



**Town of Mooresville**  
**Planning & Community Development**  
413 North Main Street  
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115

**To: CRTPO Delegates & Alternates**  
**From: Erika G. Martin, AICP, Mooresville Transportation Planner**  
**Date: July 15, 2020**

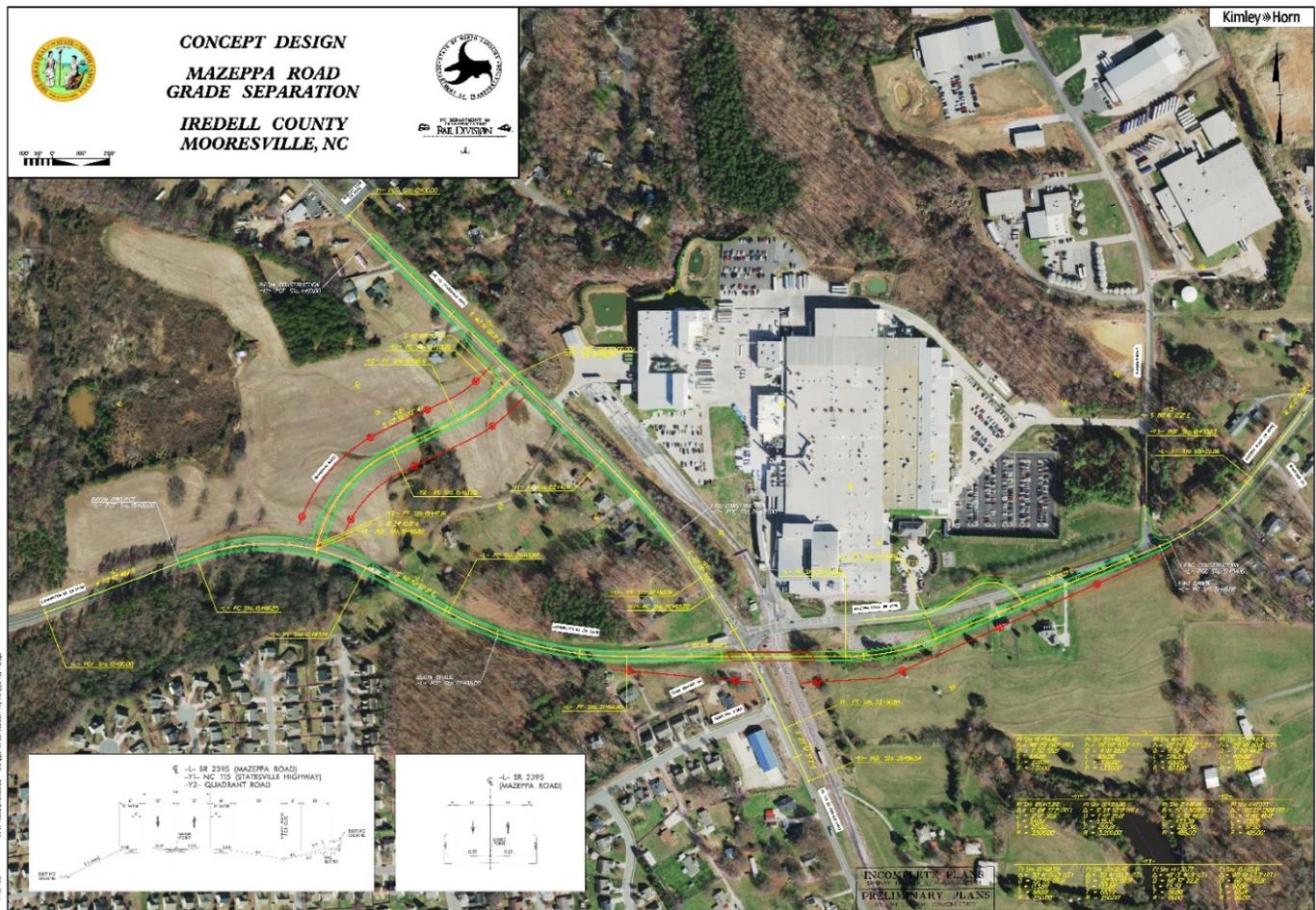
**RE: 2020-2029 TIP Amendment Request for Mazeppa Rd & NC 115/NS O Rail Line Grade Separation**

**Action Requested**

Program \$4.5 million in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) funds for the Mazeppa Road & NC 115/NS O Rail Line Grade Separation project in Mooresville.

