Concurrence Point 2 – Alternatives for Detailed Study

NC 55 Corridor Study

Harnett and Wake Counties
From South of SR 1532 (Oak Grove Church Road) to NC 42
STIP Project R-5705

September 13, 2017

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

The purpose of today's meeting is to review preliminary project alternatives developed for the NC 55 Corridor Study in Wake and Harnett Counties and select alternative corridors for detailed study (Concurrence Point 2). A vicinity map showing the approximate study area is included as *Figure 1*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

STIP Project R-5705 is programmed in the approved 2018-2027 North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as improvements to NC 55 from south of SR 1532 (Oak Grove Church Road) in Harnett County to NC 42 in Wake County. The proposed project is ten miles long, depending on the corridor selected. The project location is shown in *Figure 1*.

A multi-lane facility is proposed on new location or along the existing alignment. It is anticipated approximately 110 feet of right-of-way will be required along the existing alignment and approximately 150 feet of right-of-way will be required on new location to accommodate the multi-lane facility. No control of access is proposed for improving existing NC 55 and limited control of access is proposed for new location options.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility on the NC 55 corridor in the project area, with a goal of achieving an overall Level of Service (LOS) D.

PROJECT SCHEDULE/COST

A public meeting was held on July 27, 2017 to show the three alternatives to the public for their input. Detailed environmental studies will begin for the project following concurrence on alternatives for detailed study (CP2). Major comments provided by the public at the public meeting are summarized and presented in this handout (*Page 4*).

Right of way acquisition is scheduled to begin in State Fiscal Year 2020 and construction is scheduled to begin in State Fiscal Year 2022 in the 2018-2027 STIP.

The most recent cost estimate for the project is as follows:

Right of Way Acquisition \$13,273,000
Utilities \$1,592,000
Construction \$63,809,000
Total Estimated Cost \$78,674,000

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative Study Corridors on new location for STIP R-5705 are approximately two times wider (1000 feet) than the existing corridor (500 feet) to allow room to avoid resources within the corridor. *Figure 2* presents the corridors being considered for the project. The table on page 3 presents a summary of the impacts of the alternatives.

IMPROVE EXISTING CORRIDOR – ALTERNATIVE A

Improving the existing facility would meet the purpose and need of the project by reducing congestion on NC 55. Alternative A is shown on *Figures A-1 through A-10*. This alternative follows the existing alignment of NC 55 from south of SR 1532 (Oak Grove Church Road) in Harnett County to NC 42 in Wake County. Alternative A would involve widening existing NC 55 from a two-lane to a four-lane raised median divided facility within a 110-foot right-of-way (see *Figure 3*).

WESTERN BYPASS – ALTERNATIVE B

Alternative B would involve constructing a roadway on new location to the west of Angier. This alternative would meet the purpose and need of the project by reducing congestion and improving mobility on the NC 55 corridor in the project area. The proposed facility would be constructed as a four-lane facility with a 30-foot median within a 150 foot right-of-way (see *Figure 3*). Limited control of access (access only from public roads, no driveways allowed) would be obtained for portions of Alternative B constructed on new location. To minimize impacts and costs, minor amounts of right of way and partial control of access would be obtained for portions of the bypass routed along existing roadways.

Alternative B is shown on *Figures B-3 through B-7*. This alternative follows the existing NC 55 alignment starting south of SR 1532 (Oak Grove Church Road) to north of SR 1538 (Mabry Road). Alternative B proceeds west along SR 1543 (Ennis Road), then continues in a northwest direction to NC 210. From NC 210, Alternative B heads north connecting to existing NC 55 near SR 2791 (Kennebec Church Road). Alternative B continues along existing NC 55 ending at NC 42.

EASTERN BYPASS – ALTERNATIVE C

Alternative C would involve rerouting NC 55 to the east of Angier using a combination of existing roads with some new location. The alternative would meet the purpose and need of the project by reducing congestion and improving mobility on the NC 55 corridor in the project area. The bypass would be constructed as a four-lane facility with a 30-foot median within a 150 foot right-of-way (see *Figure 3*). Limited control of access (access only from intersection roadways) would be obtained for new location portions of the alternative. To minimize impacts and costs, minor amounts of right of way and partial control of access would be obtained for portions of the bypass routed along existing roadways.

