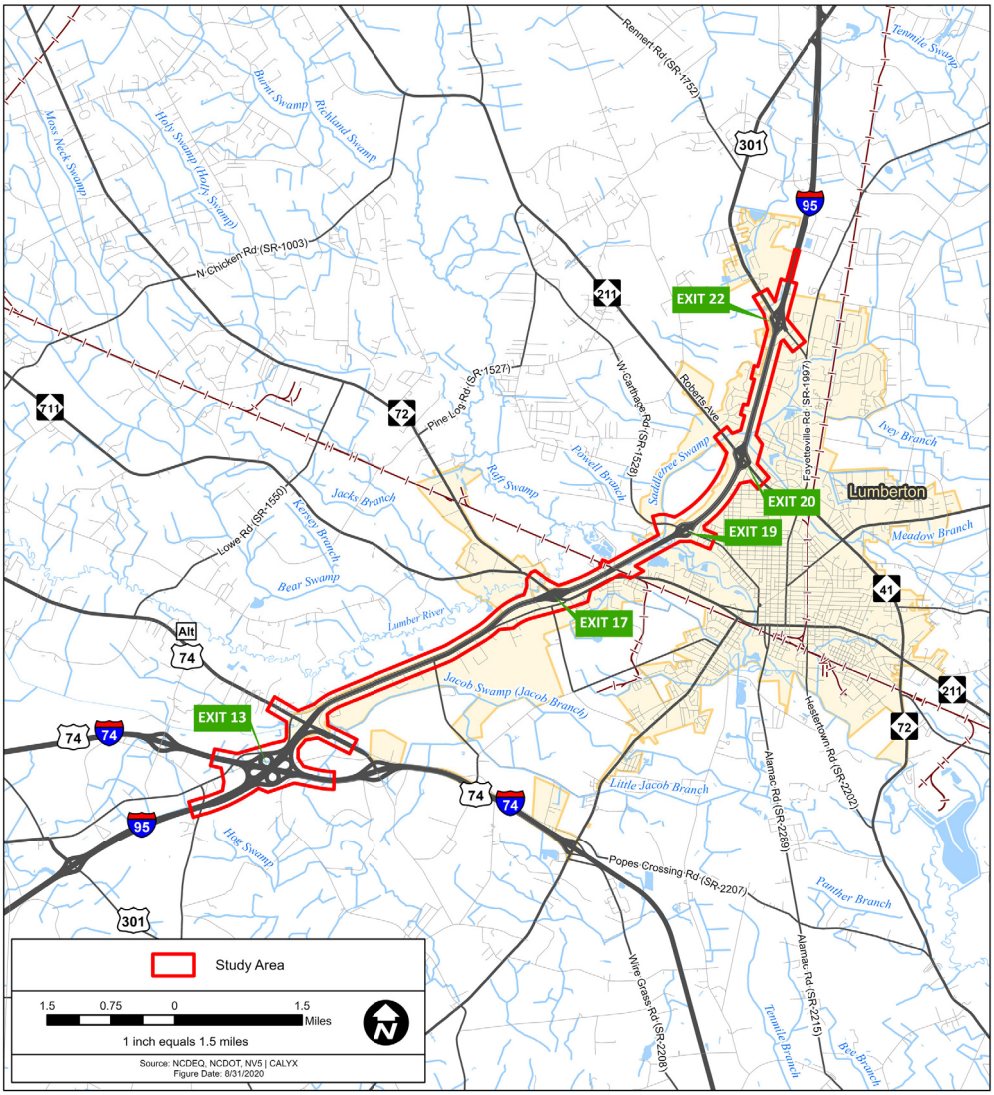
Comments are due by Oct. 15, 2020

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The N.C. Department of Transportation proposes to improve about 9 miles of I-95 between I-74 (Exit 13) and U.S. 301/Fayetteville Road (Exit 22) in Lumberton. Highlights of this project include:

- Widen to provide two additional travel lanes in each direction, bringing the total number of lanes to eight.
- Modernize and reconstruct the interchanges at N.C. 72/Caton Road (Exit 17), Carthage Road (Exit 19), and N.C. 211/Roberts Avenue (Exit 20).
- Replace bridges and expand culverts along the corridor, including the bridges carrying I-95 over the Lumber River.
- Elevate vulnerable sections of the interstate to enhance resiliency against future flooding.
- Improve cross streets at interchanges and portions of service roads paralleling I-95, including new bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

