

The Proposed US 15-501 Corridor Improvements Chatham County, N.C. Newsletter

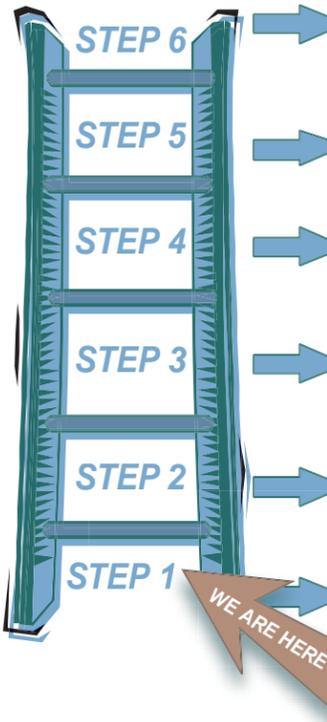


Issue No. 1

Chatham County, North Carolina

TIP No R-2628

EIS Planning Process



- STEP 6**
 - Preliminary roadway design plans
 - Third Citizens Informational Workshop
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
 - Record of decision
 - Design public hearing
- STEP 5**
 - Review comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - Preferred alternative corridor selection
- STEP 4**
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - Corridor public hearing
- STEP 3**
 - Engineering design studies
 - Field studies
 - Environmental impact evaluation
 - Technical reports
- STEP 2**
 - Evaluation of preliminary alternatives
 - Second Citizens Informational Workshop
 - Selection of study alternatives
- STEP 1**
 - Data collection
 - First Citizens Informational Workshop

About Our Organization

Public involvement is an important part of the planning process. The North Carolina Department of Transportation encourages citizen involvement on transportation projects and will consider your suggestions and address all concerns. Please send your comments to one of the addresses listed below. Your opinions are important to us!

If you have transportation questions on other projects, call our Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-877-DOT-4YOU, or visit the NCDOT website at www.ncdot.org.

Public Participation

The North Carolina Department of Transportation thanks you for taking the opportunity to participate in the planning process of this project. You are encouraged to provide your input and suggestions at the Citizen's Informational Workshop, by mail, or by phone. Feel free to contact either of the two representatives listed below if you have questions, ideas or suggestions.

Theresa Ellerby
Project Development & Environmental Analysis Branch
 North Carolina Department of Transportation
 1548 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548
 (919) 733-7844 ext. 266
 fax: (919)733-9794

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 ARCADIS
 801 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 300
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27607
 (919) 854-1282 ext. 281
 fax: (919) 854-5448

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

This newsletter is published by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to provide you with information about the proposed improvements to US 15-501 around the city of Pittsboro. The project is included in the NCDOT 2004-2010 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) as Project No. R-2628. This newsletter outlines the project planning process and provides you with the names of key project personnel to contact for project input, comments and questions during the project planning process. NCDOT encourages your participation, and welcomes your recommendations or suggestions on the proposed US 15-501 Corridor Improvements Project.

The proposed project will evaluate ten alternative study corridors for the improvements to US 15-501. A map illustrating the alternative study corridors is located on page 3 of this newsletter. These corridors begin south of Pittsboro and continue in a northerly direction to the US 64 Bypass. The alternative study corridors range in length from 3.6 to 7.8 miles and are approximately 1000 feet wide. Alternative E, along existing US 15-501, has a 500-foot wide study corridor. The other alternatives being studied are on new locations either to the east or west of existing US 15-501. The 1000-foot wide study corridor area does not mean 1000 feet of right-of-way is required for construction. The 1000 feet is the width of the study area. The alternative study corridors are wider than the right-of-way so that if environmentally sensitive areas are found, slight shifts in the alignment location can be made to avoid adverse impacts to sensitive areas. The required right-of-way has not been determined at this time and will most likely vary depending on which of the alternative study corridors is selected for detailed study.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The need for a bypass around Pittsboro was first identified over 36 years ago. Currently, north-south travel along US 15-501 requires traffic to utilize the downtown traffic circle that surrounds the historic Chatham County Courthouse. Congestion and travel delays are experienced at the traffic circle during peak travel hours. It is anticipated that congestion will substantially increase as travel demand and growth continues in Chatham County. Additionally, more accidents occur at intersections with and along US 15-501 in Pittsboro than at intersections located further away from the traffic circle and downtown Pittsboro. US 15-501 is also designated as a truck route. Many conflicts occur between automobiles, trucks, and pedestrians in and around the traffic circle. All of these factors contribute to the congested and unsafe conditions along US 15-501 in Pittsboro. The proposed corridor improvements will alleviate these conditions by removing truck through-traffic from the downtown areas and decreasing vehicular traffic volumes.