Alternative C is shown on *Figures C-1 through C-6*. Alternative C follows the existing NC 55 alignment for approximately 1,000 feet then proceeds north, crossing SR 1532 (Langdon Road). Alternative C then follows the existing alignment of SR 1544 (Guy Road) proceeding north past the SR 1500 (Benson Road) intersection before continuing along SR 1504 (Lipscomb Road). Alternative C continues westward along SR 2762 (Kennebec Road) before connecting to existing NC 55 near SR 2791 (Kennebec Church Road). Alternative B continues along existing NC 55, ending at NC 42.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE CORRIDORS IMPACT MATRIX STIP PROJECT R-5705

	Α	В	С
New Location Length (mi)1	0	4.84	2.63
Total Length (mi)	10.25	11.5	10.3
Total Relocations	38	32	53
Properties Impacted	211	204	225
Historic Properties	0	0	0
Registered Underground Storage Tanks	9	3	3
Wetlands Affected (ac)	9	17	19
Streams Impacted (ft)2	810	1,380	1,290
Floodplain (ac)	<0.01	0.495	0.495
Forested Acres (ac)	49.5	104.0	94.1
Farmland Soils (ac)	346.5	394.4	358.1
Voluntary Agricultural Districts (ac)	6.6	33	13.2

¹ lengths calculated for non-existing facilities

² stream impacts include ditches which may not be jurisdictional

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

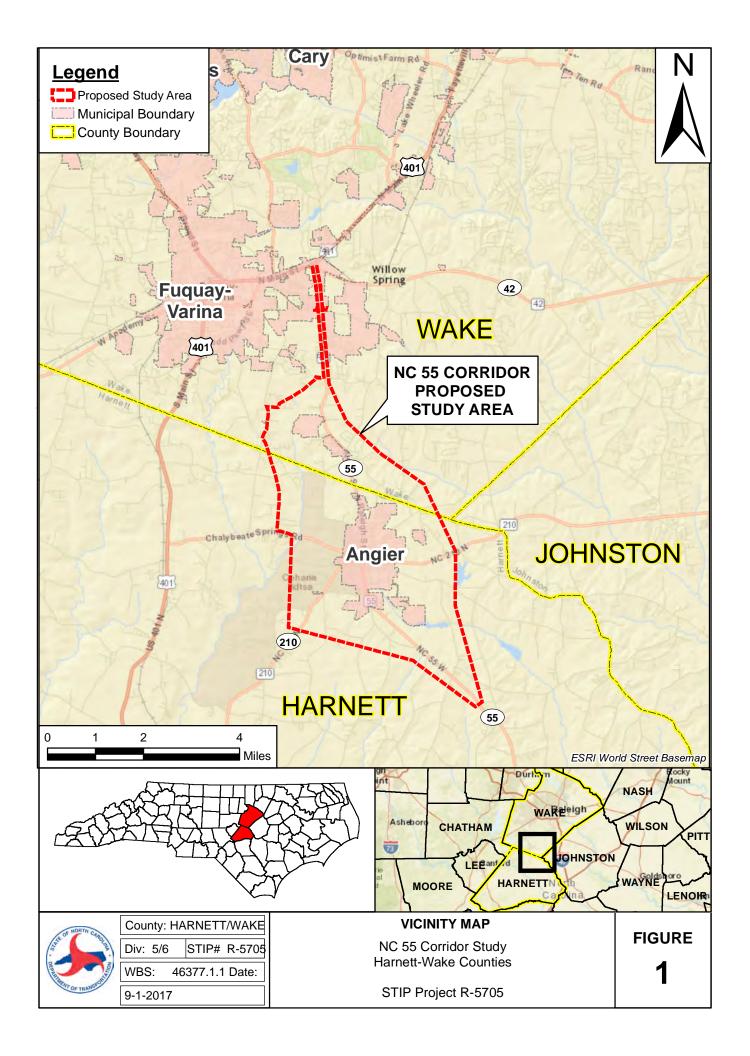
A public meeting was held on July 27, 2017 to present the potential project alternatives to the public and to solicit their input. The public meeting was announced through radio ads, the newspaper, and through a newsletter mailed to property owners within the study area. Approximately 400 people attended the workshop. 209 written comments have been received to date. Major comments discussed by those in attendance included the following:

