

# Public Comment Summary and NCDOT Response

Project: NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Project U-5792

Subject: U-5792 Comment Summary and NCDOT Response to Public Comments January 2026 Public Outreach

Dates: *Local Officials Meeting:*  
January 13, 2026                      Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
*Public Meeting:*  
January 29, 2026                      Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Locations: *Local Officials Meeting:*  
Microsoft Teams Meeting  
*Public Meeting:*  
University of North Carolina Wilmington  
Burney Center, Ballroom A  
601 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403

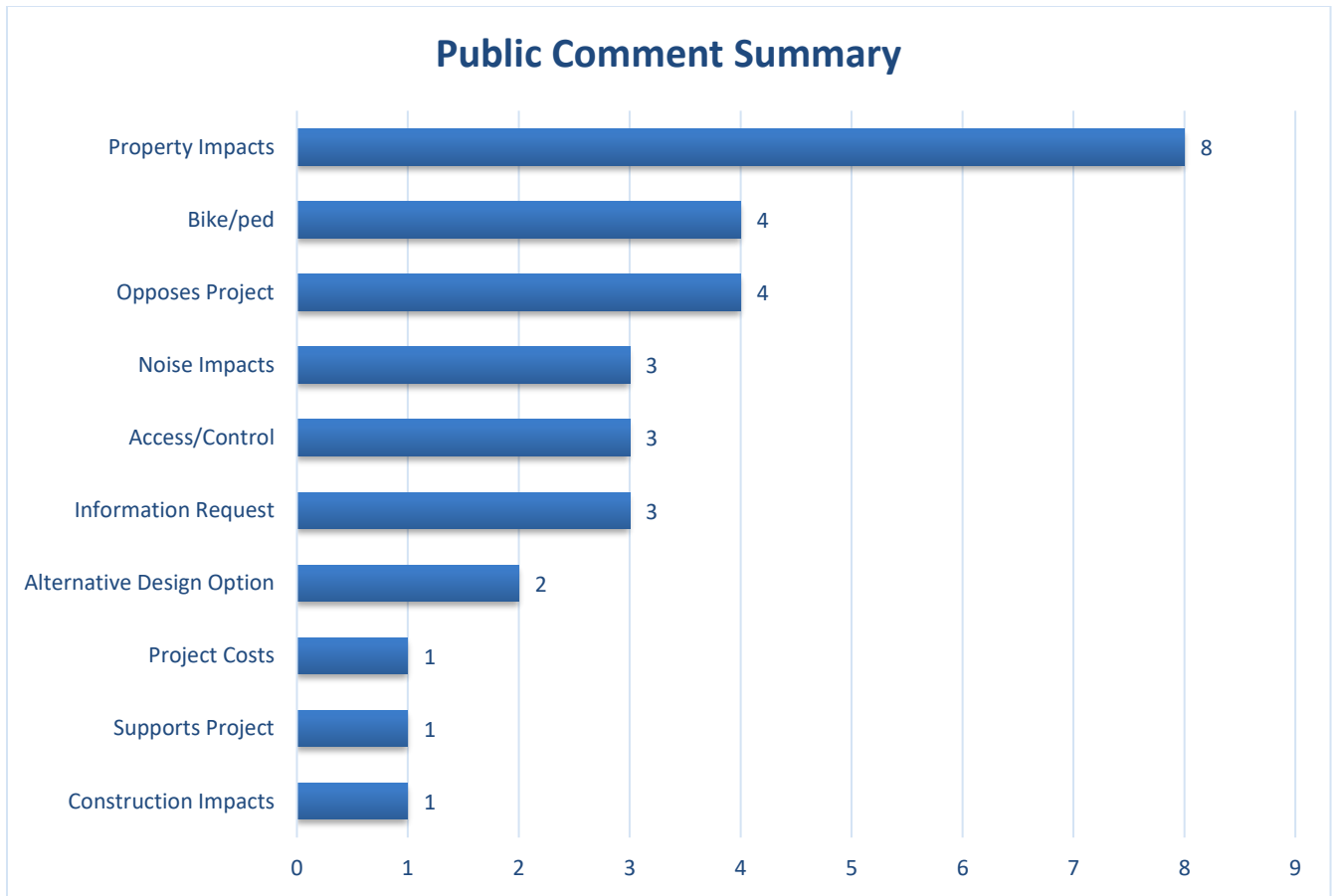
Notes By: HDR

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) held an in-person public meeting on January 29, 2026, in Wilmington, New Hanover County. The meeting was held at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Burney Center in Wilmington, NC. Staff members from City of Wilmington, Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), NCDOT (Division 3), and HDR (consultant) attended. There was a total of 91 attendees from the public.

On January 13, 2026, a Local Officials Informational Meeting was held virtually and attended by staff members or representatives from the City of Wilmington, Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), New Hanover County, Wilmington Police Department, the Federal Highway Administration, NCDOT (Division 3), and HDR (consultant). There were 24 total attendees.

The comment period for the project extended from January 23, 2026, to March 2, 2026. During this time, 30 comments were received by 56 members of the public through the project’s publicinput.com website, project phone line, e-mails to the project e-mail address, or comment sheets left at the public meetings. Comments were categorized by themes; some comments reflected multiple themes and a total of 11 total themes were recorded. The below chart and table summarize comment themes and representative comments.

