

ACCESS 540

AT OLD HOLLY SPRINGS-APEX ROAD

Wake County
STIP Project Number R-2635D



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 1—APRIL 2014—PROJECT INITIATION

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Our Mission

Connecting people and places safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy, health and well-being of North Carolina.



PLANNING STUDIES HAVE BEGUN —NCDOT WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK—

The “Access 540” project is a proposal by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to convert the existing bridge on Old Holly Springs-Apex Road (SR 1153) at Triangle Expressway (NC 540) to an interchange. The project would also construct approximately two miles of additional lanes (called ‘auxiliary lanes’) along the Triangle Expressway between US 1 and the NC 55 Bypass.

Planning, engineering design, and environmental studies are underway. This includes identifying the purpose and need for the project, examining alternatives that satisfy the purpose and need, and analyzing the environmental effects of those alternatives. The purpose of the environmental studies is to provide appropriate and relevant information so that an informed decision can be made on a Preferred Alternative.

Preliminary Purpose and Need: The purpose of the Access 540 project is to improve access and roadway connectivity in response to planned and anticipated development in southern Apex. Traffic along Old Holly Springs-Apex Road is projected to increase by over 2,100 percent – from 1,900 vehicles per day in 2010 to 43,000 vehicles per day in 2035. Since the existing bridge does not connect to the Triangle Expressway, motorists desiring to access the Triangle Expressway from Old Holly Springs-Apex Road must travel an additional 4.5 to 5.5 miles.

The proposed interchange would provide a direct connection between Old Holly Springs-Apex Road and the Triangle Expressway. The proposed auxiliary lanes along the Triangle Expressway would provide an additional lane for entering and exiting traffic that is separate from the through travel lanes along this facility. This would improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

Project Schedule (preliminary)

Environmental Assessment	Winter 2014
Public Hearing	Winter 2014
Finding of No Significant Impact	Spring 2015
Open to traffic	Late 2016

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

NCDOT wants your feedback on the following topics as noted below: 1) the preliminary study area (shown on the map opposite page), 2) the preliminary purpose and need for the project, and 3) the range of alternatives that should be considered. Enclosed in this newsletter is a comment form. Please complete the comment form and **return by Monday, May 26, 2014** to ensure your comments are considered in the planning process.

- 1) Preliminary Study Area – This is the area where the Access 540 project will be located. This includes the ramps and loops for the interchange, widening along Old Holly Springs-Apex Road, and the auxiliary lanes to be added along the Triangle Expressway. Within the study area NCDOT will collect detailed survey data on the location of homes and businesses, wetlands, streams, threatened and endangered plants and animals, hazardous materials and other information. NCDOT would like to know if you think the boundary of the study area is appropriate for the project.
- 2) Preliminary Purpose and Need for the Project – This briefly explains why the Access 540 project is needed. The project would increase connectivity between the Triangle Expressway and Old Holly Springs-Apex Road. NCDOT wants your input on whether you feel this access point is adequately justified and whether there may be other needs that could be addressed by the project.
- 3) Range of Alternatives – NCDOT will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives that meet the project's purpose and need. Various types of interchanges will be considered. NCDOT would like to know if you have suggestions for alternatives that should be considered to address the purpose and need for the project (e.g. a certain interchange type or configuration).