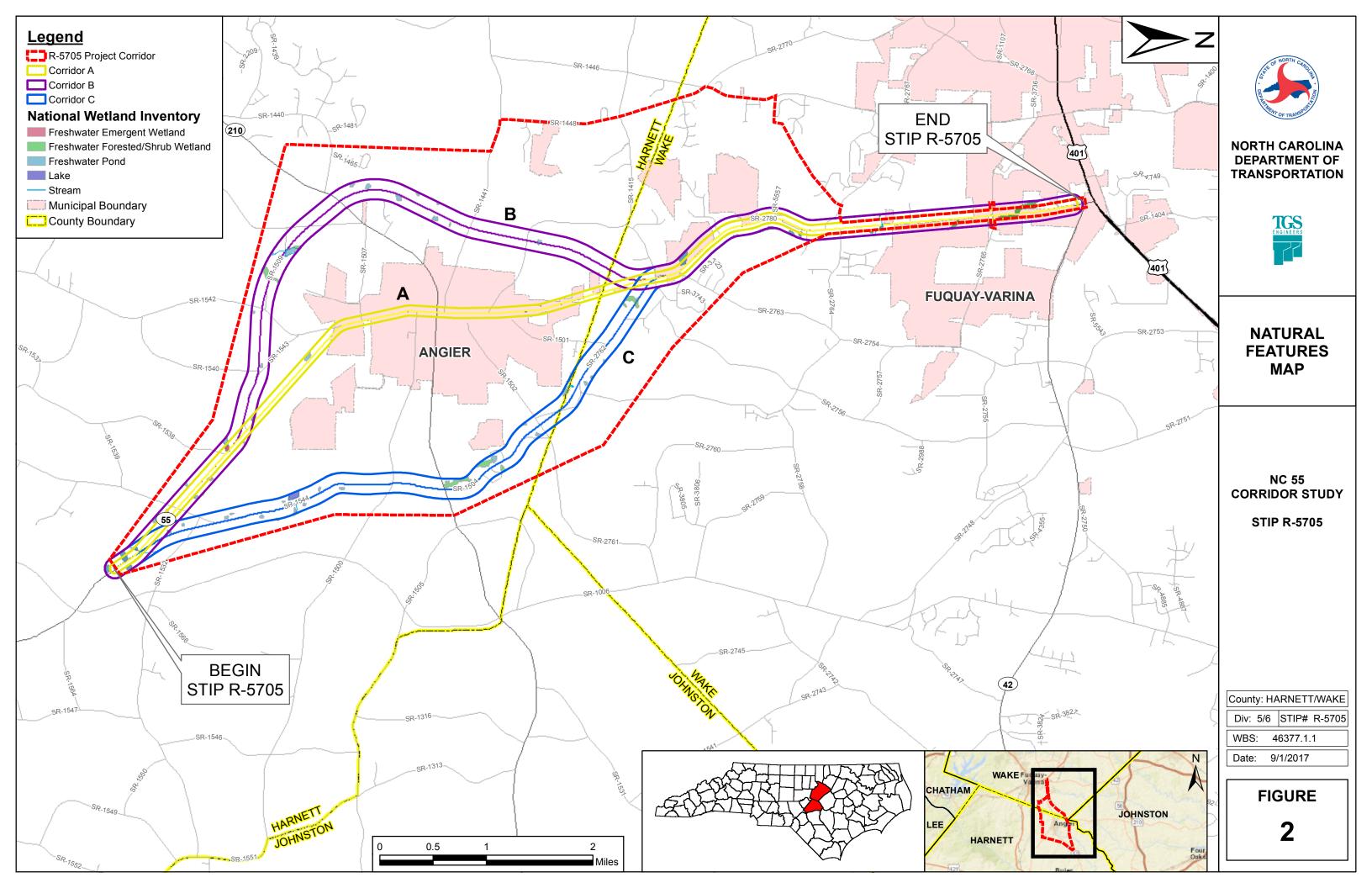
- **Need for Project** While residents were largely divided about their preference for project alternatives, nearly all in attendance agreed that a project to address traffic congestion in the area was badly needed.
- Relocations Several residents expressed concern regarding the potential for the project to impact several homes and many acres of farmland along both the eastern and western bypass corridors.
- **New Location Corridors** Several residents expressed concern regarding the potential for the project to affect homes and family farms on each of the new location alternatives. It was also pointed out by several citizens that Corridor B contains a historic cemetery. Comment sheets available at the public informational meeting asked attendees which corridors they liked and which corridors they wanted to see dropped from consideration. The chart below displays the results received. Corridor A, widening through the middle of town, was the corridor most people chose while Corridor C, the Eastern Bypass was the most selected to be dropped from consideration.

