

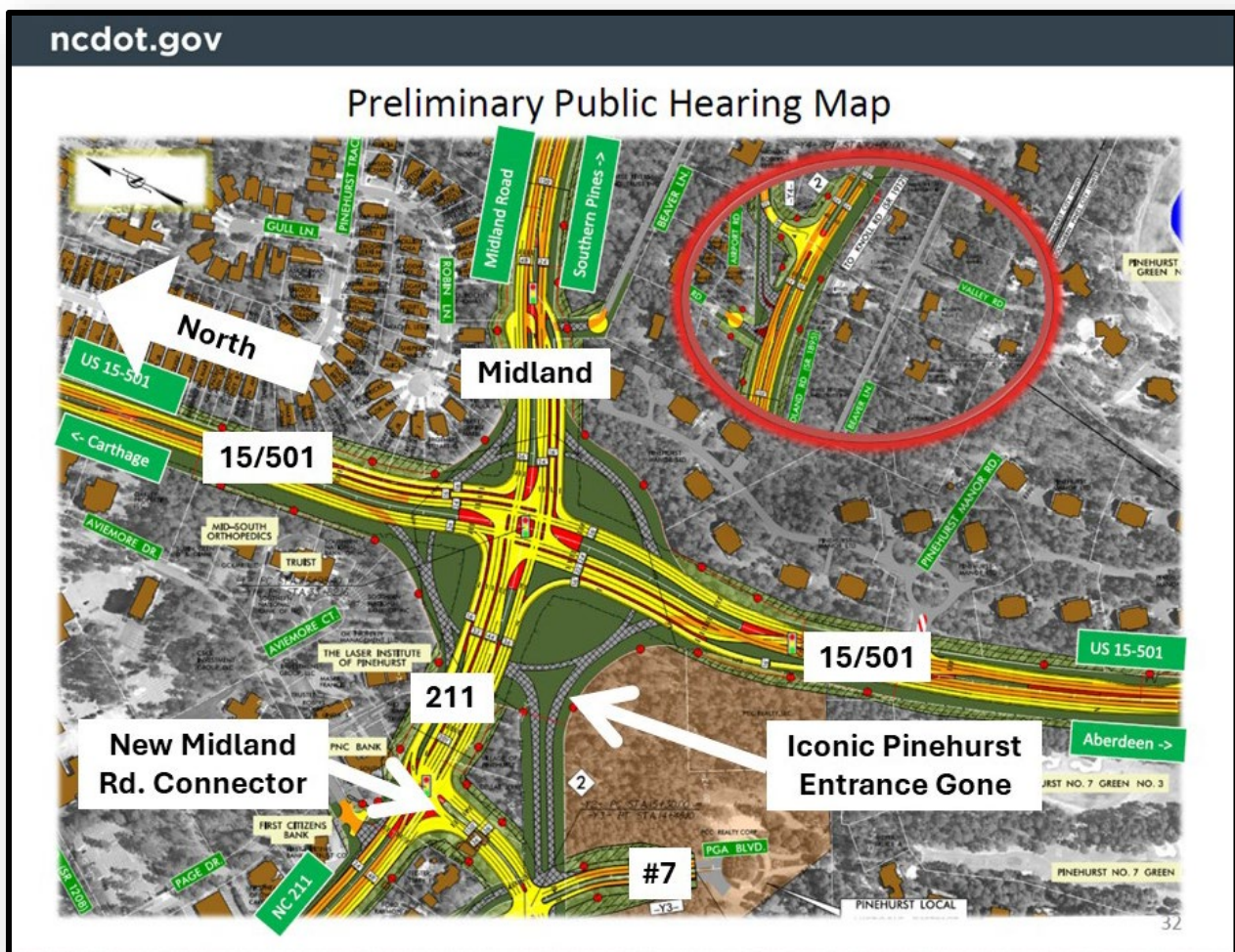
# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## NCDOT Proposal for Pinehurst Circle 2024 – “The Shifted Pillow”

### 1. What is NCDOT proposing to do to change the traffic Circle?

NCDOT is proposing a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) – they call it “The Shifted Pillow” - controlled by a series of traffic lights. It will require cutting down 6 acres of long leaf pine trees - our State Tree - in the Circle, and other trees nearby. The roadways that would be included in the new intersection are 15/501 North and South, NC211, and Midland Road East going toward Southern Pines.

Midland Road West toward Pinehurst will no longer be accessible from the area we know as the Circle. Midland Road toward Pinehurst will be accessible from NC211 via a new connector road that will intersect Midland in the area of Dalrymple Road (across from the back entrance to #7). See NCDOT Map below:



## **2. Why is NCDOT planning the destruction of our Historic Circle?**

The NCDOT The Circle is State NCDOT property and NCDOT is assuming a huge increase in traffic load based on massive - and outdated - population growth projections out to 2040 and beyond. NCDOT believes the projected traffic volume and crash statistics warrant a significant change (although these crashes are minor fender bender incidents, not fatalities).

