

## Amendment Summary

- 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (Amendment #1)
- FY 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (Amendment #10)

### Need for Amendments

The Hopson Road project (U-4716) requires an amendment to the 2035 LRTP, the 2009-2015 TIP and the corresponding Air Quality Analysis and Determination Reports (AQ Report) for those two documents. This project is not in the 2035 LRTP and is listed as an unfunded future year project in the FY 2009-2015 TIP. The Rail Division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has made an application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA -- stimulus funding) for High Speed Rail funds to pay for parts of the project. These funds are administered by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and may be awarded on a competitive basis to the NCDOT.

The roadway components of this project, the Church Street extension and Hopson Road widening, are not “regionally significant” according to federal transportation planning standards, and therefore a new air quality emissions model analysis will not be required.

### Hopson Road Project

The Hopson Road project (U-4716) is to include the following phases:

- Project A - Realign railroad and construct double track railroad bridge over Hopson Road; close Hopson at-grade crossing.
- Project B - Extend Church Street north to Hopson Road and close Church St. at-grade crossing.
- Project C - Construct second track on NCRR from south of I-40 underpass to north of McCrimmon Parkway.
- Project D - Widen Hopson Road to multi-lanes from east of Davis Drive to NC 54 (unfunded).

Estimates of cost and year of expenditure (FFY) are as follows:

|           | 2010               | 2011        | 2012        | 2013        | Total        |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Project A |                    | \$1,756,588 | \$3,764,117 | \$2,844,000 | \$ 8,364,705 |
| Project B | \$633,600<br>(ROW) | \$1,800,000 | \$300,000   |             | \$ 2,100,000 |
| Project C |                    | \$1,509,779 | \$3,503,901 | \$2,664,297 | \$7,677,977  |
| Project D |                    |             |             |             | (unfunded)   |

Note: All costs are for construction except as noted otherwise.

Additional project notes include:

- Projects A-C have been submitted for ARRA HSR funding. Grant awards are expected in January 2010 for the ARRA HSR funding. Projects A and B will also receive funding through federal crossing elimination funds and railroad participation.
- Railway R/W is not required for Projects B and C as these projects are being constructed on existing NCR R/W.
- Note that Project D is unfunded and not scheduled. This project is to be constructed by the private sector. R/W estimate for Project D is \$1,126,400 and construction estimate is \$3,160,045.

### **Project Components in the Amendments**

Amendment #1 in the 2035 LRTP will contain all project phases, A through D. However, Amendment #10 to the FY 2009-2015 TIP will only contain phases A through C. Project phase D, the Hopson Road widening, does not have funding at this point and an adjacent developer is committed to widening the roadway when Triangle Metro Center South expands to certain point. See “Developer Commitments” section below.

### **Public Involvement Policy**

The DCHC MPO’s Public Involvement Policy (October 11, 2006) requires that “an appropriate subset of the public involvement elements [for an LRTP update] will be implemented for major and minor revisions.” The Lead Planning Agency (LPA) staff considers the addition of U-4716 to the 2035 LRTP to be a minor revision because it is a single project and the interagency consultation group has determined that the Hopson Rd. project is not “regionally significant.”

The LPA recommends the following amendment schedule:

| <b>Action</b>  | <b>Completion</b> |
|--|-------------------|
| TCC recommends amendment to TAC  | 09/23/09          |
| TAC releases 2035 LRTP, FY 2009-2015 TIP, and Air Quality Conformity amendments for 42-day public comment period | 10/14/09          |
| LPA advertises amendment on MPO Web site and local government media communications                               | 10/27/09          |
| TAC holds public hearing   | 11/11/09          |
| Public comment period ends   | 12/08/09          |
| TAC approves 2035 LRTP Amendment   | 12/09/09          |

### **Developer Commitments**

Developers with projects that are adjacent to the Hopson Road project are committed through the development approval process to make roadway improvements.

### Triangle Metro Center South

This development is to be built north of Hopson Road, between Davis Drive and the railroad tracks to the east. The 2006 “Development Plan – Rezoning Application” commits the developer to widen Hopson Rd. to a four-lane divided facility from Hopson Road to Miami Boulevard (NC 54). The timing of this widening will be determined when the developer submits additional development plan(s) as the project is built in stages. The widening commitment will likely be enforced when the developer is required to build an additional driveway access that lines up with the extension of Church Street.

### Keystone Park East

Much of this development has been built and Church Street has been extended to Park Knoll Drive. There is a currently submitted site plan but the plan has not been approved, yet. This submitted site plan commits the developer to:

- Construct an extension of Church Street (called Keystone Park Drive in the site plan) northward that parallels a proposed office building (501 Keystone Park Drive) and reaches to the northern most parking lot. Construction must be completed before the office building is occupied.
- Construct an extension of Church Street (called Keystone Park Drive in the site plan) southward from Hopson Road to the current Church Street Park Knoll Drive intersection before a proposed office building (4700 Hopson Road) is occupied.

The proposed amendments to the 2035 LRTP and FY 2009-2015 TIP do not eliminate the opportunity for developers to participate in the project through right-of-way dedication, roadway construction or other contributions. In addition, the amendments do not release the developer’s commitment to extend Church Street in the case that the NCDOT does not receive the ARRA funding award. The widening of Hopson Road is not included in the ARRA application.

### **Additional Information**

The following documents provide more detailed information on the amendments and are available on the DCHC MPO’s Web site or by contacting Andy Henry, (919) 560-4366, x-30419:

- Proposed amendment to the 2035 LRTP.
- Proposed amendment to the FY 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Proposed Air Quality Analysis and Determination Report for the 2035 LRTP and FY2009-2015 TIP.

### **TAC Actions**

The Transportation Advisory Committee is the policy board for the DCHC MPO and is mostly composed of elected officials from the MPO’s member jurisdictions. The TAC took the following action at their meeting on October 14, 2009:

Authorize the Lead Planning Agency staff to release Amendment #1 to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, Amendment #10 to the FY 2009-2015 MTIP, and the related Air Quality Analysis and Determination Report for a 42-day public comment period in coordination with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO).