

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD OPENS FOR PROJECTS BLRI 2A16 AND BLRI 2D17, BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, ASHE AND ALLEGHANY COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is making available for public comment a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for two NPS/FHWA bridge improvement projects. Project 2A16 would rehabilitate three historic bridges along the Blue Ridge Parkway while maintaining the historic character of the bridges to the maximum extent practicable. Project 2D17 involves the replacement of a larger historic bridge, Laurel Fork Bridge, which would be designed with consideration given to the historic character of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the original bridge. The bridges have been deemed structurally deficient with deteriorating decks and substandard height bridge rails. The proposed projects will address structural deficiencies and improve safety by meeting current roadway design standards, including installation of crashworthy railings.

This EA will be on public review from May 1, 2019 through June 1, 2019. During this 30-day period, hardcopies of the EA may be requested by contacting Dawn Leonard, NPS Community Planner, at (828) 348-3434. An electronic version of this document can be found on the NPS's Planning Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=82234>

An electronic version may also be found at the FHWA, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division's website at:

<https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/nc/blri2d17-2a16-environmental-assessment/>

You are invited to review the EA and submit comments through PEPC. Comments can also be mailed to:

Ryan Kimberley
Federal Highway Administration
21400 Ridgetop Circle
Sterling, VA 20166

To ensure that your comments are included in the process, all comments must be submitted through PEPC or postmarked by June 1, 2019.