

**North Carolina Department of Transportation**  
**Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch**



**Citizen's Informational Workshop**

**Widening of SR 2188 (Charles Street) from SR 2100 (Franklin Street)  
to SR 2181 (Sunset Drive)  
Union County**

**July 26, 2005**

**TIP PROJECT U-2547**

CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP  
Proposed Widening of SR 2188 (Charles Street)  
From SR 2100 (Franklin Street) to SR 2181 (Sunset Drive)  
Union County  
TIP Number U-2547

PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

The purpose of this workshop is to involve the public in the project development process and to present the alternates under consideration for the proposed widening of Interstate). Public involvement is an integral part of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's project development process. The concerns of citizens and interest groups are considered during project development studies. Often, additional project alternatives are studied or recommended alternatives are changed based on comments received from the public and/or local officials.

NCDOT realizes individuals living close to a proposed project want to be informed of the possible effects of the project on their homes and businesses. However, exact information may not be available at this stage of the project development process. For example, design work is necessary before the actual right of way limits can be established. This type of detailed information will be available at a later date. The purpose of this workshop is to receive your comments *before* final design decisions are made.

Written comments on this project may be left with NCDOT representatives at the workshop or mailed to the address below. If additional information is needed or you would like to submit comments after the workshop, please address requests and comments to:

**Write:** Dr. Gregory Thorpe, Manager  
ATTN: Ryan L. White, Project Development Engineer  
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

**Call:** Ryan L. White, Project Development Engineer  
(919) 733-7844 x 245

**Email:** [rlwhite@dot.state.nc.us](mailto:rlwhite@dot.state.nc.us)

## THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Planning and environmental studies for federally funded highway projects are conducted in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The type of document published following the planning study depends on the magnitude of the project and its expected environmental impact. NCDOT is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project (R-2547).

The Environmental Assessment will discuss the purpose and need for the proposed improvements, evaluate alternatives, and analyze the project's impact on both the human and natural environment. The document will address the following areas of concern:

Efficiency and safety of travel	Wildlife and plant communities
Neighborhoods and communities	Water quality
Relocation of homes and businesses	Floodplains and streams
Economy of project area	Farmland
Land use plans	Archaeological sites
Historic properties	Hazardous materials
Wetlands	Traffic noise
Endangered species	Air quality

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

**SCOPING LETTER** - Published in the NC Environmental Bulletin. This letter notifies agencies and groups on the State Clearinghouse mailing list that a project study has been initiated and solicits comments from them.

**CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP** – Informal meeting with the public. NCDOT staff conducts these workshops to speak one-on-one with citizens about projects. Comment sheets are provided for citizens to write down their questions, comments, and concerns. The number of workshops scheduled for a project depends on the scope and anticipated impact of the project.

**DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION** – Copies of environmental documents are submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution and a notice is published in the NC Environmental Bulletin. Upon request, NCDOT will provide copies of the document to the public. Copies are available for public viewing at NCDOT Raleigh and Division offices, the State Clearinghouse office, local government offices, including the local council of government office, and local public libraries.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – One or more formal public hearings are held and public comments are recorded. Format typically involves a short presentation followed by an opportunity for citizens to comment.

**CITIZEN LETTER** – Citizens are encouraged to write NCDOT and provide information and express concerns regarding proposed improvements at anytime during the process. Correspondence from citizens and interest groups is considered during the course of planning study and is included in the project file.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation proposes to widen SR 2188 (Charles Street) within the project corridor to a three-lane facility with 12-ft wide travel lanes. The total project distance is 0.6 miles. The project will include sidewalks with curb and gutter. The middle lane will be used as a turning lane. The use of a three-lane facility with sidewalks will allow traffic to flow more efficiently and improve safety for pedestrians traveling through the area.

## PROJECT PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this project is to provide an improved cross-town facility between Franklin Street and Sunset Drive and to provide a safer pedestrian facility along Charles Street. Charles Street is classified as a Minor Urban Arterial on the North Carolina Functional Classification System, and is included in the Monroe Thoroughfare Plan as a Major Thoroughfare. Within the project study area, SR 2188 (Charles Street) is a 2-lane facility. There are very few north-south facilities east of Hayne Street between Franklin Street and Sunset Drive. Morgan Mill Road is a major thoroughfare and radial facility into downtown Monroe from the northeast. Charles Street is directly across from Morgan Mill Road between Franklin Street and Sunset Drive. Approximately 6,500 vehicles per day (vpd) utilize SR 2188 (Charles Street) between Franklin Street and Sunset Drive. That volume is projected to rise to over 11,500 vpd in the design year (2030).

Monroe Middle School and J. Ray Shute Recreational Center are located in the residential area along Charles Street. This results in a high amount of pedestrian traffic along the project study corridor. The improvements to Charles Street will safely accommodate the pedestrians and the vehicular traffic that utilize these facilities.

Between November 1, 2001 and October 31, 2004, a total of 23 accidents were reported along Charles Street between Franklin Street and Sunset Drive. This resulted in an accident rate of 850.55 accidents per 100 million vehicle miles (acc/100mvm). This is twice the statewide average of 407.28 acc/100mvm for all urban secondary roads over the same time period. The most common accident types were the rear-end collisions and the angle accidents. The proposed improvements to Charles Street should reduce the potential for these types of accidents.

## PROJECT SCHEDULE AND COSTS

Currently, NCDOT is scheduled to complete an Environmental Assessment by November 2006. A public hearing is anticipated four to six months after the completion of this document. A more detailed design will be presented at this public hearing. The FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) is the final environmental document and is scheduled to be completed by November 2007. Right of way acquisition for the project is scheduled to be completed in March of 2008. Construction is scheduled to begin in March of 2010. This schedule is subject to change.

<b>NCDOT'S 2006-2012 DRAFT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM</b>		
<b>PROJECT STAGE</b>	<b>TIP SCHEDULE</b>	<b>CURRENT T.I.P COST</b>
RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION	FY 2008	\$300,000
CONSTRUCTION	FY 2010	\$1,550,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>		<b>\$1,850,000</b>



**Citizens Informational Workshop  
Comment Sheet (Continued)  
U-2547**

Was the project adequately explained to you?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

Were NCDOT representatives understandable and clear in their explanations?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_      Further comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Were NCDOT representatives courteous and helpful?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

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Were display maps and handouts easy to read and understand?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

How might we better present proposed projects and address citizens' concerns in future informational workshops?

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How did you hear about this meeting today?

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Based on the information available, were all substantial questions answered?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_

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What was the most helpful aspect about the workshop today?      What was the least helpful?

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**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP.  
YOUR COMMENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.**

