



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

**News Release**

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## **Bond Proposal Would Improve Raleigh's Eastern Gateway**

The New Bern Avenue corridor is the historic eastern gateway into Raleigh. Maintaining the corridor is a top priority of the City. A \$75 million transportation bond issue on the Oct. 8 ballot provides \$4 million in funding to improve the area.

Pedestrian facilities, transit shelters and streetscape improvements would be installed from Tarboro Road to Sunnybrook Road, if Raleigh voters approve the transportation bond proposal. The project would initiate parts of the first phase of the New Bern Avenue corridor plan adopted by the City Council in 2012.

The New Bern Avenue corridor plan resulted from a study that recommends both short-term and long-term action items. The goals of these improvements are to improve the appearance of the corridor; to support pedestrian, bicycle and transit uses along the corridor; and to stimulate economic development initiatives and revitalization in the area.

Formerly part of U.S. 64 before the Interstate 440 Beltline was built, the New Bern Avenue corridor and its surrounding residential areas were developed and annexed by the City of Raleigh in the 1950s and 1960s. Though New Bern Avenue is one of the busiest bus routes offered by Capital Area Transit, there are limited pedestrian accommodations for passengers. Route 15 averages 2,020 passengers daily. Add to that the 15,000 to 22,000 vehicles per day that travel the corridor.

The transportation bond proposal on the Oct. 8 ballot will improve New Bern Avenue by using a "complete streets" design approach to provide better access for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Safety for all three groups would be improved along the multi-modal corridor leading into Downtown from the east.

Raleigh voters have approved six major transportation referenda totaling \$250 million in the last 29 years. These approved referenda were held in 1984, 1987, 1998, 2000, 2005 and 2011. The improvements in these bond issues, like the projects proposed in the Oct. 8 transportation bond referendum, are scattered throughout the Capital City.

For more information about the 2013 transportation bond issue, including specific projects, contact Eric Lamb, manager of the City of Raleigh's Office of Transportation Planning, at 919-996-2161, or visit the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov).