

North Carolina Department of Transportation

I-0305 Project Data Sheet

May 15, 2024

Essential Project Information	
STIP Project Name	I-85 Widening
STIP Number	I-0305
County	Orange and Durham
NCDOT Division	Division 7 and 5
ROW Date	Project Funded for Preliminary Engineering Only (I-0305B – 2028)
LET Date	Project Funded for Preliminary Engineering Only (I-0305B – 2031)
Schedule Considerations	The NC 86 bridge over I-85 has horizontal clearance issues and has been struck multiple times. This bridge may be replaced prior to other corridor improvements.
Cost Estimates	<p>From Feasibility Report (August 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROW Funds Needed: \$ 355,317,000 • Utility Funds Needed: \$ 4,358,700 • Construction Funds Needed: \$ 222,200,000 • Total Funds Needed: \$ 581,875,700
Funding Type	Federal

Proposed Project Details	
Project Description	<p>I-0305A – Add lanes to approximately 7.5 miles of I-85.</p> <p>I-0305B – South Churton Street (SR 1009) in Hillsborough, interchange improvements.</p> <p>I-0305C – NC 86 in Hillsborough. Upgrade interchange.</p>
Project Limits	West of Orange Grove Road (SR 1006) in Orange County to west of Sparger Road (SR 1400) in Durham County.
Typical Section	Divided six-lane section with three 12-foot lanes in each direction, a 51-foot depressed median and paved shoulders on I-85.
Access Control	Full control.

Design Speed	75 mph
Right-of-Way Width	Varies
Physical or Engineering Constraints	Crossing of 11 water bodies
Other Considerations	Increased development pressure, wildlife corridors, and existing bridges do not have enough horizontal clearance.
Survey Request Date	TBD
Design Plan	TBD
Construction Recommendation	TBD
Consultant Involvement	<p>Dewberry assisting with preliminary engineering and NEPA documentation.</p> <p>RK&K preparing Natural Resources Technical Report.</p> <p>Patriot Transportation Engineering preparing Traffic Forecast and Analysis.</p> <p>TBD – Noise Analysis</p>

Project History	
Planning Studies	<p>The proposed widening of I-85 is included in the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) <i>2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)</i>, February 2022. • DCHC MPO, <i>Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)</i>, 2017 • Orange County, <i>Eno Economic Development District Access Management Plan</i>, (November 2013)
SPOT Description	TIP Project I-0305 – I-85 from west of Orange Grove Road (SR 1006) in Orange County to west of Sparger Road (SR 1400) in Durham County. Add lanes and improve interchanges at I-85/ SR 1009 and at I-85/NC 86.
Feasibility Studies	August 2021
Problem Statement	<p>Substandard design on I-85, substandard ramp capacity for future traffic, existing bridges do not have enough horizontal clearance.</p> <p>Source: <i>H171112/I-0305 Project Initiation Form</i>, June 2021</p>
Alternatives Previously Dismissed and Why	N/A

Purpose & Need	
Purpose*	The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has begun studying improvements to I-85 that would add one lane in each direction to the interstate. Within the I-0305 corridor, I-85 is a four-lane, median-divided freeway with two through lanes in each direction. Outside of the I-0305 corridor, I-85 is a median-divided freeway with three or more travel lanes in each direction, resulting in a bottleneck along the I-0305 corridor. Therefore, improvements are recommended to alleviate congestion and improve mobility along the corridor. (Add lanes and improve interchanges at I-85/ SR 1009 and at I-85/NC 86).
Need(s)	TBD
Supporting Data	In progress

**This purpose is from the Start of Study Letter. The P&N statement will be finalized at CP1.*

Alternatives Currently Under Consideration	
Alternative 1	TBD

Public and Agency Coordination	
Anticipated Permits	Section 404/401
Federal Agency Involvement	The lead Federal Agency is FHWA (Federal NEPA document). Other agencies involved include USACE, EPA, and USFWS.
Public Involvement Strategy	To be determined.
Merger Screening Date	A Merger Screening Meeting is anticipated May 15, 2024
Potential Merger Triggers	Impacts to jurisdictional streams or wetlands; no streams on 2022 303(d) list.

