



MONTFORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASHEVILLE'S MOST HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD
Vol. 24 No. 10
OCTOBER '19

I-26 Connector Update Nearing the Last Lap

By Zoe Schumaker

It's coming... the final Environmental Impact Assessment (FEIS) for the I-26 project will be issued shortly, and actual construction of I-26 through Asheville is expected to begin **next year**. After 30 years (see "I-26 Project Timeline" sidebar) and a kaleidoscope of design scenarios, we now know what NCDOT is proposing and the City of Asheville is supporting. Here it is – the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

continued on page 6...

I-26 Project Timeline	
1989	– STIP I-2513 Project initiation
1991	– Draft Phase I Environmental Assessment (EA)
1995	– Final Phase I EA
1997	– Alternatives 1, 2, 3 developed; alternative 1 then eliminated
2001	– Alternatives 4, 5, 6 developed; alternative 6 then eliminated
2008	– NCDOT releases Draft Environmental Impact Statement
2009	– NCDOT releases revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement
2010	– Project paused (due to new NCDOT funding rating system)
2012	– Project reinitiated
2015	– NCDOT releases revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement
2016	– City endorsed Alternative 4-B (three bridges over French Broad)
2018	– NCDOT holds public hearing and releases "final" designs
2019	– FEIS slated for release in fall

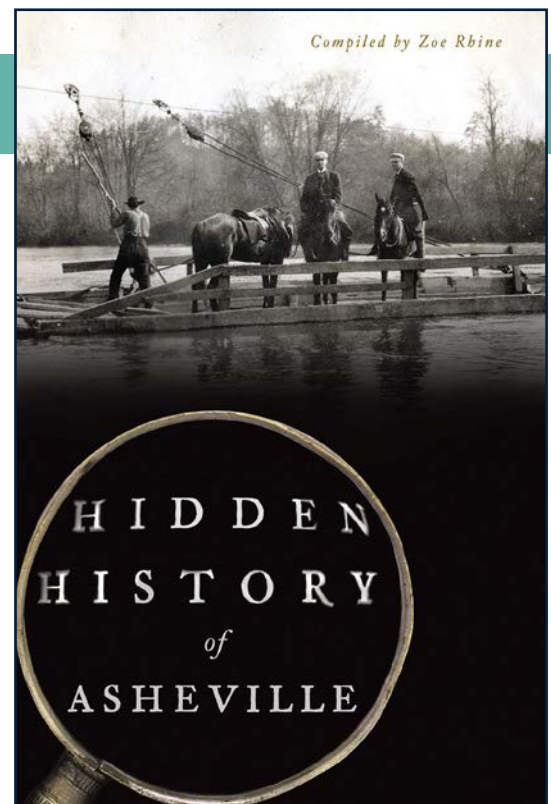
I-26 Timeline

Looking for a Good Read?

Hidden History of Asheville,
compiled by Zoe Rhine. History Press, 2019

The milestones of Asheville's long history are well known to locals, but so many interesting stories are all but forgotten. Thankfully, the staff and volunteers of the North Carolina Room at Pack Memorial Library have unearthed the best of those hidden tales. Meet daredevil aviatrix Uva Shipman and Tempie Avery, who went from slavery to respected nurse and citizen. Learn the poignant tale behind the sad death of former mayor Gallatin Roberts and uncover the parts of old Asheville lost to the wrecking ball. These and many more historic episodes come to life in this collection compiled by North Carolina Room librarian Zoe Rhine.

continued on page 4...



TEMPLE AVERY MONTFORD CENTER

EVERY WEEK

Badminton—Join this active group of players Friday nights 5:30pm - 8:00pm and Sunday mornings 8:30am - 11am.

Capoeira—Learn the Afro-Brazilian art which combines martial arts, dance, and culture. Saturdays 10am - noon.

Table Tennis—Meets every Monday 5:30pm - 8pm, Wednesday, 11am - 2pm, and Saturday 11am - 2pm.

Ukulele—Mondays 6pm - 8pm. This self-led group welcomes all levels of talent including beginners.

Open Basketball—Sundays 5-7pm Free.

Open Volleyball - Sundays 11am - 2pm. \$5/person

Wednesday Line Dancing—Wednesdays 12-1pm and Thursdays 10:30-11:30am Free. Instructor donation accepted.

