Welcome To The

I-26 Connector Project Pre-Hearing Open House and Corridor Public Hearing

Pre-Hearing Open House: 4-6:30PM

Public Hearing: 7PM

Please Sign-In

- ✓ Let Us Know You Attended Tonight
- ✓ Pickup Handouts
- ✓ Watch Presentation about Project
- ✓ Review the Project Information
- ✓ Ask Questions
- ✓ Provide Your Comments

Spanish Interpreter

Se Habla Español

Si Usted desea tener un intérprete para esta reunión, por favor pregunte a un miembro del equipo del proyecto.

PROJECT PRESENTATION

- ✓ Please watch the video to learn about the project
- ✓ Note that this video will repeat

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Purpose and Need

Project Purposes:

- To **upgrade the Interstate corridor** from I-26 south of Asheville through the US 19-23 interchange to meet design standards for the Interstate system
- To **provide a link in the transportation system** connecting a direct, multi-lane freeway facility meeting interstate standards from the Port of Charleston, South Carolina, to I-81 near Kingsport, Tennessee
- To **improve the capacity** of existing I-240 west of Asheville to accommodate the existing and forecasted (2033 design year) traffic in this growing area
- To **reduce traffic delays and congestion** along the I-240 crossing of the French Broad River, which currently operates at capacity*
- To **increase the remaining useful service** of the existing Captain Jeff Bowen Bridges by substantially reducing the volume of traffic on this vital crossing of the French Broad River

Project Needs:

- **System Linkage**

  A better transportation facility is needed to connect US 19-23 north of Asheville with I-26 south of Asheville.

- **Capacity ***

  I-240 needs additional capacity because increasing traffic volumes have substantially reduced the Level of Service on I-240 west of Asheville.

- **Roadway Deficiencies**

  Interstates within the study area have roadway deficiencies and need to be upgraded to meet current design standards. Multiple segments of I-240 west of Asheville currently have an accident rate that exceeds the critical crash rate for similar North Carolina facilities.

*Capacity = In terms of a highway, capacity is the ability of a road to accommodate traffic volume.
Level of Service = A qualitative measure used to relate the quality of traffic operations on a scale of A (free-flow and low traffic density) to F (breakdown of traffic flow with traffic volumes greater than the road's capacity)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA · DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Project History

1989
I-26 First Added To State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

1995
Engineering & Environmental Studies Begin Alternatives 1, 2, 3

1997
Alternatives 4 & 5 Developed

1998
Alternative 1 Eliminated

2004
1-25/1-40/1-240 Interchange Added To Project

2007
Alternative 5 Eliminated

2008
Draft Environmental Impact Statement Submitted

2009
Alternative 4B Developed

Alternative 2 Eliminated

2010
Project Placed On Hold

March 2013
Alternative 3C Developed

May 2014
Public Meeting

June 2015
STIP Approved

October 2015
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

November 2015
Corridor Public Hearing

Spring 2016
Preferred Alternative

Summer 2017
Record of Decision (ROD)

Spring 2017
Final Environmental Impact Statement

2019
Right-Of-Way (ROW) Acquisition (Section C)

After 2020
Construction Phase

1990 2000 2008 2009 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

NEPA Study Process

Opportunities for public input throughout process.

Identify Purpose of and Need for Project

Collect Data on Project Study Area

Analyze Preliminary Alternatives

Select Detailed Study Alternatives

Evaluate Impacts of Detailed Study Alternatives

Publish Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Select Preferred Alternative

Publish Final Environmental Impact Statement

Issue Record of Decision

Purchase Right of Way

Construct Project

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Next Steps

1 SUBMIT COMMENTS

In-Person

By Mail

By Phone

Online

See Comment Form for all comment submittal options and deadlines.

2 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO BE SELECTED

The comments received on the DEIS and Public Hearing will be evaluated by the project team and considered in the selection of the Preferred Alternative.

3 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Justification for the selection of the Preferred Alternative will be documented. Additionally, designs for the Preferred Alternative will be refined based on updated traffic projections. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the project will be updated based upon the refined design for the Preferred Alternative , and summarized in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.ncdot.gov/projects/I26Connector

CONTACT NCDOT

Mr. Drew Joyner, PE
Human Environment Section
1-800-233-6315
djoyner@ncdot.gov

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

NEPA Study Process

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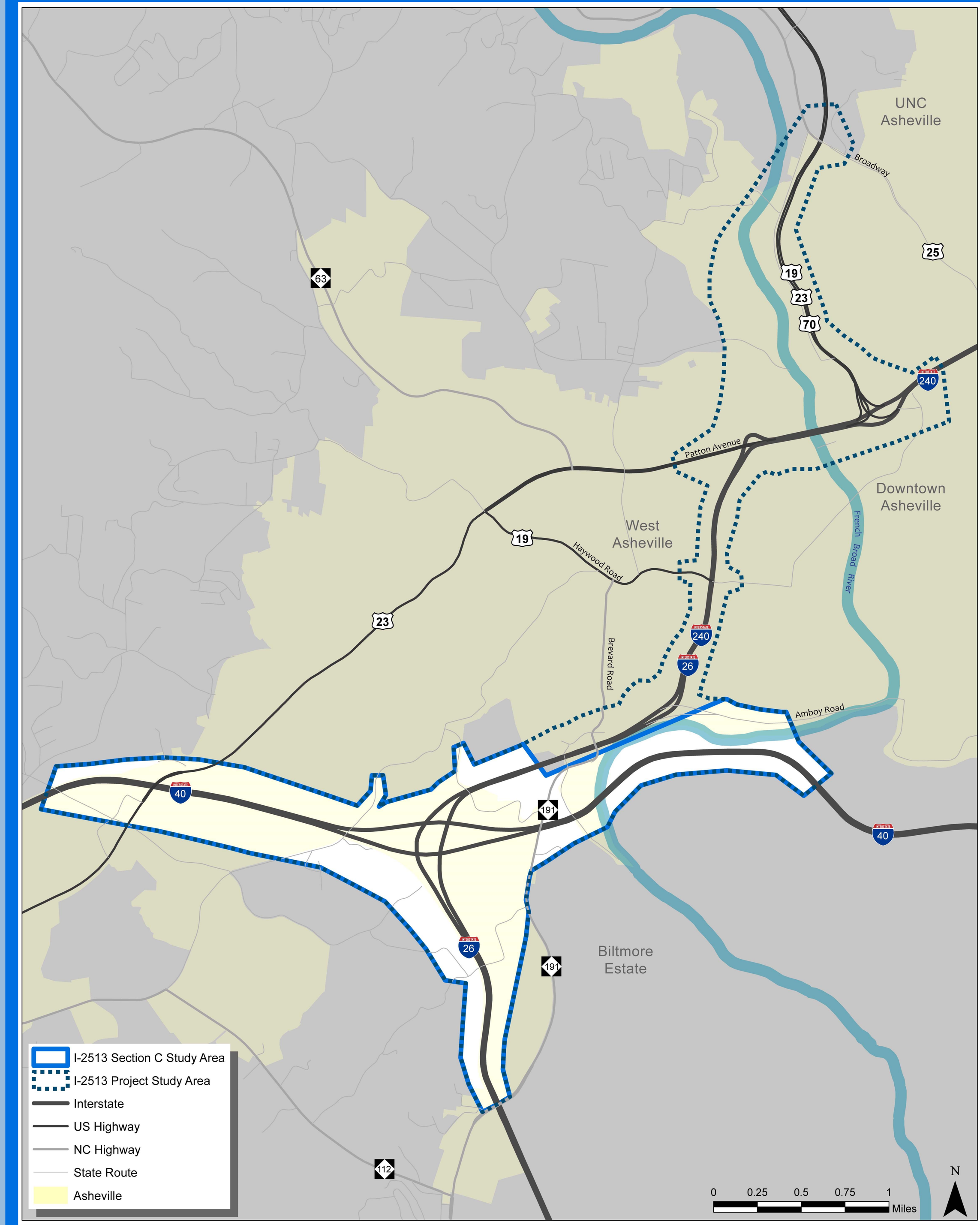
Construct Project

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Section C

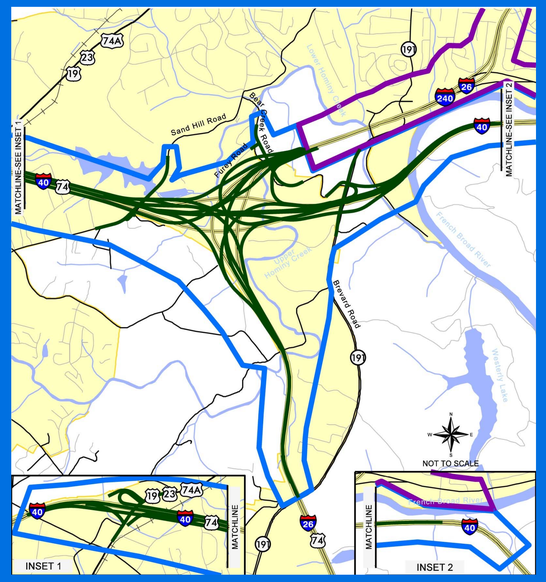


I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

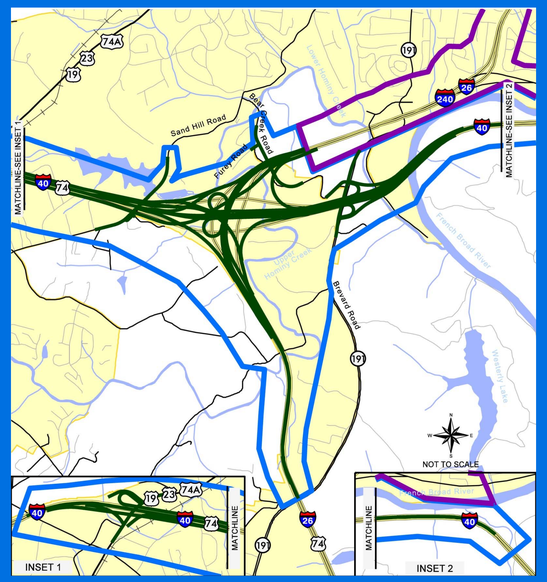
Section C – New Location Alternatives

Alternative A-2



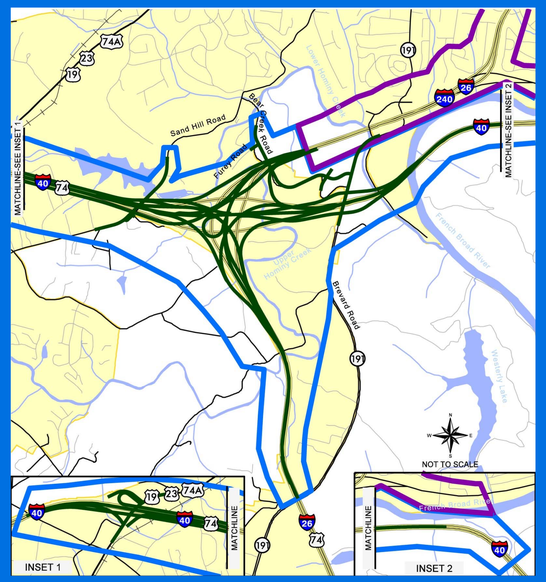
Provides direct flyover ramps for all movements at the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange.

