I-26 Connector Project Sections B/D

Aesthetics Treatments

February 14, 2023

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Key Takeaways

- The I-26 Connector is a transformational $1.35 billion NCDOT construction project that will improve and realign 4.7 miles of I-26.
- Sections B & D of the I-26 Connector Project will be constructed using a design-build process.
- The design-build process is advantageous to the City as costs for betterments and aesthetic treatments will not be adjusted after the commitment letter is signed and associated future agreement is executed.
- The Council-established Aesthetics Committee is recommending that the City invest $5,889,024 in aesthetic improvements for the I-26 Connector Project.
- Staff is recommending a subset of the Aesthetics Committee's recommendations, totaling $3,987,595. Staff's recommendation prioritizes projects with the greatest community impact including:
    - Bowen Bridge Enhancements
    - Haywood Bridge and Interchange
    - Hill Street and I-240 Pedestrian Bridges
- City Council is being asked to authorize signature of a $5,400,495 commitment letter that includes:
    - $1,412,900 in previously budgeted bicycle and pedestrian betterments (currently funded in CIP)
    - $3,987,595 in aesthetic improvements (funding to be identified)

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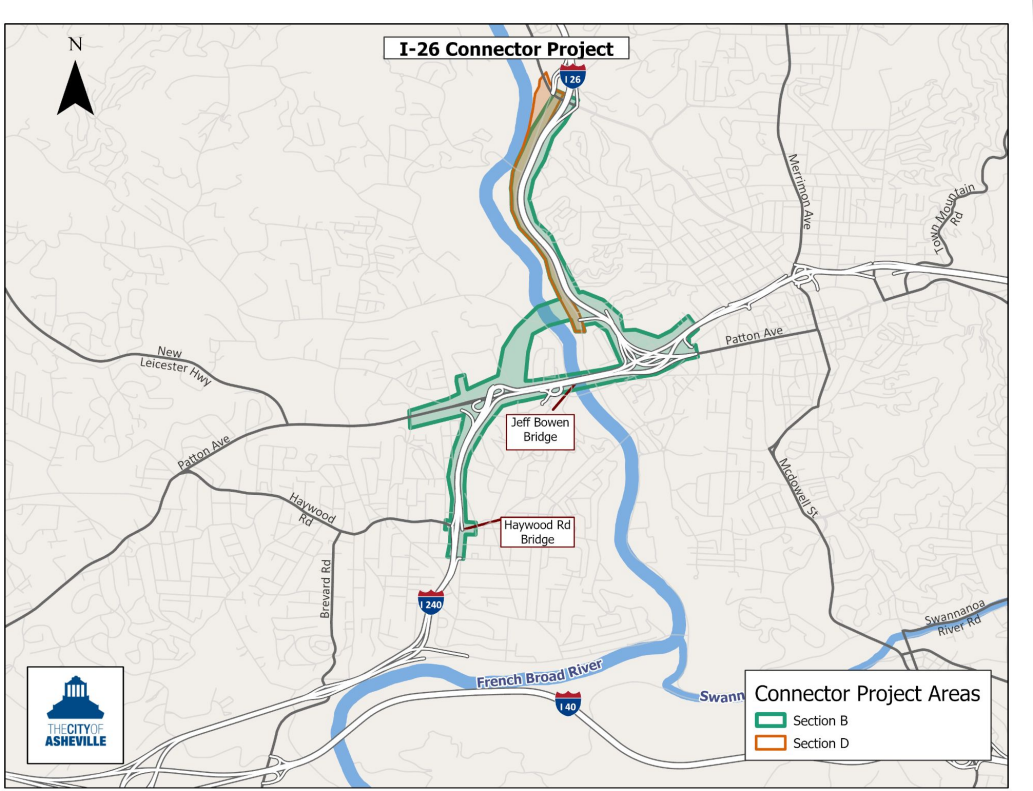
I-26 Connector Project Overview

