

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Winston Salem
New Connector From
Liberty Street & Main Street
To US 52
Forsyth County
U-2225

Prepared by
Planning and Research Branch
Division of Highways
N. C. Department of Transportation

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The subject project is included in the 1988-1996 Transportation Improvement Program for right of way protection. This report provides a brief, initial analysis based upon functional designs supplied by the City of Winston Salem. The project is not currently funded.

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of constructing a connector in downtown Winston Salem from existing Liberty Street and Main Street in the vicinity of 7th Street to US 52 as shown in Figure 1. In addition, the extension of 8th Street from Trade Street to the new connector is included as part of the project. The project is approximately 0.8 miles long.

II. PURPOSE OF PROJECT

The proposed project has been planned by the City of Winston Salem as part of their total downtown redevelopment program. Currently there is no major arterial which allows traffic a direct movement across the downtown area between US 52 and I-40. Traffic can use the Liberty Street-Main Street one way pair half way through the downtown area, but these streets intersect in the vicinity of 7th Street. Only Liberty Street continues as a direct link to US 52. This creates a bottleneck in the downtown area.

Provision of a one way pair joining US 52 and I-40 will allow greater access to businesses and public facilities in the downtown area. Traffic will be able to efficiently move through the center of this area rather than traveling around its periphery on US 52 and I-40. Winston Salem officials see this increased accessibility as essential to the revitalization of the downtown.

The realignment of 8th Street adjacent to the new connector was included to remove an existing offset intersection at Trade Street. Construction of the proposed Liberty Street-Main Street connector will require reworking the 8th Street intersection. In order to improve traffic flow onto and off of Liberty Street, a one block realignment of 8th Street is desirable so that queuing at the 8th Street-Trade Street intersection will not impede traffic flow.

The proposed Liberty Street-Main Street connection to US 52 and the realignment of 8th Street are part of the mutually adopted Winston Salem Thoroughfare plan. The Thoroughfare Planning Unit reports that the project has a high local priority. Provision was made for this project when US 52 was constructed. The Liberty Street interchange on US 52 includes a tie-in for the connector which is currently terminated just west of the interchange.

Traffic volumes for this project are shown in Figure 3.

III. STUDIED IMPROVEMENT

The project consists of extending the existing Liberty Street-Main Street one way pair northeastward to US 52 (see Figure 1). Currently only Liberty Street extends from I-40 to US 52. The proposed project calls for construction of a connection of existing Main Street to existing Liberty Street (See Figure 2). This would then become the northbound part of the one way pair. A new street would be built from existing Liberty Street at 8th Street to US 52. This new street would be located just north of existing Liberty Street and would become the southbound part of the one way pair. The cross section under consideration is a three lane roadway with curb and gutter. Grade separations are proposed at railroad crossings.

The realignment of a one block segment of 8th Street from its connection with Liberty Street westward to existing 8th Street at Trade Street is also being considered.

Also, a new ramp in the northeast quadrant of the Liberty Street interchange with US 52 is proposed in order to provide for movements in all directions at this interchange.

Finally, a road on new location linking 9th Street with the Liberty Street-Main Street connector is being considered (see Figure 2). This road would join the connector at Ivey Avenue. The purpose of this road is to improve access to the downtown from the 9th Street interchange. Ninth Street currently dead ends two blocks west of US 52.

The cost of the improvements considered in this report is as follows:

Construction Cost	\$4,000,000
Right-of-Way Cost	<u>\$9,273,000</u>
Total Cost	\$13,273,000

