

# News

## Beltline Expansion Behind Schedule

By Sarah Kiser, Editor-in-Chief

In August of 2017, the Meredith College community was informed that the North Carolina Department of Transportation was planning to take up to 19 acres of its land that borders on the beltway where there is currently a sports field, foliage, and the Raleigh greenway. *The Meredith Herald* spoke with NCDOT employee John Williams to cover the issue in that same month. The NCDOT informed the public that a decision on a design-build construction design would be made by February about what to do at Wade Avenue. Months passed and no one heard anything. Meredith students left in the spring expecting to return to wonderland to find it torn and trampled by bulldozers. This was not the case. The same grassy field and line of ancient trees waves in the wind as before.

That means either something or nothing occurred which protected Meredith's land for the time being. Representatives of the College, students, and alumnae raised concerns to the NCDOT that the land they intend to take is the only land Meredith has left for future expansion since this is not the first time the State of North Carolina has closed in on the College's property.

While documents distributed by the NCDOT in August of 2017 read that the Final Environmental Document was anticipated to be published in Nov. 2017, the NCDOT's website says, as of Sept. 25 2018, that the document was finalized in May 2018.

Sean Williams, a public relations officer for the NCDOT, was not sure why the environmental document was finished later than expected. Williams said that since August of 2017, "the division has been filing requests for proposals." After three rounds, there are 4 shortlisted teams: Archer Western Construction, LLC, Granite Construction Company, S.T. Wooten-Zachary Design-Build Team, and The Lane Construction Corporation.

On Oct. 2, the division will open price proposals "with award coming soon after" according to Williams, meaning that a bidder will be picked and the project can move forward. Then the amount of land to be taken from Meredith College's property will be determined.

After that date, the public may hear more news. Right of way acquisition and construction under design-build contract are both planned to occur sometime this year.

## Sizzlin' September

By Abigail Ojeda, Feature

Do you want to meet up with friends that you didn't see over the summer, or get to know other Meredith students? Save time for the Meredith Sizzlin' September Street Fest that has been rescheduled for Oct. 12, from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m in the chapel parking lot.

The best part about this weekend plan is that it's completely free, and there will be live music, food trucks, carnival games, activity booths, and giveaways. Students can sign up for free meal vouchers to choose from one of four food trucks (check your emails in the coming days for the link).

Emily Berrier, '19, said that Sizzlin' September has been a way for her to spend time with old friends while reconnecting with people she

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