VICINITY MAP



PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of improving this section of I-95 is to help relieve congestion, improve mobility, and enhance the resiliency of this corridor to storm events, such that it can continue to serve as a primary East Coast route through the project design year of 2040. Improvements will be required to accommodate projected future traffic volumes and ensure the highway operates at an acceptable level of traffic service, particularly during peak hour. Traffic volumes along the I-95 corridor are expected to increase considerably by 2040, creating conditions in which operations degrade and average travel speeds are below the posted speed limit. The proposed project would increase the capacity of the roadway to improve the flow of traffic and lessen delays from congestion.

Portions of I-95 were closed for several days due to flooding during hurricanes Matthew and Florence, affirming the need to improve the interstate to be more resilient against future storm events. Along with reduced mobility, the closure of a major interstate highway delays emergency services, interstate commerce, and military preparedness. The project will elevate sections of I-95 that have been prone to flood and improve hydraulic structures to help mitigate travel impacts from future flooding.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The proposed project will involve federal funds and must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA requires agencies seeking federal funds to identify a purpose and need for the project, review and disclose the human and environmental effects of the proposed project, and prepare an environmental report.

Detailed surveys have been performed to precisely locate all existing features including nearby roadways, driveways, buildings and other features. After final design plans have been completed, NCDOT will contact the property owners who will be directly impacted by the project and meet with them to review the plans and discuss property impacts.

Coordination with adjacent projects has occurred throughout the planning process. The traffic analysis and preliminary designs for this project, I-6064, take into account the work on two adjacent I-95 projects:

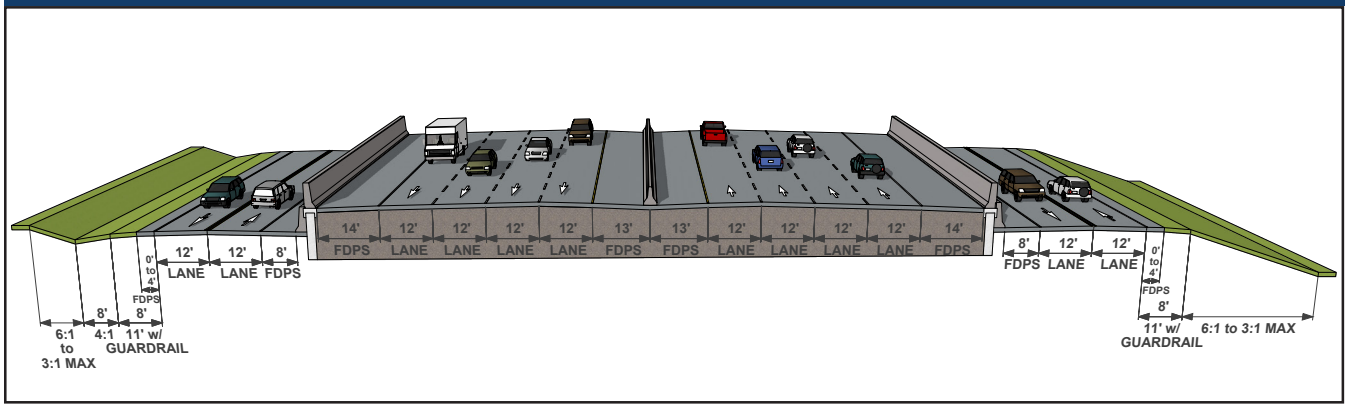
- **I-5987**, I-95 Widening from Exit 22 to Exit 40, scheduled to begin construction in 2022.
- **I-5986A**, I-95 Widening from Exit 56 to Exit 71, currently under construction.

NCDOT is also working to develop a design at the I-95 crossing over VFW Road that will accommodate the City of Lumberton's proposed flood gate project at this location.

