



I-26 Connector

Asheville

NCDOT TIP Project I-2513

Issue No. 3

January 2004

Project Expanded As A Result Of Public Involvement

As a result of suggestions received at the public design forum held in the July 2000, the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has expanded the I-26 Connector study corridor to include the area along the eastern side of the French Broad River near the Smoky Park Bridges, and the area surrounding the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange southwest of Asheville. This expansion allows the consideration of additional alternatives as well as improvements to the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange.

New Alternatives Added

NCDOT has added two new project alternatives, Alternatives 4 and 5, to the new location portion of the project north of Patton Avenue. These alternatives separate Patton Avenue and I-240 traffic across the French Broad River with new river crossings and improvements along I-240 and Patton Avenue immediately east of the river. These alternatives are shown on the maps on the inside of this newsletter.

Interchange Improvements Added

NCDOT also proposes to improve the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange in southwest Asheville as part of the I-26 Connector project. During the public design forum, many local citizens requested that the department provide the missing interstate connections between the future I-26 and I-40. Currently, there are no direct connections for vehicles traveling south on I-240 to I-40 East and for those traveling west on I-40 to north on I-240. Improvements to the interchange will add

these connections as well as relieve existing congestion and improve safety through this area.

Project Study Progress

NCDOT recently has completed a new area traffic prediction computer model. Environmental evaluations of cultural and natural resources were completed for the expanded study area east of the French Broad River and are underway in the area of the I-26/I-40/I-240 interchange.

Field Studies

During the next year, NCDOT will conduct additional field studies to determine potential environmental impacts within the project area. **Land surveys will be conducted to develop detailed maps of the study area. Many areas will be surveyed that will not be directly affected by the project.**

These surveys will enable NCDOT to conduct engineering studies that will help determine the environmental impacts of each of the alternatives under consideration.

Public Involvement

Small group meetings will be held with local interest groups such as neighborhoods businesses, and civic organizations. A project aesthetics advisory committee will be formed to suggest design details to reflect the character of the community. NCDOT will hold two more citizens informational workshops to display project alternatives and receive public comment.

Schedule

As a result of the project improvements and the additional studies needed to complete the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the project schedule has been updated as follows:

Conduct I-26/I-40/I-240 Interchange Workshop	(Spring 04)
Conduct Alternates Workshop	(Summer 05)
Complete Draft Environmental Impact Statement	(Winter 05/06)
Conduct Public Hearing	(Winter 05/06)
Select Preferred Alternative	(Spring 06)
Complete Final Environmental Impact Statement	(Late 06)
Conduct Public Workshop	(Summer 07)
Complete Right of Way Plans	(Summer 07)
Award Right of Way & Construction Contract	(Spring 08)
Anticipated Construction Completion	(2012)

WEBSITE

To learn more about the I-26 Connector project, please visit the project website at: www.ncdot.org/projects/I26Connector



PROJECT MAILING LIST

Add your name to the mailing list by contacting:

I-26 Connector in Asheville
TGS Engineers
Suite 141
975 Walnut Street
Cary, NC 27511



I-26 Connector Newsletter
TGS Engineers
975 Walnut Street
Suite 141
Cary, NC 27511

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

For more information or to express any comments or concerns about the I-26 Connector, contact either TGS Engineers or the NCDOT at the addresses below. Please refer to Project I-2513 when writing about the proposed project. All comments and questions will be addressed as soon as possible.

