



Local Officials Update



*Update on the Franklin/Merritt Mill  
Intersection Project in Carrboro/Chapel Hill*

November 7, 2018

Division 7



# *Purpose of Update Meeting*

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to present:

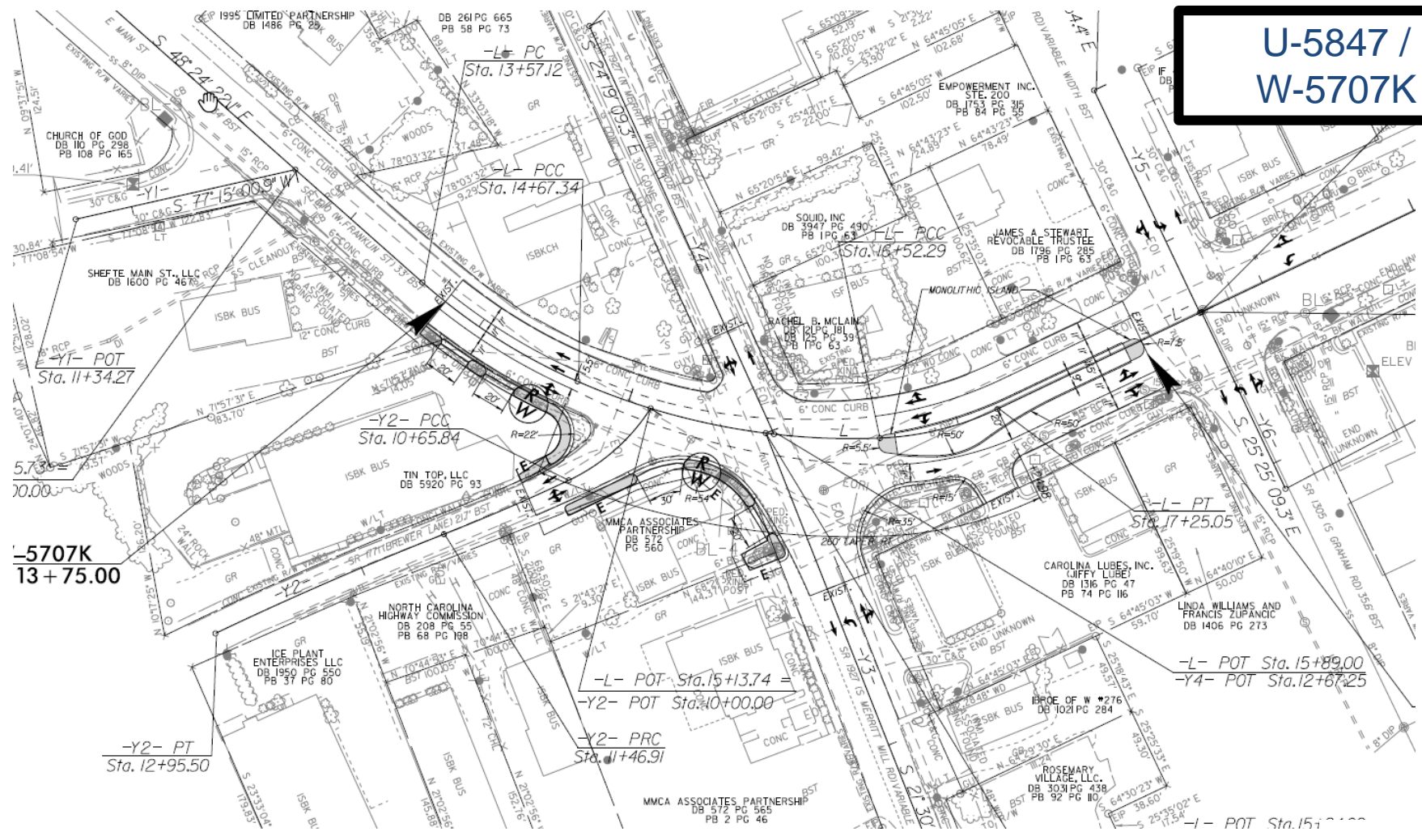
- Project history.
- Proposed improvements at intersection.
- Effects of proposed improvements at intersection.
- Project moving forward.

## *Project History*

- The 2016-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) programmed and funded this project that was developed out of North Carolina's Strategic Transportation Investment Law. This project was identified and scored by the DCHCMPO and the NCDOT as an "improve intersection" highway project with an estimated cost of \$775,000.
- NCDOT developed several alternatives to meet the need for and the purpose of the project. These alternatives looked to improving capacity and reducing congestion.
- The analyses of these alternatives resulted in increases in size, scope, business relocations, traffic pattern changes, and cost with minimal if any improvements to capacity or congestion.
- August 2017 meeting with elected officials from Carrboro, Chapel Hill, NCDOT Staff, and BOT Chairman Mike Fox. Moving forward the NCDOT would fully fund, develop, and deliver a project on behalf of Carrboro and Chapel Hill that would clearly direct vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians through the intersection while minimizing right of way impacts to local properties.
- NCDOT would no longer pursue highway improvements at this intersection.

