TIP B-5196: Texas Road Bridge Replacement Project
Informational Workshop
November 27, 2012

Welcome to the Informational Workshop

Welcome to the Informational Workshop for the Texas Road Bridge Replacement Project! The purpose of tonight's workshop is to introduce you to the project and provide information about proposed plans to replace Bridge No. 528 on Texas Road over Flat Creek in Montreat, NC. You will have the opportunity to review materials, ask questions, and share your ideas with the project team.

Your input will help the project team identify study area resources, evaluate project issues and needs, develop plans for replacing the bridge, and analyze potential community and environmental effects of the proposed improvements. Comments received on or before **December 4** will be considered in determining which bridge replacement options are carried forward for more detailed study.

Participating in Tonight's Meeting

1. **Sign In and Collect Materials**
   Visit the sign-in table to provide your contact information and collect informational handouts about the project.

2. **Learn about the Project and Ask Questions**
   Project maps and other information are set up for your review. Project team members are also available to answer your questions and discuss the project.

3. **Provide Your input**
   Community input is an important part of the transportation planning process. You can provide your ideas on the attached comment form and by visiting the map station to draw directly on project maps.

In order for your comments to become part of the project file, please complete the attached comment form and drop it off tonight in the comment box. You may also mail or email comments by **December 4, 2012** to the address provided on the comment form. Thank you for participating in tonight's workshop and providing your feedback!

The Planning Process

This project involves environmental review in accordance with state and federal laws. An environmental document, called a **Categorical Exclusion or CE**, is being prepared to analyze potential social, environmental, and economic effects. The project team is collecting information on the following types of resources in the study area:

- Community features
- Natural resources
- Cultural and historic resources
- Air quality
- Noise
- Traffic
- Safety

Proposed impacts to these resources will be analyzed and a preferred replacement alternative will be selected.

Project Schedule

NCDOT anticipates that the environmental document will be published in June 2013. The anticipated schedule for the project is provided below. These dates are tentative and are subject to change.

Anticipated Project Timeline	
Informational Workshop	November 2012 – ***We are here!***
Completion of Environmental Document	June 2013
Right-of-Way Acquisition	December 2013
Anticipated Start of Construction	June 2014

