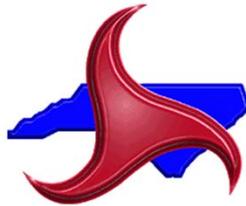


# Poplar Tent Road Widening

Concord, Cabarrus County  
TIP Project No. U-3415



North Carolina Department of Transportation

Citizens' Informational Workshop  
June 18, 2012



- Welcome to the Citizens' Informational Workshop for NCDOT's Project number U-3415, the widening of Poplar Tent Road in Concord.

 Poplar Tent Road Widening  
TIP Project U-3415

## Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Review project maps
- Speak with project representatives
- Complete comment sheet



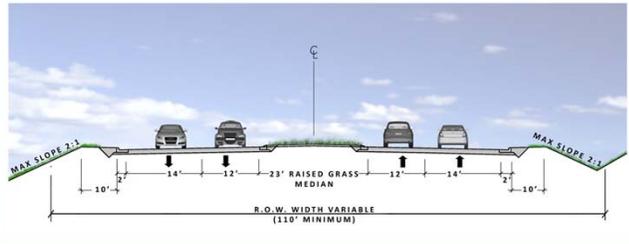
- The purpose of tonight's meeting is to introduce the community to this project, to answer questions, and to begin gathering public input. Your feedback is very important to the development of this project. We are glad you are here tonight.
- After this presentation, if you have not already done so, please sign in at the welcome table. Then, review the project maps and talk with the project team if you have any questions.
- The best way to provide us your comments is by filling out a comment sheet, which is included in the handout you received at the sign-in table. You can leave your comment sheet with us tonight, or submit it by July 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Project Overview

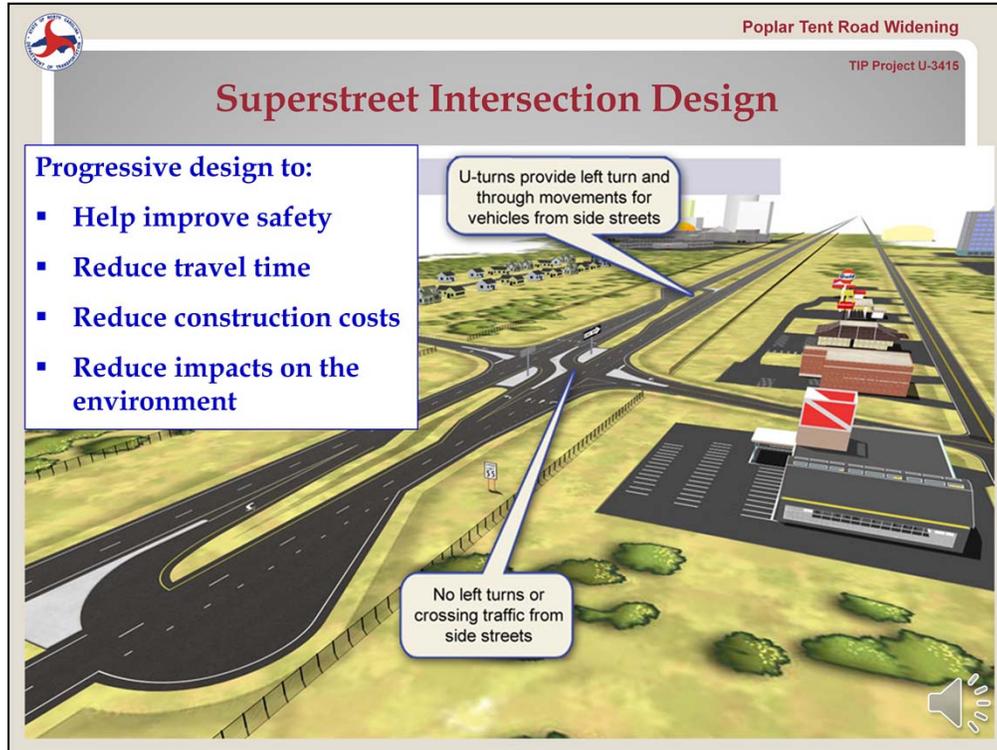
- Widen Poplar Tent Road
- 4.4-mile project
- 4-lane divided road with 23-foot grass median
- Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- "Superstreet" design



## Typical Section



- This project, listed in the North Carolina Transportation Improvement Program as Project U-3415, will widen 4.4 miles of Poplar Tent Road from two lanes to four lanes with a 23-foot grass median dividing opposing traffic. The road, which currently has shoulders and ditches, will now have curb and gutter. Bicycle accommodations will be provided on both sides, and the project may also include pedestrian accommodations.