## **3. Is NCDOT serious about this proposal?**

Yes, we absolutely believe they are serious. A resident on Midland Road contacted NCDOT and they told him it was their plan to take his home, his lot and his neighbor's home to build the 6 lane connector between NC 211 and Midland Road.

## **4. How much will it cost in today's dollars?**

According to a NCDOT project list dated January 2024, the "Shifted Pillow" will cost \$57M, but other estimates are higher.

## **5. When would construction commence and how long would it take?**

In 2029, after the next US Open. The DOT estimate is 2 ½ - 3 years

## **6. Will Pinehurst residents have an opportunity to meet with NCDOT?**

Yes, NCDOT has scheduled public hearings in July 2024. Specifically:

- **July 16, 2024** - Pinehurst - Pinehurst Elementary
- **July 18, 2024** - Carthage - Moore County Cooperative Extension (Ag Bldg.)
- **July 23, 2024** - Aberdeen - First Baptist Church of Aberdeen

## **7. How will you access Midland Road toward Pinehurst from the new intersection?**

According to the DOT map, you will take 211 West then turn left onto a new connector road to be built between 211 and Midland Rd. near what is now Dalrymple Road. It sounds confusing because it is!

At NC 211, this proposal has 8 lanes, like something that belongs in Charlotte or Atlanta.

## 8. Has the Village Council put forth suggestions to NC DOT?

In January 2023, the Council sent a letter to 1) NCDOT explaining opposition to their proposal made in June 2022, and 2) offer several suggestions regarding traffic circulation options, data collection issues, and best approaches for collaboration.

In April 2023, NCDOT agreed to make some gradual improvements to the Circle. Some of those improvements included the new safety bollards and road signage which were installed in January 2024. The “Shifted Pillow” proposal was not expected based on Council’s prior dealings with DOT.

## 9. How many homes are going to be taken by eminent domain?

All we know right now is what the current DOT Map indicates. According to the Map there will be several homes in the Dalrymple Rd area and by the Airport Road turnoff that will be affected or taken by eminent domain.

## 10. Will DOT be responsive to other suggestions/options?

We hope DOT will be receptive to our suggestions because in the 5/19/24 edition of The Pilot, NCDOT engineer Blakley is quoted (emphasis added): “we [NCDOT] want to make sure we can get all of the input we can to make the right decision.”

In addition, **Patrick Molamphy**, a Pinehurst resident and Member at Large on the State Board of Transportation, wrote an op-ed in the 6/6/18 edition of The Pilot, including the following statement (emphasis added): *“The [NCDOT] engineers were charged with designing improvements to the intersection, but their charge had one caveat: **The circle had to remain intact.** This charge was at the request of local elected officials, including myself, and it was received in good faith...”*

Mr. Molamphy also wrote (emphasis added): *“It is my hope that we have **overwhelming public input**, and this input can and should be our compass for a viable, long-term solution.”*

## 11. Does the Village council have control over this happening?

The State DOT owns the road and can dictate what will happen with our Circle. But the Village Council in the past, going back 10 years, has expressed opposition to destroying the circle.

**12. Who do we contact to give our opinions?**

Write to all Village Council members, the Pilot, State officials in Raleigh, and sign the Petition.

**13. What are their emails/phone numbers?**

See below.

**14. Have the recent changes to Page Road at 15-501 helped?**

These improvements are new. There is no data.

**15. What action can residents take to oppose this proposal?**

- Sign the petition. There is strength in numbers. We need thousands of signatures to be successful.
- Attend the Public Hearings in July—very important!
- Write to all State and Local Officials

Village Council members (**write to ALL Council members**)

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**Pat Pizzella:** [ppizzella@vopnc.org](mailto:ppizzella@vopnc.org)

**Barb Ficklin:** [bficklin@vopnc.org](mailto:bficklin@vopnc.org)

**John Taylor:** [Jtaylor@vopnc.org](mailto:Jtaylor@vopnc.org)

**Jack Farrell:** [jfarrell@vopnc.org](mailto:jfarrell@vopnc.org)

State Officials:

**Tom McInnis:** Chair, NC Senate Transportation Committee:

[Tom.McInnis@ncleg.gov](mailto:Tom.McInnis@ncleg.gov)

**Neal Jackson:** NC Representative, District 78 [Neal.Jackson@ncleg.gov](mailto:Neal.Jackson@ncleg.gov)

**Pat Molamphy:** Board member NCDOT [bot-pmolamphy@ncdot.gov](mailto:bot-pmolamphy@ncdot.gov)

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