

DOW ROAD

corridor study



Project Description

The Wilmington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO) initiated the Dow Road Corridor Study in April 2008. The study will analyze the widening of Dow Road from US 421 in Carolina Beach to K Avenue in Kure Beach, as well as extending Dow Road from K Avenue to US 421 (Fort Fisher Boulevard) on new location. Currently, Dow Road is a two-lane, undivided road that extends through Carolina and Kure beaches to K Avenue and includes a multi-use path along part of the road. The study will also consider extending this adjacent multi-use path. The project is approximately 5.3 miles in length, as shown on the map below.



Previous Findings

Prior to this study, the NC Department of Transportation conducted a Feasibility Study in 2002 that looked at various cross sections along Dow Road, including:

- A two-lane cross section within 100 feet of right-of-way.
- A two-lane cross section within 150 feet of right-of-way.
- A three-lane cross section within 120 feet of right-of-way.
- A four-lane facility, divided shoulder section with a grass median within 150 feet of right-of-way.

The results of the study recommended a four-lane, divided road between US 421/Lake Park Drive and K Avenue, and a two-lane shoulder section for the remaining road. The latter two-lane section would help to control access and provide continuity throughout the length of the project.

This Corridor Study will consider these findings, plus analyze additional alternatives for construction of the extension to better define a corridor.

Purpose and Need

Traffic congestion along US 421 is a problem, particularly at peak hours of the day and during tourist season. The purpose of the Dow Road Corridor Study is to relieve congestion on US 421, which currently operates at or above capacity during peak hours of the day. To better serve the residents and tourists, the study will also consider adding a multi-use recreational path that will provide better access for pedestrians and bicyclists in Carolina and Kure beaches.

Come to the Public Workshop in June!

A public workshop will be held on June 30, 2008 to introduce the study to the public for the first time. The workshop will be held in an open-house style format that allows one-on-one communication with staff. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to a presentation describing the project, ask questions and provide comments. A children's area will be provided that will include coloring and activity books, crayons and paper.

June 30, 2008

4:00-7:00 p.m.

Carolina Beach Elem. School
400 S. 4th Street
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

All members of the public, agency representatives and organizations are encouraged to attend and participate in the workshop. Those who need other auxiliary aids and services covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act can call Mike Kozlosky at 910-342-2781 to arrange appropriate accommodations.

Steering Committee Meets to Kick off Study

A Steering Committee was formed at the onset of the study to serve as an advisory team to help guide the project, while ensuring that stakeholders are kept informed and their concerns are addressed. Members include representatives from WMPO, Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU), NC National Guard Training Center, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Air Force, Fort Fisher Historic Site, Carolina Beach State Park and the towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach.

The first meeting was held on April 28, 2008 in the Visitor's Center at Carolina Beach State Park. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the study and hear concerns/comments from member organizations. Their comments were documented and will be considered when developing options for Dow Road.

A second Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to take place in September, at which time members will be asked to review the initial alternatives. Subsequent Steering Committee meetings are scheduled to occur in 2008 and 2009.

Public Outreach

Public involvement and outreach is very important to the study and is ongoing throughout the process. Efforts and activities include the following:

- Two newsletters
- Five Steering Committee meetings
- Two public workshops
- Meetings with agencies, organizations, businesses and residents interested in the project
- Information on the WMPO's website at www.wmpo.org

What's Next?

The Dow Road Corridor Study is expected to be complete in April of 2009. During the course of the study, a series of activities, meetings and public workshops will be held. An anticipated project schedule is provided.

- Project Initiation – April 2, 2008
- 1st Newsletter – June 2008
- Data Collection – May-July 2008
- 1st Public Workshop – June 30, 2008
- Identify Initial Alternatives – August/September 2008
- 2nd Public Workshop – October 2008
- Select Preferred Alternative – November 2008
- 2nd Newsletter – November 2008
- Complete Study – April 2009

Contact Information

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