



**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**

**NEWSLETTER ISSUE 13, NOVEMBER 2015
NCDOT STIP PROJECT NO. I-2513**

PUBLIC HEARING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015

PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSE: 4 P.M.—6:30 P.M.

FORMAL PRESENTATION: 7 P.M.

RENAISSANCE HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM

31 WOODFIN STREET, ASHEVILLE

NCDOT wants your input!

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) NCDOT prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the I-26 Connector Project. The DEIS is a federally required environmental document that describes the purpose and need for the project, identifies project alternatives, and evaluates them for potential environmental effects.

NCDOT representatives will be available between the hours of 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to answer questions and receive comments relative to the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will also be provided. Interested participants may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours.

A formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m. The presentation will consist of an explanation of the proposed corridor location, design, right of way, relocation requirements/procedures, and the state-federal relationship. The hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions and comments. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a transcript will be prepared. There are currently several alternatives under consideration and public input will be used in selecting an alternative.

For more information about the meeting please contact the NCDOT Public Involvement Officer, Mr. Drew Joyner, PE, at 1-800-233-6315.

Comments on the project will be accepted through December 16, 2015.

AVAILABLE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE:

- The full 2015 DEIS
- Video with an animated representation of the project
 - Detailed design maps
- Access to EngageNCDOT, an interactive public engagement tool
 - Details on a live webinar for the Public Hearing

<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i26connector/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The I-26 Connector Project is an interstate freeway project that is being proposed to connect I-26 in southwest Asheville to US 19-23-70 in northwest Asheville. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has programmed this project to upgrade and widen I-240 from I-40 to Patton Avenue, and then proceed northward from Patton Avenue on new location across the French Broad River and connect to US 19-23-70 just south of Exit 25 (Riverside Drive – Broadway – UNC-Asheville). Upon completion, this project will be part of the I-26 Interstate that extends from Charleston, South Carolina, to Kingsport, Tennessee.

The proposed I-26 Connector in Asheville is approximately 7 miles long from the I-40 interchange to Broadway. The project includes three sections:

Section C

Improvements to the I-26/I-240 interchange with I-40 and the Brevard Road and Smokey Park Highway interchanges.

Section A

Upgrading 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, Haywood Road and Patton Avenue interchanges.

Section B

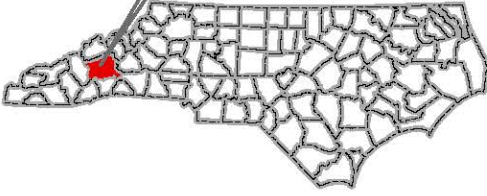
Construction of the interstate on new location from the Patton Avenue interchange north across the French Broad River, tying into US 19-23-70 south of Broadway.

Need Special Services or Assistance for the Public Hearing?

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for persons who wish to participate in this public hearing and require special services. Call the project hotline at 1-800-233-6315 as early as possible for these arrangements. A Spanish language interpreter will be present. Se Habla Español.

