

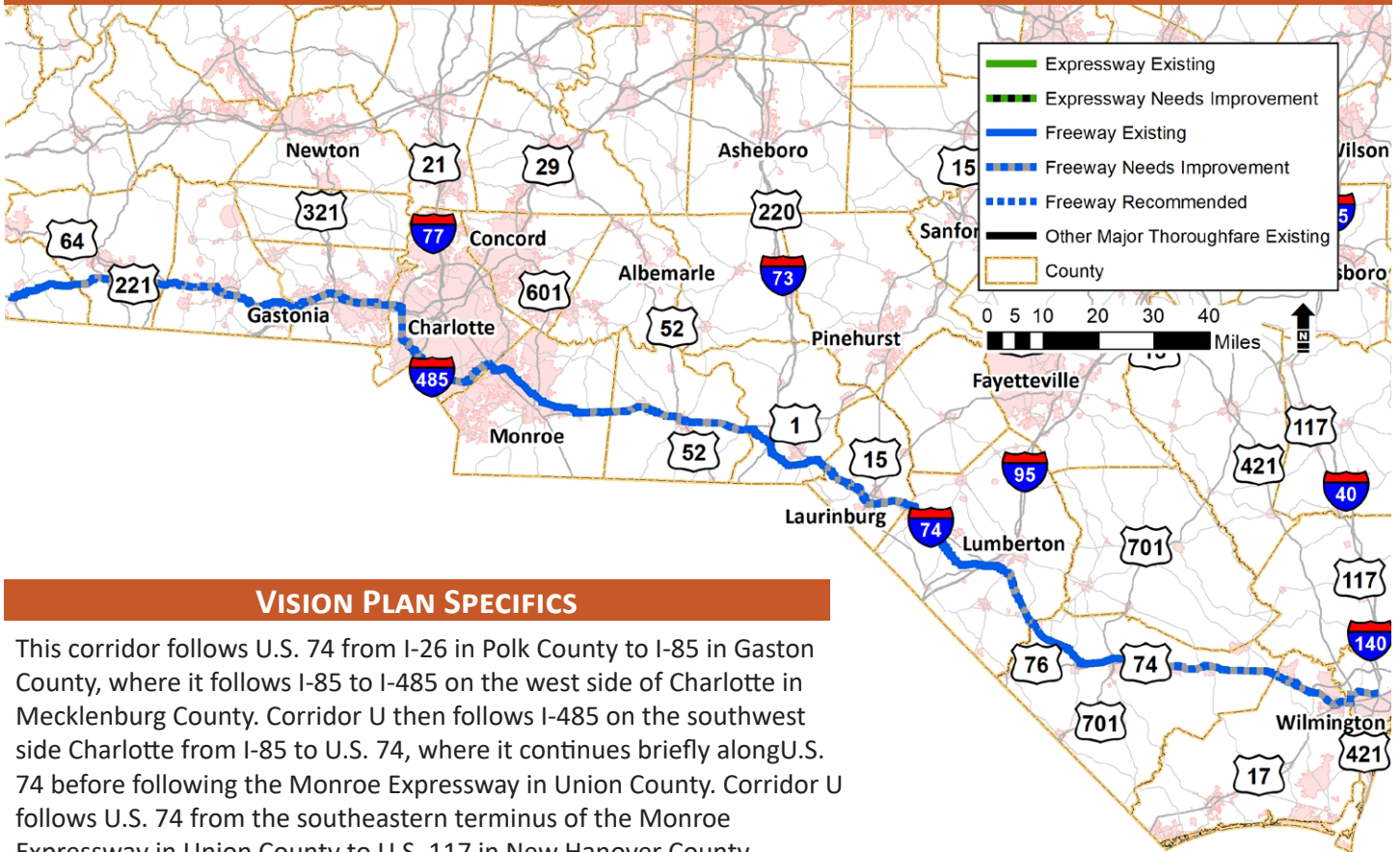
CORRIDOR U

U.S. 74W/U.S. 74E/ I-74 – I-26 in Polk County to U.S. 117 in Wilmington

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The 292-mile Corridor U serves southwest North Carolina from I-26 in Polk County to U.S. 117 in Wilmington, the primary access to the Port at Wilmington, traversing the state's southern tier counties and the Charlotte metropolitan area. U.S. 74 carries high truck volumes for the entire length of the corridor and high passenger volumes from Shelby to Monroe. Corridor U overlaps Corridor H (Future I-74) for 91 miles from Rockingham to Columbus County. The corridor is used as both a regional and statewide connection to major employment centers, airports, and health centers.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



VISION PLAN SPECIFICS

This corridor follows U.S. 74 from I-26 in Polk County to I-85 in Gaston County, where it follows I-85 to I-485 on the west side of Charlotte in Mecklenburg County. Corridor U then follows I-485 on the southwest side of Charlotte from I-85 to U.S. 74, where it continues briefly along U.S. 74 before following the Monroe Expressway in Union County. Corridor U follows U.S. 74 from the southeastern terminus of the Monroe Expressway in Union County to U.S. 117 in New Hanover County.

