

## **Blue Ridge Road Bike and Pedestrian Improvements Project**

### **Advanced Design Public Meeting Response to Comments**

*Current button to cross Blue Ridge Road for pedestrians/cyclists never triggers the light to change, resulting in extended wait times. I've clocked it at nearly two minutes. I hope there will be a more responsive signal trigger included.*

*It does not address traffic light issues such as No Right On Red at intersections. Right on Red promotes traffic vehicle flow over safety of vulnerable road users. ROR at intersections generates dangerous driving conditions. As, it does not address pedestrian or cycle peg buttons...*

*It does not address traffic light signals needed to reduce wait times or state that equal wait times will be given to all traffic at the intersection.*

*It does not indicate if the waiting area will be increased. It did not address bicycle parking for the transit user. Do not under estimate the need for volume of bicycle parking. The NCMA is a popular destination and the wait area will not accommodate a crowd.*

**Response: Signal upgrades are part of the Blue Ridge Road project and are included at the intersections of Blue Ridge Road and Westchase Blvd, EB on/off ramps, WB on/off ramps, and Reedy Creek Road. Lead Pedestrian Intervals, which provides pedestrians a head-start when crossing the intersection, are being implemented on several of the signals as a safety measure. Ground mounted Bike/Ped warning signs are also proposed along the project. At the Reedy Creek Rd intersection, bicycle detectors are also being proposed. Given the proposed channelizing islands at the Reedy Creek intersection, vehicles turning right are forced to maneuver around the island, which increases the drivers sight angle to see pedestrians and bicyclists.**

*This section is dangerous as a pedestrian or cyclist. Having a dedicated lane will improve safety.*

*Space and prioritization need to be enhanced to better serve the pedestrian*

*I like the bike/pedestrian improvements. I am somewhat concerned about bike/pedestrian safety at the Wade intersections.*

*I have ridden in this area and found it difficult to stay safe. I am happy to see plans for a multi-use path and crosswalks for pedestrians and cyclists.*

*Great to see this investment. I am very supportive of additional bike and pedestrian infrastructure in Raleigh. Projects have the most impact when they connect with existing asset.*

**Response: Safety is of utmost importance. At the Reedy Creek and Blue Ridge Road intersection, a Protected Intersection will provide a dedicated path for pedestrians and**

**bicyclists to safely maneuver around the intersection. To increase safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and decrease vehicle speed when making right hand turns, the design provides Lead Pedestrian Intervals for the signals, installation of advance warning signs, and upgrades to the geometry of the quadrants at the intersections. Concrete islands will be constructed on all 4 corners of the intersection which will force vehicles making right turns to slow down, while providing better visibility for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the road. The project also includes a 10' wide concrete multi-use path behind the proposed curb which will connect the NC Museum of Art and the NC Fairgrounds.**

*After this it needs to connect down to the bike line on Blue Ridge south of Hillsborough.*

*As a driver I like the extended curb. Helps me to see pedestrians in walkways. That said, Wade Ave remains "tricky". May need some noteworthy signage or additional "intervention".*

*This is definitely an improvement. Would love to see bike path on both sides to avoid multiple crossings if I'm coming from art museum want to go south.*

*Would like to see bicycle paths on both sides of Blue Ridge to prevent left hooks on cyclist traffic running counter to vehicles.*

*Glad to see this improvement and will be well worth the time/money to connect popular cycling routes on both sides of Wade.*

**Response: The project's budget is limited to improvements along the West side of Blue Ridge Road, from just south of Trinity Road to the north side of the Wade Avenue interchange. The project will then cross Blue Ridge Road and tie into the existing sidewalk along the frontage of the NC Museum of Art. The land on the west side of Blue Ridge Road from the Wade Avenue interchange to Reedy Creek is owned by the NC Property Office. Future pedestrian improvements along the frontage of this property will be developed when the land is sold.**

*I am happy to see some artistic thought being given to the bridge. Like the bridge over I440 near Merideth College, it needs to be attractive.  
The rendering looks good.*

*Its just an attractive bridge. Pedestrian bridges need to be EVERYWHERE, so don't fall into the trap of thinking this one is extra special. It's not really an entry point for cars, it just takes them further along a road to 440 and wade avenue. It's good  
The rendering looks good. Will this bridge be part of a larger branding effort for the city, or is this more of a one-off project?*

*Is there a way to make the bridge longer so that it spans the on and off ramps also?*

**Response: The bicyclist and pedestrian bridge will be a 2-span, angular, pre-fabricated truss bridge measuring approximately 275' long as it spans over Wade Avenue. On one end, the bridge will be 15.5' tall and in the center, it will be 6.5' tall. Components to this gateway bridge into the City of Raleigh include lights and a fence on both sides. The City**

is also exploring opportunities to add other artistic features. The bridge will contain a 10' wide path.

During the design process, several options were evaluated, and it was determined that spanning the on and off ramps would not be feasible as it would result in steep grades, longer bridge, retaining walls, and larger property acquisitions.

*The islands seen in the pedestrian crosswalks do not feature a concrete safety barrier to prevent a vehicle for driving onto the island and hitting a pedestrian. It lacks street lighting to illuminate the space. Lighting increases the safety needed for women participants.*

**Response:** At the Blue Ridge Road and Reedy Creek intersection, a standard 6" tall curb will be placed to provide a refuge for pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross the road. Parts of the island will be mountable for large semi-trailers when making right-hand turns. Concrete barrier walls cannot be placed in this area as this will become a hazard for vehicles. Lighting plans will be part of the Blue Ridge Road Bike/Ped Improvements project.