



High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
Municipalities and Counties of
Brushy, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey



"Serving North Carolina's High Country with Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive Transportation Planning"

Richard A. DeMott, RTAC Chair

Craig Hughes, LPA Transportation Planner

Richard Canipe, RTCC Chair

December 20, 2010

RECEIVED
Division of Highways

JAN - 7 2011

Preconstruction
Project Development and
Environmental Analysis Branch

Tracy Walter
Project Development and Environmental Analysis
Bridge Project Development Unit
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Subject: B-4676, Replacement of Bridge No. 29 on SR 1001 (Oakwoods Rd) over Cub Creek in Wilkes County

Dear Mr. Walter,

The High Country RPO appreciates the efforts of NCDOT to replace Bridge No. 29 on Oakwoods Rd over Cub Creek in Wilkes County. This project is very important to the High Country RPO, the Town of Wilkesboro, Town of North Wilkesboro, and Wilkes County. Oakwoods Road serves as an important link from US 421 to the downtown areas of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro and is the future gateway for Historic Downtown Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro.

The High Country RPO supports the recommendations provided by the Town of Wilkesboro and finds the recommendations in compliance with the recommended improvements listed in the 1993 Region D Thoroughfare Plan.

The High Country RPO recommends the following be considered:

- Pedestrian access should be maintained across Cub Creek. FS-0711B recommended sidewalks on both sides of Oak Woods Road from its intersection with Main St and NC 18 to the intersection with US 421.
- The bridge should be wide enough to allow bicycle lanes. (Oakwoods Rd. is part of the Brushy Mountain Road Bicycle Route identified on the Wilkes County Bicycle Route Map. Cyclists frequently start at the historic courthouse and travel south along Oakwoods Rd./Brushy Mountain Rd. over the Brushy Mountains to Alexander County and back. The ride provides spectacular views of the Yadkin Valley and access to many apple orchards.)
- Separation of pedestrians from vehicles is important to the Town of Wilkesboro and the additional pavement width provided by a bike lane would assist in providing this buffer zone if sidewalks are provided on the bridge. The Town would like to try and maintain the current character of the walking trail in Cub Creek Park by keeping a pedestrian bridge separate from the roadway.
- The new bridge should provide an area for a multi-use trail to pass under the bridge along the creek to allow the connection of Cub Creek Park to Forest Hills Subdivision (located off of Oakwoods Rd.) and to future sections of the Yadkin River Greenway.
- Limit the impacts to a business that has recently located to the west of the existing bridge.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at either 828-265-5434 or chughes@regiond.org.

Sincerely,

Craig Hughes, AICP
Transportation Planner
High Country RPO

Cc: Sam Halsey, Division 11 Board of Transportation Member
Mike Pettyjohn, Division 11 Engineer
Hank Perkins, North Wilkesboro Town Manager
Ken Noland, Wilkesboro Town Manager
John Yates, Wilkes County Manager