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## Corridor K gets formal DOT hearing

Meetings will be held in Stecoah, Robbinsville, Cullowhee this month

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The North Carolina Department of Transportation is planning a formal public hearing in Robbinsville on the 10-mile extension of Corridor K through Graham County.

The public is invited to

speak out on the project. Comments will be placed in the record and sent to Raleigh.

The \$400 million project would reroute U.S. 74 between Robbinsville and Stecoah, bypassing the Nantahala Gorge with a new four-lane road.

Several bridges and tun-

nels are proposed according to various alternative routes.

One alternative route would require a nearly 2,900-foot tunnel through Stecoah Gap more than 500 feet beneath the Appalachian Trail.

The formal public hearing will be held Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Graham County Community Center on Knight Street in Robbinsville.

A series of three informal pre-hearings on the project will be held at the following locations:

■ Oct. 27, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., 1601 Ramsey Center, Cullowhee;

■ Oct. 28, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Stecoah Valley Center, School House Road, Stecoah;

■ Oct. 29, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Graham County Community Center, Knight Street.

Jamie Wilson, division construction engineer with DOT, said comments will be taken and included in the record in Raleigh.

"This is a formal public hearing on the project," Wilson said. "You have to sign up to speak and it will be included in the record."

DOT representatives will be at the pre-hearings to answer questions. Maps will be made available for viewing and discussion

with DOT officials, Wilson said.

Anyone wishing to speak at the formal public hearing starting at 7 p.m. in Robbinsville may register at the workshops or prior to the formal hearing.

Speakers will be called in the order they signed up. Speakers will be allotted five minutes. Additional comments will be allowed after those who registered finish.