



PUBLIC HEARING
City of Raleigh
Falls of Neuse Road
Realignment and Widening Project
From Raven Ridge Road to New Falls of Neuse Road
November 03, 2008

Welcome!

Pre-Hearing Open House: Monday, November 03, 2008; 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Formal Presentation: Monday, November 03, 2008; 7:00PM
Design Public Meeting (65%): Monday, November 03, 2008; Approximately 30 minutes following the end of the Public Hearing

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing for the City of Raleigh Falls of Neuse Road Realignment and Widening Project. The objectives of tonight's hearing are as follows:

1. The first objective is to provide all interested parties with another opportunity to review results from the recently completed Environmental Assessment (EA). Representative staff will be present to answer questions during the informal part of the meeting scheduled for **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Copies of the EA and mapping of the Recommended Alternative have been available for public review since October 03, 2008 at the North Ridge Public Library, Falls Lake Visitor Assistance Center, City of Raleigh Public Works Department, and URS Morrisville Office. The materials will be available through November 18, 2008.
2. Next is to provide a formal setting for all interested parties to voice concerns or make project-related comments. The Hearing will begin at **7:00 PM**. Remember that this is a recording only and debates are out of place. Also the Public Hearing is not to be used a popular referendum to determine the location and/or design by a majority vote of those present.
3. Finally, the third objective is to provide all interested parties with an opportunity to view the Recommended Alternative at a higher level of design completion. Approximately 30 minutes following the completion of the Public Hearing, staff will display the alternative map with 65% design completion and answer citizen's questions about the design.

HISTORY

Three (3) alternatives were presented in the January 29, 2008 workshop. Based on comments received as a result of the workshop, a fourth (4) alternative concept was created. All four (4) alternatives were presented at the July 17, 2008 Corridor Public Meeting. Since then, City consultants have completed planning, environmental, and preliminary design studies to improve the existing roadway and create a new crossing of the Neuse River. The City has reviewed citizen input, resource agency concerns, design guidelines, and results of all technical studies, and selected Alternative 4 as the Recommended Alternative. An Environmental Assessment documenting the selection was approved in September 2008. The information shown here tonight is the result of these actions.

YOUR PARTICIPATION

Now that the opportunity is here, you are encouraged to participate by making your comments and/or questions a part of the public record. This may be done by having them recorded here tonight during the formal presentation or by writing them on the attached, pre-addressed comment sheet. All comments will be taken into consideration during the final design of the project.

Please leave the comments with a representative of the City of Raleigh, or mail your comments to Mr. Sylvester Percival at the following address by November 18, 2008:

CITY OF RALEIGH

Sylvester Percival, EI, Project Engineer 919-996-4053 telephone
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City of Raleigh sylvester.percival@ci.raleigh.nc.us
P.O. Box 590
Raleigh, NC 27602

Project Details: The overall project calls for Falls of Neuse Road to be widened to a multi-lane roadway beginning south of Raven Ridge Road and continuing on existing alignment to approximately Lowery Farms Road then traversing on new location across the Neuse River to connect to New Falls of Neuse Road in Wakefield.

This project is currently planned to be constructed in two (2) phases: The first phase constructed will be the new location section beginning near Lowery Farms Road. As part of Phase 1, a new bridge crossing of the Neuse River will be constructed. This section is approximately 4,200 feet long and is being constructed first to allow for an alternate north/south route in advance of NCDOT's B-4660 project to replace the existing Falls of Neuse Bridge over the Neuse River. The second phase of the project will be constructed following completion of Phase 1 and will involve widening Falls of Neuse Road for approximately 7,500 feet from just south of Raven Ridge Road, to connect to the end of Phase 1 near Lowery Farms Road.

Length of Project: The project length is approximately 2.24 miles. Adjacent connecting roadways will be tied back into the widened Falls of Neuse Road with the exception of Lowery Farms Road and Fonville Road. Existing Falls of Neuse Road will be realigned to connect with an extension of Wide River Drive and form a new intersection with the extension of Falls of Neuse Road. This realignment is approximately 2,100 feet in length.