ROADWAY CROSS SECTIONS

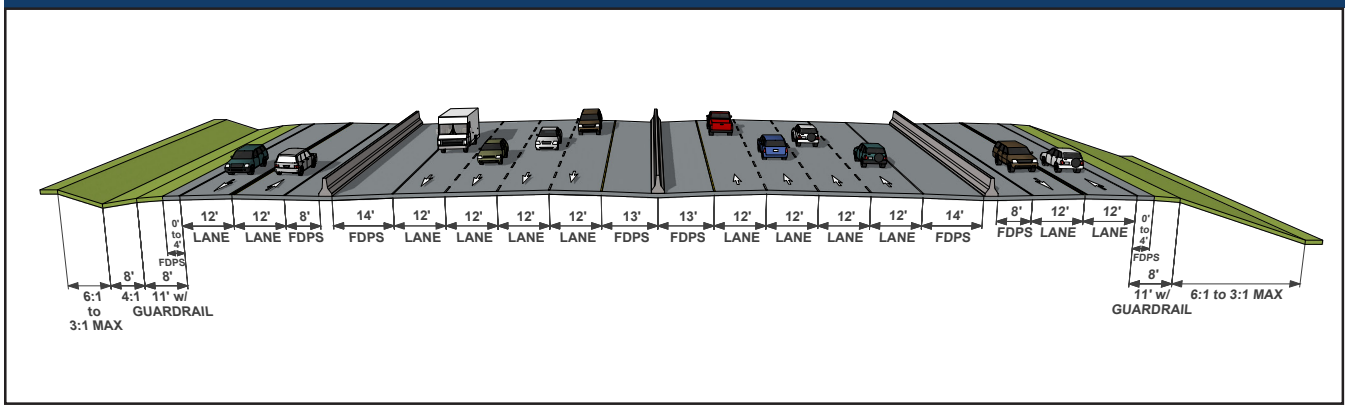
Cross Section 1 shows the proposed I-95 widening and elevation with retaining walls included. Retaining walls will be used along most of the corridor to minimize additional reconstruction along parallel service roads and reduce the overall project footprint. All cross sections would include a total of eight 12’ travel lanes, paved inside and outside shoulders, and concrete barrier median.

I-95 Cross Section 1



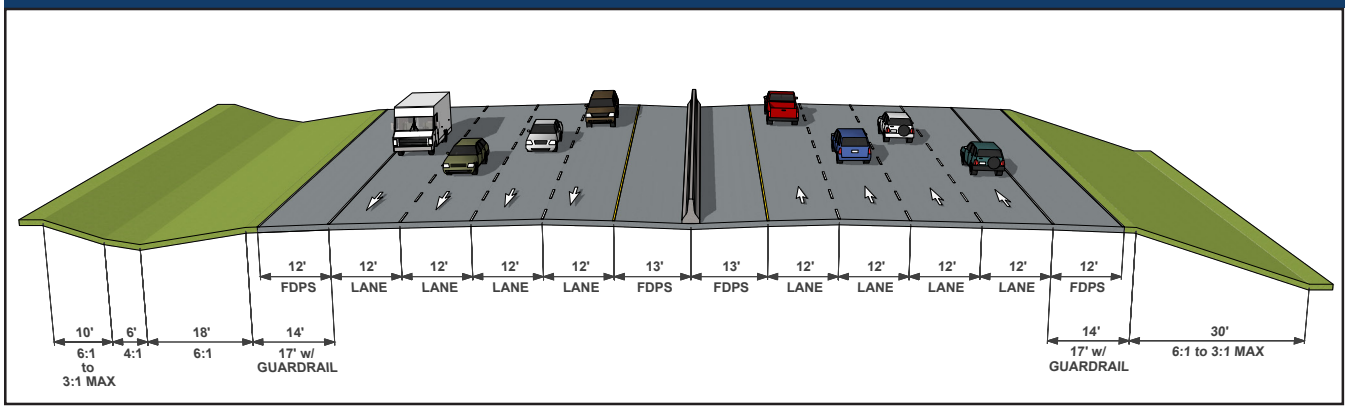
Cross Section 2 includes the use of barrier walls. This cross section will be used in areas where parallel service roads are present and the elevation of I-95 will remain generally unchanged.

I-95 Cross Section 2



Cross Section 3 includes earthen embankments instead of retaining walls and will be utilized in sections where parallel service roads are not present.

