



**U.S. 221 WIDENING PROJECT FROM
U.S. 421 IN DEEP GAP TO
U.S. 221 BUSINESS/N.C. 88 IN JEFFERSON**

Design Public Hearing – December 2012



Purpose of the Public Hearing

- Present the Design of the project
- Get your input on the Design





Copies of the maps and EA have been available at the following:

- NCDOT Resident Engineer's Office located at 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 have also been available online @:

- <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>





Public Participation

- Public Participation is a vital component in the project development process
- Comments may be recorded during formal proceedings
- Comments and/or questions can be mailed/emailed to the following address:

Mr. Jamille Robbins

NCDOT - Human Environment Section

1598 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1598

Phone: (919) 707-6085

Email: jarobbins@ncdot.gov





What is done with my input?

Post-Hearing Meeting

- All spoken and written issues are reviewed and discussed at the post-hearing meeting. In addition to public comment, the NCDOT must consider safety, costs, traffic service, and impacts to the natural and human environments. Most issues are resolved at this meeting.
- Minutes of the NCDOT post-hearing meeting will be prepared and a summary is available to the public by noting your request on the attached comment sheet





What Happens Next

- Comments received from the public hearing about the design of the project will be reviewed at the post-hearing meeting and incorporated, where feasible, into the development of final design plans for the project.
- The project's final environmental document: a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared. The FONSI will be circulated for public and federal and state agency review. The project will then proceed to the right of way acquisition phase of the project.





State-Federal Relationship

- Federal-Aid Highway Project and thus will be constructed under the State-Federal Aid Highway Program.
- Financing of this project will be 80% Federal funds and 20% State funds.





Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to:

- Improve traffic flow and level of service (LOS) along the US 221 corridor in the study area.
- Reduce the rate of traffic crashes

An additional purpose is to:

- Consistency with North Carolina's Strategic Highway Corridor Plan, which seeks long-term interconnectivity of consistent transportation corridors in North Carolina.





Project Description

NCDOT proposes widen US 221 from US 421 in the Deep Gap community of Watauga County to the US 221 Business/NC 88 intersection in the town of Jefferson in Ashe County.

- The project is approximately 16.1 miles in length





Traffic Noise

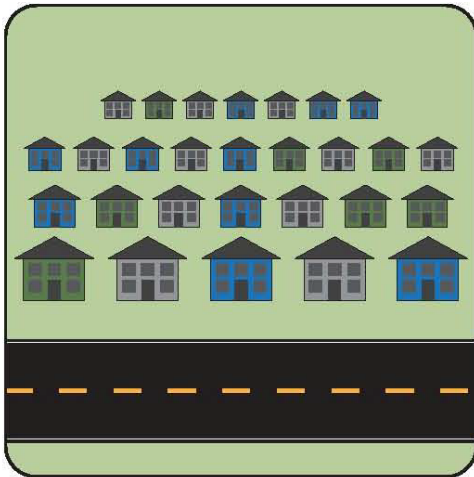
- NCDOT looks for ways to reduce traffic noise impacts to the community





Who Qualifies for a Noise Wall?

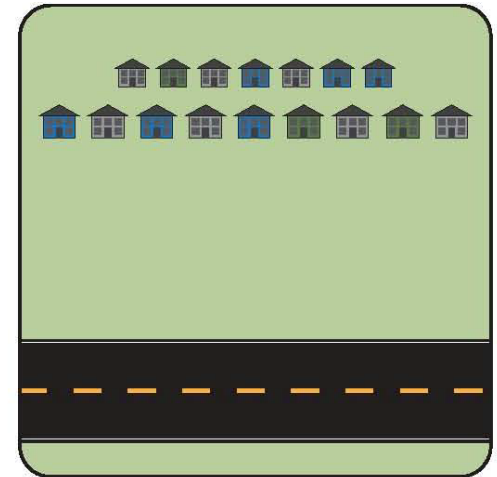
High Density



Low Density



Distance





Traffic Noise Abatement Policy

- Buildings must have been built or approved for construction on or before the Date of Public Knowledge
- Date of Public Knowledge = approval date of the final environmental document... **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**
 - **Anticipated Early 2013**
- Location of noise barriers determined during final design
- Property owners/tenants expected to receive at least a 5 decibel noise reduction due to the barrier will be provided a ballot to vote their preference for or against the noise wall





Project Snapshot

- Length: 16.1 miles
- Right of Way: Total width about 200 ft. for roadway, wider at interchange
- Relocates:
 - Residences: 70 Businesses: 33
- Project Cost:
 - Right of Way: \$33,997,900
 - Utilities: \$2,313,028
 - Construction: \$118,400,000
 - Total: \$154,710,928





Project Schedule

Right of Way Acquisition

- R-2915A/B – July 2013;
- R-2915C – April 2014
- R-2915D – September 2013
- R-2915E – Post Year (Sometime after 2023)

Construction

- R-2915A/B – July 2015
- R-2915C – February 2017
- R-2915D – September 2015
- R-2915E – Post Year (Sometime after 2023)





Right-of-Way Acquisition and Relocation Assistance

NCDOT's policy is to:

- Contact affected property owners and conduct property appraisal
- Treat all owners and tenants equally
- Fully explain the owner's rights
- Provide fair market value for property
- Provide relocation advisory assistance

Relocation Assistance

- Pamphlets summarizing Right of Way and Relocation procedures available at sign-in table





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*For more information, contact Jamille Robbins
(919) 707 - 6085 / jarobbins@ncdot.gov*

comments may be submitted until 12 / 21 / 2012