

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Video, graphics and photos available upon request

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Alternative Routes to Western North Carolina This Spring

*Construction and Weather Conditions Give Travelers
an Opportunity to See a More Scenic Side of WNC*

Haywood County, NC – Alternative routes are being used by travelers after a landslide that occurred on U.S. Highway 441 in January.

The following route is not only an easy alternative, but it also provides a scenic drive. If you're traveling from the north or west to Maggie Valley or Waynesville, take Interstate 40 East into North Carolina, to Highway 276 which is the Maggie Valley Exit.

Reconstruction for the U.S. Highway 441 started this week and is expected to be finished as early as June. It is located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and connects from Gatlinburg and Cherokee.

"We are informing travelers about alternative routes they can take," explains Lynn Collins, Director of the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority. "We want to encourage our spring travelers to use the alternative roadways because they give you a much more scenic route through Haywood County."

I-40 Construction Project Starting February 4, 2013

The N.C. Department of Transportation will also be performing work on three tunnels in the Pigeon River Gorge on Interstate 40 in Haywood County over a two-week period starting Monday, Feb. 4, and will continue for approximately two weeks.

The Construction Schedule will take place in the following order:
Subject to change based on weather conditions.

Monday, Feb.4

- Traffic reduced to a single lane at the tunnel on I-40 West between Exit 7 (Harmon Den) and the Tennessee border.

- Tunnel on I-40 East between Exit 7 (Harmon Den) and the Tennessee border will be closed and traffic will be routed around the tunnel.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

- Traffic reduced to a single lane at the tunnel on I-40 West between Exit 7 (Harmon Den) and the Tennessee border.
- Depending on how work progresses, one of two additional closure options are possible: Tunnel on I-40 East between Exit 7 (Harmon Den) and the Tennessee border will be closed and traffic will be routed around tunnel; or Traffic reduced to single lane at the tunnel on I-40 East between Exit 7 (Harmon Den) and Exit 15 (Fines Creek).

Wednesday, Feb. 6

- Traffic reduced to a single lane at the tunnel on I-40 East between Exit 7(Harmon Den) and Exit 15 (Fines Creek).

The HCTDA represents more than 900 accommodations in the community, from bed and breakfasts, cabins, campgrounds, cottages, country clubs, inns, hotels, lodges, motels, resorts, vacation rentals, and villas, and provides annual funding to Haywood County for promotions, events and festivals. Visit their website for more information: www.visitncsmokies.com

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