



# N.C. 105 Improvements

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# N.C. 105 Improvements

Transportation Improvement Program Project No. R-2566A & B



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## Citizens' Informational Workshops to be Held for N.C. 105 Widening

### Why Is This Project Needed?

The purpose of this project is to reduce traffic congestion by widening N.C. 105.

This newsletter will introduce you to the project and provide contact information if you have questions before the upcoming series of workshops. Citizens are encouraged to review this information, attend one of the workshops and provide your input regarding the proposed project.

### Project Description

The N.C. Department of Transportation proposes to widen a 14.6 mile section of N.C. 105 from two lanes to four lanes with a raised grass median from U.S. 221 in Linville to N.C. 105 Bypass (State Road 1107) in Boone. N.C. 105 is a designated N.C. Scenic Byway, but it is often congested because of high truck volumes and tourist traffic, including many travelers who stop to visit shops along the road. This project will improve traveling conditions and make the road safer for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists using N.C. 105.

### Citizens' Informational Workshop Schedule

- Monday, Aug. 22**, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Foscoe Grandfather Community Center (233 Park Road, Banner Elk)
- Monday, Aug. 29**, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Linville Volunteer Fire Department (590 N.C. 105, Linville)
- Tuesday, Aug. 30**, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. La Quinta Inn & Suites Boone (165 N.C. 105 Extension, Boone)

### Purpose of Workshops

Three citizens' informational workshops have been scheduled for NCDOT to present the N.C. 105 Improvements project to the local communities. Large maps showing the proposed project limits will be on display, and the NCDOT project team will be available to answer questions and provide more information. Comments are requested through Sept. 30.



N.C. 105 North in Linville, N.C.

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 Vance as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Project contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

### Contact Us

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A project Web site is currently under development.

If you have transportation questions about other projects, call the NCDOT Customer Service Office at 1-877-DOT-4YOU or visit the NCDOT website at [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov).

### Project Schedule\*

#### Summer 2011

First series of citizens' informational workshops

#### Fall 2011 - Spring 2012

In-depth analysis of impacts to human and natural resources  
Detailed designs

#### Summer 2012

Preparation of environmental document

#### Winter 2012 - 2013

Public hearings  
Preparation of final environmental document

#### 2015

Right-of-way acquisition begins

#### 2018

Construction begins

\*Schedule subject to change.  
Based on the 2011-2020 NCDOT Transportation Improvement Program

### How Will This Project Affect Me and My Community?

The proposed transportation improvements will reduce traffic congestion and improve travel time along N.C. 105. Safety and access will also be improved. The wider road will have direct impacts to adjacent homes and businesses as well as natural features such as streams, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. As the development of the project moves forward, NCDOT will continuously refine the design to avoid and minimize project impacts. Below is a list of the potential effects of the project:

- Improvements to N.C. 105:
  - Easier to pass slower traffic; fewer traffic delays
  - Easier access to residences, businesses, and tourist attractions
  - Wider road to better accommodate vehicles and bicycles
  - New pedestrian crossings
  - Faster EMS/Fire Department response
- Other Effects:
  - Right-of-way acquisition and relocation of some businesses and residences
  - Driveway access changes
  - Utility relocations
  - Historic properties, streams and wetlands, and other natural and environmental resource impacts

### Project Process

NCDOT is initiating environmental, planning and design studies for the proposed project. This process includes collecting information on existing environmental and community resources, investigating alternatives, and meeting with the public.

The public will have opportunities to be involved and provide comments through workshops, via the project website, or by contacting the project team at any point during the planning process.

### What Will the New Road Look Like?

Along most of the project corridor, the two-lane road will be widened to four lanes with a 23-foot wide raised grass median. The median will be narrowed to 4 feet wide in some areas to reduce impacts. Below is a sketch of what the road might look like with the 23-foot median, although the shoulder width will vary along the corridor depending on how steep the mountain is in a particular area.

Curb and gutter will be added in some of the more populated areas. The bridge that carries N.C. 105 over the Watauga River north of the Broadstone Road (S.R. 1112) intersection is recommended for replacement as part of this project.

Improvements to N.C. 105 also may include space for bicyclists (such as a wider shoulder or bike lanes) and safer pedestrian crosswalks.

