



US 70 Corridor Commission

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR MONTHS OF OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 2016 M. DURWOOD STEPHENSON, DIRECTOR

We begin this report in mid-Autumn. Summer is in the rear-view mirror and winter's arrival is upon us. The holiday season offers a respite from a too-long, overly caustic election.

The last quarter of 2016 has been filled with activities and many notable achievements that are significant milestones in progressing the agenda of our U.S. 70 Corridor Commission.

In early October, I met with Jake Parker, an official with N.C. Farm Bureau, to discuss rural issues. We agreed to convene a larger group in early 2017 to explore challenges and seek possible solutions to revitalize rural Eastern North Carolina. Groups/agencies identified:

NC Rural Center
NC Department of Commerce (Rural Division)
NC Chamber (Rural Committee)
Ag Tech Accelerator
NC BioTech Center

It is our plan to attempt to schedule a meeting with these rural partners early in the second quarter of 2017.

Matthew, unfortunately, became the story of the year in our region. My wife and I were out of the country and missed the fury of Matthew, thankfully. However, I did begin receiving phone calls seeking routes to safely across Eastern North Carolina. I was able to contact Division Engineers John Rouse and Tim Little who provided in depth information for safe passage routes, if available. After Matthew churned out to sea and the devastation measured, NCDOT began the process of assessing and correcting the too many road problems. On October 14, I received an email from a resident of Eastern North Carolina. He noted, "It is interesting to note, the new Bypasses in Johnston and Wayne Counties did not flood, but the entire section of the existing U.S. 70 from Wayne County to the coast did flood." A strong reminder that all new routes must be elevated significantly above current elevations along the route; i.e., as we are witnessing along U.S. 17 in Jones County. The significance and importance of our new planned bypasses along U.S. 70 in Eastern North Carolina now have a dual purpose beyond our touted agenda and entire economic opportunity, but also to protect our citizens and businesses from future raging floods that seem to rise to un-paralled heights at every new event.

M. Durwood Stephenson
Director

P.O. Box 1187 ❖ Smithfield, NC 27577 ❖ (919) 934-1249 ❖ DurwoodUS70@gmail.com

NCDOT continues to work diligently to correct the devastation of Matthew. A major road to access my favorite local restaurant remained closed still at Christmas, although Johnston County was not among the most damaged by the flood. Wayne and Lenoir both received significantly more damage.

In early October, I began receiving calls and emails from property owners in the vicinity of NC11/55 (Skinners Bypass Interchange) in Kinston. As the waters elevated to new heights, property owners looked for exit strategies, hopeful NCDOT would soon purchase their properties solving a problem they faced with business enterprises, development opportunities and unwelcome intrusion on future plans. Unfortunately, the proposed Square Loop Interchange is a minimum of five (5) years before right of way acquisition can commence.

Following the strategies of I-42 and 795, Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas has solicited the assistance of North Carolina's U.S. Senators and Eastern North Carolina House Delegation, specifically Congressman G.K. Butterfield and Walter Jones to pursue administrative action for the designation of future I-587. The Eastern North Carolina Gateway Act of 2016 includes the future designation along portions of U.S. Highway 264 creating north-south Interstate access in the region. We endorse the bill and the effort. The idea that several interstates in a region too long devoid of these coveted commerce generating corridors can only enhance economic opportunity in rural Eastern North Carolina.

In early November, our cherished enabler, fact checker and organizing guru, Marcia Wilson, officially announced her retirement and relocation to South Carolina. A copy of her letter expressing gratitude for our acknowledgement of her significant role in the operations and success of the U.S. 70 Corridor Commission is attached. She was truly a major player in establishing and pursuing the U.S. 70 Corridor agenda. We are and will forever be indebted to her. The good news is our good fortune continues with the addition of City of Goldsboro Planner, Jennifer Collins. She has graciously responded to our need. She understands the language and is equally passionate about our agenda. Thank you Jennifer! In football "lingo" and motto: **NEXT MAN UP**, or in this case **NEXT WOMAN UP**.

For several years, we have promoted the improvement of economic opportunities in rural North Carolina tempered with a measure of reality and the unlikely probability of the locating of major manufacturing facilities in our region. In a recent New York Times article, writer-reporter Binyamin Appelbaum wrote, **"Why are politicians so obsessed with manufacturing? More than 80 percent of new jobs nationally are now in the service sector: Tech, health-care and financial services are the new jobs."**

It has long been our contention that our best hope for improved economic opportunities and job creation is from within by local entrepreneurs. A large segment of our population comes from the agricultural industry and are trained with the attributes of an entrepreneur: Independent mind-set, self-motivated, not averse to risk taking.

Eastern North Carolina also has a large population of retired military personnel. Historically a high percentage of veterans went on to own or operate their own business, although it is a number on the decline probably due primarily due to a lack of available capital to support new ideas and new job creations, particularly in a rural environment.

Although recent successful research at N.C. State University is providing a preponderance of evidence supporting the economic viability for new products, particularly in the food chain; but again, a lack of capital in support of these new innovative products is an obstacle.

Fortunately, as reported in my September report, a group of North Carolina based investors have recognized the possibilities and are now offering capital to a new generation of entrepreneurs with new ideas and new products. The establishing of AgTech Accelerator may lead to new opportunities for our declining farm population and hopefully the opening of doors for additional venture capitalists.

Economists may not agree on many factors that impact commerce, but are near unanimous in their consensus that the free movement of capital is a great stimulus and indicator of economic development.

In his book, **NORTH CAROLINA IN THE CONNECTED AGE**, Economist and William Heal Reynolds Distinguished Professor at North Carolina, Michael L. Walden, suggested tobacco manufacturing was a homegrown North Carolina industry. Perhaps another industry with comparable impact awaits us.

Too many of our rural Eastern North Carolina young have decided the best way up is out. A stream of out-migration that can only be stymied by lack of opportunity.

An abundance of open land, good supply of water and natural resources coupled with people with strong work ethic and an independent spirit makes our region fertile ground for home-grown businesses. With an emerging source of capital, Eastern North Carolina is poised for growth.

In order to complete the scenario for future growth, infrastructure must be provided. Roads, rail and shipping for moving goods and people and broad band to maintain connectivity and an exchange of ideas and information.

On December 1, 2016, Brian Yamamoto, NCDOT Project Engineer and Jay McInnis provided an update to U.S. 70 Work Group on U.S. 70 Corridor projects. Craig Young, Principal, Three Oaks Engineering and consultant for James City project joined us to update status and to review and analyze six (6) concepts being offered by consultant. The attending Corridor Commission Directors, with direction from Division Engineer, John Rouse, preferred to minimize the options presented to two (2) which appeared to be more obvious and palatable to the citizens of James City. (A copy of the presentation to U.S. 70 Work Group).

On December 5 and 6, the best options were presented in public meetings in James City and by all accounts, were well received. Within the past few days, I have had an opportunity to meet with area residents that have previously strongly objected to U.S. 70 improvements at James City. They accepted and voiced strong support for the two plans offered.

This project is funded and should now be able to move forward with support from the local community.

In a recent report authored by Fareed Zakaria, he proclaims – **“the three (3) greatest forces in globalization and economic growth is politics, economics and technology.”** He suggests the U.S. economy has not aggressively pursued globalization, due to historical economies in the U.S., which he identifies as generally internally focused. However, foreign trade is on the rise, but has been hampered by political decisions alienating potential trade partners. During the past 15 years, the U.S. has placed trade sanctions on more than half of the world’s population.

North Carolina has benefited from globalization and increased trade. The efficiency of our agricultural industry is capable of feeding the world, but exports have sometimes been victimized by national policies that restrict escalating exports.

Certainly, I acknowledge that I do not have the wisdom, the political acumen nor the national understanding of cause and effect, at this level to criticize or praise sanctions. However, common sense tells me that sanctions are a two-way street and there is a price to pay for both the sanctionee and the sanctionor. It reminds me vividly of my younger days when after a well-deserved spanking, my Mom sadly pronounced, “It hurt me more than it hurt you,” a fallacy I quietly denounced to myself. But to her

point, perhaps the long-term benefits were greater for me. I will accept that promise for legitimizing trade sanctions – but we should carefully evaluate the end benefits or penalties for both parties.

