



# Let's get it right!

More information and take action at [bit.ly/i26connectus](http://bit.ly/i26connectus)

Since the mid 1990's the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has been planning an expansion of I-26 through the heart of Asheville. The project includes three different sections (A,B, and C) from the I-40/I-240/I-26 interchange west of town up to the intersection of Broadway and 19/23 north of town. NCDOT's expansion plans will cost upwards of \$850 million, reconfigure existing interchanges, require taking dozens of homes and businesses and disrupt residential neighborhoods. This is an enormously impactful project with different alternatives having varying degrees of negative impacts.

**For years, our community has said this project is too big, too impactful, and inconsistent with the scale and character of Asheville and what people want:** safe travel and improved transportation options that benefit residents and tourists alike, reconnected neighborhoods, and minimal harm to our community and environment. Visit [www.i26connectusproject.org](http://www.i26connectusproject.org), to learn more about the community effort to advance a common vision and secure a design for the I-26 expansion that benefits all parts of the Asheville community to the greatest extent possible.

**This fall NCDOT released a new version of the project alternatives for different sections. For details visit [bit.ly/i26expansion](http://bit.ly/i26expansion). Every alternative brings different concerns, such as:**

- **Section A through West Asheville will expand I-240 to 10 lanes** (despite the claim of 8 lanes).
- There are new alternatives for Section C that **have never been seen by the neighborhoods that stand to be impacted**. All alternatives could increase lanes in this section from 8 to 12 lanes.
- **On average, across the different alternatives, the project would take 200 homes and businesses.**
- **Amboy Road would become a 4 lane throughway**, which is problematic given its proximity to neighborhoods and major city parks.
- **NC DOT has included a new greenway in West Asheville. However, it needs improvements to make it more user friendly.**

**SPEAK OUT** at a public hearing on November 16, at the Renaissance Hotel Grand Ballroom, 31 Woodfin Street Asheville 28801. Open house from 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Presentation and public comments at 7:00 p.m. RSVP on Facebook at [bit.ly/i26hearing](http://bit.ly/i26hearing)

Submit your public comments to Drew Joyner, [djoyner@ncdot.gov](mailto:djoyner@ncdot.gov) by **December 16, 2015**

For more information on the project and how you can get involved, please visit [bit.ly/i-26connectus](http://bit.ly/i-26connectus)



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Since 2009, the I-26 ConnectUs Project has advocated for a final project that will have the best outcomes for our neighborhoods, community and environment. The I-26 ConnectUs Project is made up of representatives from the Asheville neighborhoods that stand to be most impacted by the I-26 Connector Project, including West Asheville, Burton Street, WECAN, Emma, and Montford. Other groups represented include the Housing Authority for the City of Asheville, Christians for a United Community, and MountainTrue.

### **I-26 ConnectUs Project Vision Statement:**

To ensure the long-term health and success of the economy, citizens, and environment of Asheville and the surrounding area, the final design and construction of the Asheville I-26 Connector should achieve the following:

- Safe travel for interstate and local traffic
- Improved connections between neighborhoods and from neighborhoods to major roads for all modes of local traffic – pedestrian, bike, car and bus.
- Minimal destruction of neighborhoods, homes, and businesses and remediation of past highway project impacts on minority and low-wealth communities.
- Maximum return of land to Asheville's tax case for the City's use and benefit
- Minimal harm to air and water quality
- Improvements that match the scale and character of Asheville

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please visit [\*\*bit.ly/I-26connectus\*\*](http://bit.ly/I-26connectus)