

CATAWBA AVENUE STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Construction Progress Update & Roadway Detour Notice

DATE OF ISSUE: September 2, 2026

ISSUED BY: Town of Old Fort & Destination by Design Project Team

Overview & Project Roadmap

Work on the Old Fort Streetscape Project is transitioning into its final major phase: **roadway reconstruction and final surface paving**.

We understand that ongoing streetscape construction creates daily challenges for our downtown businesses, residents, and visitors. Our primary objective during this final phase is to balance completing the roadway work as quickly as possible while maintaining safe, continuous access to all downtown businesses.

Crews are finalizing sidewalk details and preparing for a full roadway closure on Commerce Street. Full reopening of the roadway corridor is targeted for **early October 2026**.

Project Timeline & Target Schedule

Week Of	Milestone
Sept 1	Beacon Installation, Detour Route Signage Placement
Sept 8	Paver Installation
Sept 14	Town Board Meeting Update Road Closures & Detour Routes
Sept 21	Roadway Demolition & Subsurface Exploration
Sept 28	Excavation & Base Correction (progress will depend on underground conditions and utilities)
Oct 5	Completion of Paving & Striping Re-open Corridor

Traffic Detour & Business Access Plan

To complete roadway excavation and paving efficiently, a temporary road closure will be implemented with a designated detour route coordinated with the Town and NCDOT:

- **Local Vehicles & Business Access:** Commerce Street will be fully closed to through traffic. Detour traffic will route via Orchard Street to reach the rear of Commerce Street businesses.
- **Pedestrian Access:** Sidewalk access to all storefronts, restaurants, and businesses will remain **100% open and accessible** throughout construction.
- **Deliveries & Freight:** Specific delivery access routes have been planned for commercial deliveries. Temporary moveable barriers will be coordinated to accommodate event-day access for the auction house and other temporary access.
- **Detour Route Upgrades:** Commerce Street is being widened and reinforced with stone backing and safety barriers to comfortably support detour traffic.
- **Heavy Truck Routing:** Through-truck traffic will be detoured via regional NCDOT routes (Exit 75) to keep heavy trucks off residential side streets.

Immediate Roadway Maintenance

In response to public feedback regarding rough road cuts, temporary cold-patch asphalt is being placed in all open test cuts along Commerce Street. The contractor will monitor and maintain these patches daily until full asphalt demolition begins.

Public Town Board Meeting

Project leaders from Destination by Design and Tennoca Construction will attend the upcoming Town Board Meeting to review the detour plan, answer questions, and present the final completion schedule:

- **Date:** Monday, September 14, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Old Fort Town Hall

Project Contact Information

For day-to-day questions regarding business deliveries, access needs, or project updates:

- **Destination by Design:**
Case Neal | Senior Landscape Architect
case@dbdplanning.com
(828) 386-1866

(Detour Route & Traffic Maps Attached Below)



The Davis Country Store & Cafe



Spencer's Hardware Old Fort Hardware store



Detour Route

Black Beary's Cafe Ice Cream



State Employees' Credit Union



Old Fort Railroad



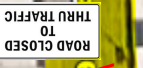
N Railroad St

N Railroad St

S Railroad St

Railroad St

EV Connect



Work Area



Arrowhead Gallery & Studios



Mountain Gateway Museum



Hillman Beer Old Fort



Water St

Water St



Detour Route



Mill Creek

Catawba Ave

Google Maps



Detour Route

DETOUR

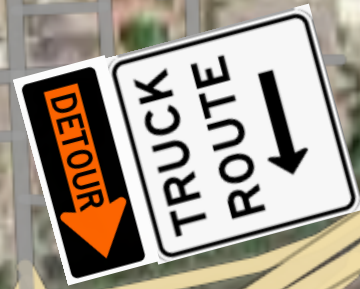
DETOUR

Repair one lane of commerce street and temporarily reopen with temporary signals

DETOUR

Search this area

Walk His Way Floor Care



Orchard St
W Main St

Boyce Rd

Old Catawba River Rd

Salisbury Ave



Foothills Watershed



Catawba Ave N closed via
Exit 73 Detour at exit 75



Catawba River

Catawba River

Detour Left



Detour Left



Catawba Ave N closed at Exit 73 No Trucks Detour at exit 75



Greenlee Rd



Detour Left



Dairy Queen Grill & Chill
Temporarily closed

Detour Arrows to direct traffic to Greenlee Rd to US 70

1240



Parker Padgett Rd

Search this area

Detour Left

DETOUR

Crk Rd

Greenlee Rd

70

McDowell EMS
Station 2 Old Fort

John's Crib



Auria Solutions



Old Fort Church of God

Ebenezer Church

er Church Rd