

US 70 Upgrades

From SR 1493 (Hwy 70 Beaufort) to the Outer Banks Scenic Byway

Local ID: **CART20036-H**

Purpose: Facility Deficiencies

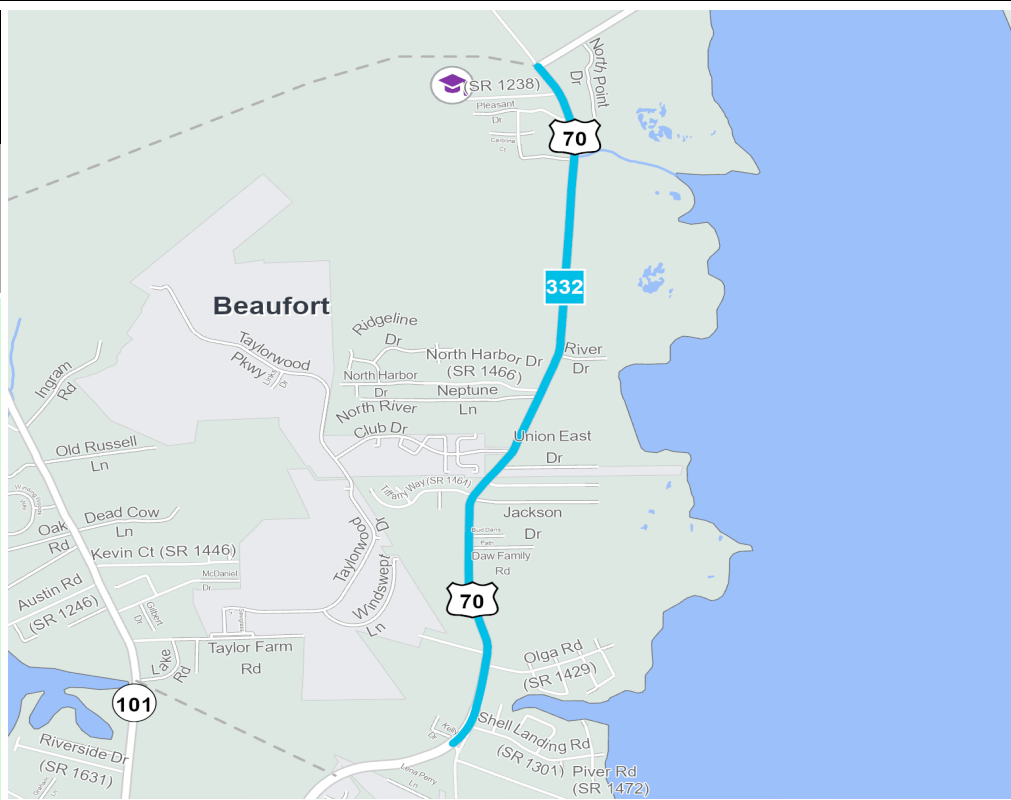
Improvement: Improve Existing

Identified Need

There is a need to provide an improved hurricane evacuation route, improve safety and operations, address resiliency concerns, and upgrade US 70 to current design standards.

Recommendation

This project recommends widening US 70 between SR 1493 (Hwy 70 Beaufort) to the Outer Banks Scenic Byway from the existing 2-lane facility to a four-lane, median divided expressway. Bike lanes recommended along this segment as well.



	Local ID #	Improve	New Location		Local ID #	Improve	New Location
Congestion / Mobility				Interchange			
Access Management / Operations				Bridge / Overpass			
Modernization				Intersection			
Other							

Proposal At A Glance

Highway Class	Modernization
Facility Type	Expressway
Typical Section	04 A
Section Options	-
Length (miles)	2.70
Existing ROW (feet)	80-175
Safety Risk Score	33-67

Proposal Data:	2019 Base Year	2050 Future Year
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Improved Route	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal
Facility Type	Boulevard	Boulevard	Expressway
Travel Lanes	4	4	4
Volume (vpd)	9500-15500	13500-23000	12600-26300
Capacity (vpd)	13800-38100	13800-38100	58500-58800

