

**WILKINSON BOULEVARD CORRIDOR STUDY
CITY OF BELMONT AND THE TOWNS OF CRAMERTON AND McADENVILLE, NC
METROCOLOGY, INC.**

HPE RESPONSIBILITY:

Participate in charrette and provide conceptual transportation planning & engineering services

CLIENT'S NAME & ADDRESS:

Demetri Baches, Managing Partner
Metrocology, Inc.
16 Oak Pond Passage
Beaufort, SC 29906
Phone: (305) 606-7701
Email: demetri@metrocology.com

HPE, Inc. participated as a subconsultant with Metrocology, Inc., to identify multi-modal and streetscape designs and strategies to improve the corridor via transportation and streetscape strategies that encourage placemaking and economic development. The team studied the current corridor design, considered street design changes and zoning and land use changes deemed necessary to fulfill Municipal goals and priorities.



The study classified recommendations to improve Wilkinson Boulevard into three categories: **Management, Policy and Design**. Management recommendations address upgrades to traffic signalization, operations and police and fire rescue incident management protocols. Policy recommendations address improving Corridor functionality including parallel and alternate streets, upgrades to I-85 access, signage and land-use.

For example, the combined Commerce Park [gold], Belmont Abbey College [blue] and Corporate Office Park [red] could become the “business address” for eastern Gaston County

Design recommendations address physical changes to Wilkinson Boulevard, including lane widths, landscape enhancements, pedestrian and bicycling improvements, driveway cuts and intersection rebuilding

HPE participated in workshops and provided implementable strategies to improve the mobility and access for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians traveling the corridor. These strategies helped in determining the best cross-sections, serving all modes of transportation. HPE provided street cross-sections and generalized plan views along the corridor, with HPE Walkability Index scores for each compact urban block, to indicate potential for pedestrians and cyclist travel. HPE recommended improvements to the intersections for Market Street/Wesleyan Drive, Main Street, and Park Street to balance mobility for all travel modes, thus increasing livability and total transportation capacity. The North Carolina Chapter APA has issued the Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award to the Wilkinson “Build-a-Better Boulevard”.