Approximate Cost: The estimated construction cost of the proposed project, including the new bridge over the Neuse River is approximately \$21 million.

Purpose of the Project: Existing traffic volumes on Falls of the Neuse Road within and surrounding the study area range from 14,200 AADT to 40,000 AADT (annual average daily traffic) and volumes on New Falls of Neuse Road range from 4,400 AADT to 21,200 AADT. The primary purposes of the proposed project are:

- **Improve north/south connectivity and local and regional access on project study area roadways in North Raleigh and northern Wake County.** *Needs Addressed:* The City of Raleigh, Town of Wake Forest, and Wake County as a whole, experienced unprecedented levels of growth over the past 30 years. Much of this growth occurred and is still occurring in North Raleigh and areas north of the City extending along existing Falls of Neuse Road to the Town of Wake Forest including NC 98. The existing road network, including north-south crossings of the Neuse River, has created an unsafe roadway facility that does not support associated increases in traffic volumes and changing travel patterns.
- **Increase traffic capacity on congested roadway segments.** *Needs Addressed:* The traffic capacity studies show that in the project study area, existing signalized intersections at Raven Ridge Road, Dunn Road, and Wakefield Pines Drive are currently operating at congested conditions, and are at or near capacity levels in either the morning or afternoon peak travel hours. In the future (Year 2035), the same three (3) signalized intersections will experience breakdown traffic flows, increased over capacity issues, and reduced travel speeds in both the morning and afternoon peak travel hours without the proposed project in place.

Proposed Typical Sections (Figure 1): The typical section for this project will be a 4-lane median-divided facility with accommodations to be widened in the future to an ultimate 6-lane roadway. The project will include a 5-foot concrete sidewalk on the west side and an 8-foot asphalt multi-use path on the east with a connection to the future Upper Neuse Greenway.

Proposed Right-Of-Way: Additional right-of-way will be acquired as needed on the east and west sides of Falls of Neuse Road and the new location segment from Fonville Road north to New Falls of Neuse Road. Additional easements will be acquired as needed to construct the project's slopes, utilities, and drainage structures. A minimum of 120-foot right-of-way width will be acquired for this project to encompass the planned ultimate typical section of six lanes.

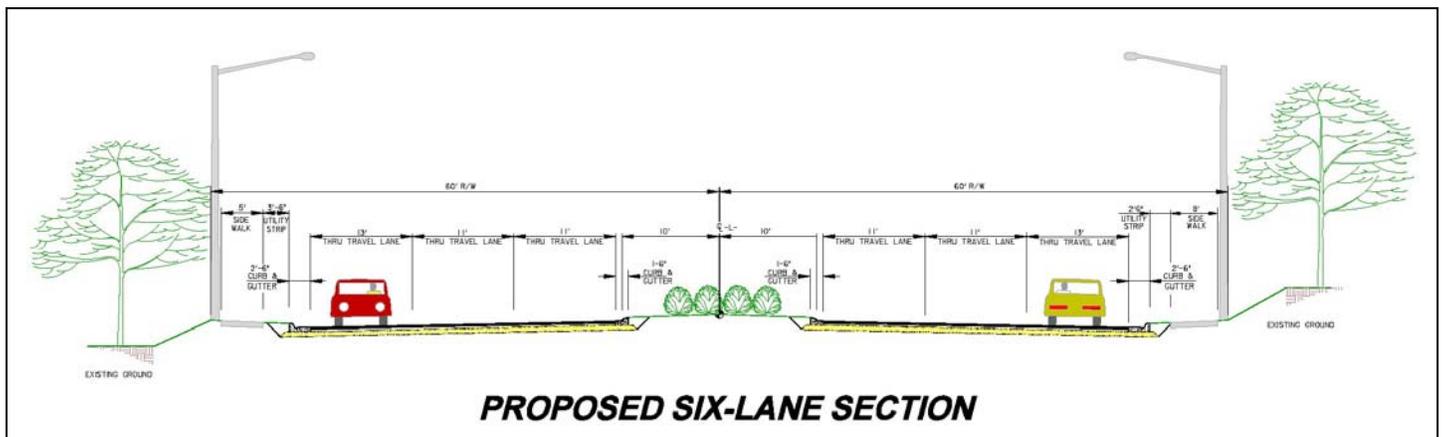
Assessments: A Public Hearing will be held through Raleigh's City Council to authorize this project as an assessment project. Assessments will be at an anticipated rate of \$6.00 per linear foot for sidewalk, \$32.00 per linear foot of frontage for residentially zoned properties, and \$64.00 per linear foot of frontage for non-residentially zoned properties.

