

**NCCAR Issues Highway Construction Plan**  
03-03-2009

Northampton County, NC --- In notices published last week, the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR) launched the final contract solicitation for construction of the center's Phase 1A automotive research, development and testing facilities. This latest contract solicitation is for construction of the center's industrial access road. Project civil engineer McKim & Creed and roadway design engineer HNTB issued the notice to plan houses and contractors and published the notice statewide.

Project officials will conduct a mandatory on-site pre-bid conference and site visit for all interested bidders to be held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 10, 2009, and have scheduled the bid opening for March 31, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Chris Seamster, project manager for McKim & Creed commented, "The North Carolina Department of Transportation has provided exceptional support to the NCCAR project. At both the division and state levels, NCDOT officials worked closely with the design team from plan and specification review into the bidding phase. That hands-on collaboration has been especially important in making sure all infrastructure and utility elements were integrated into the plans, and that construction is well coordinated to provide uninterrupted access to the site."

The industrial access road will extend approximately 2100 feet from Lowe's Boulevard (SR-1604) to the NCCAR project site. The construction work to be contracted generally consists of a 24' wide asphalt roadway including grading, drainage, paving, culverts, utilities, erosion control, signing and pavement markings. Upon completion and approval by NCDOT, the road will become a part of the State's secondary road system.

Seamster also commented that site construction continues to proceed steadily, noting that the project team anticipated inclement weather during the winter months and factored that eventuality into construction scheduling. "PLT Construction has done a remarkable job of managing the site work and coordinating with S&ME, our geotechnical engineers. We compare notes regularly, often several times a day. Everyone is on the same page, and all of us are focused on doing the job exceptionally well."

**About NCCAR**

Purpose-designed to exacting standards, the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR) is an independent, non-profit center devised to meet the ever-evolving product research, testing and development demands of the automotive industry. State sponsorship and affiliation with North Carolina's university and community college system offers exceptional opportunities for matching the innovative talents of the world's automotive industry with the research capacity and business development resources of the State of North Carolina. For more information please visit, [www.nccar.us](http://www.nccar.us)

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