

R-2553 Kinston Bypass - Summary of First Round of Citizens Informational Workshops held February 23 and 25, 2010

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is considering construction of a four-lane, median divided freeway with full control of access in Lenoir, Jones and Craven counties in North Carolina. The proposed action is listed in the NCDOT Draft 10-year Program and Resource Plan as Project Number R-2553. As currently defined in the NCDOT Draft 10-year Program and Resource Plan, the project is approximately 12.4 miles in length and extends from US 70 near LaGrange (in Lenoir County) to US 70 near Dover (on the Jones and Craven County line) around the City of Kinston.

Prior to initiating planning and environmental studies for the proposed Kinston Bypass project, NCDOT mailed 7,185 postcards informing the public of the upcoming first round of workshops to introduce the project to the public, introduce the public to the project team, answer any questions the public had about the project and study process, and to request the public's input on the need for the project. In addition to mailing postcards, NCDOT also ran advertisements in local newspapers and radio stations about the workshops and distributed a total of 242 flyers to business and churches along US 70 and US 70 Bypass promoting the workshops. The workshops were added to the Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce's events calendar and a digital copy of the flyer was distributed to the Kinston-Chamber of Commerce's listserv of businesses via email.

NCDOT activated a project website, which included information to be presented at the first round of Citizens Informational Workshops, the postcard, the flyer, the workshop handout, and the workshop comment sheet. NCDOT activated a toll-free project information hotline to allow the public to call for project information or project updates. NCDOT also provided information for the public with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), which included translation into Spanish of the postcard, flyer, handout, comment sheet, and vital workshop display boards. The project hotline allowed for the Spanish speaking public to contact the project team. NCDOT also provided a Spanish translator at both workshops, which were held February 23 and 25, 2010 at the Kinston High School and Kinston Public Services Complex, respectively.

The following pages represent a summary of the responses received from the workshops, which include:

- Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Question Number
- Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Type of Comment

	Means by which the public found out about the workshop:
36	Postcard
25	Newspaper
2	Radio
14	Friend/Family
2	Other (listed via email)
	Number of workshop attendees who signed in at the registration table:
Workshop #1	172
Workshop #2	119
	Comments received as a result of workshops:
Workshop #1	31
Workshop #2	30
via Mail	6

R-2553 Kinston Bypass - Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Question Number		
Number of Responses		
Question #1	Do you encounter traffic congestion when driving around Kinston or along existing US 70 and existing US 70 Bypass? If yes, please answer the following:	
	44	Yes
	18	No
	1	Sometimes
1a. Where does the congestion occur?		
	16	US 258 / US 70
	16	NC 11 / US 70 Bypass
	14	Walmart/McDonalds Intersection at Hill Farm Road/Sussex Street and US 70
	7	NC 58 / US 70
	6	Vernon Avenue at US 70/US 70 Bypass
	5	Along US70/US 70 Bypass between Walmart and Lenoir Community College (between Hill Farm Road/Sussex Street and NC 58)
	3	NC 55 / US 70
	4	All along US 70 bypass in Kinston
	1	On weekends with beach traffic
	1	When passing through Goldsboro, Kinston, and New Bern
	1	From Havelock to Morehead City
1b. What do you think causes the congestion?		
	17	Travel from North Carolina's Piedmont and Mountain Regions to beaches; holiday and weekend traffic
	13	Traffic lights and traffic light timing
	8	Shopping areas (Vernon Park Mall - Walmart)
	7	Traffic volume
	3	Local traffic during rush hour (schools, shopping, businesses)
	3	Too many major roads intersecting 70 without controlled access
	1	Limited choice of alternate routes leads to congestion
	2	Local traffic is mixed with through traffic
	1	Speed limit is too low
1c. In your opinion, is the congestion unreasonable?		
	11	Yes
	18	No
Question #2	Existing US 70, provides a connection from Morehead City to Raleigh and cities in between, serving local and regional traffic. Some of the regional uses of US 70 consist of travel to and from points such as Crystal Coast, Global TransPark, Morehead City Port, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station. US 70 also serves as a major hurricane evacuation route in the event of an oncoming storm.	
2a.	Do you feel existing US 70 and existing US 70 Bypass serves mostly local traffic, regional traffic, or both?	
	4	Local Traffic
	2	Regional Traffic
	58	Both

