



Citizen's Informational Workshop

Jackson County, North Carolina

November 9, 2010

Welcome to the Citizen's Informational Workshop for the NC 107 improvements Feasibility Study. The agenda for this evening's workshop is informal. **Our goal is to hear your view on different ways to improve traffic on NC 107 and US 23 Business.** Project team members are pleased to be here to answer your questions and get your opinions and comments. Maps and aerial photography identifying the project study area and the three concepts being evaluated in detail are available for your review.

This feasibility study

will consider ways to improve the road so it can handle traffic and estimated growth for the next 25 years until the year 2035. *If no improvements are made to NC 107, congestion will continue to get worse in the future.*

Your opinion matters!

Your input will help us select a plan that will complement your community's goals and visions. A comment form is included with this handout. You may complete the comment form tonight or send it to us later via e-mail or mail.

What You Will Learn Tonight

- What a feasibility study is
- How a road gets built
- How this project may affect you
- Updates on other related projects

What's Next?

Project Schedule

- Receive traffic forecasts - **Completed**
- Study potential concepts - **Completed**
- Hold a Public Meeting - **November 9, 2010**
- Develop cost estimates - **Spring 2011**
- Release the Draft Feasibility Study for review / comment - **Spring 2011**
- Complete Feasibility Study - **Spring 2011**



PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMENT FORM

The NC 107 Feasibility Study is a result of local leaders asking NCDOT to study improvements needed to solve traffic problems along NC 107 and US 23 Business in the Sylva/Cullowhee area. This Feasibility Study will examine whether improving NC 107 is economically and environmentally realistic. If it is determined that the road is necessary and feasible, a separate more detailed process begins. This Feasibility Study focuses on upgrades to NC 107. What we learn from it will be included in the planning for the NC 107 Connector project.

What is a Feasibility Study? In this Feasibility Study, NCDOT will:

- Determine if a new, expanded, or enhanced road is needed and justified
- Establish preliminary concepts to solve the problem
- Investigate impacts to people and the environment as a result of the concepts
- Estimate costs
- Propose a solution and complete the study
- **THIS IS NOT** a commitment from NCDOT to build anything

Feasibility Study



Estimate traffic, research historic sites, evaluate wetlands and impacts to people, estimate costs, etc.



Complete Study



STOP

NC 107 is the only major north/ south transportation corridor in Jackson County. It joins Sylva in the north with Cashiers in the south, traveling through Webster, Cullowhee, and Tuckasegee in between. Vehicles from other roadways, many businesses, and several schools along it makes NC 107 very congested at times. The fact there are no other routes that travel the same way as NC 107 also contributes to the congestion.

Local officials have suggested three portions of NC 107 and US 23 Business for improvements. These are:

- NC 107 from US 23 Business to four-lane, median-divided roadway south of Lovedale Road
- US 23 Business from Hospital Drive to NC 107
- US 23 Business from Chipper Curve Road to Mill Street



What is being studied? Three different concepts are being considered to expand NC 107 in key locations to address growing traffic along this road. Each of these options has been examined with and without NC 107 Connector project. The NC 107 Connector project proposes to help relieve some of the traffic issues along NC 107 by building a new road linking NC 107 in the Cullowhee area to US 23-74 east of Sylva.

If no improvements are made to NC 107, congestion will continue to get worse in the future. If the NC 107 Connector is built but no improvements are made to the existing route, traffic problems will temporarily improve along NC 107. However, the same traffic issues you face today will probably return in the next 15 years.

