

**NC 24 Upgrade**

I-95 Fayetteville to Jacksonville

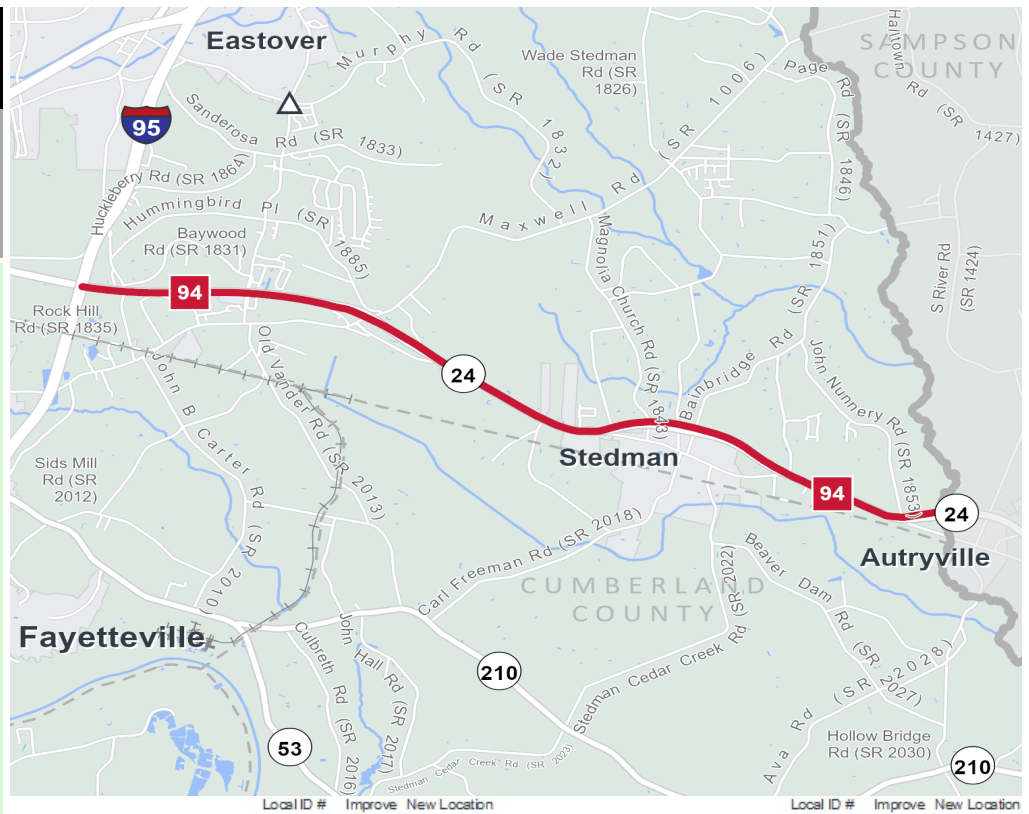
Local ID: H183932

Purpose: **Mobility**Improvement: **Improve Existing****Identified Need**

There is a need to improve regional mobility, travel time reliability and safety along NC 24 Corridor. Also there is a need to improve military mobility, improve access to beach communities, improve access to NC ports, leverage economic potential of rural and urban southeastern North Carolina.

**Recommendation**

Convert NC 24 to an Interstate Highway from Fayetteville to Jacksonville Cumberland, Sampson, Duplin, and Onslow Counties NCDOT Divisions 3 & 6

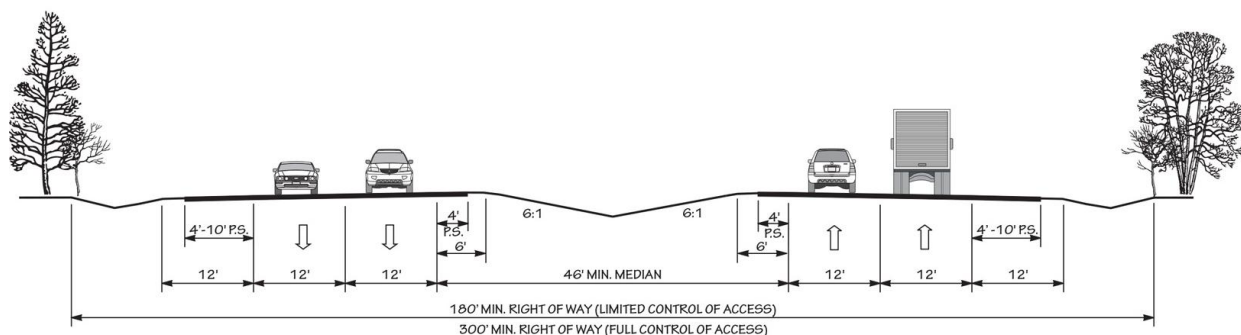


## Typical Section Options:

06 A

## TYPICAL SECTION No. 4A

4 LANE DIVIDED (46' DEPRESSED MEDIAN) WITH PAVED SHOULDERS



POSTED SPEED 45-70 MPH

*Project History/Linkage to Other Plans*

The Project aims for Mobility of MVPS: Military, Vacationer, Ports, Storms

**MILITARY:** NC 24 between Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Fort Liberty is used frequently to transport military equipment and personnel for training at of both installations. Maintaining safe and efficient travel conditions on NC 24 is crucial for military sustainability in southeastern North Carolina.

**VACATIONERS:** NC 24 is a primary access route to Topsail Island and Crystal Coast beaches for vacationers substantially increasing traffic during the summer months. Improving connectivity from area beaches to Piedmont will enhance economic growth by improving travel time reliability and safety.

**PORTS:** Ports of Wilmington and Morehead City are strategic assets for the mobility of commercial and military freight in North Carolina. Following Hurricane Florence, NC 24 was the only passable route for seaport freight I-40, US 70 and US 74 were inundated by floodwaters. Enhanced connectivity among I-40, I-95 and US 17 by way of an improved NC 24 facilitates strategic military movement, while also leveraging the economic potential of rural and urban southeastern North Carolina.

**STORMS:** NC 24 was the only passable route between Piedmont and southeastern North Carolina for an extended period after Hurricane Florence. Characteristics of NC 24 currently make it a challenging reentry route for such a large geographic area (Onslow, Pender and New Hanover Counties). Signalized intersections, driveway density and slower travel speeds hinder efficient travel for recovery teams and resupply.

*Other Information*

NCDOT Feasibility Studies Unit has initiated a study for the NC 24 Corridor. The Purpose of the study is:

- Improve regional mobility, travel time reliability and safety
- Improve connectivity among I-40, I-95, and US 17
- Improve military mobility
- Improve access to beach communities
- Improve access to NC ports
- Establish robust storm evacuation and reentry route
- Leverage economic potential of rural and urban southeastern North Carolina

This project is within 150 feet of:

- Target Local Watershed
- Biodiversity Wildlife Habitat Assessment Area
- Natural Heritage Element Occurrences Area