



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

BEVERLY E. PERDUE
GOVERNOR

1578 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-1578

DAVID W. JOYNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Reid Simons, (919) 523-1662 or
Beau Memory, (919) 571-3006

TURNPIKE AUTHORITY TO HOLD OPEN HOUSES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS MAY 18-21 FOR MONROE CONNECTOR/BYPASS

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Turnpike Authority will hold four Pre-Hearing Open Houses and two Corridor Design Public Hearings May 18-21 for the proposed Monroe Connector/Bypass in Mecklenburg and Union Counties.

Pre-Hearing Open Houses are scheduled for:

- Monday, May 18, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the South Piedmont Community College, 4209 Old Charlotte Hwy, Monroe;
- Tuesday, May 19, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Matthews Community Center, 100 W. McDowell St, Matthews;
- Wednesday, May 20, from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at NC Cooperative Extension – Union County Center, 3230-D Presson Rd, Monroe; and
- Thursday, May 21, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Wingate University – Cuddy Arena, 230 N. Camden St, Wingate.

Turnpike Authority representatives will be available at the Pre-Hearing Open Houses to answer questions and receive comments concerning the Monroe Connector/Bypass. The same public hearing maps and project information will be presented at all open houses and hearings.

Public hearings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, May 19, at Matthews Community Center, 100 W. McDowell St, Matthews; and
- Thursday, May 21, at Wingate University – Austin Auditorium, 230 Cedar St, Wingate.

The Public Hearings will consist of an explanation of the purpose of and need for the project, project alternatives, design features, anticipated impacts, the state – federal relationship, and right of way and relocation requirements and procedures. The hearings will be open to those present for statements, questions and/or comments. Anyone wishing to speak at the formal hearing may register to do so at the Pre-Hearing Open Houses, immediately prior to the formal hearing or by calling Pat Puryear at (919) 571-3000 or by sending an email to monroe@ncturnpike.org. A three-minute time limit will be imposed for speaking in order to allow a fair opportunity for all those

wishing to do so. Additional spoken comments may be received after those who registered have finished their comments.

The Turnpike Authority in coordination with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), proposes to construct the Monroe Connector/Bypass, which would be a controlled-access toll road extending from US 74 near I-485 in Mecklenburg County to US 74 between the towns of Wingate and Marshville in Union County, a distance of about 20 miles. Several alternative corridors for this new location facility are evaluated in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Turnpike Authority, FHWA, and NCDOT have identified Detailed Study Alternative (DSA) D as the Recommended Alternative based on a balance of cost and design considerations, impacts to the human and natural environments, and input received to date from agencies and the public.

The Draft EIS and a Citizens Summary are available on the project website at www.ncturnpike.org/projects/monroe. Hard copies are available at the following locations: the Monroe, Indian Trail, Stallings and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Departments; the Monroe, Edwards Memorial, Matthews Branch and Union West libraries; the Turnpike Authority office in Raleigh and the NCDOT Division 10 office in Albemarle.

Comments on the Draft EIS may be submitted to Jennifer Harris, Turnpike Authority, at 1578 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1578, phone (919) 571-3000, or email, monroe@ncturnpike.org. Citizens may also call the Project Hotline (800-475-6402). Comments should be submitted by June 15, 2009. Please note this deadline has been extended.

The Turnpike Authority will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in the workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact the Turnpike Authority by Monday, May 11, 2009 so that arrangements can be made.

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