Concept 1 - Widening and Intersection Upgrades

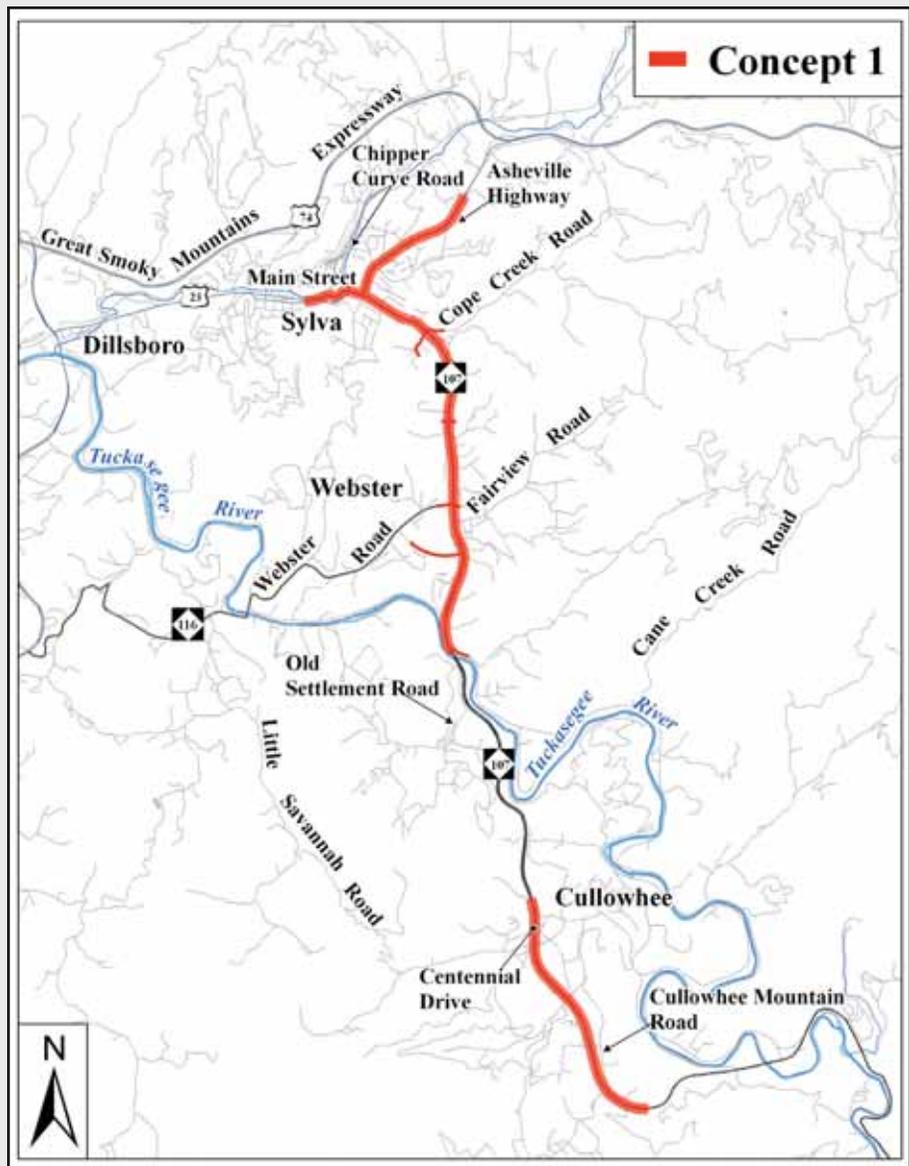
Parts of US 23 Business and NC 107 would be widened and certain intersections would be upgraded to include more lanes for traffic going straight through the intersection and for those turning left or right (see inset map). *This concept includes major improvements that will significantly improve future traffic on NC 107 and US 23 Business but impact many properties.*

CONCEPT 1 WITHOUT THE NC 107 CONNECTOR

- Significant widening
- There will be more lanes than what is needed if the NC 107 Connector is built
 - Allows left turns at intersections
- Considerably less traffic congestion and less time you will spend waiting at stop lights.
 - Up to 80 homes and businesses impacted

CONCEPT 1 WITH THE NC 107 CONNECTOR

- Significant widening
- There will not be as many lanes as needed without the NC 107 Connector
 - Allows left turns at intersections
- Considerably less traffic congestion and less time you spend waiting at stop lights.
 - Up to 80 homes and businesses impacted



Concept 2 - Widening and Superstreet

Parts of US 23 Business and NC 107 would be widened and certain intersections would be changed so that drivers wanting to turn left onto NC 107 would instead turn right and make a U-turn a short distance away. *This concept includes major improvements that will significantly improve future traffic on NC 107 and US 23 Business but impact many properties.*

What is a Superstreet?

- To turn left onto a major road, drivers will first have to turn right and then make a U-turn through the median a short distance away.
- Medians, driveways and stop lights are better designed to keep traffic moving.

