

CITY OF HIGH POINT

AGENDA ITEM



Title: Resolution of Support to Remove US 311 Designation from I-74 Corridor

From: Mark McDonald, Transportation Director

Meeting Date: May 7, 2018

Public Hearing: No

Advertising Date: NA

Advertised By: NA

Attachments: Corridor Map

PURPOSE:

Consideration of a Resolution of Support for the removal of the US 311 route designation from the Interstate 74 corridor. Approximately 8.4 miles of this highway passes through High Point.

BACKGROUND:

US 311 runs concurrent with I-74 for most of its course from northeast Winston-Salem in Forsyth County through High Point in southwestern Guilford County to its connection with I-73/US 220 in Randolph County north of Asheboro. Common practice by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has been to combine primary routes on the same roadways, especially through urban areas. However, as interstate mileage has increased, highway signing has become more problematic as the sign panels and assemblies have become larger to accommodate additional shields and route designations.

This “sign clutter” can be challenging for motorists to quickly interpret and negotiate through traffic to follow their desired trip route. To make this simpler and safer, the Department is reviewing highway signing practices during the design and construction processes to determine if route consolidation and signing changes are appropriate. The beltway projects in the Winston Salem area offer an opportunity to eliminate a substantial portion of US 311, since it runs concurrent with I-74 along the route described above. To accomplish this, NCDOT must to apply to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) for any modification of US routes; the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has additional requirements that must be satisfied for changes to the Interstate system. Although not required, concurrence from affected municipalities, MPOs and RPOs is also sought to ensure that adequate communication and process transparency are achieved.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Most of the cost associated with the elimination of US 311 will be absorbed by NCDOT as a project expense. At affected locations, large overhead signs will have to be modified or replaced, and along the route, the “US 311” shield will be removed from smaller sign assemblies. Costs to the City will be limited to the replacement of overhead street name signs at signalized ramp intersections. Approximately 30 signs at seven interchanges will have to be updated. The estimated cost of these change-outs is \$6,000 (materials only), which may be partially reimburseable through a municipal agreement for sign maintenance with NCDOT.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

NCDOT is requesting a Resolution of Support from the City and the High Point Metropolitan Planning Organization (HPMPO) for the removal of US 311 from the I-74 corridor. The plan was presented to the Prosperity & Livability Committee on March 7, with a unanimous endorsement for City Council approval.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
APPROVING THE REMOVAL OF THE US 311 DESIGNATION ALONG THE I-74
CORRIDOR THROUGH THE CITY OF HIGH POINT**

WHEREAS, US 311 is a 102.3-mile United States highway that runs from Randleman, NC to Danville, VA; and

WHEREAS, an 8.4-mile segment of US 311 currently runs along the I-74 corridor through the City of High Point; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is recommending removal of the US 311 designation along the I-74 corridor from I-73 in Randleman, NC to the future interchange of I-74 and New Walkertown Road in Walkertown, NC; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the US 311 designation along the I-74 corridor will simplify route messaging provided to the traveling public by eliminating confusing route overlaps; and

WHEREAS, the removal of redundant signing will help to reduce sign pollution and long-term signing maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, a representative of the NCDOT presented the removal plan and its benefits to the City Council's Prosperity & Livability Committee at their March 7th meeting, which the Committee unanimously endorsed with a recommendation for approval of this Resolution by the City Council.