Background

- Project I-2513 - NCDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) - $1.35 Billion
- Commonly referred to as the I-26 Connector Project
- Begins at I-40 and ends at US 19-23 (Future I-26) near Broadway Street
- Total length = 4.7 miles

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I-26 Connector Project Sections B/D



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I-26 Connector Project Sections B & D

- Section B begins south of the Haywood Road bridge and ends at US 19-23 (Future I-26) near Broadway Street.
- Section D (Riverside Drive) begins south of Hill Street and ends at Broadway Street.
- Both sections will be delivered using the Design-Build delivery method.
- The Design-Build selection process will begin in early calendar year 2023 - estimated to take nine months to complete.
- Funding commitment letter needed by February 15, 2023 (Formal municipal agreement will occur at a later date).

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I-26 Connector Project Sections B & D

Definitions

- **Design-Build Process** - Method of project delivery in which one entity (the design-build team) works under a single contract to provide design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction services for one lump sum price.
- **City Betterment** - Public transportation improvement that exceeds NCDOT's standard improvements (For example; a 14-foot vs a 10-foot multi-use transportation path).

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I-26 Connector Project Sections B & D

Definitions

- **Aesthetic Treatment** - Any treatment including aesthetic materials, landscaping, and lighting that exceeds NCDOT's standard treatments.

I-26 Connector Project Sections B & D

Financial Implications

- Numerous competitive needs
- Limited funding sources
- Costs will not be adjusted once agreement is executed.
- Bicycle and pedestrian betterments are programmed in the current CIP.
- Reimbursement procedure begins on award date
- Reimbursement time period - 6 years (first 3 years interest free)
- Staff is recommending 8 of the priorities submitted by the Aesthetics Committee including the top 3.

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I-26 Connector Project Sections B/D

Staff Recommendations

Rank	Description	Cost
1	Bowen Bridges	$3,790,415
	Less Bridgehead Monuments	-$425,042
	Less Stamped MUP Concrete Surface	-$469,012
	Revised Cost (Staff Recommendation)	$2,896,361

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I-26 Connector Project Sections B/D

Staff Recommendations

Rank	Description	Cost
2	Haywood Bridge & Interchange	$617,020
	Less Stamped & Colored Concrete Sidewalks	-$117,466
	Revised Cost (Staff Recommendation)	$499,554

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Rank	Description	Aesthetics Committee Recommendation	Staff Recommendation
1	Bowen Bridges	$3,790,415	$2,896,361
2	Haywood Road Bridge & Interchange	$617,020	$499,554
3	Hill Street & I-240 Pedestrian Bridges	$306,533	$306,533
4	Patton Avenue East of Bowen Bridges	$23,015	$23,015
5	Greenways - West Asheville & Smith Mill Creek	$67,599	$67,599
6	Riverside Drive	$71,929	$0
8	Interstate Corridor	$88,428	$88,428
9	Patton Avenue West of Bowen Bridges	$88,936	$88,936
10	Haywood Road Bridge & Interchange	$817,980	$0
11	Haywood Road Bridge & Interchange	$17,169	$17,169
	Aesthetics Treatments Total Cost =	**$5,889,024**	**$3,987,595**
	City Betterments (Currently Programmed in CIP)	$1,412,900	$1,412,900
	Total Cost =	**$7,301,924**	**$5,400,495**

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I-26 Connector Project Sections B/D

Staff Recommendations

- Total revised cost - $5,400,495
- Program as part of the FY 2024 five year Capital Improvement Plan ($1,412,900 already programmed).
- Staff will coordinate with community partners including Buncombe County, Tourism Development Authority, and Metropolitan Planning Organization to identify outside funding.
- Items removed could be considered once the project is completed.

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Council Action

- Suggested Motion - Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a funding letter of commitment to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) regarding the City betterments and aesthetics treatments for Project I-2513B and Project I-2513D.

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