

Jackson County Potential Project Swap for the 2024-2033 STIP

NCDOT’s State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is a 10-year funding and scheduling document for transportation projects. It is typically updated every 2-3 years and NCDOT is currently developing the STIP for 2024-2033. Due to unprecedented budget issues and cost increases, there was not enough money available to fund all the projects previously programmed in the STIP. Therefore, NCDOT had to remove funding for many projects to balance funds. The methodology for doing this included a “flexibility option”, whereby a defunded project can be swapped for a funded project if the cost is within 10% and the swap is agreed on by the RPO and the Division.

Jackson County Project Status in the 2024-2033 Draft STIP:

Fully Funded - NOT Eligible for Swap

PROJECT ID	DESCRIPTION	ROW	CONST.	COST
EB-5923	Skyland Dr sidewalk	complete	2022	\$960,000
R-5600	NC 107 Access Management from downtown Sylva to Fairview	2022	2025	\$121,839,000

Fully Funded and Eligible for Swap with unfunded projects in the STIP

PROJECT ID	DESCRIPTION	ROW	CONST.	COST
R-5841A	NC 107 modernization from Shook Cove Rd to Lake Tuckasegee Dam	2028	2030	\$20,699,000
R-5907	US 74 from Gateway Interchange to West Piney Mtn Rd including Wilmot bridge	2028	2030	\$23,600,000

NOT Funded - Eligible for Swap with Funded Projects in the STIP

PROJECT ID	DESCRIPTION	ROW	CONST.	COST
R-5881	US 64 / NC 107 Intersection Improvements	Not Funded	Not Funded	\$22,400,000

Key Considerations:

- Cost. R-5881 is within 10% cost of the funded projects, and therefore would be eligible for swap with a funded project. The ~20 million cost estimate is considered appropriate. However, the ~20 million cost estimate for R-5841A is considered far too low and would likely result in extensive project delays to acquire the needed funding.
- Constructability/feasibility. Project R-5841A is needed and important, but is also very complex and will likely face numerous hurdles during the environmental permitting process, resulting in significant delays. The R-5881 project, while not easy, is more straightforward and would likely be feasible and delivered on schedule.

- Project Development Schedule. Once a project is funded, work will begin to collect data, develop preliminary designs, collect public input, determine the final design, and eventually begin construction. The projects under consideration are scheduled for construction in 2030.