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2b.	Do you feel existing US 70 and existing US 70 Bypass can accommodate the regional demands of Eastern North Carolina in addition to the local demands?	
	28	Yes
	33	No. If no, please describe why not:
		Why Not Responses:
	9	Projected increase in traffic in future years
	6	Increased traffic in summer, holidays, weekends (primarily beach traffic)
	4	Existing traffic lights should be replaced with controlled access or limited access intersections (overpasses), instead of new bypass
	3	Evacuation concerns in case of a hurricane or other disaster
	3	General congestion
	2	Increased local traffic during rush hour
	2	Regional through-travelers drive at high speeds and don't want to slow down
	1	Increase in military traffic
	1	Increased traffic from new industries coming to area
	1	US 258 / US 70 merge is a problem
	1	Proposed bypass would aid economic development and provide improved access to new industry
	1	Proposed bypass should be around Goldsboro and Havelock, not Kinston
	1	Need better access to south side of Kinston
	1	Too many businesses are located along US 70
	1	Emergency vehicles response time concern
	1	Existing corridor can't handle local, regional and intrastate traffic even if improvements were made.
	1	Bypass is needed
Question #3	In regard to accommodating local and regional traffic, what is your vision for the existing US 70 and existing US 70 Bypass corridor and the proposed Kinston Bypass?	
	11	Improve existing roads and intersections without building a new bypass-Need doesn't justify cost
	5	Bypass would damage existing businesses and local economy which depend on through travelers - a bypass would hinder access to these businesses
	4	Build proposed Kinston Bypass
	4	Existing traffic lights should be replaced with controlled access or limited access intersections (overpasses), instead of new bypass
	3	Complete Felix Harvey Parkway and add more connections to it (no new bypass)
	3	Reduce congestion
	3	General animosity toward Raleigh and tourists traffic
	3	Southern route preferred
	2	Increase safety - current uncontrolled intersections are dangerous
	2	Northern route preferred
	2	Connect existing major highways

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Question #3 (continued)	In regard to accommodating local and regional traffic, what is your vision for the existing US 70 and existing US 70 Bypass corridor and the proposed Kinston Bypass?	
	2	Bypass would aid economic development and provide improved access to new industry
	1	Separation of local and through traffic
	1	Protect natural environment
	2	Improve traffic flow for student traffic to Eastern Carolina University, military traffic With a bypass, local traffic would not have to contend with truck traffic traveling from the coast to Raleigh
	1	Overpass at US 258/US 70 and at NC 11/US 70
	1	Bypass needs to maintain viability for business/property owners on existing routes
	1	Improve access for emergency vehicles
	1	Need better access to river
	1	Locals should have easy access to new bypass
	1	Limit new businesses on existing 70 so congestion doesn't increase
	1	Do not add any more traffic lights
	1	Controlled access from Raleigh to Morehead City
	1	Bypass should be from Falling Creek to Dover
Question #4	Are there any transportation related problems along existing US 70 and/or existing US 70 Bypass which you feel need to be fixed/improved? If so, please list them below and identify the location.	
	9	Improve traffic lights - number, placement and timing/synchronization
	8	Improve intersections and access Existing traffic lights should be replaced with controlled access or limited access intersections instead of new bypass
	3	Congestion in Goldsboro and Havelock is worse than Kinston
	3	Improve existing roads instead of building new bypass
	2	US 70 and US 70 Bypass need to be repaved/potholes repaired McDonalds intersection is unsafe (Hill Farm Road/Sussex Street intersection with US 70)
	3	NC 11 and US 70 Bypass intersection
	1	Speed limit enforcement (too much speeding)
	1	Speed limit should be faster on bypass
	1	Southern route preferred
	1	Congestion during rush hour
	1	US 70 and NC 11 intersection causes congestion
	1	Merge from US 70 Bus to US Byp causes congestion and is unsafe
	1	Remove traffic lights at Neuse Sport Shop and Mt. Vernon Park Drive
	1	Kinston Walmart shopping areas (along US 70 near US 258)
	1	Existing US 70 has low spots where water is allowed to puddle
	1	New Bern near Craven Community College exit
	1	Add two new overpass at US 258/US 70 and at NC 11/US 70

