

DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO

DCHC

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PLANNING TOMORROW'S TRANSPORTATION

US 70 East Corridor Study Update

David Miller and Andy Henry, DCHC MPO

Anne Redmond-Lenart, STV

Aidil Ortiz, Aidilisms

June 27, 2023

DCHC MPO TC and Board Meetings

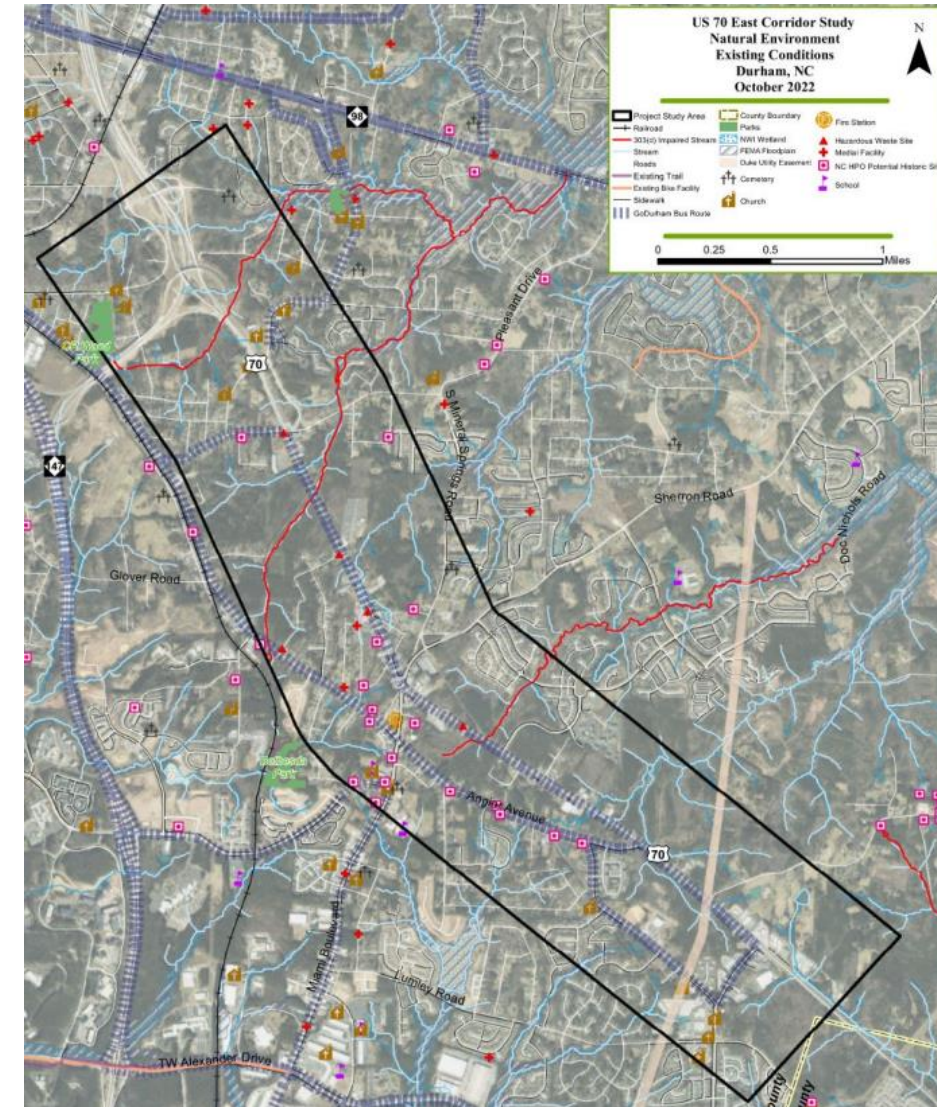
<https://tinyurl.com/US70East>

Project Background

- DCHC MPO, in consultation with STV Engineers, began conducting a study of a 4-mile stretch along the US 70 corridor from I-885 to the future Northern Durham Parkway (near the Wake County border) in July 2022.
- Originally an NCDOT road widening project (STIP U-5720), the MPO and City of Durham chose to explore alternatives to consider multi-modal transportation options, including a boulevard option, along the corridor.

- **PROJECT GOAL**

- **The US 70 East Corridor Study will propose a safe, efficient, and equitable multimodal transportation system that offers a choice between public transit, pedestrian and bicycle use, and automobile travel. This multimodal transportation system will contribute to the conversation and options for the future of US 70.**



Core Technical Team (CTT) and Public Engagement Consultant

As part of the US 70 East Corridor Study, STV Engineers is guided by a Core Technical Team (CTT) that reviews and provides feedback on the development of alternatives. The CTT consists of:

- DCHC MPO
- City of Durham
- Durham County
- Durham City-County Planning
- GoTriangle
- NCDOT Division 5
- NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)

Aidilisms, a Durham-based consulting firm, is leading the study's public engagement efforts.



