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## INFORMATION:

### **June 16 – Public Meeting on Direct Connection Interchanges at Interstate 77 at Lakeview and Hambright Roads**

*Staff Resource: Johanna Quinn, CDOT, 704-336-5606, [jquinn@charlottenc.gov](mailto:jquinn@charlottenc.gov)*

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will host a public meeting to discuss proposed “direct connection” interchanges along Interstate 77 at Lakeview Road (Charlotte) and Hambright Road (Huntersville). The direct connect interchanges will provide ramps with direct access to and from the proposed Interstate 77 Express (managed) lanes. The meeting will be held on June 16 from 4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. at North Mecklenburg High School cafeteria, located at 11201 Old Statesville Road in Huntersville. More information is included in the attached handout.



### **Charlotte Renews “Walk Friendly Community” Designation**

*Staff Resource: Scott Curry, CDOT, 704-432-2648, [spcurry@charlottenc.gov](mailto:spcurry@charlottenc.gov)*

The City of Charlotte has renewed its designation as a Walk Friendly Community at the Bronze Level. The Walk Friendly Community designation, awarded from bronze to platinum, is given to applicant communities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving and sustaining walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans, and policies. Charlotte was first designated a Bronze Level Walk Friendly Community in 2011. This renewal affirms the City’s ongoing work at that level.

City staff is eager to make the improvements necessary to achieve a Walk Friendly Community designation at a higher – Silver, Gold, or Platinum – level. In renewing Charlotte’s designation, the Walk Friendly Communities organization offered recommendations for the improvements necessary to achieve a higher level.

Among the organization’s most significant recommendations is for Charlotte to adopt a pedestrian plan. City staff is currently working to achieve that goal through the Charlotte WALKS pedestrian plan. Since March of 2015, staff has talked to over 800 people at 17 different events to collect public input for the Charlotte WALKS pedestrian plan. On June 13, staff gave an update on the Charlotte WALKS pedestrian plan to Council’s Transportation and Planning Committee.

More information on Walk Friendly Communities can be found at <http://www.walkfriendly.org/>. More information on Charlotte WALKS can be found at <http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/PedBike/Pages/CharlotteWALKS.aspx>.

## **Neighborhood Matching Grants Recognizes April Cycle Grantees**

Staff Resource: Danielle Fisher, NBS, 704-336-7846, [danielle.fisher@charlottenc.gov](mailto:danielle.fisher@charlottenc.gov)

The Neighborhood Matching Grants Program (NMG) awards funds up to \$25,000 to eligible neighborhood-based organizations to complete projects that improve a neighborhood's quality of life. Grant awards are determined by the program's two review teams. The Inter-departmental Review Team is comprised of eight City staff and reviews applications under \$10,000, and the Citywide Review Team, partially appointed by Council, has 11 members that review requests exceeding \$10,000.

The organizations that apply are encouraged to be creative. Projects include, but are not limited to, art and beautification initiatives, training programs, placemaking, special events, safety improvements, organizational development, and recreational improvements.

Four organizations received matching grants during the April 2016 application cycle. The program has awarded 57 grants totaling \$378,504.74 this fiscal year.

<b>NMG Approved Grant Requests - April 2016 Review Cycle</b>			
<b>Council District</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
1	Lockwood Neighborhood Association	Improve sustainability & community safety by replacing outdated lighting with LED lighting	\$25,000
2	North End Community Coalition	Organizational development- create website, yard signs, and marketing collateral	\$4,158
6	Southwood HOA	Entrance signage and lighting improvement	\$13,086.36
6	Montclair Neighborhood Association	Neighborhood signage to identify entrances and boundaries	\$10,880
<b>Total Awarded</b>			<b>\$53,124.36</b>

The Council-approved [updated program guidelines](#) became effective on June 1. Enhancements include a two-tier eligible geography based on median property value, organizational eligibility clarifications, additional project opportunities, and other updates to improve the applicant experience.

Organizations may submit applications year round; however, the NMG program staff will only accept and review them three times annually on March 1, June 1, and September 1. The next application deadline is Thursday, September 1, 2016.