R-2553 Kinston Bypass - Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Question Number		
Question #5	General needs for the Kinston Bypass project have been identified above. Do you feel there are other needs for the Kinston Bypass project? If so, please describe them.	
	3	Aid economic development and growth but don't hurt existing businesses
	1	Protect and provide access to Wyse Fork Civil War Battleground
	1	Protect natural environment
	1	Southern route preferred
	1	Provide easy access for local traffic to the new bypass
	1	Need a NC 11 Bypass to connect Greenville and Wilmington
	1	Need to improve access to Global TransPark so that it will be used and not be a wasted investment
	1	Faster through-traffic is safety concern for slower local motorists
	1	Bypass would aid economic development and provide improved access to new industry
Question #6	Other comments, questions, or concerns.	
	6	Concern about impacts to personal property from bypass
	6	Northern route preferred
	4	Concern that bypass would damage existing businesses and local economy that depend on travelers dollars
	3	Concern about historic sites, graveyards, etc.
	3	Concerns about money spent on bypass given current state of economy
	2	Southern route preferred
	2	Appreciation for inviting the public to comment
	3	Traffic has not gotten much worse in past 25 years, does not warrant a new bypass
	2	Concern about protecting wetlands near the Southern route
	2	Request shorter timeline for completion of project
	2	Getting people from Raleigh to the beach faster is not an adequate need for the project
	1	Jesse Jackson property - entire farm (which extends from NC 11/NC 55 to the Neuse River) is a registered historic property
	1	Commentor is interested in selling property to NCDOT
	1	Four-lane needs for US 17 or NC 58 to coast would also help
	1	Location of fire house and EMS - on wrong side of US 70
	1	How would this project affect traffic on other major highways such as US 258, NC 11, NC 58, etc.?
	1	Protect farmland and rural character of area
	1	Concern about over-development
	1	Complete controlled or limited access along US 70 and US 70 Bypass
	1	Bypass should extend to Dover
	1	Impact the fewest homes and businesses possible
	1	Locals should not have to endure impacts of Bypass, when the tourists are causing the congestion
	1	Widen NC 58

R-2553 Kinston Bypass - Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Question Number

Question #6 (continued)	Other comments, questions, or concerns.	
	1	Proposed plan (referring to line shown on STIP map) looks good and would improve traffic flow
	1	Existing traffic lights should be replaced with controlled access or limited access intersections instead of new bypass
	1	Would like existing road updated, if not updated, would like to see new road elevated above old road with no exit/entrance ramps
	1	Bypass would help the Port, Raleigh and Global TransPark
	1	Recheck traffic counts, traffic is lower now than in years past; current corridor is sufficient; we cannot afford a \$200 million dollar bypass of a bypass

R-2553 Kinston Bypass - Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Type

Number of Responses	Traffic congestion problem areas include:
17	US 258 / US 70
17	NC 11 / US 70 Bypass
14	Walmart/McDonalds Intersection at Hill Farm Road/Sussex Street and US 70
7	NC 58 / US 70
6	Vernon Avenue at US 70/US 70 Bypass
5	Along US 70/US 70 Bypass between Walmart and Lenoir Community College (between Hill Farm Road/Sussex Street and NC 58)
3	NC 55 / US 70
4	All along US 70 bypass in Kinston
1	When passing through Goldsboro, Kinston, and New Bern
1	From Havelock to Morehead City
Number of Responses	Congestion Areas/Congestion Causes/Traffic concerns/Traffic recommendations/Traffic Comments
22	Traffic lights and traffic light timing
16	Travel from NC's Piedmont and Mountain Regions to beaches; holiday and weekend traffic
9	Projected increase in traffic in future years
8	Improve intersections and access
8	Shopping areas (Vernon Park Mall - Walmart)
7	Traffic volume
6	Increased traffic in summer, holidays, weekends (primarily beach traffic)
5	Existing traffic lights should be replaced with controlled access or limited access intersections (overpasses), instead of new bypass
3	Reduce congestion
3	Existing traffic lights should be replaced with controlled access or limited access intersections instead of new bypass
3	Congestion in Goldsboro and Havelock is worse than Kinston
3	Local traffic during rush hour (schools, shopping, businesses)
4	Too many major roads intersecting 70 without controlled access
3	General congestion
2	Increased local traffic during rush hour
3	Regional through travelers
2	Improve traffic flow for student traffic to Eastern Carolina University, military traffic
1	Limited choice of alternate routes leads to congestion
1	Local traffic is mixed with through traffic
1	Speed limit is too low
1	Increase in military traffic
1	Increased traffic from new industries coming to area
1	US 258 / US 70 merge is a problem
1	Do not add any more traffic lights
1	Congestion during rush hour

