

Appendix F

Project Brochure

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Frequently Asked Questions

WHY IS I-95 IMPORTANT TO NORTH CAROLINA?

The 182 miles of I-95 in North Carolina are crucial for the movement of people and goods across the state and along the entire Eastern Seaboard. I-95 provides freight access to the major ports in Wilmington and Morehead City, and convenient connections to rail facilities for the transfer and distribution of goods. The corridor also serves thousands of motorists traveling within the state, and to the north and south of North Carolina. I-95 is a direct route to Fort Bragg, the largest Army installation in the world based on population.

WHY DO WE NEED THE I-95 CORRIDOR PLANNING AND FINANCE STUDY?

This study will create a blueprint for the future of I-95 in North Carolina. It will determine the road's needs, define and prioritize necessary improvements, and identify ways to fund these improvements.

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH I-95 THROUGH NORTH CAROLINA?

I-95 in North Carolina was first built between 1956 and 1980. With the exception of some sections near Fayetteville and the I-95/I-40 interchange near Benson, it is basically the same four-lane highway as when it was first built. It does not meet the most current design standards for a freeway carrying a large percentage of truck traffic.

Past studies have shown that I-95 in North Carolina must be reconstructed and widened to meet the needs of the growing number of vehicles that travel on it every day. This current study will produce detailed estimates of future traffic and evaluate whether the existing lanes on I-95 are sufficient to handle it.

HOW LONG WILL THE STUDY TAKE TO COMPLETE?

The I-95 study will be completed by Fall 2011. This timeframe was established to ensure that the study can accurately examine future traffic along I-95. Developing a traffic model involves consideration of land uses, alternative routes, the types of vehicles using I-95, and many other factors. It also considers where vehicles are beginning and ending their trips.

WILL THE STUDY CONSIDER TOLLING I-95? HAS THE DECISION TO TOLL ALREADY BEEN MADE?

No, a decision has not been made to toll I-95. The I-95 study will evaluate tolling as one of many options for funding improvements to the corridor. The study will provide an in-depth assessment of the needs for I-95 in North Carolina, with detailed information on the associated costs of improvements. Funding options using both toll and non-toll alternatives will be explored.

WHEN WILL THE IMPROVEMENTS TO I-95 BE MADE?

The role of the study is to create a blueprint for the future of I-95 in North Carolina, which includes identifying and prioritizing specific projects along the corridor for planning and construction. The timeline for implementing these projects will depend on available funding. A study completed in 2003 at the request of the state legislature suggested that tolling I-95 would allow individual projects to move forward more quickly, while non-toll alternatives would take longer.

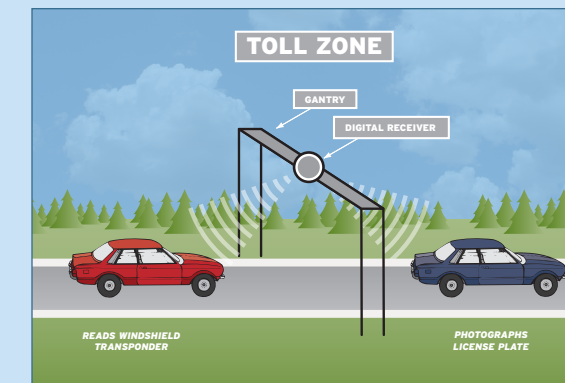
WHAT CAN NCDOT LEARN FROM THE PUBLIC? HOW WILL NCDOT USE THIS INFORMATION?

NCDOT wants to know: "What's your view of I-95 in North Carolina?" We are interested in learning how the public uses I-95, your perception of its deficiencies, what you think should be improved and how different funding options would affect you.

NCDOT will use this information in several different ways. It will impact the technical decisions, especially in helping NCDOT decide where the greatest needs are along I-95. It will also ensure that all financing options are explored and that the impact of any recommended option is fully understood. Although NCDOT is not asking the public to vote on the future of I-95, we do want to make sure your voice will be heard and that the decision-making process is open and transparent.

WON'T TOLL BOOTHS ON I-95 SLOW DOWN AND/OR DELAY TRAFFIC?