- The proposed project will include superstreets at several intersections. The superstreet design, also called a directional crossover, is shown here.
- Superstreets have fewer conflict points than traditional intersections, which improves safety and reduces congestion. The exact locations of the superstreet intersections will be determined later in the design process.
- This type of intersection reduces overall travel time. Vehicles attempting to turn left at an intersection are redirected to a U-turn about 800 feet away in order to make the desired movement. However, it also decreases the time vehicles are stopped at the intersection, and requires fewer vehicles to stop.



- You see here an animated visualization of an operational superstreet. You can see the U-turns with the extra U-turn “bulb” to allow large vehicles to make this movement.
- We begin with a view of one of the side street intersections. Here, you see vehicles going straight through the intersection on the primary street and making right turns.
- Now we follow them as they move down the corridor.
- Several turn around using U-turn bulb, now driving in the other direction.
- At the original intersection, you can see them now going through the intersection or turning right at the side street.
- More information on superstreets is available at the sign-in table and on the display boards.

 **Poplar Tent Road Widening**  
TIP Project U-3415

## Project Purpose

- Improve access to Concord Regional Airport
- Reduce traffic congestion
- Improve safety at various intersections



Poplar Tent Road at Gable Oaks Lane



- The purpose of this project is to reduce congestion. By reducing congestion, this project will improve travel time along the corridor, and will make it easier to access residences, businesses, and the airport.
- This project will also make the road safer for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists using Poplar Tent Road.

Poplar Tent Road Widening  
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## Project History and Schedule

- April 2004: First citizens' informational workshop
- 2004 - 2007: Planning and design
- 2008 - 2011: On hold
- 2011 - Current: Planning and design
- Tonight: Second citizens' informational workshop
- Schedule
  - Section A right of way acquisition begins - 2018
  - Section A construction begins - 2020

The diagram, titled "Transportation Program Life Cycle", shows a sequence of seven stages in colored boxes: Long Range Planning (blue), Program Development (yellow), Project Planning (orange), Project Design (red), Right of Way (purple), Construction (green), and Maintenance & Operations (light blue). A blue arrow points down through these stages. A red arrow labeled "Safety" and a green arrow labeled "Environmental Stewardship" point upwards from the later stages. A large orange arrow labeled "We are here" points to the "Right of Way" stage.

- 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 from 2004 through 2007. In 2008, the project was 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 in 2018.



- The project consists of two segments. Section A is the western portion, from Gable Oaks Lane/Woodhaven Place to George Liles Parkway. This is the section that is currently funded for construction. Section B is the eastern portion, from George Liles Parkway to Concord Parkway. Section B is not currently funded. Planning and design is being done for the entire project.
- Two alternatives are currently under consideration.
- Alternative 1, shown in green and yellow in this map, would widen Poplar Tent Road the entire length of the project using a “best fit” design. 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.
- Alternative 2, shown in green and purple, would widen Poplar Tent Road from Gable Oaks/Woodhaven Place to Rock Hill Church Road using the “best fit” design, then would follow a new location north of Poplar Tenth Road from Rock Hill Church Road to Eva Drive. This new section of roadway would be about 1 mile long. Partial control of access is being considered for the new location portion, which means that generally only one driveway will be allowed per property. This alternative is being studied to reduce the number of relocations of homes and businesses, and was not being considered at the time of the 2004 workshop.
- A large map showing these two alternatives is available for you to look at tonight.
- NCDOT has coordinated with the city of Concord, Cabarrus County, and the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization, and will continue to

coordinate with these groups through the planning and design process.