R-2553 Kinston Bypass - Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Type

Number of Responses	Congestion Areas/Congestion Causes/Traffic concerns/Traffic recommendations/Traffic Comments (continued)
1	US 70 and NC 11 intersection causes congestion
1	Merge from US 70 Bus to US Byp causes congestion and is unsafe
1	Remove traffic lights at Neuse Sport Shop and Mt. Vernon Park Drive
1	Existing traffic lights should be replaced with controlled access or limited access intersections instead of new bypass
1	How would this project affect traffic on other major highways such as US 258, NC 11, NC 58, etc.?
1	Widen NC 58
1	Faster through-traffic is safety concern for slower local motorists
1	Provide easy access for local traffic to the new bypass
1	New Bern near Craven Community College exit
2	Kinston Walmart shopping areas (along US 70 near US 258)
1	Speed limit should be faster on bypass
1	Speed limit enforcement (too much speeding)
1	NC 11 and US 70 Bypass intersection
1	McDonalds intersection is unsafe (Hill Farm Road/Sussex Street intersection with US 70)
1	Complete controlled or limited access along US 70 and US 70 Bypass
Number of Responses	Comments against Bypass
5	Bypass would damage existing businesses and local economy which depend on through travelers - a bypass would hinder access to these businesses
4	Concern that bypass would damage existing businesses and local economy that depend on travelers dollars
3	Improve existing roads instead of building new bypass
3	Complete Felix Harvey Parkway and add more connections to it (no new bypass)
3	Traffic has not gotten much worse in past 25 years, does not warrant a new bypass
1	Proposed bypass should be around Goldsboro and Havelock, not Kinston
2	Getting people from Raleigh to the beach faster is not an adequate need for the project
1	Locals should not have to endure impacts of Bypass, when the tourists are causing the congestion
Number of Responses	Comments in favor of Bypass
7	Southern route preferred
8	Northern route preferred
4	Build proposed Kinston Bypass
4	Proposed bypass would aid economic development and provide improved access to new industry
2	With a bypass, local traffic would not have to contend with truck traffic traveling from the coast to Raleigh
1	Bypass should be from Falling Creek to Dover
1	Proposed plan (referring to line shown on STIP map) looks good and would improve traffic flow
1	Bypass should extend to Dover

R-2553 Kinston Bypass - Summary of Comments Received Categorized by Type

Number of Responses	Concerns about Impacts to Resources
3	historic sites, graveyards, etc.
5	natural environment
1	Protect and provide access to Wyse Fork Civil War Battleground
1	Protect farmland and rural character of area
1	Jesse Jackson property - entire farm (which extends from NC 11/NC 55 to the Neuse River) is a registered historic property
Number of Responses	Miscellaneous comments/suggestions
7	Concern about impacts to personal property from bypass/Impact the fewest homes and businesses possible
3	Evacuation concerns in case of a hurricane or other disaster
3	General animosity toward Raleigh and tourists traffic
3	Aid economic development and growth but don't hurt existing businesses
3	Concerns about money spent on bypass given current state of economy
2	Increase safety - current uncontrolled intersections are dangerous
2	Connect existing major highways
2	Request shorter timeline for completion of project
2	Appreciation for inviting the public to comment
2	US 70 and US 70 Bypass need to be repaved/potholes repaired
1	Need a NC 11 Bypass to connect Greenville and Wilmington
1	Need to improve access to Global TransPark so that it will be used and not be a wasted investment
1	Existing US 70 has low spots where water is allowed to puddle
1	Control access from Raleigh to Morehead City
1	Improve access for emergency vehicles
1	Need better access to river
1	Locals should have easy access to new bypass
1	Concern for emergency vehicles response time
1	Four-lane needs for US 17 or NC 58 to coast would also help
1	Commentor is interested in selling property to NCDOT
1	Location of fire house and EMS - on wrong side of US 70
1	Need better access to south side of Kinston
1	Bypass needs to maintain viability for business/property owners on existing routes
1	Limit new businesses on existing US 70 so congestion doesn't increase
1	Concern about over-development
1	Too many businesses are located along US 70
1	Bypass would help the Port, Raleigh and Global TransPark
1	Would like existing road updated, if not updated, would like to see new road elevated above old road with no exit/entrance ramps
2	Recheck traffic counts, traffic is lower now than in years past; current corridor is sufficient; we cannot afford a \$200 million dollar bypass of a bypass