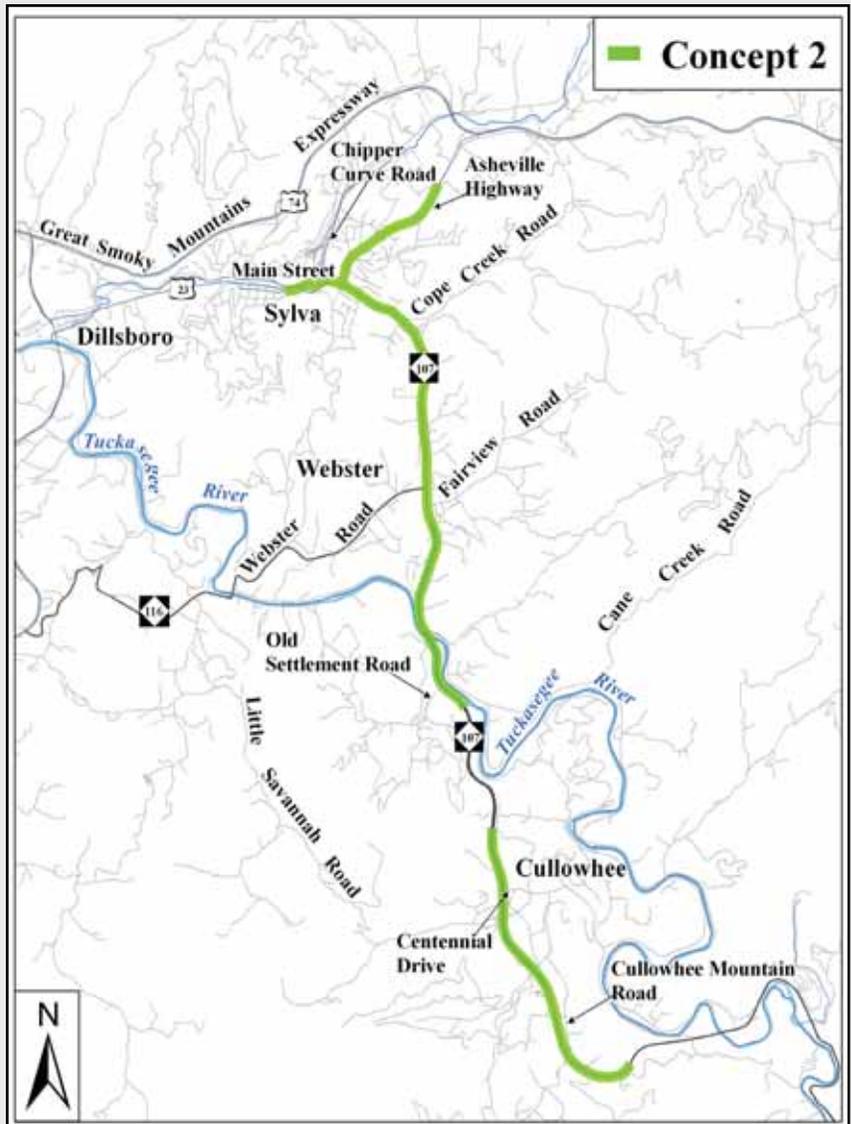


CONCEPT 2 WITHOUT THE NC 107 CONNECTOR

- Significant widening
- There will be more lanes than what is needed if the NC 107 Connector is built
- To turn left in some places, drivers will turn right then make a U-turn
 - Considerably less traffic congestion and less time you will spend waiting at stop lights.
 - Up to 85 homes and businesses impacted

CONCEPT 2 WITH THE NC 107 CONNECTOR

- Significant widening
- There will not be as many lanes as needed without the NC 107 Connector
- To turn left in some places, drivers will turn right then make a U-turn
 - Considerably less traffic congestion and less time you spend waiting at stop lights.
 - Up to 85 homes and businesses impacted



