

CHAPTER 8. AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

8.1 AGENCY COORDINATION

During the study, agency coordination took place through communication with a Steering Committee and subsequently, a Merger Team, as well as through communication with federal, state, and local agencies in general. General coordination with agencies took place during the initial stages of the project when the scoping letter was issued. The Steering Committee was formed at the outset of the project. Coordination with the Merger Team took place after 2002 when the original Steering Committee became the Merger Team. Coordination with the Merger Team followed the Section 404/NEPA Merger 01 Process and took place at specific points in the study, called Concurrence Points (CP). The timing and context of agency coordination meetings are summarized in this section.

8.1.1 HISTORY OF AGENCY COORDINATION

8.1.1.1 Issuance of Scoping Letter

At the outset of the environmental studies for the I-26 Connector, the proposed roadway was identified as TIP number I-2513. A scoping letter soliciting comments on the proposed project was sent on January 16, 1996, to the following local, state, and federal agencies:

- Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region IV
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- City of Asheville, Mayor of Asheville
- Buncombe County, County Commissioner
- North Carolina State Clearinghouse
- North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History
- North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
 - Auxiliary Services, Department of Public Instruction
 - Hydraulics Unit
 - Roadside Environmental Unit
 - Geotechnical Unit
 - Location and Surveys Unit
 - Right-of-way Branch
 - Traffic Engineering Branch
 - Bicycle Coordinator
 - Director of Aeronautics
 - Operations, Chief Engineer
 - Rail Planner, Rail Program
 - Division 4, Division Engineer
- North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) (now Department of Environmental Quality) (NCDEQ), Water Quality Lab

- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC)

The scoping letter and agency comments received in response to the scoping letter are provided in Appendix A (Sub-Appendix A1 and A2). The agency comments are also summarized in Appendix A (Sub-Appendix A1 and A2).

8.1.1.2 Steering Committee and Section 404/NEPA Merger Process

In order to provide cooperation and coordination during the study process, a Steering Committee was established at the outset of the project under the leadership of the NCDOT. Committee members provided information and review of the project process to ensure compatibility with local, state, and federal planning projects and policies. Steering Committee members met initially on October 15, 1996.

In 1997, USACE, FHWA, and NCDOT signed an Interagency Agreement integrating Section 404 and NEPA. The agreement requires the establishment of a project team at the beginning of each transportation project and outlines the coordination process with a series of CPs, which are as follows:

- CP 1: Purpose and Need
- CP 2: Detailed Study Alternatives
- CP 2A: Bridge Locations and Lengths
- CP 3: LEDPA
- CP 4A: Avoidance and Minimization of Impacts
- CP 4B: 30 percent Hydraulic Design
- CP 4C: 100 percent Hydraulic Design and Permit Drawings

The Merger Team was formed from the original Steering Committee. The first official Merger Team meeting was held on October 23, 2002. The following agencies are part of the Merger Team:

- USACE
- USFWS
- USEPA, Region IV
- NCDENR, Division of Water Quality (DWQ), Wetlands
- NCWRC
- TVA
- North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office (HPO)
- French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- NCDOT

The Merger Team reviews and provides written concurrence at each CP before initiating the next step. The signed concurrence forms for CP 1, CP 2, CP 2Revisited, CP 2A, and CP 2ARevisited are located in Appendix B1.

8.1.1.3 Issuance of Notice of Intent under NEPA

In accordance with NEPA, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a NEPA EIS was published in the Federal Register, Volume 72, No. 142, Wednesday, July 25, 2007. The NOI is included in Appendix D.

8.1.2 AGENCY COORDINATION MEETINGS

A timeline and summary of agency coordination activities is provided in Table 8-1.

8.1.3 AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

Table 8-2 presents a chronological listing of agency correspondence for this project.

8.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In this section, methods used for public outreach are described and a brief summary of public meetings is provided. Public meetings were conducted in several formats: CIW, small group meetings, a Public Hearing, a Project Design Forum, a Project Educational Forum, a Project Informational Forum, and through meetings of a CCC.

8.2.1 OUTREACH METHODS

Outreach methods used throughout the project included mailing lists, newsletters, a telephone hotline, project web site, stakeholder interviews, and local meetings.

8.2.1.1 Mailing List

A computerized mailing list consisting of elected officials, civic and business groups, local governmental agencies, and interested persons was compiled at the beginning of the study and continually updated throughout the study process. The mailing list, as well as announcements in local papers, was used to notify the public of the study's initiation, progress, and proposals, as well as dates, times, and locations of the CIWs. At the time of the DEIS preparation, the list contained approximately 3,600 entries.

8.2.1.2 Newsletters

Newsletters addressing the project were prepared and mailed to project stakeholders at the following points throughout the study:

- March 1998
- November 2000
- January 2004
- September 2006
- December 2007
- June 2008
- August 2008
- September 2008
- April 2009
- April 2014