Project Schedule:

Environmental Assessment (EA) Complete	September 2008
EA Public Hearing	November 03, 2008
Design Public Meeting (65% Design)	November 03, 2008
Council Public Hearing	December 2008
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Complete	January 2009
Right of Way Acquisition Begins	Spring 2009
Construction Begins (New Alignment)	Early Summer 2009
Construction Begins (Widening)	Post Year 2009

The City of Raleigh will update the Falls of Neuse Road Realignment and Widening project website periodically. Please check WWW.RALEIGHNC.GOV and look for the link at the top of the page to “Current Projects” and “Transportation Projects”. Thank you for your interest and participation!

Figure 1



SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT STEPS

With regards to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Pertinent to the City of Raleigh Falls of Neuse Road Realignment and Widening Project

Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, requires all agencies of the federal government to prepare and include a recommendation for any major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A portion of the funding for the proposed project will come through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and thus, the Falls of Neuse Road Realignment and Widening project is subject to applicable NEPA requirements. The following steps provide a brief overview of the process:

Identify Purpose and Need: The first step in the process is the Purpose and Need, which provides the intent and justification for an intended action to address a specified transportation-related problem. Purpose and Need provides the foundation of a project under NEPA and the Clean Water Act (CWA), provides a baseline for developing alternative scenarios, and explains why the expenditure of funds is necessary.

Collect Data on Project Study Area / Analyze Preliminary Alternatives: After a project study area is defined, data are collected from various sources including GIS databases, document searches at agencies such as the NC Natural Heritage Program and the State Historic Preservation Office, on-line resources, and from direct field observations. An environmental features study area map is created from all data discovered during the searches. The map is used as a base for identifying alternatives to satisfy the Purpose and Need. Once preliminary alternatives are identified, each is compared against important features (human, natural, or physical) in the project study area and against each other. Alternatives that have high probable impacts are eliminated.

Select Detailed Study Alternatives: Based on citizen input, comments received from federal, state, and local agencies, and results of all technical studies, alternatives are developed, analyzed in greater detail, and addressed in the EA.

Publish Environmental Assessment (EA): The documentation of the Purpose and Need, results from data collection studies, alternatives analysis, and public involvement activities are included in the EA. The EA is the principal instrument used in NEPA for investigating impacts. The findings of the EA are used to determine if project impacts are significant enough that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. If the EA provides clear and convincing evidence that the project would not result in significant impacts, or that any significant impacts can be mitigated to the point of non-significance, then a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared.

Select Preferred Alternative: Based on citizen input, comments received from federal, state, and local agencies, results of all technical studies, and revised design studies, an alternative is selected by the project team as “preferred”.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): Where the EA demonstrates an accurate, unbiased, scientific basis for determining significance, the FONSI will document the actual judgment regarding the significance of each impact. In addition, if any additional information comes to light prior to the finalization of the FONSI, that information will become part of the FONSI.

Purchase Right of Way: After a FONSI is approved and signed, right of way contacts can begin.

Construct Project: Construction begins when final designs are approved and necessary permits are in place.

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