Saturday Line Dancing Party—October 19, 2:30pm - 5:30pm. Free. Instructor donation accepted

NEW class! Self Defense—For children ages 4-10 and a their parent(s). Saturdays 10-11am. Call 242-4863 for more information. The first class is free

NEW class! Cyr Wheel—Thursdays 6:30-8pm This is a 6 week course that offers the unique ability to get a full-body workout, free yourself in gravity-defying movement, increase mindfulness and presence, and

have the time of your life all at the same time! For more details, call Josh Wise 828-505-9694

Open Gym Times—Mondays 12-3, Tuesdays 9-3, Thursdays 12-3 and Fridays 9-3.



Join us for a little pre-trick or treating party at the Temple Avery Montford Center! There will be games, inflatables and more! Free. October 31, 5:00-7:30pm

For information regarding any of our programs, facility hours or special events, call 253-3714 or email skriewall@ashevillenc.gov Shana Kriewall, Facility Manager, Temple Avery Montford Center

Forever Montford

**Announcements from the Forever Montford
Committee of the Montford Neighborhood
Associaton:**

Hold these dates:

Saturday, October 5th, 9:00am-1:00pm

Fall Mum & Plant Sale. Montford North Star Academy

Saturday, November 9th, 9:30am-11:30pm

Montford North Star Academy Landscaping Phase 2.

More details to be announced closer to the date on Montford
Listserve: Montford@yahoogroups.com



**Saturday, November 16th,
9:30am-11:30pm**

Neighborhood Spruce-up in
advance of December 7th Montford
Holiday Tour of Homes. Meet at the
corner store (Montford & Cullowhee
intersection)



Lynn Raker - Forever Montford Commitee - lynn.raker@gmail.com



24th Annual Montford Holiday Tour of Homes

The 2019 Montford Holiday Tour of Homes will be held, Saturday, December 7, 2019, 1-5 pm. Montford will showcase 10 homes his year. Visitors will explore the lovingly restored or carefully constructed eclectic architecture of homes in one of the largest, intact historic districts in the state.

Hidden History

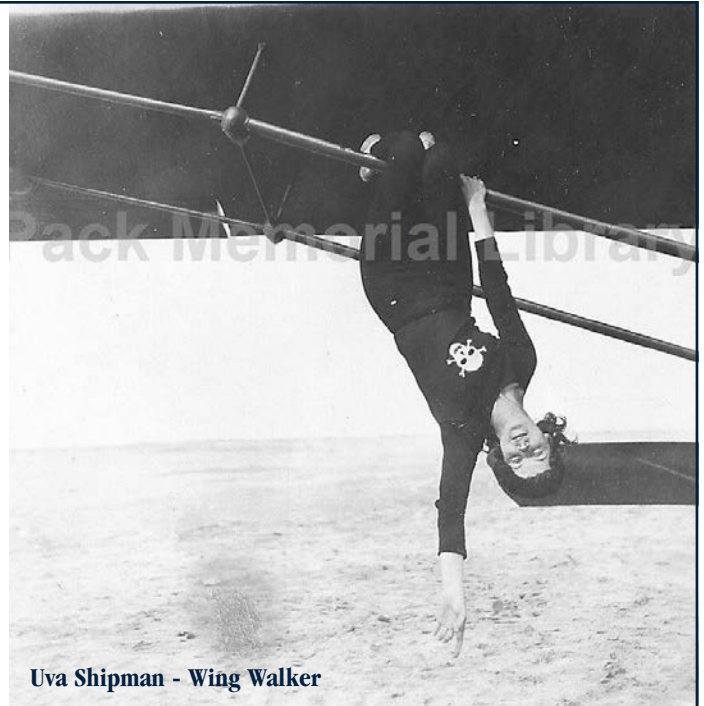
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Copies are available at Pack Library's NC Room, as well as Malaprop's bookstore and Barnes and Noble.

Ann Wright
North Carolina Reference Desk
Buncombe County Public Libraries

67 Haywood Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828-250-4740

Email: packnc@buncombecounty.org
Database: ncroom.buncombecounty.org
Blog: <http://packlibraryncroom.wordpress.com>



Uva Shipman - Wing Walker



MONTFORD PARK PLAYERS



We have a fantastic 2019 season lined up for you (and your friends and your family). The run of plays you'll enjoy (completely free!) over the months ahead is enough to make any fan of live theater swoon.