Table 8-1: Agency Coordination Activities

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
Merger Meetings				
10/23/2002 ^a	Merger Team Meeting	USACE, USFWS, USEPA Region IV, NCDENR – DWQ – Wetlands, NCWRC, TVA, SHPO, FBRMPO, FHWA, and NCDOT	NCDOT Raleigh	Formed from the Steering Committee. To review and provide written concurrence at each CP before initializing the next step.
12/09/2004	Merger Team Meeting	FHWA: Clarence Coleman NCDCR: Sarah McBride NCDOT: Derrick Weaver, Vince Rhea, Drew Joyner, Cathy Houser, David Scheffel, Megan Willis, Chris Underwood, Lonnie Brooks, Anne Gamber NCDWQ: John Hennesy TGS: Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe USACE, USFWS, NCWRC, TVA, FBRMPO USEPA: Chris Militscher	Unknown	To reaffirm concurrence with CP 1, Purpose and Need, and CP 2, Alternatives to be studied in detail.
09/07/2006	Merger Team Meeting	EcoScience: Sandy Smith FBRMPO: Dan Baechtold FHWA: Jake Riggsbee NCDCR: Sarah McBride NCDOT: David Scheffel, Dan Duffield, Rick Tipton, Jeff Hemphill, Vince Rhea, Carla Dagnino, Daniel Holt NCWRC: Marla Chambers TGS: Charlie Flowe TVA: Freddie Bennett USACE: Steve Lund, Dave Baker USFWS: Marella Buncick	Division 13 Office, Asheville	To discuss each project alternative in each section.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
07/24/2007	Merger Team Meeting	FBRMPO: Dan Baechtold FHWA: Donnie Brew, Jake Riggsbee NCDOT/HPO: Sarah McBride NCDOT: Teresa Hart, Colin Mellor, Elizabeth Lusk, Ben Johnson, Rick Tipton, Marshall Clawson, David Scheffel, Mike Bruff, Sarah Smith, Lonnie Brooks, Shannon Lasater, Greg Thorpe, Katina Thompson, Derrick Weaver NCDWQ: Brian Wrenn NCWRC: Marla Chambers TGS: Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe URS: Chris Werner USACE: Dave Baker USEPA: Chris Militscher, Kathy Matthews USFWS: Marella Buncick	NCDOT Transportation Building	To discuss revising CP 2 by eliminating Section B – Alternative 5 due to fatal flaw in traffic operations.
12/15/2009	Merger Team Meeting	FBRMPO: Carrie Runser FHWA: Donnie Brew NCDOT/HPO: Renee Gledhill-Early NCDOT: Teresa Hart, Jeff Hemphill, Vince Rhea, Marshall Clawson, David Scheffel, Doug Taylor, Mark Staley, Lonnie Brooks, Herman Huang, Greg Thorpe, Ed Lewis, Drew Joyner, Katrina Lucas, Steve Gurganus, Derrick Weaver, Linh Nguyen, Carla Dagnino NCDWQ: Brian Wrenn NCWRC: Marla Chambers TGS: Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe URS: Peter Trencansky, Jeff Weinsner USACE: Dave Baker USEPA: Chris Militscher USFWS: Marella Buncick	NCDOT Transportation Building	To discuss revising CP 2 by eliminating Section B – Alternative 2 due to fatal flaw in traffic operations and adding Section B – Alternative 4-B. To discuss CP 2A for Section B – Alternative 4-B.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
01/22/2015	Merger Team Meeting	AECOM: John Burris, Ed Edens, Dennis Hoyle, Joanna Rocco, Chris Werner, Matthew Potter FBRMPO: Paul Black FHWA: Mitch Batuzich, Earl Dubin HNTB: Kiersten Bass NCDOT/SHPO: Renee Gledhill-Earley NCDOT: Rick Tipton, Kristina Solberg, Jody Kuhne, Van Argabright, Zahid Baloch, Jennifer Harris, Derrick Weaver, Michael Wray, Brendan Merithew, Pam Cook, Kirby Pendergraft, Bill Zerman, Kevin Moore, Steve Kendall, Herman Huang, Drew Joyner, Carla Dagnino, Phil Harris, Jeff Hemphill, Mark Staley, James Dunlop, Elise Groundwater, Tim Sherrill, Phil Geary NCWRC: Marla Chambers USACE: Lori Beckwith USEPA: Cynthia Van Der Wiele USFWS: Marella Buncick	NCDOT Structure Design Conference Room C	To notify the Merger Team of an expansion in the project study area to accommodate revised design configurations and to obtain concurrence on the addition of a detailed study alternative: Alternative 3-C
04/02/2015	Merger Team Meeting	AECOM: Ed Edens, Dennis Hoyle, Rhiannon Kincaid, Joanna Rocco, Chris Werner Atkins: Rebecca Berzinis, Jeremy Schmid FBRMPO: Tristan Winkler FHWA: Mitch Batuzich NCDENR: Kevin Barnett NCDOT: Rick Tipton, Jennifer Harris, Derrick Weaver, Kirby Pendergraft, Bill Zerman, Ray Lovinggood, Kevin Moore, Terry Harris, Carla Dagnino, Jeff Hemphill NCWRC: Marla Chambers USACE: Lori Beckwith USEPA: Cynthia Van Der Wiele USFWS: Marella Buncick	NCDOT Division 13 Office	To review previous CP 2A decisions and to obtain concurrence with the bridging and alignment recommendations. CP 2A is being revisited as a result of the addition of Alternative 3-C.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
Other Agency Meetings				
09/12/1996	TGS, FHWA, NCDOT	Joe Bloise, Greg Punske, Dave Snyder, Joe Buckner, Louis Raymond, Thad Duncan	Division 13 Office, Asheville	Discussion of project limits and constraints.
10/15/1996	Steering Committee Meeting	Asheville Urban Area MPO: Ron Fuller FHWA: Roy Shelton NCDEHNR: David Foster NCDOT: Bill Smart, Richard Davis, Kathy Lassiter, Frank Vick, Eddie Sason, Derrick Lewis, Joe Westbrook NCDWQ: Eric Galamb NCWRC: David Cox TGS: Ken Burleson, Thad Duncan	Transportation Building, Raleigh	Initial meeting of steering committee. TGS presented project study area with alternatives, physical constraints, projected travel, traffic data, and conceptual studies.
11/07/1996	Local Officials' Meeting	City of Asheville Traffic: James Cheeks Mayor of Town of Fletcher: Bob Parrish Mayor of Town of Woodfin: Charles Bradley Mayor of Weaverville: Bett Stroud NCDOT Board member: Gordon Myers NCDOT division engineer: Bill Smart TGS: Earl Willis, Ken Burleso Vice Mayor City of Asheville: Barbara Field	City Public Works Facility, Asheville	Presentation of alternatives to local officials, access problems and number of lanes required to support design year traffic were discussed.
04/23/1998	Local Officials' Meeting	Asheville MPO Planner: Ron Fuller Asheville TAC: Bob Parrish, Charles Grimes Buncombe County Commissioner: Patsy Keever City Council: Tommy Sellers, Earl Cobb City of Asheville: Cathy Ball, James Cheeks FHWA: David Snyder, Steve Belcher TGS: Tom Kendig, Bill Smart, Ken Burleson Town of Woodfin Mayor Pro tem: Charles Bradley Town of Woodfin Mayor: Coy F. Rice	National Guard Armory	To present the project to local officials prior to the CIW. Several principal issues regarding the proposed designs of the three project alternatives were discussed.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
04/26/1999	AAMPO	Janet D'Ignazio, Larry Sams, Whit Webb, Ray McEntire, Jay Bissett, Tom Kendig, Carl Goode, Len Hill, Ken Burleson, Rich Fontanilla	Highway Building, Raleigh	To discuss project issues raised by AAMPO. Issues included bike and pedestrian areas, noise and retaining wall materials, and the retention of open space around the French Broad River.
05/18/1999	Interagency Meeting – NCDOT, USACE, and NCWRC	Tom Kendig, Missy Dickens, Mike Lindgren, John Schrohenloher, Rich Fontanilla, Ken Burleson, Steve Lund (USACE), and Marc Davis (NCWRC)	Division 13 Office	To discuss alternatives of the I-26 Connector project. A summary of the natural systems report was also presented.
05/18/1999	City of Asheville, Parks and Recreation Department	Tom Kendig, Missy Dickens, Rich Fontanilla, Ken Burleson, Alan Grimes (Parks and Rec) and Al Kopf (Parks and Rec)	City of Asheville Parks and Recreation Department	To discuss proposed access road with possible bicycle accommodations to facilitate part of the proposed E-3608 bicycle route connecting Amboy Road with Hominy Creek Park along the French Broad River.
07/22/1999	City of Asheville	City of Asheville Planning: Ron Fuller COA Fire Department: Marc Combs, Wayne Hamilton COA Public Works: Suzanne Malloy, Mark Slaughter COA Traffic: Michael Moule NCDOT: Tom Kendig TGS: Ken Burleson, Rich Fontanilla	City of Asheville Public Works/ Engineering Building	To follow up and discuss project issues collected from the City and local agencies, which were presented by NCDOT.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
08/19/1999	Land of Sky Regional Council	Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force: Gerry Hardesty, Connie Duncan, Claudia Nix, Tom Redinger City of Asheville MPO: Oliver Gajda FHWA: Bill Marley, John Schrohenloher Land of Sky Regional Council: Elizabeth Teague NC Division of Parks and Recreation: Dwayne Stutzman NCDOT: Tom Kendig Quality Forward: Susan Roderick TGS: Rich Fontanilla, Ken Burleson	Land of Sky Regional Council Offices, Asheville	To discuss concerns presented by the Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force. List was similar to that presented by AAMPO.
09/01/1999	FHWA Meeting	FHWA: John Schrohenloher, Roy Shelton, Tony Bowers NCDOT: Tom Kendig, Everett Ward, Debbie Barbour, Jim West, Carl Goode, Jay Bissett, Bill Gilmore, Len Hill, Calvin Leggett, David Scheffel TGS: Ken Burleson, Rich Fontanilla		To discuss three principle issues: environmental justice, preferred alternative selection, and proposed design modifications.
09/29/1999	City of Asheville	COA City Manager: Jim Westbrook COA Engineer: Cathy Ball COA Fire: Robert Griffin, John Rukavina, Gerald Green COA Parks and Rec: Irby Brunson, Alan Glines, Jim Orr COA Planning: Ron Fuller, Scott Shuford, Paul Benson COA Police and Traffic: Faye Harper COA Police: Tom Aardema, Ross Robinson COA Public Works: Oliver Gajda COA Traffic: Michael Moule COA Transit: Bruce Black NCDOT: Tom Kendig TGS: Ken Burleson, Rich Fontanilla	City of Asheville Municipal Building	To discuss Alternative 2, mitigation for the Burton Street Neighborhood, and the proposed improvements to the Amboy Road interchange.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
09/27-28/1999	City of Asheville (Individual meetings with City Council members and the Mayor of Asheville)	COA Council: Earl Cobb, Barbara Field, Chuck Cloninger, Edward Hay, OT Tomes, Tommy Sellers COA Mayor: Leni Sitnick NCDOT: Tom Kendig TGS: Ken Burleson, Rich Fontanilla	City of Asheville Municipal Buildings	To discuss Alternative 2, Alternative 3, and Amboy Road full interchange. City did not want eight lanes of traffic.
10/21/1999	Interagency Meeting – NCDOT; USACE; NCDENR, DWQ, and NCWRC	DWQ: John Hennessy NCDOT: Tom Kendig NCWRC: David Cox TGS: Ken Burleson, Rich Fontanilla USACE: Steve Lund		Met to discuss status of project. It was requested that a public notice be issued after completion of the Environmental Assessment (EA) to avoid confusion and delays regarding the 404 permit and Merger Team coordination.
12/13/1999	City of Asheville	<i>Asheville Citizens Times</i> : Jenn Burleson COA Council: Terry Whitmire, Barbara Field, Charles Worley, Brian Peterson COA Planning: Rob Fuller FHWA: John Schorohenloher, Michael Loyselle Independent Consultant I-26 Awareness Group: Betty Lawrence NCDOT: Tom Kendig Radio Station WWNC: Tammy Jones TGS: Ken Burleson, Rich Fontanilla	City of Asheville Municipal Building	To provide a project overview to the newly elected members of the City Council and to discuss project updates.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
12/14/1999	City of Asheville	COA Bike and Ped Coordinator: Oliver Gajda COA Community Development: Charlotte Caplan COA Engineering: Cathy Ball COA Parks and Rec: Alan Glines, Butch Kisiah, Irby Brunson, Jon Orr COA Planning: Ron Fuller, Scott Shuford COA Public Works: Suzanne Malloy FHWA: John Schrohenloher, Michelle Loyselle Land of Sky Regional Council: Elizabeth Teague NCDOT: Tom Kendig TGS: Ken Bureson, Rich Fontanilla	City of Asheville Municipal Building	To discuss project updates. Specifically, the Amboy Road interchange and mitigation efforts for the Burton Street Community.
03/09/2000	City of Asheville, Parks and Recreation Department	COA Parks and Rec: Alan Glines, Jim Orr FHWA: Chris Gatchell NCDOT: Tom Kendig, Drew Joyner, Carl Goode TGS: Ken Bureson, Rich Fontanilla		To discuss the current Burton Street Community mitigation list.
03/23/2000	NCDOT and TGS	FHWA: Chris Gatchell, Roy Shelton NCDOT: Tom Kendig, Drew Joyner, Carl Goode, Everett Ward TGS: Rich Fontanilla	NCDOT Project Development and Environmental Analysis (PDEA) Unit Conference Room	To discuss the Burton Street Community mitigation requests.
04/06/2000	City of Asheville	City Manager: James Westbrook COA Engineering: Cathy Ball COA Parks and Rec: Irby Brinson COA Planning: Ron Fuller, Scott Shuford COA Public Works: Mark Combs NCDOT: Tom Kendig, Drew Joyner TGS: Ken Bureson, Rich Fontanilla	City of Asheville	To discuss mitigation requests for the Burton Street Community.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
04/25/2000	CCC	CCC: Louis Bisette, Brownie Newman, Leni Sitnick, Ron Ainspan, Jeff Kelly, Chuck Pickering, Charles Price, Mike Plemmons, Bradley Hix, Bob Shepherd, Betty Lawrence, Susan Ballard, Jim Coman, Karen Cragolin FHWA: Chris Gatchell NCDOT: Carl Goode, Tom Kendig, Drew Joyner Parsons Brinckerhoff: Mary Clayton TGS Engineers: Ken Burleson	Asheville	Organizational meeting.
05/03/2000	CCC	CCC: Louis Bisette, Brownie Newman, Ron Ainspan, Susan Ballard, Jim Coman, Tommy Sellers, Roger Derrough, Jeff Kelly, Mike Plemmons, Bob Shepherd, Betty Lawrence, Curtis Williams, Debbie Vance, Karen Cragolin City Staff: Ron Fuller, Michael Moule NCDOT: Carl Goode, Drew Joyner, Tom Kendig, Max Phillips Other: Philan Medford, Betty Jackson Parsons Brinckerhoff: Mary Clayton TGS Engineers: Ken Burleson	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Approval of April 25, 2000, Meeting Minutes Discussion of Educational Meeting – Logistics and Format Discussion of Design Forum – Logistics and Format Document from I-26 Awareness Group Regarding Issues for the Design Forum
05/09/2000	CCC – Leadership Group	CCC: Lou Bisette, Brownie Newman, Ron Ainspan, Curtis Williams Staff: Scott Shuford, Ron Fuller TGS Engineers: Ken Burleson (by phone)	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Formats for the proposed Education Meeting and Design Forum
05/16/2000	CCC	CCC: Louis Bisette, Brownie Newman, Leni Sitnick, Ron Ainspan, Yates Pharr, Chuck Pickering, Mike Plemmons, Karen Cargolin, Bob Shepherd, Betty Lawrence, Susan Ballard, Susan Roderick City Staff: Michael Moule, Scott Shuford, Ron Fuller NCDOT: Drew Joyner, Carl Goode, Tom Kendig, Dan Martin, Max Phillips TGS Engineers: Ken Burleson	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Approval of May 3, 2000, Meeting Minutes Design Forum/Education Meeting Logistics and Format I-26 Project Schedule NCDOT Discussion of Design Constraints