The citizens of the region, the military and, for the past 6+ years, the U.S. 70 Corridor Commission members have been diligently pursuing final approval for the Havelock Bypass. At long last, the legal staff of FHWA in Atlanta announced its review and approval of all required documentation to move this project forward. The documents had been submitted in July, 2016. A final signature by N.C. FHWA Administrator, John Sullivan was the only remaining obstacle.

On November 21, Congressman G.K. Butterfield and I began dialogue to secure final FHWA approval. Conversations that continued daily even through the holidays and weekends.

Thanks to the persistence and influence of Congressman Butterfield, NCDOT received the final signed ROD for Havelock Bypass on December 16; a major milestone. After 30 years of delays, we are grateful to NCDOT for their tireless efforts on this project and grateful to FHWA for their acquiescence albeit later than we had hoped. A time for a small congratulatory celebration and thank you's to so many of our supporters and advocates.

Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, Lenoir County, convened Economic Developers from Wayne and Craven County to discuss organizing a three-County Economic Development group to promote Aerospace Industries in these three Counties along the U.S. 70 Corridor. Jack Best and I were invited to join the discussion. All three of the counties share facilities and existing aerospace related industries. It is a natural "fit" and a new opportunity to pursue this specialty commerce. Mark, Timothy and Crystal will share more with us at our January 19 meeting.

Following the final "sign-off" on ROD for Havelock Bypass on December 16, we quietly celebrated among ourselves the attainment of this long-awaited achievement. We then waited with "baited breath" for the next shoe to drop: Action by SELC.

On December 21, I had an opportunity to visit with one of the Nation's best transportation minds in the Nation. We discussed the aggressive actions by SELC in North Carolina. He has explored the frequency of SELC lawsuits in North Carolina as compared to other similar projects in neighboring states, and at first glance, it appears to be far fewer lawsuits and a less aggressive pursuit of transportation projects. It is a model we must, with assistance from NCDOT and FHWA, pursue. It certainly is not because of a lack of detailed analysis and an abundance of data being provided by NCDOT and FHWA.

Why and what is different is an agenda, we must all pursue together. We should and must also include SELC in those conversations.

As anticipated, the SELC complaint was received on December 30. It is now being reviewed and evaluated. We must prevail. There is too much "at stake." Retired Colonel Frank Bottorff, current Havelock City Manager, continues to remind us of the potential for disastrous BRAC review and closing of the East Coast's largest marine base and its economic impact in Eastern North Carolina.

The last quarter of 2016 has been remarkably active with many great achievements for Eastern North Carolina while suffering too many major setbacks. From my perspective, it has probably been the busiest in terms of activity during my 6 ½ years of tenure at this task. Monumental tasks face us as we look forward to 2017.

We must with our continued message of unity, continue to pursue a new and economically better future for Eastern North Carolina. I thank all of you for your commitment to a better tomorrow.

As a reminder, several of our Counties have finalized appointments to the Board of Directors for U.S. 70 Corridor Commission and trust you will complete and notify Jennifer and me of those appointments or re-appointments as soon as possible.

And finally, we say a thankful good-bye to Marcia Wilson and a gracious welcome to Jennifer Collins.

Happy New Year!

**WAYNE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



WAYNE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
Phone: (919) 731-1435
Fax (919) 731-1446

November 8, 2016

Members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission
Director M. Durwood Stephenson
P.O. Box 1187
Smithfield, NC 27577

Dear Members of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission and Director M. Durwood Stephenson:

As most of you know, I will be retiring at the end of December. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to work, learn and grow with this organization. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support and helpfulness you have offered to me over the years. We have shared a wonderful work relationship, as well friendship.

Thank you for my retirement luncheon. I really appreciated all of the kind words and well wishes. Thank you for the beautiful clock with the inscription. I will put it on my desk in my new home in Bluffton, South Carolina and remember my enjoyable and rewarding experience working with the Highway 70 Corridor Commission. All of your support has made working with the members, Director M. Durwood Stephenson, North Carolina Department of Transportation staff, elected officials, appointed officials and interested citizens an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

I am beaming with pride when I think about the success of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission over the years. In the beginning, who would have ever thought individuals from five different counties could shed their individual wants, desires and needs to work together as a cohesive team to improve eastern North Carolina? I thank the current and past North Carolina Department of Transportation staff for believing in the process and working to ensure the success of the Highway 70 Corridor Commission.

I wish you continued success as you work with Goldsboro Assistant Planning Director Jennifer Collins. I know you will give Jennifer the support and guidance that has always been available to me. My best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Maricia Nelson

THE GOOD LIFE. GROWN HERE.

PO BOX 227
GOLDSBORO, NC 27533



US 70 WORKGROUP AGENDA

BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION DECEMBER 1, 2016

TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM (approximate pending BOT Meeting adjourn)

LOCATION: EIC Operations Conference Room

TOPIC	PRESENTER	TIME
Introductions	Gus Tulloss	5 min
US 70 Projects Status	Brian Yamamoto	30 min
US 70 Corridor Commission Comments	Durwood Stephenson	10 min
Conclusion/Adjourn	Gus Tulloss	5 min

Crazy Young Order Eng
Three

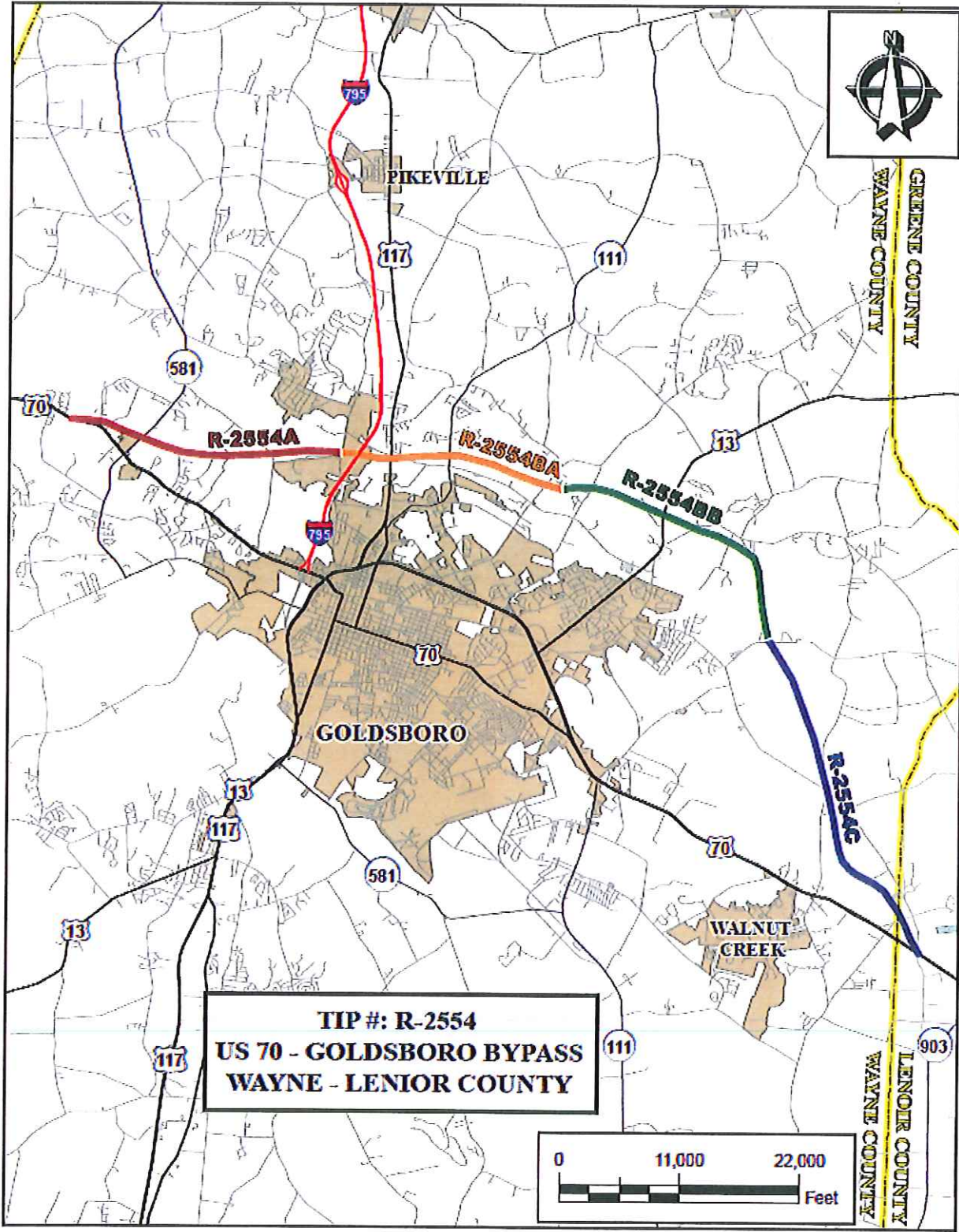
**NC Board of Transportation
US 70 Workgroup**