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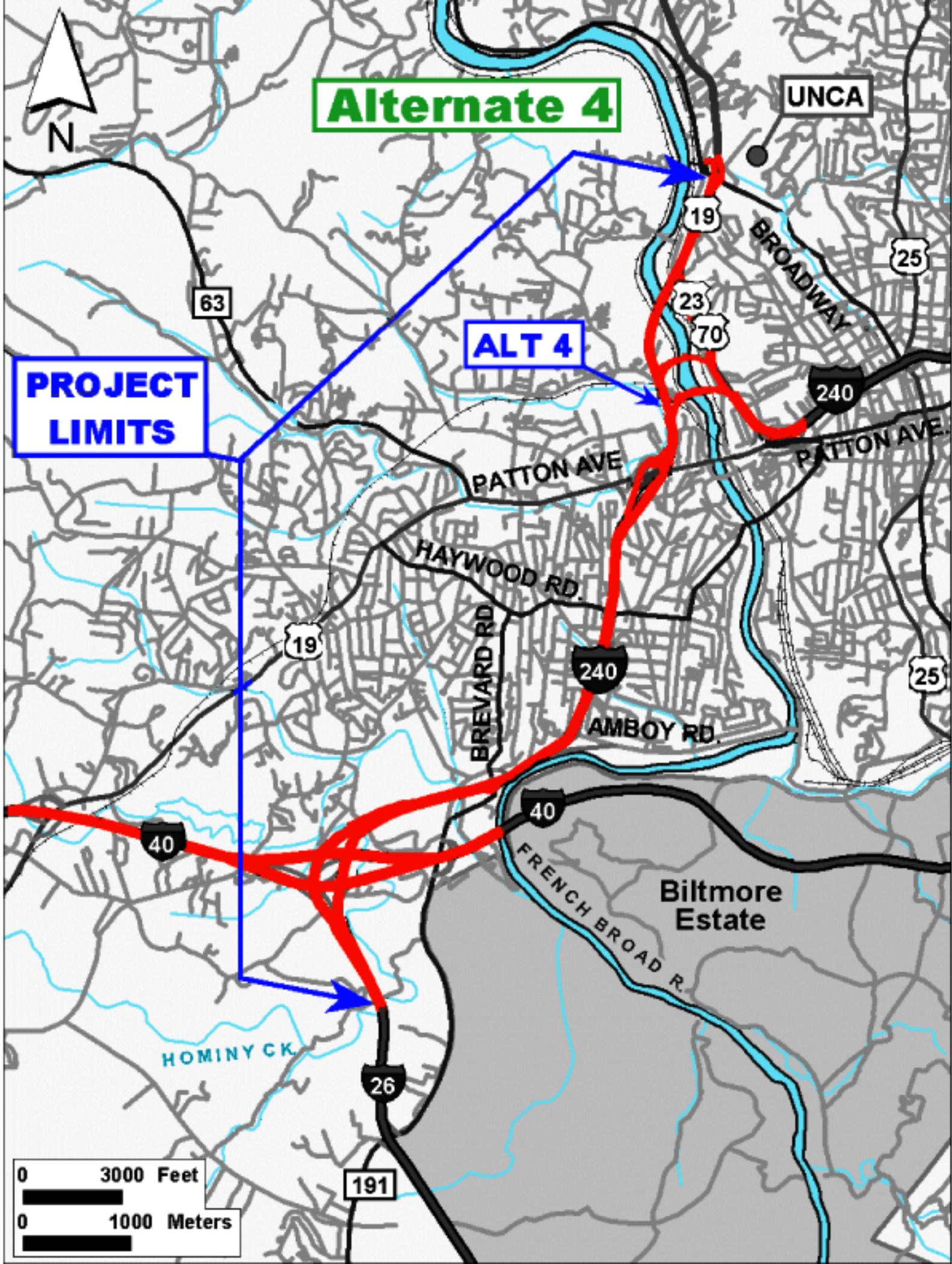
**I-26
CONNECTOR
INFO-LINE
919-319-8850**

If you have questions concerning other transportation projects, please call our Customer Service Office toll free at 1-877-DOT-4YOU or check our website for more information at www.ncdot.org

Alternate 4

ALT 4

PROJECT LIMITS



UNCA

63

19

23

70

25

240

19

25

40

240

40

26

191

HOMINY CK

Biltmore Estate

FRENCH BROAD R.

0 3000 Feet

0 1000 Meters

