

US 19/23 (Future I-26) Improvements Project (NCDOT Project No. A-0010A)
Summary of Comments from Citizens Informational Workshop #1 conducted on September 24, 2013

Project Description: The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is proposing to improve approximately 12 miles of existing US 19/23 from just north of Exit 25 (Broadway Street) in Asheville to just south of Exit 13 (Stockton Road) near Mars Hill in Buncombe County. This project, which is listed in the 2013-2023 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as Project A-0010A, may include adding lanes to portions of US 19/23, replacing bridges, and reconstructing sections of the highway pavement.

Purpose of Workshop: NCDOT hosted Citizens Information Workshop #1 from 4:00 to 7:30 P.M. on September 24, 2013, at the Woodfin Elementary School in Asheville. Ninety-six individuals recorded their attendance at the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the project to the public, present the purpose and need and preliminary design options, and to request input about existing traffic conditions, locations of accidents, and any other information that the public would like to discuss with NCDOT. Participants viewed a slide presentation about project details, examined the project maps, talked with municipal officials and staff from NCDOT, URS, and Vaughn & Melton, and were provided with a Project Map and a Comment Form to record their comments, questions, and requests for more information.

Summary of Comments:

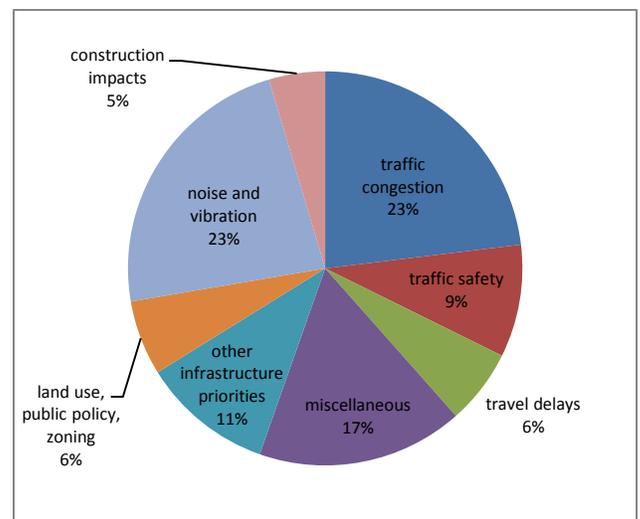
Comments were received during the workshop and for a 30-day period following the workshop. The following is a summary of the number of comments received, the medium in which the comments were prepared and submitted, and a general location of where the respondents live or work.

Comment Forms received at or within 30 days of the workshop:	29
Telephone Calls to the NCDOT Hotline:	6
E-mails to NCDOT or URS:	<u>8</u>
Total number of public inquiries or comment forms received:	43

Citizens' requests for information or responses:	10	Comments from Weaverville (28787) addresses:	15
Comments from Asheville (28804) addresses:	17	Comments from unknown addresses:	11

This project is generally supported by the public based primarily upon a desire to improve traffic congestion from Broadway Street (Exit 25) to at least as far north as Weaverville (Exit 19). A majority of the respondents said that they drive US 19/23 on a daily basis. Some of the respondents recommended that this project be constructed after improving the Patton Avenue Bridge and constructing the I-26 Connector Project (NCDOT Project No. I-2513) so that the most-heavily congested areas would be corrected first followed by the second-most-congested area. Over half of the respondents are concerned about the existing noise levels and anticipated increases in noise volumes if the highway is widened. The comments were classified by "categories of interest." The categories of greatest interest are congestion and noise. The following is a breakdown of the number of comments received in each category.

- Acquisitions and Displacements (1)*
- Air Quality (1)*
- Bicycle Accommodations (2)*
- Traffic Congestion (15)
- Construction Impacts (3)
- Land Uses, Public Policy, Zoning (4)
- Natural Resources (1)*
- Neighborhoods, Community Services (2)*
- Noise and Vibration (15)
- Other Infrastructure Priorities (7)
- Safety and Security (2)*
- Travel Delays (4)
- Traffic Safety (6)
- Water Resources (2)*



(*) Denotes categories of comments included under "Miscellaneous" because each category represented less than 5% of the total comments received.