

North Carolina Department of Transportation
I-26/U.S. 74 Interchange Improvement Project
in Columbus, Polk County

STIP Project I-4729A

Public Meeting Handout



Tuesday, April 25,

4:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Isothermal Community College Polk Center Auditorium

Overview

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to construct improvements to the I-26/U.S. 74 interchange in the Town of Columbus. The project will provide direct ramp connections from I-26 Westbound (WB) to U.S. 74 Eastbound (EB), and from U.S. 74 WB to I-26 EB (see Figure 1). Currently, traffic movement from I-26 WB to U.S. 74 EB, and from U.S. 74 WB to I-26 EB, entails traveling through teardrop roundabouts on NC 108, which crosses over I-26 on a bridge. The existing configuration creates a situation where interstate through-traffic, which includes a high volume of tractor-trailer trucks, mixes with local traffic.

NCDOT is working to complete construction of the interchange improvements prior to the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) World Equestrian Games, which will be held at the nearby Tryon International Equestrian Center in September, 2018.

Project Costs

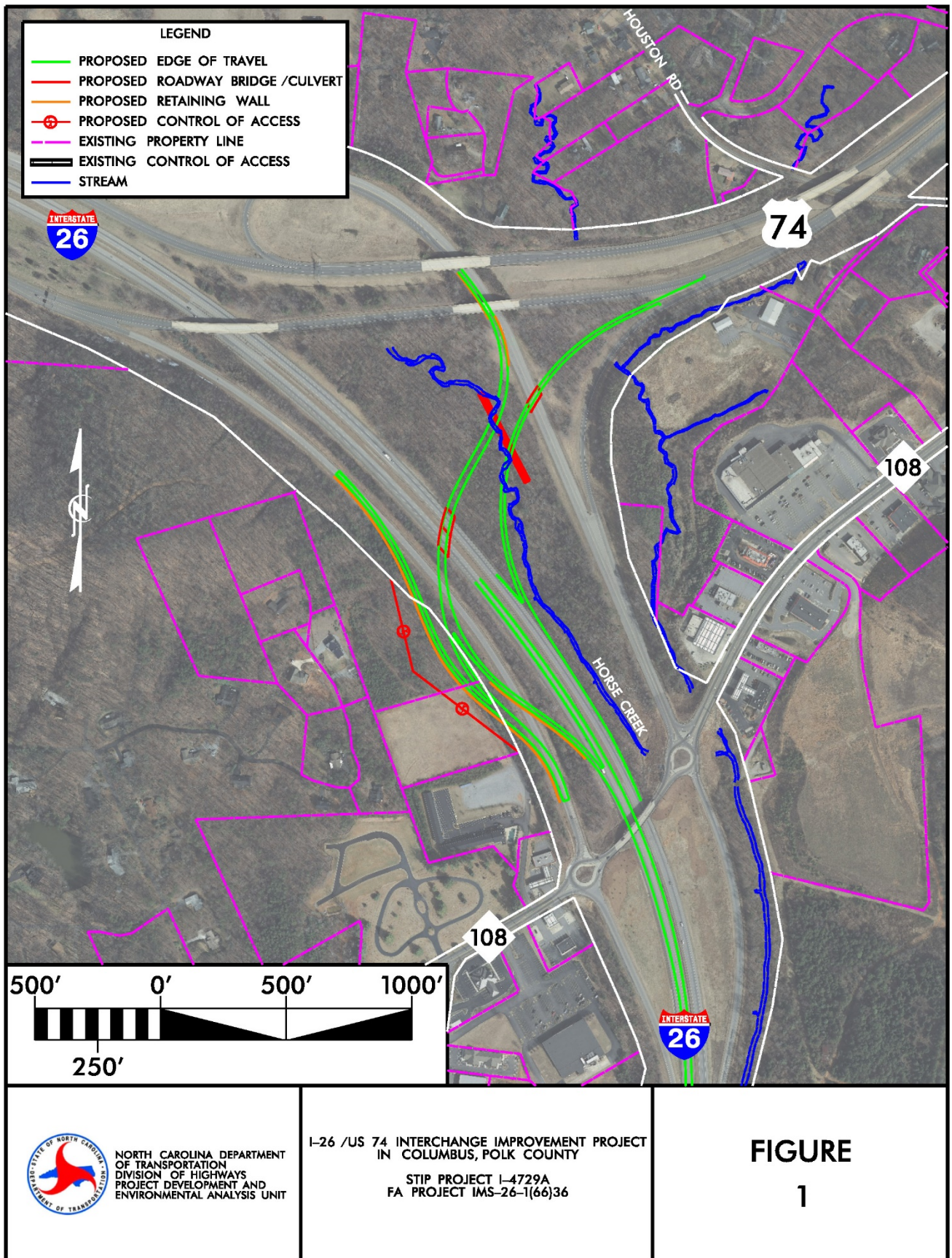
The estimated project costs are shown below:

- Right of Way Acquisition \$130,000
- Construction and Engineering \$15,500,000

Project Schedule

NCDOT staff and project consultants will consider the comments received during this public meeting as they work to finalize the designs by the end of June, 2017. After the designs are finalized, NCDOT right-of-way agents will contact property owners impacted by the proposed designs. The process to begin purchasing the additional right-of-way needed for this project is scheduled to begin in July, 2017. Construction is scheduled to begin in September, 2017.