About the Project

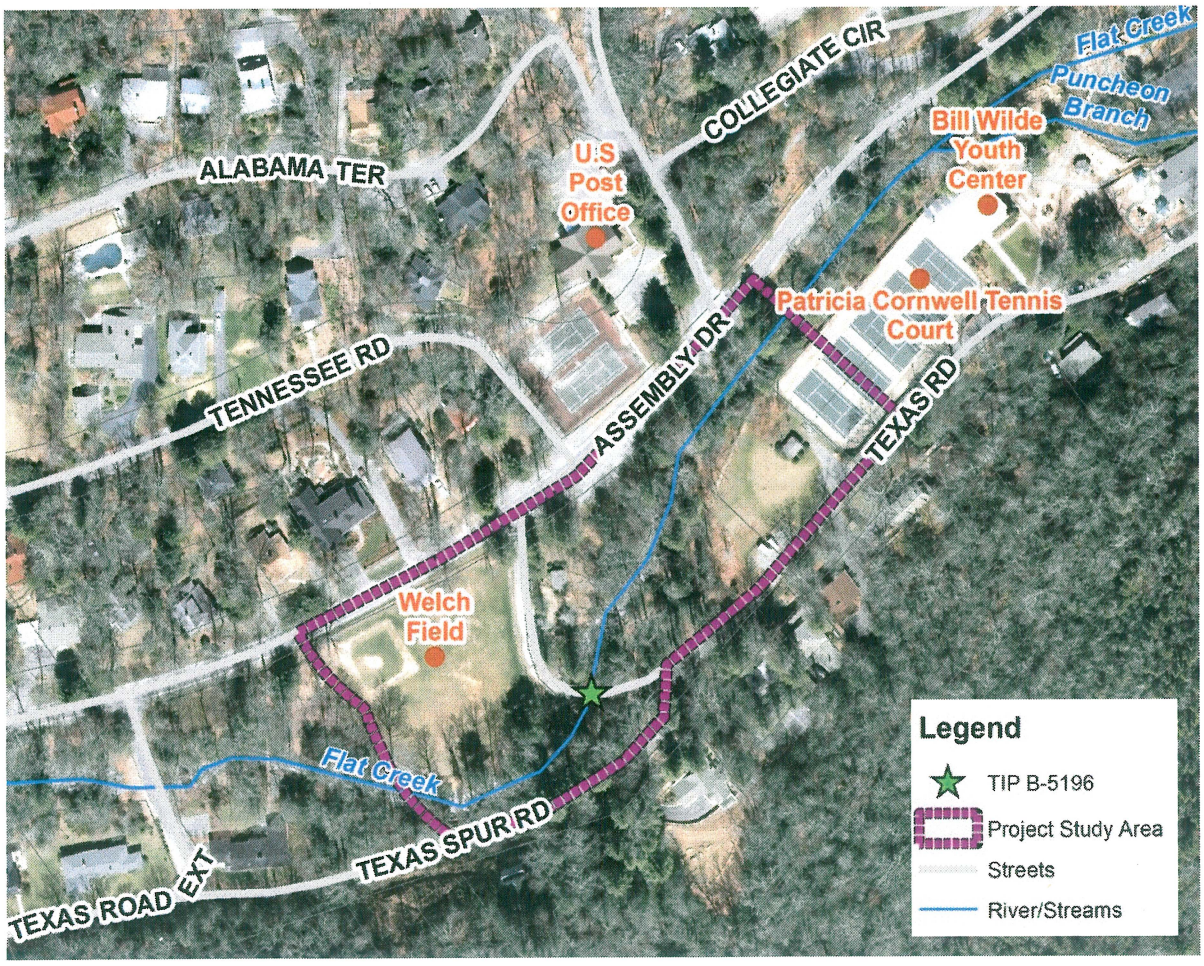
The Town of Montreat, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have begun studies for the replacement of Bridge No. 528 over Flat Creek on Texas Road in Montreat. The project is included in the North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as TIP Project B-5196.

Bridge No. 528

The existing bridge is currently closed to vehicular traffic due to safety concerns. It was constructed in 1960 and has reached the end of its useful life, with a degree of deterioration that can no longer be addressed by maintenance activities. Replacement of the bridge is needed to provide safer access and mobility in the study area, to support pedestrian connectivity, and to improve access to community facilities. Environmental and engineering studies are currently being conducted.