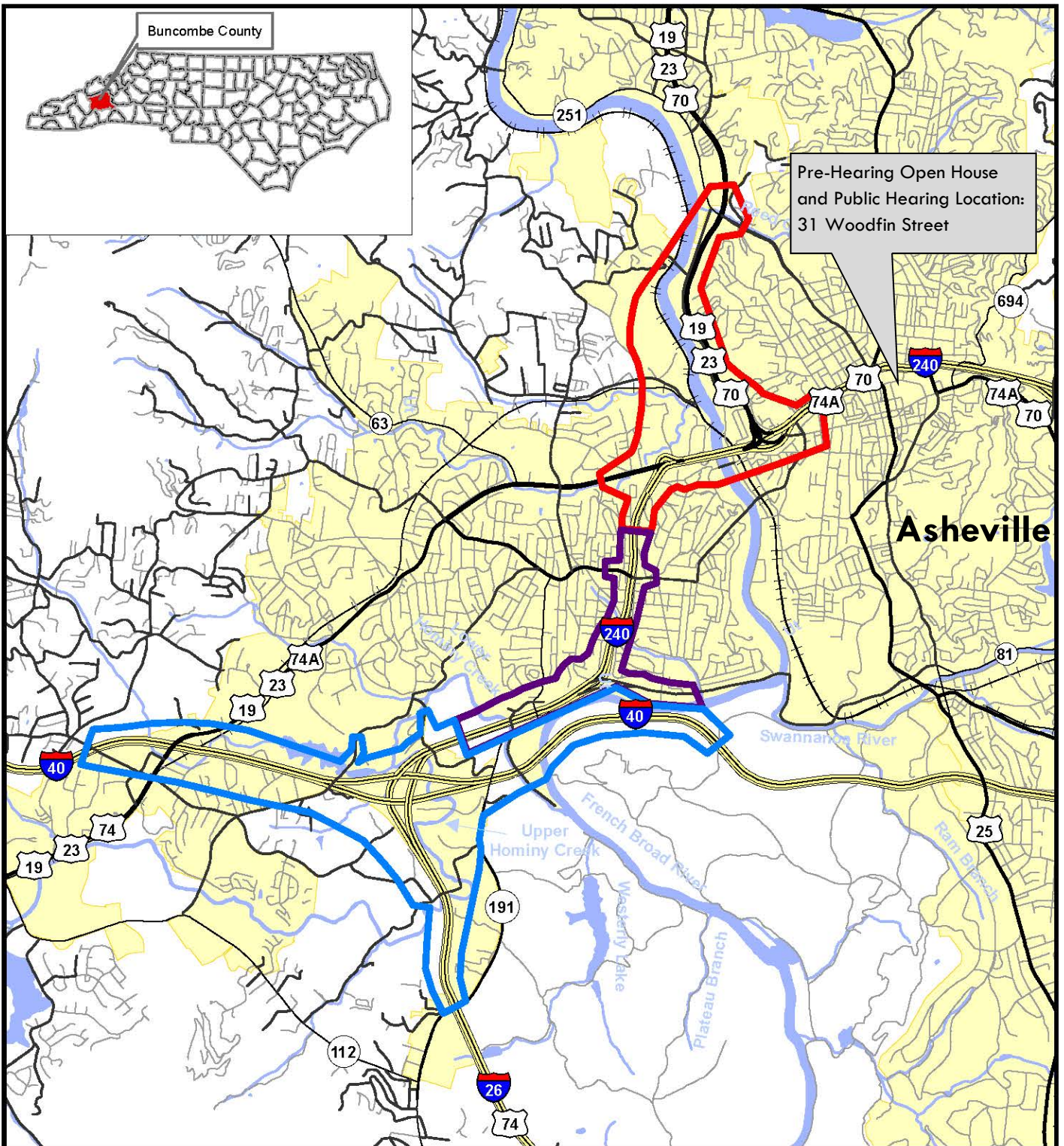
If assistance in a language other than Spanish is needed, please request it prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-233-6315.

Buncombe County



Pre-Hearing Open House and Public Hearing Location:
31 Woodfin Street

Asheville



North Carolina
Department of Transportation



I-26 Asheville Connector
Buncombe County

STIP Project No. I-2513

Legend

- Interstate
- US Highway
- NC Highway
- State Route
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Streams (non-delineated)
- Section A Study Area
- Section B Study Area
- Section C Study Area
- Water
- Municipal Boundary

Date: September 2015



0 0.5 1
Miles

Project Study Area

PROJECT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The DEIS and Public Hearing Maps are available for public viewing at the following locations:

NCDOT Division 13

55 Orange Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

City of Asheville Transportation

70 Court Plaza—Mezzanine Level
Asheville, North Carolina, 28802

The DEIS is also available for public viewing at the following public library locations:

State Library of North Carolina:

109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Pack Memorial Library:

67 Haywood Street
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

West Asheville Library

942 Haywood Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28806

Buncombe County Law Library

60 Court Plaza
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

People can also view the materials at the project website at

<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i26connector/>

Additionally, comments can be submitted through EngageNCDOT, an interactive public engagement tool at <http://engagencdot.mysidewalk.com/>

ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING ONLINE

A live webinar via GoToWebinar will be available during the formal hearing for anyone who cannot attend in person.

