

US 70 Corridor– James City Project Update

**Craig Young, Three Oaks Engineering
US 70 Corridor Commission
May 21, 2015**

Presentation Overview

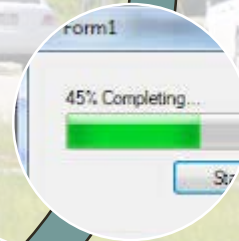
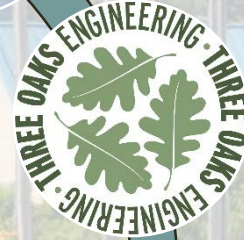
Improving
the US 70
Corridor

A Brief
History

The
Project
Team

Where
Are We
Today?

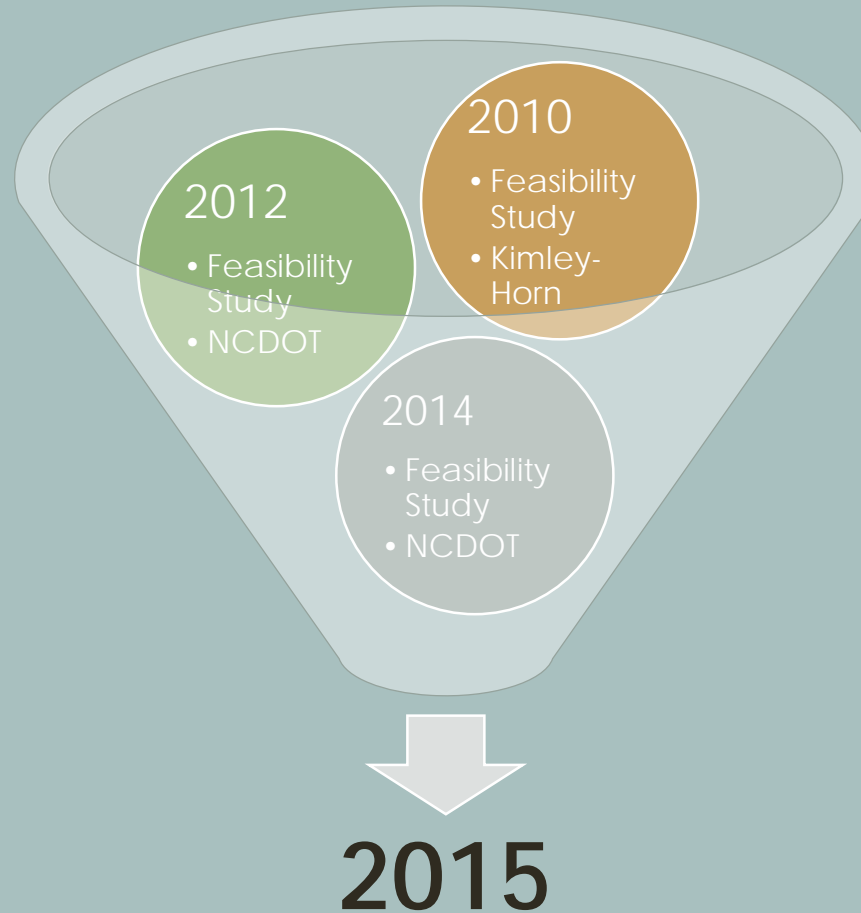
Where
Are We
Going?



A Brief History

- James City established during the Civil War
- US 70 commissioned in 1926 to run between Beaufort, NC and Springerville, AZ
- Within the project corridor, US 70 has been widened over time and now bisects James City
- US 70 serves as a primary east-west corridor traversing Eastern NC
- Neuse River Bridge opened in 1999
- US 70 Corridor Summit held in 2005
- Multiple studies completed within the project corridor

No Shortage of Previous Studies!



