

NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSES AND COMBINED PUBLIC HEARINGS
FOR THE PROPOSED U.S. 221 IMPROVEMENTS FROM NORTH OF
ROPER LOOP ROAD (STATE ROAD 1366) IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY TO U.S. 221/N.C.226 IN
MCDOWELL COUNTY

TIP Project Nos. R-2597 & R-204DE

Rutherford & McDowell Counties

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold two pre-hearing open houses and combined public hearings for the above-mentioned highway projects at the following times and locations:

- **Monday, March 12, 2012: R-S Central High School, 641 U.S. 221 North, Rutherford**
Pre-Hearing Open House: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Formal Presentation: 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 13, 2012: Marion Community Building, 191 N. Main St., Marion**
Pre-Hearing Open House: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Formal Presentation: 7 p.m.

NCDOT representatives will be available at the pre-hearing open houses to answer questions and receive comments regarding the proposed projects. The opportunity to submit written comments and questions will be provided. Citizens may attend at any time during the above hours.

The formal presentations will consist of an explanation of the proposed location, design, 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 widen a 19-mile section of existing U.S. 221 to a multi-lane, median-divided roadway. Project R-2597, about 15 miles in length, starts at the proposed Rutherfordton Bypass north of Roper Loop Rd. (S.R. 1366) in Rutherford County, passes through the Gilkey, Thermal City, Vein Mountain and Glenwood communities, and ends at Goose Creek Rd. (S.R. 1153) in Glenwood, south of Marion, in McDowell County. Project R-204DE, about four miles in length, begins at Goose Creek Rd. (S.R. 1153) and ends at the existing multi-lane section of U.S. 221/N.C. 226 in Marion.

The primary purposes of the proposed projects are to improve traffic flow and safety. Additional right-of-way acquisition and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for these projects.

A map displaying the location of the projects and a copy of the State Environmental Assessment (SEA) are available for public review at the NCDOT District Engineer's Office located at 3931 N.C. 226 South, Marion; NCDOT County Maintenance Yard, 909 Ledbetter Rd., Spindale; Rutherford County Offices Building, 289 N. Main St., Rutherfordton; and the County Administration Building, 60 E. Court St., Marion. Copies of the map are also available on the project website at: http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/hearingmaps_by_county/

For additional information, contact Jammie Robbins, NCDOT-Human Environment Unit at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, by phone at (919) 707-6085, or via email at jarobbins@ncdot.gov. Comments may be submitted until April 13, 2012.

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.