THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
NORTH CAROLINA

AESTHETICS COMMITTEE

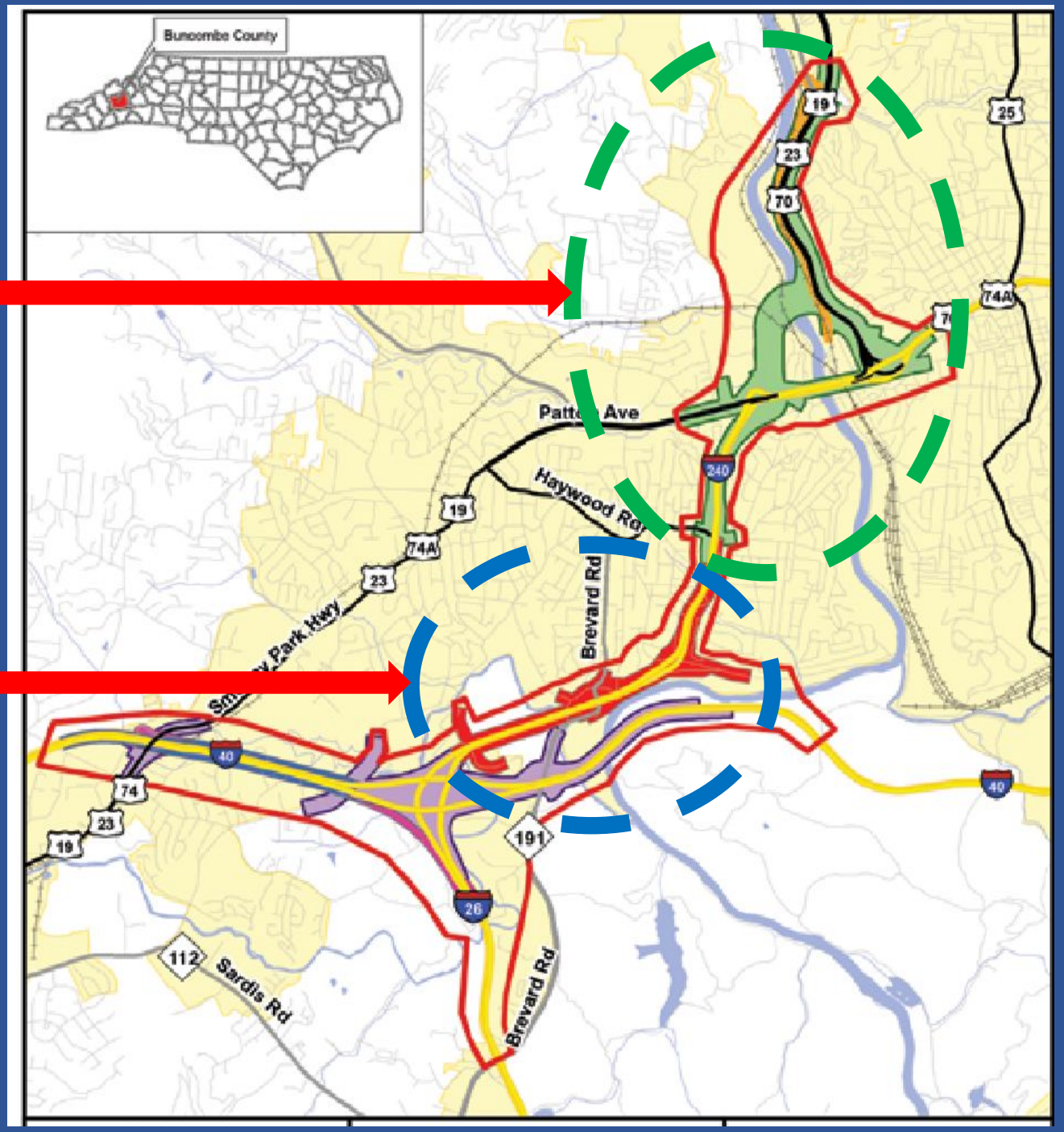
I-26 Connector Sections B/D

Aesthetics Improvements Funding Commitment Request

January 10, 2023

I-26 Connector
Sections B/D

I-26 Connector
Section A



Overview & Requested Commitments

- Bowen Bridge - $3.8 million for improved lighting, safety railing, pedestrian & bike surfaces, monument pillars
- Haywood Road - $1.45 million for improved lighting, safety railing, pedestrian surfaces, monument pillars, median treatments, tiered retaining walls
- Hill Street/I-240 Pedestrian Bridges - $306K+ for improved lighting, safety railing
- Patton Avenue East - $23K for Downtown style lighting, median treatment
- Greenway and Riverside Drive pedestrian safety lighting - $140K
- Interstate Corridor - $88.5K for green light poles to match those approved in Section A