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
05/31/2000	CCC	CCC: Louis Bisette, Debby Vance, Leni Sitnick, Ron Ainspan, Yates Pharr, Chuck Pickering, Patty Devers, Bradley Hix, Linda Giltz, Betty Lawrence, Susan Ballard, Susan Roderick City Staff: Michael Moule, Scott Shuford, Ron Fuller I-26 Connector Awareness Group: Philan Medford, Whit Rylee NCDOT: Drew Joyner, Carl Goode, Tom Kendig, Max Phillips, Mike Penney TGS Engineers: Ken Burleson	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Approval of May 16, 2000, Meeting Minutes Discussion of Media Plan Discussion of Education Forum Format “Dry Run” of Education Forum Presentations
06/28/2000	CCC	CCC: Louis Bisette, Debby Vance, Roger Derrough, Betty Lawrence, Bradley Hix, Dan Martin, Jeff Kelly, Brownie Newman, Leni Sitnick, Greg Gregory, Karen Cragnolin, Mike Plemmons, Chuck Pickering, Curtis Williams City Staff: Ron Fuller, Oliver Gajda, Scott Shuford NCDOT: Drew Joyner, Max Phillips, Tom Kendig	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Approval of June 13, 2000, Meeting Minutes Discussion of Design Forum – Format and Logistics Discussion of Education Forum – How it Went
07/11/2000	CCC	CCC: Louis Bisette, Debby Vance, Betty Lawrence, Bradley Hix, Ron Ainspan, Leni Sitnick, Jim Coman, Mac Swicegood, Chuck Pickering NCDOT: Drew Joyner, Max Phillips, Tom Kendig Parsons Brinckerhoff: Fred Craig TGS Engineers: Ken Burleson	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Design Forum logistics, including bus tours for upcoming Thursday Welcoming Session Forum Facilitation of Friday sessions Review of Saturday session with some minor format changes
08/16/2000	CCC	N/A	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Approval of July 11, 2000, Meeting Minutes Discussion of Design Forum Discussion of Next Steps

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
09/12/2000	CCC with Asheville City Council	N/A	Asheville	Presentation of Report of the Community Coordinating Committee for the Design of the I-26 Connector Through Asheville
09/21/2000	CCC with Asheville Urban Area MPO	N/A	Asheville	Presentation of Report of the Community Coordinating Committee for the Design of the I-26 Connector Through Asheville
10/31/2000	CCC	CCC: Louis Bisette, Ron Ainspan, Susan Roderick, Betty Lawrence, Roger Derrough, Curtis Williams, Karen Cragnolin, Brownie Newman, Chuck Pickering, Leni Sitnick, Jim Coman, Gene Bell, Whit Rylee, Bette Jackson City Staff: Michael Moule, Ron Fuller, Scott Shuford NCDOT: Drew Joyner, Tom Kendig, Carl Goode, Max Phillips TGS: Ken Burleson	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Upcoming WECAN Neighborhood Design Workshop NCDOT response to CCC recommendations that were also endorsed by the City Council and the MPO Nine alternative alignments involving three primary alignment alternatives Future facilitated CCC meeting to discuss alternatives
03/19/2002	CCC	CCC: Lou Bisette, Brownie Newman, Ron Ainspan, Ruth Chaet, Karen Cragnolin, Linda Giltz, Bette Jackson, Jeff Kelley, Betty Lawrence, Dan Martin, Susan Roderick, Leni Sitnick Staff: Dan Baechtold, Ed Hutchinson, Robin Nix, Scott Shuford Visitors: Alan Thornburg, Mack Williams	Asheville City Building, Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: I-26 Connector Process/Traffic Forecasts Interchange of I-40 and I-26 I-26 Widening Projects NEPA/Section 404 Merger Project Team Riverside Parkway Update Urban Design Discussion Portland Transportation Planning Meeting Attendance Detailed Scheduled Expected from NCDOT Soon

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
05/08/2002	TAC/TCC Meeting		Public Works Building, Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: I-26 Connector update Broadening project scope Adding two alternatives recommended by CCC. Schedule review
05/08/2002	Joint TAC/TCC	TCC, TAC, NCDOT	Public Works Building, Asheville	To decide on number of lanes for the segment of I-26 between I-40 and Patton Avenue
06/20/2002	TAC Meeting	TAC	Public Works Building, Asheville	To discuss updated traffic model, differences between updated and current. TAC accepted updated model.
06/20/2002	TCC Meeting	TCC	Public Works Building, Asheville	To discuss updated model, the new regional traffic model, and the effects of the models on the number of lanes needed.
11/05/2002	CCC	Lou Bisette, Ron Ainspan, Gene Bell, Jim Coman, Linda Giltz, Bette Jackson, Betty Lawrence, Chuck Pickering, Mike Plemmons, Dan Baechtold, Scott Shuford	Public Works Building, Asheville	Update on project schedule. Concern over historic designation of a portion of WECAN Neighborhood and its effect on Alternative 5.
04/05/2003	FHWA Meeting	FHWA: Emily Lawton, Clarence Coleman Martin, Alexiou and Bryson: Don Bryson NCDOT: Drew Joyner, Vince Rhea, Derrick Weaver, Beverly Williams, Nathan Phillips TGS: Ken Burleson	NCDOT – PDEA, Raleigh	To discuss traffic projections and the AAMPO's decision to proceed with eight lanes.
05/29/2003	City of Asheville	COA: Scott Shuford, Joe Heard, Anthony Butzek, Dan Baechtold NCDOT: Drew Joyner, Vince Rhea TGS: Ken Burleson	Winston-Salem	To discuss progress and difficulties in projecting traffic for the project.
06/27/2003	CCC	Brownie Newman, Lou Bisette, Bette Jackson, Mac Swicegood, Ruth Chaet, Susan Roderick, Luella Heetdecks, Jim Coman, Dan Baechtold, Drew Joyner, Max Phillips, Ken Burleson, Andrew Euston, Steve Banks	Asheville City Hall	Review of past year's tasks: environmental, coordination with I-4401, functional designs, possible historic designation

