

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Project Data Sheet U-5934

Essential Project Information	
STIP Project Name	I-885 from I-40 to NC 147
STIP Number	U-5934
County	Durham
NCDOT Division	5
ROW Date	2028
LET Date	2030
Schedule Considerations	
Cost Estimates	\$142,700,000
Funding Type	Federal

Proposed Project Details	
Project Description	Widen I-885 from I-40 to NC 147
Project Limits	See attached study area map.
Typical Section	Alternative Studies of 4-lane, 6-lane and 8-lane median divided mainline typical to determine preferred.
Access Control	Full
Design Speed	70 mph
Right-of-Way Width	300' and varies at interchanges
Physical or Engineering Constraints	Contain within existing right of way as much as feasible.
Other Considerations	
Survey Request Date	
Design Plan	Multiple design scenarios being considered, ranging from 4-8 lanes
Construction Recommendation	
Consultant Involvement	KCI Associates of NC, PA – Prime; Planning Communities – subconsultant for planning; Sungate – subconsultant for hydraulic design

Project History	
Planning Studies	A feasibility study for this project was completed in March 2017 (FS-1205C).
SPOT Description	
Feasibility Studies	A feasibility study for this project was completed in March 2017 (FS-1205C).
Problem Statement	Improve traffic operations on I-885 by addressing capacity deficiencies and rehabilitating the existing lanes.
Alternatives Previously Dismissed and Why	Alternatives are currently under study

Purpose & Need	
Purpose	Improve traffic operations on I-885 by addressing capacity deficiencies and rehabilitating the existing lanes
Need(s)	I-885 is a freeway with full control of access, serving as a major urban commuter route, linking I-540 to I-85 through downtown Durham. It is heavily traveled by local residents and daily commuters, suffering from heavy congestion during peak-hour traffic. The 2015 Annual Average Daily Traffic volumes range from 58,000 to 80,000 vehicles per day. 44% of the capacity analysis points are currently operating at an unacceptable LOS of E or F.
Supporting Data	

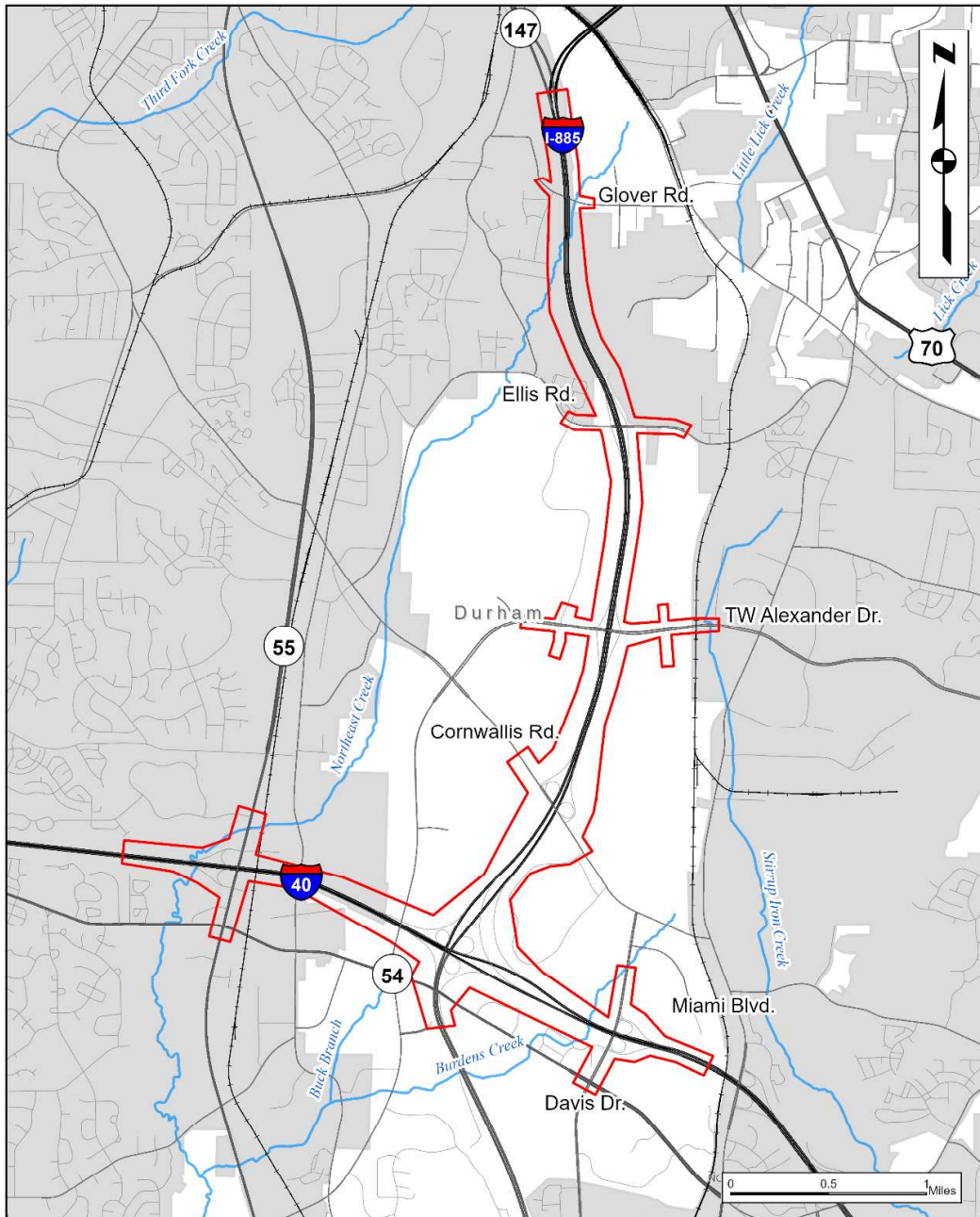
Alternatives Currently Under Consideration	
Alternative 1	4-lane divided with interchange improvements
Alternative 2	6-lane divided with interchange improvements
Alternative 3	8-lane divided with interchange improvements

