

Midtown: Spot Improvements & Future Opportunities

February 26, 2026

Transportation

Six Forks Road Widening Project Background & Actions

The city initiated a Corridor Study in 2012 and adopted in 2018. The intent of recommended goals was to improve mobility, connectivity, and safety for all transportation modes. The Six Forks Road Widening project started the design phase in 2020, with a budget of \$31.3 million. The project would experience significant delays and cost escalation in both real estate and construction, reaching an estimated \$119 million by 2023.

In 2024, the widening limits were reduced, proposing the 6-lane section from Rowan Street to Millbrook Road, instead of Lynn Road. As design progressed and coordination with NCDOT continued, rising costs outpaced the project again. On July 1, 2025, staff presented delivery options and the latest estimates totaling \$93.5 million, with over half projected costs attributed to real estate alone. City Council voted to cancel the widening, and directed staff to pursue spot improvements on Six Forks Road and redirect funds to other projects with fiscal constraints.



Six Forks Road Improvements project includes elements shown on the map above:

- Closing the 500-foot sidewalk gap along the front of Carroll Middle School (**COMPLETED**)
- Transit stop enhancements (Summer 2026)
- Midtown Spot Safety Improvements (Design 2026, Completion expected 2028)
 - New signalized pedestrian crossing at Capital Towers (between Northbrook and Northwood)
 - New signal at North Glen
 - Intersection improvements at Millbrook

Other Project Investments from July 1, 2025 City Council Decision:

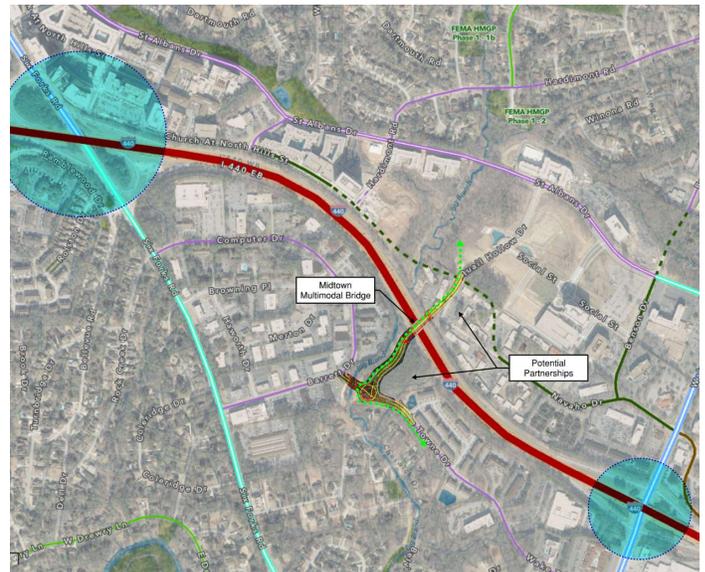
Remaining funds from Six Forks Road project were authorized to support other active bond/capital projects:

- **Barwell Road – South** (under construction)
- **Lake Wheeler Road** (under construction)
- Fund gap on **Old Wake Forest Road/Dixie Forest Road Improvement Project** (Bid anticipated 2026)
- Advance design of **Midtown Multimodal Bridge**

Midtown Multimodal Bridge

Recommended from the Walkable Midtown Plan (2020). The new crossing of I-440 will expand the network for active transportation users and serve as a critical connection for the Big Branch greenway trail. The structure will provide an alternate route to connect neighborhoods, destinations, and employment centers, while alleviating pressure on Six Forks Road and Wake Forest Road.

Design of the bridge is being progressed by staff, which will inform future funding strategy, likely through a grant and future bond for the city’s match. The bridge design would also support potential partnership opportunities with adjacent developments.



Transit Service in Midtown

Current Services:

- Route 8 (Six Forks) – 30 min peak, 60 min off-peak
- Route 24L (North Crosstown) – 30 min peak, 60 min off-peak
- Route 2 (Falls of Neuse) – 30 min peak, 60 min off-peak

Future considerations include increasing frequency and investing in a transit hub to serve the area.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to Midtown is being studied as part of a Major Investment Study (MIS) for the northern route, and findings are expected to be presented to Council in late Spring 2026.