# Proposed Improvements at Intersection

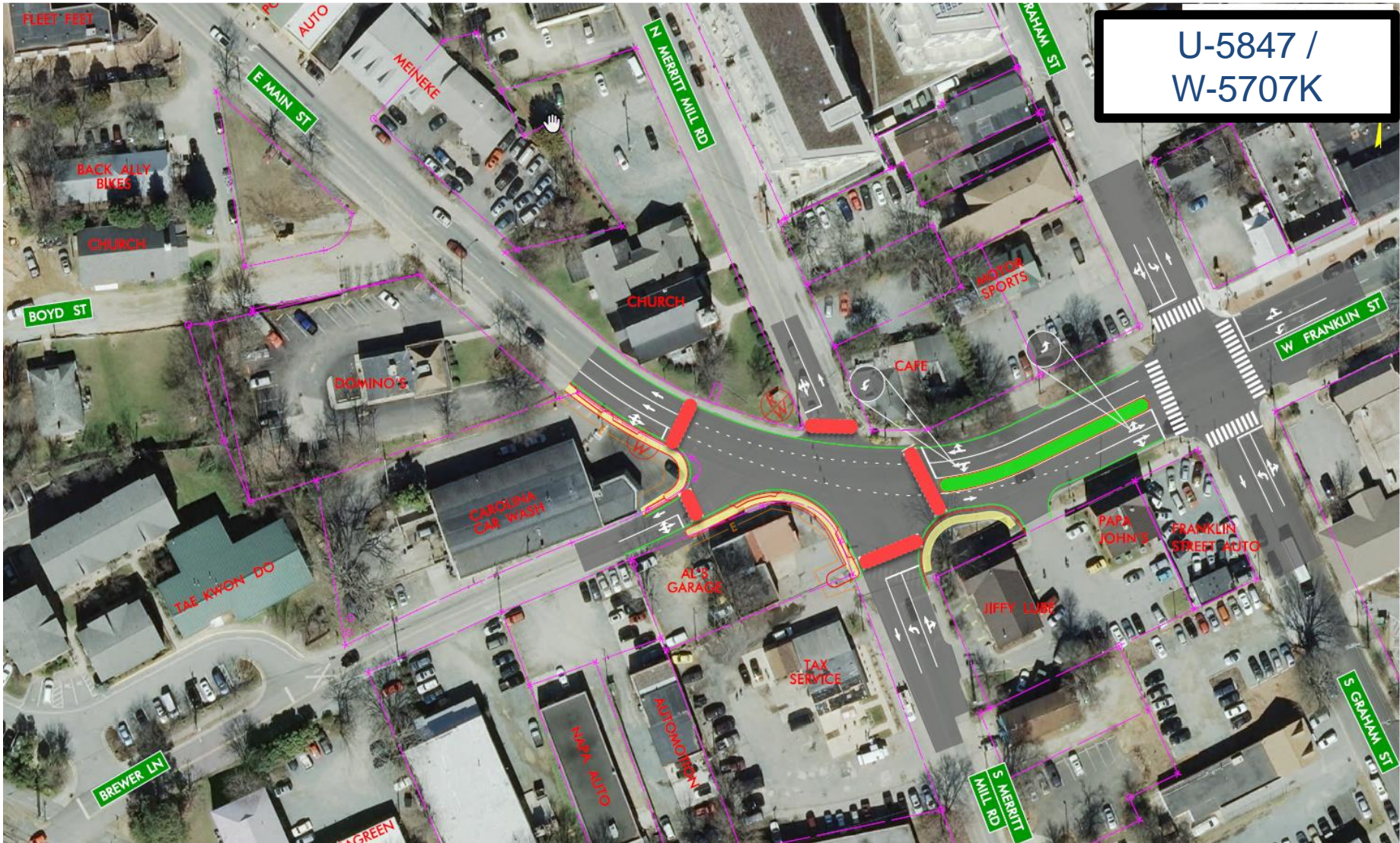
**U-5847 /  
W-5707K**



**Draft Subject  
to Change**



# Proposed Improvements at Intersection



## *Proposed Improvements at Intersection*

- Traffic signals will be updated.
- Push button ped signal/audible at each proposed crosswalk.
- Bike detector loop at each proposed crosswalk.
- Stamped crosswalk and/or high-viz markings at each proposed crosswalk as shown.
- Utilize existing wood poles within the project limits. Some poles will need to be replaced and repositioned for pedestrian crosswalk lighting. Place an overhead pedestrian light to light each crosswalk.
- Enhance the signing, signals and markings at the intersection. For example, place signs that direct travelers to downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

## *Proposed Improvements at Intersection*

- As requested by town officials, construct an island between Merritt Mill and Graham Street. This will eliminate the existing center left turn lanes between these two intersections. This island will be wide enough to accommodate some landscaping within the island. No refuge island proposed at this time. The Town of Chapel Hill will maintain the landscaping.
- Enhance the signing, signals and markings at the intersection. For example, place signs that direct travelers to downtown Chapel Hill and Carrboro.
- Resurface roadway within the project limits as part of the project (Graham to Boyd).
- The project adds new sidewalk around the carwash and the garage in the west and south-west quadrants. It also adds new up-to-date ADA curb ramps in both of those quadrants as well as the southeast quadrant.



## *Effects of the Proposed Improvements at Intersection*

- The five-legged intersection remains. No permanent closure proposed.
- The project avoids or minimizes substantial right of way impacts to the garage, the car wash, the restaurant, and the church.
- The project has minimal right of way impacts to the garage and the car wash. Some parking may be affected.
- Project does not improve vehicle capacity or congestion at intersection due to the removal of the back-to-back left turns between Merritt Mill Road and Graham Street. Also, Brewer Lane will get a green signal only at every other cycle to help the flow of traffic through the Franklin / Merritt Mill intersection. Congestion will continue to be a problem.
- Enhanced traffic signals, signing, pavement markings, high visibility crosswalks, and lighting will help vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic navigate through the intersection.



## *Project Moving Forward*

- Certain aspects of the project are under contract and some of the proposed improvements have been completed.
- Present proposed improvement to the public at an advertised local municipal public meeting(s) and address comments and concerns.
- Negotiate and acquire needed right of way with affected property owners.
- Start major construction by Summer 2019 and have project completed by student move-in date for Fall 2019 classes.
- Continue to coordinate project with Chapel Hill and Carrboro officials.

# Questions?





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