

**Date: November 4, 2020**

**To: Felix Nwoko, DCHC MPO Manager**  
**Through: Bill Judge, Assistant Director, Department of Transportation**  
**From: Evan Tenenbaum, MPO/Transportation Planner**  
**Subject: US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study**

The City of Durham would like to request that the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization consider the US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study as part of its FY 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program. This study would analyze the US 70 Corridor from the East End Connector in Durham to the future Aviation Parkway/Northern Durham Parkway interchange (Durham/Wake County Line), evaluating for multi-modal safety and access to and through the corridor, potential transit service and facilities, roadway connectivity and collector street plans in southeast Durham County, and planned and existing roads and interchanges in adopted plans. The participants for this project would be NCDOT Division 5, the MPO, the City of Durham, and Durham County. Stakeholders include residents and businesses in southeast Durham, PAC district 1 and PAC district 4. This study can be done over the course of 18 months, comparable to the NC 98 Corridor Study timeline.

Currently NCDOT STIP project U-5720, which converts this corridor from a rural highway to a limited-access freeway, is in the very early planning stages, and likely will not be going into ROW until FY 2027. Connections for all modes of traffic across and along US 70 are not addressed in the work already done. The only direct access to the corridor proposed by NCDOT is an interchange at Miami Boulevard/Sherron Road, while our 2045 MTP and CTP additionally lists Angier Avenue and Glover Road Extension for interchanges. Given the length and potential for development in the corridor, providing only one interchange may not provide adequate multimodal access to the area and may result high traffic volumes and auto oriented roadway cross-sections at the interchange.

The planning work done for this project has also not addressed a definitive plan for how traffic from local neighborhoods may access the corridor (from Lynn Road, Pleasant Road, Copper Leaf Parkway, Angier Avenue, Leesville Road, or Page Road Extension) and how businesses currently on US 70 can also be accessed after the conversion. Additionally, while there is not currently an emphasis on transit service in this corridor (there is one local route that goes to Brier Creek), there are potential opportunities for transit improvements, along with an additional regional transit service to RDU or Raleigh, as a supplement to transit work done on NC 147 and I-40.

Please consider this study as we hope to better inform the STIP Project U-5720 in planning the future of this corridor. We are fortunate to have the time before this project goes back into planning and design. We would like DCHC MPO to manage this project, in order to coordinate multi-jurisdictional problems and desired outcomes from the City of Durham, Durham County, and NCDOT. We can set up an additional meeting with the County to coordinate their desire in participating in this Study.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Evan Tenenbaum, MPO/Transportation Planner