



## Public Hearings To Be Held for U.S. 321 Widening

The N.C. Department of Transportation (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). A map on the inside of this newsletter shows the project location.

The proposed improvements are included in the 2016-2025 North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as STIP Project U-4700.

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

### For more information, contact:

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*NCDOT's Mission: Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina.*

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. Wilson as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

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.

2,775 copies of this newsletter were produced at a cost of \$1.40 each.

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).

### Public Hearing Information

Two public hearing dates have been scheduled for this project. The same information and presentation will be provided at both hearings. An informal pre-hearing open house will precede each public hearing, and citizens are invited to drop in any time from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. A formal presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. each evening.

Date — Monday, July 11, 2016

Time — 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Open House  
7:00 p.m. Formal Presentation

Location — Winkler Activity Center  
2500 Clement Blvd, Hickory

Date — Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Time — 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Open House  
7:00 p.m. Formal Presentation

Location — The Broyhill Center, Rm 215  
1913 Hickory Blvd SE, Lenoir

Citizens are invited to stop by either evening. NCDOT and consultant team members will be available to discuss the project, and your input is requested. Your feedback will be used to assist NCDOT in selecting and refining a final preferred alternative.

Those wishing to comment on the project may do so verbally at either of the hearings or any time by phone. Comment sheets will be provided at the meeting for those who wish to provide comments in writing. Comments or questions may also be provided by email to Ms. Wilson (pdwilson1@ncdot.gov). **Comments are requested by August 15, 2016.**

### 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.





**Proposed Design**

The current design proposes to widen U.S. 321 to a six-lane divided roadway. For most of the length, U.S. 321 will have a 30-foot raised grassed median.



A superstreet design will be used along U.S. 321. With this design, all at-grade intersections and driveways will be right-in/right-out only. Drivers will turn right and use new U-turn areas to go the other direction.

Details on the design will be provided at the public hearings.

New interchanges are proposed at the following locations. Details on these interchange options will be provided at the public hearings.

- 13th Street SW—a new interchange is proposed.
- Clement Boulevard/Old Lenoir Road—a new interchange is proposed.
- Grace Chapel Road—may remain an intersection or may be changed to an interchange.
- Falls Avenue—may remain an interchange or may be changed to an intersection.



**Project Schedule**

**What Happens Next?**

- August 2016—Selection of a preferred alternative
- Winter 2016/2017—Final environmental document (anticipated to be a Finding of No Significant Impact, FONSI)
- Spring 2018—Final designs 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 beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2018, construction beginning in FY 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 beginning in FY 2018, construction beginning in FY 2020

\* Dates are from the 2016-2025 STIP, and are subject to change

