

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Doug Plachcinski, AICP, CFM
DATE: June 17, 2024
RE: US 70 East Phase II

The MPO Board provided feedback to staff at the May meeting about the US 70 East Phase I report and the US 70 East Phase II project, including a blending of the two (2) Phase I alternatives into a preferred project. Staff drafted the RFLOI that requests consultants submit letters of intent to create a preferred alternative with the project technical team, perform a traffic and cost estimation per NCDOT “express design” guidelines, and to identify and assign metrics that correlate the 2050 MTP [Goals and Objectives](#) to the preferred alternative and NCDOT’s new freeway proposal.

Continuing this work is important for many reasons. NCDOT’s new freeway vision is not only inconsistent with the MPO’s adopted vision, but it is prohibitively expensive and will sacrifice mobility freedom for those nearest the existing corridor while encouraging travel from longer distances. Empirical evidence is important for delivering a US 70 investment that helps our community. We hope that NCDOT will continue our working partnership in this process.

Please keep in mind that MPO staff will refine the project scope in consultation with a selected consultant. The express design task is fairly prescriptive but assigning measures for the MTP Goals and Objectives is squishier and a consultant’s technical expertise will dial in that Phase II component.