Alternative C-2



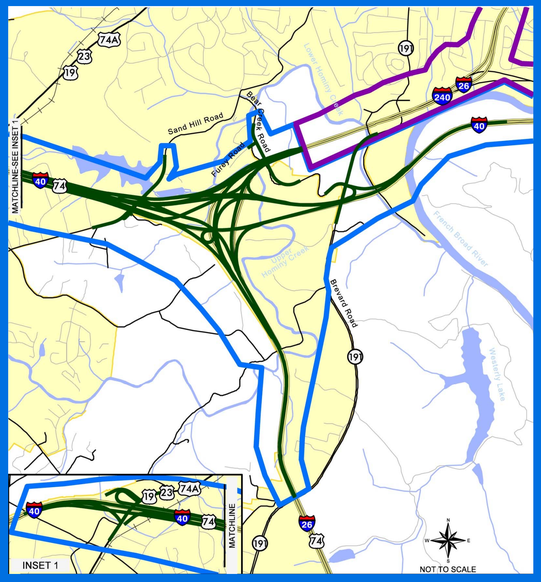
Provides two flyover ramps and two loop ramps at the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange along with collector-distributor roadways in both directions along I-40 and in the eastbound direction along I-26.

Alternative D-1



Provides three flyover ramps and one loop ramp at the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange.

Alternative F-1



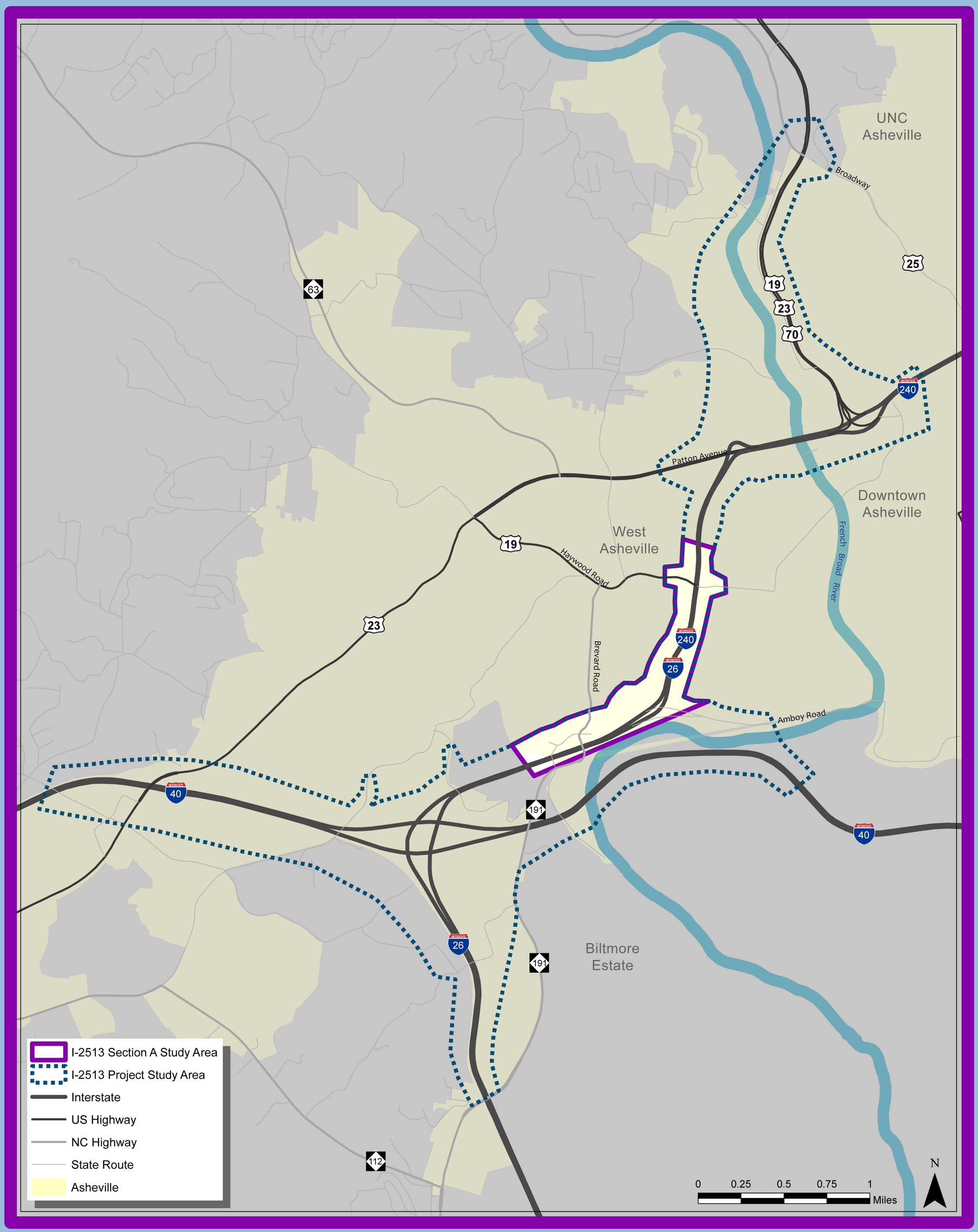
Reconstructs the existing I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange in the same general configuration as today but with the addition of two missing connections to I-40.

Section C includes improvements to the I-26 / I-240 interchange with I-40 and the Brevard Road and Smokey Park Highway interchanges.

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Section A

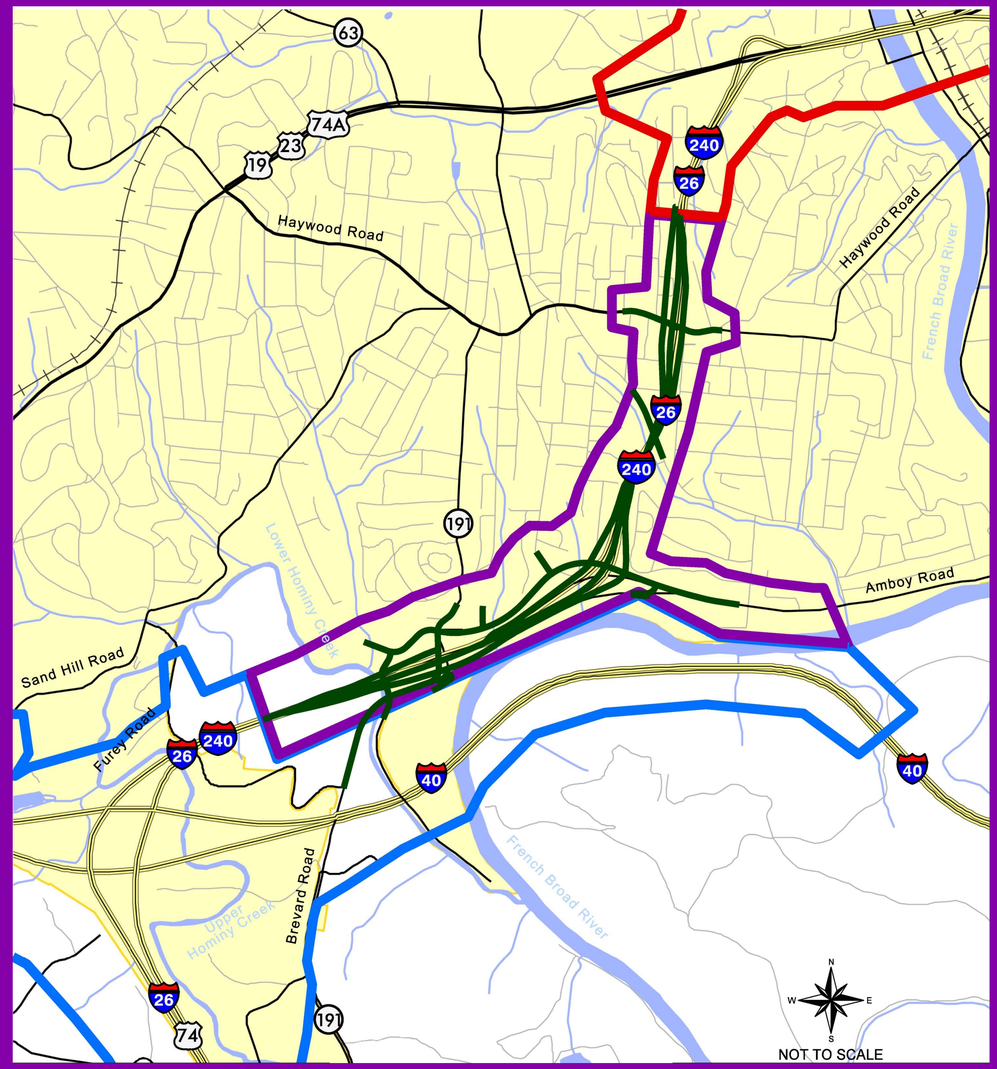


I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Section A – Upgrade Existing Roadway Alternative