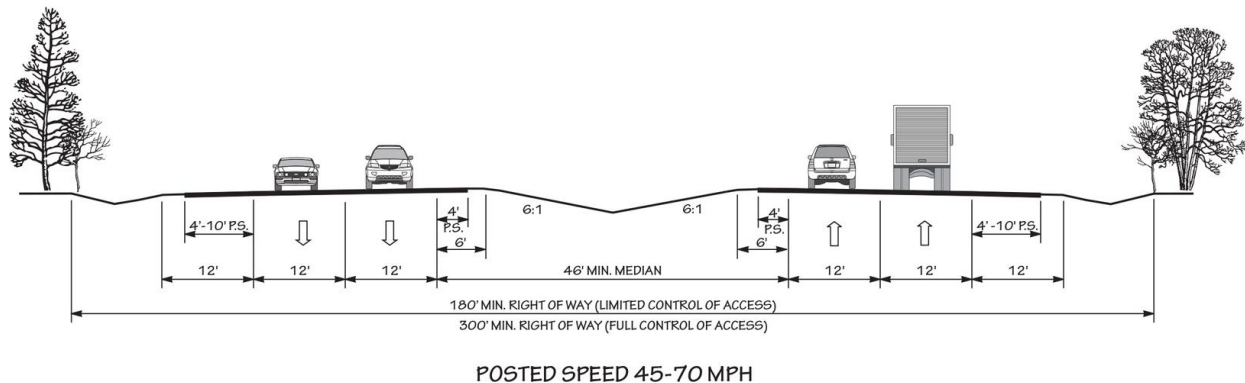
Capacity Data:	Year
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Facility will be Approaching Capacity (>80%)	-
Facility will be Over Capacity (>=100%)	-



Typical Section Options:

None

TYPICAL SECTION No. 4A**4 LANE DIVIDED (46' DEPRESSED MEDIAN) WITH PAVED SHOULDERS****Project History/Linkage to Other Plans**

This project is identified in the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as an unfunded project.

The Carteret County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (2014) recommends the conversion of the existing 2-lane facility from Olga Road to Whitehurst Road to a four-lane divided expressway.

The Town of Beaufort CAMA Land Use Plan (2006) includes the upgrades for the existing roadway from Olga Road to Cedar Island Ferry.

The express design proposes widening US 70 between Olga Road and Merrimon Road from the existing 2-lane facility to a four-lane, median divided expressway. The existing facility has 10-foot travel lanes and no shoulders. The widened facility would have 12-foot travel lanes, 5-foot bike lanes from Shell Landing Road to Merrimon Road for a total of approximately 2.5 miles, and curb and gutter. Improvements would begin south of Olga Road at Shell Landing Road to provide the necessary geometric tie-ins. The bike lanes transition from roads with no dedicated bicycle facilities. There are no existing bike lanes along US 70 in this location. Between Merrimon Road and the US 70/NC 12 split, US 70 is proposed to be widened from 12-foot travel lanes and no shoulders to 12-foot travel lanes and 4-foot shoulders. NC 12 between the US 70/NC 12 split is proposed to be widened from 10-foot travel lanes and no shoulders to 12-foot travel lanes and 4-foot shoulder.

Additionally, the express design proposes widening Bridge No. 33 on US 70 over the North River and Bridge No. 35 on US 70 over Ward Creek to four lanes. The express design also proposed the potential replacement of Bridge No.'s 12, 16, 37, 38, 39, 41, and 45 and proposes a new bridge on US 70 east of the realigned intersection of US 70 and Marshallberg Road.

CTP Goal Analysis**Goals and Objectives Survey**

The vision for Carteret County is to have a safe, diverse, efficient, integrated, and environmentally sensitive and sustainable multi-modal transportation system for its residents, visitors, and businesses. The Carteret County CTP goals include: promoting a safer and more secure transportation network, creating a more efficient transportation system, providing an integrated and multimodal transportation network, supporting regional growth in the transportation network, preserving the social and environmental character of the region, extending the life of the transportation system by developing sustainable transportation solutions, and anticipating future needs of the area in terms of resiliency and flooding.