"Which corridor do you prefer for the NC 55 Corridor?"				
Corridor A (Existing Alignment)	Corridor B (Western Bypass)	Corridor C (Eastern Bypass)		
36	6 8			
"And the appropriate year think should be drowned from				
"Are the any corridors you think should be dropped from				
further consideration (not studied in detail?)"				
Corridor A (Existing Alignment)	Corridor B (Western Bypass)	Corridor C (Eastern Bypass)		
6	15	29		

Johnson's Landing Residents of the Johnson's Landing housing development have repeatedly expressed concern that their development may be impacted by R-5705 regardless of which corridor is chosen, as they are located near where all three proposed corridors converge. Residents' concerns include possible relocations, decreased home values and demolition of their community recreation facilities, which were built directly

next to NC 55. To date, residents of Johnson's Landing have submitted 140 written comments opposing widening on their side of NC 55.

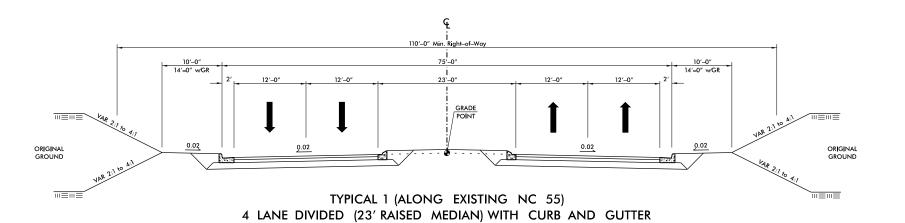




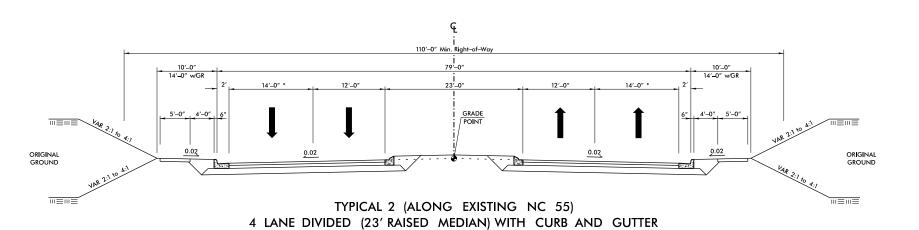
PROJECT REFERENCE NO. SHEET NO.

R-5705

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CORP. LICENSE NO.: C-0275



NO BICYCLE OR PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS



WITH WIDE OUTSIDE LANES AND SIDEWALKS FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS

TYPICAL 3 (ALONG NEW LOCATION)

4 LANE DIVIDED (23' RAISED MEDIAN) WITH PAVED SHOULDERS

* 4' PAVED SHOULDERS MAY ACCOMMODATE BICYCLES, IF REQUIRED

STIP NO. R-5705 FIGURE 3