December 1, 2016

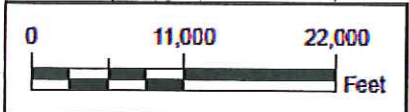


NCDOT

**Bypasses
Corridor Upgrades
Feasibility Studies**



TIP #: R-2554
US 70 - GOLDSBORO BYPASS
WAYNE - LENOIR COUNTY



US 70 Bypasses

Goldsboro Bypass (R-2554)

Funding Status:

Complete

Schedule:

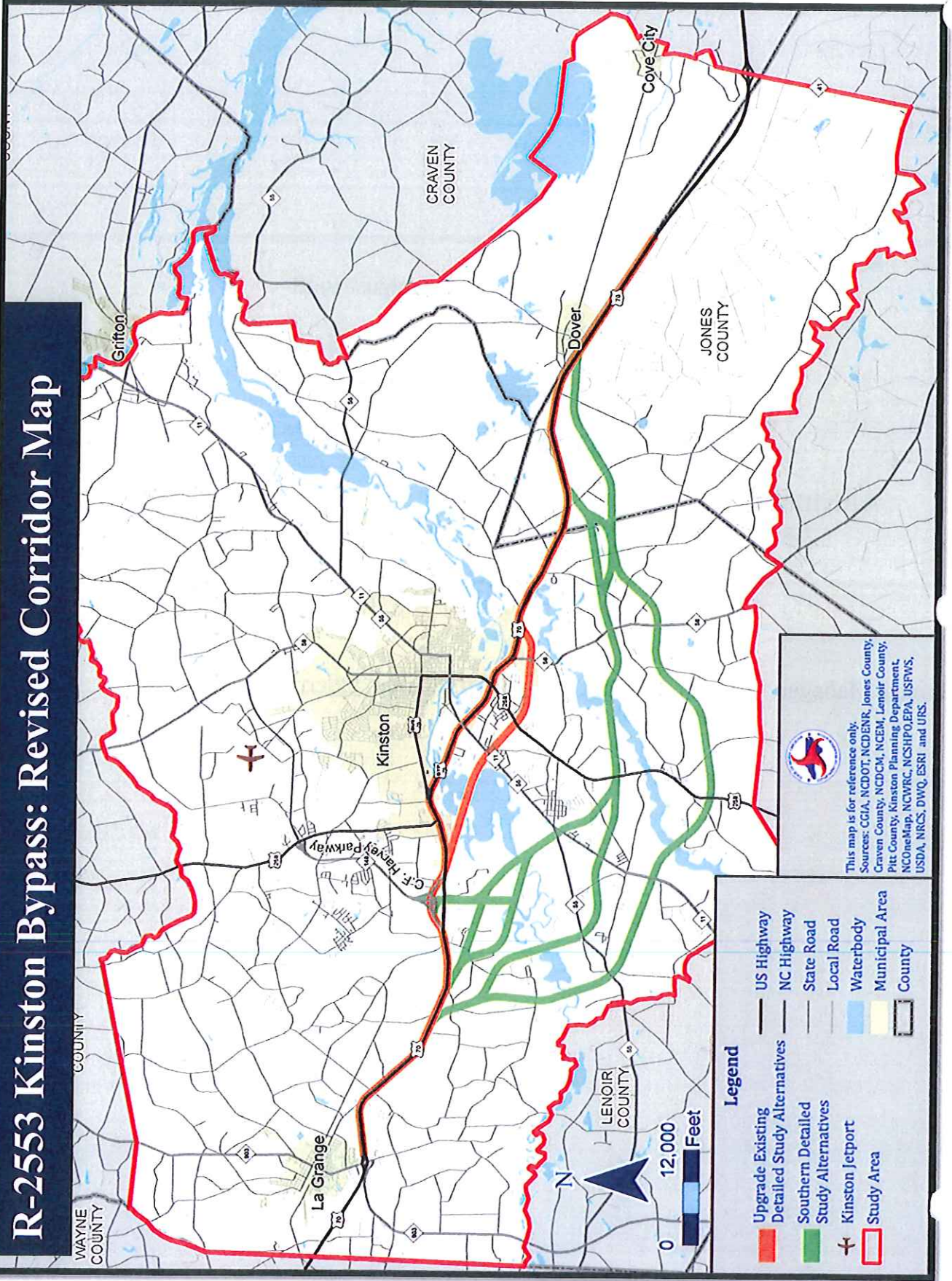
- Record of Decision Approved – August 1998
- Section A
 - Opened to traffic October 17, 2015
- Section BA
 - Opened to traffic Dec. 16, 2011
- Sections BB & C
 - Opened to traffic May 27, 2016

Activities Underway

Entire Bypass: Construction of Intelligent Transportation System infrastructure to aid daily and emergency traffic flow. This consists of closed circuit cameras, DMS Boards, etc... Expected completion late 2016. Work has been slowed due to Hurricane Matthew. 79.2% Complete.

Project Manager: Brandon Herring, PE, (919) 209-1090, blherring@ncdot.gov

R-2553 Kinston Bypass: Revised Corridor Map



Legend

- Upgrade Existing
- Detailed Study Alternatives
- Southern Detailed Study Alternatives
- Kinston Jetport
- Study Area
- US Highway
- NC Highway
- State Road
- Local Road
- Waterbody
- Municipal Area
- County




This map is for reference only.
 Sources: CGIA, NCDOT, NCDENR, Jones County, Craven County, NCDOT, NCEM, Lenoir County, Pitt County, Kinston Planning Department, NCOneMap, NCRWC, NCSHP/EPA, USFWS, USDA, NRCS, DWQ, ESRI and URS.

Kinston Bypass (R-2553)


Funding Status:

Unfunded in 2016-2025 STIP.

Schedule:

- 
- Start-of-Study Letter – May 29, 2009
 - Purpose & Need (CP1) Concurrence Achieved – October 13, 2010
 - Detailed Study Alternatives (CP2) Concurrence Achieved – November 17, 2011
 - Environmental Studies for historic resources, natural resources, and community impacts – 2012 through 2016
 - CP2 Concurrence (revisited) – January 16, 2014
 - Bridging Decisions (CP2A) – April 17, 2014
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement - * winter 2016
 - Corridor Design Public Hearing – TBD
 - Corridor Selection (CP3) – TBD
 - Delineation of wetlands and streams – *TBD
 - Avoidance and Minimization (CP4A) – *TBD
 - Final Environmental Impact Statement – *TBD
 - State Record of Decision – *TBD
 - Right of Way acquisition – (STIP: unfunded)
 - Construction – (STIP: unfunded)

Activities Underway/Completed

- 
- Environmental Studies for Detailed Study Alternatives.
 - Functional Designs for Detailed Study Alternatives are completed.
 - Preliminary Noise Analysis is completed.
 - Public Meeting(s) #4 – were held August 26th & 28, 2014.
 - Local Officials Meeting #6 was held August 26, 2014.
 - Land Use Scenario Assessment was finalized in August 2015
 - Estimates completed: Utilities, Construction, ITS, relocation impacts.
 - Draft Economic Impact Assessment is being revised by AECOM per NCDOT comments.
 - Traffic Forecast underway (detailed traffic forecasts for all alternatives).
 - Right of way cost estimate underway – completion Winter 2016.
 - Draft EIS now being assembled & written, expect 1st rough draft in winter 2016.
 - NCDOT-PDEA and FHWA are currently working on “lessons learned” for the GIS Pilot project & devising the best means for bringing that study to a close.

