



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Department of Transportation

# I-77 South Express Lanes

## I-277/ Brookshire Freeway to South Carolina Line

### Project Fast Facts

- Last widened in 1990s from four to six-lanes
- Per state law, toll projects in NC must be approved by the local planning organization
  - CRTPO first submitted a toll lanes concept for the I-77 South corridor during P3.0 in 2014
  - Included in the most recent round of prioritization as I-5718 A&B
- Proposed improvements include:
  - Adding express lanes or general purpose and express lanes
  - Reconstruction of interchanges and non-interchange bridges
  - Adding access points and direct connectors to the express lanes
- Updated capital cost estimate (current dollars, summer 2024): \$3.2 - \$3.7 billion

### Latest News & Next Steps

- As CRTPO has requested, and as required by federal law for projects receiving federal financial assistance, NCDOT has analyzed Public-Private Partnership (P3) and NC Turnpike Authority delivery methods for the I-77 South Express Lanes project
- NCDOT shared analysis findings during CRTPO's August Board meeting
- The comparative analysis evaluated areas such as risk, financial feasibility, benefit-cost, and value-for-money
- The analysis showed a traditional toll delivery is not currently financially feasible due to escalating project costs and less funding capacity
- The analysis also showed a P3 delivery approach is likely financially feasible
- NCDOT will continue partnering with CRTPO and provide requested information to help the board make an informed decision on a delivery method
- As the region knows what is best for their communities, NCDOT is not

advocating a particular path forward to deliver this project

- If CRTPO were to support NCDOT moving forward with a P3 toll delivery, NCDOT would partner with a CRTPO working group to define objectives and priorities prior to starting the procurement process
- A developer would be selected through an open and competitive bid process

## Project Background

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- **2007:** Transportation planners from the Charlotte region, NCDOT and SCDOT examined the feasibility of managed lanes on interstates in the Charlotte area, known as the “Fast Lanes Study”.
  - The I-77 Express Lanes South project was identified in this study.
- **2014:** CRTPO approved the project list for scoring for the FY 2016-2025 STIP, including a project to widen I-77 South from I-485 to I-277 with express lanes.
- **2022:** The draft FY 2024-2033 STIP included funding only for the preliminary engineering for the project to widen I-77 South from I-485 to I-277 with express lanes
- **February 2022-August 2023:** NCDOT received an unsolicited proposal from Cintra to deliver the project as a P3.
- **February 2023:** CRTPO voted for NCDOT to conduct a comparative analysis of potential P3 delivery and a public option delivered through NCTA
- **February, April, August & September 2024:** NCDOT presented comparative analysis updates to CRTPO Board. The CRTPO Board is expected to vote on a delivery method at its October meeting.



For more information on the project, contact:

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