City of Concord  
North Carolina

Poplar Tent Road Widening  
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## Study Area Characteristics

- Mix of residential, commercial, recreational, and open areas
- Three small streams (Coddle Creek, Afton Run, and Irish Buffalo Creek)
- Concord Regional Airport

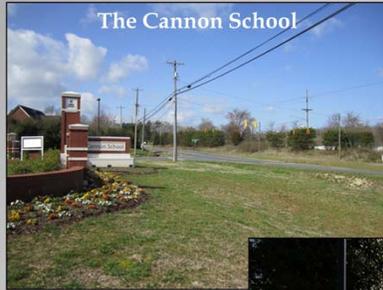


Coddle Creek



- Located in Cabarrus County, land uses in this area are a mix of homes, businesses, recreational areas, and open areas. Several popular tourist destinations are nearby including Concord Mills and Charlotte Motor Speedway.
- Two streams cross Poplar Tent Road near the west end of the project, and one stream crosses Concord Parkway and McGill Avenue at the east end of the project.
- The Concord Regional Airport is on the other side of I-85, less than 2 miles from the west end of the project.

## Study Area Characteristics



- The Cannon School, New Life Christian Academy, James Dorton Park, and several churches are located along the corridor.



Poplar Tent Road Widening  
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## Potential Effects

- **Improvements to Poplar Tent Road:**
  - Easier to pass slower traffic; fewer traffic delays
  - Easier access to residences, businesses, and airport
  - Wider road to better accommodate vehicles and bicycles
  - New pedestrian crossings
  - Faster EMS/Fire Department response
- **Other effects:**
  - Acquisition of some businesses and residences
  - Driveway access changes
  - Utility relocations
  - Streams and other natural and environmental resource impacts



- The proposed transportation improvements will reduce traffic congestion and improve travel time along the corridor.
- Safety and access will also be improved. Widening to four lanes will make it easier to pass slower vehicles and turn safely into driveways. The wider outside lanes will provide a safer place for bicyclists to ride, and new pedestrian accommodations may be added.
- The wider road will affect adjacent homes and businesses, and may also affect natural features such as streams and wildlife habitats.
- As the development of the project moves forward, NCDOT will continuously refine the design to avoid and minimize project impacts.

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## Coordination with Other Projects

- Widening of Poplar Tent Road west of this project (NCDOT Project I-3803B)
- Improving Concord Parkway/Poplar Tent Road/McGill Avenue intersection east of this project (NCDOT Project C-4918A)

- The Department of Transportation is also building two other projects nearby, shown here in blue.
- On the west end of the project shown with a blue dashed line, 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. That project, currently under construction, also calls for constructing a diverging diamond interchange at I-85 and a roundabout at the Poplar Tent Road/Gable Oaks Lane/Woodhaven Place intersection.
- On the east end of the project shown with a blue star, the intersection of Concord Parkway/Poplar Tent Road/McGill Avenue is scheduled to be improved beginning later this year.
- Both of these projects will have the same “superstreet” design as the Poplar Tent Road project in Concord, and so will have a consistent look.



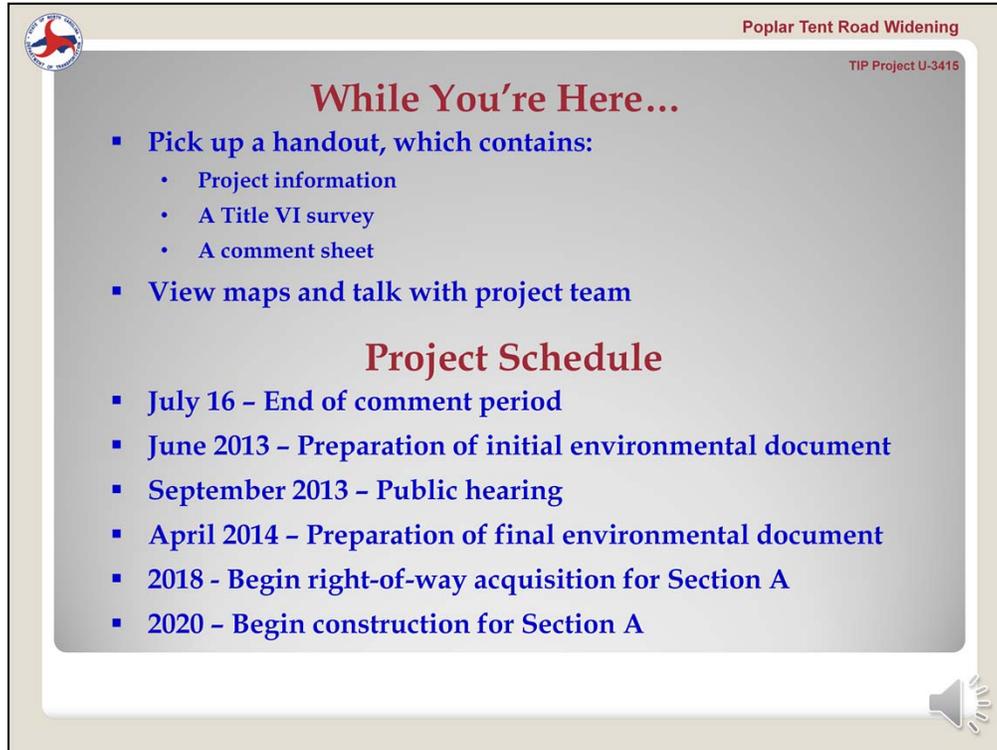
Poplar Tent Road Widening  
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## Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation Assistance