<https://www.montfordparkplayers.org/>

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A Montford Bibliography: 52 Weeks, 52 Communities

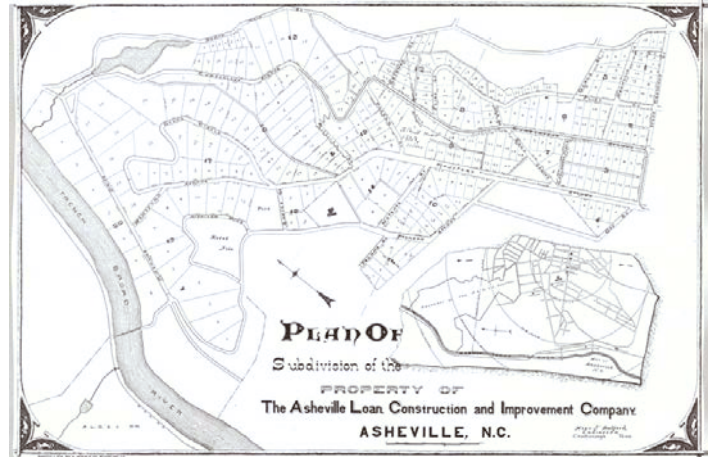
Katherine Calhoun Cutshall - North Carolina Room at Pack Memorial Library.

Montford is one of Buncombe County's most iconic historic neighborhoods. In this installment of 52 Weeks, 52 Communities, we could take almost any angle on Montford; there is just so much to talk about. So instead of trying to pick just one thesis, I decided that this would be a great opportunity to put together a bibliography of material held here in the North Carolina Room that would help anyone interested in learning more about the neighborhood.

In this series, we are covering a different Buncombe County community each week. Do you have materials related to Montford or some other Buncombe County community you'd like to let us know about? Do you, your parents or grandparents have a good story to tell? We want to hear from you! The North Carolina Room is Buncombe County's Public Archive, we want to help preserve and make accessible the history and culture of Asheville and Buncombe County for all its residents.

View the series at:

<https://packlibraryncroom.com/2019/09/21/a-montford-bibliography-52-weeks-52-communities/>



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I-26 Connector Update

Continued from front page...

The Good

Once the years of construction are behind us, there will be some clear positives:

- This project will provide needed repairs to old and broken-down roads and will add capacity and reduce bottlenecks.
- The City of Asheville, along with local greenway and bike advocacy organizations, has pushed to integrate multi-modal transportation and expanded greenways into the project to enhance neighborhood connectivity.
- The City, with the assistance of the Asheville Design Center and the I-26 Working Group, has negotiated the return of Patton Avenue/ Bowen Bridge to a surface street and the reclamation of surrounding land for productive development. (Although this concession is positive in many ways, there are also negative consequences, enumerated below).
- Although NCDOT is no longer developing alternative scenarios, this is a design/build contract, so the contractor has some discretion to make City-requested changes that still meet the project need and FHWA standards.
- The City has formed an I-26 Project Aesthetics Committee (“Aesthetics Committee”) which is currently engaged in developing more detailed designs for bridges, intersections, walls, and medians, to mitigate neighborhood impacts and reflect the unique character of Asheville. A special thanks

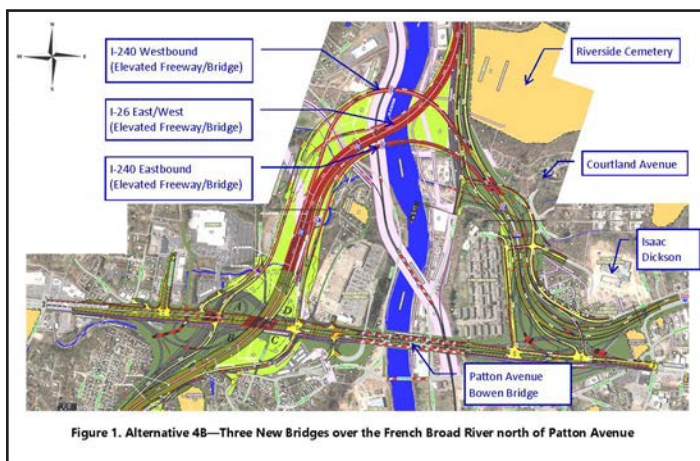


Figure 1

to our Montford neighbors who are serving on this very important committee: Mike Adams, Woody Farmer, Janet Georgemurr, Foster de la Houssaye, David Nutter, Lynn Raker, and Susan Loftis, who is leading two subcommittees and also acting as liaison to NCDOT.

- The City of Asheville is pursuing a Federal Highway Administrations “Place of Serenity and Quiet” designation for Riverside Cemetery, which will place noise restrictions on I-26 in the vicinity. Many thanks to Montford’s Tony Micocci for bringing this opportunity to the City’s attention, and to Linda and David Copley for investigating it further.

The Bad and the Ugly

Simply stated, I-26 will be a concrete behemoth, significantly changing the look and feel of our beautiful mountain town.

