



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

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**N.C. TURNPIKE AUTHORITY RECEIVES FINAL FEDERAL APPROVAL OF MONROE
CONNECTOR/BYPASS ROUTE**

Will Now Move Forward with Right of Way Procedures

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) has received a Record of Decision for the Monroe Connector/Bypass from the Federal Highway Administration, signifying final federal approval of the project's route. Several potential routes were under consideration, and Detailed Study Alternative D was ultimately selected as the preferred alternative.

Now that the project's route has been determined, NCTA will use preliminary designs to establish a list of properties that are clearly in the proposed right of way, and affected property owners will likely be contacted over the next months. It is anticipated that these properties make up about 10 to 15 percent of the right-of-way purchase throughout the corridor. Limited right-of-way acquisition will continue through 2010 but the majority of the right-of-way will be acquired in 2011.

Property owners can get more information by calling 877-550-6009 toll free, or by emailing monroerightofway@ncturnpike.org. The advance right-of-way process is funded through a combination of federal and state dollars appropriated for the Connector/Bypass and will be repaid using toll revenue bonds.

NCTA is also developing construction plans for the project. It will be constructed using the design-build method, which helps expedite project completion and can provide cost savings by using a single team to conduct both design and construction. Three prospective design-build teams are currently creating their technical proposals and calculating project bids, and NCTA expects to open the bids and announce the selected team in October. Following the bid opening, NCTA can move forward with finalizing its financial plan with the goal of awarding the project's design-build contract in December. The project is currently set to open to traffic in 2014.

The Monroe Connector/Bypass will run 19.7 miles from U.S. 74 at I-485 in eastern Mecklenburg County to U.S. 74 between the towns of Wingate and Marshville in Union County. The preliminary estimated project cost is approximately \$824 million. For more information and to view a copy of the Record of Decision, visit www.ncturnpike.org/projects/monroe/.

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