Status of US 70 in MPO and Local Plans

- **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) (adopted 2022)**
 - 4-lane modernization – [map link](#)
 - Includes Northern Durham Parkway and adjacent thoroughfares
- **Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) (adopted 2017)**
 - 6-lane divided with paved shoulders – [map link](#)
 - Includes Northern Durham Parkway and adjacent minor thoroughfares
- **Wake-Durham Comprehensive Street Plan System (adopted 2000)**
 - US 70 is freeway – [map link](#)
 - Includes Northern Durham Parkway and collector streets



Alternative #1: 4 Lane Boulevard Concept

4 Lane Blvd with Intersections at Grade

- Innovative intersections to relieve congestion
- Reduced/spacing of conflict points
- Shorter travel times and higher average speeds on US 70



Improve Walkability & Bikeability

- Incorporating multi-use paths along US 70
- Providing designated bike/ped opportunities to cross US 70
- Proposed greenway connection



Alternative #2: 4 Lane Parallel Road Concept

A frontage road concept was considered, but due to impacts to existing parcels fronting US 70, a parallel route is being investigated.



A parallel road concept provides an alternative route for local trips without accessing US 70.

A parallel route provides opportunity for access management along US 70.



MPO Goal Alignment and Performance Measures

DCHC MPO Goal	Focus	Performance Measure
Promote Safety, Health, and Well-Being	Walkability	Potential reduction factor for pedestrian involved crashes and exposure
	Bikeability	Potential bicycle-motorist involved crashes and exposure
Promote and Expand Multimodal & Affordable Choices	Walkability	Pedestrian experience & comfort
	Transit	Sidewalks/Shared Use Paths
Connect People & Places	Walkability	Pedestrian amenities along US 70 Y-lines
	Bikeability	Buffer protection from traffic, and bike network connectivity



MPO Goal Alignment and Performance Measures

DCHC MPO Goal	Focus	Performance Measure
Improve Infrastructure Condition & Resilience	Transit	Available ROW for Bus Stops/BRT Platforms
Protect the Human and Natural Environment and Minimize Climate Change	Greenspace	Impervious area
Manage Congestion & System Reliability	Vehicular Operations	Delay



Public Engagement Round 1



Survey open from November 7, 2022 to January 6, 2023

- 396 responses received – mostly affluent, educated, non-minority, and auto-centric
- Interest in car travel and congestion issues along the corridor
- Support for multimodal transportation options

Public meetings (two online and 1 in-person)

3 Main Concerns

1. Current & future congestion.
2. Impact of new upcoming developments pushing the infrastructure past being able to serve residents well.
3. Safety for those who would drive, walk, or bike in this corridor.

Multimodal Theme

Participants who support multimodal design features focus mostly on wanting a way for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross the US 70 East Corridor and having facilities to bike or walk safely, and have access to transit.

Car Theme

Those who support auto-centric design features offered many solutions to improve their experience on the corridor. These individuals tended to support a more car-centered future along the corridor as a freeway.

Mutual Support

Those who support design features that benefit both cars and multimodal options cited that slowing down traffic and being able to access areas in and out of neighborhoods was important.

Public Engagement Round 2



- Online and hard copy survey expected to be available in late July
- Two in-person meetings
- One virtual meeting (late August)
- Interpreters will be available at each meeting, and the survey and advertisements will be in both English and Spanish
- Use of Engagement Ambassador program throughout the public engagement activities

All public engagement activities will be advertised via signage within the study area, as well as on DCHC MPO's US 70 East Corridor Study project webpage and social media channels.

Study Timeline in 2023



- **January 25** - Study update provided to MPO Technical Committee.
- **February 8** – Study update provided to MPO Policy Board.
- **April 18** - The study's Core Technical Team participated in a charrette to offer feedback to consultant STV Engineers on the alternatives that continue to be developed.
- **May 22** – MPO participated in a presentation provided to a community organization.
- **June 27** – Update presented to the MPO's Technical Committee and Board.
- **Late July** – Public Engagement Round 2 begins, led by Aidilisms consulting team.
- **July** – The next Core Technical Team meeting is currently being scheduled.
- **Fall 2023** – Expected completion of the final plan, which will be presented to the MPO Technical Committee and Board.

Additional Information



Project updates, public engagement opportunities, past presentations, and the results from the first round of public engagement activities can be accessed at:

<https://www.dchcmpo.org/what-we-do/programs-plans/special-studies/us-70-corridor-study>

DCHC MPO Contacts

David Miller

David.Miller@dchcmpo.org

Andy Henry

Andrew.Henry@dchcmpo.org