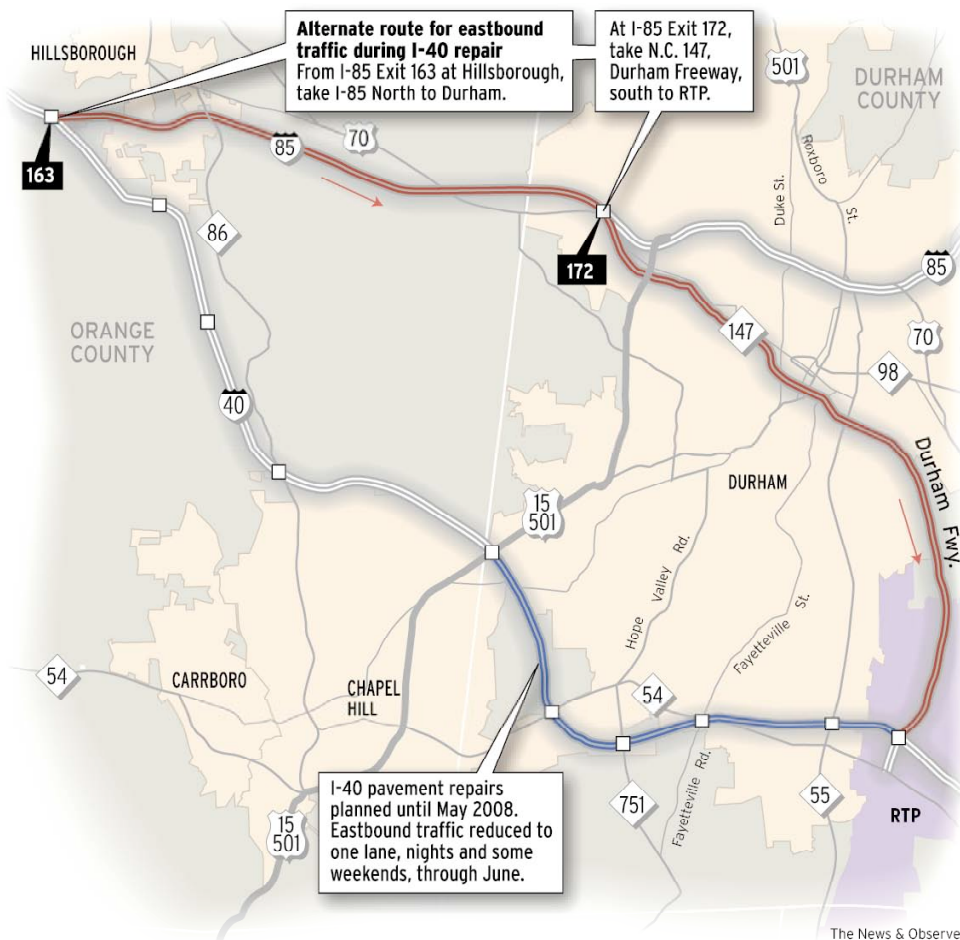


I-40 construction detour

Detour for I-40 eastbound when work is between U.S. 15-501 and N.C. 751. Take I-85 from Hillsborough nine miles to Durham, then N.C. 147 south for 13 miles to I-40 in Research Triangle Park (22 miles).



DETAILED DIRECTIONS:

1. At Exit 163 on I-85 / I-40 going toward the Triangle near Hillsborough, I-40 splits off in the 2 right lanes. Stay on I-85, in the 3 left lanes.
 2. Drive I-85 for 9 miles to Exit 172 (N.C. 147 south) in Durham.
 3. Drive N.C. 147 south for 13 miles to Exit 5 (I-40) in RTP.
 4. Stay in the left lane of N.C. 147 to take I-40 east toward Davis Drive, I-540, RDU and Raleigh.
- Stay in the right lane of N.C. 147 to take I-40 west toward N.C. 55, southern Durham and The Streets at Southpoint.

NOTES:

This is a fast, all-freeway, no-stoplight alternative for through-traffic any time — even when I-40 is free of construction delays. The next time you drive between Raleigh and Greensboro or Charlotte, try N.C. 147 and I-85 instead of I-40. It is 22 miles (only 1 mile longer than I-40). It took me 22 minutes when I drove the speed limit on an average morning. Your drive time may vary. Unfortunately, it is a bit out of the way if your travel plans do not include I-40 west of Chapel Hill.

More convenient shortcuts may be available, using such two- and four-lane roads as N.C. 86, N.C. 54, N.C. 751, U.S. 64, Fayetteville Road and N.C. 55. That depends on exactly when and where you're traveling, where the construction work takes place, and which exits are blocked by backed-up traffic. These side roads can handle only a fraction of I-40's usual traffic load. But they may be worth a try late at night.

Should you take the I-85 / N.C. 147 detour? Even if it is miles out of the way, it should be faster than sitting through a 30-minute backup on I-40.

- Bruce Siceloff