

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Catawba Crossings Project proposes a new alignment roadway between NC 279 (S. New Hope Road) in southeastern Gaston County to NC 160 (Steele Creek Road) in western Mecklenburg County. The proposed roadway would include two new bridges. The first proposed bridge would cross the South Fork Catawba River about 3.5 miles south of Cramerton in Gaston County. The second proposed bridge would cross the Catawba River on the Gaston-Mecklenburg County line north of the Allen Plant Steam Station. The proposed project would also include a new interchange with I-485 south of the West Boulevard interchange in Mecklenburg County, as shown on the project location map on the reverse page.

Project sponsors are conducting a study to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed roadway. The Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) is the lead planning agency producing this feasibility study. The GCLMPO recommends a multi-lane, median-divided boulevard. A boulevard typically includes trees and vegetation along the roadway as well as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

FEASIBILITY STUDY: AN EARLY PLANNING TOOL

A feasibility study is a tool commonly used to estimate costs associated with construction of a proposed project and to identify challenges and opportunities for inclusion in a project. Public and stakeholder input are critical to the study's success. The GCLMPO is coordinating regularly with local municipalities and regional organizations in the development of the Catawba Crossings Project vision. They are planning two public engagement events to formally present project information and collect public comments.*



FEASIBILITY STUDY GOALS

- Identify key public and stakeholder desires and concerns
- Engage the public and stakeholders in identification of project challenges and potential opportunities to be included in conceptual roadway designs
- Engage permitting agencies to identify challenges; refine the project need and purpose; and identify potential opportunities to be included in the conceptual roadway designs
- Establish a clear, inclusive project need and purpose
- Evaluate the long-term transportation, social and economic needs of the local communities
- Evaluate an NC route designation for the proposed new roadway
- Evaluate project funding scenarios
- Recommend a conceptual design alternative for detailed study
- Submit the Catawba Crossings Project to the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for funding consideration in a future State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

*Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and uncertainties surrounding social-distancing guidelines to battle the spread of the pandemic, all in-person public engagement events associated with this project will be evaluated early in event planning.



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK! This study will carefully consider transportation needs in the context of local and regional goals and priorities, and public input will be central to that understanding. Your insights into the short- and long-term transportation needs of the local community are invaluable, and we welcome your thoughts. The project team will carefully consider all comments received and evaluate whether they can be incorporated into the conceptual design of the project.

ENVISIONING A BETTER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

This project is intended to improve safety and regional accessibility, mobility and connectivity. These three transportation goals are interrelated and together measure a transportation system's ability to influence the public's quality of life.

ACCESSIBILITY refers to the ability to reach desired goods, services, activities and destinations. Individuals often evaluate accessibility in terms of convenience, or the ease with which they can reach what they want or need.

Accessibility and **MOBILITY** are closely related. Mobility is typically described in terms of how long it takes to get from place to place. The ability to move freely benefits people and businesses by making it easier to interact with each other, earn a living, and take advantage of recreational opportunities. A mobile society implies *transportation choices*, or availability of travel options. Transportation choices may include different routes or modes of travel. Other travel modes include transit, bicycling and walking.

CONNECTIVITY describes how well a roadway network connects physical destinations like residential, employment, medical, educational, recreational, and entertainment destinations. As connectivity improves, travel distances decrease and routing options increase, allowing more direct travel between destinations.



IMPROVING REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

The GCLMPO and regional partners have discussed the need to provide additional east-west connections between Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties for several decades. Travel patterns in the area are influenced by the proximity to downtown Charlotte and other major employment centers, including Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Regional transportation facilities like I-85 and US 29-74 (Wilkinson Boulevard) are experiencing congestion and frequent incidents due to limited east-west transportation capacities. On-going growth and development in the area have increased demand for different routes and more transportation choices.

The GCLMPO and regional partners are committed to improving transportation choices and are currently participating in the **LYNX Silver Line Project**, a 26-mile light rail to connect the City of Belmont to the Town of Matthews via Center City Charlotte.

This project will evaluate other modes of travel and the potential for their inclusion. While a new bridge would serve vehicles, there are also interests to better connect transit, bicycle, and pedestrian options between the two counties.

STAY CONNECTED

The project team will make announcements about the project and public engagement events via social media and the project website: www.catawbacrossings.com



Join the Catawba Crossings email list to receive updates from the project team in your inbox: info@catawbacrossings.com

CONTACT US!

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