

Plan pits sign against scenery at border

County Council says DOT placement would block mountain views

Greenville News 11/3/10

By Rudolph Bell

STAFF WRITER
dbell@greenvillenews.com

Greenville County Council wants the state highway department to drop plans to install a large electronic sign along U.S. 25 near the North Carolina line lest it obstruct views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In a resolution adopted Tuesday night, the council calls for the sign to be put south of the intersection

with State 11, instead of north of that intersection.

"The northbound drive along U.S. 25 provides a nearly unparalleled scenic view of the Blue Ridge Escarpment that is a recognized and treasured county asset," the resolution says.

It was put on the council's agenda at the behest of Councilman Joe Dill, who represents northern Greenville County and said he came away from a meet-

ing with Department of Transportation officials on Monday feeling like "they're not concerned about the mountains."

Dill said the proposed sign is similar to ones DOT has installed along Interstate 385 to let motorists know of traffic or weather conditions. He said it's planned at the intersection of U.S. 25 and Beaver Dam Road, where "the mountains open up."

"A beautiful panoramic view of the mountains, that's where they want to put this thing," Dill told his

council colleagues.

Also attending the meeting with DOT officials, Dill said, were Greenville Mayor Knox White, Brad Wyche of Upstate Forever, state Sen. Phillip Shoopman and Johnny Edwards, the Upstate's new representative on the DOT Commission.

Greenville County Councilman Willis Meadows also attended the meeting and urged adoption of the resolution.

A DOT spokesman couldn't be reached Tuesday night.