



# I-26 CONNECTOR

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NC



**NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**



**FACT SHEET, MAY 2014  
NCDOT STIP PROJECT  
No. I-2513**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ARE THE DESIGNS FINAL?

The design plans shown at the May 12, 2014 Public Meeting are preliminary and have not been finalized. Additional information including traffic forecasts and updated property information may result in modifications of right-of-way lines, slope stake lines, road curves, or pavement markings.

### HAS A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE BEEN SELECTED?

At this point, a preferred alternative has not been selected. On March 25, 2014, the City of Asheville endorsed Alternative 3C for the purposes of Prioritization. All alternatives under consideration will be presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and to the interagency team for selection of the preferred alternative.

### WHAT IS PRIORITIZATION AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THIS PROJECT?

NCDOT uses a transparent, systematic, and data-driven process for prioritizing the major transportation improvements in the state and making funding decisions. This process evaluates projects based on their merit through an analysis of existing and future conditions, and the project's benefits, multi-modal characteristics, and ability to address local priorities.

NCDOT is currently working on the third generation of the Strategic Prioritization Process. As a result of this new Prioritization Process, the schedule for this proposed project is subject to change. It is anticipated that a reprioritized list will be available in 2015.

### ARE THERE PLANS FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY?

The I-26 Connector Project will study both bicycle and pedestrian transportation within the project study area for facilities that might be affected by the project.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

In the coming months, NCDOT will be working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to rescind the 2008 DEIS and prepare a new DEIS. The new DEIS will be available for public comment and review in the summer or fall of 2015.

### WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION START?

According to the State Transportation Improvement Program, Right-of-Way Acquisition is scheduled to begin in 2018, while Construction Let is scheduled for 2020.

## FAST FACTS

- APPROXIMATELY 7 MILES IN LENGTH
- 3 SECTIONS: (A, B, AND C)
- 9 DIFFERENT ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION
- ESTIMATED COST: \$500 MILLION
- I-2513 WILL BE A MEDIAN-DIVIDED, FULLY-CONTROLLED-ACCESS FREEWAY
- I-26 CONNECTS CHARLESTON, SC WITH KINGSFORT, TN

### Have a comment or question?

NCDOT has provided a comment form along with you information packet to leave comments. Please visit all the stations, ask questions, and provide us with your feedback.