Upcoming Actions

- Rough draft of Draft EIS to be completed winter 2016

Project Owner: John Rouse, P.E., (252) 439-2800, jwrouse@ncdot.gov

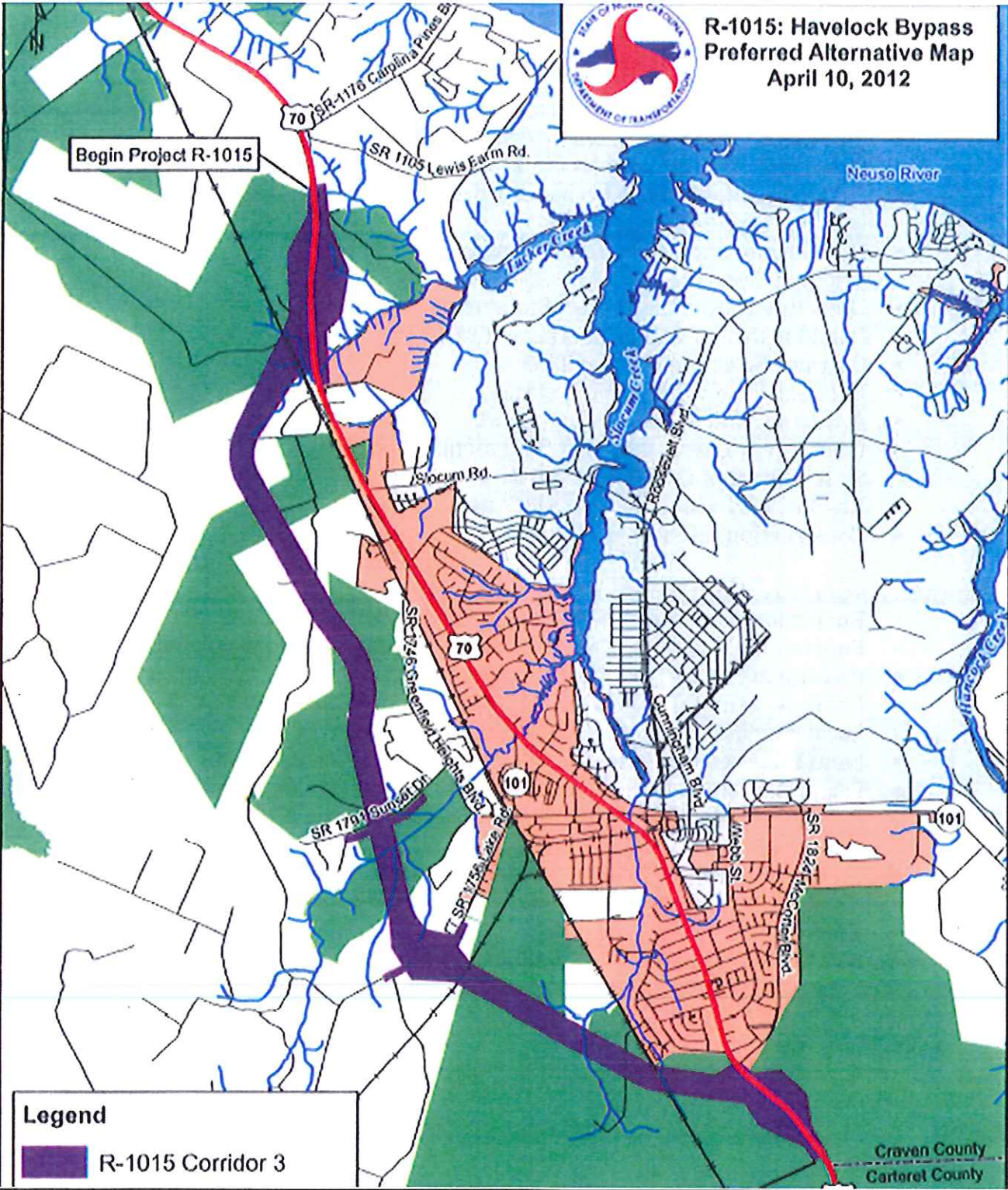
Project Manager: Brian Yamamoto, P.E., (919) 707-6051, byamamoto@ncdot.gov
Bob Deaton, (919) 707-6017, rdeaton@ncdot.gov

Notes: Kinston Bypass is unfunded in the STIP. Decisions regarding further scheduling activities are To Be Determined (TBD).




**R-1015: Havelock Bypass
Preferred Alternative Map
April 10, 2012**

Begin Project R-1015



Legend

 R-1015 Corridor 3

Craven County
Carteret County

Havelock Bypass (R-1015)

Funding Status:

All segments funded for both right of way and construction in 2016-2025 STIP.

Schedule:

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement – approved Sept. 2011
- Corridor Public Hearing – December 6, 2011
- Conducted Post Hearing Meeting – Feb. 2012
- Concurrence Point 3 Meeting (Corridor Selection Revisited) – Concurrence Achieved on April 10, 2012
- Concurrence Point 2A (Bridging Decisions Revisited) – Concurrence Achieved on July 9, 2012
- Environmental Studies Updates – 2012 - 2015
- Concurrence Point 4A (Avoidance & Minimization) – August 2014
- Final EIS Approved (FHWA) – Oct. 2015
- Record of Decision – Winter 2016
- Right of Way acquisition – FY 2016
- Construction – FY 2018