- In order to return Patton Avenue to a surface street, “Alternative 4B” (see Figure 1) was proposed by the City and adopted by NCDOT. This includes three new bridges spanning the French Broad River: one six-lane bridge carrying I-26 North/South traffic and two three-lane bridges that separately carry I-240 eastbound and I-240 westbound traffic. These bridges, along with associated exit ramps, result in a highly visible spaghetti tangle of elevated roadways that will forever change the Asheville view-scape and increase noise and pollution in nearby neighborhoods such as ours

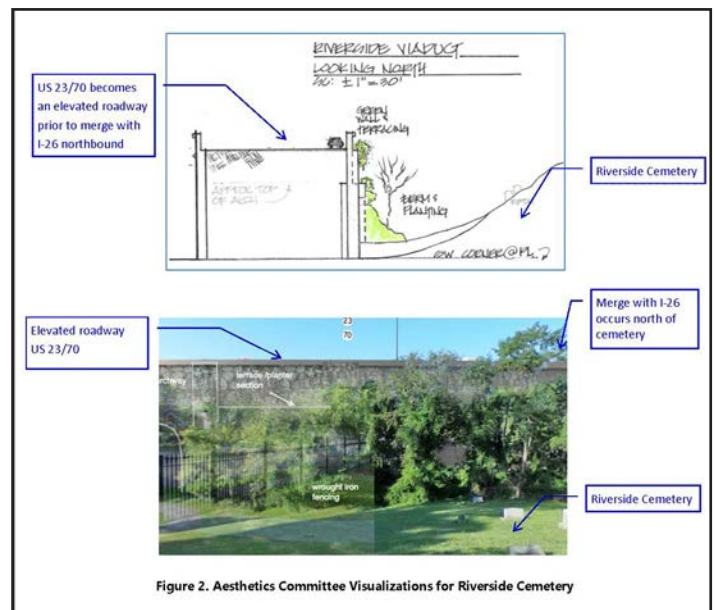


Figure 2

- NCDOT's design has I-26 northbound traffic crossing the French Broad River merging with US 23/19/70 N in an elevated freeway immediately adjacent to Riverside Cemetery. The Aesthetics Committee has concluded that this will have a significant impact on the cemetery (**see Figure 2**). Consequently, David Nutter authored a resolution requesting additional mitigation measures, as supported Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Aesthetics Committee unanimously approved this resolution at their June meeting.
- NCDOT is proposing five lanes continuing north to Broadway, adjacent to the Montford Hills. Another four lanes are proposed running southbound (**see Figure 3**). Given the need for merges, shoulders and medians, this concrete section is thus currently proposed to be over **175 feet** across, wider than a football field. One positive note - the Aesthetics Committee has recently passed a resolution requesting that NCDOT and its sub-contractors while developing final designs, use any available design exceptions to reduce the width of the freeway within the City limits.

Driving Forward

Throughout the long history of this project, the voice of neighborhoods has made a difference, and it still matters. When eight through lanes were proposed between I-40 and downtown, the West Asheville and Burton Street neighborhoods (with other strong allies) actively engaged in a successful campaign to get the size of the freeway reduced there.

Although the project is much further along now, and the basic layout is pretty much “set in concrete”, there are ways for

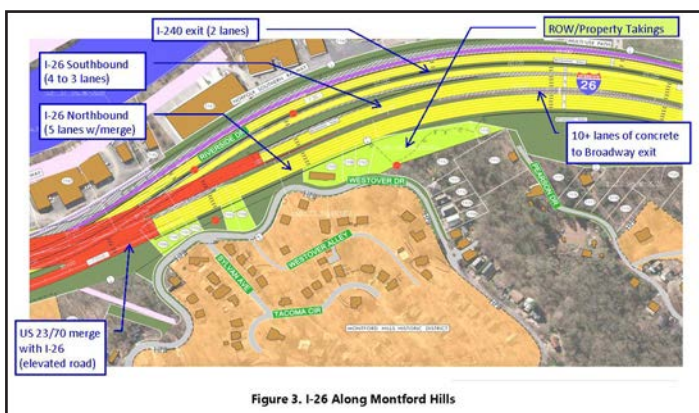


Figure 3

Montford residents to engage and keep the pressure on NCDOT and its sub-contractors:

1. Write a personal response to the FEIS during the Public Comment period (60 days). Comments will become part of the public record, and will be reviewed by NCDOT, the City, and will be provided to the Design/Build contractor.
2. Let the MNA Board know you support a Montford position statement asking for the smallest possible freeway and the best sound mitigation possible. The next MNA meeting is October 8, and I-26 is on the agenda, so please come.
3. Engage with the Aesthetics Committee to understand what they are working on, provide input, and support their recommendations. Committee meeting information, including minutes, is available at <https://www.ashevilenc.gov/department/transportation/current-projects/i-26-connector-project/>

If you would like to learn more, and/or sign up for project alerts, visit the www.cica26.org website, designed and built by Montford resident Mary Trauner. We currently have 300 concerned citizens signed up but would benefit from having many more! Those who add their email addresses will be notified when the FEIS is published and provided some bullet points to incorporate into your letters. You will also be notified of key hearings including the Aesthetics Committee presentations to City Council, so you can show up and be counted.

