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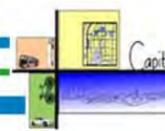
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## PREFACE

The Triangle is consistently ranked as one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States. It is estimated that the population of the Raleigh-Cary Metropolitan Statistical Area has increased from 797,000 in 2000 to 1,125,000 in 2009. The proposed extension of NC 540 (Raleigh Outer Loop) is expected to further enhance the desirability of the western Wake and eastern Chatham County area, as motorists traveling to the Research Triangle Park (RTP), one of the major employment centers in the region, will experience shorter travel times. Roadways connecting to the proposed extension of NC 540, such as US 64, are anticipated to see an increase of traffic resulting from motorists using the new highway to travel to and from RTP. Many examples of the increased traffic on roadways connecting to the I-540/NC 540 Raleigh Outer Loop can be found throughout the region.

In 2004, the North Carolina Department of Transportation adopted the Strategic Highway Corridor initiative which strives to improve, protect and maximize the capacity of existing corridors deemed critical to statewide mobility and regional connectivity. US 64 is a Strategic Highway Corridor. At the same time the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) began identifying corridors that currently or in the future would experience unacceptable congestion, which includes US 64. It was determined that corridor studies should be conducted in order to devise mitigation strategies that would allow the corridors to operate at an acceptable level. Corridor Studies of this magnitude are rare due to the extensive resources needed to complete them; however, the benefits that result from the study are extremely valuable for decision makers along the corridor.

The US 64 Corridor Study establishes a vision for the corridor between the US 64 Business interchange east of Pittsboro to US 1 in Cary of preserved and enhanced mobility and safety balanced with community access and interests. The study sets forth a short-term and long-term master plan for the corridor that will allow the roadway to accommodate the substantial growth projected for western Wake and eastern Chatham County over the next 25 years.

One of the most important benefits of this study is the establishment of a framework and collaborative process for making decisions about land use and transportation along the corridor. Numerous agencies and groups are responsible for overseeing elements of the corridor, including environmental agencies, NCDOT, CAMPO, counties and local municipalities. This study establishes a comprehensive vision for the corridor and a plan that provides the decision makers with the tools to

collaborate and make decisions that are consistent with the vision. The completion of the study will not be the end of the efforts to keep US 64 a viable corridor, but the beginning of the stage where the partners along the corridor work together to implement solutions that enhance the corridor for users, residents and businesses along the corridor.

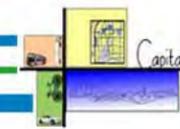
Just as important as defining the purpose of the study, is establishing what the study is not expected to accomplish. The results of this study and the recommended solutions will not directly result in the construction of any of the solutions identified, but will act as a basis for developing additional studies to implement solutions that are consistent with the vision for the corridor.

The study is a guide for making decisions that affect the corridor into the future, and is based on existing data and projections of how the corridor is expected to evolve. The results of the study are meant to be flexible and allow for innovation and enhancement of the solutions in the event that the future trends change or better solutions are developed. With a collaborative effort by the stakeholders along the corridor, it is likely that elements of this study may be improved upon and changes made that will better balance the community's needs while maintaining the overall vision for the corridor.

One of the key aspects of this study was to involve the public and communities that live and work along the corridor and engaging them in an active role in the development of this study. Community insight and opinion has substantially shaped the recommendations and vision for the corridor. Throughout the different chapters of the report, the ongoing community involvement is described and details are provided around how the communities' input has shaped the outcome of this study. Moving forward, the community will continue to play a major role as further studies are developed for the individual projects along the corridor.

Numerous individuals have spent countless hours helping to establish the unique vision for the US 64 Corridor and have been invaluable throughout the development of this study. The Corridor Study Team would like to sincerely thank these individuals and groups for the time and effort they dedicated to creating a plan that benefits the communities along US 64 while meeting the goals for increased mobility and safety along this vital corridor.





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