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
12/15/2003	CCC	Brownie Newman, Ron Ainspan, Ruth Chaet, Chuck Pickering, Susan Roderick, Luella Heetdecks, Jim Coman, Debbie Vance, Scott Shuford, Rita Baides, Alan Thornburg, Jay Swain, Greg Thorpe, Drew Joyner, Max Phillips, Ken Burleson, Derrick Weaver, Terry Bellamy, Steve Rasmussen	Asheville City Hall	Revised schedule and review of new model. Decision making process was reviewed. Number of lanes was discussed.
07/12/2004	I-26 AAC	Robert Camille, Hedy Fischer, Peter Gentling, Alice Oglesby, Matt Sprouse; Scott Shuford, City of Asheville; Elizabeth Teague, City of Asheville, Joe Heard, City of Asheville	Asheville	Reviewed information concerning the history of the project, goals and achievements of the CCC, and reviewed examples of highway design with an emphasis on aesthetics.
07/15/2004	TAC Meeting	FBRMPO	Asheville	TAC meeting – follow up to I-26 connector public meeting.
07/26/2004	CCC	CCC: Ron Ainspan, Gene Bell, Betty Lawrence, Bette Jackson Others: Peter Gentling Staff: Anthony Butzek, Alan Glines, Scott Shuford, Elizabeth Teague, Sasha Vrtunski, Mac Williams	Asheville	Discussion of the following topics: Future of the CCC Aesthetics Committee Separation of Project Components Number of Lanes Issue I-40 Interchange Design
08/23/2004	I-26 AAC	Hedy Fischer, Alice Oglesby, Matt Sprouse, Scot Shuford, Elizabeth Teague, Drew Joyner, Vince Rhea, Derrick Weaver, Bob Kopetsky		Use of Haywood Road retaining walls for murals. Need for visualization maps to be present at citizen workshops.
10/04/2004	I-26 AAC	Leslie Hay, Hedy Fischer, Dan Baechtold, Scott Shuford, Elizabeth Teague, Rick Tipton	City Hall - Asheville	Record of meeting. No quorum. Aesthetic issues involving the I-40 widening project were discussed.
10/25/2004	I-26 AAC	Robert Camille, Leslie Fay, Hedy Fischer, Peter Gentling, Alice Oglesby, Matt Sprouse, Hoss Hailey, Dan Baechtold, Scott Shuford, Elizabeth Teague, Rick Tipton, Greg Shuler, Vince Rhea, Ken Burleson	UNC-Asheville	Noise wall examples, cost discussion, timing and tasks.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
11/23/2004	NCDOT Branch Staff/FHWA Coordination Meeting Concerning Aesthetics Issues	FHWA: Clarence Coleman NCDOT Design Services: David Scheffel NCDOT Division 13: Rick Tipton (via phone) NCDOT PDEA: Vince Rhea, Derrick Weaver, Ed Lewis, Bobby Dunn NCDOT Roadside Environmental Unit: Bob Kopetsky NCDOT Structure Design: Lonnie Brooks NCDOT TIP Program Manager: Drew Joyner TGS Engineers: Ken Burleson	Raleigh	Timetable and involvement in the aesthetics issues for the I-2513 and I-4401 projects.
1/21/2005	I-26 AAC	Hedy Fischer, Peter Gentling, Alice Oglesby, Matt Sprouse, Dan Baechtold, Scott Shuford, Elizabeth Teague, Cole Hood, Dian Magie, Adam Cooper, Laurie Lundquist, Dan Milspaugh	City Hall, Asheville	Highway design projects that incorporate art.
04/11/2005	I-26 AAC	Robert Camille, Peter Gentling, Alice Oglesby, Dan Baechtold, Alan Glines, Scott Shuford, Elizabeth Teague, Ronnie Clark, Vince Rhea, Bob Kopetsky, David Hinnant, Ken Burleson	UNC-Asheville	NCDOT needs reasonably accurate idea of scale and type of aesthetic enhancements in order to buy in. Ideas for aesthetic enhancements discussed.
06/13/2005	I-26 AAC	Hedy Fisher, Leslie Fay, Alice Oglesby, Dan Baechtold, Scott Shuford, Greg Shuler, Rick Tipton, Vince Rhea, Drew Joyner, Lonnie Brooks, Jeff Lackley, Ken Burleson	UNC-Asheville	Discussions regarding lighting, timing, mapping products to AAC. Retaining wall types.
10/09-10/10/2006	Local Officials' Meeting	Approximately 25 local officials	Prior to Public Meeting	Provided presentation that would be given at the CIW and gave the officials' an opportunity to ask questions.
01/26/2007	SHPO Review Meeting	FHWA: Rob Ayers, Donnie Brew NCDOT: Mary Pope Furr, Derrick Weaver, Vince Rhea SHPO: Renee Gledhill-Earley, Sarah McBride TGS: Ken Burleson URS: Jeff Weisner	NC SHPO	To discuss the determination of effects to historic resources for the project.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
08/16/2007 ^a	TAC/TCC Meeting	FBRMPO TAC/TCC: Dan Baechtold, Rick Tipton, Peter Trencansky	AB Tech, Enka Campus	Discussion of elimination of Alternative 5 due to traffic concerns.
10/22/2007	Alternative 4-B Technical Review Committee	Manuel Carballo, Ken Putnam, Jay Rohleder, Stephanie Pankiewicz, Alan McGuinn, Brian Eason, Rick Tipton, Chris Werner, Peter Trencansky, Derrick Weaver, Cathy Houser, Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe, Alice Oglesby, Mike Goodson, Cathy Ball	City Hall, Asheville	Project kick-off meeting with Alternative 4-B Technical Review Committee to discuss Alternative 4-B.
12/11/2007	Alternative 4-B Progress Meeting	Manuel Carballo, Lonnie Brooks, Scott Blevins, Cathy Houser, David Scheffel, Brian Hanks, Allen Raynor, Brian Eason, Peter Trencansky, Charlie Flowe, Steve Browbe, Jeff Weisner, Derrick Weaver, Ken Burleson	NCDOT, Century Center, Raleigh	Progress meeting to discuss group's progress on providing design for Alternative 4-B.
01/04/2008	Alternative 4-B Progress Meeting	Manuel Carballo, Mike Goodson, Chris Eller, Stephanie Pankiewicz, Alan McGuinn, Jeff Weisner, Ken Burleson, Steve Browde, Vince Rhea, Brian Eason, Ricky Tipton, Cathy Ball, Ken Putnam, Jay Rohleder	City Hall, Asheville	Progress meeting to discuss group's progress on providing design for Alternative 4-B.
01/15/2008	Asheville City Council	Cathy Ball, Manuel Carballo, Vince Rhea, Derrick Weaver, Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe, Jeff Weisner, Calvin Leggett	City Hall, Asheville	Meeting to present Alternative 4-B to Mayor & City Council for review and comments.
03/13/2008	Alternative 4-B Progress Meeting	Jake Riggsbee, Donnie Brew, Joe Geigle, Scott Blevins, Cathy Houser, Jay Bennett, Teresa Hart, Derrick Weaver, Vince Rhea, Lonnie Brooks, Ricky Tipton, Jay Rohleder, Brian Eason, Doug Wheatley, Ken Burleson, Peter Trencansky, Jeff Weisner	NCDOT, Transportation Building	Progress meeting to discuss group's progress on providing design for Alternative 4-B.
04/16/2008	Alternative 4-B Progress Meeting	Vince Rhea, Derrick Weaver, Cathy Houser, David Scheffel, Jim Dunlop, Steve Kite, Lonnie Brooks, Rick Tipton, Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe, Brian Eason, Doug Wheatley, Manuel Carballo, Peter Trencansky, Chris Werner	NCDOT, Century Center, Raleigh	Meeting to review NCDOT technical comments on Alternative 4-B.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
06/20/2008	Alternative 4-B Progress Meeting	Clarence Coleman, Ricky Tipton, Virginia Mabry, Jim Dunlop, Erin Hendee, Sarah Wicklund, Vince Rhea, Derrick Weaver, Cathy Houser, David Scheffel, Lonnie Brooks, Jay Rohleder, Steven Browde, Dough Wheatley, Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe, Brenda Crumpler, Peter Trencansky, Chris Werner, Jeff Weisner	NCDOT, Transportation Building	Meeting to review NCDOT's technical comments on Alternative 4-B.
09/16/2008 ^a	Local Officials' Meeting	Approximately 10 local officials	Renaissance Hotel, Asheville	Provided presentation that would be given at the Public Hearing later the same day and gave the officials' an opportunity to ask questions.
01/29/2009	Post-Hearing Meeting	Debbie Barbour, Art McMillan, Jay Bennett, Scott Blevins, Dewayne Sykes, David Scheffel, Malcolm Watson, David Clodgo, Jay Stancil, Teresa Hart, Derrick Weaver, Vince Rhea, Drew Joyner, Rick Tipton, James Dunlop, Marshall Clawson, Sarah Smith, Linh Nguyen, Van Argabright, Katina Lucas, Mohd Aslami, Jeff Hemphill, Allen Raynor, Thomas Payne, Cyrus Parker, Terry W. Fox, John Pilipchuk, Jay Woolard, Laurence Gettier, Carl Barclay, Betty C. Yancey (NCDOT); Donnie Brew (FHWA); David Baker (USACE); Heather Strassberger (FBRMPO), Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe (TGS), Jeff Weisner, Chris Werner, Peter Trencansky (URS)	Structure Design Conference Room	Discussion of comments received.
10/01/2009	Alternative 4-B Technical Review Committee	Cathy Ball, Derrick Weaver, Vince Rhea, Stephanie Pankiewicz, Manual Carballo, Steve Browde, Brian Eason, Jim Samuel, John Legerton, Jay Rohleder, Chris Werner, Bette Jackson, Bruce Emory, Chris Eller, Peter Trencansky, Greg Shuler, Alan McGuinn, Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe, Rick Tipton, Ken Putnam	Public Works Building, Asheville	To discuss preliminary design including Alternative 4-B.

Date	Meeting Type	Attendees	Location	Purpose
02/16/2010 ^a	SHPO Review Meeting	FHWA: Donnie Brew SHPO: Renee Gledhill-Earley NCDOT: Mary Pope Furr, Derrick Weaver, Vince Rhea TGS: Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe URS: Peter Trencansky	NCDOT Environmental Resource Center	To discuss the determination of effects to historic resources for the project.
02/26/2010	Alternative 4-B Technical Review Committee	Cathy Ball, Derrick Weaver, Vince Rhea, Doug Taylor, Stephanie Pankiewicz, Bill Langdon, Bette Jackson, Bruce Emory, Peter Trencansky, Greg Shuler, Alan McGuinn, Ken Burleson, Charlie Flowe, Rick Tipton, Mike Goodson, Ken Putnam	Public Works Building, Asheville	To discuss preliminary design, including Alternative 4-B.
06/23/2010 ^a	Alternative 4-B Technical Review Committee	Cathy Ball, Ken Putnam, Greg Shuler, Mike Goodson, Stephanie Pankiewicz, Chic Webb, Bruce Emory, Bette Jackson, Derrick Weaver (via teleconference), Rick Tipton, Terry Snow, Peter Trencansky	Asheville Design Center	To discuss preliminary design, including Alternative 4-B.
09/24/2015	FBRMPO Governing Board Meeting	Rick Tipton, Kristina Solberg, Derrick Weaver, John Burris, Neil Dean, Joanna Rocco, Chris Werner	Land of Sky offices, Asheville	Presented greenway proposal, comparison of 2005, 2010, and 2015 FBRMPO travel demand models, and project constructability.