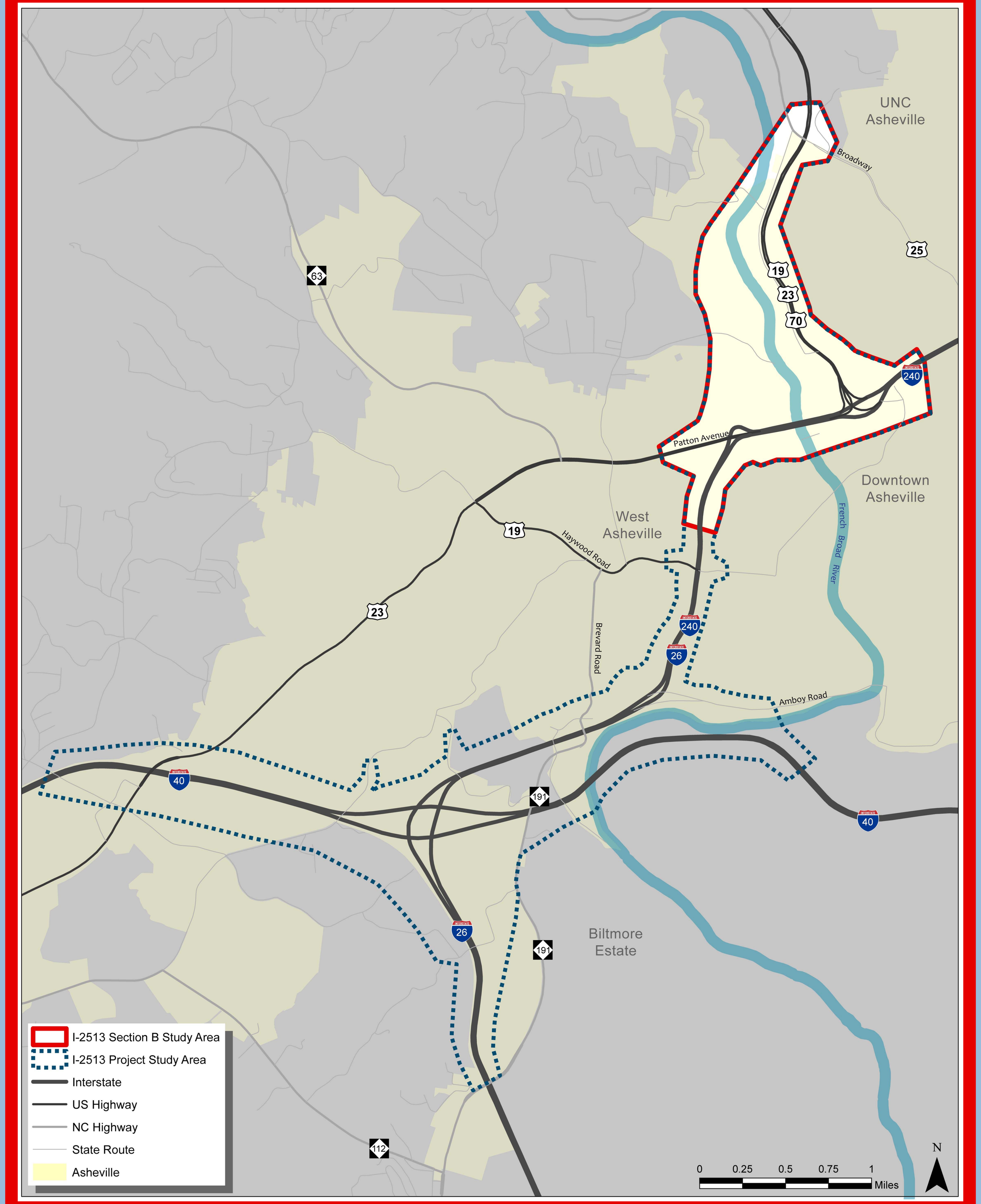
Section A includes upgrading approximately 4.3 miles of existing I-240 from the I-26/I-240 interchange with I-40 to the I-240 interchange with Patton Avenue, west of the French Broad River. This includes upgrades to the Brevard Road, Amboy Road, and Haywood Road interchanges.



I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Section B

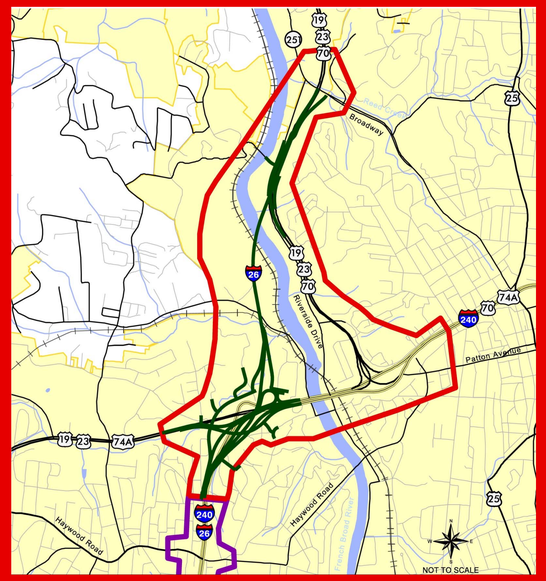


I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

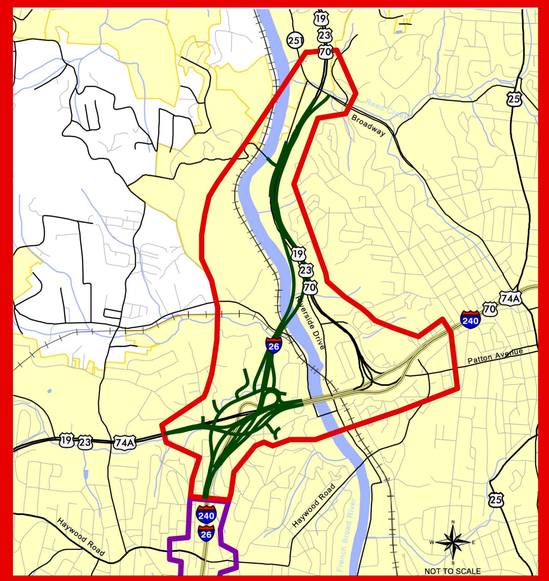
Section B – New Location Alternatives

Alternative 3



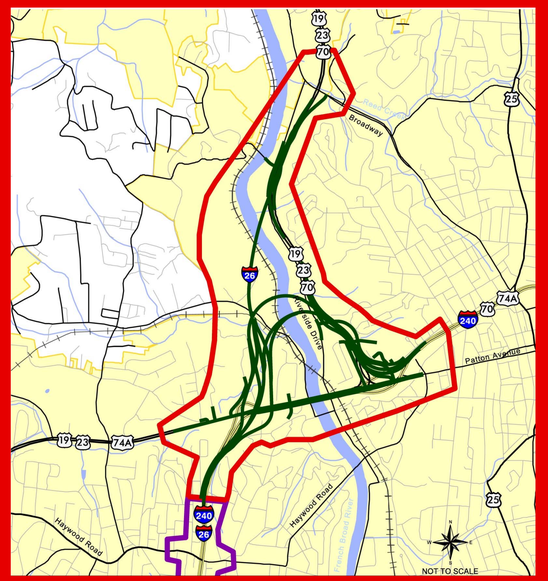
Separates I-240 and I-26, with I-26 running north along a new alignment and I-240 continuing over the Captain Jeff Bowen Bridges as it does currently.

Alternative 3C



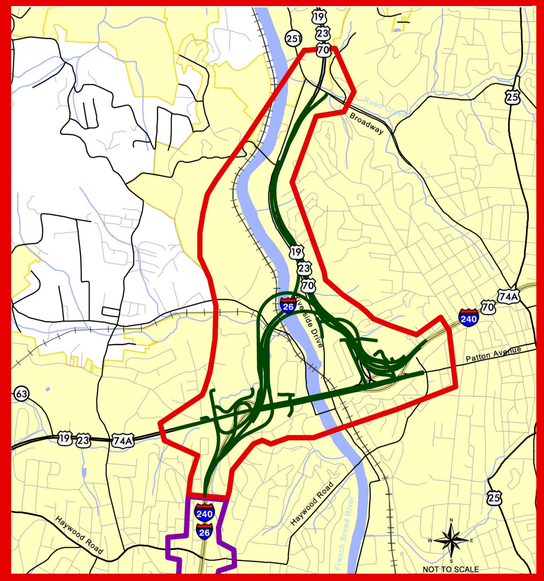
Follows the same alignment as Alternative 3, but crosses the French Broad River on two bridges further south.

Alternative 4



Separates the local traffic on Patton Avenue from the I-240 through traffic, but otherwise follows a similar route as Alternative 3.

Alternative 4B

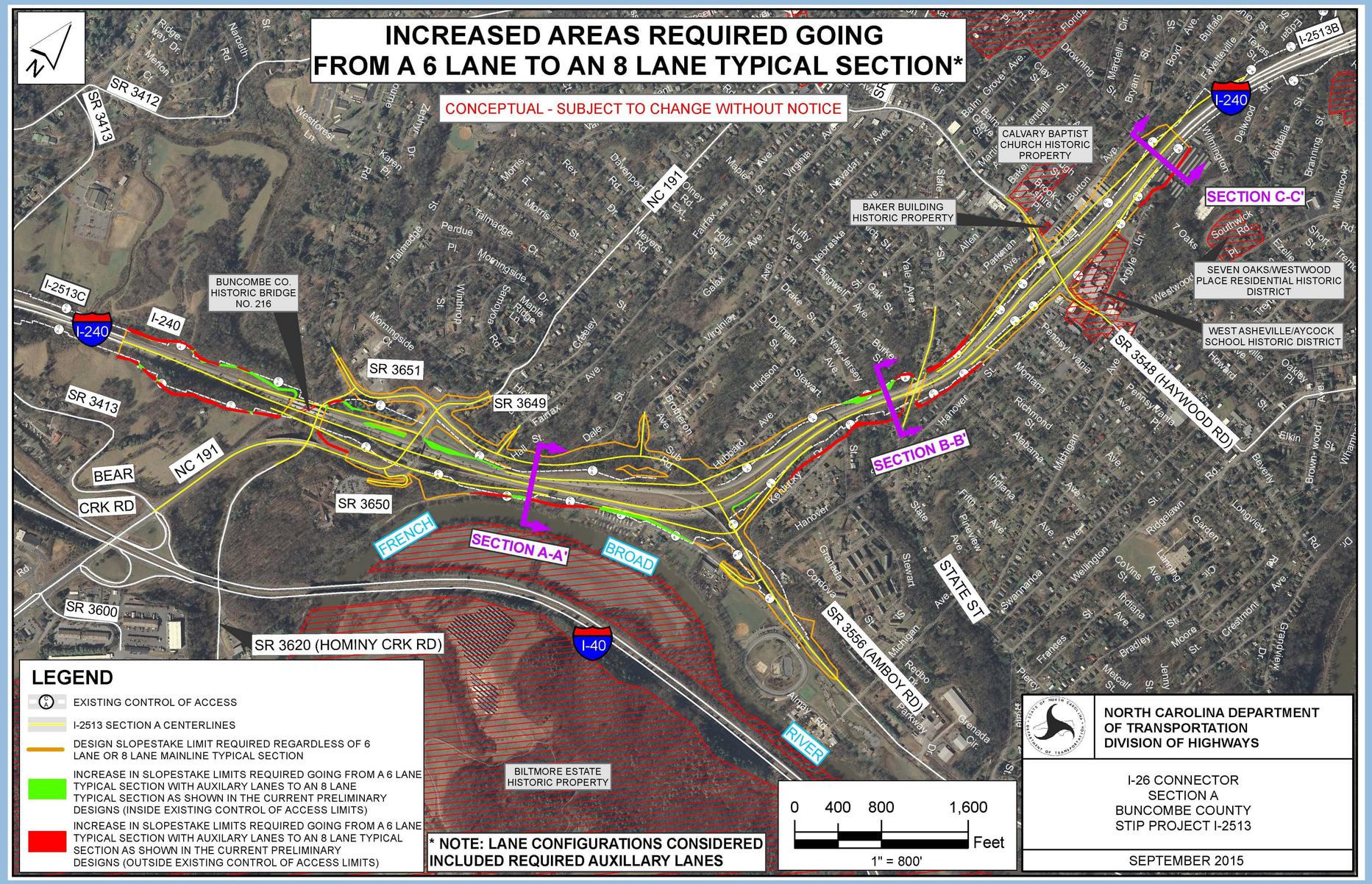


Also separates the local traffic on Patton Avenue from the I-240 through traffic, otherwise following a similar route as alternative 3C.

