

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Overpass at Eastwood Road and Military Cutoff (Project U-5710)

Dear NCDOT Representative,

We are residents of Wilmington, North Carolina, living near the intersection of Eastwood Road and Military Cutoff. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed overpass at this intersection, which is part of the NCDOT Project U-5710.

We firmly believe that this overpass would be a waste of taxpayer money, with projected costs exceeding \$81 million. Wilmington is a charming coastal city with a unique beach town character. The existing traffic signals at the intersection—while potentially in need of better timing—adequately control traffic flow. Installing a large cement overpass would severely undermine the visual and cultural appeal of the gateway to Wrightsville Beach. Moreover, considering the limited parking available at the beach, the notion of dramatically increasing traffic capacity at this junction seems misguided.

This project would also negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods such as Landfall, Lion's Gate, and Eastwood Village. These communities are known for their relaxing, beachy atmosphere—something that the construction of a massive concrete structure would permanently alter. While overpasses on Route 40 may be appropriate, placing one here feels unnecessary and out of character for the area.

We respectfully urge NCDOT to hold a new public hearing. The last hearing occurred in 2018, and much has changed since then. Both the City of Wilmington and the Town of Wrightsville Beach have formally requested a new meeting and have not yet received a response. Local voices must be heard and considered in any decision of this magnitude.

There are more effective and less intrusive ways to address traffic concerns, including:

- Retiming and optimizing the existing traffic signals;
- Ensuring full operation of the newly opened Drysdale Extension, including left and right turns onto Eastwood Road;
- Reassess the traffic situation after these changes before deciding on a costly and permanent overpass.

This project serves more as a job-creation initiative than a necessary infrastructure solution. We urge you to reconsider and explore more fiscally responsible, community-sensitive alternatives.

Let us work together to preserve the unique character of Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach while using taxpayer dollars wisely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,