

Legislation Text

File #: 21-159, **Version:** 3

US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study Introduction (20 minutes)

Jake Ford, LPA Staff

The US 70 East Access and Connectivity Study will analyze NCDOT's U-5720 conversion of the US 70 East corridor, from the East End Connector to TW Alexander Drive, into a limited access freeway. The goal of the study is to evaluate the impacts on multi-modal safety and access, connectivity of local businesses and communities, collector street plans, and any impacts to transit networks. Previously, City and County staff have raised concerns with the existing U-5720 framework citing only one interchange being planned for the study area, insufficient attention to nonmotorized access, and no strategy for how the proposed conversion may alter transit networks for the corridor. These represent severe challenges to transportation networks for both communities and businesses.

The US 70 corridor is poised to experience continued growth in Durham County, hence ensuring transportation designs take into account local concerns regarding connectivity and access is imperative. This study will provide additional information on the possible impacts, providing policymakers and the community with greater transparency.

TC Action: MPO staff has drafted a letter to NCDOT to be signed by the Board Chair requesting incorporation of this study and its findings into the development of U-5720. Staff requests that the TC recommend that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the letter.

Board Action: Authorize the MPO Board Chair to sign the letter addressed to NCDOT requesting incorporation of this study and its findings into the development of U-5720.