Section B includes the construction of the interstate on new location from the Patton Avenue interchange north for approximately 2.6 miles across the French Broad River, tying into US 19 / 23 / 70 south of Broadway (SR 1781).

Construction Phasing Concepts

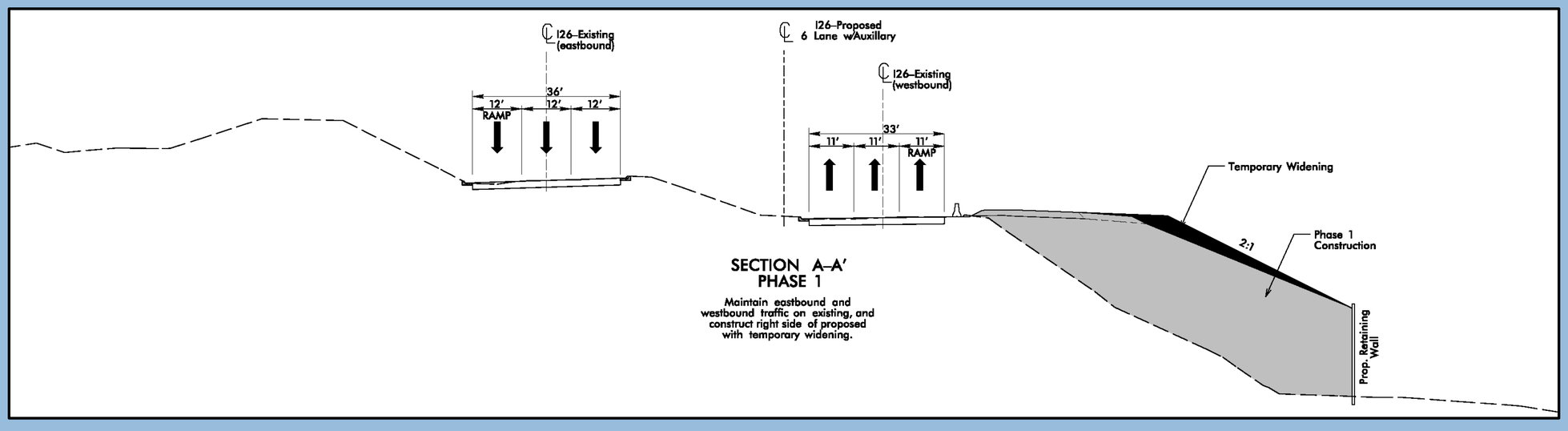
Construction Phasing Concepts Overview



I-26 CONNECTOR
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

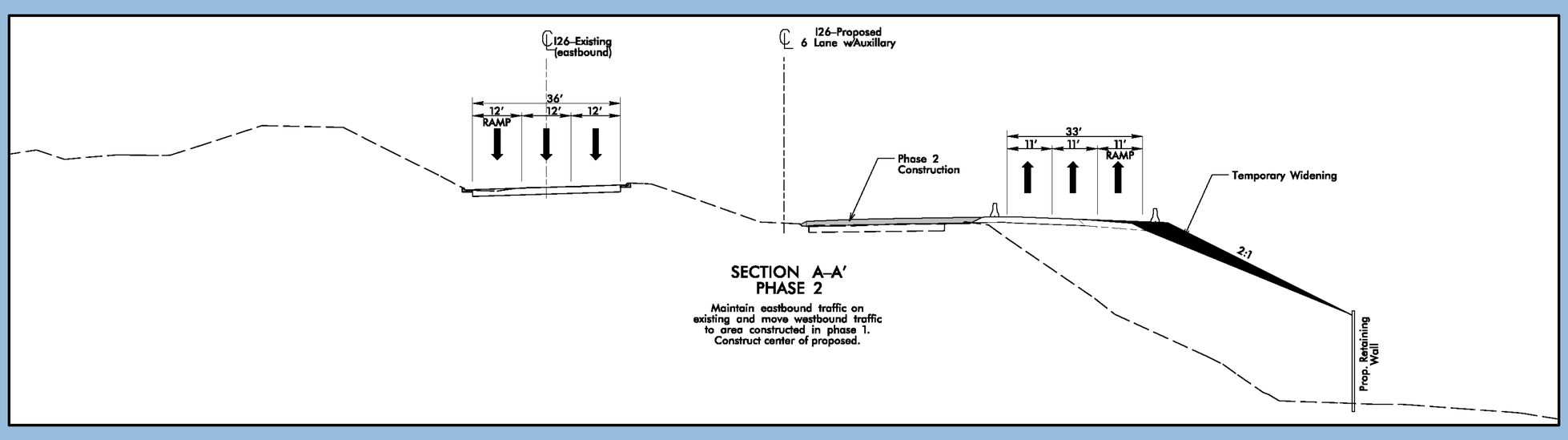
Construction Phasing Concepts

Section A-A
(Between Brevard Road and Amboy Road)



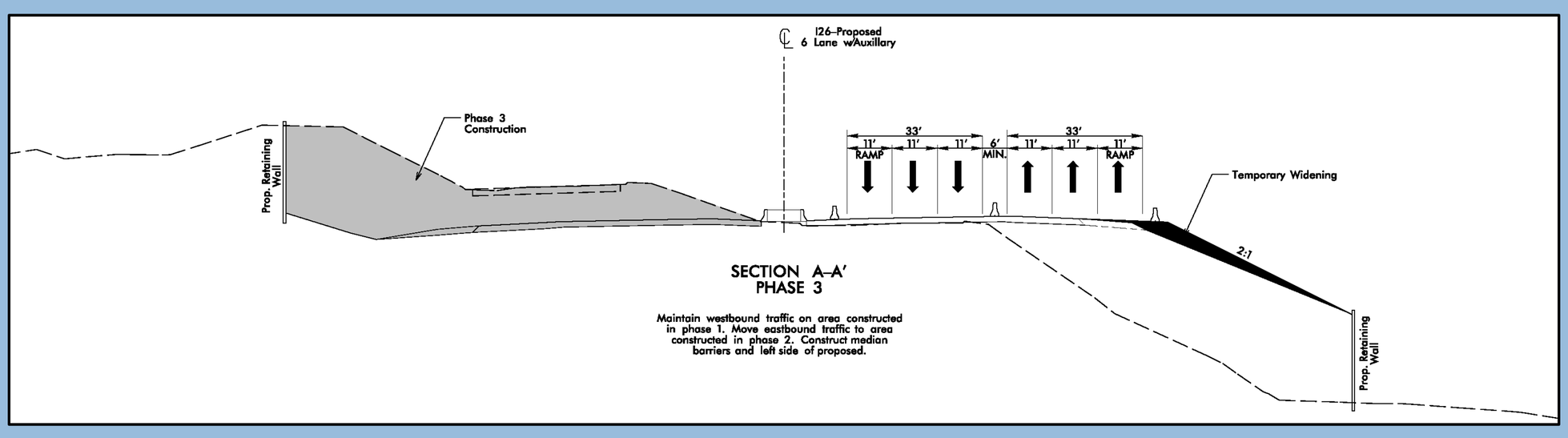
SECTION A–A'
PHASE 1

Maintain eastbound and westbound traffic on existing, and construct right side of proposed with temporary widening.



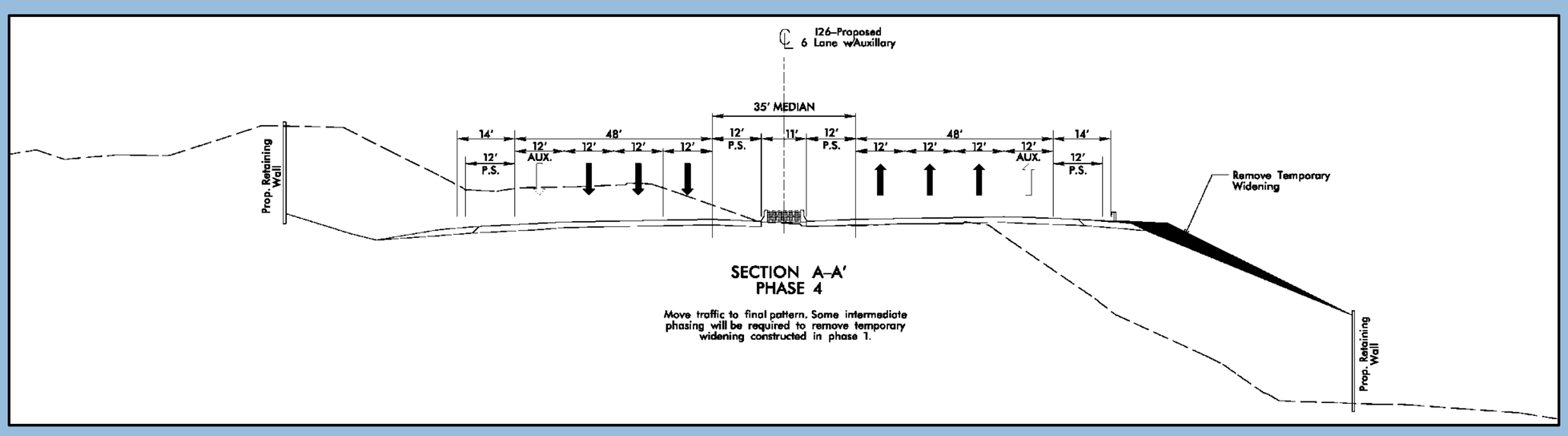
SECTION A–A'
PHASE 2

Maintain eastbound traffic on existing and move westbound traffic to area constructed in phase 1. Construct center of proposed.



