

FEASIBILITY STUDY

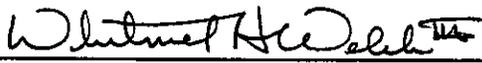
SR 1546 (Lovelady Road)
From SR 1001 to SR 1613 (Tomlinson Loop)
Burke County

R-2824

Prepared by
Program Development Branch
Division of Highways
N. C. Department of Transportation



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Date

FEASIBILITY STUDY

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I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is a feasibility study for the extension of SR 1546 (Lovelady Road) in the Town of Rutherford College, Burke County. The recommended extension from SR 1001 to SR 1613 (Tomlinson Loop), a distance of approximately 1.2 mile is identified as section 1 on the attached Figure 1. The recommended improvements also include the widening and resurfacing of a 0.6 mile portion of SR 1613 (identified as section 2 on Figure 1). The recommended typical cross section is a two-lane, 28-foot pavement with 8-foot usable shoulders, on a 100-foot wide right-of-way. The estimated cost of this project is \$3,500,000 (\$500,000 for right-of-way, and \$3,000,000 for construction).

This study is not a detailed planning/environmental investigation. A feasibility study presents recommended typical cross sections, general alignments, and estimated cost of the improvement. The study also attempts to provide an early identification of potential environmental, permitting, or other issues which deserve consideration in the planning and construction stages.

II. NEED FOR PROJECT

This project was requested by the Burke County Commissioners. The extension of SR 1546 (Lovelady Road) is needed to link the rural residential community east of Island Creek with the facilities and emergency services at the Town of Rutherford College. These services include Valdese General Hospital, Lovelady Fire Department, and Rutherford College School, all located along SR 1001.

The recommended improvements in this study are in two sections (see Figure 1):

Section 1 is the extension of SR 1546 on a new location from SR 1001, across Island Creek to SR 1613. At the west terminal of the project, the existing SR 1546 consists of a two-lane, 18-foot pavement with 3-foot shoulders, without access control. SR 1001 at its currently unsignalized intersection with SR 1546 consists of a two-lane, 20-foot pavement with curb on the east, and 4-foot shoulder on the west side of the roadway.

Section 2 is the south portion of SR 1613 (Tomlinson Loop). SR 1613 consists of a 2-lane, 18-foot pavement with 3-foot usable shoulders. The existing pavement is a deteriorated bituminous surface treatment over topsoil.

Estimates of traffic on SR 1613, and projections of future traffic on the recommended extension were not available at the time of preparation of this report. However, a capacity or traffic congestion problem has not been identified.

Land use along section 1, a new location, is woods, pasture, and light density rural residential. Along SR 1613 (section 2), land use is pasture and light density rural residential.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

