



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## NCDOT I-26 Corridor Improvements Buncombe and Henderson Counties, NC (Regulatory Permitting)

**Regulatory Office: Asheville, WRDA Branch**

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: NC 11

DATE: 10 MARCH 2023

### 1. PROJECTS:

Widening approximately 41 miles of Interstate 26 (I-26) in Buncombe and Henderson Counties, NC:

- TIP No. I-4400/I-4700 – Improve I-26 for 22.2 miles from US 25 in Henderson County to I-40 in Buncombe County, NC
- TIP No. I-2513 (“I-26 Connector Project”)- Improve I-26 for 7 miles from I-26 south of Asheville through the US 19-23 interchange in Buncombe County, NC
- TIP No. A-10A - Improve US 19-23 (Future I-26) for 12 miles from Asheville to Exit 13 (near Mars Hill) in Buncombe County, NC

FHWA is the lead federal agency for all three projects. Each project is being processed through the NEPA/404 Merger Process in NC.

### 2. CHALLENGES:

Very visible project where geographic constraints and extensive development limit potential alternatives.

### 3. CURRENT STATUS:

TIP No. I-4400/I-4700 – Phased permit. Corps authorization has been issued for Phase 1 on June 21, 2019, and for Phase 2 on September 16, 2019. Applications have not been received for the remaining two sections of the project, as final designs have not been completed. No actionable items for the Corps to address at this time.

TIP No. I-2513 - Phased permit. Merger Team has concurred on concurrence points (CP) 1 – CP 4A for the entire 7-mile-long project. NCDOT has completed CP 4C with the Merger Team for Phase 1 and are expected to submit a permit application for this phase in early 2023. No actionable items for the Corps to address at this time.

TIP No. A-10A – Phased permit. Merger Team has concurred on CPs 1 - CP 2A. NCDOT notified the Corps in July of 2021 that this project had been delayed and was put on hold. No actionable items for the Corps to address at this time.

PROJECT INFORMATION – NCDOT I-26 Corridor Projects in Buncombe and Henderson Counties, NC (Regulatory) – Continued

**4. NEXT STEPS:**

TIP No. I-4400/I-4700 – awaiting applications from NCDOT for the remaining phases.

TIP No. I-2513 (I-26 Connector) – awaiting application from NCDOT for Phase 1.

TIP No. A-10A – awaiting NCDOT's resumption of project review in the Merger Process.