- US 70 Improvement Project (STIP U-5713)
- NCDOT/Three Oaks Engineering Project Team

2010 Feasibility Study – Summary

- Looked at 2 Alternatives
 - **Bypass Alternative**
 - **Retrofit Alternative**
- Recommended two “ramp-over” interchanges (US 70 to be raised up & over the existing intersecting roadways)and numerous auxiliary improvements

	Bypass Alternative	Retrofit Alternative
Project Length	17.0 miles	11.3 miles
Speed Limit	65-70 mph	55-60 mph
Probable Cost (2007, 2025)	\$370M, \$650 M	\$160M, \$280M
Business Impacts	Reduced pass-by trips, temp traffic delays	Temp traffic delays, reduced access to US 70
Constructability	All at once	In sections as needed
Environmental Impacts	Numerous, Needs EIS	Minimal, CE or EA
Access Points	2-3 interchanges	6-7 interchanges
Potential Relocations	Undetermined number of homes near Trent River	3-10 business along corridor



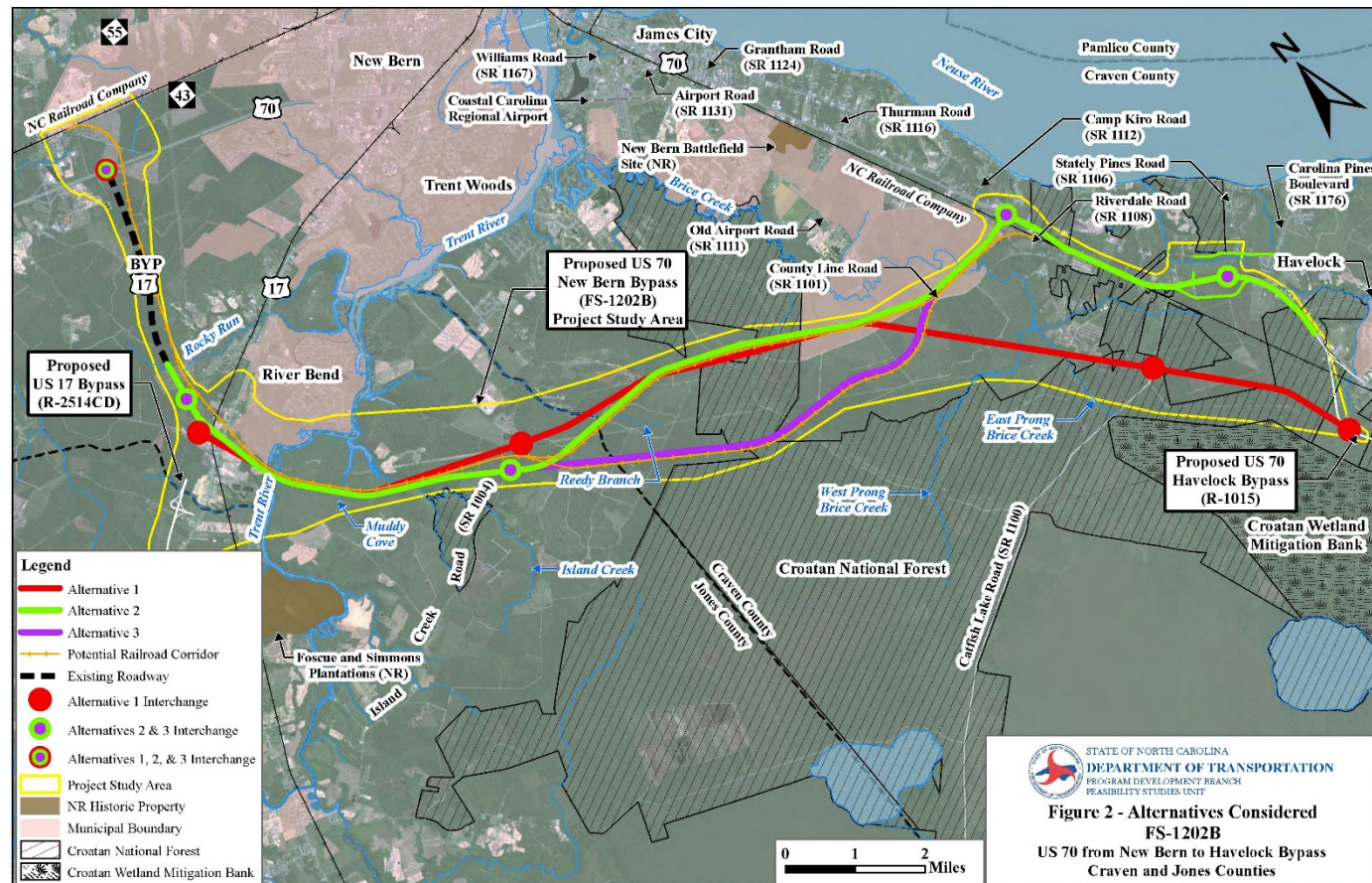
2012 NCDOT Feasibility Study - Summary

- Evaluated upgrading US 70 to a freeway by providing interchanges at key intersections and parallel service road improvements
- Recommended:
 - Upgrading US 70 to a freeway from US 17/NC 55 near New Bern to the proposed Havelock Bypass (R-1015)
 - Four lane freeway sufficient through most of corridor
 - James City area widened to a six lane
 - Converting key intersections into interchanges

FEASIBILITY STUDY	