- Freeway cross-section
- AASHTO Design Classification of Interstate or Freeway
- Minimum 4 lanes with a median
- Connections provided only at interchanges
- Traffic signals and driveways not allowed

AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

- Complete high-capacity, high-speed improvements for improved route continuity
- Increase reliability and capacity from Shelby to Monroe
- Safety improvements on rural, uncontrolled access sections to address high crash sections or hot spots
- Establish consistent route continuity for improved freight operations
- Park and Ride and Express Bus providing additional public transit options to address congestion
- Track improvements to facilitate rail freight/passenger flow based on rail and freight plans
- Wilmington area improvements

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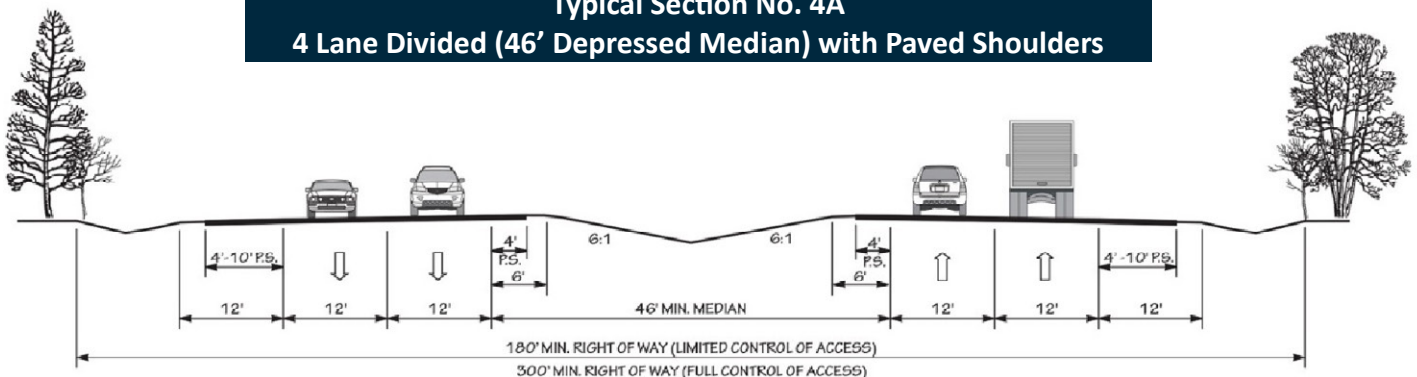
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KEY FUNCTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS (FUNCTIONS OF CORRIDOR IN CONTECT OF STC GOALS AND CRITERIA)

- **Connectivity:** Corridor U is a part of the STRAHNET and STRACNET military networks and is becoming part of the interstate system from Richmond County to Columbus County.
- **Mobility:** This corridor connects Charlotte, Wilmington, and other regional population centers with multiple interstates and major routes including I-26, I-85, and I-95 providing passenger and freight mobility across the state's southern tier.
- **Economic Prosperity:** U.S. 74 connects multiple statewide economic resources including two international airports, Carolinas Medical Center, and the Port of Wilmington.
- **Expectation:** Corridor U is expected to remain the principal east-west corridor through NC's southern tier of counties. The principal mobility expectations are safe, reliable transition through the greater Charlotte region and consistent, high-speed travel from the Port of Wilmington to the Charlotte metro region, in support of high-level economic activities.

CROSS-SECTION

Typical Section No. 4A 4 Lane Divided (46' Depressed Median) with Paved Shoulders



Posted Speed 45-70 mph

FACILITY INFORMATION

STIP Projects & CTP Recommendations	Connections and Freight	Primary Activity Centers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R-2707, U.S. 74 Shelby Bypass • I-5507, I-485 Express Lanes • I-6016, I-85 and I-485 interchange improvements • R-5878, U.S. 74 Wadesboro Bypass • I-6055, Upgrade U.S. 74 corridor to interstate standards in Richmond and Scotland counties • I-6011, Upgrade U.S. 74 corridor to interstate standards in Columbus and Robeson counties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. 74 carries high truck volumes along the entire length of the corridor • U.S. 74 carries high passenger volumes from Shelby to Monroe • Almost entire route is part of the National Highway System • Entire route is Federal designated truck route • 304 bridges along the corridor: 6 are structurally deficient, 91 are functionally obsolete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Douglas International Airport • Wilmington International Airport • Port of Wilmington • Charlotte region employment centers • UNC Charlotte • UNC Pembroke • UNC Wilmington • New Hanover Regional Medical Center • Charlotte Inland Terminal