

US 15-501 Corridor Study

Scope – Summary *(version: January 19, 2021)*

This scope summarizes the tasks and products needed to finish the US 15-501 Corridor Study. Staff will use this summarized scope to create a request for proposal to select a consultant known for their creative bicycle, pedestrian and transit planning solutions. The request for proposal will emphasize that the DCHC MPO seeks solutions for the US 15-501 Corridor that are truly aspirational and lead the travel of our future rather than react to it.

Review Draft Corridor Study and Process

The consultant will become familiar with the draft US 15-501 Corridor Study report, including the vision and goals, demographic and travel profiles, public participation process, alternatives, recommendations and implementation, and the conceptual design. It is important that the consultant understand how the Study's proposed transportation system for the Chapel Hill segment and the I-40/US 15-501 quadrant area did not meet the newly adopted Goals and Objectives of the DCHC MPO and the interests of several people who provided comments to the Board. The proposed design of the Chapel Hill segment favored vehicle travel over that of bicyclists and pedestrians, and included an 8-lane cross-section and Reduced Conflict Intersection (RCI) that would make bicycle and pedestrian crossing hazardous. The sole interchange proposed for the I-40/US 15-501 quadrant was viewed as providing inadequate access to the Patterson Place and New Hope Commons developments, and as making bicycle and pedestrian movement hazardous between the developments.

The consultant will review segment 1 (i.e., Chapel Hill) and the I-40/US 15-501 quadrant area because these two areas need further public input, technical analysis, and development to create a Corridor Study that can be adopted. Segments 2, 3, and 4 will also require review and further development, but the level of effort in these segments is not expected to be as high as segment 1 and the I-40/US 15-501 quadrant area.

The consultant will conduct an informational meeting with the Project Steering Committee to identify and understand the unresolved issues in the draft Corridor Study report, conceptual design, and process. The Project Steering Committee is composed of staff from the DCHC MPO, Town of Chapel Hill, City of Durham, Durham County, GoTriangle, GoDurham, and NCDOT who were involved in the US 15-501 Corridor Study.

Product

- DCHC MPO will produce: A compilation of the comments received on the draft US 15-501 Corridor Study and staff responses to the comments, which identifies

the unresolved issues. The draft report, summary report, and conceptual design in original software format; and, any demographic or travel data (e.g., counts and crashes) requested by the consultant

Conduct Issues Meeting with Stakeholders

The consultant will conduct one meeting with three different stakeholder groups to identify and understand the issues that stakeholders have with the draft Corridor Study. The stakeholder groups will be: segment 1 (i.e., Chapel Hill segment); I-40/US 15-501 quadrant area; and, segments 2, 3 and 4. There are three stakeholder groups because the issues and membership of each group is expected to be fairly distinct. If needed, the meetings will be virtual (i.e., online). The consultant will prepare any materials for the meeting, design the meeting format, and conduct the meeting. DCHC MPO staff will provide administration and coordination, including: identify and notify potential stakeholders; prepare the attendee list for each stakeholder group; and, obtain the meeting site if there is an in-person meeting.

Product

- Consultant will produce: Summary of issues in draft US 15-501 Corridor Study for each stakeholder group that might include maps and conceptual designs
- DCHC MPO will produce: Attendee list, meeting site, Web site and social media support

Conduct Solutions Meeting with Stakeholders

The consultant will conduct one meeting with each stakeholder group to identify proposed solutions to the unmet transportation needs and issues that were identified in the previous issues meeting. The consultant will identify the best meeting format and preferred format of the meetings' output materials for each of the stakeholder groups based on the issues to be addressed and the level of technical detail needed to update the draft US 15-501 Corridor Study. The consultant will prepare materials for the meeting and produce the output materials. DCHC MPO staff will provide administration of the stakeholder groups, meeting support (e.g., documenting participant input), and, the meeting site if there is an in-person meeting.

The Durham County and Orange County transit plans are expected to be drafted or approved in the April-to-June 2021 period. The consultant will need to incorporate transit services, facilities and infrastructure from those plans into the US 15-501 Corridor Study. The staff from the DCHC MPO and its partner agencies will assist with this coordination.

The product will be.

Product

- Consultant will produce: text, maps, conceptual designs, drawings, or any output material that that is needed to convey the ideas of the stakeholder group
- DCHC MPO will produce: Attendee list, meeting site; Durham County and Orange County transit plans (in draft or final form), Web site and social media support

Develop Draft Plan

The consultant will develop a draft conceptual design for segment 1, the I-40/US 15-501 quadrant area, and segments 2, 3, and 4 based on information from the stakeholder meetings. The DCHC MPO staff will update the summary report and full report. The consultant will present the draft conceptual design to the Project Steering Committee (PSC), the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, and finally to the DCHC MPO Board to be released for public comment. DCHC MPO staff will arrange the meetings and any electronic document distribution.

Product

- Consultant will produce: Draft conceptual design for segment 1, the I-40/US 15-501 quadrant area, and segment 2, 3, and 4; and, meeting presentation materials
- DCHC MPO will produce: Meetings, document distribution, and Web site and social medial support

Public Engagement

The consultant will develop the format and materials for a public engagement activity and conduct the engagement activity to get feedback on the conceptual design, summary report, and full report. The consultant will gather and organize the feedback. The DCHC MPO staff will administer the meeting, including: conduct public and social media notification; acquire an in-person meeting site (if the meeting is not virtual); and, document the public input.

It is expected that an in-person activity can be a single event for all three areas (i.e., segment 1, the I-40/US 15-501 quadrant area, and segments 2, 3, and 4). However, a virtual meeting will need to be divided into a separate meeting for the three areas.

Product

- Consultant will produce: Materials for a public engagement activity, and document the public engagement input
- DCHC MPO will produce: Public and social media notification, in-person meeting facility, and Web site support

Final Document

The consultant will incorporate the solutions into the final US 15-501 Corridor Study conceptual design. The DCHC MPO staff will make the final changes to the summary report and full report. The consultant will present the final US 15-501 Corridor Study to the DCHC MPO Board for approval.

Product

- Consultant will produce: Conceptual design for final US 15-501 Corridor Study
- DCHC MPO will produce: Summary report and final report for US 15-501 Corridor Study, and Web site support