



N.C. 107 IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

From N.C. 116 to U.S. 23 Business
Jackson County - STIP Project R-5600

Project Description:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is in the process of designing improvements to N.C. 107 and U.S. 23 Business. The total length of the project is approximately 2.6 miles. The project extends from west of U.S. 23 Business (Asheville Hwy) to south of N.C. 116 (Webster Rd), and along Asheville Hwy to Skyland Drive to west of Municipal Drive in Sylva, NC. These improvements are included in the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as project number, R-5600. Right of way acquisition is scheduled to begin in 2020, and construction let is planned to begin in 2022.*

Why is the Project Needed?

Currently, an average of 34,300 vehicles travel this roadway every day. By 2040, vehicle congestion is expected to increase to approximately 40,800 vehicles per day. Today during busiest peak traffic hours, the major intersections operate under significant delay, and thus operate at unacceptable levels of service. With no improvements to the current roadway, and approximately 6,500 more vehicles added, traffic congestion will increase, and safety will be diminished.

Adding additional travel lanes to relieve congestion was not considered due to the additional impacts. Creating a better designed road with smarter and safer traffic movements, and lessening areas where accidents can occur, all while allowing for multiple means of travel, produces a road that is all-around improved for the community.

Public Outreach is Important!

Public outreach and understanding of the improvement process is an important aspect of the planning process. Today's meeting is an important step in NCDOT's efforts to keep the public informed during the project process. NCDOT encourages the public to seek additional information regarding the project by contacting the Senior Project Engineer:

Jeanette White, PE
jlwhite5@ncdot.gov – or – 828 586 2141
253 Webster Road
Sylva, NC 28779



Project Status:

Design for the upcoming project is more than 65% complete. Some right-of-way negotiations have started at the request of property owners. The remaining right-of-way negotiations are expected to begin in early 2020. Construction is expected to begin late 2022.

JANUARY 2020	Right of Way and Utilities Begin*
DECEMBER 2022	Construction Let Begins*
Estimated Cost: Approx. \$74 Million	

**Schedule as shown in the 2020-2029 STIP, and is subject to change.*

Proposed Improvements:

Since 2008, today's event marks the 10th public meeting to inform the public of the project. Utilizing the input from the 2017 public meeting, with over 150 attendees, the roadway cross-section, as shown below, was selected. This cross-section is now the major design element of the project. All other roadway alternatives have been evaluated and eliminated by NCDOT and supporting organizations.

Moving forward with the design, the NCDOT Project Team has thoroughly analyzed and incorporated the public's input when feasible, as well as continuously involving the Town of Sylva, and western North Carolina's rural planning organization, the Southwestern Commission. Using the publicly chosen alternative, the corridor will consist of a four-lane, median-divided roadway, with conventional intersections to allow for all traffic movements. The 17'-6" median will intermittently include a 12' center turn lane, and 2'-6" curb and gutters along each side of the median. When the center turn lane is not incorporated along the roadway, a raised concrete median, transitioning to a grass median, will be constructed. The purpose of the divided median is to improve the safety of the roadway by directing left turn movements to occur at controlled locations. Thus, a safer "right-in, right out" movement will be the dominate turn along the corridor. Then, drivers will then proceed to one of 18 U-turn locations along the roadway. Requiring "right-in, right-out" movements will minimize "T-bone" collisions, thus improve the safety of NC 107.

Pedestrian crossings will be included at all signalized intersections. These crossings are not shown on the current plans.

Key Design Elements:

Key design aspects of this project will also include:

- Increase driver, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety
- Improve utility infrastructure
- Incorporate retaining walls of varying heights to minimize property impacts
- Install stormwater drainage improvements
- Add 5 FT sidewalks and 5 FT bicycle lanes
- Replace the structurally deficient Scotts Creek bridge between Municipal Drive and Sunrise Park
- Rehabilitate the functionally obsolete Scotts Creek bridge west of Municipal Drive
- Install 6 bulb-out locations
- Incorporate 18 U-turn abilities
- Upgrade 6 traffic signals
- Construct 1 new traffic signal at Cherry Street and East Hall Heights

Overhead Utility Design:

Upgrading existing overhead utilities is less than 10% of the cost of installing the utilities underground. Placing underground utilities would have significantly increased project land needs and would have caused individual property owners to self-pay for electrical improvements, at or within, every building to meet all current electrical code requirements.

