

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What are the recommended improvements for the targeted intersections?

Answer: The intersection designs and costs will be developed as part of a follow on project, ideally submitted to the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) in late 2019. Once these intersections have designs and cost estimates, the NCDOT, Union County, and municipalities will submit these intersections for funding through several CRTPO and NCDOT funding sources.

Question: Why aren't there any proposed intersection projects on NC 16? Traffic is awful!

Answer: We agree – traffic is awful on NC 16. Over six miles of NC 16 are funded for widening in the next few years, and unfortunately any intersection project identified and implemented in this process would not offer much benefit before it was torn up as part of the widening process.

Question: Why all the roundabouts in Union County?

Answer: Roundabouts are often selected as the best long-term response to safety, congestion, and maintenance concerns. A traffic signal may be cheaper up front, but has higher maintenance costs. A roundabout also accommodates shifting traffic patterns as growth occurs. Roundabouts also dramatically lower the crash rates and crash severity at intersections.

Question: Why does it take so long to get a simple intersection project built?

Answer: Any construction project goes through three phases: design, right-of-way acquisition/utility relocation, and construction. The design must be approved before land can be purchased and utilities moved out of the way. The utility companies must move their infrastructure before construction can start. Construction can only occur during the warmer parts of the year, and is often scheduled when school is out of session. All three of these phases can take two to three years to complete.