- NCDOT's policy is to:
  - Contact affected property owners and conduct property appraisals
  - Treat all owners and tenants equally
  - Provide fair market value for property
  - Offer property owner relocation assistance and explain procedures
- Right-of-way agents are available tonight to answer your questions



- NCDOT's right-of-way acquisition and relocation processes include contacting the affected property owners and conducting property appraisals.
- NCDOT will negotiate a right-of-way settlement with the property owners, providing a fair market value for the property. Relocation assistance is available.
- Additional information on the right-of-way acquisition process is available at the check in table. Right-of-way agents are here tonight to answer your questions.



The slide features a header with the project name and ID, a main title, two bulleted sections, and a speaker icon at the bottom right.

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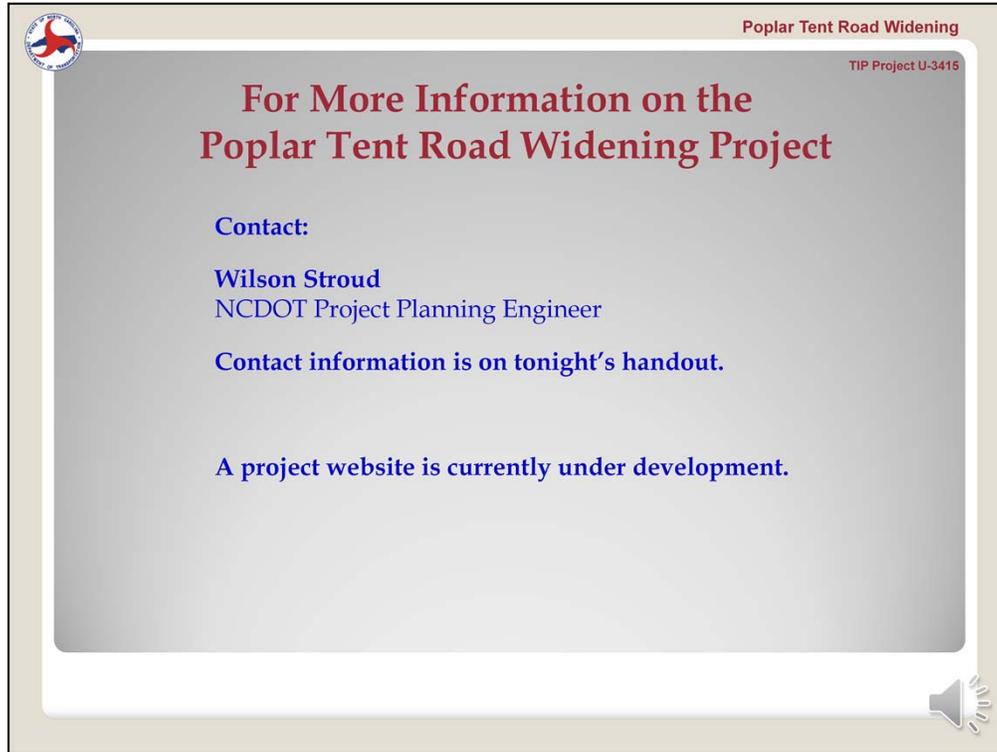
## While You're Here...