James City Access Management, Operational and Safety Improvements to US 70 from End of Freeway at US 17/NC 55 near New Bern to the Proposed Havelock Bypass (R-1015).	
Craven County	
Division 02	
FS-0802B	
	
Prepared by the Program Development Branch N. C. Department of Transportation	
 R. N. Prince Feasibility Studies Engineer	
 Derrick W. Lewis, P.E. Feasibility Studies Unit Head	<u>01/26/2012</u> Date

2014 NCDOT Feasibility Study - Summary

- Studied 2 Alternatives, both primarily on new location



Feasibility Study

US 70 from New Bern to the
Proposed Havelock Bypass

Craven and Jones Counties

Division 2
FS-1202B



Feasibility Studies Unit
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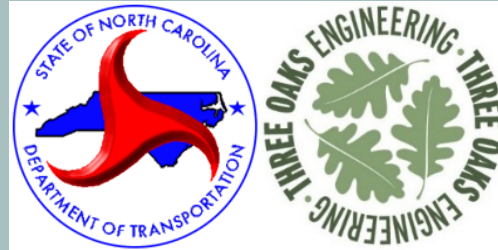
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October 3, 2014

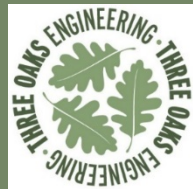
2015 → Where Are We Today?

- STIP U-5713 – Upgrade US 70 to a freeway from SR 1121 (Garner Rd.) to the Neuse River Bridge
- Planning and preliminary engineering contract awarded in August 2014
- Initial background data gathering ongoing
- Internal Project Scoping Meeting in late January 2015
- Start of Study Letters mailed out in April 2015
- Public outreach beginning soon!

The Project Team



NEPA & Public Involvement



(Three Oaks & NS are DBE & SPSF)

Roadway & Interchange Design

PARSONS

Traffic



Natural Systems & Hydraulic Design



Water Quality (ICI)



