

U.S. 401/Ligon Mill Road/Mitchell Mill Road/Perry Creek Road Intersection – Comment/Response

On January 7th, 2022, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) distributed a project update postcard for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Project No. U-5748 – US 401/Ligon Mill Road/Mitchell Mill Road Intersection. The postcard provided updates to the public regarding the expanded project limits to include improvements at the intersection of US 401 (Louisburg Road) and Perry Creek Road. The improvements include changing the intersection at Perry Creek Road and US 401 to a Reduced Conflict Intersection. Comments on the postcard and project updates were received up to January 21st, 2022.

Below is a summary of the comments received and general responses to these comments. Additional project information can be found on the [project website](#).

1. Noise

Comment

Comments received regarding potential noise impacts requested measures to buffer road noise from US 401 due to the loss of vegetation currently along the highway.

Response

A final design traffic noise analysis is currently underway and will be documented in a Design Noise Report (DNR). This noise study will identify future traffic noise levels due to the project, and where traffic noise levels are high enough, noise walls will be considered. Noise walls that meet feasibility and reasonableness criteria found in the [NCDOT Traffic Noise Policy](#) will be constructed. So far, three noise walls have been found to be feasible and reasonable and are to be built. An additional area at the intersection of US 401 and Perry Creek Road is being evaluated as part of the ongoing DNR. All noise analysis and noise wall decisions are carried out in compliance with the NCDOT Traffic Noise Policy.

2. Speed Limit

Comment

Comments received regarding speed limit inquired about lower speeds throughout the project area.

Response

The existing speed limit in the vicinity of Perry Creek Road is 50 mph; there are no plans to change the speed limit in this area.

In the areas of US 401 (Louisburg Road) north of Mitchell Mill Road, the existing 55 mph speed limit will be reduced to 50 mph in the project limits.

3. Intersection Configuration and Traffic Patterns

Comment

Several comments were received with concerns regarding the future movements at the future intersection of US 401 (Louisburg Road) and Perry Creek Road. Additionally, comments requested additional information on the location of stoplights within the project area.

Response

Median and U-turn bulbs are a standard component of reduced conflict intersection design and are utilized successfully throughout the state. Traffic analyses have been completed for this project and the results were carefully considered in the roadway design decisions. The proposed design helps to alleviate traffic congestion while increasing travel capacity, reducing travel time along the corridor during peak travel times, and reducing the number of collisions at intersections.

Reduced conflict intersections do not eliminate left turns but rather redirect them to a U-turn bulb.

At Perry Creek Road, NCDOT is converting the existing intersection to a Reduced Conflict Intersection. More information on how Reduced Conflict Intersections improve traffic flow and safety can be found [online](#) prepared by NCDOT's Safety and Mobility Unit. Although the traffic patterns may be changing, users will be able to reach their existing destinations with minimal changes to the routes they use today. Additionally, the proposed changes are consistent with the existing reduced conflict intersection approximately 2.5 miles north at the US-401 Bypass at Rolesville.

For the improvements at Perry Creek Road, three traffic signals will be located on U.S. 401. One will be placed to facilitate U-turns south of the Perry Creek Road intersection (between Fox Road and Perry Creek Road), one will be placed to allow left turns from U.S. 401 to Perry Creek Road, and one will be placed to facilitate U-turns north of the Perry Creek Road intersection. With these improvements, Harnett Drive will no longer have access to U.S. 401.

4. Right of Way

Comment

Comments concerning right-of-way impacts inquired about potential impacts to specific homes as well as a general timeline for when acquisitions would begin.

Response

NCDOT expects to begin acquiring right of way in the vicinity of Perry Creek Road in March 2022. NCDOT will offer fair market value for property that needs to be acquired for the Project. A right-of-way agent will contact property owners and work with them directly during the right-of-way acquisition phase of the project. More information about the Right-of-Way acquisition process can be found [here](#).

At this time, NCDOT does not anticipate that any structures will be impacted by the improvements in the vicinity of Perry Creek Road.

5. Construction and Schedule

Comment

Comments received inquired about the process of construction of the project and how traffic would be maintained throughout. Additionally, citizens requested additional information for the project schedule and when construction may begin.

Response

NCDOT expects to begin acquiring right of way in the vicinity of Perry Creek Road in March 2022.

Construction is expected to begin in March 2023. Prior to the road construction, utility owners in the vicinity of the project will be moving their equipment to prepare for the roadway construction.

NCDOT will continue to make efforts to further avoid and minimize impacts due to the project to the greatest extent practicable during construction.