Concept 3 - Widening and Superstreet

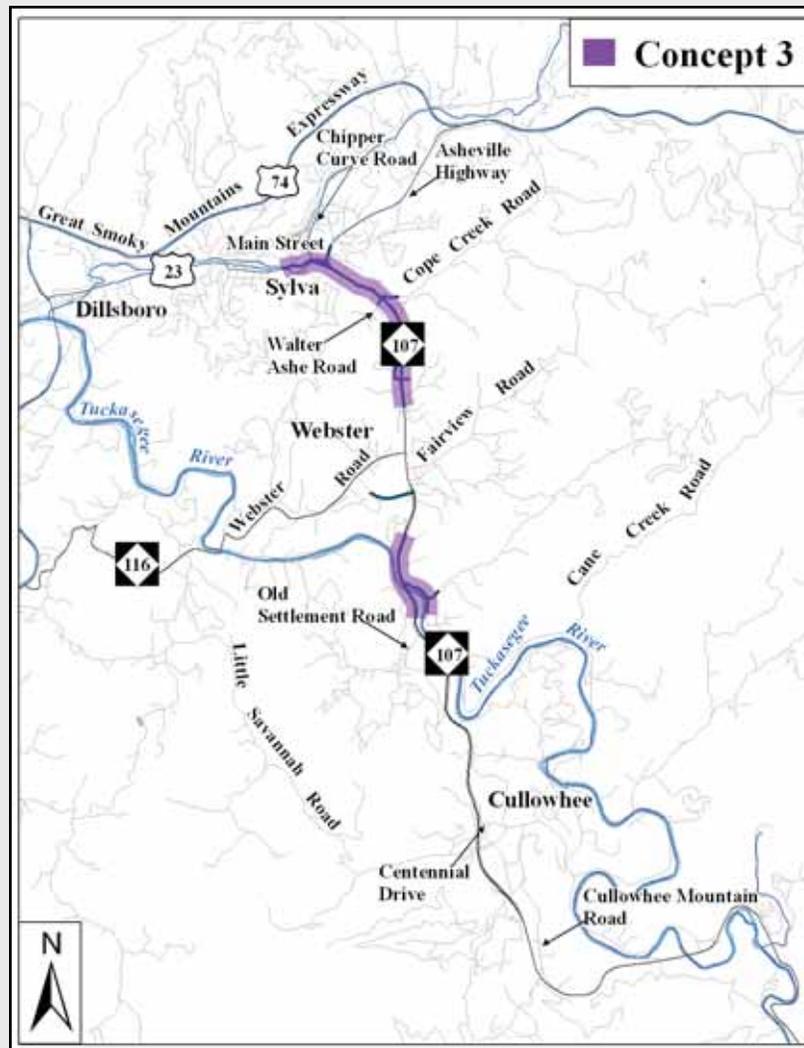
Like Concept 2, Concept 3 also calls for widening and Superstreet intersection on parts of US 23 Business and NC 107. Improvements are planned from west of NC 107 / US 23 Business intersection to the intersection at Wal-Mart. They are also planned in the area where NC 107 crosses the Tuckasegee River. *This concept includes major improvements that will significantly improve future traffic on NC 107 and US 23 Business but impact many properties.*

CONCEPT 3 **WITHOUT** THE NC 107 CONNECTOR

- Significant widening
- Improvements planned only at more congested areas
- To turn left in some places, drivers will turn right then make a U-turn
 - Considerably less traffic congestion and less time you will spend waiting at stop lights.
- Up to 80 homes and businesses impacted

CONCEPT 3 **WITH** THE NC 107 CONNECTOR

- Significant widening
- Improvements planned only at more congested areas
- There will not be as many lanes as needed without the NC 107 Connector
- To turn left in some places, drivers will turn right then make a U-turn
 - Considerably less traffic congestion and less time you spend waiting at stop lights.
- Up to 80 homes and businesses impacted



Citizen's Informational Workshop (CIW) for Feasibility Study (FS-0814 A, NC 107 Improvements)

November 9, 2010

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Southern Community College (SWCC, Jackson Campus - Balsam Center)

This feasibility study FS-0814A is a result of local leaders asking NC DOT to study improvements needed to solve traffic problems along NC 107 and US 23 Business in the Sylva/Cullowhee area. This Feasibility Study will examine whether improving NC 107 is economically and environmentally realistic. If it is determined that the road is necessary and feasible, a separate more detailed process begins. This Feasibility Study focuses on upgrades to NC 107. What we learn from it will be included in the planning for the NC 107 Connector project.