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Test Project Converts Uptown Tryon Street to Three Lanes

Charlotte, NC—CDOT will conduct a 90-day evaluation to determine the feasibility of permanently converting Tryon Street from 5 lanes to 3 lanes. The area proposed is from Carson Boulevard to Stonewall Street, with related intersection improvements at Carson Boulevard and Morehead Street. The purpose of these changes is to implement the recommendations of the South End Pedestrian & Bicycle Connectivity Study (2007).

Charlotte residents are invited to attend a public briefing concerning the project on February 10 at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center in Room 280 at 5:30 p.m. Thoughts and ideas are welcomed.

The 90-day evaluation was requested by NCDOT to confirm that peak hour traffic will operate at an acceptable level as a result of the changes proposed to S. Tryon Street. The Center City Transportation Plan (adopted in 2006) includes a policy to modify gateway underpasses and overpasses of the I-77/I-277 Loop to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between Center City and surrounding neighborhoods. The conversion of Hill Street between Tryon and Church Streets to two-way operations was another policy recommendation of the Center City Transportation Plan. These two changes will be implemented at the same time.

In 2007, CDOT conducted a study to determine potential and viable options for creating better pedestrian and bicycle connections between Uptown and South End. A “road conversion” on Tryon Street from Carson Boulevard to Stonewall Street (see cross sections below) was a key recommendation of the study.



Existing Tryon Street Cross Section on the Bridge



Recommended Tryon Street Cross Section on the Bridge

By reducing the travel lanes from 5 to 3 lanes, CDOT will be able to add bicycle lanes and create wide walkways for pedestrians on the Tryon Street Bridge over I-277 and blocks to the north and south. The technical review by CDOT and NCDOT of traffic operations identified the intersections at Morehead/Tryon and Carson/Tryon as being critical to the successful implementation of the proposed conversion. NCDOT agreed to a 90-day time period to confirm acceptable operations would continue.

During the 90-day period, CDOT will also convert Church Street to two-way operations between Carson Boulevard and Morehead Streets to facilitate NB left turns at Morehead Street. This change will provide a second choice (other than Tryon Street) for traffic bound for westbound Morehead and I-77 ramps.

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The Charlotte Department of Transportation's (CDOT) more than 400 employees work together to ensure we accomplish our mission to provide safe and efficient transportation systems that support economic vitality and quality of life for Charlotte residents and visitors. Well-paved streets with lighting, safe and accessible sidewalks, bicycle lanes, neighborhood traffic programs and efficient intersections are examples of how CDOT is "Connecting Charlotte."



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