^a No minutes are available for this meeting.

Table 8-2: Agency Correspondence

Date	From	To	General Subject
Federal			
01/24/1996	USFWS	NCDOT: Franklin Vick	Scoping comments from USFWS
02/12/1996	TVA	NCDOT: Franklin Vick	Scoping comments from TVA
07/05/2000	FHWA: Nicholas Graf, PE	NCDOT PDEA: William Gilmore, PE	Clarification of FHWA position on design speed and number of lanes for proposed project
07/07/2004	FHWA	NCDOT PDEA: Dr. Thorpe	Clarification of FHWA position on the number of lanes for I-26
05/06/2008	TVA	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
05/19/2008	USEPA Region 4	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
06/13/2008 ^a	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians – Tribal HPO	FHWA	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
State			
07/11/1994	David Brook	FHWA: Nicholas Graf	Archaeological Survey findings
01/29/1996	Don H. Robbins	Melba McGee	Scoping comments from NCDEHNR
02/06/1996	Stephanie Goudreau	Melba McGee	Scoping comments from NCWRC
02/22/1996	NCDEHNR		Intergovernmental Review – Project Comments
02/23/1996	Monica Swihart	Melba McGee	NCDEHNR Scoping Comments, water quality
02/26/1996	Melba McGee, Environmental Review Coordinator	State Clearinghouse	NCDEHNR Scoping Comments
02/29/1996	David Brook	Franklin Vick	Department of Cultural Resources Scoping Comments
03/14/1996	NC State Clearinghouse	NCDOT	Scoping Comments
07/11/2006	NCDOT: Dr. Thorpe	Peter Sandbeck, Cultural Resources	Phase II Architectural Resources Survey Report
09/22/2006	Peter Sandbeck, Cultural Resources	NCDOT: Dr. Thorpe	Haywood Street United Methodist Church, Addendum to Phase II Architectural Resources Survey Report
10/03/2006	NCDOT: Vincent Rhea	Peter Sandbeck, Cultural Resources	Assessment of effects determination
04/16/2008	NCDENR Natural Heritage Program	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
04/28/2008	NCDENR Asheville Regional Office	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS

Date	From	To	General Subject
04/28/2008	Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
04/30/2008	NCWRC	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
05/01/2008 ^a	North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, SHPO	NCDOT	No Comment on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
05/05/2008	North Carolina DWQ	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
02/16/2010	NCDOT, FHWA, SHPO	N/A	Concurrence form for assessment of effects
04/24/2015	SHPO: Renee Gledhill-Earley	NCDOT: Mary Pope Furr	Concurrence that properties are eligible for listing in the NRHP
07/7/2015	NCDOT HES: Matthew Wilkerson	NCSHPO: Romona Bartos	No adverse effect determination for archaeological site 31BN623, TIP I-2513
07/30/2015	NCDOT Rail Division: James Harris	NCDOT Roadway: Kevin Moore	Railroad involvement information
Local			
11/15/1995	W. Louis Bisette, Jr. and Mac McGough, Co-Chairmen	Directors and Members/Other Leaders	Western North Carolina Corridor Association Notice about upcoming meeting on December 6
03/08/1996	Land of Sky Regional Council	State Clearinghouse	Land of Sky Scoping Comments
06/11/1997	MPO: Ron Fuller	NCDOT: Franklin Vick	Road closures related to U-2902
04/20/1998	Charles H. Taylor, Member of Congress	NCDOT: The Honorable Norris Tolson	Transmitted letter from Roger Derrough, CEO Earth Fare, Inc.
04/20/1998	Jesse Helms, Senator	NCDOT: Norris Tolson	Transmitted letter from Roger Derrough, Chief Executive Officer, Earth Fare, Inc.
05/07/1998	James Westbrook, City Manager	NCDOT: Richard B Davis	Official comments from City of Asheville regarding I-26
10/14/1998	Charles H. Taylor, Member of Congress	NCDOT: Kenneth Wilson, District Engineer	Requesting information about the I-26 Connector project following an inquiry from constituent, Meg Anderson
10/15/1998	UNC-Asheville: Denise Snodgrass	NCDOT: Tom Kendig	Letter of thanks October 14 session
02/24/1999	MPO: Ron Fuller	NCDOT: Bill Gilmore	I-26 Connector Project Concerns from staff of the City of Asheville
03/16/1999	James Westbrook, City Manager	NCDOT Board of Transportation: Gordon Myers	I-26 Connector Project Resolution passed by Asheville City Council on March 9, 1999
08/01/1999	Land of Sky Regional Council: Elizabeth Teague	NCDOT: Tom Kendig	E-mail from I-25 Connector awareness group

Date	From	To	General Subject
08/04/1999	NCDOT: Bill Gilmore	MPO: Ron Fuller	Asheville MPO TAC concerns about the new I-26 Route
09/20/1999	James Westbrook, City Manager	NCDOT: Bill Gilmore	Comments on interchange design at NC 191
09/23/1999	First Church of Asheville	TGS: Ken Burleson	List of Burton Street Community Center Director's upgrade needs
12/15/1999	Smart Growth Partners of Western North Carolina, Inc.	NCDOT: David McKoy	Letter expressing opposition to NCDOT's proposed widening of I-240 to eight lanes
12/22/1999	Leni Sitnick, Asheville Mayor	NCDOT: Thomas Kendig	Letter of request from City Council for NCDOT to participate in a community design forum
01/03/2000	MPO: Ron Fuller	NCDOT: Bill Gilmore	Comments on Haywood Road Bridge over I-240 design
01/21/2000	NCDOT: Cathy Houser	NCDOT: Bill Gilmore	Response to Ron Fuller's comments on Haywood Road Bridge
03/14/2000	Irby Brinson, Parks and Rec; Gloria Johnson, Burton Street Community	NCDOT PDEA: Drew Joyner	List of community amenities request letter
04/03/2000 ^a	G. Wake Walker, PE, Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin Lopez Rinehard	I-26 Connector Awareness Group: Ron Ainspan	I-26 Alternative Concept for review
04/28/2000 ^a	Scott Shuford	E-mail to: D. Joyner, NCDOT, T. Kendig, NCDOT, C. Gatchell, FHWA; M. Clayton, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Ken Burleson, TGS Engineers cc: Cathy Ball, Ron Fuller, Michael Moule, City of Asheville	Comments/Issues from City staff perspective on Kulash "Line Drawing"
06/06/2000	Scott Shuford, City of Asheville	NCDOT: Drew Joyner	E-mail concerning meeting with Nick Apostolopoulos and project affect to property on Burton Street
06/30/2000	NCDOT Division Engineer: F.D. Martin, PE	NCDOT: Calvin Leggett, PE	Memorandum transmitting Local Petition Against I-26 Connector Project
07/12/2000	Betty Lawrence	NCDOT: Drew Joyner	Letter dated 7/12/2000 to I-26 Connector Awareness Committee to Janet D'Ignazio, NCDOT, regarding I-26 Connector Traffic Modeling
07/31/2000	Leni Sitnick, Mayor	TGS: Ken Burleson	Commendation of public involvement efforts at the Design Forum

Date	From	To	General Subject
08/01/2000	Ron Fuller	Scott Shuford, Lou Bisette, Brownie Newman, Robin Nix, Tom Kendig, Drew Joyner, Ken Burleson, Chris Gatchell	Request for comments from NCDOT, FHWA, and TGS on issues raised by the CCC
08/15/2000	Ron Fuller	Scott Shuford, Drew Joyner, Ken Burleson, Tom Kendig	Email regarding report from CCC on I-26 design.
09/19/2000	Leni Sitnick, Mayor	NCDOT: Secretary McCoy	Letter containing Signed resolution report from CCC.
09/21/2000	AMPO: Charles Grimes		Signed Resolution supporting Report and Recommendations.
09/25/2000	MPO: Ron Fuller	NCDOT: David McCoy	Letter transmitting resolution from the TAC of the AAMPO concerning the I-26 Connector.
10/31/2000 ^a	I-26 Connector Awareness Group		I-26 Connector Awareness Group List of Issues
11/10/2000	Tanya David, Smart Growth Partners'	Mike Begly, Coy Rice, Leni Sitnick, Gordon Myers, David Gantt, Chuck Cloninger, Oliver Gajda, Ron Ruller, David McCloy, Dan Martin, Calvin Leggett, James Westbrook, Bruce Black, Michael Moule, Drew Joyner, Len Sanderson, Scott Shuford	E-mail transmitting Smart Growth Partner's comments to the draft TIP for the Asheville Urban Area
11/20/2000 ^a	Betty Lawrence, I-26 Awareness Group	Asheville MPO's TAC and Interested Parties	E-mail with TIP recommendations to TAC from the I-26 Group
03/16/2001	Scott Shuford, City of Asheville	NCDOT: Drew Joyner	E-mail reply concerning I-26 Awareness Group Fundraising dinner
05/29/2001 ^a	Louis Bisette on behalf of CCC	NCDOT PDEA: Drew Joyner	Express growing concerns about the viability of alternatives advanced by the CCC, especially Alternative 5
0/5/10/2002	MPO: Dan Baechtold	BOT: Alan Thornburg Design: Deborah Barbour Division 13: Dan Martim Planning Branch: Blake Norwood Traffic: Troy Peoples	Letter regarding resolution requesting pedestrian signals and other pedestrian improvements