This project began 30 years ago, when many thought routing traffic traveling from Charleston, SC to Kingsport, TN through Asheville downtown would be beneficial. Times have changed, but there is no option to revisit the decisions of the last decades. Today, our efforts are best directed at minimizing the impact of this freeway as it travels through our urban neighborhoods and across and along our river. Please consider joining the Montford neighbors mentioned within – and many others – who are working to make the best of this \$1Billion transportation project.



Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County

Montford Action Agenda Sep 11, 2019

Members present: Bryan Moffitt, William Eakins, Emily Kite, Gordon McKinney, Craig Cline, Benjamin Mitchell, Gail Lazaras, Charles “Ed” Flowers, Emily Spreng, Stephanie West

Staff present: Alex Cole, Shannon Tuch, Stacy Merten, Jannice Ashley

Item, Summary and Action

23/27 Elizabeth Place—Demolish existing one-story, 500 square foot primary structure. Construct two (2) three-story, 9,850 square foot multi-family structures.

Action—Continued

70 Flint Street—Construction of 1,144 square foot, one-and-a-half story accessory structure.

Action—Continued

26 Courtland Avenue—After the fact approval request to modify front entry stair/landing and install stone patio at front elevation.

Action—Denied

61 Cumberland Avenue—Construct 6’ tall wood lattice fence along front property boundary.

Action—Approved

Please refer to the website (www.ashevillenc.gov) for the full approved minutes after the following month’s meeting.




Kama & Kendall Johnson
Owners
eatingwiththejohnsons@kjsdeli.org
828-243-4718
231 Montford Ave
Asheville, NC 28801

How to Contact the Asheville Police Department



- For emergencies, call 911.
- For nonemergencies and to report suspicious activity, call 252-1110.
- For the Crime Prevention Division, call 259-5834.
- For Police Dispatch, call 259-5888.
- For Montford’s Community Resource Officer Justin Wilson call 828-450-3719



Paul Dixon
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PDIXON77@YAHOO.COM

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Mitch Russell

Sacrifice.

We all make them. We did, as a country, during World War II to strengthen the republic. Teachers make them when disciplining students & being taken away from teaching other students. I make them daily to benefit my kids & my marriage.



It is well past time to start making them on behalf of the environment. We've gotten too accustomed in our "want it/need it now" society to ordering online or via phone vs finding it locally or doing without. We don't consider the ramifications of our actions to the environment, those who will be severely impacted by climate change in a year, two or ten or future generations.

Another area where we can sacrifice is combining trips. A perfect example is needing to get an oil change & going to the grocery. You can do both at AAA & Harris Teeter/Trader Joes/Greenlife or if you don't mind walking a little farther between stores can do Valvoline & Ingles. I've seen people drive from Harris Teeter to Trader Joe's.

Cooling & heating is yet another. A way around cooling especially is ceiling fans & doing laundry/dishes, if using a dishwasher, during early am or later evening. The reason is to reduce the need for a/c to cool down your abode.

These are just a few of the ways that we can make sacrifices to help curb climate change before we have to make much more drastic sacrifices. If we all work together & help spread the word then it'll make a difference.

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The three day 2019 Greek Festival was wonderful this year. Thank You, Holy Trinity!



Saturday afternoon at the festival.



THE MIKE MILLER TEAM

The Mike Miller Team
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 millerteam@townandmountain.com
 www.themikemillerteam.com



"Mike is not about selling or pushing - he is all about earning trust & developing a relationship. He respected my thoughts during the negotiating process & represented us well. As a lifelong Asheville resident Mike had excellent recommendations on folks to help out with inspections, survey, closing attorneys & more (including restaurants & music venues). His team at Town and Mountain Realty is professional and friendly. Going to their office is a cross between visiting a real estate office & visiting someone's home. You cannot go wrong working with Mike Miller!" - Don K.





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Resource Directory

House Histories

Learn the story of your house. Who lived there, who owned it and what they did for a living.

- For more information call Sharon at 777-1014

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Visit Montford.org to learn more.