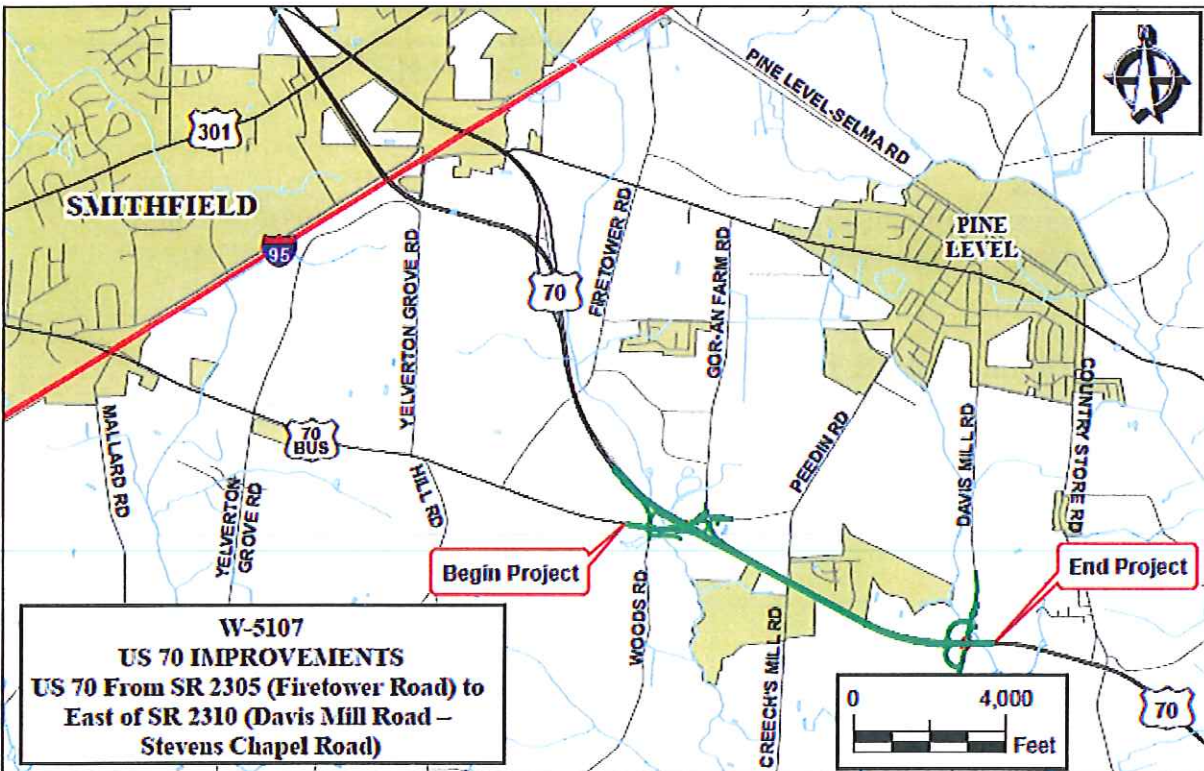
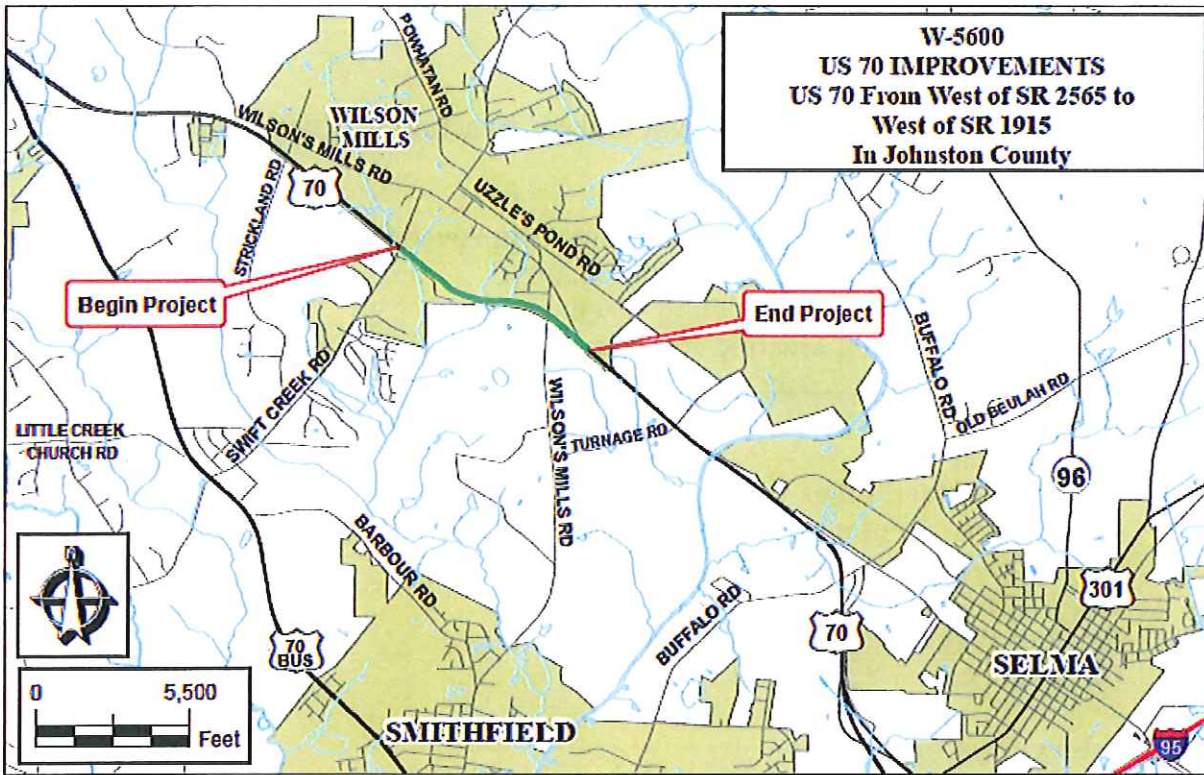
Activities Underway/Completed

- Final EIS approved October 2015.
- MOU that establishes parameters of USFS management of Croatan Wetland Mitigation Bank awaiting USFS legal review.
- ITS plan for bypass closure during burns completed.

Upcoming Actions

- Receive comments on updated MOU for CWMB management by USFS.
- Address FHWA legal comments on draft Record of Decision (ROD).

Project Manager: John Conforti, REM, (919) 707-6015, jgconforti@ncdot.gov



US 70 Corridor Upgrades

US 70 Improvements near Wilson's Mills, Johnston County, W-5600

Upgrade US 70 to a freeway from US 70 Clayton Bypass to Neuse River bridge. Construct interchanges at Swift Creek Road and Wilson's Mill Road.

Funding Status:

Fully funded in 2016-2025 STIP.

Schedule:

- Project Scoping Meeting – Held July 2012
- Categorical Exclusion – June 2016
- Right of Way Acquisition – FY 2018
- Construction – FY 2020

Activities Underway

- Public meeting conducted February 2, 2016.
- CE Completed June 2016

Upcoming Actions

- Development of Preliminary Roadway Design Plans by PEF.

Project Manager: Jerry Page, PE (252) 237-6164, jpage@ncdot.gov;

US 70 Improvements near Pine Level, Johnston County, W-5107

Median cross-over closures and upgrades of two intersections to interchanges.

Funding Status:

Fully funded in 2016-2025 STIP

Schedule:

- Categorical Exclusion Document – Approved February 2012
- Construction – Project let to construction February 2015
 - Estimated Completion January 2018

Activities Underway

- Construction is underway (47% complete).
- Set steel girders on US 70 Alternate at Collins Marine.
- Will set concrete girders at Davis Mill Road in early 2017.

Project Manager: Bobby Liverman, PE (252) 459-2129, bliverman@ncdot.gov



US 70 Improvements in James City, Craven County, U-5713

US 70 Improvements in James City, Craven County, U-5713

Upgrade US 70 to freeway standards.

Funding Status:

Fully funded in 2016-2025 STIP

Schedule:

- Feasibility Studies prepared – 2010, 2012, 2014
- Environmental Assessment – FY 2018
- FONSI – FY 2020
- Design/Build Let – FY 2021

Activities Underway/Completed

- Internal scoping meeting held Jan 28, 2015.
- Individual interviews with citizens and businesses held Aug 2015.
- Focus group meetings held Sep 2015.
- Public meetings (1st round) held Oct 2015.
- NRTR/Wetland Delineations complete Nov 30 2015.
- Traffic Forecast complete Jul 12, 2016
- External Scoping Meeting Sep 2016.
- Merger Screening Meeting held Sep 12, 2016 (exempt from Merger).
- Conceptual Alternatives developed Sep 2016.

Upcoming Actions

- Public meetings (2nd round) to be held December 5-6 2016 - to show preliminary design concepts.
- Confirm alternatives to be carried forward for detailed study (DSAs) - Winter 2017.
- Develop Preliminary Roadway Designs for DSAs - Fall 2017.
- Prepare draft of Environmental Assessment (EA) – Spring 2018.

Project Manager: John Conforti, REM, (919) 707-6015, jgconforti@ncdot.gov

*6 assumed to 2017
Final nec. Fall 2017*

*U.S. 70 up & over
2 major*

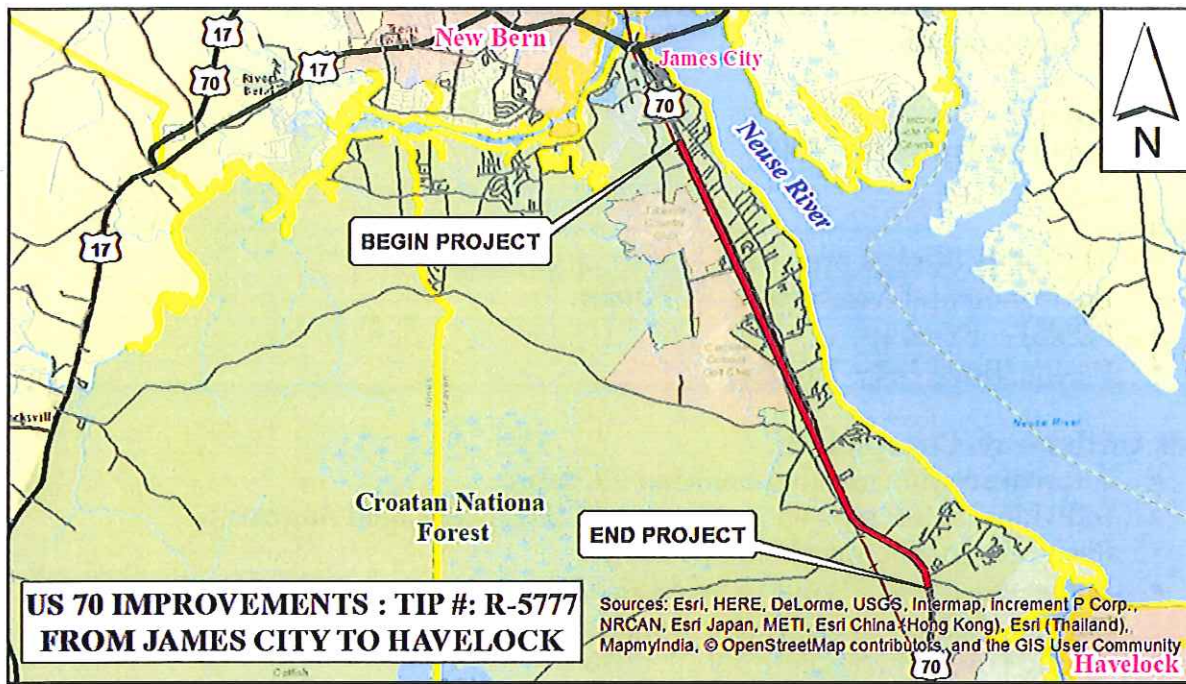
*Alt. A
3 Fall Full Access
Diamond Interchange @ Wm. Rd
Alt.*