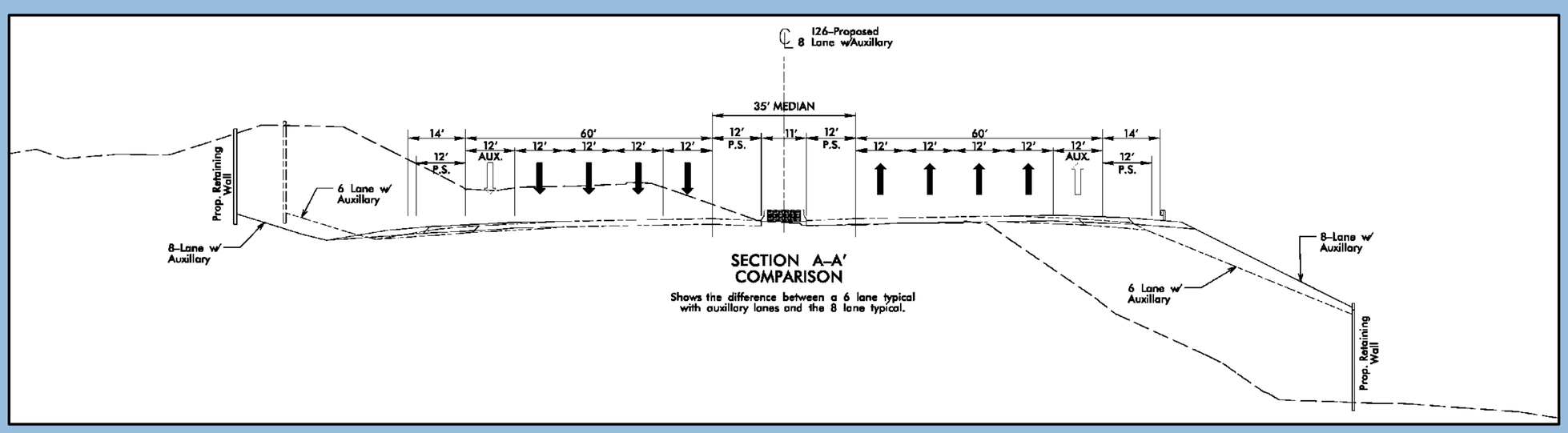
SECTION A–A'
PHASE 3

Maintain westbound traffic on area constructed in phase 1. Move eastbound traffic to area constructed in phase 2. Construct median barriers and left side of proposed.



SECTION A–A'
PHASE 4

Move traffic to final pattern. Some intermediate phasing will be required to remove temporary widening constructed in phase 1.



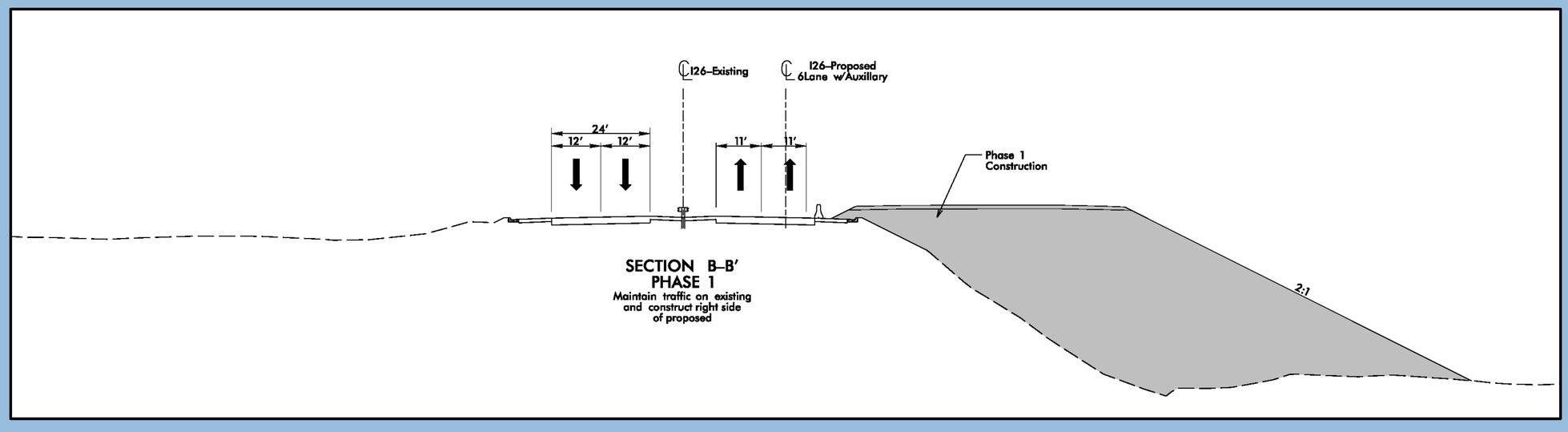
SECTION A–A'
COMPARISON

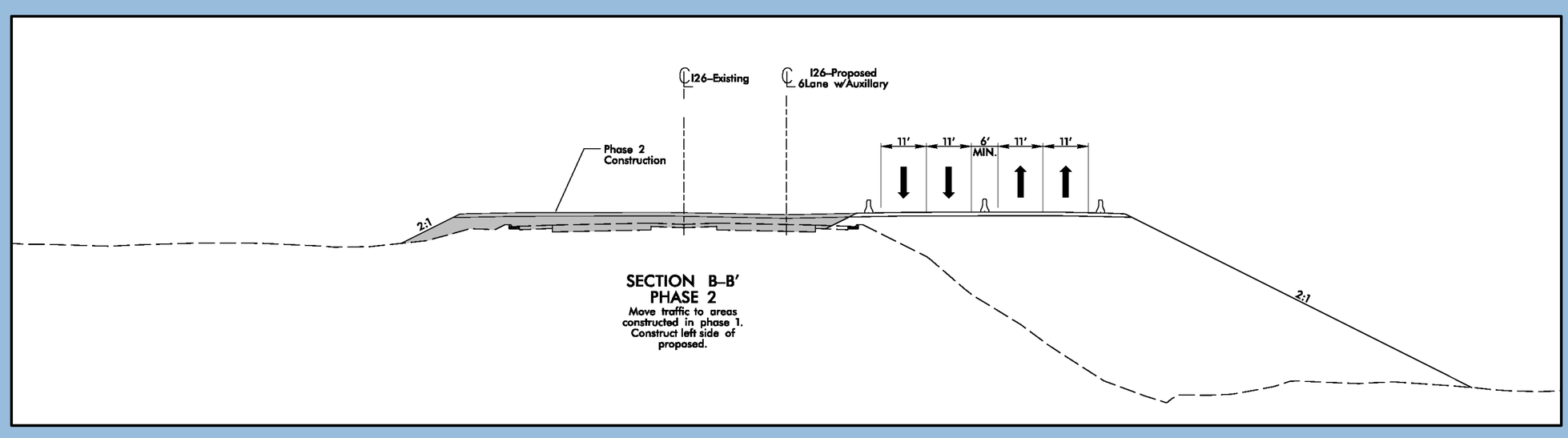
Shows the difference between a 6 lane typical with auxillary lanes and the 8 lane typical.

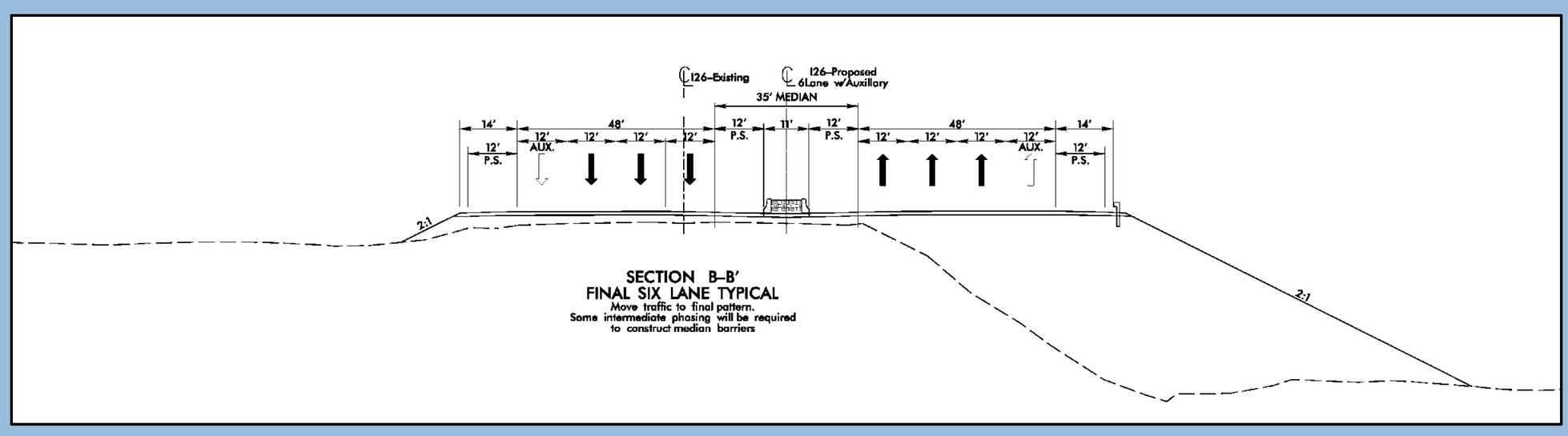
I-26 CONNECTOR
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