Air & Noise



Phased Approach

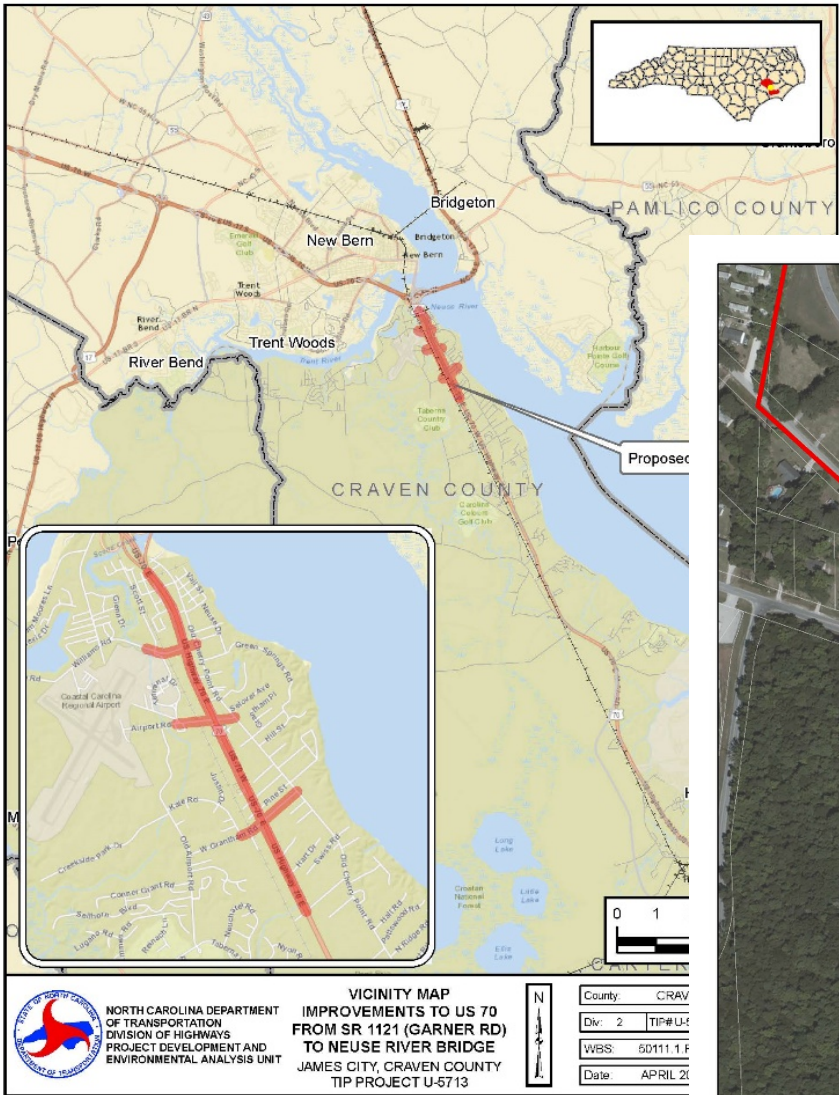
Phase 1

Data
Collection
Public
Involvement –
Listen & Learn
No Design

Phase 2

Develop
Options/Designs
Public
Involvement –
Get Comments
Design & Refine

Project Study Area

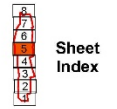


NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES MAP
IMPROVEMENTS TO US 70 FROM SR 1121 (GARNER RD) TO THE NEUSE RIVER BRIDGE
JAMES CITY, CRAVEN COUNTY
TIP PROJECT U-5713

