Citizens Informational Workshop

October 16, 2012, 5-7 PM

Good Hope Baptist Church
6628 Good Hope Church Road

The Town of Cary has scheduled a Citizens Informational Workshop to get your input for the project. We want to hear your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions before we start the study. We will provide maps with aerial photography and constraints as well as provide you with handouts and comment sheets.

Anyone interested in the project should plan to drop by at his or her convenience. No formal presentation will be made; however, Town of Cary representatives will be available to discuss the project on a one-to-one basis throughout the open-house meeting.

The Citizens Informational Workshop is being held to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the planning process and update them on the project’s status. Comments and information received from the public will be used in conjunction with comments provided by environmental review and regulatory agencies to help shape the project.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The upcoming public meeting is the first step in a process used to select the best alternative and minimize community impacts. After comments received at the Citizens Informational Workshop are considered and used to prepare preliminary alternatives, the following actions are anticipated:

REALIGNMENT STUDY

Fall 2012 - Technical field studies performed to assist the development of preliminary designs and the environmental document.

Winter 2013 - Presentation of preliminary design and second Citizens Informational Workshop.

Spring 2013 - Conduct a Public Hearing through Cary’s Town Council to approve the project.

Summer 2013 - Prepare Final Engineering Designs taking into consideration comments received at the Second Citizens Informational Workshop and Public Hearing.

CONSTRUCTION

Summer 2015 – Summer 2017 - Funding is included in the Community Investment Bond Referendum, which voters will decide on November 6.

Project updates are also available on the Town’s website (http://www.townofcary.org) on the Engineering Department’s Street Projects webpage.

The Town of Cary is proposing to realign approximately 0.8 miles of Carpenter Fire Station Road between NC 55 and Morrisville-Carpenter Road (SR 3014). The project (STIP No. U-5502) will provide a four-lane median divided facility with shoulders. The Town of Cary proposes to construct a grade separation with the CSX Railroad as part of the project. The project also includes operational analysis for NC 55 traffic within one mile of the Carpenter Fire Station Road intersection.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic capacity and operations along Carpenter Fire Station Road by addressing capacity deficiencies and congestion associated with travel along Carpenter Fire Station Road and NC 55 through roadway realignment and grade separation of the existing railroad line. The Town is kicking off the NEPA environmental study and design process and wants to get you involved. Come out to a Citizens Informational Workshop on October 16 to learn more about the project and help us learn more about the community and its concerns.

Preliminary Alternatives – Using Geographic Information Systems data as well as field studies of the natural and human environment, including but not limited to wetlands, streams, businesses, residences, churches, cemeteries, and historic resources, the project team will identify preliminary alternatives. These constraints will be used to determine where potential realignment and grade-separated alternatives could be placed. The preliminary alternatives will be presented to the Town of Cary, NCDOT, and environmental resource agencies for consideration. Although the number and location of preliminary alternatives could still change, the approximate impacts to the natural and human environment will be calculated, summarized, and presented at the next Citizens’ Informational Workshop.

Funding – The proposed project is included in the 2012-2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Currently, the project is only funded for planning and environmental studies by the Town of Cary. No funding for right-of-way acquisition and/or construction is currently included in the STIP. Funding for this construction of this project is included in the Community Investment Bond Referendum, which voters will decide on November 6. Information is available at http://carybonds.org.
This project has long been part of Cary’s Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and is detailed in the Carpenter Community Plan. The project is also shown in the Triangle’s long-range transportation plan (LRTP) as a link planned for completion by 2015.

When completed, this project will provide benefits including improved east-west traffic flow, reduced traffic congestion on NC 55 and CFS Road, improved connectivity, and enhanced traffic safety by eliminating at-grade railroad crossings with CSX.

In May 2012, Town Council approved a Four-Party Agreement between CSX, NCDOT, Town of Cary, and a local developer in relation to the construction of Parkside Town Commons near NC 55 and NC 540. In accordance with agreement between the Town and the developer as the development moves forward:

• O’Kelly Chapel Road will extend east to RTP with an at-grade crossing across CSX.
• Carpenter Fire Station Road crossing will be closed prior to the opening of the O’Kelly Chapel Road crossing.
• The local roadways will be improved to facilitate closing the existing Carpenter Fire Station rail crossing and redirecting traffic to Morrisville Carpenter Road, including road widening, turn lanes, and additional safety enhancements.
• The Carpenter Fire Station Road grade-separated crossing will be constructed by 2022, with the Morrisville Carpenter Road at-grade crossing being closed after the project is completed.

WHAT IS NEPA?
Environmental Documentation for Projects

The development of roadway projects with federal funding requires planning be done in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA is a federal law enacted in 1970 that requires governments to consider the environmental impacts of and alternatives to major proposed actions in its decision-making processes. The act is the basic national charter for the protection of the environment.

For this project, an environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared and will be reviewed by NCDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The EA includes identification of the project’s purpose and need, documentation of the potential alternatives, comparison of each alternative’s environmental impacts, and coordination with the public and regulatory agencies.

BUDGET

The Town is funding the current study through a grant received from the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP).

FY 2012 - $900,000 for Interchange study
$720,000 from STP-DA grants,
$180,000 from Town funds
FY 2017 - $17,000,000 for construction

Funding is included in the Community Investment Bond Referendum, which voters will decide on November 6.

Note: The corridors presented here are only concepts for discussion and may not represent the future preferred alternatives.