Public Comments

This Carteret County CTP survey was open from March 1st, 2023 to April 30th, 2023 and there was an English and Spanish version of the survey. There were a total of 439 participants and 1,387 comments as pins on the map were received. This project received 22 comments as pins during the online survey. The main concerns were safety, road conditions, and bike lanes.

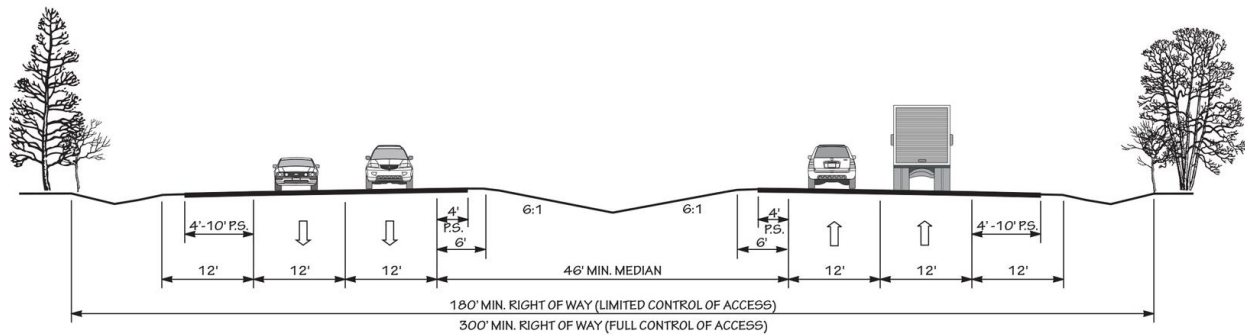
Other Information

The public has suggested the construction of a right turn lane onto SR 1238. This would help get the students out of the straight through traffic on US 70 and help ease congestion. They have also suggested increasing the existing left turn lane onto SR 1238 due to the student population from this direction. Also beginning at SR 1238 heading south, towards Beaufort. Raise US 70 1 foot for approximately 1 mile. This section is known as the Thomas Fields and floods during routine storms. Raising this section will help during evacuations.

All environmental data in the database was considered. This Project is within 150 feet of:

Typical Section Options:

None

TYPICAL SECTION No. 4A**4 LANE DIVIDED (46' DEPRESSED MEDIAN) WITH PAVED SHOULDERS**

POSTED SPEED 45-70 MPH

- 8 Benthic Habitat Feature(s)
- 21 Coastal Region Evaluation Of Wetland Significance Feature(s)
- 1 Fish Nursery Area Feature(s)
- 6 Flood Hazard Area Feature(s)
- 2 High Quality And Outstanding Resource Water Feature(s)
- 1 Impaired Waters Line Feature(s)
- 1 Impaired Waters Polygon Feature(s)
- 1 Natural Heritage Element Occurrence Feature(s)
- 34 Wetland Feature(s)
- 30 River And Stream Feature(s)
- 4 Lake And Pond Feature(s)
- 1 Protected Area Feature(s)
- 1 Quality Monitored River And Stream Feature(s)
- 1 Target Local Watershed Feature(s)

- 0% identify as Native American
- Between 1% and 5% identify as Two of More Races
- Between 5% and 15% identify as Below Poverty Line
- Between 0% and 15% identify as Households with No Car

This recommendation passes through one or more Census Blocks with the following characteristics:

- Between 25% and 50% identify as 65+
- Between 0% and 25% identify as African American
- Between 0% and 5% identify as Asian
- 0% identify as Over 18 with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Asian and Pacific Islander
- 0% identify as Over 18 with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Indo-European
- 0% identify as Over 18 with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Other
- 0% identify as Over 18 with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Spanish