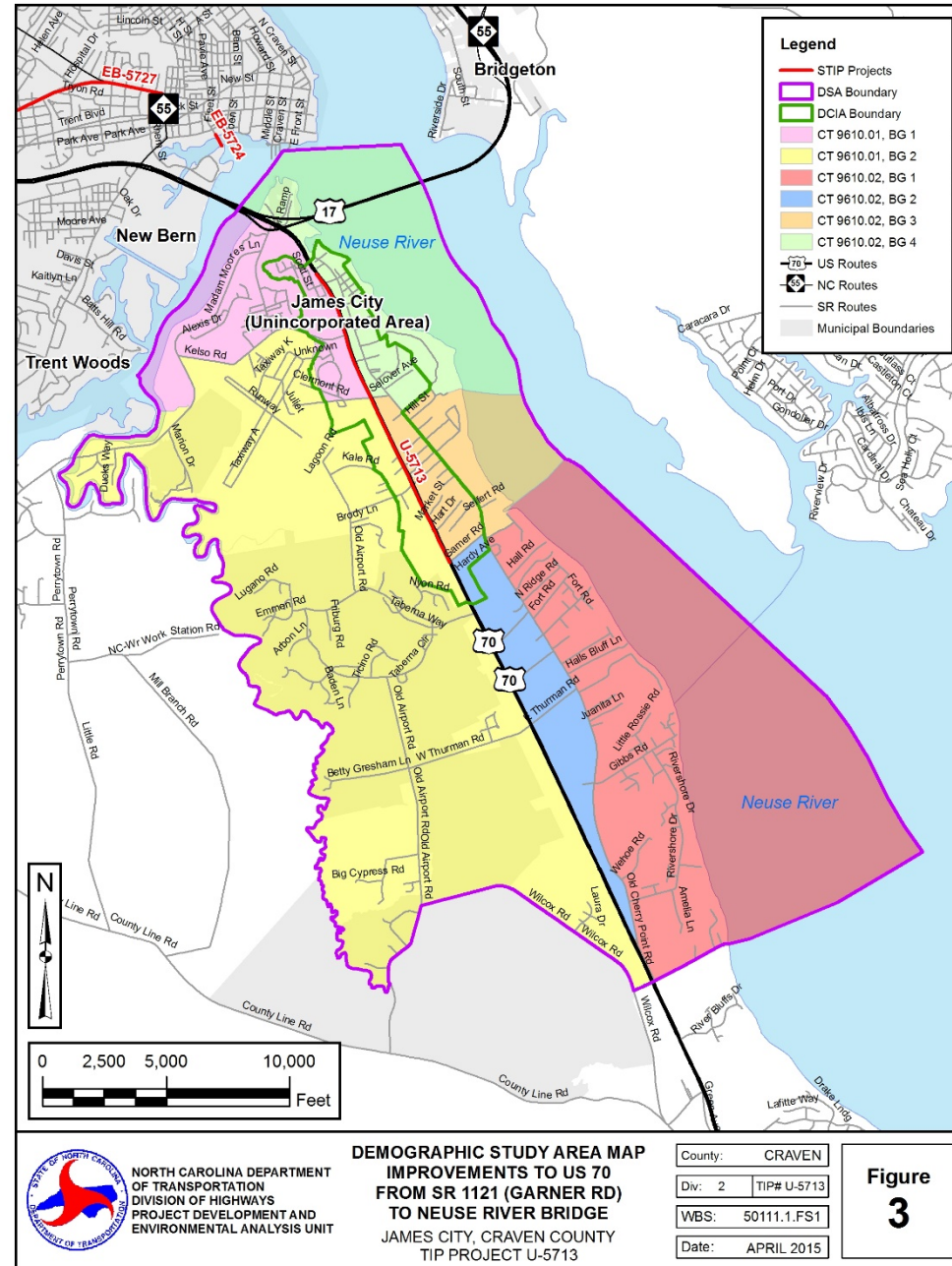
By:	C ROWELLS
County:	CRAVEN
Div:	2
TIP#	U-5713
Date:	APRIL 2015