The I-95 study is looking at ways to collect tolls without the use of toll booths. One option might include creating a free-flow toll zone using an electronic collection system in which there will be no stopping to pay tolls. To go through these zones, drivers could choose to affix a transponder to the interior windshield. As the vehicle passes through the toll zone, an overhead receiver detects the transponder and the toll amount is deducted from a prepaid account. Drivers without a transponder would have a picture of their license plate taken when they pass through the toll zones. They would then pay their tolls by establishing a prepaid account linked to the vehicle license plate number, or by a post-paid transaction requiring NCDOT to identify drivers using DMV records and then bill the customer via mail.



WHY DOES NORTH CAROLINA NEED TO PAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO I-95? AS AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY, DOESN'T IT BELONG TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

Interstate highways, though created by federal legislation and largely funded by the federal government, are owned, built and operated by states or toll authorities. To learn more about finance issues related to improvements for I-95, please visit the project website (www.driving95.com) or call the toll-free hotline (1-877-195-VIEW).

driving95

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History

The 182-mile stretch of Interstate 95 in North Carolina was built between the 1950s and the 1980s as a four-lane interstate. Unlike other interstate highways in the state, large-scale rehabilitation or widening has been minimal on this aging interstate. In 2009 the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) determined that this interstate needed a more holistic evaluation from state line to state line for planning purposes; thus, the *I-95 Corridor Planning and Finance Study* began to take root.

About the Study

To initiate this planning project, NCDOT chose two consultants, Baker Engineering and PBS&J, to work jointly on the I-95 Corridor Planning and Finance Study. The study encompasses the entire length of I-95 in North Carolina and, when concluded in the fall of 2011, will provide NCDOT with a master plan for the future development of I-95 in our state. It's important to note that this is a high-level study and will not directly result in construction projects once it is completed. At that time, NCDOT plans to take this study — and the resulting tools and recommendations — and use them to begin development of individual projects.

Key Aspects of the Study

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

The current conditions of the pavement, the bridges and overpasses, the drainage, safety and numerous other factors will be logged and charted to identify existing deficiencies.

TRAFFIC MODEL

The model will provide details on the type and volume of traffic that is currently traveling on I-95, and will also give details to help anticipate the projected traffic volumes.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING

This screening allows NCDOT to be aware of potential impacts that might require additional coordination during the planning, design and construction phases, including wetlands, historic properties, cemeteries, major cultural sites, etc., as well identify and target the key audiences that live and work in this area.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The goal of the public outreach campaign — “Driving95: What’s Your View?” — is just as the name implies: to hear from as many travelers as possible about how I-95 is viewed, especially in terms of its efficiency, safety and connectivity.

FINANCIAL MODEL

NCDOT will create a financial model to analyze different options for funding the recommended improvements to I-95. Renewing I-95 through upgrades and widening is an expensive process, and NCDOT is researching both traditional and non-traditional methods of funding as part of this financial model, including the State Highway Fund, tolling, a local option sales tax, public-private partnerships, and others.

Contact Us

There are several different ways to learn more about the I-95 Corridor Planning and Finance Study — and we’d love to hear from you!

- Email us at comments@driving95.com
- Call our Driving95 toll-free hotline at 877-195-VIEW
- Contact the following NCDOT project managers:

KRISTINE O’CONNOR, P.E. 919.733.7844 x311
kaconnor@ncdot.gov

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Join Us Online

Visit our website at WWW.DRIVING95.COM for updated information and insight into the study. You can learn about local public meetings and stay updated on the study’s progress. And because your view is so important to us, please join our social media communities, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



What’s your view?

We want to hear how you use I-95 — where you’re coming from and where you’re going.

Please fill out this quick survey, tear it off and mail it back to us. Thank you for being part of the process... *because your view matters!*

What is your greatest concern regarding Interstate 95 through North Carolina?

- Traffic Safety
- Road conditions _____

What is your primary use of the I-95 corridor through North Carolina?

- Local traveling Business commuting
- Vacation traveling _____

How frequently do you travel along I-95 through North Carolina?

- Daily Weekly
- Monthly 6-11x/year
- Annually Less than annually

Where did you begin this trip? (city/state or zip)

What is your destination? (city/state or zip code)

What is your favorite barbecue restaurant along the I-95 corridor through North Carolina?

THE I-95 CORRIDOR

runs north and south
through North Carolina, intersecting eight counties
and linking many vital communities.

The goal of the I-95 Corridor Planning and Finance Study
is to help improve the efficiency, connectivity
and safety of this essential stretch of highway.



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