Date	From	To	General Subject
11/05/2003	Nathan Ramsey, Chair Buncombe County Board of Commissioners	NCDOT: Jay Swain, Division Engineer	Letter with thanks for sending staff to community meetings and transmitted a list of additional questions and concerns
01/05/2004	NCDOT	Mayor Worley	Supporting information for an eight-lane facility
03/03/2004	Vince Rhea	Mayor Worley	Leadership for AAC
03/05/2004	MPO: Elizabeth Teague	Drew Joyner	E-mail regarding I-2513 and the Hominy Creek Road to Amboy Road Greenway in Asheville
06/07/2004 ^a	Scott Shuford	CCC Members	Request to schedule a CCC meeting
08/13/2004	RiverLink	NCDOT: Jay Swain, Division Engineer	RiverLink resolutions concerning the I-26/I-240 project
09/23/2004	NCDOT: Jay Swain, Division Engineer	RiverLink	Confirmation of RiverLink resolutions
09/24/2004	COA: Anthony J. Butzek	TGS: Ken Burleson	Letter requesting that several neighborhood streets be reconnected in conjunction with I-26
10/25/2004	NCDOT: Vince Rhea	COA: Anthony J. Butzek	Response to request for reconnecting several neighborhood streets in conjunction with I-26
10/29/2004	Michael M. Moule, President, Principal Engineer, Livable Streets, Inc.	TAC and TCC Members, Asheville	Follow-up to October 1, 2004, memo and letter from NCDOT
11/18/2004	COA: Mayor Worley	Lyndo Tippet	Letter confirming that City Council requests that a CORSIM traffic model be conducted
12/01/2004	Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce: Richard Lutovsky	NCDOT: Jay Swain, Jr., PE, Division 13 Engineer	Transmitting Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Resolution encouraging NCDOT funding for aesthetics design recommendations for I-26 Connector
07/21/2005	COA: Mayor Worley	Lyndo Tippet	Letter requesting NCDOT to present findings of traffic study to City Council
10/09/2006 ^a	Asheville Design Center	NCDOT	List of questions to NCDOT about project
10/19/2006	Michael McDonough	NCDOT: Vince Rhea	Apology from AIA I50 RE: community meeting
11/09/2006	Gene Bell, Asheville Housing Authority	NCDOT: Vince Rhea	Letter of comment on alternative plans for the project and its impact on low-income communities
11/10/2006	Southern Environmental Law Center/Western North Carolina Alliance	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
04/10/2007	TGS: Ken Burleson	COA: Jim Orr	I-26 Project effects on park and recreational facilities

Date	From	To	General Subject
04/18/2007	NCDOT: Vince Rhea	COA: Jim Orr	I-26 Project effects on park and recreational facilities
04/20/2007	TGS: Ken Burleson	COA: Jim Orr	Section 4(f) coordination
09/12/2007	COA: Roderick Simmons	Vince Rhea	<i>De minimis</i> impact statement for project I-2513
11/08/2007	Manuel Carballo (Figg bridge)	NCDOT	E-mail with two documents attached: Alternate 4-B Design Criteria and List of Data Items Requested in Kick-Off Meeting
11/10/2007	Manuel Carballo (Figg bridge)	NCDOT	E-mail regarding structural concepts being evaluated for ADC's Alternative 4-B. Requesting Structures Design Group input
01/14/2008	Asheville Design Center	NCDOT	Letter providing comments on Purpose and Need Statement
01/14/2008	Southern Environmental Law Center/Western North Carolina Alliance	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
04/28/2008 ^a	Land of Sky Regional Council	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
05/05/2008	City of Asheville	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS, including request to include Alternative 4-B in Supplemental DEIS
05/15/2008 ^a	City of Asheville Parks and Recreation	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
06/19/2008	Asheville Design Center	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS, including request to include Alternative 4-B in Supplemental DEIS
06/21/2008	Southern Environmental Law Center/Western North Carolina Alliance	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS
09/16/2008	Southern Environmental Law Center/Western North Carolina Alliance	NCDOT	Comments requesting NCDOT include Alternative 4-B in Supplemental DEIS
10/15/2008	Asheville Design Center	NCDOT	Comments on Rescinded 2008 DEIS including request to include Alternative 4-B in Supplemental DEIS
12/19/2008	Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce	NCDOT	Comments on design alternatives: 2, 3, 4, and 4B of Section B of the I-26 Connector Project
12/18/2012	Southern Environmental Law Center/Western North Carolina Alliance	NCDOT	Comments for the new EIS

Date	From	To	General Subject
09/26/2013	FBRMPO: Jan Davis	FHWA	Request to FHWA to reconsider requirement for I-26 Connector to meet LOS D
10/24/2013	FHWA	FBRMPO: Jan Davis	Response to MPO request for reconsidering LOS D requirement
Various 2008 ^a	RiverLink	NCDOT	Resolution in support of aesthetically pleasing bridges over the French Broad River for I-26/I-240 signed by approximately 100 individuals
January 2009 ^a	Buncombe County Board of Commissioners	NCDOT	Provided minutes from the Board of Commissioners meeting that included a motion to endorse Alternative 3
January 2009 ^a	Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce	NCDOT	Letter stating that the Board of Directors voted on November 25, 2008, to recommend the selection of Alternative 3 for Section B in the NCDOT I-26 Connector project
Unknown ^a		Applicants for AAC	Letter to Applicants for AAC
Unknown ^a	Town of Woodfin		Resolution letter to recommend and request that the I-240 section that will accommodate I-26 be constructed as eight lanes

^a No minutes are available for this meeting.

In addition to containing information about the study, the newsletters included mailing addresses and the project hotline number so that interested persons could make comments or add their names to the mailing list. Notices of upcoming workshops and the public hearing have also been included in respective newsletters. Copies of the newsletters are included in Appendix A4.

8.2.1.3 Telephone Hotline

A telephone number was published in each newsletter and made available to local organizations and agencies in order to provide immediate response to public concerns and comments.

8.2.1.4 Project Website

NCDOT maintains a project web site that is used to provide project information related to public involvement activities (including meetings, newsletters), project map, frequently asked questions, project schedule, study process, and contact information. The web site can be found at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/I26Connector/>.

8.2.1.5 Project Visualization

NCDOT developed visualizations to supplement the information and maps presented at the public hearing in both video and map formats. The visualizations can be found on the project web site at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/I26Connector/>.

8.2.1.6 Key Stakeholder Interviews and Local Meetings

Interviews and Meetings in 2000

In March 2000, a consultant/facilitator was hired to conduct a series of local interviews with key community stakeholders to determine their interpretation of the project and their understanding of remaining project issues. In addition, neighborhood groups and special interest groups were identified, and meetings were held with each of them to improve their understanding of the project and, in some cases, address specific physical improvements or project-related impacts. Finally, a series of local meetings were held with community stakeholders to further expand the “listening” process, offering additional opportunities for input on the various project issues. These meetings are described in the following section.

Neighborhood Outreach Meetings in 2014

In 2014, three neighborhood meetings was held following the May public involvement efforts. These were held with the Burton Street Community, the East-West Asheville Neighborhood Association (EWANA), and the Montford Neighborhood. The discussions at these meetings were specific to each neighborhood.

Approximately 20 residents of the Burton Street neighborhood attended the June 30, 2014, meeting to discuss proposed project alternatives, *Burton Street Community Plan* updates (Asheville Design Center 2010a), and preparation of project environmental documents and to receive input from residents. Approximately 28 local residents attended the September 9, 2014, EWANA meeting to provide feedback and input, talk about the community’s plans, and provide updates on the I-26 Asheville Connector project. Approximately 10 residents of Montford

attended the September 16, 2014, meeting to provide feedback and input, talk about the community's plans, and provide updates on the project since the Public Meeting in May 2014.

8.2.2 MEETING SUMMARY

A timeline of when meetings were held, descriptions of the meeting formats, and brief summaries of meeting proceedings are summarized in this section. More detailed records of the meetings are provided in Appendix B.

8.2.2.1 Public Involvement Activities

A timeline and summary of public involvement activities is provided in Table 8-3.

8.2.2.2 Neighborhood Outreach Meetings

Using information in the *TIP Project I-2513, Buncombe County, Community Identification Technical Memorandum* (HNTB North Carolina, PC. 2007) and guidance from the NCDOT's PDEA Department, five neighborhoods were identified for additional outreach. These neighborhoods were the Burton Street Neighborhood, the Bingham Road area, the West End/Clingman Neighborhood, the Hillcrest and Houston/Courtland area, and Westwood Place. Details for each of the meetings are provided in the *Neighborhood Outreach Technical Memorandum* (NCDOT 2015b). Neighborhood representatives were identified through NCDOT's previous public involvement efforts, communication with City of Asheville staff, and internet research. Representatives from each of the neighborhoods were interviewed in order to gain initial insight into the community and its concerns, and to identify effective outreach techniques to engage maximum participation in neighborhood meetings. Meetings were held in each of the neighborhoods to solicit feedback regarding the potential effects of STIP Project I-2513. The following presents a list of meeting dates, locations, and number of attendees:

- 07/16/2007 – Small Group Meeting – Burton Street Neighborhood Open House – Burton Street Neighborhood Open House at the Burton Street Recreation Center (134 Burton Street, Asheville, NC 28806); attended by 25 to 30 residents.
- 07/17/2007 – Small Group Meeting – Bingham Road Area Open House – Bingham Road Area Open House at the Emma Baptist Church (520 N. Louisiana Avenue, Asheville, NC 28806); attended by three residents.
- 07/18/2007 – Small Group Meeting – West End/Clingman Neighborhood Open House – West End/Clingman Neighborhood Open House at the Daniel Boone Council Service Center (333 W. Haywood Street, Asheville, NC 28801); attended by approximately 20 residents.
- 07/19/2007 – Small Group Meeting – Hillcrest & Houston/Courtland Area Open House – Hillcrest & Houston/Courtland Area Open House at the Hill Street Baptist Church (135 Hill Street, Asheville, NC 28801); attended by approximately 15 residents.
- 07/20/2007 – Small Group Meeting – Westwood Place Open House at the Westwood Baptist Church (150 Westwood Place, Asheville, NC 28806); attended by approximately 25 residents.
- 06/30/2014 – Small Group Meeting – Burton Street Neighborhood at Burton Street Community Center (134 Burton Street, Asheville, NC 28806); attended by approximately 20 residents.

