



# Project Readiness

## Environmental Risk

NCDOT will deliver SAFE Lumberton in a timely fashion and is prepared for the approvals and permits, as well as NEPA class of action and status, public involvement, ROW acquisitions, and risk and mitigation strategies. Specific information for each of these is noted in the *Project Sections Development Status* below.

## State and Local Approvals Support

NCDOT has included letters of support on the [project website](#) which indicate State and local support for the overall grant application and respective match contributions.

## Permits

The project study area is historically known for flooding. NCDOT will coordinate closely with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to ensure that all project designs result in a permittable project.

The proposed improvements include accessible sidewalk and curb ramp improvements, benches, and street lighting, which will take place on land owned or controlled by the City. Lumberton will issue a building permit upon completion of environmental and site plan review. The City is also splitting their bridge project (B-5985) into two phases: B-5985A, which replaces bridge #125 and is expected to let in May 2023, and B-5985B, which replaces bridge #175 and is expected to let in 2025. The bridge repairs are not part of the RAISE grant.

### *Project Sections Development Status*

Sections	Planning and Design Status (2024)	ROW Status (2025)	Environmental Review Status (2026)
Section A: NC 41 and NC 72 Roundabout	Conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates complete	Some acquisition anticipated	Categorical exclusion anticipated
Section B: Water St and W 5th St – Crossing Improvements	Conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates complete	No ROW impacts expected	Categorical exclusion anticipated
Section C: Systemic Intersection Improvements on NC 72 (2nd St) between NC 41 (Martin Luther King Jr Drive) and E 5th St	Conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates complete	No ROW impacts expected	Categorical exclusion anticipated
Section D: E 2nd St and E 5th St Roundabout	Conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates complete	Some acquisition anticipated	Categorical exclusion anticipated
Section E: Road Diet	Conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates complete	No ROW impacts expected	Categorical exclusion anticipated
Section F: NC 72 and NC 211 Intersection	Conceptual design and preliminary cost estimates complete	Construction easements anticipated	Categorical exclusion anticipated

## NEPA Class of Action

It is anticipated that the project will be subject to a Categorical Exclusion (CE) review to satisfy NEPA, which will be completed alongside project design.

## ROW Acquisition Plans

A minimal amount of ROW is needed to accommodate the project. However, in the areas that may require acquisition, NCDOT and the City will follow all Federal and State law and procedures for acquiring real property.

Potential project risks and mitigation strategies include:

- **NEPA delays:** This approval will require North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office documentation that historic resources will not be affected as the project does pass through the Lumberton Commercial Historic District; and also documentation from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that no rare/endangered species will be affected. As the project is planned to occur primarily within existing ROW, these documentation requirements are not expected to delay the NEPA compliance review. Only minor, temporary, and permanent easement acquisition is anticipated. NCDOT expects a final CE decision for the project by the end of 2023.
- **Cost overruns:** Contingency costs have been built into the budget for landscaping, lighting, ROW acquisition, final design, environmental documentation, and construction.

## Public Involvement Plan

As the project design is finalized, NCDOT will work with the City of Lumberton to host pop-up events at the Health Clinics, discount retail stores, downtown civic centers, and with neighborhood organizations to provide the community information about the project in English and Spanish and make it accessible for all ages and all abilities. During the pop-up events, NCDOT and the City will ask residents and business owners to help improve project design to include overhead lighting, landscaping, and roadway design features that respond to the needs of the community. This will include paper and electronic surveys/feedback forms. NCDOT will specifically engage the Lumbee Tribe as many call Lumberton and the SAFE project area home. NCDOT will conduct specific outreach for the Lumbee to provide feedback on the project. NCDOT will work with property owners where ROW is required to provide fair compensation and discuss other potential impacts of the project. Affected property owners will be contacted directly by NCDOT to learn more about the project before construction, and both property owners and residents will be asked to review traffic control plans and work zone plans for all modes of travel through the site during construction.



*Participants in a Road Safety Audit*

## Technical Capacity Section

As a State agency, NCDOT, the grant applicant, regularly partners with Federal agencies to deliver quality infrastructure projects across the State. Within NCDOT, the Office of Civil Rights promotes and ensures equal access and equal opportunity for customers and employees participating in North Carolina transportation programs that receive Federal funding. NCDOT has extensive previous experience with managing Federal grant awards to help the communities in North Carolina plan for and implement various transportation improvements. In August 2022, NCDOT was awarded \$3.4 million in RAISE grant funding to support the planning and preliminary design of mobility hubs in seven growing communities along the proposed S-Line

Transit route. Under previous Federal grant programs, NCDOT has been awarded Federal grant dollars to successfully manage a multitude of projects such as the construction of Raleigh Union Station (2012 TIGER grant award, \$21M) and 27 miles of I-95 widening and improvements (2019 BUILD grant award, \$22.5M). Additionally, the Governor of North Carolina has designated NCDOT as its principal authority and administrator of the FTA's transit funds for projects in the rural and small urban areas of North Carolina. Specific to the SAFE Lumberton project, NCDOT will interface with all required Federal agencies, including but not limited to FHWA, to ensure compliance with all applicable design standards, such as ADA requirements, as well as compliance under NEPA.



*Recent Downtown Lumberton Improvements*

## Project Schedule

SAFE Lumberton will be ready to begin final design and project implementation when awarded. SAFE Lumberton is currently in preliminary design. The project schedule is illustrated below. It is anticipated that construction for all project sections will be completed by the second quarter of 2027. NCDOT is aware of and will meet all requirements in the RAISE NOFO related to obligation and expenditures.



*SAFE Lumberton Project Schedule*

	2023		2024				2025				2026				2027			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>NC 72 Functional Design (15%, Pre-RAISE)</b>																		
<b>Environmental Approval</b>																		
<b>Public Engagement</b>																		
<b>Project Design</b>																		
- Preliminary Design Stage (35%)																		
- Interdiscipline Review Design Stage (65%)																		
- Final Design Stage (100%)																		
<b>Easement and ROW Acquisition</b>																		
<b>Design and Bid Document Approval</b>																		
<b>Bidding Phase</b>																		
<b>Construction</b>																		



*Obligation deadline June 30, 2027*



## Benefit Cost Analysis

SAFE Lumberton's Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) calculates the benefits of the project. SAFE Lumberton will offer benefits for all residents of Lumberton by creating a more connected network and safer transportation choices.

The table below summarizes SAFE Lumberton's BCA; more detailed information on how the BCA was calculated is available at [https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/RAISE2023\\_SAFE/Pages/default.aspx](https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/RAISE2023_SAFE/Pages/default.aspx).

The City completed a BCA for the project corridor and weighted the costs (construction and capital expenditures) and benefits (lower CO2 emissions, crash reduction, health, economic activity) that would occur over the construction of the project and during the evaluation period, which is over 20 years (2046).

### SAFE Lumberton BCA Summary

Results	
Total Discounted Benefits	\$26,055,567
Total Discounted Costs	\$8,423,790
Net Present Value	\$27,631,777
Benefit-Cost Ratio	4.28
Safety (Undiscounted)	
Collision Cost Savings	\$101,707,375
Sustainability	
Reduced Carbon Dioxide Emissions Costs	\$951
Reduced Nitrous Oxide Emissions Costs	\$578
Health	
Healthcare Cost Savings of Newly Active People	\$332,220
Economy	
Reducing Operating Costs from Mode Shift	\$15,744
Residual Value	\$1,239,383