



# Independence Boulevard Extension

ATTN: Peter Trencansky  
URS Corporation  
1600 Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 400  
Morrisville, NC 27560



# Independence Boulevard Extension

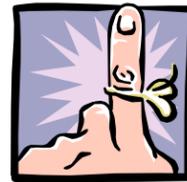
Transportation Improvement Program Project No. U-4434



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## Don't Forget the Citizens Informational Workshop...



**JUNE 13, 2011 FROM 4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**  
**RACHEL FREEMAN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**  
**2601 PRINCESS PLACE DRIVE, WILMINGTON, NC 28405**



### PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

**Project Hotline: 1-800-233-6315**

For more information about the project, please contact the project hotline or Mr. Peter Trencansky (URS).

#### Project Manager—URS Corporation

Mr. Peter Trencansky, PE, PTOE  
1600 Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 400  
Morrisville, NC 27560  
Phone: 1-800-233-6315  
peter\_trencansky@urscorp.com

#### NCDOT

Mr. Ted Devens, PE  
Project Manager  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1548  
tedevens@ncdot.gov

## NCDOT Seeks Input From Citizens

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is proposing to construct a new road in Wilmington, North Carolina. Located within the central portion of the City of Wilmington, the proposed 1.7-mile long roadway would be an extension of existing Independence Boulevard (in the vicinity of the Covil Avenue corridor) from the intersection with Randall Parkway to US 74 (Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway). Overpasses and interchanges will be considered at multiple locations along the project. Additional lanes along Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway may be needed for continuous connection with nearby interchanges at Kerr Avenue and 23rd Street.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about the project start-up, including current project status, proposed schedule, and to announce an upcoming public involvement opportunity.

## Citizens Information Workshop Scheduled

The NCDOT has scheduled a Citizens Informational Workshop on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Rachel Freeman School of Engineering, 2601 Princess Place Drive, Wilmington, NC 28405.

The purpose of the workshop will be to present the new project to the public, introduce the NCDOT team members, and receive input on the purpose of the project. The workshop will consist of an informal open house format. Interested individuals may attend this informal workshop at their convenience during the above stated hours. NCDOT representatives will display maps and will be available to answer questions and receive comments from the public.

*NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for disabled persons who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Jamille Robbins (NCDOT) at 919-707-6085 as early as possible so arrangements can be made.*

If you are unable to attend, comments may be submitted to:

Mr. Peter Trencansky, PE, PTOE  
Project Manager—URS Corporation  
1600 Perimeter Park Drive  
Suite 400  
Morrisville, NC 27616  
Email: peter\_trencansky@urscorp.com

### Why Is This Project Needed?

- Deficient North-South Regional Roadway Connectivity.
- Deficient North-South System Capacity.
- Deficient Linkage Within and Through New Hanover County.

### Project Assistance Hotline!

**For Project U-4434**  
**Call 1-800-233-6315**

### Project History and Status

The Independence Boulevard Extension project has been included in local transportation plans since 1972, and is currently included in the *Cape Fear Commutes 2035 Transportation Plan*. The extension of Independence Boulevard is also a component of the Wilmington Urban Loop (which is one of the urban highway loops created and funded by the North Carolina General Assembly in

the 1989 Highway Trust Fund legislation). NCDOT conducted a feasibility study of the proposed project in July 2002. The project was first included in NCDOT's 2004-2010 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and is currently included in the Draft 2012-2018 STIP as project number U-4434.

### Project Schedule

Project Planning and Design Studies.....	Currently Starting
Citizens Informational Workshop #1.....	June 13, 2011
• to seek public input before starting any design work	
Prepare Design Alternatives.....	Fall 2011
Citizens Informational Workshop #2.....	Spring 2012
• to seek public input on design alternatives	
Draft Environmental Impact Statement.....	Summer 2014
• presents analysis of detailed alternatives and their impacts	
Public Hearing.....	Fall 2014
• provides more information on each alternative and seeks public input	
Final Environmental Impact Statement.....	Spring 2016
• presents NCDOT's recommended alternative	
Record of Decision.....	Summer 2016
• presents NCDOT's final decision	
Right-of-Way Acquisition Begins.....	2020
Construction Begins.....	Currently Unfunded

### Project Purpose and Need

Needs identified for the Independence Boulevard Extension include the following:

- Deficient North-South Regional Roadway Connectivity
  - only one major north-south road (College Road) connects all of the major east-west roads
- Deficient North-South System Capacity
  - inability of all north-south roads (combined) to meet the traffic needs in central Wilmington
- Deficient Linkage Within and Through New Hanover County
  - Wilmington has poor connections to other transportation facilities (airports, railroad hubs, ports)

The primary purpose of the project is to improve regional mobility, system traffic capacity, north-south connectivity, and transportation system (intrastate/intermodal) linkage from Randall Parkway, in the vicinity of Independence Boulevard, to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway that is consistent with local and state transportation plans.

### What Happens Next?

YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO NCDOT ...

The next step in the planning process will be to summarize comments made at this workshop, consider these comments, and then begin to prepare and analyze design solutions for the improvements.

There will be opportunities during 2012 to review and comment on design alternatives for the Independence Boulevard Extension project.

Please feel free to ask questions and submit comments throughout the project planning and design process by contacting one of the project representatives listed on this newsletter.

Thanks for Your Participation!

### Project Study Area