Citizens Informational Workshop

DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2003

TIME: 4 PM - 7 PM

LOCATION: NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

310 Northwood High School Road, Pittsboro

ANNOUNCING A PUBLIC WORKSHOP!

North Carolina Department of Transportation
 Theresa Ellerby
 Project Development & Environmental Analysis Branch
 1548 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548



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 US POSTAGE
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 RALEIGH, NC
 PERMIT #1854

Project Assistance Hotline!
 1-866-226-0151

If you have any questions about the project, feel free to use the project assistance line between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please reference "TIP R-2628." Your call will be answered by a project team member at the ARCADIS office.

Written inquiries, comments, or suggestions may be addressed to:

Ms. Theresa Ellerby
 NCDOT-PDEA
 1548 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1548

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

A study area, approximately ten miles long by ten miles wide was identified around the city of Pittsboro. A Community Profile Report and a Purpose and Need Statement have been developed. Additionally, a Land Suitability Map was generated; it identifies areas of concern including housing developments, business areas, sitings of federally protected species, streams, lakes, wetlands, historic resources, watersheds, parks, schools, and buildings or areas of local significance. Based on the findings of these two reports and the Land Suitability Map, ten alternative study corridors were developed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You're Invited to Attend a Citizens Information Workshop...

A Citizens Informational Workshop (CIW) will be held at the Northwood High School cafeteria, 310 Northwood High School Rd, Pittsboro on Thursday, November 6, 2003. The CIW will be open to the public from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to provide individuals an opportunity to view the alternative study corridors, make comments, and ask questions about the project. These corridors may change or be eliminated from further study based on public comments, or new alternative study corridors may be added. Therefore, your comments are necessary to ensure that the best transportation facility that serves the needs of the traveling public and the local community is constructed.

After the CIW, all of the comments received will be elevated and used to help select the corridors to be studied in detail in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Opportunities for additional public input will be forthcoming throughout the planning process.

For those unable to attend the workshop, comments may be sent to Theresa Ellerby at NCDOT-PDEA, 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548 or phone: 919-733-7844 ext 266. All comments received will become part of the official project record.

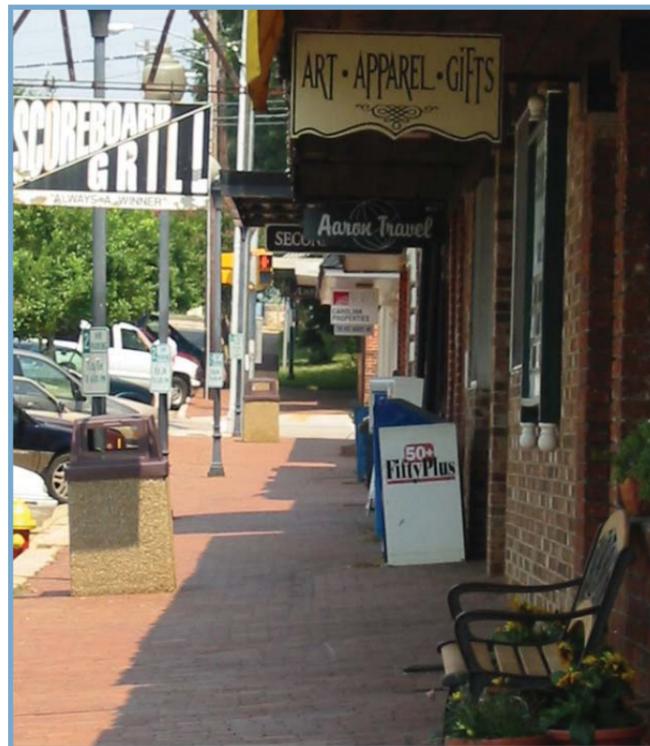
NCDOT will provide auxiliary services for disabled persons who wish to participate in the workshop, in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. To receive special services, please contact Ms. Theresa Ellerby at least one week prior to the workshop. Additionally, an interpreter will be provided for Spanish speaking individuals.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT SCHEDULE?

- The proposed project is scheduled for right-of-way acquisition in 2008
- Construction would begin in post-year 2008

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Project team members are available for small group meetings. Local organizations, congregations, businesses, or groups of individuals are invited to call the project assistance line. Those arranging meetings will be requested to contact and invite all members of their particular group. To arrange a small group meeting, please call Bonnie Peacock at 1-866-226-0151 during normal business hours.