Table 8-3: Public Involvement Activities

Date	Meeting Type	Approximate No. of Attendees	Location	Purpose
09/09/1996	Small group – Western NC Corridor Association	30	Youngs Transportation	Provide attendees information about the project status.
10/03/1996	Small group – Westgate Shopping Center	3		Representatives from the shopping center are concerned with any alignment that travels through the center.
03/10/1998	Small group – Western NC Corridor Association	20	Cornerstone Restaurant, Asheville	Information regarding the status of the project was presented.
03/10/1998	Small group – RiverLink Inc.	9	RiverLink, Inc. Offices, Asheville	New location visualization video was shown.
04/23/1998	CIW	500	National Guard Armory, Asheville	Held to view conceptual plans showing the anticipated right-of-way impacts of the project.
10/14/1998	Small group – Leadership Asheville Seniors	30	RiverLink Inc. Offices, Asheville	To provide project information and participate in a panel discussion concerning growth issues.
01/25/1999	Small group – CAN		Trinity Church	Opened up communication between NCDOT and neighborhood groups.
03/29/1999	Small group – Westwood Neighborhood	70	Westwood Baptist Church	To inform residents potentially affected by the project of the three alternatives proposed to impact their neighborhood.
03/30/1999	Small group – Burton Street Neighborhood	35	Former Wilsons Chapel Memorial Church	To inform residents potentially affected by the project of the three alternatives proposed to impact their neighborhood.
05/17/1999	Small group – Haywood Road Businesses	20	Former Aycock School cafeteria	Presented the project alternatives and specifics of preliminary designs noting changes to Burton Street at Haywood.
05/18/1999	Small group – Burton Street Neighborhood	9	First Church of Asheville	To discuss possibility of walls being constructed along the project corridor that would avoid the relocation of some residences.
06/24/1999	Small group – Burton Street Neighborhood	18	Burton Street Community Center	To discuss two retaining wall options with residents of the neighborhood. Functional plans were presented.

Date	Meeting Type	Approximate No. of Attendees	Location	Purpose
07/21/1999	Small group – Riverside Drive Businesses		National Guard Armory	Functional plans of alternatives affecting the businesses were shown.
07/22/1999	Small group – Westgate/Patton Avenue Businesses		National Guard Armory	Functional plans of alternatives affecting the businesses were shown.
08/19/1999	Small group – Amboy Road Area		Southern Waterways	To discuss project impacts on the Amboy Road area to property owners and the proposed bicycle/pedestrian facility.
09/28/1999	Small group – City Seeds Conference	100 (approximate)	Diana Wortham Theater, Asheville	To provide information about the project and address concerns related to urban design and sprawl.
09/27/1999	Small group – Burton Street Neighborhood		First Church of Asheville	Discussion of Alternative 2.
12/13/1999	Small group – Historic Montford Avenue Neighborhood	22	Montford Community Center	To give a general project overview to the Montford Area residents and discuss current updates pertaining to the project.
12/14/1999	Small group – Burton Street Neighborhood		First Church of Asheville	To discuss the mitigation of the project based on the community's desires.
12/15/1999	Small group – Council of Independent Business Owners		NCDOT Division 13 Office	Presentation of functional plans of Alternatives 2 and 3 and asked for concerns, support, and questions.
03/08/2000	Small group – Bingham Road Area Neighborhood		Emma Elementary School Cafeteria	To discuss project impacts on the community in the Bingham Road/Emma Road area.
03/09/2000	Small group – Burton Street Neighborhood	10	First Church of Asheville	To discuss Burton Street Neighborhood mitigation requests with neighborhood president and pastor.
04/06/2000	Small group – Fairfax/Virginia Avenue Neighborhoods		Grace Baptist Church	To communicate project impacts with the Fairfax/Virginia Avenue Community.
04/12/2000	Small group – I-26 Connector Awareness Group	20	Asheville City Hall	To improve the I-26 Connector Awareness Group's working relationship with NCDOT.
05/03/2000	Small group – I-26 Connector Awareness Group	12	City Hall	To discuss conceptual plans prepared for the Connector Awareness Group. NCDOT provided pros and cons.

Date	Meeting Type	Approximate No. of Attendees	Location	Purpose
06/15/2000	Project Educational Forum	400	Lipinsky Auditorium, Asheville	Project education.
07/11/2000	Small group – I-26 Connector Awareness Group	20	Westgate Shopping Center	Discuss the upcoming Design Forum and encourage the participation of the I-26 Connector Awareness Group.
07/21-22/2000	Project Design Forum	100s	Renaissance Hotel	To allow interested citizens the opportunity to suggest improvements and become involved in the project design.
08/15/2000	CIW		Public Works Building, Asheville	Present information, answer questions, and receive comments
01/15/2002	Small group – Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce	50 (approximate)	Chamber Headquarters	Update the task force on the project status and process.
05/30/2002	Small group – Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce	40	Grove Park Inn	Presentation of overall process of the project.
06/12/2002	Public Meeting		AB TECH, Laurel Auditorium	Held by TAC to gain information and input on the project.
06/26/2003	Small group – I-26 Connector Awareness Group	15	Westgate Shopping Center	To provide an update on the project status.
11/13/2003	Small group – Downtown Rotary Club	30	Asheville Country Club	To provide an update on the project status.
12/15/2003	Small group – Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce	40 (approximate)	Chamber of Commerce	To provide an update on the project status.
06/22/2004 ^a	CIW		National Guard Armory	To show functional centerline alternatives.
07/14/2004 ^a	Project Informational Forum	250		NCDOT used to present the basis for recommending eight lanes.
10/09-10/2006	CIW	320	Renaissance Hotel	Slideshow presentation of project, maps, and examples. Handout included.
03/12/2007	NCDOT/ADC (AIA I50)			AIA I50 Citizens Meeting. Revisit of old alignments and why they were not feasible. Citizen input.
07/16/2007	Small group meeting – Burton Street Neighborhood	25-30	Burton Street Recreation Center	

Date	Meeting Type	Approximate No. of Attendees	Location	Purpose
07/17/2007	Small group meeting – Bingham Road Area	3	Emma Baptist Church	
07/18/2007	Small group meeting – West End/Clingham Area Neighborhood	20 (approximate)	Daniel Boone Council Service Center	
07/19/2007	Small group meeting – Hillcrest and Houson/Courtland Area	15	Hill Street Baptist Church	
07/20/2007	Small group meeting – Westwood Place	25	Westwood Baptist Church	
09/16/2008	Corridor Public Hearing	330	Renaissance Hotel	To explain corridor location, design, relocations requirements/procedures, and the state federal relationship. Official comment session with transcribed proceedings and recorded comments and responses.
05/12/2014	Public Meeting	144	Renaissance Hotel	To present updated roadway designs, provide status of environmental studies, gather public comment.
06/30/2014	Neighborhood Meeting	20	Burton Street Community Center	To discuss proposed project alternatives, Burton Street Community Plan updates, preparation of project environmental documents, and to receive input from residents.
09/09/2014	Neighborhood Meeting	28	Hall Fletcher Elementary School	To gather feedback and input, learn about the community's plans, and provide updates on the I-26 Asheville Connector project.
09/16/2014	Neighborhood Meeting	10	Montford Community Center	To gather feedback and input, learn about the community's plans, and provide updates on the project since the Public Meeting conducted by NCDOT on May 12, 2014.

^a No minutes are available for this meeting.

- 09/09/2014 – Small Group Meeting - EWANA at Hall Fletcher Elementary School Auditorium (60 Ridgelawn Road, Asheville, NC 28806); attended by approximately 29 residents.
- 09/16/2014 – Small Group Meeting – Montford Neighborhood Association at Montford Community Center (34 Pearson Drive, Asheville, NC 28801); attended by approximately 11 residents.

Over 25 respondents completed a comment sheet or provided written comments via e-mail over the course of the meetings. Based on written comments and issues and concerns discussed in the neighborhood meetings, general concerns and comments are summarized as follows:

- In general, there is mixed support for the project within these seven neighborhoods.
- Residents support the separation of interstate traffic from local traffic.
- There is general opposition to an eight-lane cross section.
- Residents felt that the local design plans were not adequately considered.
- Residents would like to see components of the project improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity within the project area, especially in the area of the Westgate Shopping Center.
- Residents are anxious for the lengthy planning process to conclude and are apprehensive about how their issues and concerns will be incorporated into the planning document.
- Residents would like aesthetically pleasing sound walls, landscaped medians, and buffers as part of the project.
- There is a perception that the preferred alternative selection is biased toward costs. Residents feel that alternatives impacting working class African American neighborhoods are more affordable for the state than alternatives in other Asheville neighborhoods, therefore, skewing the selection of the preferred alternative.
- Burton Street residents remember the division of their neighborhood by the construction of I-240, and feel that Alternate 3 would have negative effects to the remaining Burton Street Community.

