

Appendix E

Workshop Summaries

I-95 Citizens Informational Workshop Summary

Date Prepared:	September 3, 2010
Meeting Date/Time/Place:	Monday August 16 through Tuesday August 31
Meeting Purpose:	Present I-95 Corridor Planning & Finance Study concept and obtain public input on the project
Recorder:	Ken Gilland, Baker

Workshop Format:

The seven workshops ran from 4 PM to 7 PM and followed an informal, drop-in format with no presentations. Attendees arrived at a sign-in table that contained project information, and were routed to stations for Spanish speaking attendees, before arriving at project-specific boards that described the purpose of the project, summarized capacity and safety concerns for the facility, and described funding options of the improvements, including tolling. After viewing the informational boards, attendees were able to view maps showing existing conditions on I-95, and environmental screening information. Attendees were asked to place stickers on areas of concern along the facility and to provide comments on the project to NCDOT. Staff was available to assist in interpreting the boards and maps and to answer any other questions. Attendees were also able to view a brief PowerPoint summary that described the Internet and social media outreach programs.

Project Staff:

Kristine O'Connor (NCDOT-PDEA) and Derrick Lewis (NCDOT-Feasibility Studies) attended all meetings. Other staff included representatives of NCDOT HEU, NCDOT PDEA, NCDOT Divisions 4 and 6; as well as consultant staff from Baker, PBS&J, M/A/B, and Springboard Eydo. NCDOT Division 4 Board member Gus Tulloss attended the Wilson workshop.

Workshop 1: August 16, 2010: Halifax Community College, the Centre; 200 College Drive, Weldon, NC

Number of Attendees: 46;

Issues/Comments: 24 comment sheets were received. Comments were primarily focused on road conditions on I-95, the impact a potential toll would have on the area economy, and safety. The majority of those discussing project funding were opposed to placing tolls on I-95.

Action Items: Check to see if Exit 175 should be relabeled as Exit 176.

Workshop 2: August 17, 2010: The Imperial Center, 270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount, NC

Number of Attendees: 44 attendees

Issues/Comments: 16 comment sheets and letters were received. Comments were primarily focused on road conditions on I-95, the need for an interchange at Sunset Avenue, tolling, and safety. Opinion on the potential use of tolls was divided, primarily focusing on why tolls were being discussed for I-95 as opposed to on other interstates in North Carolina.

Action Items: Henry Bradley requested a .pdf copy of the large maps from Nash, Halifax, and Northampton.

Workshop 3: August 19, 2010: Johnston Community College, the Tart Building, Smithfield, NC

Number of Attendees: 79 attendees

Issues/Comments: 36 comment sheets and emails were received. Comments were primarily focused on road conditions on I-95, the need for increased enforcement of speed limits, tolling, and safety. An attendee from Johnson City Community College requested that students have a discount on tolls, as many of their students use I-95 to access the college. Two attendees requested that Highway 96 be improved before I-95. Two attendees asked how much traffic would increase on US 301 if I-95 were tolled. The majority of those discussing project funding were opposed to placing tolls on I-95. Others had concerns about the proposed tolling methods.

Action Items: Division 4 commented that some of the bridge height information was out of date as a number of bridges had recently been raised. One stakeholder asked if the proposed business park in Four Oaks in the vicinity of Hockaday Bridge was included in the existing traffic modeling effort.

Workshop 4: August 23, 2010: Bill Ellis Convention Center, Wilson, NC

Number of Attendees: 20

Issues/Comments: 6 comment sheets were received. Comments were primarily focused on interchanges on I-95 and questions on how an improved I-95 might look.

Action Items: One attendee asked if an interchange could be examined between Exits 121 and 127, and if a greenway could be explored from Wilson to the Buckhorn Reservoir.

Workshop 5: August 26, 2010: Dunn Recreation Department, Dunn, NC

Number of Attendees: 33

Issues/Comments: 6 comment sheets were received. Comments were primarily focused on road conditions on I-95, interchanges and medians, tolling, and safety. Those discussing project funding were opposed to placing tolls on I-95 or had concerns with toll collection for out-of-state drivers.

Action Items: None

Workshop 6: August 30, 2010: Robeson Community College, Workforce Development Center, Lumberton, NC

Number of Attendees: 17

Issues/Comments: 4 comment sheets were received. Comments were primarily focused on road conditions on I-95, interchanges, and safety. There was one interchange (Exit 14) that had been closed but was still used by some local traffic to access old US 74.

Action Items: Derrick Lewis was asked by an attendee if NCDOT could evaluate a potential new interchange at Parkton.

Workshop 7: August 31, 2010: Holiday Inn, I-95, Fayetteville, NC

Number of Attendees: 21 attendees

Issues/Comments: 9 comment sheets were received. Comments were primarily focused on road conditions on I-95, interchanges and medians, tolling, and safety. Opinion on the potential use of tolls was divided, with a slight majority in favor of tolling, particularly if only out-of-state vehicles were tolled. Others were in favor of discounted tolls for those frequently using I-95.

Action Items: None