



Morrisville

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April 3, 2025

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RE: Public Comment re: TIP Amendment #9
Public Comment Draft 2026-2035 STIP

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regard to the U-5811 Aviation Parkway project. This project was scheduled in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) for construction in FY28. Construction is now proposed to be postponed until FY30. This is a critical project for Morrisville and the many motorists in the region that use the corridor to reach other destinations. While it's disappointing that the project is proposed to be delayed, we understand that additional time is needed for right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation. Therefore, the Town of Morrisville requests that the project be approached in phases to allow construction of the section between Town Hall Drive and McCrimmon Parkway to commence on its original schedule (or as soon as possible) with construction of the remainder of the corridor to follow immediately thereafter.

This is a crucial project that will provide critical safety improvements along the corridor needed to address existing conditions.

1. Pedestrian Safety. Significant portions of Aviation Pkwy currently lack sidewalks. Events frequently occur along the Aviation Pkwy corridor at Cedar Fork District Park, the Hindu Society of North Carolina (HSNC) and BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. These events attract large numbers of people who can often be seen walking along the side of the road adjacent to vehicles. Planned safety enhancements with the U-5811 project, including a sidewalk and multiuse path, are desperately needed to provide infrastructure essential for pedestrian safety.

A camera at the Aviation Pkwy and NC 54 intersection found that since August of 2023, 6,152 people have traversed the intersection with a comparable number of near miss vehicle to pedestrian accidents. The intersection currently contains no pedestrian infrastructure. The planned addition of crosswalks at the intersection will provide an essential pedestrian safety element.

2. Aviation Pkwy/NC 54 Intersection. The Aviation Pkwy and NC 54 intersection is on the 2024 Highway Safety Improvement Plan and noted as a crash location with a pattern of crashes. Since 2018 there have been a total of 283 crashes at the intersection including at least 24 angle crashes and 56 left turn same road crashes. Three cars and trains have also collided at the Aviation Pkwy and NC 54 intersection since 2013 which has resulted in a total of 4 fatalities. Another near miss occurred in 2024 when a Morrisville officer jumped out of his car to get a vehicle to back up moments before getting hit by a train. The project includes a much-needed redesign of the intersection that will improve safety including elimination of the westbound left turn lane onto NC54 and the addition of a pre-signal in the eastbound lane before the railroad tracks.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in keeping this important project on track.

Sincerely,



Mayor TJ Cawley
On behalf of the Morrisville Town Council

Attachment: Aviation White Paper

Cc:

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