Figure
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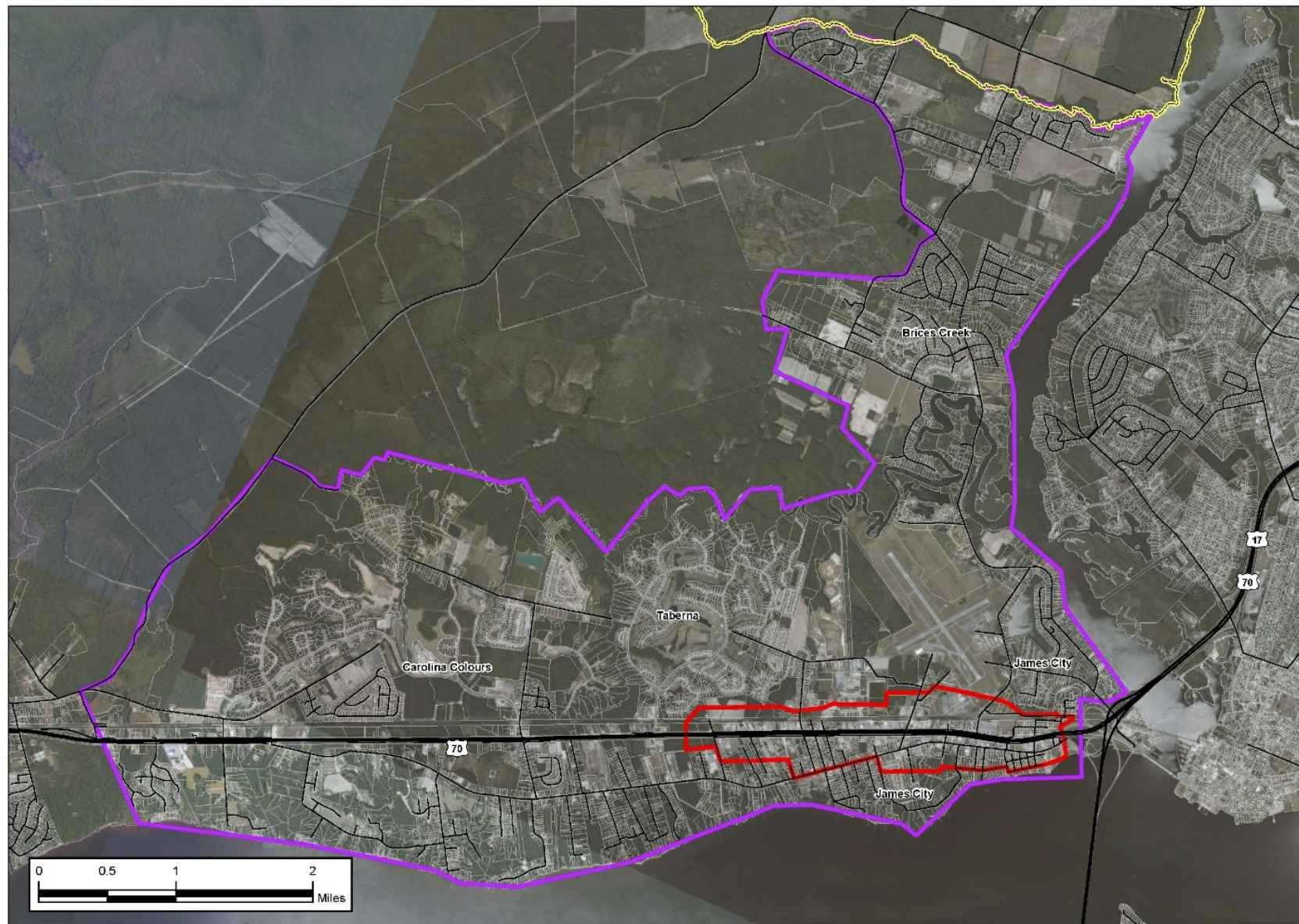


ESRI Aerial Photograph

Demographic Study Area



Public Involvement Area



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STUDY AREA
US 70 FROM SR 1121
(GARNER RD) TO
NEUSE RIVER BRIDGE
CRAVEN COUNTY
TIP PROJECT U-5713



