

# NEPA/404 MERGER TEAM MEETING AGREEMENT

## Concurrence Point No. 4A: Avoidance and Minimization

### PROJECT NO./TIP NO./ NAME/DESCRIPTION:

WBS Element: 34508.1.1

TIP Project Number: R-2822B

TIP Description: NC 143 Improvements, from West Buffalo Creek to NC 143 Business west of Robbinsville.

The project team conducted avoidance and minimization efforts throughout the preliminary design and planning phase. Careful investigation was conducted to develop a best-fit alignment based off Context Sensitive Design Controls and Criteria to reduce impacts along NC 143. Below is a list of specific avoidance and minimization efforts conducted by the project team:

- Archaeological Site #31GH227: Fill slopes of 1.5:1 will be utilized to eliminate fill within the site boundary.
- Chickalee Cemetery: An approximately 385-foot long retaining wall with a maximum height of 25-feet will be constructed along the eastbound side of NC 143 avoid impacts to the cemetery.
- Snowbird Creek between SR 1115 (Snowbird Road) and east of SR 1118 (I U Gap Road): Approximately 2,050-feet of retaining wall will be incorporated along NC 143 to eliminate parallel stream impacts.
- Snowbird Creek at Bridge #13: A new three-span structure with a 90-foot long center span will be constructed to replace the four-span Bridge #13. The new bridge will eliminate bridge piers in the stream bed.
- Hooper Branch: an existing 48-inch, 60-foot long CMP will be removed, daylighting the stream and an approximately 60-foot long bottomless hydraulic structure will be investigated along the realigned NC 143.
- Snowbird Picnic Area: NC 143 is being realigned at the eastern side of Bridge #13, pulling it away from the Snowbird Picnic Area, resulting in the abandonment of NCDOT right of way adjacent to the entrance to the picnic area.
- NC 143/NC 143 Business Intersection: To reduce property impacts at the NC 143/NC 143 Business intersection, the intersection will not be realigned to make NC 143 the primary through move. Only the skew at the NC 143 (west) approach will be realigned.

The Merger Team has concurred on this date of \_\_\_\_\_ with the selection of the Least Environmentally Damaging and Practicable Alternative as stated above, as indicated by the signatures below.

USACE	_____	_____	NCDWR	_____	_____
	Crystal Amschler	Date		Kevin Barnett	Date
USFWS	_____	_____	NCWRC	_____	_____
	Claire Ellwanger	Date		Marla Chambers	Date
USFS*	_____	_____	SHPO	_____	_____
	USFS Concurrence Received	Date		Renee Gledhill-Earley	Date

ECBI THPO\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

TVA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley Farless  
Date

UKB THPO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Pritchett  
Date

USEPA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanetta Somerville  
Date

Cherokee  
Nation\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NCDOT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wanda Austin  
Date