

NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSE AND DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED
U.S. 221 WIDENING PROJECT FROM U.S. 421 IN DEEP GAP TO U.S. 221 BUSINESS/N.C. 88 IN
JEFFERSON

TIP Project No. R-2915

Watauga & Ashe Counties

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold a Pre-Hearing Open House and Design Public Hearing for the above mentioned highway project on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Ashe County High School, located at 184 Campus Dr. in West Jefferson.

NCDOT representatives will be available at the Open House from 4-6:30 p.m. to answer questions and receive comments regarding the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments and questions will be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above hours.

The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m. The presentation will consist of an explanation of the proposed design, right of way and relocation requirements and procedures. Citizens will have the opportunity to comment or ask questions. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a transcript will be prepared. Additional comments may be submitted until Dec. 21, 2012.

NCDOT proposes to widen 16.1 miles of U.S. 221 to a four-lane, median-divided roadway from U.S.421 in Deep Gap to the U.S. 221 Business/N.C. 88 intersection in Jefferson. .

The purpose of the project is to upgrade the existing roadway to increase capacity, alleviate congestion, improve traffic operations and reduce the rate of traffic crashes. Additional right-of-way acquisition and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for this project. Right of way acquisition is scheduled to begin in Summer 2013, with construction scheduled to begin Summer 2015.

Maps displaying the design of the project and a copy of the Environmental Assessment are available for public review at the NCDOT Resident Engineer's Office, 160 Den-Mac Drive - Suite A, Boone; Ashe County Manager's Office, 150 Government Circle, Suite 2500, Jefferson; and the Watauga County Planning Office, 331 Queen St., Boone. Copies of the maps are also available on the project website at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>

For more information, please contact Jamille Robbins, NCDOT-Human Environment Section at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, by phone at (919) 707-6085, or via email at jarobbins@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this meeting. Anyone requiring special services should contact Robbins as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who speak Spanish and do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.