

[Your Address]

Wilmington, NC [ZIP Code]

July 16, 2025

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)

[Relevant Division or Contact Person]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

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

To Whom It May Concern,

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 the flow of vehicles. 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 negatively affect surrounding neighborhoods, including 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 mar. While overpasses on Route 40 are understandable due to the nature of that corridor, implementing such a feature here feels out of place and unjustified.

We respectfully urge NCDOT to hold a new public hearing. The last hearing was held in 2018, and much has changed since then. Both the City of Wilmington and the Town of Wrightsville Beach have formally requested such a meeting and have yet to receive a response. The voices of the residents—those most affected—must be heard and considered in any decision of this magnitude.

There are more effective and less invasive ways to address traffic concerns. These include:

- Retiming and optimizing existing traffic signals.

- Ensuring full operational use of the newly opened Drysdale Extension, including both left and right turns onto Eastwood Road.
- Reassess the traffic situation after implementing these measures before deciding on a costly and permanent overpass.

This project serves more as a job-creation program than a necessary infrastructure solution. We ask that you reconsider the proposed overpass and explore more fiscally responsible and community-sensitive alternatives.

Let's work together to preserve the character of Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach and to use taxpayer dollars wisely.

We appreciate your time, consideration, and commitment to listening to the people who live here.

Sincerely,