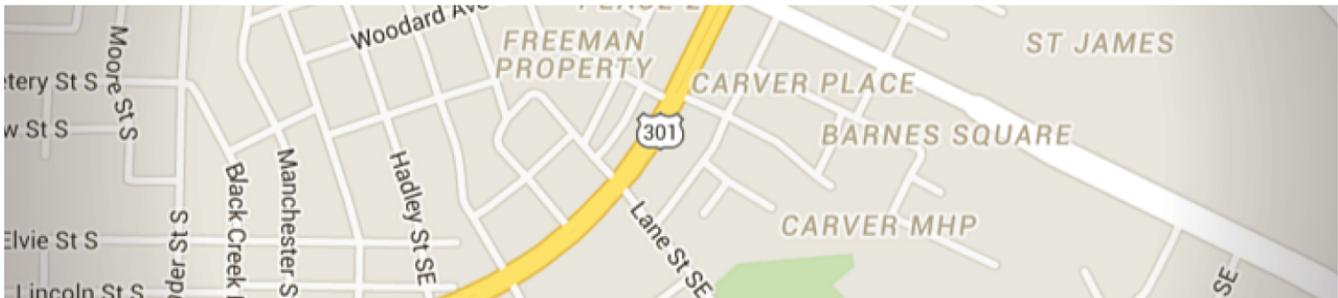




US 301 Tiger Grant Project: Road to Opportunity



In late 2015, the City of Wilson was awarded a \$10 million federal grant to improve a portion of US 301. The highly-competitive TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant is awarded to only seven percent of applicants. The extensive grant agreement process began in early 2016 and will continue until 2017. In November 2016, the North Carolina Board of Transportation added \$6.5 million to the project, meaning a larger section of the highway corridor will be included. The state board’s decision makes the project a nearly \$18 million investment in the 301 corridor.



WHAT WILL THE PROJECT INVOLVE?

The project’s goal is to add a raised median, sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks and improve the storm water infrastructure along a 1.2 mile section of US 301. Most of the money will be spent on infrastructure, like drainage systems under the ground. While you may not be able to see all of the improvement that will be made, these new systems will eliminate the open ditches and other areas of concern along this section of the highway.



WHERE IS THE SECTION OF 301 THAT WILL BE IMPROVED?

The project covers a 1.2 mile section of U.S. 301, from Black Creek Road to Lipscombe Road. Previously, the project area was anticipated to be from Martin Luther King Boulevard to Lipscombe Road, but city officials continued to seek additional funding to improve a larger section of the roadway.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

The City of Wilson is the grant recipient and will be coordinating the design work with the NC DOT. Many departments will be involved in the planning and construction. NCDOT will oversee the project once the design phase is complete.



WHEN WILL THE IMPROVEMENTS BE COMPLETE?

The contract to secure the grant is extensive. As you can imagine, the DOT has very strict rules and regulations involved with receiving this large amount of money. Our first step was to finalize the grant agreement. After that, we must finalize all of the construction plans and submit them for approval. Construction should begin in 2018-19 and must be completed by 2022. This timeline is very similar to other comparable highway construction projects, considering the many safety and planning concerns.

STAY INFORMED

We want to keep the entire community, and especially the neighbors near the project area, informed on the progress of the grant. We have created a page on the City of Wilson website for updates on the project. Visit www.wilsonnc.org/tiger to stay updated. We will also plan community meetings at key points in the project.