

US 276 in Pisgah Forest

from US 64 to Avery Creek Trail Head

Local ID: TRAN0007-H

Purpose: **Mobility**

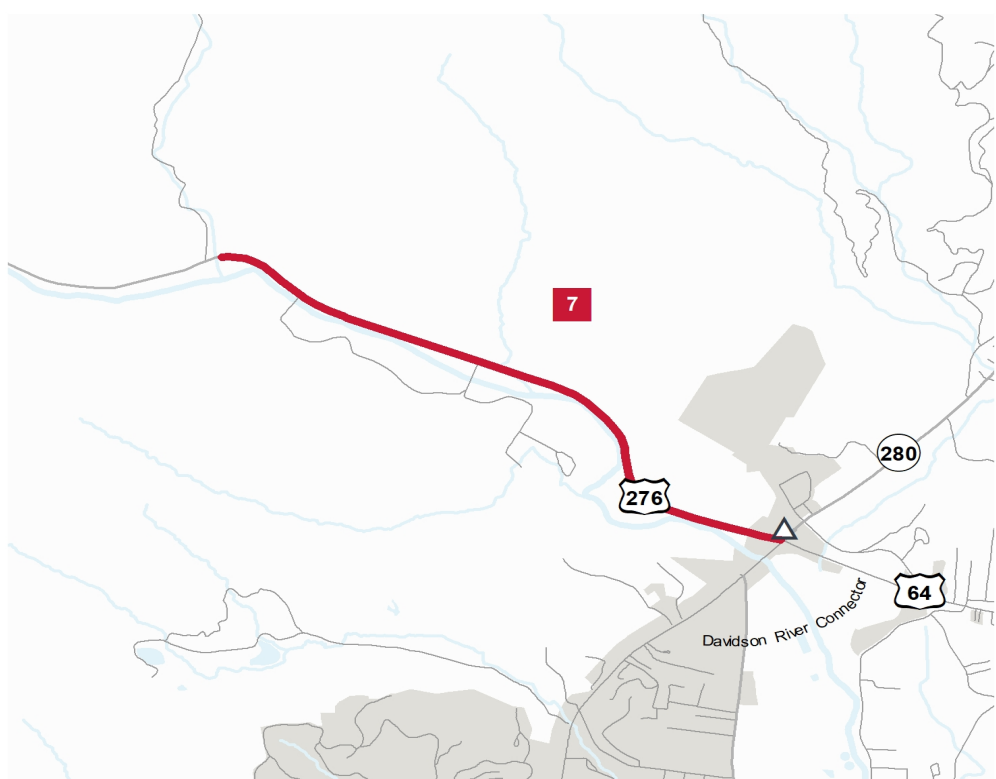
Improvement: **Improve Existing**

Identified Need

US 276 in the Pisgah Forest is a point of major tourist activity. The Traffic Forecast for STIP Project R-5799 shows this facility experiences traffic higher than the historical data. In addition, the high seasonal variability and truck traffic leads to congestion in excess of average annual data.

Recommendation

The CTP proposes a long term vision of a three lane cross section including multimodal elements. Individual projects, like R-5865 which is underway, must fit within the constraints of the given section and will incrementally address the needs.



Proposal At A Glance

Highway Class	Congestion & Mobility
Facility Type	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
Typical Section	03 D
Section Options	-
Length (miles)	2.15
Existing ROW (feet)	60
Safety Risk Score	99

Proposal Data: 2017 Base Year 2045 Future Year

Improved Route	2017 Base Year		2045 Future Year	
	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal	
Facility Type	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	-	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	
Travel Lanes	2	2	2	
Volume (vpd)	7000	8800	-	
Capacity (vpd)	15100	15100	15100	

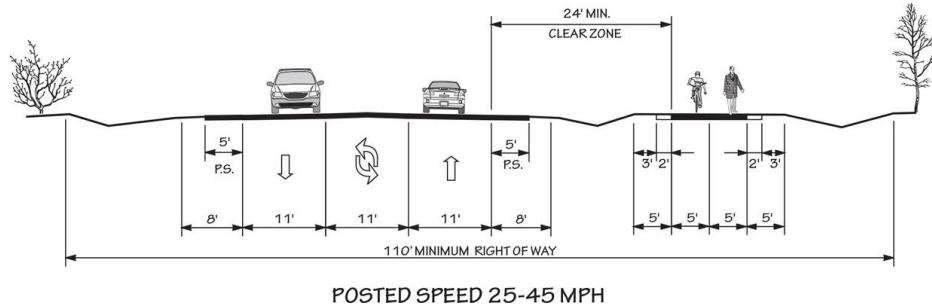
Capacity Data: Year

Facility will be Approaching Capacity (>80%)	-
Facility will be Over Capacity (>=100%)	-