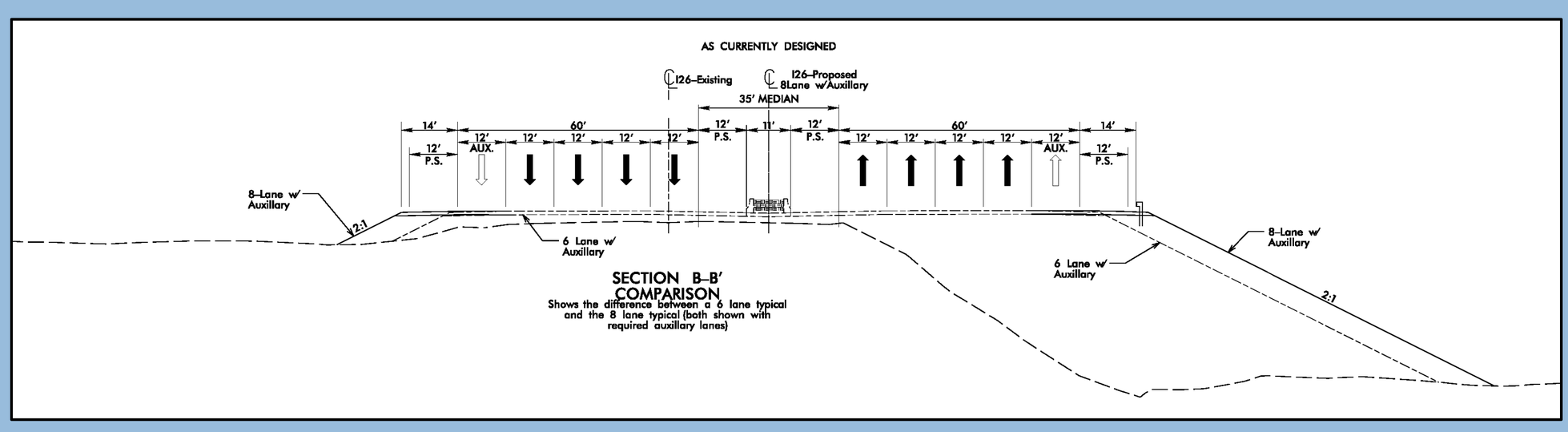
Construction Phasing Concepts

Section B-B
(South of Bridge over State Street)





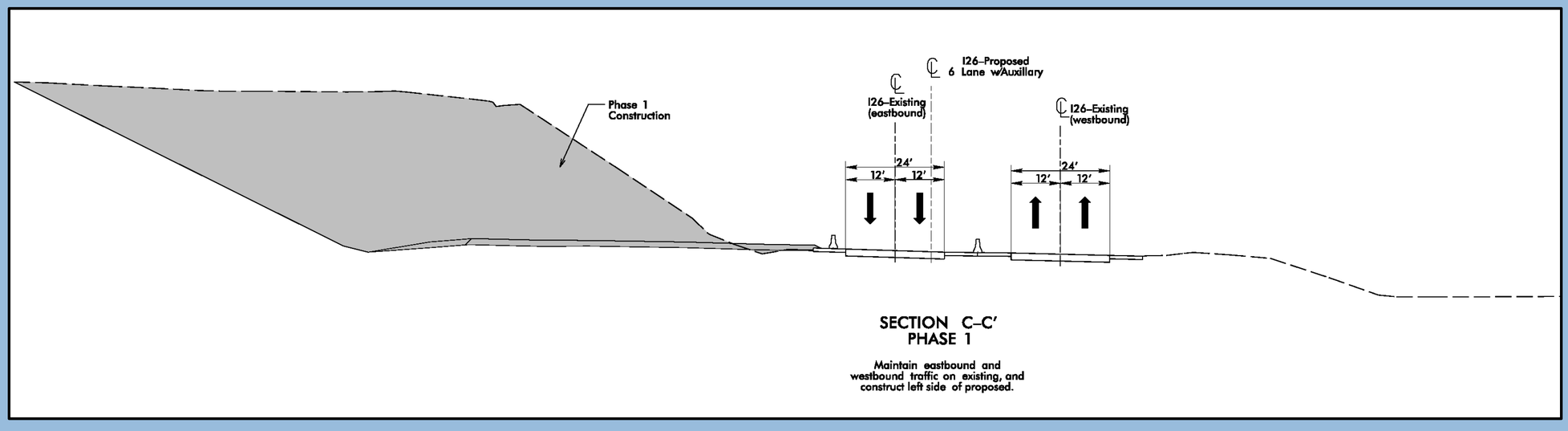




I-26 CONNECTOR
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

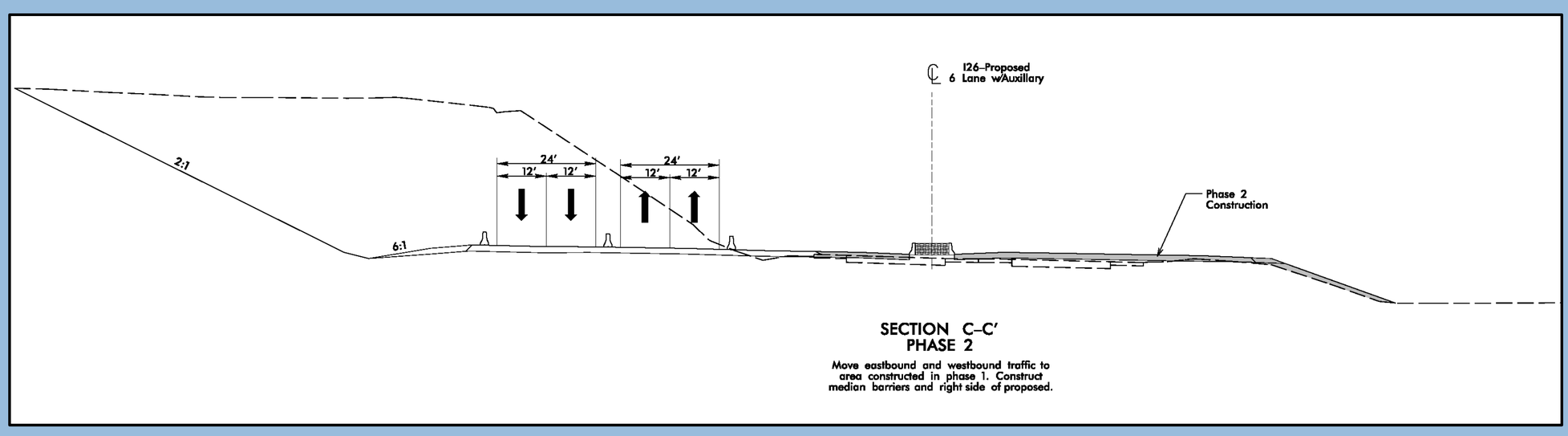
Construction Phasing Concepts

Section C-C
(North of Haywood Road Interchange)



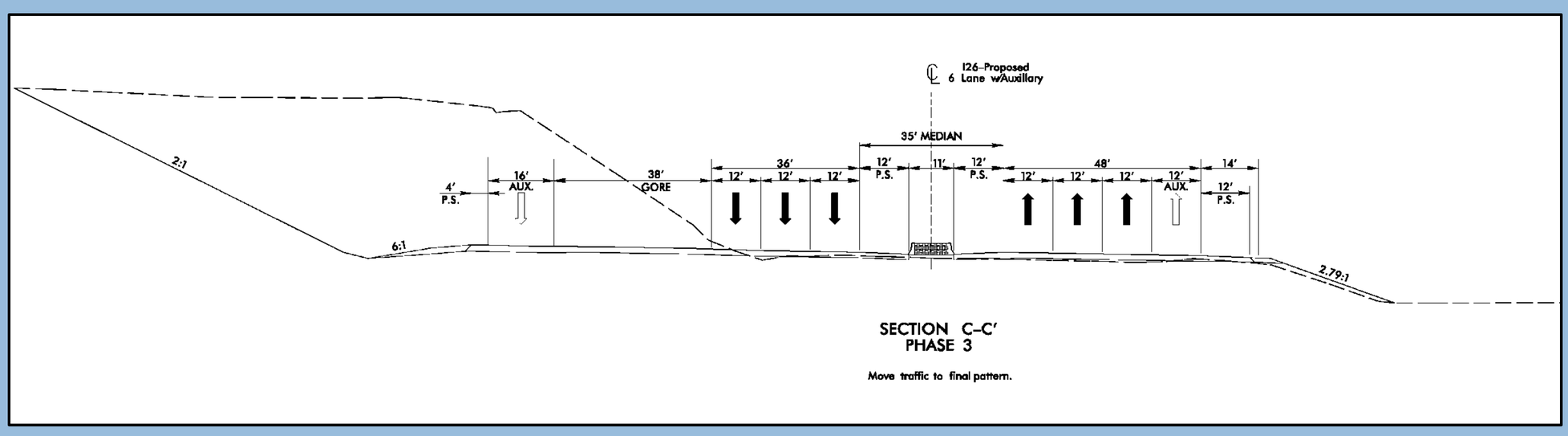
SECTION C–C′
PHASE 1

Maintain eastbound and westbound traffic on existing, and construct left side of proposed.



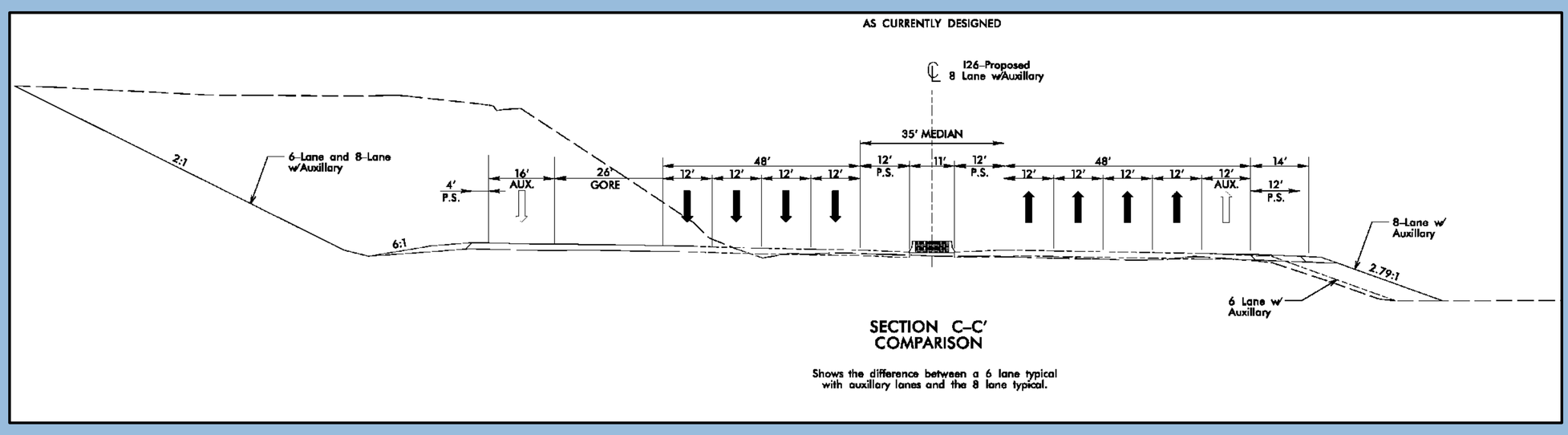
SECTION C–C′
PHASE 2

Move eastbound and westbound traffic to area constructed in phase 1. Construct median barriers and right side of proposed.



