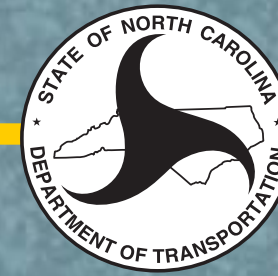




Poplar Tent Road Widening

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch
Attn: Wilson Stroud
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Poplar Tent Road Widening

Transportation Improvement Program Project No. U-3415

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Why Is This Project Needed?

The purpose of this project is to improve access to Concord Regional Airport, reduce traffic congestion, and improve safety at various intersections.

Citizens' Informational Workshop
Monday, June 18
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Concord Fire Station No. 9
Community Room
1020 Ivey Cline Rd
Concord

Citizens are encouraged to review the information in this newsletter, attend the workshop, and provide input regarding the proposed project.

Citizens' Informational Workshop To Be Held Monday, June 18 for Poplar Tent Road Widening Project

A citizens' informational workshop will be held on June 18 from 6-8 p.m. in Concord to provide an update on the proposed Poplar Tent Road widening project. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. The workshop will be drop-in style, and there will not be a formal presentation.



Poplar Tent Road near the Cannon School

Project Description

The N.C. Department of Transportation proposes to widen approximately 4.4 miles of Poplar Tent Road (State Road 1394) from Gable Oaks Lane/Woodhaven Place to Concord Parkway (US 29-601 Bypass). Poplar Tent Road will be widened to a four-lane divided curb and gutter highway with a raised 23-foot grass median. Traffic flow will be improved by constructing additional turn lanes and U-turn locations, as well as restricting left turns at some intersections. Two alternatives are currently being studied (see page 2).

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for anyone who wants to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact NCDOT Project Planning Engineer Wilson Stroud (contract information on back page) as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

For persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, interpretive services will be available at the meeting upon request. For more information, please call 1-800-481-6494 prior to the meeting.

Contact Us

Wilson Stroud
NCDOT Project Planning Engineer
Email: wstroud@ncdot.gov
Phone: 919.707.6045
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Raleigh, NC 27699-1548

A project website is currently under development.

If you have transportation questions about other projects, call the NCDOT Customer Service Office at 1-877-DOT-4YOU or visit the NCDOT website at www.ncdot.gov.

Project Schedule

June 18, 2012—Citizens' informational workshop

June 2013—Initial Environmental Document

September 2013—Public hearing

April 2014—Final Environmental Document

2018*—Begin right-of-way acquisition for Section A, from Gable Oaks Lane/Woodhaven Place to George Liles Parkway

2020*—Begin construction of Section A

* Section B, from George Liles Parkway to Concord Parkway (US 29-601 Bypass), is currently not funded for right-of-way acquisition or construction.

What's Next?

Both alternatives are being carried forward for further study and will be presented at the upcoming citizens' informational workshop. After the environmental studies are completed and citizen and agency comments have

been reviewed, a preferred alternative will be selected. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and NCDOT will continue to work closely with local, state, and federal agencies in selecting the final alternative.

What Are the Alternatives?

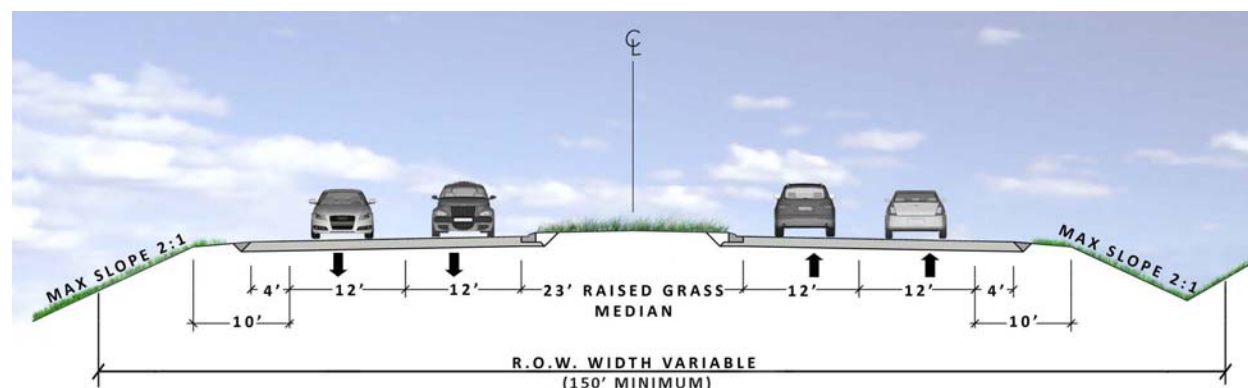
The project consists of two segments. Section A, from Gable Oaks Lane/Woodhaven Place to George Liles Parkway, will be built first. Section B, from George Liles Parkway to Concord Parkway (US 29-601 Bypass), is not currently funded.

