

PLANNING & INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT
Craig N. Benedict, AICP, Director

Administration
(919) 245-2575
(919) 644-3002 (FAX)
www.orangecountync.gov



131 W. Margaret Lane
Suite 201
P. O. Box 8181
Hillsborough, NC 27278

MEMORANDUM

TO: Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization
FROM: Nishith Trivedi, Orange County Transportation Planner
CC: Craig Benedict, Orange County Planning Director
 Tom Altieri, Comprehensive Planning Supervisor
DATE: January 18, 2022
SUBJECT: US-70 Multimodal Corridor Study
Attachment: US-70 West Multimodal Corridor Map

This memorandum is to provide information to the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan (DCHC MPO) on the upcoming US-70 Multimodal Corridor Study in Alamance and Orange County.

Background

The US-70 regional corridor continues to experience significant residential and employment growth -- the population of Mebane has doubled in the last decade and Mebane, Orange County and Hillsborough have already approved several thousand new residential units that will have an impact on the corridor, scheduled for completion in the next few years. In addition, low-income and minority populations are concentrated along various segments of the corridor, especially between Hillsborough and Mebane. The US 70 Multimodal Corridor Study will create a much needed transportation plan for a fast growth corridor, and ensure a unified, coherent process for the two counties, two municipalities and two MPOs that have planning authority in the area.

Study Area:

NC 119 By-Pass in Alamance County to US 751 in east Orange County, see attached map.

Scope Elements

- Coordination with Core Technical Team (CTT)
 - One staff member each from Mebane, Hillsborough, Orange County, DCHC MPO, BG MPO, and NCDOT Division 7.
 - Meets monthly throughout the duration of the study.
- Existing Conditions Analysis
 - Land use, TRM, local priorities, environmental, all modes, current and future trends, etc.
 - Alternatives evaluation (no build, context sensitive solution, ultimate vision)
 - All currently adopted local and regional plan, program, studies, etc.
 - Including those during the study (e.g. Orange County Transit Plan)
- Public Engagement and Environmental Justice (EJ)
 - Public Engagement Plan with comprehensive list of stakeholders
 - Reaching out to EJ communities of concern along the corridor
 - 2 round of public workshops in Mebane, Hillsborough and Orange County

- Performance Standards and Implementation Strategies
 - The performance standards will serve as benchmarks against which requests for development and transportation improvements can be measured.
 - The strategies will consist of recommendations along the various segments of the corridor.
 - Identify short-term (non-STIP), mid-term and long-term projects with cross-sections, lighting and landscaping
- Draft and Final Plan
 - Incorporate into CTP, MTP, SPOT, STIP
 - Local and regional implementation responsibilities.
 - Consultant will present final plan to local boards and MPOs for their consideration, with assistance from local staff

Schedule:

- Start – February/March 2022
- End – Fall/Winter 2023

VHB has been selected as the consultant for the US-70 Multimodal Corridor Study. Orange County Transportation planning staff will continue to keep the DCHC MPO apprised of these processes. Feel free to contact staff with any questions.