SECTION C–C′
PHASE 3

Move traffic to final pattern.



SECTION C–C′
COMPARISON

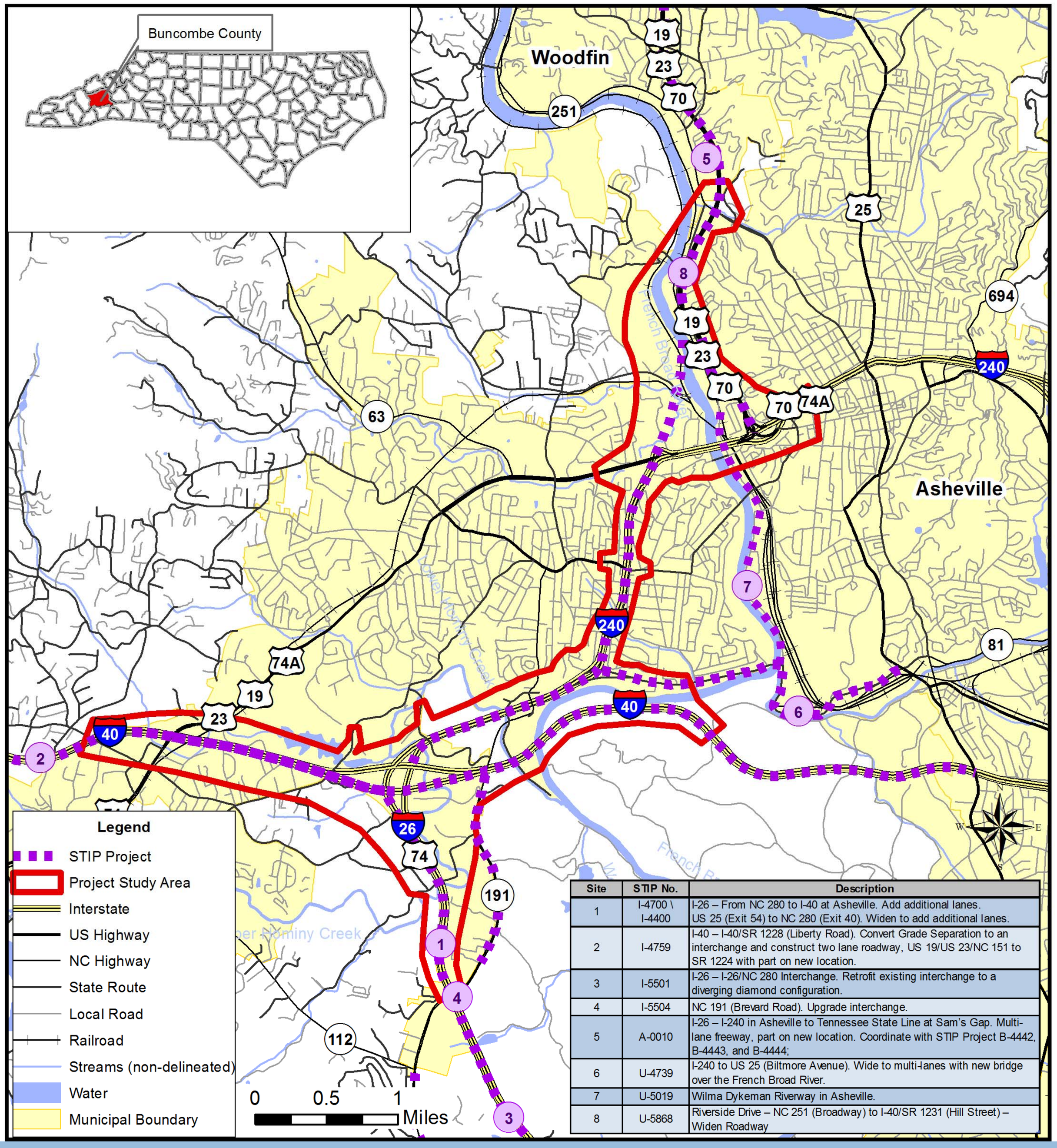
Shows the difference between a 6 lane typical with auxillary lanes and the 8 lane typical.

Regional Projects

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

STIP Projects in Vicinity



Site	STIP No.	Description
1	I-4700 \ I-4400	I-26 – From NC 280 to I-40 at Asheville. Add additional lanes. US 25 (Exit 54) to NC 280 (Exit 40). Widen to add additional lanes.
2	I-4759	I-40 – I-40/SR 1228 (Liberty Road). Convert Grade Separation to an interchange and construct two lane roadway, US 19/US 23/NC 151 to SR 1224 with part on new location.
3	I-5501	I-26 – I-26/NC 280 Interchange. Retrofit existing interchange to a diverging diamond configuration.
4	I-5504	NC 191 (Brevard Road). Upgrade interchange.
5	A-0010	I-26 – I-240 in Asheville to Tennessee State Line at Sam's Gap. Multi-lane freeway, part on new location. Coordinate with STIP Project B-4442, B-4443, and B-4444;
6	U-4739	I-240 to US 25 (Biltmore Avenue). Wide to multi-lanes with new bridge over the French Broad River.
7	U-5019	Wilma Dykeman Riverway in Asheville.
8	U-5868	Riverside Drive – NC 251 (Broadway) to I-40/SR 1231 (Hill Street) – Widen Roadway

Transit

&

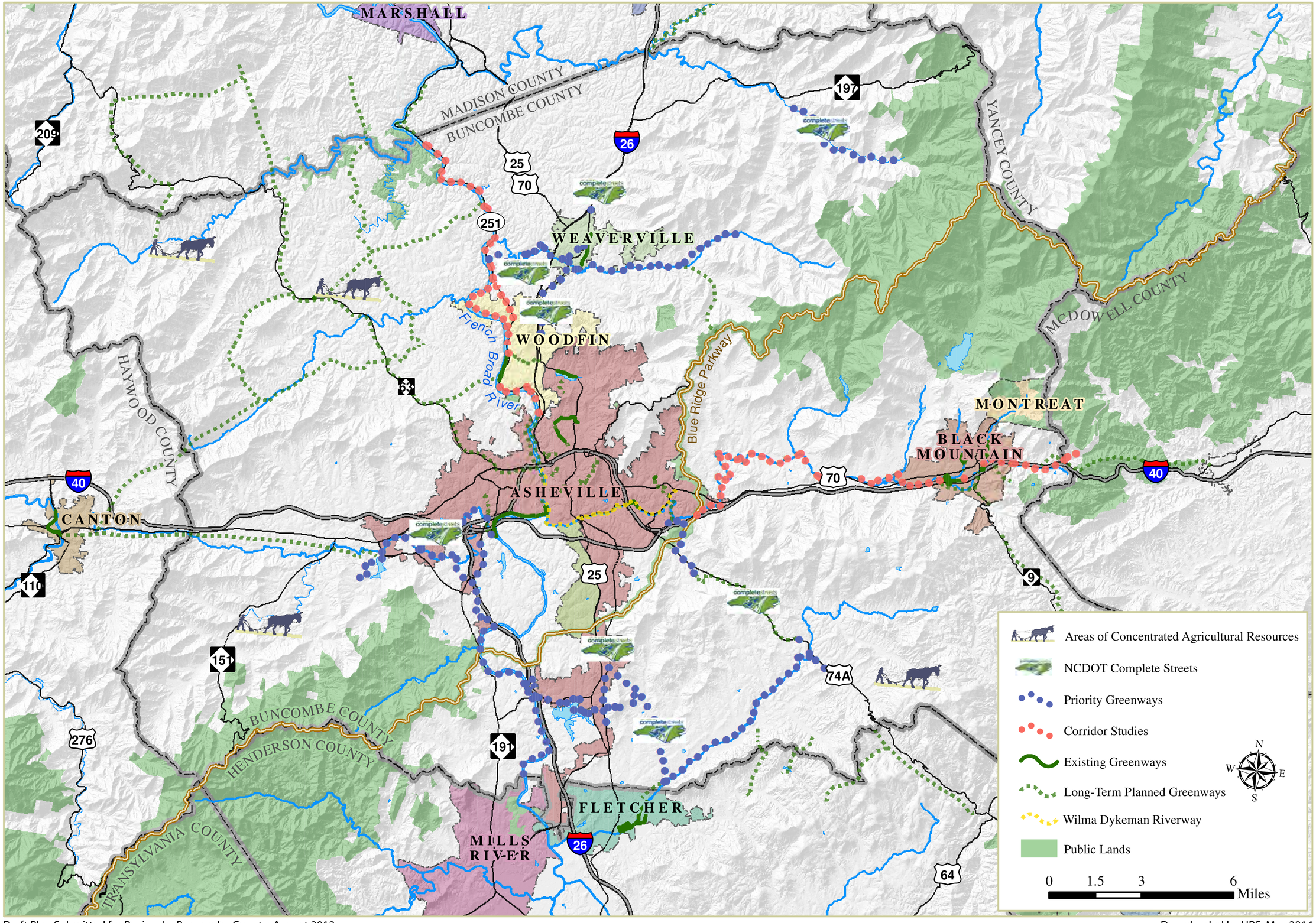
Bicycle and

Pedestrian

Accommodations in and around the project

Buncombe County Greenways Overview

DRAFT



Draft Plan Submitted for Review by Buncombe County: August 2012

Downloaded by URS: May 2014

CITY OF ASHEVILLE MULTI-MODAL CORRIDORS
1. BEAUCATHER MOUNTAIN GREENWAY
2. BEAVERDAM CREEK GREENWAY
3. BENT CREEK GREENWAY
4. BEVERLY HILLS GREENWAY
5. CANIE CREEK GREENWAY
6. CLINGMAN FOREST GREENWAY
7. EMMA GREENWAY
8. FRENCH BROAD RIVER GREENWAY - EAST BANK
9. FRENCH BROAD RIVER GREENWAY - WEST BANK
10. GLENN'S CREEK GREENWAY
11. HAW CREEK GREENWAY
12. HOMINY CREEK GREENWAY
13. LAKE JULIAN GREENWAY
14. MONTFORD GREENWAY
15. REED CREEK GREENWAY
16. RHODODENDRON CREEK GREENWAY
17. SMITH-MILL CREEK GREENWAY
18. SWANNANOA RIVER GREENWAY
19. TOWN BRANCH GREENWAY
20. WEST ASHEVILLE GREENWAY
21. WEST ASHEVILLE RAILS-TO-TRAILS GREENWAY