**Project Description**

The Mazeppa Rd Flyover will eliminate the at grade crossing at Mazeppa Rd and Hwy 115 by grade separating Mazeppa Rd with a 4 lane bridge over the two-track Norfolk Southern Rail O Line and Hwy 115. The project will realign Connector Rd and Mazeppa Rd, include a new two-way ramp between Hwy 115 and Connector Rd, and maintain access to NGK Ceramics and McKenzie Rd (access to South Iredell Industrial Park).



## **Project Need**

The project area is a mix of industrial, undeveloped land, and low density residential. The primary user of the railroad corridor through the project area is Norfolk Southern (NS) for freight operations. Each time NS provides service to NGK Ceramics the train completely cuts off access for emergency, passenger, and other vehicles at the intersection of Mazeppa Rd and Hwy 115 for 15 to 20 minutes. Eliminating the at grade crossing will improve east-west connectivity, reduce emergency response times and congestion during train service, and modernize the roadway impacted to include shoulders.

## **Background**

- **Traffic Separation Study (TSS):** The project was originally identified as part of a TSS conducted in partnership between the Town of Mooresville, NCDOT-Rail Division, and Norfolk Southern Railway. The study evaluated 27 at grade crossings along the O line, including crossing number 721 665L (Mazeppa Rd). Public involvement for the TSS was as follows:
  - January 30, 2017, June 21, 2017, and September 25, 2017 Stakeholder Meetings were held in which it was noted that “Mazeppa Road crossing improvements should be considered to address increasing traffic due to nearby industries, developments, and proximity to Connector Rd and I-77.”
  - March 27, 2017 and August 2, 2017 Public Meetings held in which it was noted “several people favored the proposed Mazeppa Rd grade separation.”
  - March 19, 2018 and April 16, 2018 Public Hearings were held in which several members of the public spoke on a range of topics from the study. However, none of the comments were related to Mazeppa Rd grade separation. The Town Council unanimously adopted the study upon closing the second public hearing.
- **Mazeppa Road Flyover:** Following the TSS, the Town moved forward with completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental studies within the footprint required for a new grade separation. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was made available to the public on the Town’s website and in hard copy at the Mooresville Public Library. The public was also invited to submit comments via e-mail or physical mail to the Town Manager. Based on a detailed study of the proposed project as documented in the EA and upon review of comments received from the public and federal, state and local agencies, it is the finding of the Town of Mooresville that this project will not have a significant impact upon the human or natural environment following implementation of identified mitigation measures. The project is not controversial from an environmental standpoint. No significant impacts to natural, ecological, cultural or scenic resources are anticipated. Additional public involvement specific to the Mazeppa Rd Flyover was as follows:
  - February 6, 2019 the Town sent letters to all 9 property owners directly impacted by the project. 8 of the nine had no objection to the project and allowed the Town to access their properties for environmental documentation (one owner did not respond).
  - October 3, 2019 Public Hearing held regarding the Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment for the Mazeppa Road Flyover Rail Crossing. One member of the public attended the hearing and was supportive of the project.

- October 3, 2019 to October 14, 2019 the Town received 15 letters of support from businesses impacted by the project.

**Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant**

**Awarded:** The Town of Mooresville was awarded a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant of \$4.5 M in late February of 2020 to eliminate the at grade rail crossing at Mazeppa Rd and NC Hwy 115. Total project cost is approximately \$8.9 M.

- FHWA has determined the improvements as described will not require a transportation conformity determination.
- Project timeline and phases (see below) reflect recent coordination between the Town and the USDOT Federal Railroad Administration. Project costs reflect rounded numbers from the Town’s CRISI application.
- The Town of Mooresville would like to move forward with completing environmental and other pre-design work in the upcoming municipal fiscal year of 2020-2021. Therefore, the project must be programmed in CRTPO’s TIP and NCDOT’s State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) to begin utilizing the federal CRISI funds.
- Mooresville is also requesting a waiver from additional public comment through CRTPO, due to ample public engagement conducted as part of the TSS and Mazeppa Rd project.

<b>Mazeppa Road Flyover TIP Request</b>							
<b>TIP ID</b>	<b>Project Category</b>	<b>Jurisdiction &amp; Project Name</b>	<b>Amendment Summary</b>	<b>Recommended TIP Revision</b>	<b>Federal Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Fund</b>
TBD	Non-Highway	Mooresville Mazeppa Road Flyover	Eliminate at grade crossing with bridge at intersection of Hwy 21 and Mazeppa Rd	Engineering	FY 21	\$400,000	Local
						\$400,000	CRISI
	Rail Project			Right-Of-Way	FY 23	\$160,000	Local
						\$160,000	CRISI
	Construction			FY 25	\$3.93 M	Local	
					\$3.93 M	CRISI	