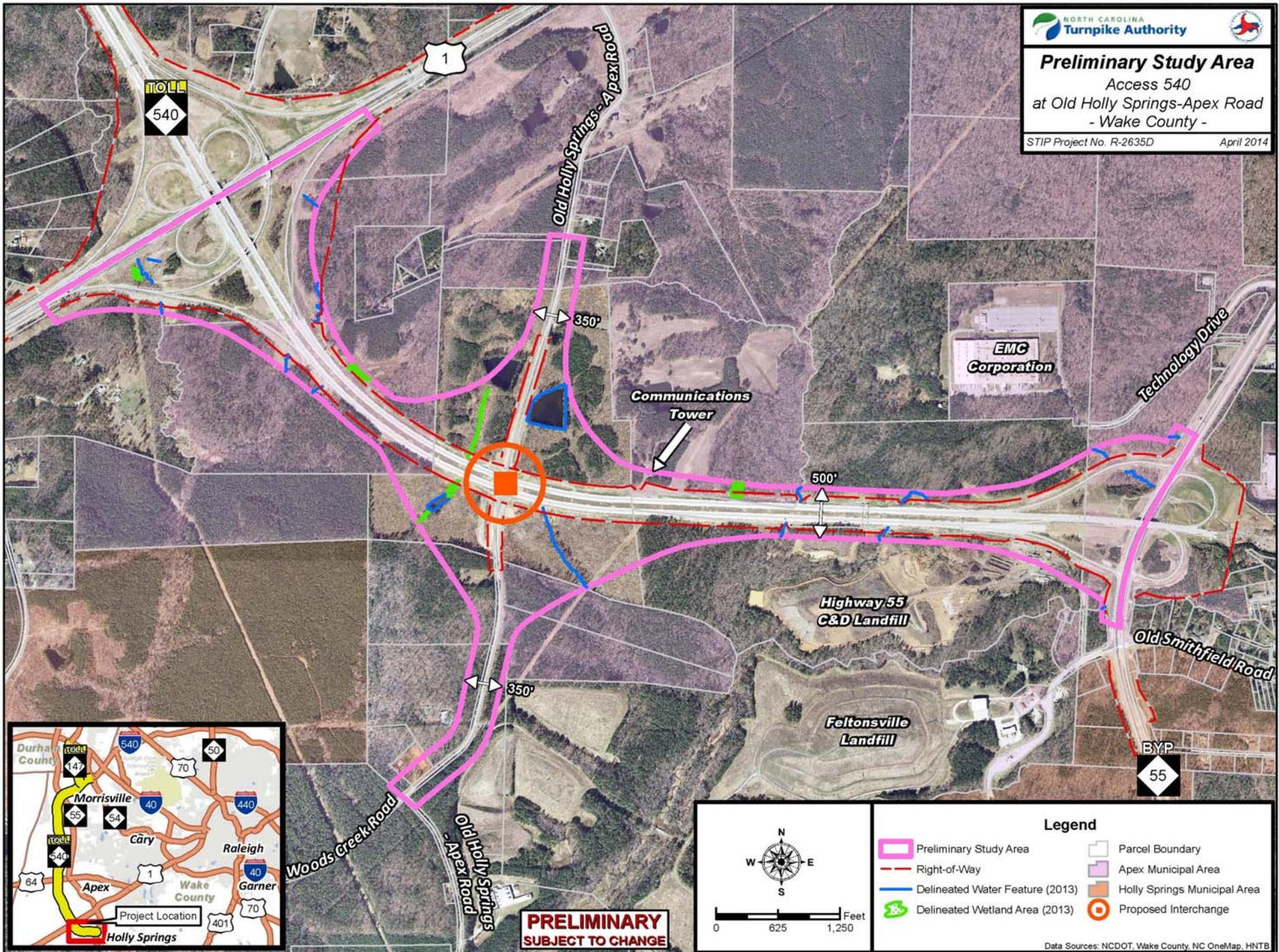
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once the project alternatives have been established, NCDOT will develop the engineering designs. The designs will be used to determine impacts on the human and natural environment. This requires preparation of several technical studies related to air quality, traffic noise, community impacts, farmland, floodplains, and natural resources (such as wetlands, streams, and federally protected plant and animal species). The results of the studies will be published in an environmental document, anticipated to be an Environmental Assessment, which will be made available on the project website for review and comment by the public, environmental resource and regulatory agencies, and local governments.

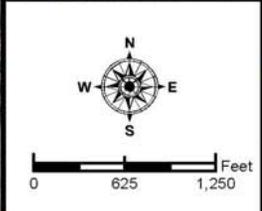
Following completion of the Environmental Assessment, NCDOT will hold a public hearing to solicit comments from the public and other interested stakeholders. After considering all comments received, and assuming the project will not have a significant impact on the human and natural environment, NCDOT will publish a Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI. The FONSI represents the final decision on which alternative will be constructed and the reasons for its selection. After that, NCDOT will select a contractor to design and build the project. Construction can begin once all permits have been received and any necessary right-of-way has been acquired. Information on the right-of-way acquisition process can be found on the project website.

Preliminary Study Area
 Access 540
 at Old Holly Springs-Apex Road
 - Wake County -

STIP Project No. R-2635D April 2014



PRELIMINARY
SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Legend	
	Preliminary Study Area
	Right-of-Way
	Delineated Water Feature (2013)
	Delineated Wetland Area (2013)
	Parcel Boundary
	Apex Municipal Area
	Holly Springs Municipal Area
	Proposed Interchange

Data Sources: NCDOT, Wake County, NC OneMap, HNTB



Access 540, STIP Project R-2635D

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www.ncdot.gov/projects/triangleexpressway/
Click on "Access 540" in the left margin

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For more information about the project, please visit the project website. Written correspondence can be provided to Jennifer Harris or Tracy Roberts.