- Finalize Designs June, 2017
- Right-of-Way Acquisition Begins July, 2017
- Construction Begins September, 2017



Right-of-Way Procedures

After decisions are made regarding the final design, the proposed right-of-way limits will be staked in the ground. If you are an affected property owner, a NCDOT Right-of-Way Agent will contact you and arrange a meeting. The agent will explain the plans and advise you as to how the project will affect you. The agent will inform you of your rights as a property owner. If permanent right-of-way is required, professionals who are familiar with real estate values will evaluate or appraise your property. The evaluations or appraisals will be reviewed for completeness and accuracy, and then the Right-of-Way Agent will make a written offer to you. The current market value of the property at its highest and best use, when appraised, will be offered as compensation. The Department of Transportation must:

- Treat all owners and tenants equally
- Fully explain the owner's rights
- Pay just compensation in exchange for property rights
- Furnish relocation advisory assistance

Relocation Assistance

If you are a relocatee, that is, if your residence or business is to be acquired as part of the project, additional assistance in the form of advice and compensation is available. You will also be provided with assistance regarding locations of comparable housing and/or commercial establishments, moving procedures, and moving aid. Moving expenses may be paid for you. Additional monetary compensation is available to help homeowners cope with mortgage increases, increased value of comparable homes, closing costs, etc. A similar program is available to assist business owners. The Right-of-Way Agent can explain this assistance in greater detail.

Pamphlets are available at the sign-in table. And, information about the right-of-way process can also be found here: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/ROW/Pages/ROW-Support.aspx> .

Stay connected by contacting any of the following project staff with your questions, comments, or concerns:

Kenneth McDowell

NCDOT Highway Division 14
Project Engineer
253 Webster Road
Sylva, NC 28779
(828) 586-2141
kjmcowell@ncdot.gov

Dave Wilver

Parsons
Consultant Project Engineer
5540 Centerview Drive, Suite 217
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 326-6359
David.Wilver@parsons.com

Jamille Robbins

NCDOT Public Involvement
Public Involvement Group Leader
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598
(919) 707-6085
jarobbins@ncdot.gov

Information about this project can be found online at:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/?search=I-4729A>

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TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORM

Completing this form is **completely** voluntary. You are not required to provide the information requested in order to participate in this meeting.

Meeting Type: Public Meeting	Location/Date: Isothermal Community College Polk Center Auditorium, 1255 West Mills Street Columbus, NC 28722 Tuesday, April 25, 2017
STIP No.: I-4729A	
Project Description: I-26/U.S. 74 Interchange Improvements	

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) assures that no person(s) shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any of the Department's programs, policies, or activities, based on their race, color, national origin, disability, age, income, or gender.

Completing this form helps meet our data collection and public involvement obligations under Title VI and NEPA, and will improve how we serve the public. Please place the completed form in the designated box on the sign-in table, hand it to an NCDOT official or mail it to the PDEA-Human Environment Section, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598. All forms will remain on file at the NCDOT as part of the public record.

Zip Code: _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Street Name: (i.e. Main Street) _____	Age: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older <input type="checkbox"/> 30-44
Total Household Income: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47,000 – \$69,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 – \$19,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000 – \$93,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 – \$30,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$94,000 – \$117,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$31,000 – \$46,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$118,000 or greater	Have a Disability: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Race/Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	National Origin: (if born outside the U.S.) <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican <input type="checkbox"/> Central American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> South American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____

How did you hear about this meeting? (newspaper advertisement, flyer, and/or mailing) _____

For more information regarding Title VI or this request, please contact the NCDOT Title VI Section at (919) 508-1896 or toll free at 1-800-508-1886, or by email at sddickens@ncdot.gov.

Thank you for your participation!



Staple or tape here before mailing

Attn: Jammille Robbins
NCDOT - PDEA
Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Place
Stamp
Here

Staple or tape here before mailing



Comment Form

Please Print

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone/ E-mail address: _____

The purpose of tonight’s Public Meeting is for citizens to come together collectively to share thoughts and information regarding the proposed I-26/U.S. 74 interchange improvements. NCDOT staff and project team members are here to answer questions and hear your thoughts and/or concerns about this project. Please complete this comment sheet, and either return it today to the comment table, or return by mail/E-mail by May 25, 2017.

1. Was the information presented clear (meeting format, etc.)? If not, what information was confusing? Do you have any suggestions on how we can make improvements to make it clearer?

2. Do you have comments related the proposed project design or schedule? Please provide detailed information.

Continued on other side