I-95 Cross Section 3



INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS

A review of the three interchanges being improved by the project is provided below. At this time, the interchanges at I-74 (Exit 13) and U.S. 301/Fayetteville Road (Exit 22) are not expected to be reconstructed with the project. More detailed maps of the project design can be viewed on the project website.

EXIT 17

N.C. 72/Caton Road

- Retains existing diamond configuration
- Replaces bridge carrying N.C. 72 over I 95
- Retains traffic signals at ramp terminals
- Provides new median and sidewalk along 5th Street

EXIT 19

Carthage Road

- Retains existing diamond configuration
- Replaces stop signs with roundabouts
- Relocates Capuano Street
- Relocates Lackey Street
- Provides 10-foot multiuse path and sidewalk

EXIT 20

N.C. 211/Roberts Avenue

- Proposed diverging diamond interchange
- Replaces single bridge with two new bridges
- Reconstructs ramps and service roads
- Provides 10-foot multiuse path and sidewalk

NEXT STEPS

The project team will evaluate public comments received through **Oct. 15, 2020**. The team will prepare responses to comments received, which will be summarized on the project website. Public comments will be considered during the preparation of a final design, along with input received from other stakeholders. A Federal Categorial Exclusion (CE) environmental document will be prepared to document costs and potential impacts from the proposed project.

CURRENT PROJECT SCHEDULE

A tentative project schedule as outlined in the NCDOT 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is shown below. Because a number of factors can affect a project's schedule, it may be subject to change.

Virtual Public Meeting	Sept. 29, 2020
Public Comment Period Ends	Oct. 15, 2020
Environmental Document Complete	Dec. 2020
Final Design, Right-Of-Way Acquisition, Utility Relocation	Fall 2021
Constructin Begins	Summer 2022

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

Information about the I-6064 Project: I-95 Improvements in Lumberton can be found online at:ncdot.gov/projects/i-95-widening-lumberton. Project materials and updates will be provided on this page, including a summary of comments received during the comment period. Information about the Virtual Public Meeting that will be held **Sept. 29, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** can also be found here.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact a project team member:

Christy Huff, PE
NCDOT Project Manager
(910) 364-0603

Brian Yamamoto, PE
Consultant Project Manager
(919) 858-1865

Project email

I95-Lumberton@publicinput.com

RIGHT-OF-WAY PROCEDURES AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

The design-build contract is expected to be awarded Summer 2021, and right-of-way acquisition may begin shortly thereafter. The engineering firm awarded the contract will be responsible for right-of-way acquisition on behalf of NCDOT, and will be required to follow NCDOT's process. Owners will be compensated for property that would be required for new right-of-way, control of access (similar to right-of-way, but prohibits driveway access to the roadway or highway), and temporary construction easements. NCDOT's process is outlined below.

Right-of-way Procedures - After decisions are made regarding the final design, the proposed right-of-way limits will be staked in the ground. If you are an affected property owner, a right-of-way agent will contact you and arrange a meeting. The agent will explain the plans and advise you as to how the project will affect you. The agent will inform you of your rights as a property owner. If permanent right-of-way is required, professionals who are familiar with real estate values will evaluate or appraise your property. The evaluations or appraisals will be reviewed for completeness and accuracy, and then the right-of-way agent will make a written offer to you. NCDOT must:

- Treat all owners and tenants equally
- Fully explain the owner's rights
- Pay just compensation in exchange for property rights
- Furnish relocation advisory assistance

Relocation Assistance - If you are a relocatee, that is, if your residence or business is to be acquired as part of the project, additional assistance in the form of advice and compensation is available. You will also be provided with assistance regarding locations of comparable housing and/or commercial establishments, moving procedures, and moving aid. Moving expenses may be paid for you. Additional monetary compensation is available to help homeowners cope with mortgage increases, increased value of comparable homes, closing costs, etc. A similar program is available to assist business owners. The right-of-way agent can explain this assistance in greater detail. Additional information about the right-of-way process can also be found here:

https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/ROW/Pages/ROW-Support.aspx.

TRAFFIC NOISE PROCESS

During planning and design for highway projects, NCDOT must identify traffic noise impacts, examine potential noise abatement. incorporate feasible and reasonable noise abatement measures, and coordinate with local officials to provide helpful information on compatible land use planning and control. The procedures for doing this are stipulated by Federal regulation (23 CFR 772) and the NCDOT Traffic Noise Policy.