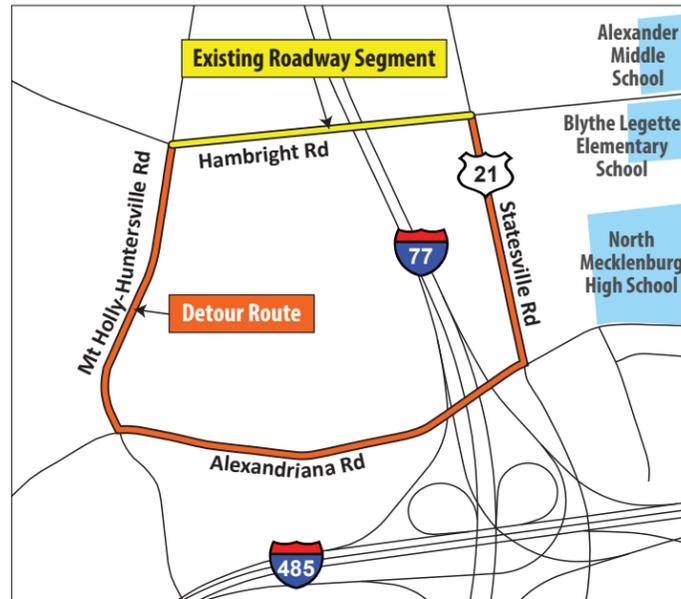


# Direct Connector Interchanges for I-77 Express Lanes at Lakeview Road and Hambright Road

State Transportation Improvement Program Project Nos. I-5405A and I-5405B

### Detour Route:

Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd to Alexandriana Rd to US 21



Existing Roadway Segment: 0.6 miles (1 minute travel time)  
Detour Length: 2.1 miles (4 minute travel time)  
Duration of Construction: 9-12 months

**Construction Detours.** The Hambright Road bridge is planned to be replaced in its current location. Therefore, the existing bridge will be closed and removed. While the new bridge is being constructed, there will be a temporary off-site detour, lasting for approximately 9-12 months.

The Lakeview Road bridge will be constructed in phases so that the crossing remains open to traffic during construction. The bridge is remaining open to traffic at the request of local emergency responders. Construction is expected to last approximately 18-24 months.

**Project Schedule and Cost.** The Categorical Exclusion document (summary of the environmental review) is anticipated to be completed in July 2016. Construction of the direct connector interchanges is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2016.

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) included funding for the two projects. For the Lakeview Road direct connector interchange, the STIP includes \$37 million for construction and \$3 million for right of way. For the Hambright Road direct connector interchange, the STIP includes \$34 million for construction and \$3 million for right of way.

### Information and Comments

For more information about this project or to express any comments or concerns, contact either of the project managers below.

**Theresa Ellerby, CPM**  
NCDOT  
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### COMMENTS DUE BY 6/26/16

Submit your comments tonight at the meeting or by email, mail, or telephone call.



# Direct Connector Interchanges for I-77 Express Lanes at Lakeview Road and Hambright Road

State Transportation Improvement Program Project Nos. I-5405A and I-5405B

## PUBLIC MEETING

June 16, 2016 4pm to 7pm  
North Mecklenburg High School Cafeteria

**Today's Meeting.** Welcome to the Public Meeting for the Direct Connector Interchanges for I-77 Express Lanes at Lakeview Road and Hambright Road. Project team members are available to provide information on these projects and answer any questions you may have, as well as to receive your comments on the projects.

Please provide your comments by June 26, 2016.

**Project Description.** At the request of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO), the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to construct two direct connector interchanges to the I-77 Express Lanes in Mecklenburg County; one at Lakeview Road and one at Hambright Road.

At each location, the new interchange would replace the existing grade separated bridge and add ramps that connect directly with the I-77 Express Lanes.

Both at Lakeview Road and Hambright Road would remain two-lane roads outside the interchanges. Bicycle lanes and sidewalks would be included on both sides of each bridge.

An environmental review of the proposed projects, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), will be summarized in a document called a Categorical Exclusion. This type of document is used when there are no substantial impacts anticipated.