By:
S. YOUNG

County:
CRAVEN

DM:
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TIP#
U-5713

Date:
FEBRUARY 2015

Figure

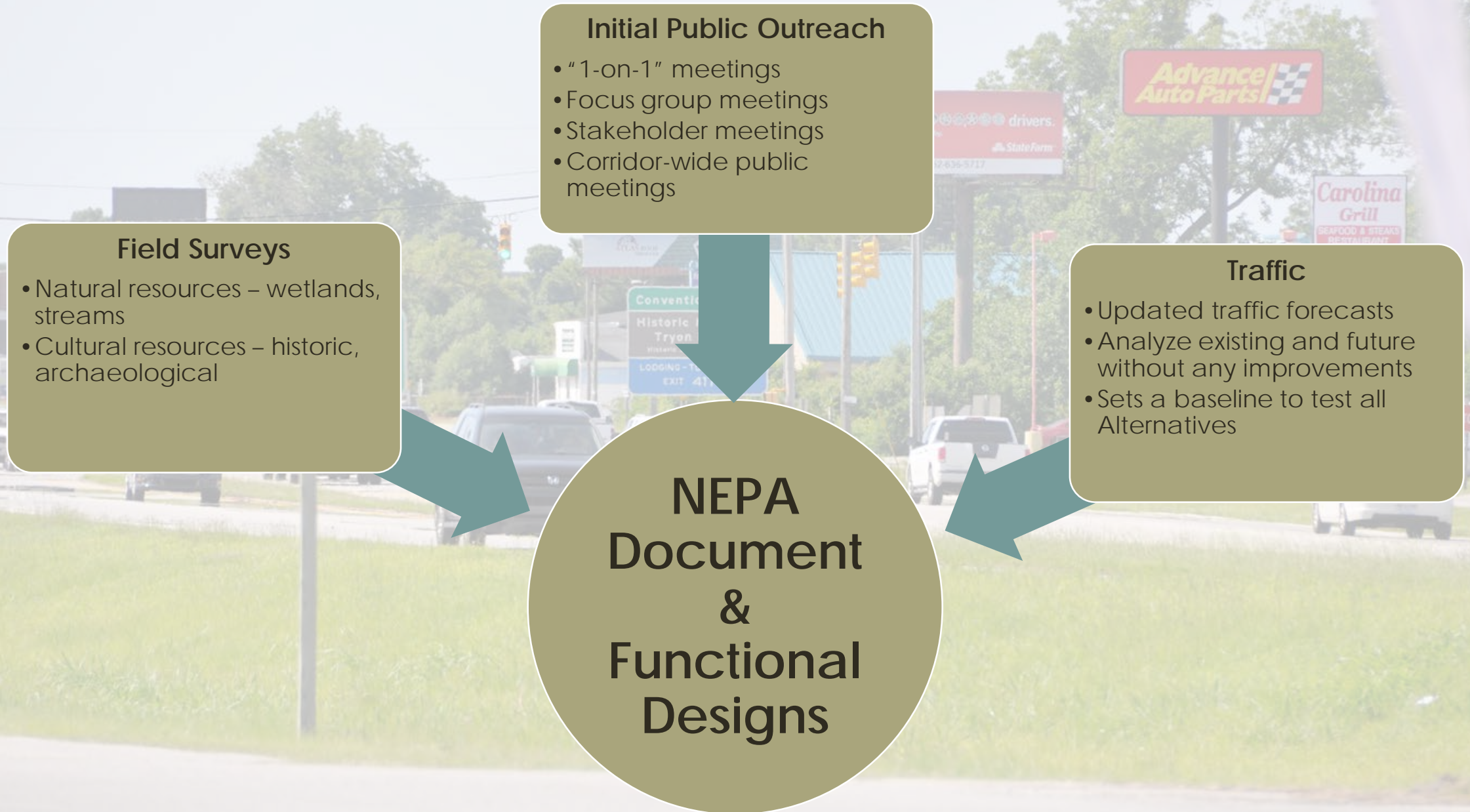
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ESRI Aerial Photograph

Community Characteristics Report (CCR)

- Beginning to prepare the DRAFT report
 - field visit conducted earlier this week
 - local planner, school, and EMS input requests
 - met with MPO and RPO coordinators
 - close coordination with Neighborhood Solutions as they “map” the project area
- DRAFT ready for internal NCDOT review by mid-June
- Report used to help guide the Public Outreach effort, as well as inform the Project Team of the various community features that need to be considered during the planning process

Where Are We Going?





Neighborhood Solutions, LLC

Inside the Community – Outside the Box
Public Involvement/Environmental Justice Specialists

Unique Approach Experienced Experts

Two projects have been listed by **FHWA** as one of their **top ten best** practice projects for outreach and environmental justice

- **Business 40** in Winston-Salem, NC
- **I-70 East** in Denver, Colorado



Jumetta Posey

- Founder of Neighborhood Solutions
- 15 years experience in Public Outreach
- Committee Member of Transportation Research Board's Environmental Justice Committee



Johnetta Perry

- 8 years experience in Public Outreach
- Project Manager with Neighborhood Solutions

Public Involvement Approach

- General concept – from SMALL to BIG
 - Site visit
 - “1-on-1” meetings – with community, civic, religious leaders
 - Focus group meetings – based on site visit
 - Stakeholder meetings – after primary outreach effort
 - Corridor-wide public meetings – three consecutive days, mail out within public involvement study area
- Ability to tweak on-the-fly
 - One size doesn’t fit all
 - Will adapt as we learn more
 - It’s a fluid process!

Schedule



****Note:** Dates listed are from the 2016-2025 Draft STIP. Project is likely to go Design Build in 2021, pending final approval by the NCDOT Board of Transportation at their upcoming June meeting.

Questions

