

Date: March 1, 2019

Memo: North South Parkway Advisory Committee Project Update

From: Gresham Smith

Re: North South Parkway Sub-Area Study



Executive Summary

Over the years, there have been numerous concepts for north-south connectivity in the study area through the thoroughfare planning process. The debate over using existing roadways, new alignments or a combination of both, along with different development philosophies of municipalities within the study area, only add to the complexity of a possible solution. The ULI Study completed in 2010 highlighted the need for north-south connectivity and called out a new North-South Parkway. This new facility would complement existing NC 115 through the study area and offer additional access for TOD developments supportive of rail transit in the corridor.

Situation Overview

The current project implies the idea that the “North South Parkway” would stretch from Mooresville to Charlotte. Public engagement confirms existing development and environmental impediments to new facilities in the area. As a result, the North South Parkway study has evolved into an analysis of thoroughfare connectivity and overall network of roads that can aid in the north-south mobility needs throughout the study area. There is not one “parkway” that can complement NC 115 but rather a series of connections using existing and proposed thoroughfares that attempt satisfy the NS transportation demand for the local jurisdictions in the sub-area. The analysis thus far has examined the following:

- The existing Comprehensive Transportation Plan, primarily highway and bike and pedestrian maps.
- Existing and proposed land use plans.
- Existing and proposed development.
- Locations of environmentally sensitive areas including waterways, floodplains, conservation easements, historical properties, greenways and parks.
- Previous studies and plans identifying alignments for north-south connectivity in the CTP.
- Extensive public feedback from the first series of open houses.

Preliminary alignments for thoroughfares have been developed and are being evaluated on a variety of factors including physical impacts to properties, wetlands, floodplains, conservation easements and historic properties. Preliminary alignments are also being evaluated against projected traffic volumes and connectivity goals.

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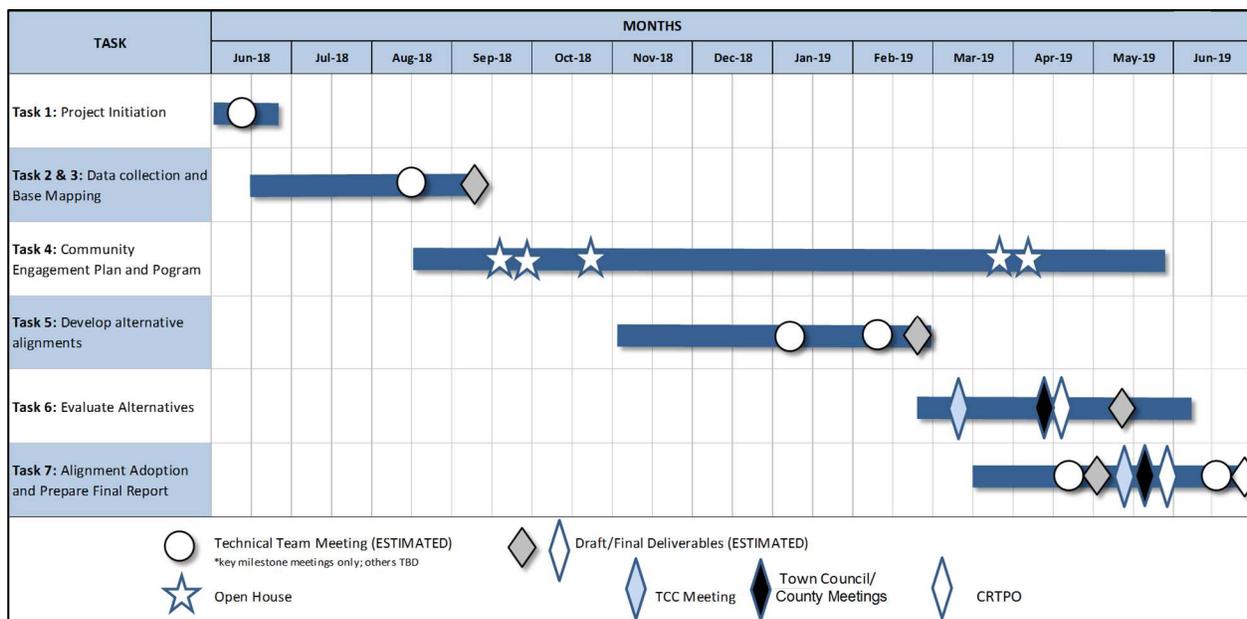
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Public involvement has been the primary focus of this study. Survey inputs where residents were asked to give feedback on safety concerns, locations of interest, multi modal options and personal transportation preferences are critical to the study. A total of 429 participants have been logged to date.

Project Schedule



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