



PAT McCRORY
Governor

NICHOLAS J. TENNYSON
Secretary

December 15, 2016

Mr. Richard H. Streeter
Attorney at Law
55255 Partridge Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Streeter:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 2016, in which you voice concerns on behalf of the Don't Wreck Asheville Coalition regarding the I-26 Connector Project. Due to its complexity, the project has a long history with many alternatives analyzed through the years. As a standard practice, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) closely coordinates project decisions with local, state and federal resource agencies, various stakeholders, and the public.

NCDOT held a Public Hearing in November 2015, to present all the alternatives included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), answer questions, and solicit comments. As a result, we received nearly 1,500 comments, with almost half being in favor of Alternative 4B for Section B of the project. Alternative 4B was chosen by the federal, state and local agency partners as the preferred alternative for Section B, as it was determined this alternative best balanced the impacts to both the human and natural environment, while still meeting the purpose and need for the project.

The Department is currently working with the local community to ensure further refinements are consistent with local and regional plans in order to have the project best meet the community vision for the project, while still meeting federal design and traffic operations standards.

Your comments will be taken into consideration as the project is further refined. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Division Engineer Jay Swain at (828) 251-6171 or jswain@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "N. Tennyson", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Nicholas J. Tennyson

cc: The Honorable Esther Manheimer, Mayor, City of Asheville
Gary Jackson, Manager, City of Asheville
Lyuba Zuyeva, Director, French Broad River MPO
David Brown, Board of Transportation Member
J. Carr McLamb, General Counsel, NCDOT
Michael L Holder, PE, Chief Engineer, NCDOT
Jay Swain, Division Engineer

Nothing ComparesSM