8.2.2.3 Corridor Public Hearing

A Pre-Hearing Open House and Public Hearing were held on September 16, 2008, in the Grand Ballroom, Renaissance Asheville Hotel. The Open House began at 3:00 PM and ended at 6:30 PM. The Corridor Public Hearing began at 7:00 PM. Approximately 330 people were in attendance.

The Open House was held to give interested parties an opportunity to review displays, including design maps; ask questions directly from project staff; and leave comments, both verbal and written. The Public Hearing consisted of a formal presentation, which included an explanation of project schedule, alternatives included in the Rescinded 2008 DEIS, and a new conceptual design for an alternative known as Alternative 4-B, right-of-way, relocation requirements/procedures, and the state federal relationship.

NCDOT received approximately 220 comment sheets, e-mails, and/or letters regarding the project, a resolution signed by 100 individuals, and verbal comments from the 21 individuals who spoke at the Public Hearing. Copies of the post-hearing meeting minutes summarizing the comments received and the NCDOT responses are located in Appendix B3.

The following is an overview of the public hearing and the main issues of concern regarding the project according to the comments received:

- Comments were received requesting the NCDOT consider an alternative with six lanes in Section A of the project. As shown in the Rescinded 2008 DEIS, a six-lane typical section would not meet the Purpose and Need for the project; therefore, it would not be included as a detailed study alternative.
- Comments were received requesting that the selected alternative for the project separate interstate traffic from local traffic, especially across the Smoky Park Bridges. NCDOT determined that they would continue to evaluate all alternatives included in the Rescinded 2008 DEIS, as well as Alternative 4-B, and the separation of local and interstate traffic would be considered an additional benefit, but would not be a requirement when selecting the preferred alternative.
- Concerns were raised regarding the impacts to residences and business and the effect the project will have on the local economy and tax base. NCDOT determined a more in-depth analysis of the effects on the local economy and the tax base would be included in this DEIS.
- Comments were received requesting greater emphasis on providing multi-modal amenities such as bicycle, pedestrian, and transit solutions. NCDOT commits to continue working with the public to provide multi-modal amenities to the greatest extent practical during the final design of the project.

8.2.3 COMMITTEES

Two public committees were formed in order for the public to provide further input into the project development process. The CCC and AAC are described in this section.

8.2.3.1 Community Coordinating Committee

In late 1999, public concern about the project prompted the City of Asheville to request that NCDOT pursue additional public involvement. Partnering with the City of Asheville, NCDOT invited the leaders of the interested business groups, affected neighborhoods, and other public interest organizations to meet and discuss the principal issues of concern. To bring the greater community to a consensus, a CCC was formed from this group of community leaders. The CCC was formed to facilitate public involvement and acquire public input on the project. In addition to citizen representatives, the CCC was composed of representatives from the following agencies, businesses, and organizations:

- Montford Area Neighborhood Association
- Fairfax Neighborhood Association
- Burton Street Neighborhood Association
- Southeastern Freight Lines
- ICAG
- RiverLink Inc.
- Council of Independent Business Owners (CIBO)
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- The Biltmore Company
- Western North Carolina Alliance (WNCA)
- Quality Forward
- McGuire, Wood & Bissette
- Biltmore Dairy Farms
- Westgate Corporation
- Out There Press

- Smart Growth Partners
- Buncombe County Zoning Administrator
- Asheville Chamber of Commerce
- City of Asheville
 - Mayor
 - Transportation and Engineering Department
 - Public and Community Information Coordinator
 - Housing Authority
- FHWA
- NCDOT
 - Division 13
 - Citizens Participation Unit
 - PDEA
- TGS Engineering
- Parsons Brinckerhoff

Many meetings of the CCC have been held throughout the project development process. Records of these meetings are listed in Table 8-1 and are available upon request. The meeting dates are as follows:

- April 25, 2000
- May 3, 2000
- May 16, 2000
- May 31, 2000
- June 13, 2000
- June 15, 2000 (Project Educational Forum)
- June 28, 2000
- July 11, 2000
- August 16, 2000
- August 23, 2000
- October 31, 2000
- November 28, 2000
- December 8, 2000
- January 31, 2001
- March 19, 2002
- May 7, 2002
- May 29, 2002
- June 18, 2002
- November 5, 2002
- June 27, 2003
- December 15, 2003
- July 26, 2004

8.2.3.2 Aesthetics Advisory Committee

In response to a recommendation by the CCC, the City of Asheville established an AAC to work with NCDOT and the city to address aesthetic issues throughout the planning and design of the project.

The AAC acts in an advisory capacity. Members are charged with being familiar with NCDOT policies and city ordinances. Their work must be completed in a timely manner in accordance with the project's overall schedule. They have assisted with community outreach via neighborhood group meetings, workshops, and surveys.

Members understand that any of their recommendations that are outside of NCDOT policy can be considered, but should include suggestions for funding. To assist them, NCDOT and the City jointly provide technical and functional support. NCDOT has provided technical assistance for some visualization. The city has provided meeting locations and notifications. Several meetings have used video conferencing to involve NCDOT personnel.

The committee has provided guidance in the location of the proposed planted median, as well as the planned design of the project noise walls.

The AAC was composed of the following citizen, agency, and business representatives:

- Leslie Fay
- Hedy Fisher
- Peter Gentling
- Robert Camille, Camille Alberice Architects
- Alice Oglesby, I.O. Design and Illustration
- Matt Sprouse, Site Works Studios
- Scott Shuford, City of Asheville, Planning and Development
- Alan Glines, City of Asheville, Planning and Development
- Dan Baechtold, City of Asheville, Transportation and Engineering
- Rick Tipton, NCDOT
- Greg Shuler, NCDOT

Many meetings of the AAC have been held throughout the project development process. Records of these meetings are listed in Table 8-1 and are available upon request. The meeting dates are as follows:

- July 12, 2004
- August 23, 2004
- October 4, 2004
- October 25, 2004
- November 15, 2004
- January 21, 2005
- April 25, 2005
- June 13, 2005
- August 22, 2005

8.3 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PURPOSE AND NEED AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with the SAFETEA-LU, the public was provided an opportunity to review and comment on the project Purpose and Need and alternatives. The Purpose and Need statement and project alternatives were available on the NCDOT project web site (<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/I26Connector/>) and were also included in the December 2007 Newsletter. Approximately 141 comments were received. The comments and responses were

categorized and entered into a project comment/response database. A report of the database can be found in Appendix E.

The majority of comments on the Purpose and Need concerned inclusion of the separation of local and interstate traffic as part of the Purpose and Need statement, as well as including the Key Design Goals presented in the CCC Report, which are listed in Section 1.5.2 of this DEIS. The majority of comments regarding project alternatives urge the NCDOT to consider the conceptual alternative presented by the ADC. Other comments concern inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian facility improvements, consideration of a bypass alternative, the need to include a unique bridge design for the bridge over the French Broad River, inclusion of aesthetic design features, and traffic safety concerns.

8.4 PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE RESCINDED 2008 DEIS

In addition to the public comment period associated with the Corridor Public Hearing described in Section 8.2.2.3, a formal comment period was held requesting comments on the Rescinded 2008 DEIS. The Notice of Availability for the Rescinded 2008 DEIS was published in the Federal Register on April 11, 2008, with the comment period ending on May 19, 2008. The comments received on the Rescinded 2008 DEIS and at the Corridor Public Hearing were considered jointly by NCDOT at the post hearing meeting held on January 29, 2009. A summary of the comments and responses to the public comments received are included in Appendix B3.

8.5 CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

During the course of the project, controversial issues have been identified through the public involvement process. The primary issues are the need for eight lanes versus six lanes to adequately increase capacity on I-240 (Section A of the project), and the inclusion of separation of local and interstate traffic. The Rescinded 2008 DEIS also included the further development of the ADC alternative as a controversial issue; however, this issue has been addressed by including Alternative 4-B in this DEIS. Each of these issues has been considered and deliberated over the course of the environmental impacts study of the I-26 Connector project. Table 8-1 and Table 8-3 document various coordination activities related to the issues, and correspondence documents can be found throughout the appendices of this DEIS.

8.5.1 EIGHT LANES VERSUS SIX LANES

Many commenters have expressed concern about the planned eight-lane section of highway proposed for Section A of the project. Some commenters have questioned NCDOT's methodologies used in developing traffic forecasts and evaluating traffic capacity. These issues are addressed in this DEIS. Chapters 1 and 2 of the document have been prepared with careful and deliberate consideration of all comments received to date on this issue. Section 1.9 addresses the issue of the traffic model updates and project-level forecasts and the justification for eight lanes. Section 1.9 also addresses the need for eight lanes and the FHWA requirement of meeting LOS D or better.

8.5.2 SEPARATION OF LOCAL AND INTERSTATE TRAFFIC

Numerous comments received during the comments period on the Purpose and Need statement and alternatives requested that separation of local and interstate traffic, along with the other key design goals identified in the CCC Report, be included as part of the project Purpose and Need. The comments received can be found in Appendix E. Separation of local

and interstate traffic is locally important and has been given careful consideration by FHWA and NCDOT. However, FHWA and NCDOT determined that including separation of local and interstate traffic as a need for the project would limit, or too narrowly define, the range of alternatives that could be evaluated through the NEPA process. Furthermore, truly separating local and interstate traffic would be in direct conflict with other identified needs, such as system linkage. While this issue is not explicitly included in the Purpose and Need, the local concerns of the public were considered in the development and evaluation of project alternatives. Three project alternatives, Alternatives 4, 4-B, and 5, were developed to address the local desire to separate Patton Avenue and I-240. Alternative 5, however, was not carried forward for detailed analysis because of insurmountable operational issues. The separation of traffic issue is also addressed in Section 1.5.2.