

FEASIBILITY STUDY

US 25, Buncombe County
From the Henderson County Line to US 25A
R-2213

Prepared by
Planning and Research Branch
Division of Highways
N. C. Department of Transportation

June, 1987

US 25, Buncombe County
From the Henderson County Line to US 25A
R-2213

I. Description

This report covers a preliminary study of the proposed widening of the subject highway for a distance of approximately 1.1 miles (see Figure 1). This project is included in the 1987-1995 Transportation Improvement Program for feasibility study and/or right of way protection. It is not currently funded.

II. Purpose of Project

US 25 is designated as a major thoroughfare in the Asheville Area Thoroughfare Plan. It functions as a radial route into Asheville from southern Buncombe County.

Current traffic volume on this section road is approximately 16,000 vehicles per day. Estimated traffic volume in twenty years is 34,700 vpd. Approximately 8 percent of the total volume constitutes truck traffic.

The existing facility has a 24-foot pavement with 2 to 4-foot shoulders constructed on fair alignment. It adjoins an existing 5-lane curb and gutter section north of US 25A.

The speed limit in this area is 45 MPH. A traffic signal exists at the intersection of US 25 and US 25A. Roadside development consists of a mixture of commercial and residential uses.

Accident records for a recent four-year period showed a total of 123 accidents on this section of road. This yields an accident rate of 5.53 accidents per million vehicle miles, which is significantly higher than the 1985 statewide average of 3.52 acc/mvm for two-lane US urban routes. A large portion of the accidents is attributable to rear-end collisions.

The purpose of the project is to provide additional lanes that would alleviate severe congestion due to inadequate capacity and improve safety. The existing two-lane road is carrying twice as much traffic as it is capable of handling at an acceptable level of service. This project would be an extension of existing and planned five-lane section north of US 25A extending into Asheville.

III. Recommendation and Cost

The widening of this portion of US 25 to a multi-lane facility is feasible and immediately warranted. Recommended cross section for the widening is five lanes with curb and gutter (64 feet between curbs).

Based on site observation, it appears that most of the widening should be accomplished on the east side of US 25 from the county line to SR 3190 and on the west side from SR 3190 to US 25A. This improvement will require 20 feet of additional right of way for a total width of 80 feet plus construction easements.

The total estimated cost of the recommended improvements is \$2,850,000, including \$1,550,000 for roadway construction and \$1,300,000 for right of way. Cost estimates were made by the Roadway Design Unit and Right of Way Branch.

IV. Other Comments

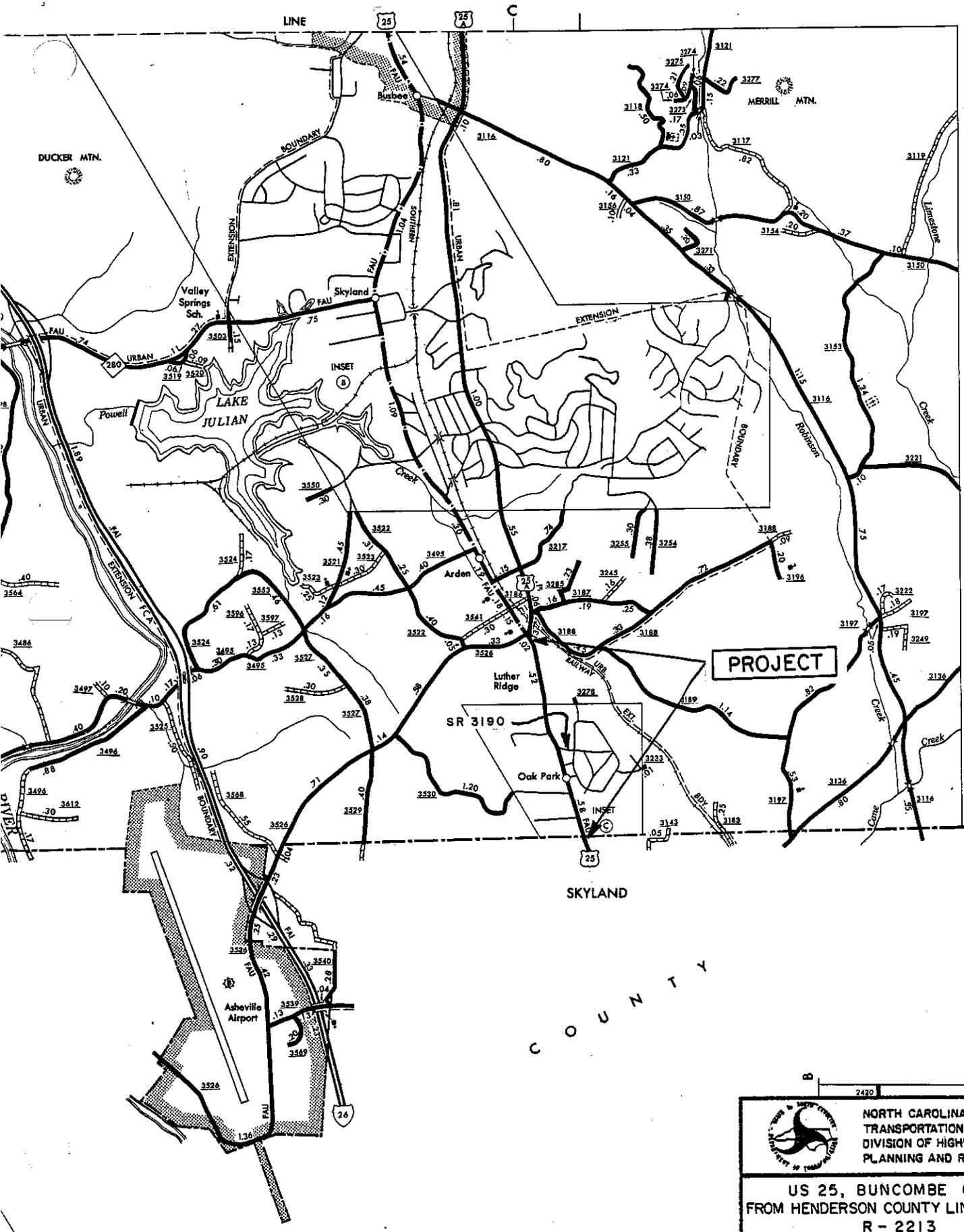
No alternatives to the recommended widening of the subject road were considered.

Negative environmental impacts of the project are the taking of strips of land for right of way, relocation of approximately 1 residence and 2 businesses, and increased noise level.

Although not part of the current state bicycle program, US 25 has potential significance for bike traffic because of its proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway which crosses US 25 several miles north of US 25A. Consideration should be given to possible provision of wide curbed lanes to accommodate bike traffic.

Local government should be encouraged to protect the additional right of way required for the improvements from new development construction.

RGD/rm



PROJECT


 NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
 TRANSPORTATION
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 PLANNING AND RESEARCH BRANCH

US 25, BUNCOMBE COUNTY
 FROM HENDERSON COUNTY LINE TO US 25/
 R - 2213