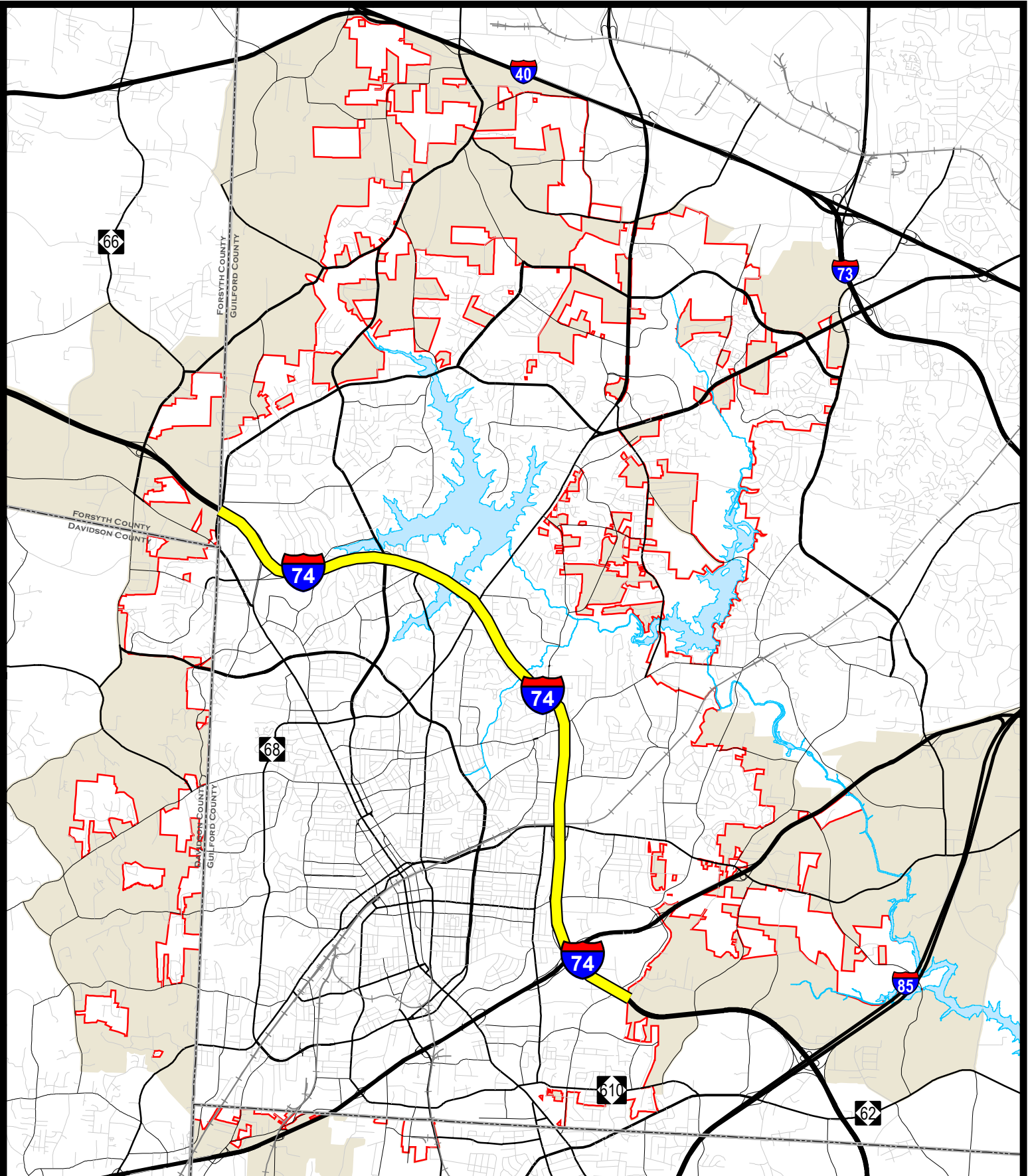
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of High Point City Council hereby approves the removal of the US 311 designation along the I-74 corridor through the City of High Point.

A motion was made by Council Member _____ and seconded by Council Member _____ and approved this the 7th day of May 2018.

Jay W. Wagner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk



I-74 CORRIDOR IN HIGH POINT



MAP PREPARED BY
CITY OF HIGH POINT MPO
211 S. HAMILTON STREET
HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA 27260
APRIL 2018

This map is provided as a public information resource and every reasonable effort has been made to assure the quality of the map. This data information and related graphics are not legal documents and are not intended to be used as such. The City of High Point makes no warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, reliability, utility or completeness of this information. The City of High Point assumes no liability either for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of the cause of such or for any decision made, action taken, or action not taken by the user in reliance upon any maps or information provided herein.

