



Garden Parkway Project: Final Environmental Impact Statement Released

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLISHED FOR GARDEN PARKWAY PROJECT

RALEIGH —The N.C. Turnpike Authority, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, today released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Garden Parkway project. The Final EIS confirms selection of the route's preferred alternative and addresses comments received on the Draft EIS.

Next steps on the project include:

- **FHWA's Record of Decision.** Expected to be issued in early 2011, the ROD signifies final federal approval of the project route and allows the Authority to move forward with construction.
 - **Completion of Project Financing.** An investment-grade Traffic and Revenue Study is underway for the project, which provides critical input into its plan of finance. The study is expected to be complete in second quarter 2011. Financial closing on the project is also expected in 2011.
 - **Selection of Design-Build Team.** As the environmental planning process nears completion, the Turnpike Authority will move forward with selecting a design-build team for the project. Under the design-build method, design and construction of a project are completed by a single team to help expedite completion and reduce overall costs. The Authority plans to issue a Request for Statements of Qualifications from interested design-build teams in early 2011 and short-list the teams in spring 2011.
- Project Construction.** The Authority expects to award a contract and begin construction in third quarter 2011, with completion scheduled for late 2015.

The Garden Parkway is a toll road that will run approximately 22 miles from I-485 in Mecklenburg County to I-85 in Gaston County. The current estimated project cost is about \$930 million.

For additional information or to view a copy of the Final EIS, visit the Garden Parkway project website at www.ncturnpike.org/projects/gaston. By January, hard copies will be available at the following locations:

- The N.C. Turnpike Authority Office, 5400 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 400, Raleigh
- NCDOT Division 10 Office, 716 W. Main St., Albemarle
- NCDOT Division 12 Office, 1710 E. Marion St., Shelby
- Gaston County Planning Department, 120 W. Main Ave., Room 217, Gastonia
- Mecklenburg Planning Department, 600 E. Fourth St., 8th floor, Charlotte
- Belmont Branch Library, 125 N. Central Ave., Belmont
- Bessemer City Branch Library, 207 N. 12th St., Bessemer City
- Gaston County Library, 1555 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia
- Lowell Branch Library, 203 McAdenville Road, Lowell
- Steele Creek Branch Library, 13620 Steele Creek Road, Charlotte
- Union Road Branch Library, 5800 Union Road, Gastonia.

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