**MARCH 2004 STATE PROJECT NO. 8.1600904** 

ISSUE NO. 1 TIP NO. R-2568 (SECTIONS C-F)

This newsletter is the first in a series of newsletters that will be published by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to inform the public about studies for improvements to NC 109.

## NC 109 Improvements Study Resumes

The NCDOT has re-initiated the project development, engineering and environmental studies for the proposed improvements to NC 109 from Old Greensboro Road (SR 1798) in Davidson County to I-40/US 311 in Forsyth County. The project, which originally kicked-off in the early 1990s, was postponed in 1995 for lack of funding.

The resumed NC 109 study includes reviewing the purpose of and need for the project, developing alternatives and evaluating impacts. The NCDOT anticipates preparing a federal environmental document for the project.

## **Project Study Area**

A preliminary project study area has been developed based on previous studies and current area travel patterns. The boundaries of the study area begin in Davidson County just south of Old Greensboro Road (SR 1798) and extend north into Forsyth County to I-40/US 311. These boundaries are shown on the map on page 3 of this newsletter.

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### **Public Involvement**

NCDOT encourages public involvement. A toll-free hotline, a project web page, and project newsletters will help the public stay informed and involved throughout the development of this project.

The toll-free project hotline is open weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Please call if you have any questions or comments, would like additional information, or would like to be added to the project's mailing list.

### 1-800-554-7849

Information on NC 109 Improvements project can be found at the NCDOT's new project web page:

### www.ncdot.org/projects/NC109Improvements

# Two Citizens Informational Workshops Scheduled

The NCDOT has scheduled two Citizens Informational Workshops to reintroduce the proposed project to the public. Each will be an open house. We invite you to attend either workshop between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

### Workshop #1

Where: Ledford Senior High School 140 Jesse Green Road Date: **Tuesday, April 6, 2004** Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Workshop #2

Where: NCDOT Division 9 Office 375 Silas Creek Parkway Date: **Thursday, April 15, 2004** Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Citizens Informational Workshops Scheduled (Cont'd From Pg. 1)

Topics that will be discussed at the workshops include the purpose of and need for improvements to NC 109, the project history, the project development process and the project schedule.

Now is the time for you to talk with the planners and engineers responsible for improving the roadway you drive on every day. Let us know your ideas, concerns and needs.

Comment sheets will be provided at the workshop. An opportunity to record verbal comments will also be available. Completed comment sheets may be left at the workshop or mailed in. Comments can also be submitted via the project toll-free hotline or the project website.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons who wish to participate in the workshop. Anyone requiring special services, please contact Vince Rhea at the address or phone number listed on page 4 of this newsletter as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

### The Project Development Process

The NC 109 project development, environmental and engineering studies will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under NEPA, any agency that undertakes a project involving federal funds is required to comply with the provisions of NEPA. These provisions include the disclosure of adverse and beneficial impacts associated with each alternative that meets the purpose of and need for the project. The project development process is divided into eight steps. These steps are presented in the chart to the right.

This project is in Step 1. We have collected preliminary data within the project study area, including the locations of neighborhoods, schools, parks, fire stations, streams, floodplains, wetlands, hazardous waste sites, and other community facilities and environmental constraints. The transportation needs study is also underway. The current identified needs for improvements to NC 109 include:

- congestion on NC 109,
- increasing commuter traffic,
- inadequate roadway geometry and
- accident rates that are above the statewide average.

## Steps In The NC 109 Project Development Process

We are Data Collection
here! Inventory of Planning Issues
Transportation Needs Study
First Citizens Informational Workshops

#### Step 2

Development of Preliminary Alternatives Documentation of Community Concerns Preliminary Field Studies Second Citizens Informational Workshop Selection of Alternatives for Detailed Study

### Step 3

Detailed Studies of Alternatives Preliminary Designs Detailed Field Surveys Environmental Analysis

### Step 4

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
Third Citizens Informational Workshop

### Step 5

Combined Corridor / Design Public Hearing

### Step 6

Review of Comments on the DEIS Review of Public Hearing Transcript Selection of Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA)

#### Step 7

Preliminary Design Refinement Additional Field Studies Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

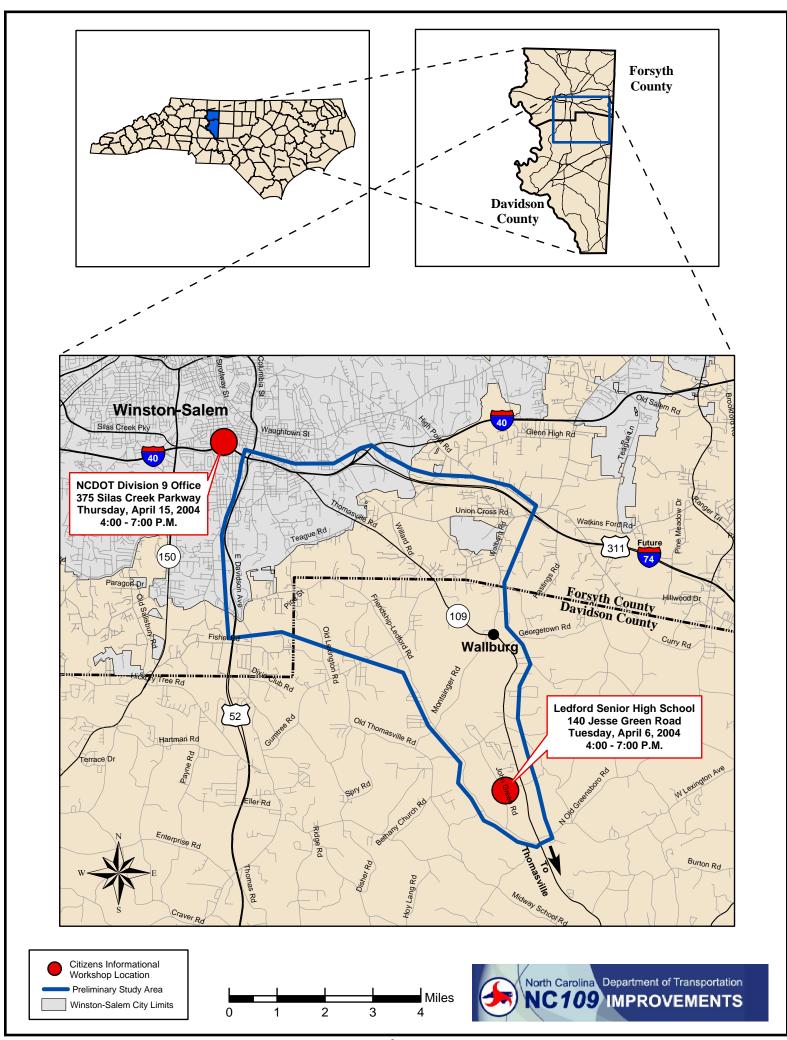
### Step 8

Design Public Hearing

### **Project Schedule**

Draft Environmental Document Record of Decision (ROD) Right-of-Way Construction Spring 2007 Fall 2008 Post Year\* Post Year\*

\*Right-of-Way acquisition and construction for this project are not included in NCDOT's 2004-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This means funding will be set aside in the future, and right-of-way acquisition and construction will begin after 2010.



# NC 109 Improvement Study (TIP Project R-2568 Sections C-F) Contact Information

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