

NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING MAY 12 IN ASHEVILLE FOR THE
PROPOSED INTERSTATE 26 (I-26) CONNECTOR PROJECT

TIP Project I-2513

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting in May regarding a proposed I-26 Connector project in Buncombe County.

The meeting will take place on May 12 in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Asheville Hotel, located at One Thomas Wolfe Plaza from 4 to 7 p.m. Interested individuals may attend this public meeting at any time during the above hours. NCDOT representatives will display maps and be available to answer questions and receive comments. Comments and information received will be taken into consideration as work on the project develops. Please note that there will not be a formal presentation.

The I-26 Connector Project is approximately a 7-mile, interstate freeway project that is being proposed to connect I-26 in southwest Asheville to U.S. 19/23/70 in northwest Asheville. 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 U.S. 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 includes:

- Upgrading 4.3 miles of 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.
- Improvements to the I-26/I-240 interchange with I-40 and Brevard Road (N.C. 191), Amboy Road (S.R. 3556), Haywood Road (S.R. 3548/U.S. 19/23 Business) and Patton Avenue (U.S. 19-23) interchanges.
- Construction of the interstate on new location from the Patton Avenue interchange north for 2.6 miles across the French Broad River, tying into U.S. 19/23/70 south of Broadway (S.R. 1781).

All of the alternatives being evaluated will be presented to the public for review and comment including a new alternative, Alternative 3C, which was developed in 2013 to further reduce impacts to the natural and human environments. Alternative 3C is similar to Alternative 3, but has a smaller footprint and connects to U.S. 19/23 further south of the Alternative 3 connection.

For additional information contact Michael Wray, NCDOT - Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit at 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548, by phone at (919) 707-6050, or via email at mgwray@ncdot.gov. Citizens may also contact Jeff Weisner, with URS, by phone at: (919) 461-1440 or by e-mail at: jeff.weisner@urs.com. Please submit comments by June 12, 2014.

Project information is also available on the project website at:
<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i26connector/>

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in these meetings. Anyone requiring special services should contact Wray as early as possible so that arrangements can be made. Persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.