



U.S. 74 WIDENING & IMPROVEMENTS

MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Construction Resumes on U.S. 74/Independence Boulevard Widening Project with New Contractor



Construction operations have now resumed on the Independence Boulevard widening project after the former contractor defaulted in late January. Lane Construction Corporation was approved as the project's replacement contractor

NCDOT will not pay more than outlined in the original contract to complete the widening project. NCDOT has been working with the former contractor's bonding company since early February to create and approve a replacement plan to ensure a seamless transition to the new contractor. Prior to being named replacement contractor, Lane Construction served as the interim contractor, monitoring traffic and erosion control along the construction site.

Major construction activities, including curb and gutter work, sidewalk construction and paving, resumed in mid April and are currently under way.

Photos of Project Progress Along the U.S. 74 Corridor

Project Fast Facts

Type of Project:

Widening, conversion of U.S. 74/Independence Boulevard to an expressway from Albemarle Road to Wallace Lane in Charlotte

Cost:

\$51.2M for construction,
\$50M for right-of-way

STIP Number:

U-209B

Completion Date:

Summer 2017

NCDOT Working to Expedite Revised Completion Date

The project's new contractor has proposed a revised substantial completion date of summer 2017.

NCDOT is working with the contractor to determine how that substantial completion date can be expedited as the Department moves forward with construction.

NCDOT will work together with the new contractor to have the Sharon Amity and Idlewild Road interchanges completed by the end of this year.



Work on the Idlewild Road bridge is nearly complete, and NCDOT expects the interchange to open to traffic by the end of this year.



Construction crews are back to work along U.S. 74 West at the intersection of City View Drive, near the Conference Drive bridge.



Construction crews make progress on the Sharon Amity Road bridge, which is expected to open to traffic by the end of this year.

Crews will also work to have traffic shifted at the eastern limits of the project by the end of this year, which will allow work to continue in the median.

The Independence Boulevard Widening Project: Why It's Needed and What It Will Accomplish



The Independence Boulevard widening project is designed to improve mobility, traffic flow and safety in the Independence Boulevard corridor in east Charlotte.

Once the project is complete, Independence Boulevard will become an expressway from Albemarle Road to Wallace Lane. That means, with the addition of interchanges, there will be no signals on Independence between Harris Blvd and Uptown Charlotte.

Other components of the project include:

- Independence Boulevard will be widened to include four general-purpose lanes and one bus lane in each direction;
- Interchanges will be built at Sharon Amity Road and Idlewild Road. Crews are building bridges to carry these roads over Independence Boulevard, removing the need for traffic signals at these locations;
- Conference Drive has been extended to the northwest across Independence Boulevard to intersect



New contractor Lane Construction continues work on curb, gutter and sidewalk work along U.S. 74 East.

with Idlewild Road. The new Conference Drive bridge opened to traffic in September 2014;

- Six-foot sidewalks are being added on both sides of Independence Boulevard, Sharon Amity Road, Idlewild Road and Conference Drive within the project limits. Also, five-foot bicycle lanes are proposed on both sides of Sharon Amity Road, Idlewild Road and Conference Drive within the project limits.

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