

Blowing Rock Rd. Bridge Reopens

Written by Steve Frank
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Businesses on Boone Heights Drive and along Blowing Rock Road will be thrilled with the removal of the barrels from the bridge work on US 321 this morning. Crews were covering the signs and removing the barrels this morning in spite of a heavy shower, showing off the newly-renovated bridge—and just in time for heavy tourist traffic for the week of the 4th of July. The bridge project was a two-year undertaking, renovating the original two-lane section of the bridge last spring in a 6-week time frame, then the added two lanes from the 1970's in a similar time frame this spring. The original bridge was from 1947, and had developed a large hole prior to last spring's work, and had to be patched even before restoration was undertaken. With the completion, the left turn is now reopened onto Boone Heights Drive, great news for businesses there who suffered a decline in customers for the duration—as well as for patrons who now can more easily reach the Boone Heights businesses from US 321, not to mention drivers on Blowing Rock Road who now have all four lanes back for their use.