Preliminary noise analyses for this project are currently underway, and the results of this preliminary analysis will be documented in an initial noise study called a Traffic Noise Report (TNR). This TNR will present predicted traffic noise impacts based on the project's preliminary design, and will identify locations where noise abatement preliminarily meets feasibility and reasonableness criteria. The results of this preliminary analysis will be summarized in the I-6064 Categorical Exclusion environmental document. As part of the project's final design activities, additional noise studies will be conducted to identify recommended noise barrier locations.

Once recommended noise barrier locations are identified during final design, all property owners and tenants who are benefitted by a barrier will be asked to vote on the barrier. At that time, NCDOT will contact property owners and tenants who are eligible to vote and explain the balloting process and what they are being asked to vote on. Only recommended noise barriers that pass this voting process will be constructed.

Date of Public Knowledge - An important concept in Federal regulation and in the NCDOT Traffic Noise Policy is the Date of Public Knowledge, which stipulates when NCDOT is and is not responsible for providing noise abatement. The Date of Public Knowledge of the location and potential noise impacts for this project will be the approval date of the Categorical Exclusion in December 2020.

NCDOT is not responsible for evaluating or implementing any noise barriers to protect developed lands that did not have building permits issued before the Date of Public Knowledge. NCDOT advocates use of local government authority to regulate land development, planning, design and construction in such a way that noise impacts are minimized.

TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORM

*Completing this form is **completely** voluntary. You are not required to provide the information requested in order to participate in this meeting.*

Meeting Type: Virtual Public Meeting **Location:** N/A	**Date:** September 29, 2020
TIP No.: I-6064 **Project Description:** Proposed Improvements to I-95 from I-74 (Exit 13) to U.S. 301/Fayetteville Road (Exit 22) in Lumberton, Robeson County	

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities, the N.C. Department of Transportation assures that no person(s) shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any of the Department's programs, policies, or activities, based on their race, color, national origin, disability, age, income, or gender.

Completing this form helps meet our data collection and public involvement obligations under Title VI and NEPA, and will improve how we serve the public. Please place the completed form in the designated box on the sign-in table, hand it to an NCDOT official or mail it to the Environmental Analysis Unit, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598.

All forms will remain on file at the NCDOT as part of the public record.

Zip Code: _____

Street Name:
(i.e. Main Street) _____

Total Household Income:

- ☐ Less than $12,000
- ☐ $12,000 – $19,999
- ☐ $20,000 – $30,999
- ☐ $31,000 – $46,999
- ☐ $47,000 – $69,999
- ☐ $70,000 – $93,999
- ☐ $94,000 – $117,999
- ☐ $118,000 or greater

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age:

- ☐ Less than 18
- ☐ 18-29
- ☐ 30-44
- ☐ 45-64
- ☐ 65 and older

Have a Disability: ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Race/Ethnicity:

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

National Origin: (if born outside the U.S.)

- ☐ Mexican
- ☐ Central American: _____
- ☐ South American: _____
- ☐ European: _____
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

How did you hear about this meeting? (newspaper advertisement, flyer, and/or mailing) _____

_____

For more information regarding Title VI or this request, please contact the NCDOT Title VI Nondiscrimination Program at (919) 508-1808 or toll free at 1-800-522-0453, or by email at titleVI@ncdot.gov. Thank you for your participation!

NCDOT - Environmental Analysis Unit
Attn: Tony Gallagher
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

NCDOT - Environmental Analysis Unit
Attn: Tony Gallagher
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

FOLD HERE

TAPE HERE

TAPE HERE

Public Meeting Comment Sheet

The N.C. Department of Transportation appreciates your review of the virtual public meeting materials and appreciates any comments you may have for the proposed I-95 Lumberton Project.

Comments may be submitted up to Oct.15, 2020 and should be returned to:

Brian Yamamoto, PE - NV5 Engineers & Consultants
PO Box 33127, Raleigh, NC 27636 or through the project email I95-Lumberton@publicinput.com

Name: _____

Company/Organization/Neighborhood: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____

Email Address: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Brian Yamamoto, PE
NV5 Engineers + Consultants
PO Box 33127, Raleigh, NC 27636