





### ● **What is a Protected Corridor?**

A Protected Corridor is the land NCDOT anticipates it will need to build the new road. This land (or corridor) is “protected” from certain activities.

### ● **Why?**

The intent of the protected corridor is to preserve the highway’s planned route by limiting certain types of development in its proposed path. This minimizes the impact on property owners and the number of people who will have to be relocated.

### ● **How long can a property be in the Protected Corridor?**

It depends. Protected corridors can be amended or removed based on projected transportation needs. Every ten years NCDOT evaluates whether corridor protection is still necessary on a particular highway project. This review includes input from local government representatives.

### ● **When does a suggested route become a Protected Corridor?**

Typically, a route is designated a Protected Corridor after years of planning and work. Most often, the route becomes a protected corridor after the environmental studies are complete and the route is approved. Sometimes, a potential route becomes a Protected Corridor because the area is growing so quickly it is important to limit new buildings to help save taxpayer money. People are always notified before their property is placed in a protected corridor.

### ● **Can the location of the Protected Corridor ever change?**

Yes. A route is chosen with the best available information. However, new or updated information can change a route’s location or make another route a better choice. If an updated map is filed because the route changes, people are always notified before their property is placed in, or removed from, a protected corridor.

### ● **What if my home/business is in a Protected Corridor?**

There are then additional rules and guidelines that apply to you. The following is a list of things you CAN do to your property:

- Make repairs
- Make renovations that do NOT require building permits (put in a new sink, update light fixtures, landscape your yard, paint, put in new carpet, etc.)
- Sell your property

BUT, if you want to do any work on your property that DOES require a building permit, or if you want to subdivide your property, you must submit your request to your local jurisdiction. If approval

is not granted on account of the protected corridor and a variance is not approved by NCDOT, the department has up to three years to make a decision about purchasing the property. If you request to have NCDOT acquire your property and, at the end of the three-year reservation period NCDOT chooses not to purchase it, and your local government gives you permission, then you are free to upgrade your property.

For variance requests or other questions, please contact 1-877-DOT-4YOU (368-4968).

### ● **What if I have a special situation and need NCDOT to buy my property now?**

You can apply for an “Advance Acquisition Due to Undue Hardship.” Hardship cases are reviewed individually. If you have a medical or serious financial issue, NCDOT could buy your property early.

### ● **Are there any benefits to the property owner once property is placed in a Protected Corridor?**

Yes, you may be eligible for a reduction in your county taxes for the property that lies within the Protected Corridor. To find out if you qualify, contact your local tax office.