

**NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE US 221 - PROPOSED RUTHERFORDTON BYPASS
FROM US 74 BYPASS TO ROPER LOOP ROAD**

TIP Project No. R-2233B

Rutherford County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a Pre-Hearing Open House and Design Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at Rutherfordton-Spindale High School located at 641 US 221 Hwy North, Rutherfordton, 28139.

NCDOT representatives will be available at the Pre-Hearing Open House between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to answer questions and receive comments relative to the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will also be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours.

A formal presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will consist of an explanation of the proposed location & design, right of way acquisition, relocation requirements / procedures, and funding source. The hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions and comments. The presentation and comments will be recorded and a transcript will be prepared. Additional material may be submitted until December 9, 2011.

The project calls for a proposed bypass constructed as a four-lane roadway with a 46-foot median. The bypass will be constructed mostly on new location. The proposed bypass project is approximately 8.5 miles long and located east of the Town of Rutherfordton. The project will begin just north of US 74 Bypass. Existing US 221 will be widened from north of US 74 Bypass to south of Poors Ford Road (State Road 2194). The proposed bypass will extend on new location around the east side of Rutherfordton from south of Poors Ford Road to Thompson Road (SR 1367) north of Rutherfordton. Existing US 221 will be widened from Thompson Road to the northern intersection of Roper Loop Road (SR 1366). Interchanges are proposed at existing US 221 south of Rutherfordton, US 74 Business/US 221 Alternate (Charlotte Road) and US 64.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce congestion, improve safety, and improve travel time for traffic using the US 221 corridor in the vicinity of Rutherfordton. Additional right of way and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for this project.

A map displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the approved environmental document, State Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS), are available for public review at the NCDOT County Maintenance Yard, 909 Ledbetter Road, Spindale, 28160; the Spindale Town Hall, 103 Rezeley Street, Spindale, 28160; the Rutherfordton Town Manager's Office, 129 North Main Street, Rutherfordton, 28139; and the Isothermal Rural Planning Organization, 111 West Court Street, Rutherfordton, 28139. The maps are available for viewing online at www.regionc.org.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Kimberly Hinton, Human Environment Unit at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, phone:(919) 707-6072, or email: khinton@ncdot.gov.

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