

The Triangle Connector to I-85

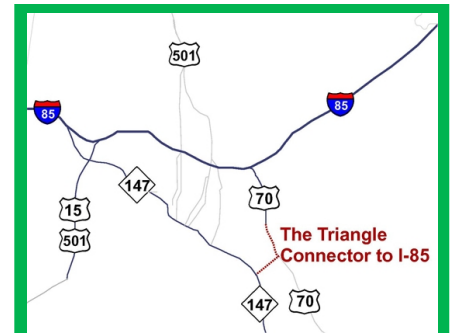
The Triangle Connector to I-85—the "East End Connector"—will create a new link between the Durham Freeway (NC 147) in south Durham and I-85 in northeast Durham, and complete a critical new north-south mobility corridor for the entire Triangle region.

Currently, there is no direct, stoplight-free connection to Interstate 85 from many portions of the Triangle including Research Triangle Park, Chapel Hill, Cary, or Raleigh. Today's direct routings involve travel along congested portions of 15-501 or through downtown Durham, while the current freeway routing (via NC 147 and 15-501 in west Durham) more than doubles the travel distance from the Park to I-85.

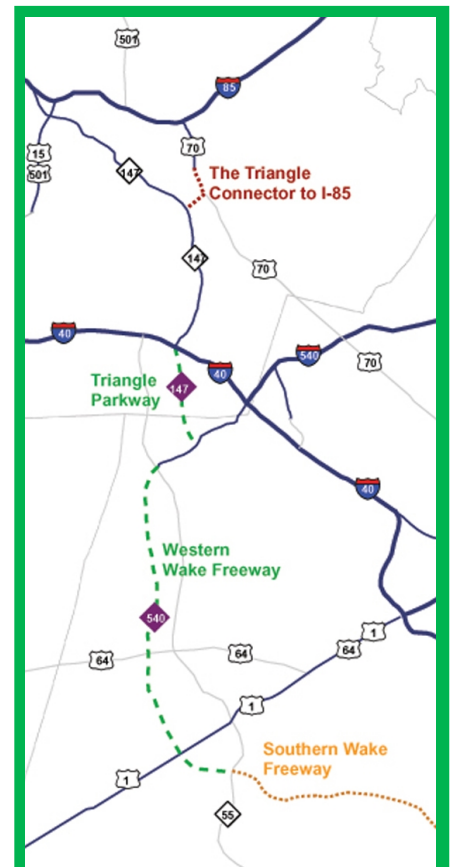
When the Connector is complete, and when coupled with the opening of the 540/Triangle Expressway turnpike (Triangle Parkway and Western Wake Freeway), which is currently under construction in southern Durham and western Wake counties, the region will enjoy new north-south, stoplight-free mobility in the heart of the Triangle and a true complement to east-west I-40. In addition, by lessening the impact of north-south cut-through traffic in downtown Durham, the Connector will improve safety for both residents and motorists.

Quick Facts

- This project will complete a north-south freeway corridor between the 'US 1 South freeway and Interstate 85.
- The Connector will provide direct freeway access to I-85 from Research Triangle Park, Cary, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh.
- The expected cost is between \$150 million and \$200 million, with the exact cost determined during final design.
- Final environmental approvals are expected by summer 2010.
- The Connector is one of several "Durham Northern Loop" projects that are listed in the General Statutes and eligible for state Urban Loop funds.
- If money becomes available, the project could be ready for a design-build contract as soon as fall 2010.
- The Connector is the highest new freeway priority of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation, the City of Durham, and Durham County as well as top new freeway priority of the Regional Transportation Alliance.
- The project first appeared on the City of Durham Transportation thoroughfare plan 50 years ago in 1959.



Close-up of Triangle Connector to I-85



North-south frwy. corridor (I-85 to US 1)

For more information about the Alliance and our 2010 priorities, please contact:
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