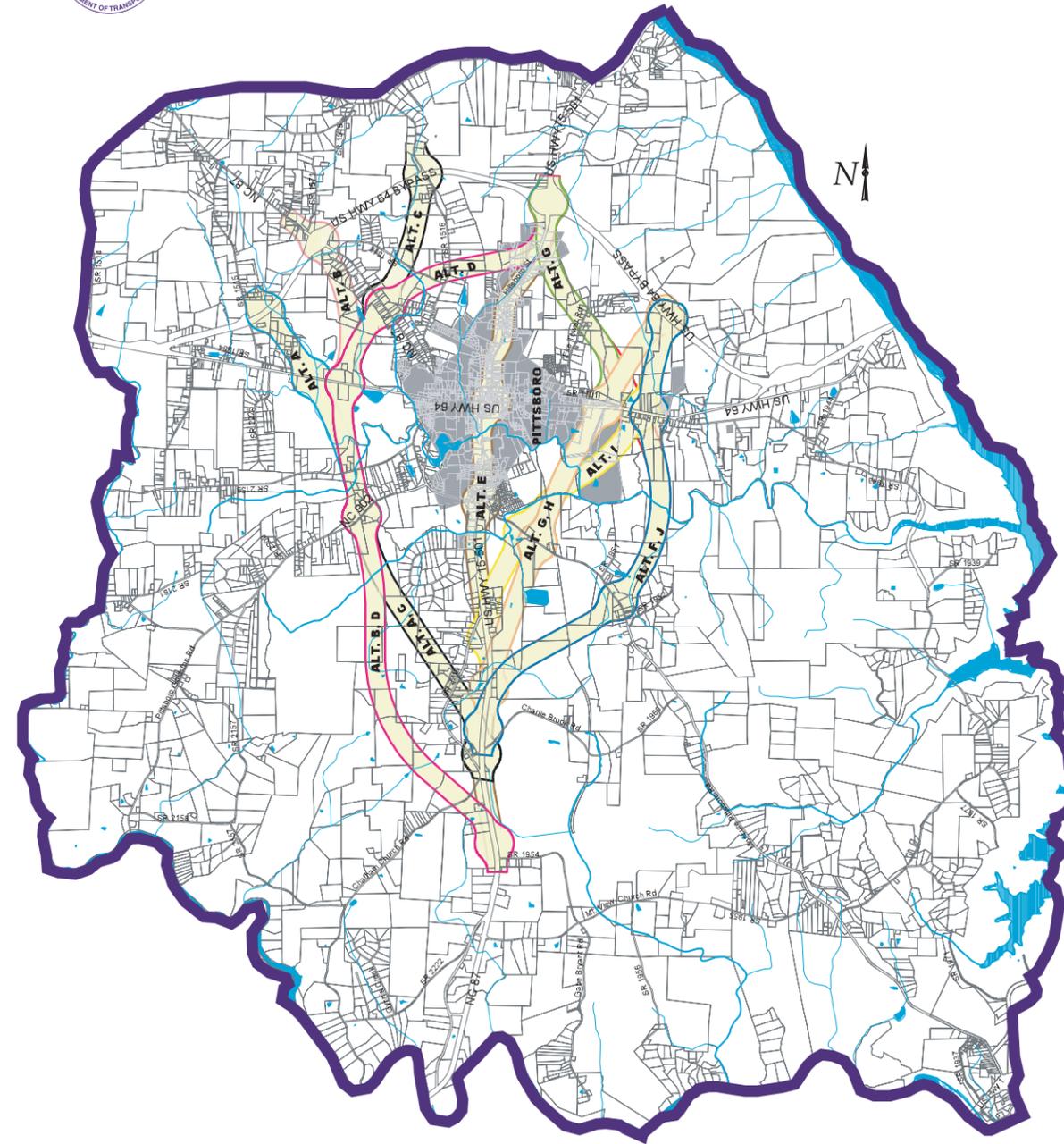


PROPOSED US 15-501 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

T.I.P. NO. R-2628, STATE PROJECT NO. 8.1521901,

FEDERAL PROJECT NO. STP-15 (10)



LEGEND

- PROPOSED EIS STUDY AREA BOUNDARY
- RIVERS & STREAMS
- LAKES
- PARCELS
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY

ALTERNATIVE STUDY CORRIDORS

- ALTERNATIVE A
- ALTERNATIVE B
- ALTERNATIVE C
- ALTERNATIVE D
- ALTERNATIVE E*
- ALTERNATIVE F
- ALTERNATIVE G
- ALTERNATIVE H
- ALTERNATIVE I
- ALTERNATIVE J

* 500' WIDE STUDY CORRIDOR

Miles 0 1 2

Scale: 1" = 1 Mile