*CA
side up & over (service)
over U.S. 70
greater impacts*

*Alt
3 Full Access
Eldon St.
X A2 1/2 Diamond
Wm. Rd & Grand
A3 Hybrid
Airport
C1
C2
C3*

*B projects
rule out*

Capacity Analysis planned for winter 2017



US 70 Improvements from James City to Havelock, Craven County, R-5777
 Upgrade US 70 to freeway standards, including construction of service roads and interchanges.

Funding Status:

Recently funded in 2016-2025 STIP (Right of Way only)

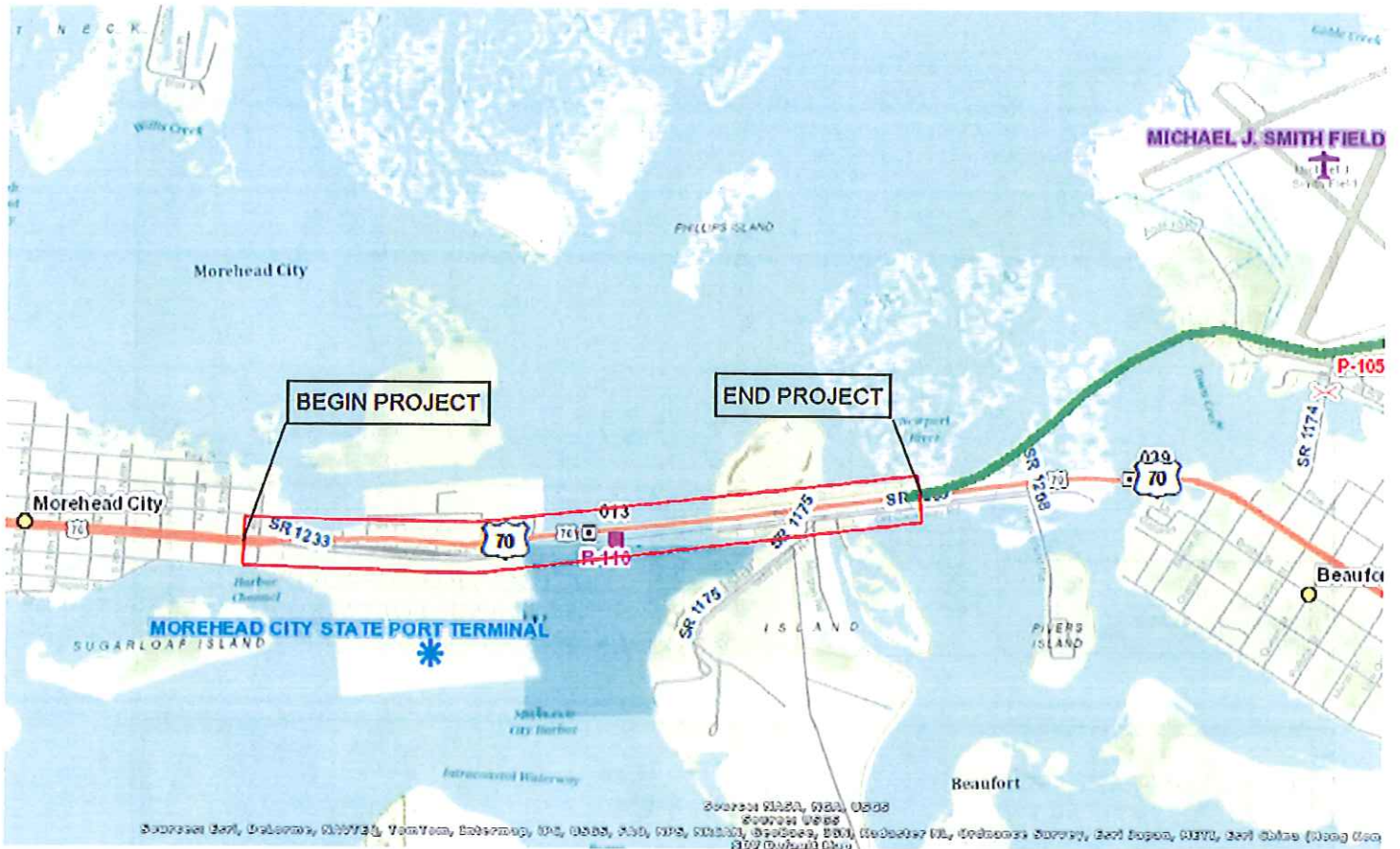
Schedule:

- State Environmental Assessment – FY 2022
- State FONSI – FY 2023
- Right of Way Acquisition – SFY 2025
- Construction – Post Year

Upcoming Actions

- Project adjustments currently being considered in association with P 4.0 process for STI. Taberna Way interchange has been selected in Statewide Category.
- Planning/Environmental study to begin in 2017.

Project Managers: Brian F. Yamamoto, PE (919) 707-6051, byamamoto@ncdot.gov
 Jay McInnis, P.E., (919) 707-6029, jmcinnis@ncdot.gov



U-5740 (Newport River Bridge) Project Study Area

US 70 Improvements in Morehead City (including the Widening of Newport River Bridge), Carteret County, U-5740/U-5876

Widen US 70 and widen/upgrade bridge.

Funding Status:

