

Project U-4700  
NCDOT Project Development  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1548



**Proposed U.S. 321 Widening**  
From U.S. 70 in Hickory to Southwest Boulevard in Lenoir

STIP Project U-4700 | July 2017

## Updated Design for U.S. 321 Widening Project

Based on an updated traffic forecast along with public comments received at the July 2016 public hearings, the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) evaluated new design concepts at several locations, primarily along Section A (U.S. 70 to U.S. 321A).

### Public Meeting Information

An open-house public meeting has been scheuled for this project on July 27. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information in the locations where new designs are proposed. No new information will be provided on the sections of the corridor where designs have not changed.

Thursday, July 27, 2017  
4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Open House  
Western Piedmont Council of Governments Offices  
1880 2nd Avenue, NW, Hickory

Citizens are invited to stop by any time. There will not be a formal presentation. NCDOT and consultant team members will be available to discuss the project and answer questions. Comments can be made in writing at the meeting, or by August 10, 2017. Please contact Gene Tarascio at 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548, (919) 707-6046, or gtarascio@ncdot.gov.

### For more information, contact:

**Gene Tarascio**

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(919) 707-6046  
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**Project website:**

<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/us321widening/>

**NCDOT Public Meetings website:**

<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in these meetings. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Diane Wilson, NCDOT Senior Public Involvement Officer, at 919-707-6073 or pdwilson1@ncdot.gov as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

If you have transportation questions on other projects, call the NCDOT customer service office at 1-877-DOT-4YOU, or visit the NCDOT website at [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov).

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### What Is Proposed?

NCDOT is proposing to widen U.S. 321 to a six lane median divided road. Extending 13.9 miles, from just north of U.S. 70 in Hickory to Southwest Boulevard in Lenoir, the project crosses through five municipalities (Hickory, Granite Falls, Sawmills, Hudson, and Lenoir) and three counties (Catawba, Caldwell, and Burke).

### Why Is This Project Proposed?

Between Hickory and Lenoir, several roadway segments and a majority of intersections along U.S. 321 are currently experiencing congestion, and travel demands are not being satisfied. These conditions are anticipated to worsen as traffic volumes increase in the next 20 years. The purpose of this project is to reduce existing and future congestion on U.S. 321.

### What Has Happened Recently?

All comments received during the hearings in 2016 and in the comment period ending August 15, 2016 were reviewed by the NCDOT project team and representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and N.C. Department of Environmental Quality.

Based on the updated traffic forecast, updated in the Fall of 2016, and public comments, the NCDOT project team considered design revisions in several locations. These will be presented at the upcoming public meeting.

Aquellas personas que hablan español y no hablan inglés, o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481-6494.



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### Design Changes

Since the 2016 public hearings, the following design changes are proposed (locations shown on the map to the right):

- An interchange at Alex Lee Boulevard, next to MDI (previously proposed as a superstreet intersection)
- A superstreet intersection at Grace Chapel Road (previously proposed as an interchange)
- A superstreet intersection at Clement Boulevard (previously proposed as an interchange)
- Improving 12<sup>th</sup> Street Drive NW to better accommodate large trucks
- Modifying the intersection of Dudley Shoals Avenue to allow a direct connection from US 321 to Dudley Shoals Avenue

- Shifting the proposed 13<sup>th</sup> Street SW interchange to be located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW
- Converting a segment of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW from one-way to two-way
- Adding a left-over at Corbin Lane
- Additional U-turn bulb locations

**Maps of these areas are available on the project website and will be presented at the upcoming public meeting. No new information will be available for the remainder of the Project U-4700 corridor.**

Project website: <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/us321widening/>

NCDOT Public Meetings website: <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>

### Project Schedule

#### What Happens Next?

**Fall 2017** Final environmental document  
(anticipated to be a Finding of No Significant Impact, FONSI)

**Spring 2018** Right of way plans will be completed

#### When Will Construction Begin?

This project is divided into four segments in the current STIP\*:

- **Section A: U.S. 70 to U.S. 321A**  
Right of way — Summer 2018 | Construction — Summer 2021
- **Section B: U.S. 321A to Mission Road** **Unfunded**
- **Section C: Mission Road to Southwest Boulevard** **Unfunded**
- **Section CA: U.S. 321/Mount Herman Road intersection**  
Right of way — Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 | Construction — FY 2019

\* Dates are from the 2017-2027 Draft STIP, and are subject to change



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