- Pick up a handout, which contains:
  - Project information
  - A Title VI survey
  - A comment sheet
- View maps and talk with project team

## Project Schedule

- July 16 - End of comment period
- June 2013 - Preparation of initial environmental document
- September 2013 - Public hearing
- April 2014 - Preparation of final environmental document
- 2018 - Begin right-of-way acquisition for Section A
- 2020 - Begin construction for Section A

- Please be sure to pick up a handout which contains some project information, a Title VI survey, and a comment sheet. Additional newsletters are also available if you did not get one in the mail.
- Take some time to view the maps and talk with the project team. Project team members will be wearing name tags.
- You are encouraged to fill out a comment sheet and leave it tonight or submit it by July 16<sup>th</sup>. Comments will be reviewed after the workshop.
- Over the next year, we will be refining the designs and preparing the environmental document. We expect to hold a public hearing next fall.
- Section A, the western side of the project, is currently scheduled to begin right of way acquisition in April 2014, with construction beginning in 2020. Section B, the eastern side, is currently unfunded and is not scheduled for right-of-way acquisition or construction.
- These dates may change based on funding availability.



The slide features a light beige border. In the top-left corner is the logo of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina. In the top-right corner, the text "Poplar Tent Road Widening" is displayed in red, with "TIP Project U-3415" in smaller black text below it. The main content area has a grey background with the following text in blue:

**For More Information on the  
Poplar Tent Road Widening Project**

**Contact:**

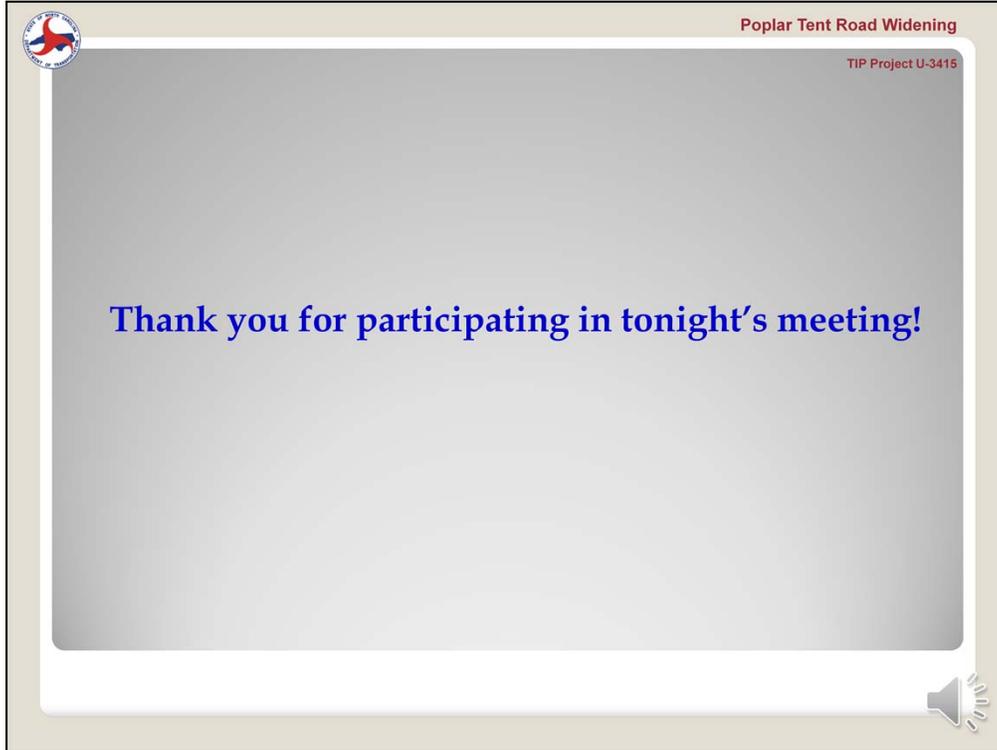
**Wilson Stroud**  
NCDOT Project Planning Engineer

**Contact information is on tonight's handout.**

**A project website is currently under development.**

A small speaker icon is located in the bottom-right corner of the slide.

- For more information, please contact Wilson Stroud, the project manager. His contact information is on the handout.
- The project website is currently being developed. Once completed, it will provide information about the progress of the project. The handout provides instructions for accessing the website.



- Thank you for participating in tonight's meeting. Your feedback is very important to us.

# Poplar Tent Road Widening

Cabarrus County, North Carolina  
TIP Project No. U-3415



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**The presentation will begin again shortly.**



- The next presentation will begin again shortly.