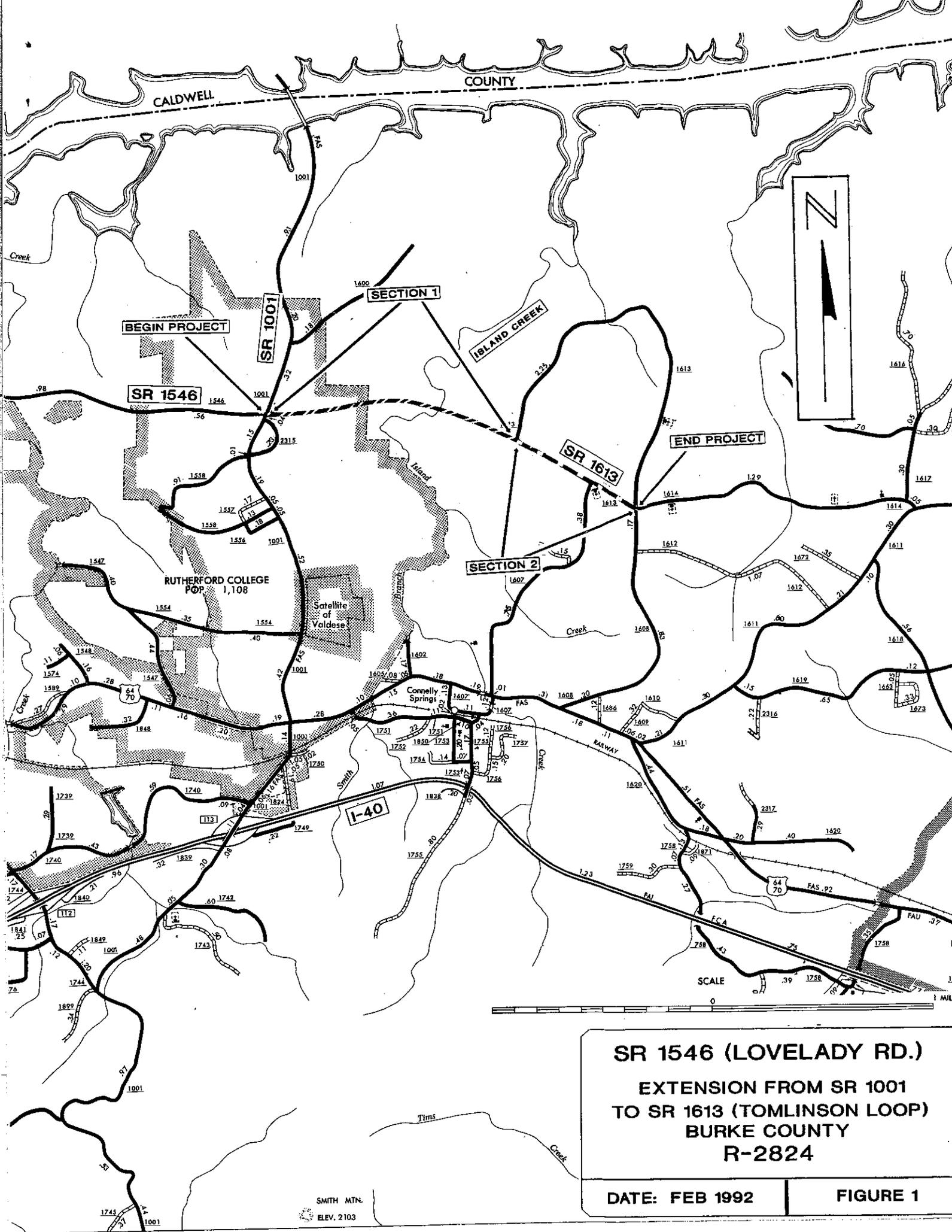
It is recommended that SR 1546 (Lovely Road) be extended on a new location from its present east terminal at SR 1001 to SR 1613 (Tomlinson Loop), a distance of 1.2 mile (section 1). Also, it is recommended that a 0.6 mile segment of SR 1613 (section 2), from the west terminal of the proposed extension of SR 1546 to SR 1608 be widened and resurfaced. This is needed due to the deteriorated condition of the surface treatment along SR 1613, and the anticipated increase of traffic once SR 1546 is extended. Total project length is approximately 1.8 mile. The recommended typical cross section consists of a two-lane, 28-foot pavement with 8-foot shoulders (two 12-foot lanes, plus 2-foot paved shoulders and 6-foot usable shoulders). The new roadway is to be constructed on a 100-foot wide right-of-way. No control of access is recommended. A recommendation regarding intersection signalization was not made, since traffic projections are unavailable at this time. However, provision of a traffic signal at the SR 1546/SR 1001 is included in the cost estimate.

Project cost is estimated as follows:

	Section 1	Section 2
Right-of-Way	\$ 375,000	\$ 125,000
Construction	\$ 2,650,000	\$ 350,000
Total	\$ 3,025,000	\$ 475,000
Total Project Cost	\$ 3,500,000	

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

It is estimated that this project would require the relocation of 4 residences. An environmental screening was not conducted for this study. However, major environmental impacts are not anticipated due to the short length, and the location of the project.



CALDWELL

COUNTY

BEGIN PROJECT

SR 1001

SECTION 1

SR 1546

SECTION 2

SR 1613

END PROJECT

RUTHERFORD COLLEGE
POP. 1,108

Satellite
of
Valdese

Connelly
Springs

I-40

RAILWAY

SCALE

1 MILE

**SR 1546 (LOVELADY RD.)
EXTENSION FROM SR 1001
TO SR 1613 (TOMLINSON LOOP)
BURKE COUNTY
R-2824**

DATE: FEB 1992

FIGURE 1

SMITH MTN.
ELEV. 2103