Webinar details:

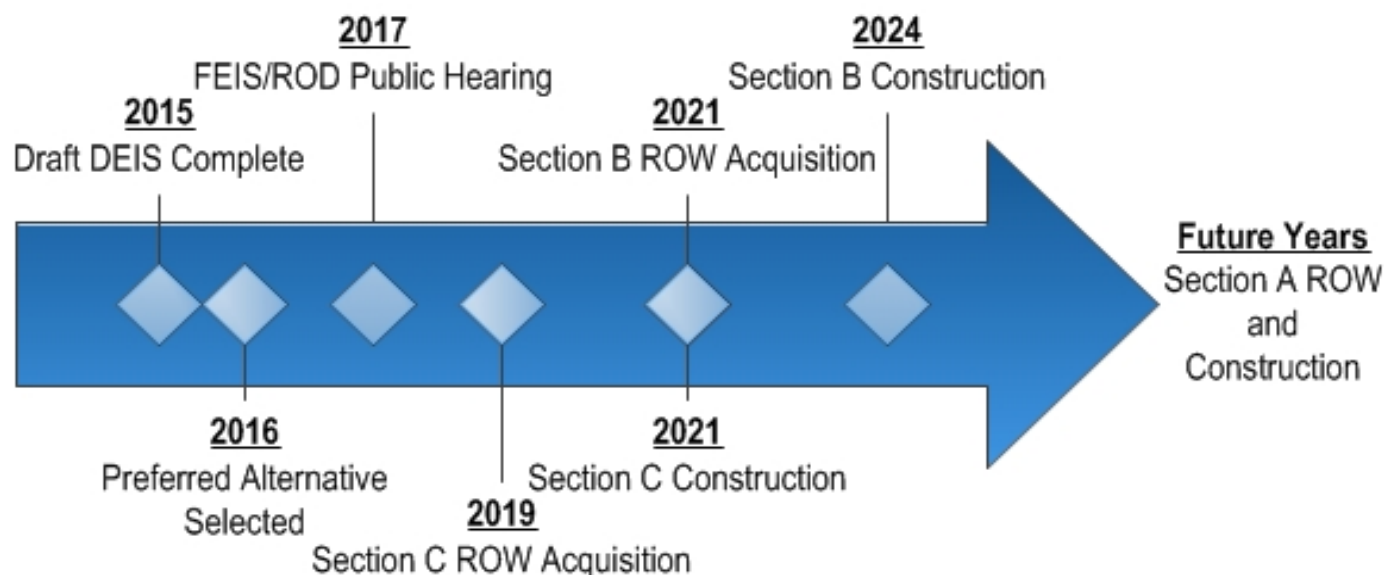
- The overview will run at 7 p.m.
- The GoToWebinar can be accessed through the project website.
- Comments will be accepted through the webinar, but responses will not be given until after the comment period has ended (December 16th, 2015).

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, will be issuing a local public notice describing the ongoing process in choosing the LEDPA (Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative) for the subject project, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. That public notice will be available at this website:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryPermitProgram.aspx>

NEXT STEPS IN THE PROJECT

The next step in the planning process will be to review and summarize comments received at the public hearing and choose the Preferred Alternative. Your comments and recommendations will be on public record and will be considered when choosing the Preferred Alternative and to assist in the final design of the project.



NCDOT Mission Statement: Connecting people, products, and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina.

I-26 Connector Project
ATTN: Drew Joyner
N.C. Department of Transportation
1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598



NCDOT wants your input

TIME & LOCATION

November 16, 2015

Pre-Hearing Open House 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing: 7 p.m.

Renaissance Hotel Grand Ballroom

31 Woodfin Street, Asheville

Please attend the Pre-Hearing Open House and Public Hearing and provide your comments on the project. Input from the public is a key component in the development of transportation projects throughout the state of North Carolina. Comments received from the public will assist the NCDOT in choosing the Preferred Alternative.

For more information, please visit the project website or contact NCDOT using the toll-free hotline. Written correspondence can also be mailed or e-mailed to NCDOT. Meeting materials can be viewed and comments can be submitted through EngageNCDOT, an interactive public engagement tool available at <http://engagenctdot.mysidewalk.com/>. The hearing will also be streamed online if you cannot attend the formal hearing at 7 p.m. (see project website for link). Comments will be accepted during the webinar; however, responses will not be provided until after the comment period has closed on December 16, 2015.

N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT)

Project Hotline – Línea Gratuita del Proyecto:

1-800-233-6315 (English/ Español)

AECOM (NCDOT's Consultant)

Project Website – Página Web del Proyecto:

<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i26connector/>

Mr. Drew Joyner, P.E.

1598 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

1-800-233-6315

djoyner@ncdot.gov

Mr. Chris Werner, PE

701 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 475

Raleigh, NC 27607

(919) 239-7168

christopher.m.werner@aecom.com