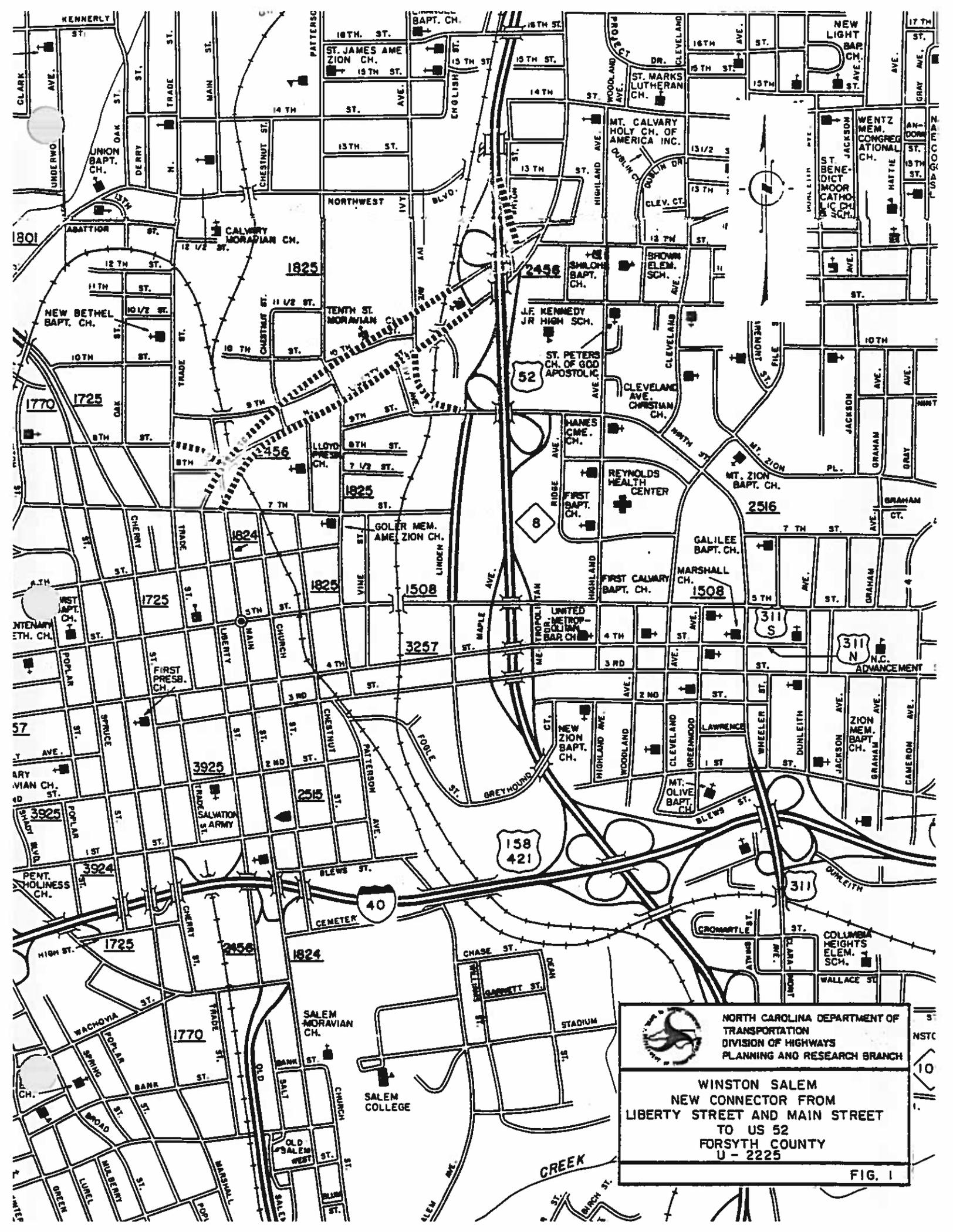
The project will involve approximately 36 business relocatees and 17 residential relocatees.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

A reconnaissance of the project area did not reveal any areas of probable environmental concern.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Implementation of the proposed project will improve traffic circulation in downtown Winston Salem. It appears that implementation of the proposed project is feasible. However, before a final decision is made, more detailed design will be necessary. An Environmental Impact Statement will likely be required.




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WINSTON SALEM
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 LIBERTY STREET AND MAIN STREET
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FIG. 1

7th

8th



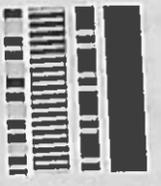
LEGEND

LIBERTY ST - MAIN ST CONNECTOR

8TH ST RELOCATION

9TH ST - IVY AVE RELOCATION

PROPOSED INTERCHANGE RAMP




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 FIG. 2