Fully funded in 2016-2025 STIP

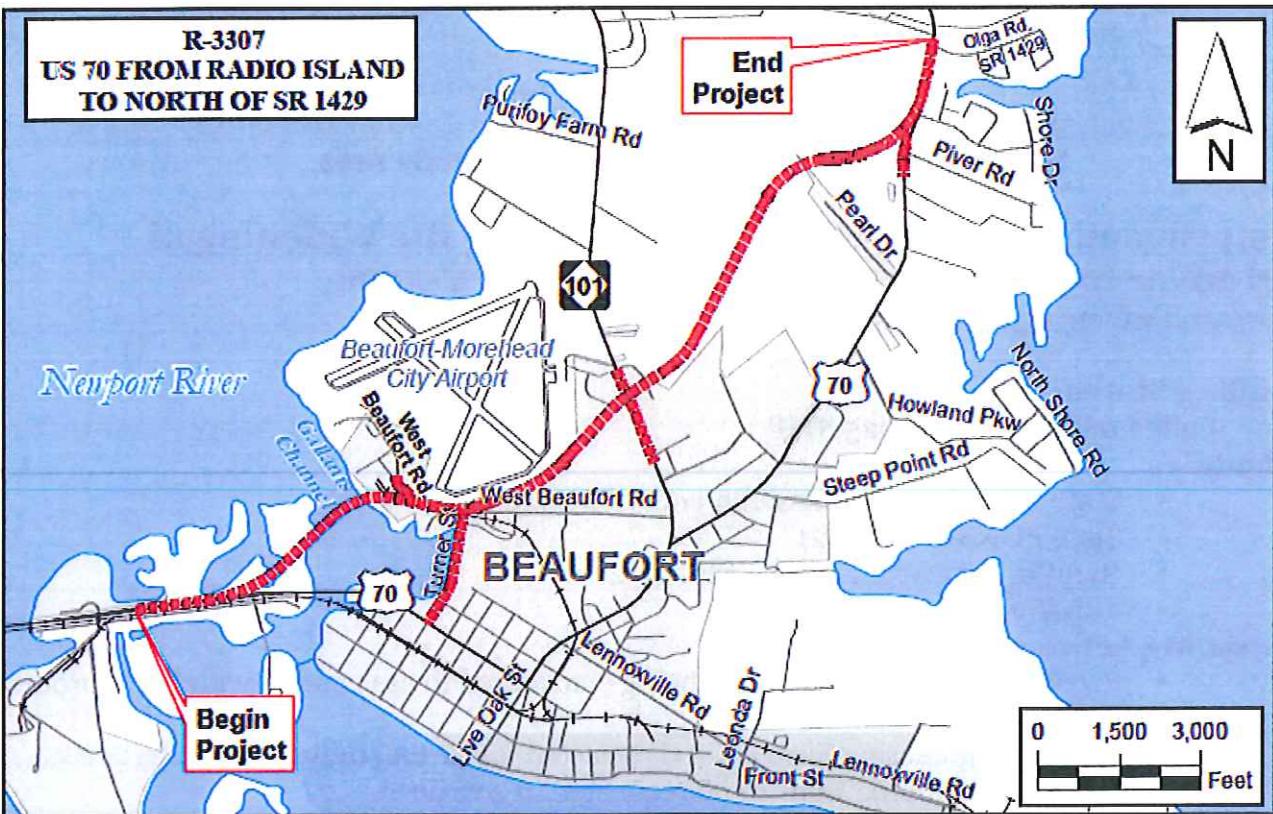
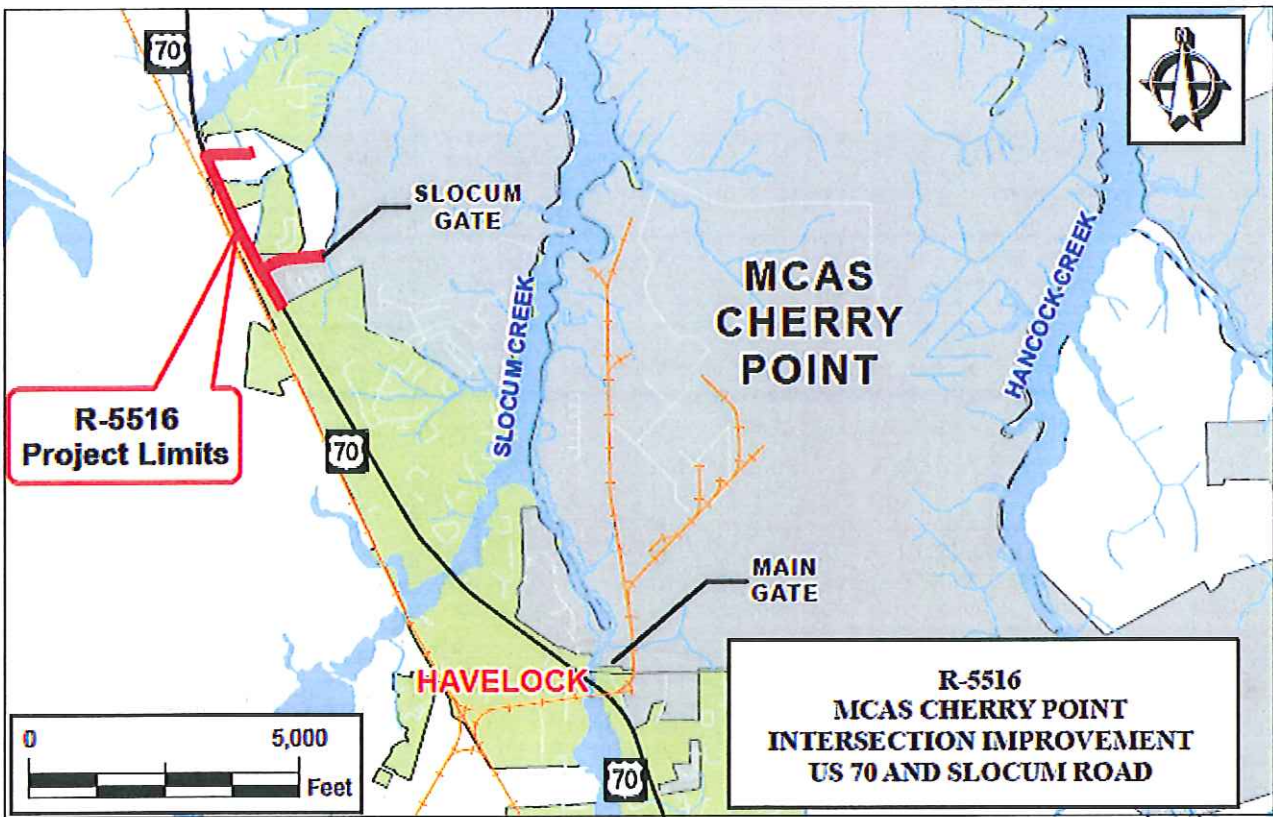
Schedule:

- State Environmental Assessment – FY 2020
- State FONSI – FY 2021
- Right of Way Acquisition – SFY 2022
- Construction – SFY 2024

Upcoming Actions

- Project adjustments currently being considered in association with P 4.0 process for STI.
- Private Engineering Firm (RS&H) selected for SEPA study.
- Aerial orthophotography to be requested in Dec 2016.

Project Managers: Brian F. Yamamoto, PE (919) 707-6051, byamamoto@ncdot.gov



Slocum Gate Improvements (MCAS Cherry Point, Havelock), Craven County, R-5516

Construction of flyover on existing US 70 at Slocum Gate.

Funding Status:

Fully funded in Draft 2016-2025 STIP for ROW and LET.

Schedule:

- Categorical Exclusion – completed December 2013
- Right of Way Acquisition – FY 2015
- Construction – FY 2017

Activities Underway/Completed

- Categorical Exclusion Environmental Document – approved December 2013
- Begin Right of Way acquisition – June 2015
- Preparation of final roadway design plans ongoing

Upcoming Actions

- Complete construction consultation – March 2017
- Complete final roadway design plans – March 2017
- Complete right of way acquisition – May 2017
- Let project to construction – June 2017

Project Managers: Jay McInnis, PE, (919) 707-6029, jmcinnis@ncdot.gov
Gary Lovering, P.E., (919) 707-6271, glovering@ncdot.gov

US 70 Improvements in Beaufort (including Gallants Channel Bridge Replacement), Carteret County, R-3307

Funding Status:

Under construction.

Schedule:

- Environmental Assessment – approved Oct. 2004
- Finding of No Significant Impact – approved Sept. 2006
- Right of Way Acquisition – complete
- Project Let – January 2014
- Estimated completion – Mid 2017

Activities Completed

- Coast Guard Permit approved – December 2013
- Project letting – January 2014
- Project under construction (Conti Enterprise Inc., contractor)
- Channel Span completed
- Retaining wall and noise walls completed
- Turner Street bridge piles installed

Upcoming Actions

- Grading for entire project is mostly complete. Tie-ins at the east and west side of existing US 70 not completed.
- Bridge construction in progress – concrete deck, expansion joints and barrier rail.
- Turner Street bridge concrete deck pours are occurring

Project Manager: Brad McMannen, PE, (252) 514-4759, bmcmanen@ncdot.gov

Feasibility Studies

Unfunded projects with a study to determine scope and general cost.

COMPLETED:

Kinston

Conversion of existing US 70 intersection at NC 11/55 (Skinners Bypass) to an interchange
Feasibility Study completed March 2010 (US 70 Corridor Commission)

James City to Havelock Bypass

Near term and long term US 70 corridor improvements
Feasibility Study completed January, 2012.

Northern Carteret Bypass, R-4431

New location freeway
Feasibility Study completed September 2, 2009 (Memo Update), July 22, 2009
(Feasibility Study Report).