Existing Conditions	
Functional Classification	Interstate
Strategic Highway Corridor	I-85 is NCDOT Strategic Transportation Corridor I.
AADT	2022 AADT ranges between 51,000 (west of Orange Grove Road) and 65,500 (east of Sparger Road).
Access Control	Full control of access
Typical Section	Varies by segment.
Right-of-Way Width	Varies by segment.
Posted Speed	65 mph
Structures (bridges, RCBC, etc.)	<p>16 bridges, 2 RCBC, and 1 Arch Culvert</p> <p><u>Bridges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 over Orange Grove • 2 over S. Churton • 2 over rail • 1 over I-85 (NC 86) • 1 over I-85 (Lawrence Road) • 1 over I-85 (University Station) • 2 over Mount Herson • 4 over US 70

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 over I-85 (Sparger) <p><u>RCBC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-85/Cate Creek – 3@7’x8’ • I-85/Rhodes Creek – 3@7’x8’ <p><u>RC Arch Culvert</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-85/Stony Creek – 1@37’-9”x16’-8”
Railroad Involvement	One NCRR line crosses I-85 between the S. Churton Street and NC 86 interchanges.
Other Adjacent STIP Projects	<p>B-6037 – NC 86 – Replace bridge 670049 over NC Railroad/Norfolk Southern Railroad. ROW 2024, Construction 2025.</p> <p>I-3306A – I-40 – I-85 in Orange County to Durham County. Widen to six lanes. Improve NC 86 interchange and install ITS. – Under construction.</p> <p>U-5845 – South Churton Street (SR 1009) – I-40 to Eno River in Hillsborough, widen to multi-lanes. ROW 2028, Construction 2031.</p> <p>Source: NCDOT 2024-2033 STIP</p>

Preliminary Resource Inventory Table	
Utilities	Multiple utilities are located along the corridor.
Hazardous Materials	Three (3) Superfund Section sites and three (3) Brownfields Program Sites were identified within one mile of the project.
Known Potentially-Eligible National Register of Historic Places Sites/Districts	Two sites require Section 106 effects consultation. Orange County Bridge Nos. 91 and 93.
Other Cultural Resources	<p>There is one known archaeological site within the project study area and may require an effects meeting with SHPO. Additional survey is required near Occaneechee State Park (requests already submitted).</p> <p>Tribal Coordination will be required with following tribes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catawba Indian Nation • Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation • Monacan Indian Nation <p>Coordination letters sent 1/29/24. Response received from Catawba Indian Nation.</p>
Wetlands	<p>From USACE response to Start of Study Letter:</p> <p>“the study area includes several areas of mapped NWI wetlands and potentially hydric soils, with the largest area of potentially hydric soils occurring approximately 0.8 mile west of Sparger Road.”</p>
Streams	<p>From USACE response to Start of Study Letter:</p> <p>“The study area crosses Cates, Stony, and Rhodes Creeks, their floodplains, and FEMA flood hazard zones, as well as other unnamed tributaries and impoundments.”</p>

FEMA Floodplain Detailed Study Area	The study area crosses Cates, Stony, and Rhodes Creeks, their floodplains, and FEMA flood hazard zones, as well as other unnamed tributaries and impoundments.
Water Supply Watersheds	The eastern half of the project corridor is located in the Eno River Water Supply Watershed.
Riparian Buffer Rules	The project is located in the Jordan Lake Buffer Area of the Neuse River basin.
Active Agriculture	No Voluntary Agriculture Districts are located in the project corridor.
Parks, Greenways, Game Lands, Section 4(f) & Section 6(f) Properties	Both the Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area and Eno River State Park are Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) properties. There are no game lands located in the study area. One proposed greenway would be located west of the NCRR crossing of the I-85 corridor.
Environmental Justice Populations	Yes. Potential Environmental Justice Populations are located on both sides of the corridor.
Other Resources (i.e., Wild and Scenic Rivers, TVA, Scenic Byways, etc.)	None.

Project Management Approval	
The need for the proposed change is sufficient to justify the impacts to the scope, schedule, and budget.	
Project Manager	
Name	Colin Mellor – NCDOT Project Management Unit
Signature	
Date	
Supervisor	
Name	Bryan Key, PE - NCDOT Project Management Unit
Signature	
Date	