

CDBG-DR Public Comment Forum – Paddy Mtn/Downtown West Jefferson Multi-Use Path

****Update to project scope. Effective July 23,2026****

The County of Ashe is asking for public comments on the submission of a grant application to support a project described below. The application is for funds from the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant Commercial District Revitalization program. The Commercial District Revitalization Program has \$111.4 million available.

All interested parties are invited to submit comments to the email address listed below. The deadline for submitting comments is August 2, 2026. Application information may be requested by contacting Nick Farmerie at the Ashe County Administration Offices or at the email below.

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Project Description

This project is for the development of a multi-use path (MUP) and infrastructure improvements along a corridor connecting downtown West Jefferson (WJ) and the intersection of US-221 Bus/Mount Jefferson Rd. This commercial corridor is 1 mile but will tie-in to existing sidewalk infrastructure.

The 1st segment (**C2**) is 0.2 miles of 10' wide MUP along N 6th Ave. On N 6th Ave, a proposed multi-use path will run along back of proposed curb and gutter on the east side and connect to US-221 Bus. An existing culvert will need to be extended underneath the proposed MUP. A small retaining wall would be necessary to avoid extensive tree removal. N 6th Ave is proposed to tie in perpendicular to US-221 Bus, instead of the skewed intersection that currently exists. The slip lane from N 6th Ave onto US-221 Bus will be eliminated, and all turning movements from N 6th Ave will come to a stop sign. A channelizing island will be installed between opposing traffic on N 6th Ave. No signal is proposed.

The 2nd segment (**D**) calls for a 0.8 mile road diet and MUP segment along US-221 Bus—from N 6th Ave to Mount Jefferson Rd. As the MUP transitions from N 6th Ave to US-221 Bus, the MUP will move into the existing roadbed and utilize existing pavement for the surface of the MUP. Intersection improvements will be necessary to free up existing roadway space to make room for the MUP. US-221 Bus will be subjected to a road diet and reduced from four lanes to three lanes (one lane in each direction with a two-way left turn lane). A concrete monolithic island will be installed between the travel lanes on US-221 Bus. Any driveways impacted by construction of the path would retain current access with gaps in the concrete monolithic island.

The concrete monolithic will have additional breaks to allow water to flow to existing inlets in the curb and to accommodate driveways and intersections. Additional drainage inlets

connecting to the existing stormwater system will be necessary to achieve adequate drainage flow and avoid ponding. A full drainage analysis will need to be completed as part of the design phase. Crosswalks will be installed at all significant roadway intersections. This segment does not require any relocation for utilities located behind existing curb. The road diet and MUP terminate at the intersection of US-221 Bus and Mount Jefferson Rd.