Overview (continued)

- Patton Avenue West - $89K for improved median treatment
- Landscaping at Bowen Bridge, Haywood Road, Patton Avenue (starting 3 years after interstate completed) - estimated $75K per year
- Lighting leased on Bowen Bridge, Haywood Road Bridge, Hill Street Bridge, Patton Avenue East, Riverside Drive and Greenways – estimated $126K per year paid to Duke Energy (starting after interstate completed)

TOTAL to be paid to NCDOT by October 2029 – almost $5.9 million

(Note: City could decide to install signature LED lighting on Bowen Bridge and install Haywood Road Bridge sidewalk and bridge medallions, and bridge names after interstate construction is completed)

A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity





Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Experience: Highest Priority



Bridge/Greenway Lighting for a Safe Passage





Connecting Neighborhoods





Extending Downtown Asheville





Which Gateway?

Medallion location

Terraced planter wall



High vertical retaining wall. No box abutment, medallion, or terraced planter.



A Fiscally Responsible Approach

- Fixed price commitment – protection against future inflation
- Allows appropriations over multiple years – final payment not due till October 2029
- Time to bring partners on board – the County and TDA should share the cost
- An investment in Asheville's future – placemaking to attract tourists and enhance the experience of Asheville's citizens

Your Choice

Aesthetic Committee's Recommendation: approve entire funding request

Alternate: Staff partial funding recommendation

Standard concrete island, median, etc.



Standard NCDOT bridge railing



Haywood Road Bridge proposed railing



Bowen Bridge proposed railing



Hill Street Bridge proposed railing



Bowen Bridge standard NCDOT lighting and railing



I-26 AESTHETICS COMMITTEE I-26 CONNECTOR DASHBOARD – last updated November 2022

Section Name	From	To	RW Acquisition Start Date	Ad Date	Let Date	Est. Construction Cost	City Funding Commitment Date	Notes
AA	I-40 W bound Near Montgomery St.	I-40/Patton Ave Interchange	11/22/22		11/23/23	$29,700,000	N/A	
AB	I-26 E Bound	I-40 W Bound	11/22/22		11/23/23	$20,200,000	N/A	
AC	I-26 E/I40 W entrance ramp	I-26 approx. 200 ft south of Haywood Road Bridge	11/22/22		2/24/24	$179,005,000	Start Municipal Agreement process by 2/22/23	City Council has committed to fund all aesthetic improvements and City betterments
B	I-26 approx. 200 ft south of Haywood Rd Bridge	I-26 at Woodfin Town line	Could start in early 2024	1/23/23	10/17/23	$621,500,000	Need what is going into the Municipal Agreement mid-Jan. 2023	Need MA by 1st industry draft in mid-Mar. 2023
D	Riverside Drive @ Bowen Bridge	Riverside Drive @ Broadway St.	Could start in early 2024	1/23/23	10/17/23	$13,100,000	Need what is going into the Municipal Agreement mid-Jan. 2023	Need MA by 1st industry draft in mid-Mar. 2023
TOTAL						$863,505,000		

AESTHETIC IMPROVMENTS PRIORITY RANKINGS AND PROBABLE COST ESTIMATES

Geography/Bucket/Description	Rank	To be Paid to NCDOT	Lighting Lease Cost (to Duke)	Annual Landsdcape Maintenance	Post-Construction City Option (not due to NCDOT)
Bowen Bridge (highly recommended)	1	$3,790,415	$21,870	$1,720	
Haywood Road Bridge and Interchange (highly recommended)	2	$617,020	$4,541		$25,353 +
Hill Street and I-240 Pedestrian Bridges (highly recommended)	3	$306,533	$5,103		TBD
Patton Avenue East of Bowen Bridge (highly recommended)	4	$23,015	$18,157	$20,304 –$23,606	
Greenways (West Asheville, Smith Mill Creek) (highly recommended)	5	$67,599	$34,391		TBD
Riverside Drive (highly recommended)	6	$71,929	$42,055		
Patton Avenue West of Bowen Bridge (highly recommended)	7			$40,402	TBD
Interstate Corridor (highly recommended)	8	$88,428			
Patton Avenue West of Bowen Bridge (recommended)	9	$88,936			TBD
Haywood Road Bridge and Interchange (recommended)	10	$817,980		$5,590	TBD
Haywood Road Bridge and Interchange - Medians (recommended)	11	$17,169		$3,375	$2,093,806
Bowen Bridge (recommended)	12			$71,391 –$74,693	$2,119,159+
GRAND TOTAL		$5,889,024			