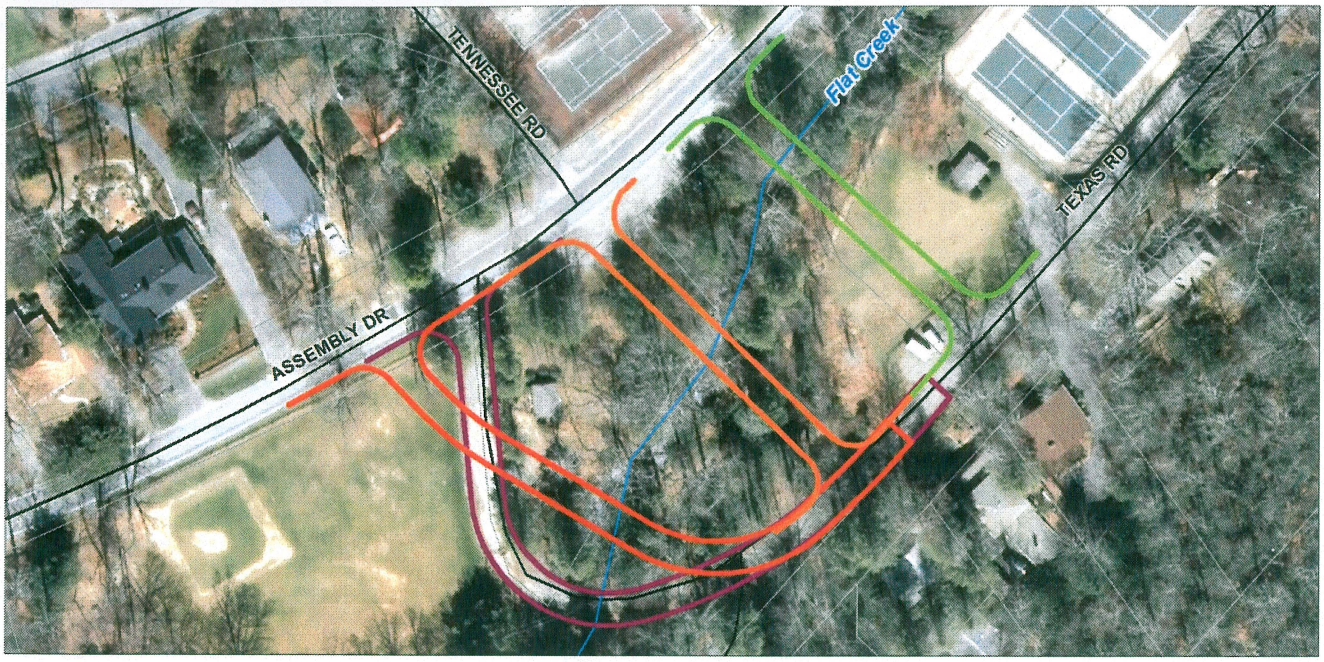
Study Area

The project study area extends approximately 200 feet to the east of the bridge and 450 feet to the northwest. This area spans between the intersection of Texas Road and Assembly Drive to the north and Texas Spur Road to the south, before following Texas Road to the northwest. Much of the study area is comprised of recreational facilities, including Welch Field, the Patricia Cornwell Tennis Center, and a Town of Montreat playing field.



Bridge Replacement Options

The project team is currently studying a variety of options for replacing Bridge No. 528, including a No Build alternative, an option to replace the bridge in its existing location, and three alternatives for new bridge locations in the vicinity of the existing bridge site. These five replacement options are shown and described below. All alternatives will be further studied for environmental and engineering feasibility.



Option A: No Build	The No Build or "do nothing" alternative would involve leaving the bridge its current state rather than replacing the structure. Under this option, the bridge would remain closed indefinitely.
Option B: Replace in Place	The Replace in Place alternative involves replacement of the bridge along the existing roadway alignment. This option would result in a new structure at the same location as the existing bridge. Option B would also include plans to elevate the roadway and bridge slightly to improve the existing roadway grade.
Option C: New Location At Welch Field	Option C proposes a new crossing of Flat Creek approximately 60 feet northeast of the existing structure along a realigned Texas Road. This option would require an easement or the use of a portion of Welch Field.
Option D: Tennessee Road Alignment	Option D would replace the bridge at a new location approximately 185 feet northeast of the existing bridge. This alternative would realign the roadway with Tennessee Road while minimizing impacts to the recreational resources surrounding the bridge.
Option E: New Location at Town of Montreat Playing Field	This replacement option proposes a new bridge location on Texas Road approximately 310 feet northeast of the existing structure. Option E would require an easement or the use of a portion of the Town of Montreat playing field located near the bridge.

What Can You Expect?

You can expect to see different representatives of the project team visit the bridge site. In fact, you may already have noticed biologists, environmental scientists, engineers, planners, surveyors, architectural historians, or archaeologists surveying the area. Construction for the project is tentatively expected to begin in June 2014. Please refer to Page 1 of this handout for full schedule details.

Questions/Comments

Community involvement is important to the transportation planning process. We welcome your input! Please fill out the comment form at tonight's workshop and either leave it in the comment box or mail it to the address on the form. If you have additional comments, concerns, or questions following tonight's workshop, please address them to one of the individuals listed below:

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