



I-26 Improvements

STIP Project Nos. I-4400 & I-4700



US 25 (exit 54) in Henderson County to I-40/I-240 in Buncombe County including Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge over I-26

RIVER SAFETY PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE I-26 BRIDGE OVER THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER

To ensure the safe passage of river users during the construction and demolition of the I-26 bridge over the French Broad River NCDOT has developed this River Safety Plan (RSP) to be used in conjunction with the Strategic Communications Plan (SCP) for the Construction of the I-26 Bridge over the French Broad River.

- NCDOT has created and implemented the SCP, which specifically addresses the construction of the I-26 bridge over the French Broad River as part of its larger I-26 Widening Communication Plan. The SCP includes, but is not limited to:
 - Information Outreach Campaign:
 - Coordination with known river users including businesses, paddle groups, civic groups, etc.
 - Coordination with media outlets when river needs to be closed due to safety concerns.
 - Provide signage upstream and downstream of the bridge to alert river users to construction. These signs will note that the last public pull out is at Bent Creek River Park, 1 mile upstream of the bridge. These signs will be placed at the following locations; all are public with the exception of the privately owned launches marked with an asterisk (*):
 - Headwaters Outfitters* – 25 Parkway Road, Rosman
 - Champion Park River Access (Transylvania County Parks and Recreation) – Old Turnpike Road, Rosman (1st public access from the headwaters)
 - Hannah Ford Campground - Headwaters Outfitters* - Green Road (SR 1127), Rosman
 - Island Ford River Access (Transylvania County Parks and Recreation) – Island Ford Road, Brevard
 - Hap Simpson Park (Brevard Parks and Recreation) – 968 Greenville Hwy, Brevard
 - Wilson Road River Access (Transylvania County Parks and Recreation) – Wilson Road, Pisgah Forest
 - Penrose Boat Ramp (NC Wildlife Resources Commission) – 170 Apac Drive, Penrose
 - Blantyre Park (Henderson County Parks and Recreation) – 500 Cliff Road, Penrose
 - Horse Shoe River Access Park (Henderson County Parks and Recreation) – Horse Shoe

- Westfeldt Park (Henderson County Parks and Recreation) – 83 Old Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher
 - Glen Bridge River Park (Buncombe County Parks and Recreation) – 77 Pinner Road, Arden
 - Corcoran Paige River Park (Buncombe County Parks and Recreation) – 9 Pinner Road, Arden
 - Bent Creek River Park (Buncombe County Parks and Recreation) – 1592 Brevard Road, Asheville
 - Hominy Creek River Park (Buncombe County Parks and Recreation) – 194 Hominy Creek Road, Asheville
 - Mills River Park (Town of Mills River) – 124 Town Center Drive, Mills River (*This park is near the confluence of Mills River and French Broad River and a common starting point for paddlers of the French Broad River.*)
 - Signage on the causeways to warn river users away and prevent river users from using the causeway as a stopping point.
- Physical restrictions
 - Use of a floating navigational aide to mark the safe passage lane.
 - NCDOT shall commit to including a rigid, non-drooping, catchment device on the overhead structure from south of Old River Road to the opposite side of the river to prevent material from falling on river users, equestrians, bicyclists, or in the water.
 - NCDOT shall place steady-state red lights that are solar-powered on the causeway to alert river user to its location. Generators will not be used to provide power. These lights will be atop permanent structures, such as a pole, on each causeway for the duration of the project. The contractor will be responsible for maintaining these lights at all times during construction, replacing them as necessary.
- Contractor requirements:
 - Develop a river traffic plan to include below items:
 - Provide one or more flaggers upstream as needed to stop river use at limited times when working over the river (e.g. setting beams, demolition of the structure)
 - Training of construction staff to teach skills in aiding a distressed boater – This is meant as an extra precaution for both staff and river users. It does NOT imply that the contractor will provide “lifeguard” type services.
 - Must have a life vest and/or boat on site.