



ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Subject: US 70 Multimodal Corridor Study

PURPOSE: Hillsborough Board of Commissioners presentation of US 70 Multimodal Corridor Study.

BACKGROUND: In 2019, Board of County Commissioners approved the US 70 as a county priority for consideration in the state’s Strategic Prioritization of Transportation (SPOT) process. VHB recently completed the US 70 Multimodal Corridor Study. It presents a comprehensive understanding that safety and congestion issues would be addressed through the state’s highway mobility and complete streets process for multimodal accommodations.

Key Highlights

- US 70 be designated Transit Emphasis Corridor with specific transit improvements.
- Multimodal recommendations are bike lanes, sidewalks, multiuse path, and transit access
- Reduce speed but widen east of Mebane for all uses, improve safety, and mobility.

NCDOT Complete Streets ([link](#)) and County Complete Street Policy

All highway projects now go through a comprehensive “complete” use assessment. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is the governing document for the state’s new Complete Street Policy and its implementation. Per the new policy, *“during the Comprehensive Transportation Planning process, bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and other multimodal usage shall be presumed to exist along and across certain corridors.”* NCDOT recognizes that an individual user is a pedestrian, bicyclist, transit rider, EV/gas vehicle driver, etc., and often times in the same day. Therefore, the policy dictates *“Consideration of multimodal elements will begin at the inception of the transportation planning process and the decisions made will be documented.”* Orange County BOCC also adopted a Complete Street and Vision Zero policy on October 2022.

Local Authorization – UDO and Collector Street Plans

The Orange County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) section 2.5.3.(v) and reiterated in section 6.10.A.1.(b), includes the requirements for reserving and dedicating right of way or requiring road construction listed in locally adopted Collector Street Plans or on the CTP. Specific mention is also made to the dedication of right of way based on the concepts shown on the CTP and locally adopted transportation plans, in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 136 66.2 and § 136 66.10. Orange County currently has three locally adopted transportation plans:

- Efland-Buckhorn-Mebane and Orange Grove Road Access Management Plans
- Eno River Economic Development Access Management Plan
- NC 54 Multimodal Corridor Study (East and West)

Approval of the US 70 West Multimodal Corridor Study will demonstrate County’s commitment to multi-mobility, transit access, and safety of the transportation as an important local priority. It also demonstrates to local, regional and state partners that the County, like NCDOT’s Complete

Streets, sees the road network as equitable for all travelers, not favoring one over the other, and acknowledges that a traveler throughout the course of their day will walk one place, ride another, drive to and from a third, and bike yet another.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: No financial impact at this time. Local approval of study allows County opportunity to pursue state and federal funding for transportation improvements along the corridor. It also allows County staff to utilize it in development review process for the dedication of right-of-way for future state funded improvements and the construction of bike/ped facilities through enforcement of County's Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPACT: The following Orange County Social Justice Goals are applicable to this item:

- **GOAL: FOSTER A COMMUNITY CULTURE THAT REJECTS OPPRESSION AND INEQUITY**
The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race or color; religious or philosophical beliefs; sex, gender or sexual orientation; national origin or ethnic background; age; military service; disability; and familial, residential or economic status.
- **GOAL: ENSURE ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY**
The creation and preservation of infrastructure, policies, programs, and funding necessary for residents to provide shelter, food, clothing and medical care for themselves and their dependents.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: The following Orange County Environmental Goal impact is applicable to this item:

- **CLEAN OR AVOIDED TRANSPORTATION**
Implement programs that monitor and improve local and regional air quality by: 1) promoting public transportation options; 2) decreasing dependence on single-occupancy vehicles, and 3) otherwise minimizing the need for travel.