Two alternatives are being considered. Either alternative would be four lanes with a 23-foot raised grass median and bicycle accommodations. Below is a sketch of what the road might look like.

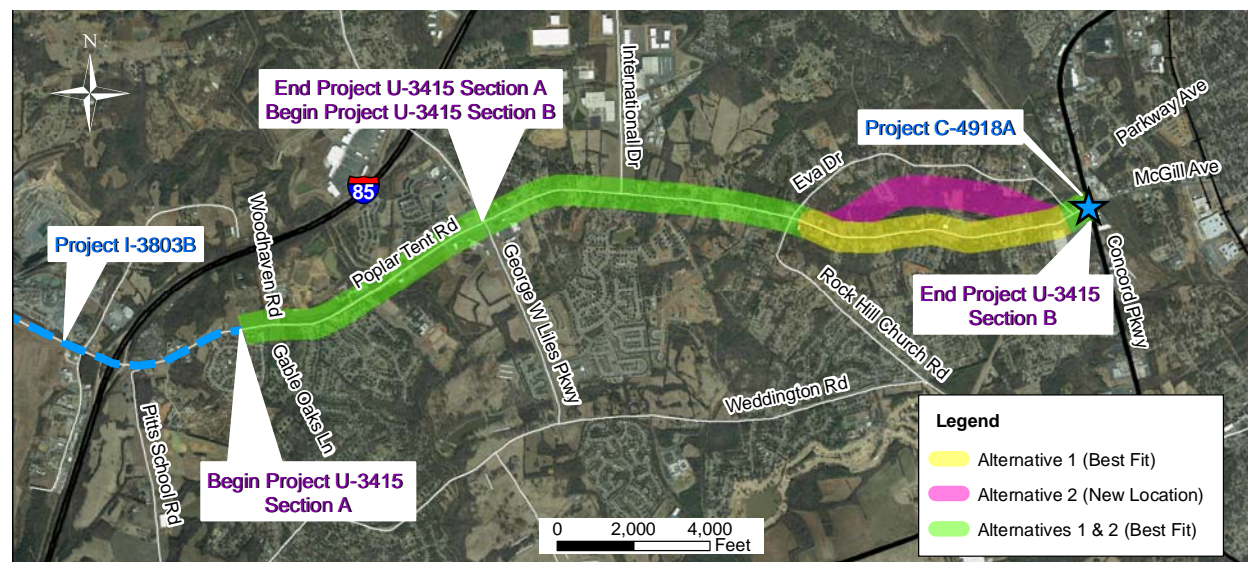
Alternative 1 would widen existing Poplar Tent Road the entire length of the project using a "best fit" design (green and yellow lines in the map below).

Alternative 2 would widen Poplar Tent Road from Gable Oaks Lane/Woodhaven Place to Rock Hill Church Road using a "best fit" design, (green line) then follow a new location north of Poplar Tent Road from Rock Hill Church Road to Eva Drive (purple line). This new section of roadway would be about 1 mile long. This alternative is being studied to reduce the number of relocations of homes and businesses.

The "best-fit" design concept widens the existing road either to the north or south side in such a way that environmental effects are minimized, including effects to residences and businesses.



Project Location and Alternatives Being Studied



What Has Been Happening?

A citizens' informational workshop was held in April 2004 to introduce the project to the community. Preliminary designs were developed and environmental studies were performed for the project from 2004 through 2007. In 2008, project studies were suspended due to funding limitations. Project studies were recently re-initiated in anticipation of right of way acquisition beginning for the westernmost section of the project (Segment A) in 2018. Based on coordination with the city of Concord, Cabarrus County, and the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization, two alternatives are being evaluated.



How Will This Affect Me and My Community?

The proposed widening will improve access to Concord Regional Airport, reduce traffic congestion and improve safety at various intersections. Below is a list of the potential effects of the project. As the development of the project moves forward, NCDOT will continuously refine the design to avoid and minimize project impacts.

Improvements to Poplar Tent Road:

- Easier to pass slower traffic; fewer traffic delays;
- Easier access to residences, businesses, and tourist attractions;
- Wider road to better accommodate vehicles and bicycles;
- New pedestrian accommodations; and
- Faster EMS/Fire Department response.

Other effects may include:

- Acquisition of some businesses and residences;
- Driveway access changes;
- Utility relocations; and
- Historic properties, streams and wetlands, and other natural and environmental resource effects.

Coordination with Other Projects

West of the project, Poplar Tent Road will be widened to four lanes with a median and intersection improvements from Derita Road/Odell School Road to Gable Oaks Lane/Woodhaven Place (NCDOT Project I-3803B). That project, currently under construction, also calls for constructing a diverging diamond interchange at Interstate 85.

East of the project, the Concord Parkway/Poplar Tent Road/McGill Avenue intersection is scheduled to be improved (NCDOT Project C-4918A) beginning later this year.

These projects are shown on the map on page 2.