Figure 1: Public Input Comment Subjects



Subject	Count	Percent	Description/Representative Comment
Property Impacts	8	27%	Concerns about the impact on properties, including land acquisition, access to existing driveways, and the right-of-way process.
Opposes Project	4	13%	General opposition to the project.
Bike/ped	4	13%	Concerns about the lack of bicycle or pedestrian accommodations along College Road.
Information Request	3	10%	A request for additional information on the project limits and impacts.
Access/Control	3	10%	Concerns about removing access points on College Road, especially for the Spring View neighborhood
Noise Impacts	3	10%	Concerns about future noise levels and what noise mitigation measures are proposed.
Alternative Design Option	2	7%	Alternative options for design, including an extension of I-40 through the project area.
Construction Impacts	1	3%	Concerns about how College Road and adjacent roads will be accessed and operating during construction.
Supports Project	1	3%	General support for the project.
Project Costs	1	3%	Concerns with the project estimates being lower than the actual cost of construction in the let year.
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### Summary of Comments Received by Topic and NCDOT Responses

Opposes Project (3)

Comments noted

Supports Project (3)

Comments noted

Property Impacts (8)

- Residential/Property Impacts

In certain instances, private property must be acquired to provide North Carolinians with a safe and modern transportation system. When a property is shown to be impacted, many factors have been taken into consideration in determining that the affected site is the most practical location for the transportation project.

As the project progresses, NCDOT will continue to avoid and minimize residential relocations to the greatest extent practicable. After decisions are made regarding the final design, the proposed right-of-way limits will be staked on the ground. Affected property owners will be contacted by a NCDOT or NCDOT-contracted right-of-way agent to explain the plans, discuss any impacts to their property, and provide information regarding property owner rights. Appraisals and negotiations with the state will then take place. Property appraisals take into consideration several factors

NCDOT STIP Project U-5792  
Public Comment Summary

including, lot size, square footage, any updates or improvements, location, and the current real estate market. The proposed project would not be the only factor considered when determining property values and the amount of any compensation.

Information Request (4)

- Comments to be addressed individually.

Bicycle/Pedestrian (1)

- NCDOT is committed to improvements to provide for all modes of transportation and has continued to coordinate efforts with the City of Wilmington and New Hanover County to incorporate these improvements into the project in compliance with applicable design and cost-sharing guidelines. In areas where existing sidewalks are being disturbed, the proposed design shows these sidewalks being replaced. In areas where future pedestrian accommodations are proposed, the design has been developed to facilitate their future construction.

Access/Control (1)

- **Neighborhood Impacts**  
NCDOT recognizes that there may be significant changes in access to local neighborhoods and businesses within the study area due to the proposed project. NCDOT is committed to minimizing these changes where possible. In instances where impacts cannot be fully avoided or minimized, NCDOT will work to mitigate these effects through appropriate measures. NCDOT will continue to coordinate with the local municipalities and emergency management services to address access concerns. Adjacent businesses should share or interconnect access where possible.

Noise Impacts (1)

- Regarding noise impact concerns, a preliminary traffic noise analysis is currently underway, and the results are not yet available. Once the analysis is complete, the results will be documented in an initial noise study called a Traffic Noise Report (TNR). This TNR will present predicted traffic noise impacts based on the project's preliminary design and will identify locations where noise abatement preliminarily meets feasibility and reasonableness criteria. When this noise study is complete, maps will be posted on the project website that show the areas likely to get noise abatement based on that preliminary analysis. If the TNR identifies areas likely to qualify for noise abatement, then additional noise studies will be conducted as part of the project's final design activities to identify recommended noise barrier locations.

Alternative Design Option (3)

- An alternative selection meeting was held with NCDOT, the Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), and City of Wilmington on May 27, 2025. The current selected design was selected as the recommended alternative as it addresses the project's purpose and need to reduce congestion and delays along College Road, while also making the road safer by

NCDOT STIP Project U-5792  
Public Comment Summary

separating merging traffic and local access from the main through-lane. reducing conflict points and weaving with frontage roads parallel to College Road and an elevated road structure over Martin Luther King Jr Parkway and College Road intersection, carrying northbound traffic to College Road.

Construction Impacts (3)

- Temporary visual impacts would affect properties adjacent to areas where construction, staging, and stockpiling operations occur. Upon project completion, the contractor would be required to remove all equipment and excess materials and reseed any disturbed areas. Generally, low-cost and easily implemented construction noise control measures should be incorporated into the project plans and specifications to the extent practicable. These measures may include, but are not limited to, work-hour limits, equipment exhaust muffler requirements, haul-road locations, elimination of “tail gate banging”, ambient-sensitive backup alarms, construction noise complaint mechanisms, and consistent and transparent community communication.

Air quality impacts resulting from roadway construction activities are typically not a concern when contractors utilize appropriate control measures. During construction of the proposed project, all materials resulting from clearing and grubbing, demolition or other operations would be removed from the project, burned, or otherwise disposed of by the Contractor. Any burning would be done in accordance with applicable local laws and ordinances and regulations of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality in compliance with 15A NCAC 2D.1903. Care would be taken to ensure burning will be done at the greatest distance practical from dwellings and not when atmospheric conditions are such as to create a hazard to the public. Operational agreements that reduce or redirect work or shift times to avoid community exposures can have positive benefits. Burning would be performed under constant surveillance.

Project Costs (2)

- The right-of-way, construction, and utility relocation costs shared at the January 29 public meeting are estimates based on the current design plans and subject to change. The project has been included in the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan for several years as a fiscally constrained project.