

NC 197

From Clearmont School Rd (SR 1416) to NC 226 (Mitchell Co)

Local ID: YANC30009-HB

Purpose: Facility Deficiencies

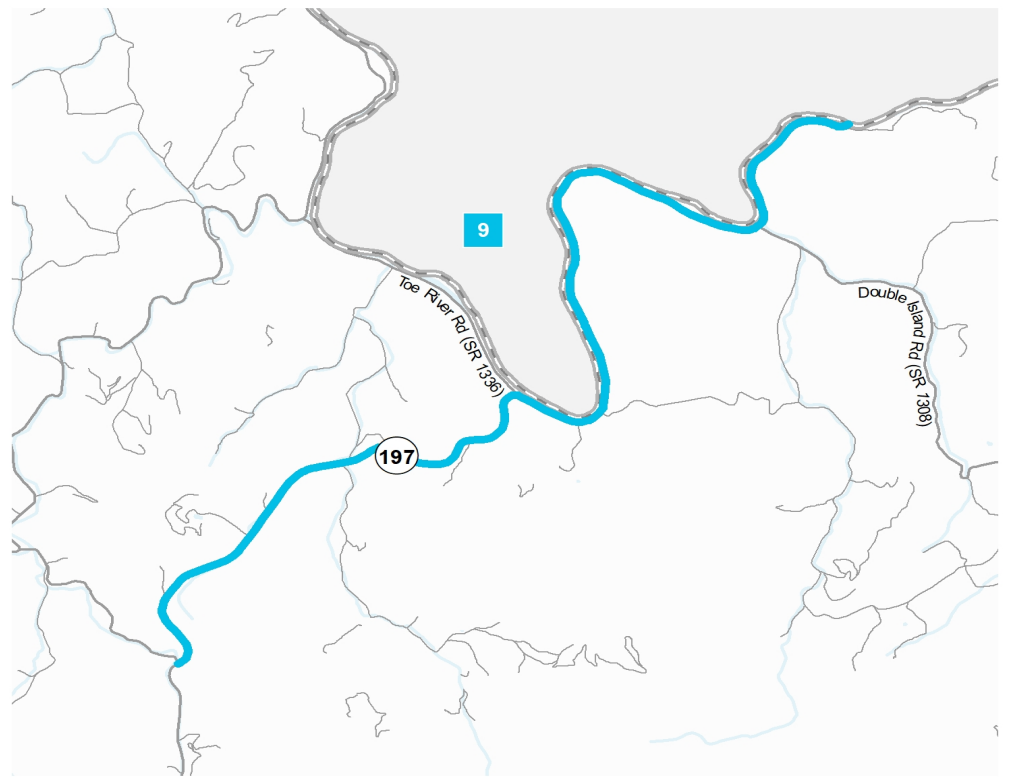
Improvement: Improve Existing

Identified Need

Functionally classified as a Major Collector this facility has 11-foot lanes with no paved shoulders. This facility links Yancey County and Mitchell County. It is popular with recreational cyclists. Truck traffic is 7% of daily vehicle traffic. Between 2014-2018, there were 6-8 total crashes.

Recommendation

Modernize to 12-ft lanes with 5-ft paved shoulders. Climbing lanes should be considered at steep grades to better minimize the impacts of truck traffic.



Proposal At A Glance

Highway Class	Modernization
Facility Type	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane
Typical Section	02 A
Section Options	-
Estimated Cost	-
Length (miles)	6.5
Existing ROW (feet)	50-100
Safety Risk Score	56-89

Proposal Data: 2018 Base Year 2045 Future Year

Improved Route	2018 Base Year		2045 Future Year	
	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal	
<i>Facility Type</i>	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	Major Thoroughfare 2-lane	
<i>Travel Lanes</i>	2	2	2	
<i>Volume (vpd)</i>	1300-2200	1900-3000	1900-3000	
<i>Capacity (vpd)</i>	14600	14600	15100	

Capacity Data: Year

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

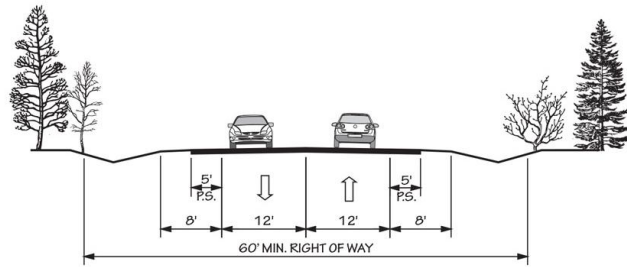


Typical Section Options:

None

TYPICAL SECTION No. 2A

2 LANE UNDIVIDED WITH PAVED SHOULDERS



POSTED SPEED 55 MPH

Project History/Linkage to Other Plans

This project was not included in the 2008 Yancey County CTP. This route was identified in the 2014 High Country Bicycle Plan as a recreational route, and 4-ft shoulders were recommended.

CTP Goal Analysis

The Vision Statement for this CTP is Yancey County has a safe and accessible multi-modal transportation system that connects its residents and visitors to key destinations within the county and regionally where an emphasis is placed on alternative modes. This project works toward a safer multi-modal transportation system that connects residents and visitors to key destinations e.g. Mitchell County and Unimin Corporation.

Potential Impacts

Based on planning level environmental assessment using available GIS data, the project has the potential to impact Bailey Branch stream, French Broad River watershed, Elk Fork stream, and Jacks Creek.

15.1-25% of population along NC 197N is zero car households. 25.1-50% of population along NC 197 is age 65 and over.

Other Information

There is quarry traffic from Mitchell County that uses this facility. Climbing lanes should be considered to better minimize the impacts of truck traffic.

Structurally Deficient culvert for Mine Fork Creek.

Multi-Modal Considerations

Paved shoulders to accommodate cyclists.

CTP Public Survey Comments Received

Public comments from CTP survey about NC 197:

- Modernization of NC 80, NC 197, and US 19W will help to connect more remote sections of the county to US 19E.
- NC 197N is heavily trafficked road that is narrow and has dangerous shoulders. Make wider with better shoulders.
- I feel that the posted speed limit (55 mph) on 197 is too high. There are many twists and turns, and frequently these turns have driveways. It is mostly farms, so often times there will be slow moving farm equipment utilizing the roadway, not to mention cyclists and jogger.
- No shoulder to pull over for emergency vehicles or if vehicle has a breakdown. Blind curves can cause fatal collision with bicyclists.
- Need wider road on NC 197.
- Scenic bike route.
- One of main routes going north needs bike lane or trail.
- Bus routes and stops on NC 197 and Whitson Branch Rd.
- Very dangerous spot to pull out from the dump.
- Gravel trucks and bikes on the road.