US 70 from New Bern to Proposed Havelock Bypass

Construct freeway on New Location in Craven County Report complete Oct. 2014.

US 70 from Johnston County Line to Proposed US 70 Goldsboro Bypass, Wayne County

Upgrade to freeway
Feasibility Study completed November, 2015.

US 117 (Future I-795) from US 70 in Goldsboro to I-40, Wayne, Duplin and Sampson Counties

Upgrade to freeway
Report completed July, 2015.

Morehead City to Beaufort

Widening of existing US 70 causeway
Final report completed - February 2016.

UNDERWAY:

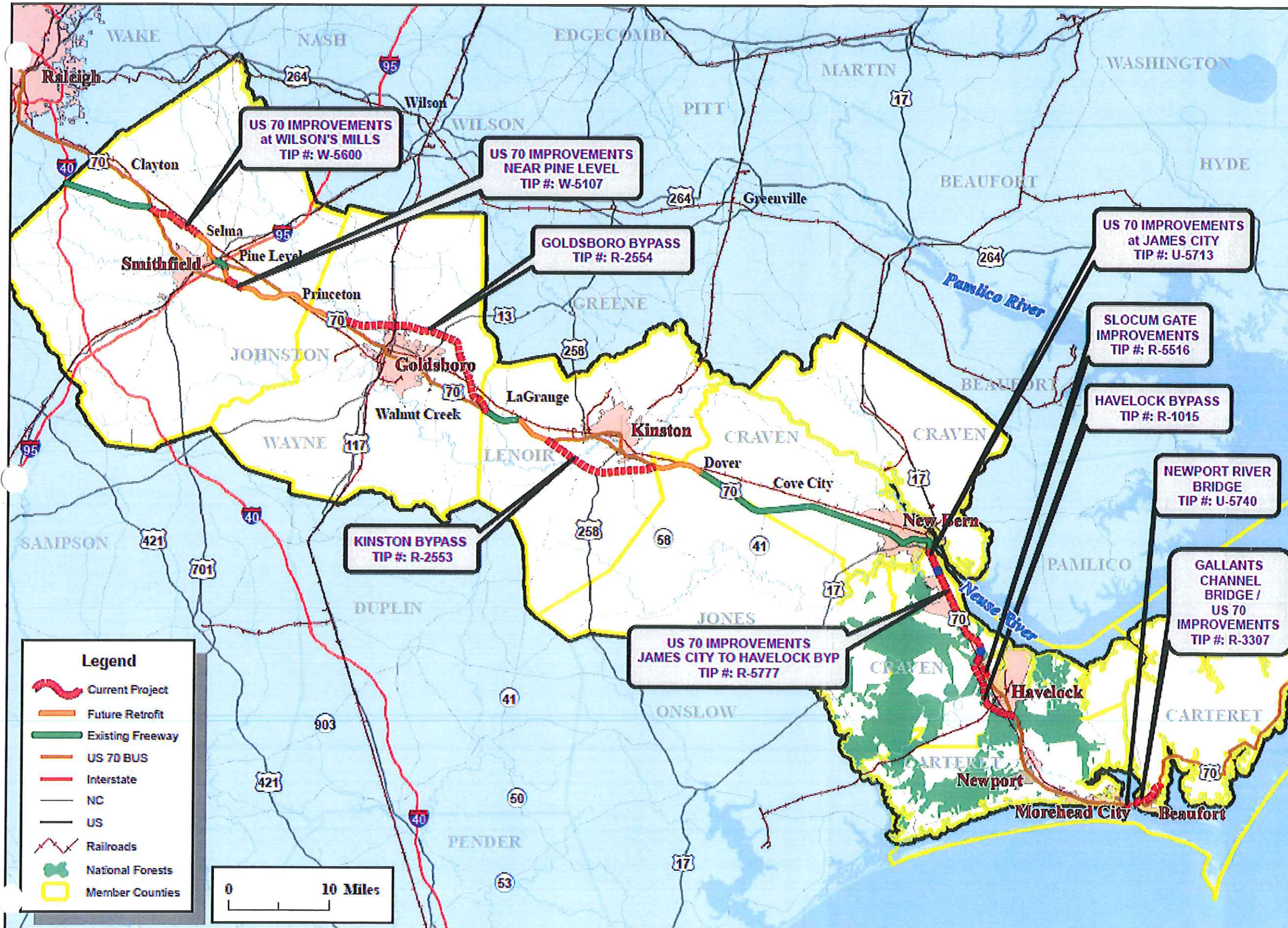
Kinston (Queen Street Interchange)

Conversion of existing US 70 intersection at US 258 (Queen Street) to an interchange
Updated traffic forecast received November 14, 2016. Conceptual designs scheduled for
Spring, 2017. Anticipated Feasibility Study completion – late 2017.

US 70 from Princeton to I-95 in Selma, Johnston County.

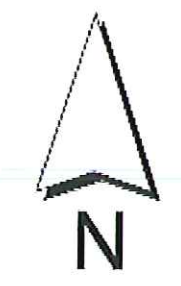
Upgrade to Freeway (Interstate Standard).
Consultant firm began work in March, 2016. Conceptual designs underway. Design
review meeting anticipated late Spring 2017. Final Feasibility Study anticipated late
2017.

NCDOT contact for Feasibility Studies: Derrick Lewis, P.E., (919) 707-4663, dlewis@ncdot.gov



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

US 70 CORRIDOR
NC DOT PROJECT LOCATIONS
WAKE, JOHNSTON, WAYNE, LENOIR, JONES, CRAVEN, CARTERET COUNTIES



Date: January 2018

Figure 1



Durwood Stephenson <durwoodus70@gmail.com>

Fwd: RURAL NORTH CAROLINA

1 message

Jennifer Gilson <jgilson@agtechaccelerator.com>Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at
2:01 PM

To: Durwood Stephenson <durwoodus70@gmail.com>

Durwood,

Thanks for your note below via our web site. It's good to be aware of your efforts.

We will be focused on forming and managing the companies from our first investments early next year but will look forward to staying apprised of your progress. We certainly appreciate your efforts and let's stay in touch.

Best,
Jennifer

JENNIFER G. GILSON

Chief Operating Officer

AgTech Accelerator Corp.

7020 Kit Creek Rd. | Suite 170
Research Triangle Park, NC 27560[919.303.5408](tel:919.303.5408)jgilson@agtechaccelerator.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: Durwood Stephenson
<durwoodus70@gmail.com>

Subject: RURAL NORTH CAROLINA
Date: September 8, 2016 at 3:03:46 PM EDT
To: info@agtechaccelerator.com

--

M. Durwood Stephenson, Director
U.S. 70 Corridor
Post Office Box 1187
Smithfield, North Carolina 27577
[\(919\) 934-1249](tel:9199341249)
Cell: [\(919\) 291-7885](tel:9192917885)



20160908145044709.pdf
207K



US 70 Corridor Commission

TO: John Dombroske
AgTech Accelerator

FROM: M. Durwood Stephenson

DATE: September 8, 2016

RE: RURAL NORTH CAROLINA

It was exciting to learn of the formation and actions of the new entity to promote new technology, products and efficiencies in agriculture. NCSU School of Agriculture Dean, Dr. Richard Linton has been touting recent research that can provide a boost to rural Eastern N.C. through agriculture. The Food Processing study just completed by Dr. Chris Daubert is another example of growth opportunities in a region in need of a boost.

One of the missing components in applying to research to productivity and new products has been a lack of capital. Apparently you and your group are successful in attracting Capital.

We at the U.S. 70 Corridor Commission have been promoting commerce for Eastern N.C. for the past 6 years with emphasis on establishing a Freeway/Interstate through Eastern N.C. Entrepreneur agriculture is probably our best hope.

We are planning a meeting with key players for rural N.C., probably early 2017. The groups we are attempting to partner are:

N.C. Rural Center
NC BioTech Center
NC Department of Commerce (Rural Div.)
NC Chamber (Rural Committee)

And would love to have you at the table.

Good luck and please contact us if we may be of any support advocacy with your mission.

M. Durwood Stephenson
Director

P.O. Box 1187 ❖ Smithfield, NC 27577 ❖ (919) 934-1249 ❖ DurwoodUS70@gmail.com