### WHAT ARE DIRECT CONNECTOR INTERCHANGES?

These types of interchanges provide direct access from a cross-street to the express lanes, without using the interstate general purpose lanes.

### WHAT ARE EXPRESS LANES?

Express Lanes are dedicated travel lanes that run adjacent to general purpose lanes. Vehicles pay a variable price (toll) unless there are three or more occupants or the vehicle is otherwise exempted.

### WHO CAN USE THEM?

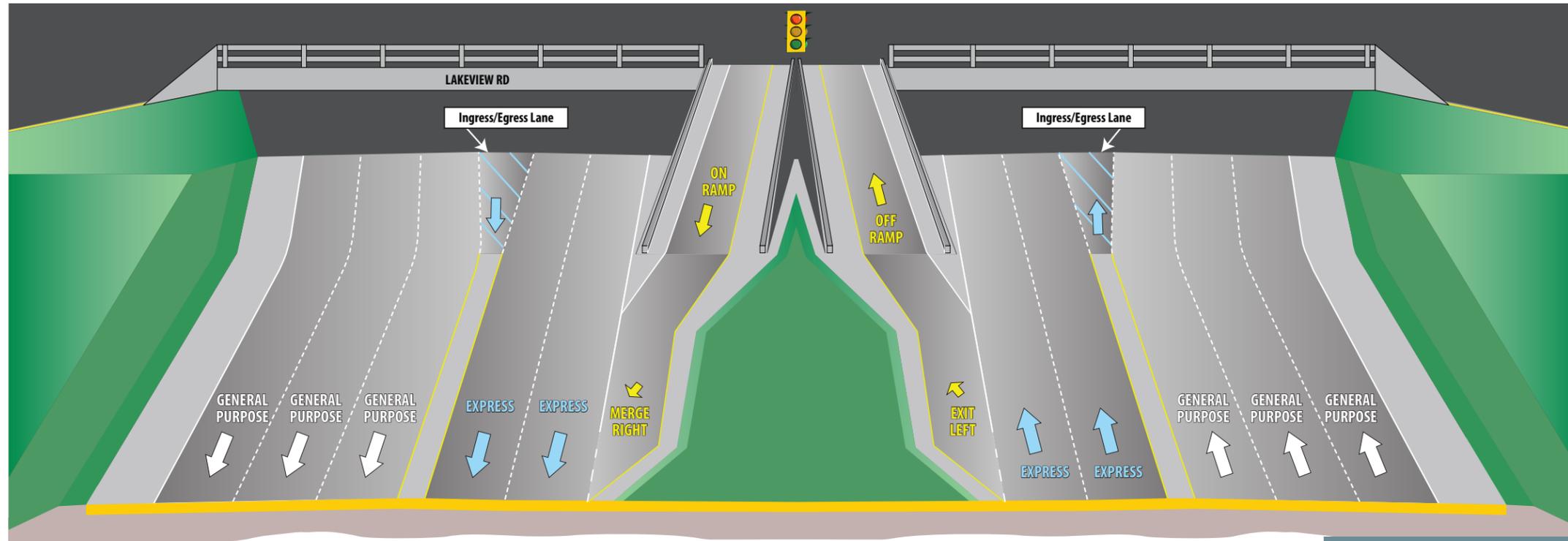
Cars that pay a variable price (toll) can use the express lanes and direct connector interchanges. In addition, transit vehicles, motorcycles, emergency vehicles, and high occupancy vehicles with three or more occupants may use them free of charge with the use of a transponder.



