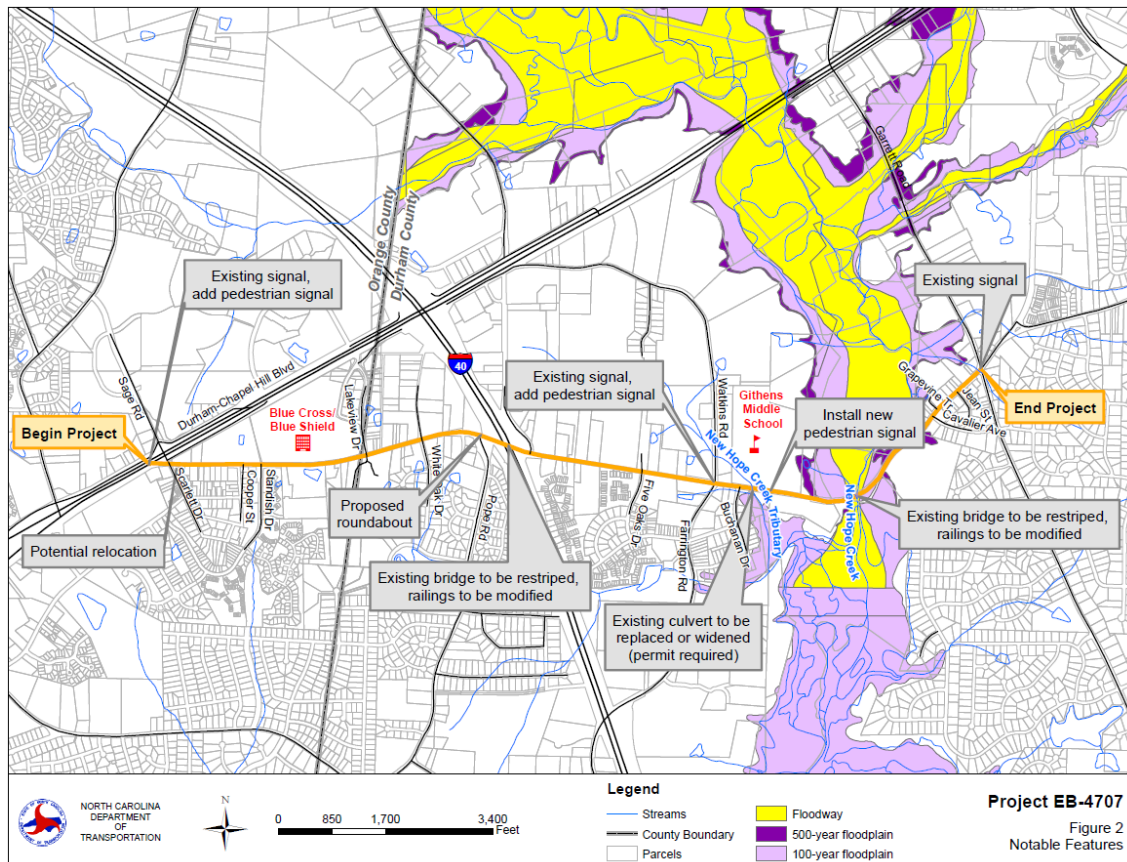


Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Project (TIP # EB-4707)

Introduction and Status

For several years work has been underway on a project to make improvements to a 2.7-mile section of Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road between Garrett Road in Durham and US 15-501 in Chapel Hill. The project is being managed by Division 5 N.C. Department of Transportation staff.

The design that was completed in 2011 would add sidewalks and an on-road striped bike lane on both sides of the road, pedestrian signals at two signalized intersections (US 15-501 and Farrington Road), bus stop improvements, intersection lighting, and a roundabout at the intersection with Pope Road.



History

Discussion of improvements to Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road dates back to at least 1993, when the road was identified as a key regional bicycle connection in the *1993 Regional Bicycle Plan for Durham and Orange Counties*. More recent project milestones include the following:

- 2004: The Town of Chapel Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan recommends providing sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road.
- 2006: The Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan and the DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan recommend bicycle lanes and sidewalks on Old Durham/Chapel Hill Road.
- April 15-16, 2005: A corridor feasibility study is begun with a two-day design charrette attended by more than 50 citizens, business owners, elected officials, and others.

- June 22, 2005: An open house is held for the public to view maps and provide feedback on the proposed bike and pedestrian improvements along the corridor.
- February 8, 2006: The Transportation Advisory Board of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO adopts the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Feasibility Study, which recommends that bike lanes and sidewalks be built on both sides of the corridor.
- February 2008: The City of Durham, the Town of Chapel Hill, and NCDOT approve an inter-governmental agreement to jointly participate in the project design and construction. NCDOT will manage the project and consultant Kimley-Horn is selected to develop project designs.
- August 24, 2010: An open house and public information session is held to provide the public and businesses the opportunity to review the preliminary engineering design plans, provide feedback on the improvements, and discuss the project. Around this same time, meetings occurred with one major employer and two neighborhood associations in the corridor to modify the design to address specific concerns.
- February 4, 2011: The Categorical Exclusion document for the project is approved by the Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.
- August 2013: The City of Durham makes a decision to move forward with project construction between Garrett Road and Pope Road.