Typical Section Options:

None

TYPICAL SECTION No. 3D2 LANE WITH TWO WAY LEFT TURN LANE,
PAVED SHOULDERS AND SIDEPATH**Seasonal and Terrain Considerations**

Current signage warns truckers that US 276 includes steep grades of 9 percent and tight curves posted for 15 MPH. This reduces the capacity normally expected with a facility of two lane cross section and 55 MPH speed limit. US 276 also provides access to one of the major tourist destinations in the area, including the Davidson River Campground, Avery Creek Trailhead, Twin Falls Trailhead, White Pine Campground, Pisgah Forest Riding Stables, Moore Cove Falls Trail, Looking Glass Rock Trailhead, and the Pisgah National Forest Ranger Station and Visitor Center. These contribute to a high degree of day trip, hiking, biking, and other seasonal activities.

Linkage to Other Plans

According to the 2013 Blue Ridge Bike Plan, this facility is part of the "Priority County Corridor" from Brevard to the Blue Ridge Parkway. According to the 2025 Transylvania County Comprehensive Plan, this facility is part of the "Regional On-Road Bicycle Routes" identified in that plan. It is classified as a major collector on the Federal Functional Classification System.

Multi-Modal Considerations

Transylvania County Transit, under the name "Transylvania in Motion" operates a fixed route as well as demand response system within the county. The deviated-fixed route does not reach this facility; however, it is within the demand-response area. In order to accommodate bicycles, 5-foot paved shoulders are recommended on this facility.

Goals & Objectives Survey

The citizens of Transylvania County responded to a public survey in early 2019 with a great deal of support for new greenways, sidewalks, and multi-use paths. When asked for their top three most important project types, these categories ranked first, third and fifth, out of a dozen choices. Rounding out the top five were maintenance and safety projects at second and fourth respectively.

When asked to rank transportation goals, the respondents gave two, preservation of the natural beauty and community character and increasing the number transportation mode choices, substantial net positive scores; improved connectivity, and economic development about neutral; and improved travel time was poorly scored, receiving over 50% of the lowest rank.

Natural & Human Environmental Context

Based on planning level environmental assessment using available GIS data, the proposed project intersects the Pisgah National Forest. According to LHI Guild Analysis, this project intersects multiple guilds of the Mesic Hardwood, Mixed Forest, Sparsely Settled Mixed Habitats, Woodland, and Barrens variety. These are predominantly A-ranked resources with the balance being B-ranked. It is also within the vicinity of the English Chapel Wetland.

This project is within 150 feet of:

- National Historical Register or Eligible Properties
- 303 Streams
- Water Distribution System Pipes
- Sewer System Pipes
- Multiple Geology Types
- Geological Fault

Title VI

This recommendation passes through one or more Census Blocks with the following characteristics:

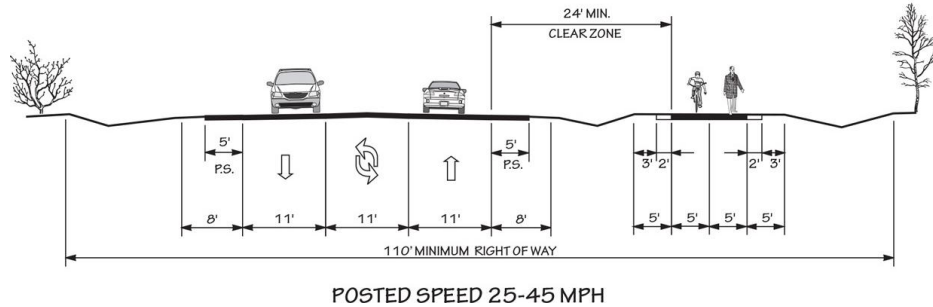
- Between 0% and 25% identify as African American
- Between 25% and 50% identify as 65+
- Between 0% and 5% identify as Asian

Typical Section Options:

None

TYPICAL SECTION No. 3D

2 LANE WITH TWO WAY LEFT TURN LANE,
PAVED SHOULDERS AND SIDEPATH



- Between 0% and 1% identify as Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Between 0% and 1% identify as Hispanic and Latino
- 0% identify as Over 18 w/ Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Asian and Pacific Islander
- 0% identify as Over 18 w/ Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Indo-European
- 0% identify as Over 18 w/ Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Other
- 0% identify as Over 18 w/ Limited English Proficiency (LEP) - Spanish
- Between 0% and 15% identify as Native American
- Between 15% and 25% identify as Below Poverty Line
- 0% identify as Some Other Race
- Between 0% and 5% identify as Two of More Races
- Between 0% and 15% identify as Households with No Car