City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

- **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** August 6, 2025

- **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Amy Deyton, Public Works Director and Chad Bandy, Streets Division Manager

- **Requested Council meeting date:** August 26, 2025

- **Subject:** Agreement with NCDOT for the construction of a temporary bridge across the Swannanoa River near the damaged Gashes Creek Rd bridge.

- **Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the NCDOT for the design and construction of a temporary bridge across the Swannanoa River near the Gashes Creek Rd bridge.

- **Note if time sensitive, and why:** Yes. As traffic increases in the area due to soccer resuming at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex and other facilities coming online, it is critical for emergency services to be able to access the surrounding facilities when needed. This will also return traffic to as near as possible to pre-storm conditions.

- **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** $3 - 6 Million depending on location, service life, and type of temporary bridge used. This project is being considered as part of emergency protective measures and will be eligible for FEMA reimbursement through the FEMA PA process.

- **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).**
    - No vendor outreach has been performed. Through this agreement, NCDOT will follow all applicable purchasing procedures including appropriate outreach.

- **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** N/A

- **Identify key issues:**
    - Tropical Storm Helene caused extensive damage to the existing Gashes Creek Rd bridge/dam due to them being integral to each other.
    - Following the storm, alternate public access was established utilizing temporary signals and a narrow section of roadway along Azalea Road E., converting a one-way road into a two-lane, two-way section.
    - As other facilities (namely the Nature Center and the JBL Soccer fields with a potential for 8500 players per weekend day) come back online, traffic volume is escalating and safety concerns are increasing.
    - The growing traffic on this temporary two-way section creates increased risk of traffic incidents or crashes due to constrained pavement widths, and increased emergency access and response delays.
    - ABYSA is slated to resume soccer this fall at the JBL soccer fields.
    - A temporary bridge will reasonably restore the pre-storm traffic pattern which will allow for acceptable emergency access and response times and relieve traffic congestion related to the associated activities at the surrounding facilities.
    - The construction of a temporary bridge in this area is complex and NCDOT has the capacity, capabilities, and experience designing for and constructing temporary bridges in western NC.

- Staff is currently working on a mutual aid / municipal agreement with NCDOT to perform the work with the City reimbursing NCDOT for full cost recovery.
- Staff is seeking reimbursement through the FEMA PA process.