GREENWAYS WITHIN CITY OF ASHEVILLE
GREENWAYS OUTSIDE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
ASHEVILLE CITY LIMITS
I-26 CONCEPTUAL PROJECT IMPACT AREA

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

CITY OF ASHEVILLE GREENWAY MASTER PLAN

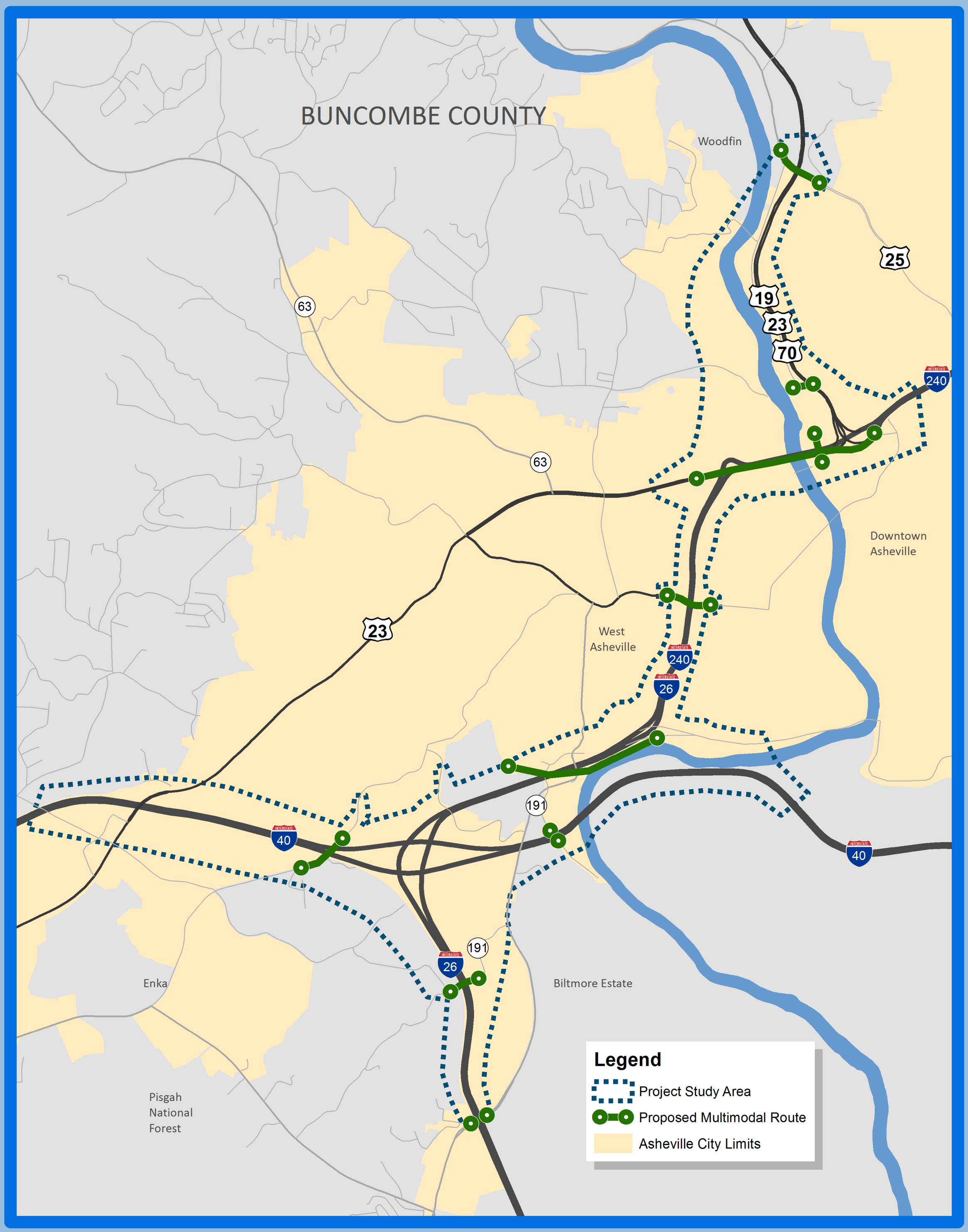
Adopted by City of Asheville: November 12, 2013

Downloaded by URS: April 1, 2014

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Multimodal Connectivity



This graphic presents locations of multimodal routes that will be studied in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Multimodal may include Greenways, Transit, Bicycle Improvements, or Sidewalks.

INTERSTATE 26 I-26 CONNECTOR 19 23

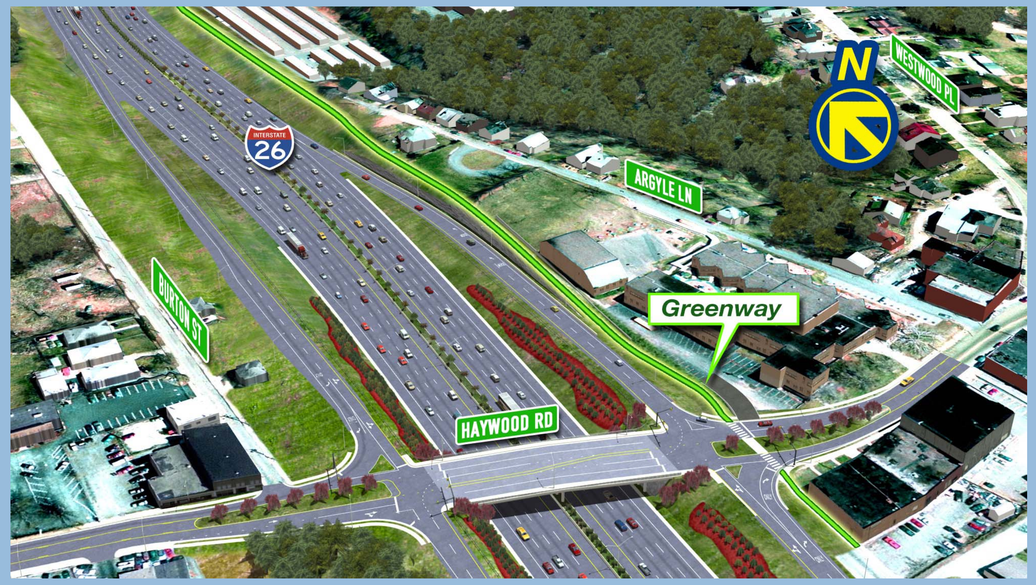
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

West Asheville Greenway Overview Map

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

INTERSTATE 26 I-26 CONNECTOR 19 23
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Proposed West Asheville Greenway



I-26 CONNECTOR
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

Conceptual Pedestrian Bridge

I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC

COMMENTS COLLECTED HERE

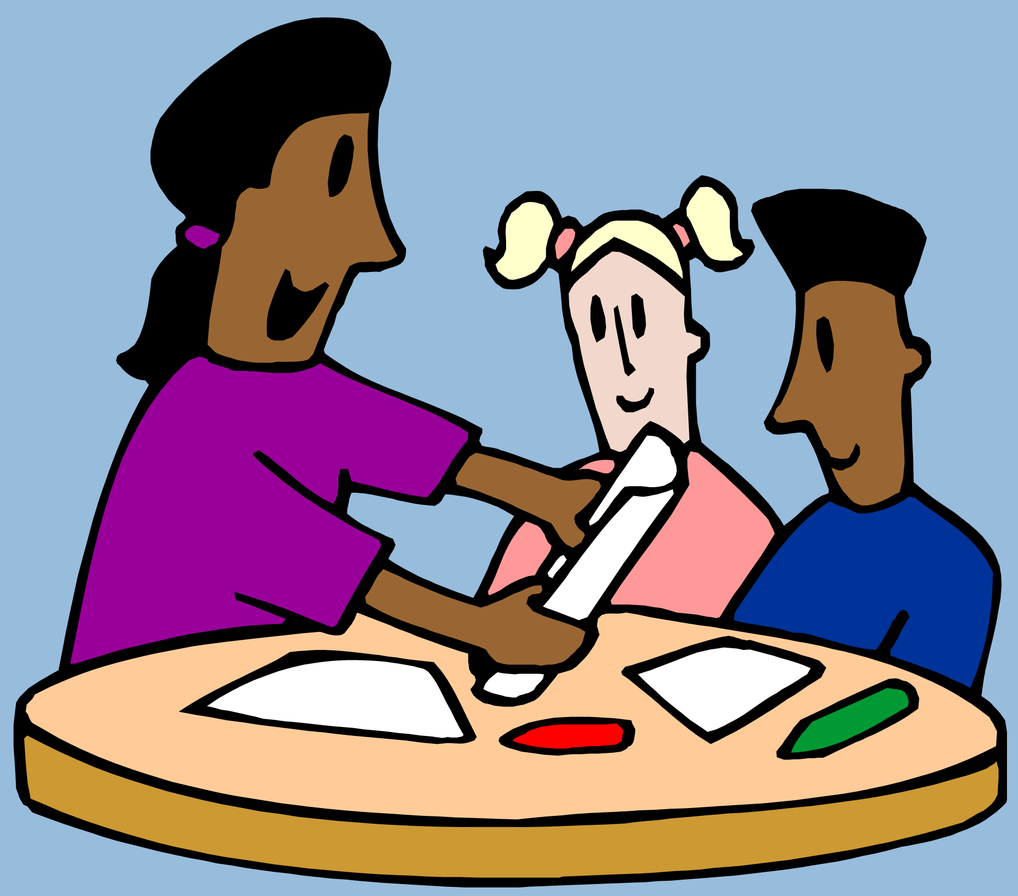
WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please Take a Moment to Fill Out a Comment Form.

Copies of the DEIS are available for your review.


INTERSTATE
26
I-26 CONNECTOR
BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC
19
23

Kid's Corner




STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Noise

and

Right of Way

Impact

Information

Map Printing

An assistant is available to help you print a map of anything you have seen today to take home.