Public and Agency Coordination	
Anticipated Permits	TBD
Federal Agency Involvement	USACE
Public Involvement Strategy	A public involvement plan was prepared in 2018 and will be revised and updated. A newsletter/postcard, open house public meeting, and project website are anticipated.
Merger Screening Date	TBD
Potential Merger Triggers	Permits required

Existing Conditions	
Functional Classification	Freeway
Strategic Highway Corridor	No
AADT	84,000 – 104,000 2050 Design Year No-Build
Access Control	Full
Typical Section	4-lane median divided (46' median predominantly)
Right-of-Way Width	300' and varies at interchanges
Posted Speed	65 mph at I-40, 55 mph at East End Connector
Structures (bridges, RCBC, etc.)	Culverts: (3) C211 under I-885 ramp to I-40 EBL, C147 south of SR 1121 and C205 under I-885 north of SR 1121 Bridges: (17) no. 212 I-885 Ramp to I-40 over I-885 EBL, no. 206 SR 1121 (E. Cornwallis Road) over I-885, no. 202 SR 2028 (TW Alexander Drive) over I-885, no. 198 I-885 NBL over SR 1954 (Ellis Rd.), no. 196 I-885 SBL over SR 1954 (Ellis Rd.), no. 194 SR 1940 (Glover Road) over I-885, no. 289 I-40 WBL over NC 55, no. 290 I-40 EBL over NC 55, no. 291 I-40 WBL over CSX, no. 292 I-40 EBL over CSX, no. 293 , I-40 WBL over SR 1945 (S. Alston Ave.), no. 294 I-40 EBL over SR 1945 (S. Alston Ave.), no. 100 SR 2028 (TW Alexander) over I-40, no. 295 I-40 WBL over I-885, no. 296 I-40 EBL over I-885, no. 297 I-40 WBL over I-885 ramp, and no. 224 SR 1999 (Davis Dr.) over I-40
Railroad Involvement	One, I-40 over CSX

Other Adjacent STIP Projects	HI-0023 I-885 from I-40 to 0.4-miles north of TW Alexander Drive, pavement rehabilitation I-6006 I-40 from NC 54 to R 1728, I-40 to SR 1664 convert facility to a managed freeway with ramp metering and other ATM/ITS components U-0071 East End Connector new facility
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Preliminary Resource Inventory Table	
Utilities	Electric Transmission (2) – crosses I-885 at 2 locations
Hazardous Materials	1 underground storage tank (600 Ellis Road); 1 hazardous waste site (JMC USA Inc - Innovation Drive)
Known Potentially-Eligible National Register of Historic Places Sites/Districts	Site (1) – USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station located off East Cornwallis Road, on National register
Other Cultural Resources	Research Triangle Charter Academy, off Ellis Rd.
Wetlands	Twenty-six wetlands were identified within the study area
Streams	Forty-four streams were identified in the study area
FEMA Floodplain Detailed Study Area	The study area crosses Northeast, Stirrup Iron, and Burdens Creeks, their floodplains, and FEMA flood hazard zones.
Water Supply Watersheds	N/A
Riparian Buffer Rules	Neuse River Basin Riparian Buffer Rules and Jordan Lake Watershed Riparian Buffer Rules apply to specific streams
Active Agriculture	No
Parks, Greenways, Game Lands, Section 4(f) & Section 6(f) Properties	Parks (2) Bethesda Park off Ellis and C.R. Wood Park off Ellis Greenways: there are 3 multiuse paths
Environmental Justice Populations	Yes
Other Resources (i.e., Wild and Scenic Rivers, TVA, Scenic Byways, etc.)	None



	NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
DURHAM COUNTY IMPROVEMENTS TO I-885 STIP PROJECT U-5934	
VICINITY MAP	



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION PROJECT
MANAGEMENT UNIT

**DURHAM COUNTY
IMPROVEMENTS TO I-885
TIP PROJECT U-5934**

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

August 2025