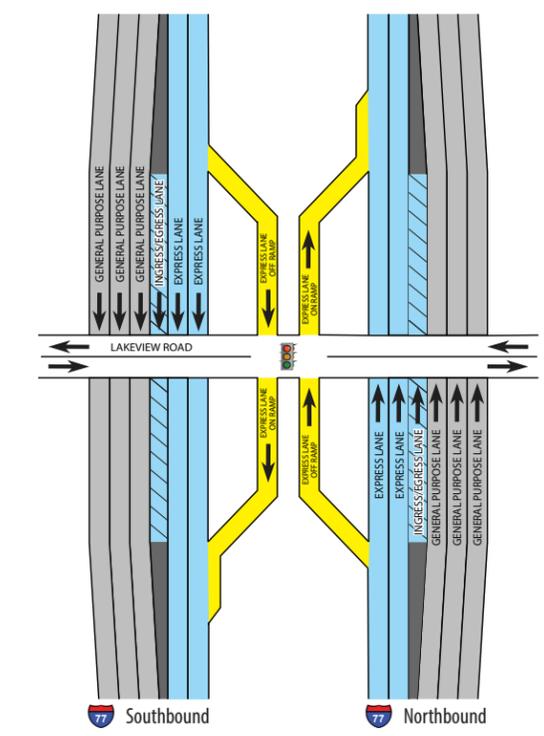
# Sample Typical Sections and Aerial Views

Because the proposed interchange connects directly to the Express Lanes, vehicles using the interchange will be charged a toll, unless exempted (e.g. HOV-3 vehicles, buses, motorcycles).

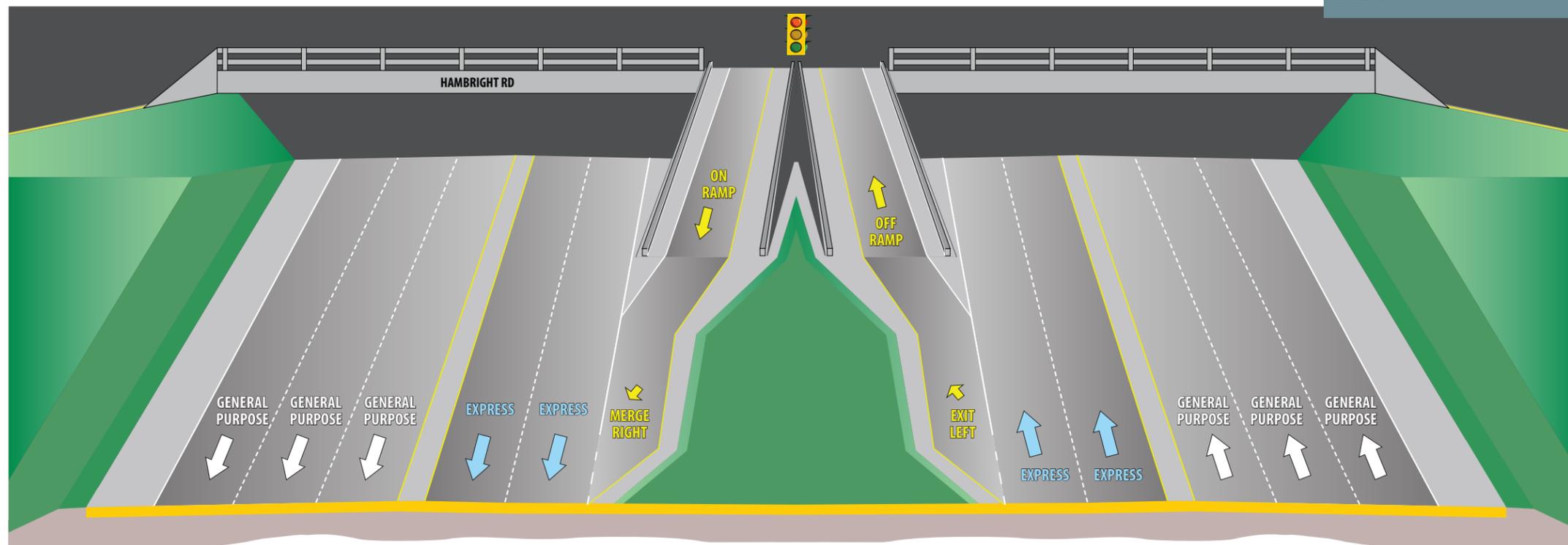
## LAKEVIEW RD DIRECT CONNECTOR RAMPS



## AERIAL VIEW



## HAMBRIGHT RD DIRECT CONNECTOR RAMPS



**NOTE:**  
Auxiliary lanes in these areas are not depicted. Only express lanes and general purpose through lanes are shown.

## AERIAL VIEW

