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County seeks public input on development of Highway 16/150 area



Original site plan for Bridgewater

Lincoln County commissioners and planning officials want your ideas and opinions on future development and transportation needs at the interchange of NC16 and NC150.

When interchanges are built, developers seek to purchase those lands to make stores convenient to their customers. Plans for development on the Catawba County side of the interchange have already been submitted and approved. Catawba County is constructing sewer lines to the area to serve this future development. Lincoln County is seeking input from property owners and interested citizens to help guide what type of development they would like to see on the Lincoln County side of the interchange.

A huge retail-office complex called Bridgewater planned for the area by Crosland Developers has been put on hold since the recession hit, and it's questionable if it will be built as originally proposed.

The county's planning effort will consider current transportation conditions and development to help guide future land uses and offer solutions for the existing transportation network. Planned development can increase the investments; provide positive long-term economic impacts and thereby reduce the tax impacts to the residents. It is also the goal of the plan to limit traffic congestion and similar undesirable impacts to the existing residents in the area.

This plan does not establish new zoning regulations, but rather sets forth adaptive guidelines and future tasks that need to occur. For example a recommendation in the plan might be to have a traffic signal at Henry Dellinger Road and NC150. In order for this to happen, the county would need to request NCDOT to examine traffic counts for such.

In order to do this, the Board of Commissioners and Planning Board need your input and want to hear what you have to say. Lincoln County will kick off this future development plan with a public meeting at public meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday July 23 at Lebanon United Methodist Church, 5033 Lebanon Road, Denver (off Highway 150 heading west towards Lincolnton). This is the first chance for the residents to see the area, hear background information, and to offer your suggestions concerning the future of the area.

To keep you informed throughout the nine-month process, a webpage will be posted at www.lincolncounty.org



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