

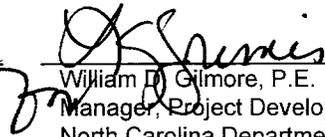
Administrative Action  
***Draft Environmental Impact Statement***  
***Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation***

US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

***US 321 Improvements Project***

Federal Aid No. NHF - 321(1)  
State Project No. 6.7939001T/TIP No. R-2237C  
Caldwell and Watauga Counties, North Carolina

Submitted Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 USC 4332(2)(c)

6/3/02  
Date   
\_\_\_\_\_  
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A highway improvements project is proposed for US 321 in Caldwell and Watauga Counties from Blackberry Road north to US 221 in Blowing Rock. A No-Build Alternative and five Build Alternatives are being considered. The Build Alternatives include widening US 321 along its current alignment and four Bypass Alternatives. Two Bypass Alternatives would pass through the east side of Blowing Rock and two would remain outside Blowing Rock, following the Blue Ridge escarpment to a tunnel under the Blue Ridge Parkway. This report documents the project purpose and need, examines the alternatives, describes the studies that led to the selection of the Bypass Alternatives, and describes each alternative's design features. The characteristics of the existing environment are described. The direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts of the proposed project are assessed, including community, visual, cultural resource, natural resource, and environmental quality considerations.

There is negligible Federal Aid in this project to date; this Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being circulated under Federal Highway Administration signature through the Federal Register process in an effort to obtain more public involvement and input than what might otherwise be obtained; the North Carolina Department of Transportation reserves the right to advance this project solely as a state funded project without Federal Funds.

Comments on this Draft EIS are due by \_\_\_\_\_ and should be sent to  
Mr. William D. Gilmore, P.E. at the above address.

# US 321 Improvements Project

Federal Aid No. NHF - 321(1)

State Project No. 6.7939001T

TIP No. R-2237C

Caldwell and Watauga Counties, North Carolina

Administrative Action

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

### Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation

Documentation prepared by:  
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in association with:

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**6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS**

- 6.1 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- 6.2 North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- 6.3 Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc
- 6.4 Corporate Services, Inc
- 6.5 EcoScience Corporation
- 6.6 GEOTEK & Associates, Inc
- 6.7 Golder Associates, Inc
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- 6.9 Ralph J. Trapani, P.E.

**7.0 LIST OF AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS TO WHOM COPIES OF THE STATEMENT ARE SENT**

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