

PRE-TIP STUDY SUMMARY

US 421 IMPROVEMENTS/ DANIEL BOONE PARKWAY

From US 421 West of Boone to the Relocated US 421 East of Boone
Boone, Watauga County, North Carolina

TIP Project Number U-2703



What is the Proposed Project?

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes improvements to US 421 (King Street) in the vicinity of Boone in Watauga County. The section of US 421 to be improved, as part of this project, begins near SR 1107 (NC 105 Bypass) west of Boone and extends eastward through downtown Boone. This project will connect to the relocated portion of US 421 east of Boone.

The study of US 421 is still in the preliminary phase, but four alternatives have been identified for further study. These alternatives were selected based on meeting the purpose and need of the proposed project, providing the needed traffic benefits while minimizing impacts to the human and natural environment, and public input.

These proposed alternatives are on new location to the south of existing US 421 and are designed as four-lane, median-divided roadways. The relocated US 421 is proposed to have full control of access, meaning there will not be any at-grade intersections or driveway openings allowed directly to the new roadway. There will be interchanges with major roads such as the existing US 421, NC 105, US 321/221, and NC 194. For a map of the proposed locations, please see the attached figure, entitled "Corridor Alternatives to Study Further."

Purpose and Need of the Proposed Project

US 421 in the vicinity of the Town of Boone is routed along King Street, the primary downtown corridor. This portion of US 421 (King Street) is experiencing congestion that will continue to worsen in the future. This congestion is due to the mixture of local traffic along King Street with destinations in downtown Boone and through traffic using US 421, US 321/221, and NC 105.

The mobility and safety problems that exist along US 421 (King Street) can be improved if the through traffic using the roadway is separated from the local traffic. The improvements should:

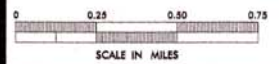
- Reduce the mixed use of US 421 (King Street) through downtown Boone by local and through traffic;
- Improve roadway system linkages by providing a more direct connection between US 421 and US 321/221 to the south and NC 105 to the west;
- Improve traffic flow along US 421 (King Street) and the other major roadways in the area; and
- Improve safety along US 421 (King Street) and the other major roadways in the area.

What Happens Next?

The Town of Boone and/or Watauga County may decide to revise their long-range transportation plans to include one of the proposed alternatives. The decision then becomes whether to include the proposed project in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for funding. The date for this decision by the Board of Transportation is not known. Once the project is funded in the TIP, additional studies will be completed in order to select the final location of the roadway. Additional opportunities for citizen input will be offered throughout the process. For more information, contact the NCDOT Transportation Branch Western Unit Head at (919) 715-5737.

**U.S. 421 IMPROVEMENTS/DANIEL BOONE PARKWAY
CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES
TO STUDY FURTHER**

TIP PROJECT U-2703



February 11, 2005

BOONE
WATAUGA COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BRANCH
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

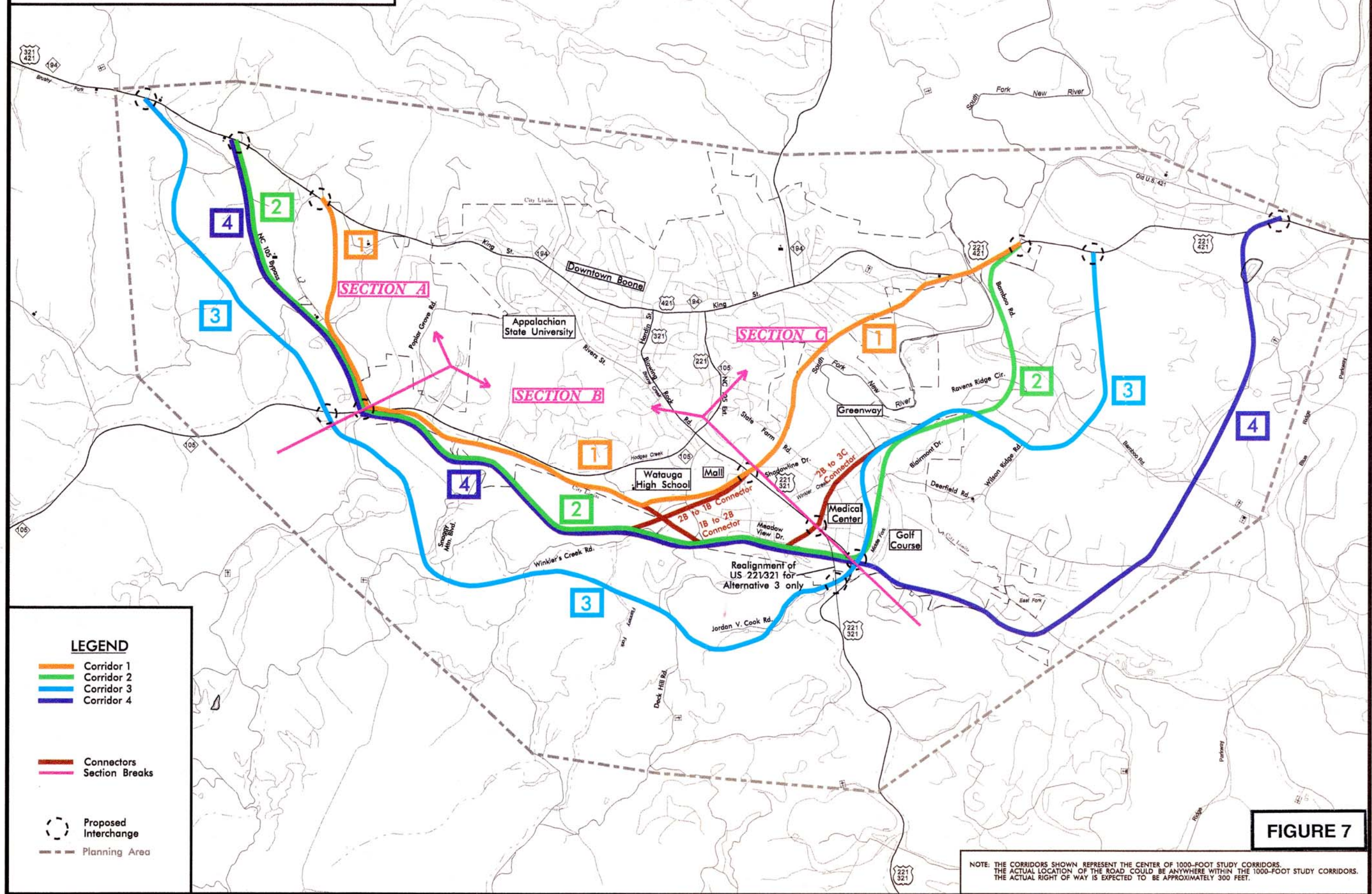


FIGURE 7

NOTE: THE CORRIDORS SHOWN REPRESENT THE CENTER OF 1000-FOOT STUDY CORRIDORS. THE ACTUAL LOCATION OF THE ROAD COULD BE ANYWHERE WITHIN THE 1000-FOOT STUDY CORRIDORS. THE ACTUAL RIGHT OF WAY IS EXPECTED TO BE APPROXIMATELY 300 FEET.