

NOTICE OF A COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
PROPOSED SR1364/SR1114 (NEEDMORE ROAD) IMPROVEMENTS FROM
SR 1369 (TELLICO ROAD) TO EXISTING PAVEMENT IN SWAIN COUNTY

TIP Project No. R-4440

Macon and Swain Counties

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a Pre-Hearing Open House and Combined Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at the Iotla Valley Elementary @ Cowee School, located at 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin.

NCDOT representatives will be available at the Pre-Hearing Open House between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to answer questions and receive comments regarding the proposed project. The Pre-Hearing Open House will be held in the Gymnasium/Auditorium. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will also be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above hours.

A formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m. in the Gymnasium/Auditorium. The presentation will consist of an explanation of the proposed location, design, the state-federal relationship, and right of way and relocation requirements and procedures. Citizens will have the opportunity to comment or ask questions. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a transcript will be prepared.

NCDOT proposes to improve SR 1364/SR1114 (Needmore Road) to a 2-lane paved facility consisting of a minimum 9-foot travel lane in each direction, with a minimum roadway width of 18 feet, and improvements to the shoulders of the roadway. This alternative will improve the entire facility to conform to NCDOT Division 14 Secondary Road Standards. The proposed alignment calls for widening the roadway away from the Little Tennessee River. All widening on the project will be toward or into the rock hillsides adjacent to the project, including areas identified as containing acidic rock

The purpose of the project is to improve the quality of travel for local residents that currently use Needmore Road; reduce existing sedimentation from Needmore Road into the Little Tennessee River; avoid or minimize adverse impacts to the existing high quality natural resources including but not limited to water quality, habitat.

A map displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the State Environmental Assessment are available for public review at the NCDOT District Engineer's Office located at 345 Toot Hollow Road, Bryson City and the NCDOT County Maintenance Yard, 220 Windy Gap Road, Franklin. The maps are also available online at: http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/hearingmaps_by_county/

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Jamille Robbins, NCDOT-Human Environment Unit at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, by phone at (919) 431-6500, or via e-mail at jarobbins@ncdot.gov. Additional material may be submitted until February 9, 2011.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Robbins as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.