

**Project History**  
R-5600 NC 107 - Sylva  
(From NC 116 to US 23 Business)

Date	Project Event
1930's	<b>Constructed Two Bridges over Scott's Creek:</b> * Typical bridge useful life = 50 yrs. * This project will: * Upgrade bridge west of Sylva Fire Dept, which is north of the Coffee Shop Restaurant * Replace Bridge east of Jackson Paper Mill
1980's	<b>NC 107 Transportation Issues Realized:</b> * Crash rates - among highest in State * Existing road (48 FT wide) was only a 4 lanes - no dedicated middle turn lane
mid 1990's	<b>NC 107 Improvements:</b> * Restriped to 5 lanes to add center turn lane (Kept 48 FT roadway width) * Improved crash rates * Yet traffic "worsened" with continued development * Local officials requested study for ways to "fix NC 107"
1995	<b>Traffic conditions "worsens"</b> * Plan of "Southern Loop" added to bypass central Sylva & Dillsboro
2002	<b>Smart Roads Alliance formed:</b> * Citizens against the Sylva area's roadway improvements
2003	<b>NCDOT completed the first feasibility study: "Southern Loop"</b> * Recommended: multi-lane roadway connecting US 23-441 south of Dillsboro to US 23-74 east of Sylva. * STIP added "Southern Loop" as R-4745 * Some community concerns included: 1. Impact to environment & private property 2. Would harm local business-reduced traffic
2008	<b>NCDOT removed R-4745 western's half of the "Southern Loop"</b> * Removed: from US 23-441 south of Dillsboro to NC 107 * New name given "NC 107 Connector"
2008	<b>Citizens Information Workshop:</b> * Improvements to existing NC 107 identified as "needed." * Held at Western Carolina University * Discussed: * NC 107 Connector Project * Upgrades needed on existing roads * Need for new route * Potential negative effects of new route on businesses, community and the environment
2009	<b>Public Workshop:</b> * Held by Jackson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), October 13, 2009
2009	<b>NCDOT adopted "Complete Streets" policy:</b> * When building or improving existing roads, this policy directs the Department to "consider and incorporate different modes of transportation, including walking, biking, and public transit."
2010	<b>Citizens Information Workshop:</b> * Discussed comments for next NC 107 feasibility Study, November 9, 2010
2010	<b>Jackson County CTP:</b> * Approved/adopted proposed upgrades to existing NC 107 and US 23 business
2011	<b>NCDOT completed the second feasibility study:</b> * Considered means to handle traffic through the year 2035 * Evaluated potential upgrades to existing NC 107 and US 23 business * Analysis included NC 107 Connector (STIP Project R-4745) * Concluded NC 107 connector would help reduce traffic on NC 107, yet would NOT completely solve the transportation needs.
2012	<b>Southwestern Regional Planning Organization (SWRPO):</b> * Completed NC 107 Corridor Study to identify community goals for upgrading NC 107 * Ranked NC 107 as "Funding Priority" * Included community goals for upgrading NC 107
2013	<b>NCDOT and SWRPO ranks upgrades to existing NC 107 over NC 107 Connector:</b> * Upgrades to NC 107 again deemed the "Funding Priority" over the "NC 107 Connector." * Thus, NC 107 Connector project was removed from Jackson County's CTP and replaced with current R-5600 NC 107 and US 23 Business project
2013	<b>Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):</b> * Project included in 2013-2023 STIP

Date	Project Event
2015	<b>Traffic Management Plan:</b> * Completed plan to control traffic during construction * Utilities second feasibility study to address constructability of new R-5600 project
2015	<b>Public Meeting (May 18, 2015)</b> * Reviewed Traffic Management Study * Project history
2017	<b>Public Meeting - Southwestern CC: (February 23, 2017)</b> * Citizen assisted in choosing current roadway design * 4 roadway design alternatives displayed and discussed with public * Alternative 2A was selected * Selection chosen: 12 FT travel lanes, 17.5 FT grass median, 5 FT bike lanes, 5 FT sidewalks * Approx. 152 individuals and business attended * Participants submitted comment forms during and after meeting * Commenters' requests: * Left-turn out of Walmart * Aesthetic improvements to bridges * Median plantings * U-Turn ability at Cope Creek Road * Majority in support of bicycle lanes and sidewalks  Alternative selected from meeting included 5 FT bike lanes and 5 FT sidewalk along both sides of the project. A dedicated bike lane is deemed safer than a multi-use path for both pedestrians and cyclists.
2017	<b>Jackson County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan:</b> * Recommended bicycle and sidewalk accommodation for this project
2018	<b>Asheville Design Center:</b> * Services requested by Town of Sylva to review project, August 2018
2019	<b>First Community Meeting:</b> * Held by Asheville Design Center * Current design presented * Held at Jackson County Public Library * January 14, 2019, from 1600-1900
2019	<b>NCDOT/Sylva Workshop with the Asheville Design Center</b> * Held at Southwestern Commission * January 29, 2019, from 1600-1900
2019	<b>Utilities Meeting:</b> * February, 18, 2019
2019	<b>Public Workshop:</b> * March 21, 2019, from 1730 - 1900
2019	<b>Public Workshop: NCDOT and Asheville Design Center</b> * Held at Jackson County Public Library * April 17, 2019, from 1730 - 1900
2019	<b>Asheville Design Center:</b> * DRAFT report received * No recommendations to alter roadway cross-section, no current alignment * Recommendations presented: * Pedestrian crossing adjustments, signal and pavement markings, reconfigure islands, and add raised and textured crosswalks
2019	<b>NCDOT Meeting with Jackson County Commissioners:</b> * July 23, 2019
2019	<b>NCDOT attended Town of Sylva Commissioners Board Meeting:</b> * Current 65% DRAFT plans provided * August 08, 2019
2019	<b>NCDOT attended Sylva Business Group Meeting:</b> * August 12, 2019 @ 0900
2019	<b>NCDOT attended Town of Sylva Commissioners Board Meeting:</b> * Current 65% DRAFT plans on display * Division Engineer, Brian Burch, PE spoke to the Board. * August 12, 2019 @ 1730
2019	<b>NCDOT and Mr. Jack Debnam, NCDOT Board Member:</b> * Met with various property owners, on-site to discuss potential impacts * 17 Sept 2019
2019	<b>NCDOT, Town of Sylva, Sylva Mayer, met with NC State Representative Joe Sam Queen</b> * 24 Sept 2019