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# The Blue Banner

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## Broadway project temporarily halted

By Pat Foyles  
Staff Writer

The long-awaited widening of Broadway Avenue has been put on hold while the Department of Transportation considers a new design.

A request by an area DOT member to redesign the widening of Broadway Avenue project concerns university and Asheville officials and may set the project back.

The original design has become inappropriate, according to Frank Sutton, DOT board member and an attorney in Candler. The expense of the original design is his major concern, he said. The original Broadway project design would have widened Broadway to multi-lanes from U.S. Hwy. 19 & 23 to I-40 at Merrimon Avenue at an estimated cost of \$6 million. The typical section would be four lanes with a median.

Extra widening along the outside curb lanes would have provided for an on-street bikeway. Plans also include landscaping for a parkway appearance along Broadway.

The construction would have required the relocation of 14 families, 11 businesses and a church. Construction on the original project was set to begin in 1991.

The proposal by Sutton is a four-lane highway with divided median from U.S. 19 & 23 to UNCA, and creating a new secondary road off Broadway Avenue from the university into the business district of Asheville.

Dr. David G. Brown, chancellor of UNCA, said he is deeply concerned about the economic development that revolves around the Broadway issue. The widening of Broadway as a connector of UNCA to Asheville would bring vitality and a quality of en-

richment to the life of the city, he said.

"If the road between Asheville and the campus becomes clogged with traffic at certain times of the day, the state will feel incentive to build duplicate facilities downtown to serve the people," said Brown. He said he feels that the widening of Broadway would ease the problem and expense.

"I don't like the redesigning of the Broadway project," said Asheville Mayor Lewis Bissett. "This corridor is so important to Asheville and UNCA....This is important for economic development in the county as well as the city."

He said he feels that priority for roads should not be based on traffic count alone. Merrimon Avenue is very congested between UNCA and the city, he said.

"The Broadway project is only 1.6 miles," added Bissett. "The university and the city will contribute land that they own in the area for the right of way. This is a state highway and the law will only allow the city of Asheville to contribute 15 percent of the cost, which we are willing to do."

In reference to the other projects needed in the district Bissett said he "did not like the idea of playing one project against another." He said the district should ask the General Assembly for enough money to take care of all immediate needs, said Bissett.

The target date for work on the project may be moved up a year with a new design, according to Sutton.

"The amount of money spent on

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Staff Photo--Melanie Floyd

UNCA student Michelle Sands seems to take giving blood in stride as she donates her share Monday during the Red Cross blood drive.

## SGA prepares for freshman elections

By Julie Ball  
Editor

The Student Government Association is gearing up for lots of changes this semester, according to Monica Bonikowski, SGA president.

"People are excited and enthused about this year," said Bonikowski.

One aspect of these changes is an increased interest in SGA. There are more candidates for the freshman

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