

**North Carolina Department of Transportation**  
**PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM**  
**STIP Project No. U-5169**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- a. Consultation Phase: Right of Way Consultation
- b. Project Description: I-74 (US 311)/NC 68 Interchange Ramp Replacement  
City of High Point  
Guilford County
- c. WBS Number: 45220.1.ST1  
Federal Project: STM-0311(26)
- d. Document Type: Categorical Exclusion 6/7/2013  
Approval  
Date

**II. CONCLUSIONS**

The above environmental document has been reevaluated as required by 23 CFR 771. It was determined that the current proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposed action. Proposed changes, if any, are noted below in Section III. It has been determined that anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts were accurately described in the above referenced document(s) unless noted otherwise herein. Therefore, the original Administration Action remains valid.

**III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to improve the existing I-74 (US 311)/NC 68 interchange in High Point. Proposed modifications to the I-74 (US 311)/NC 68 interchange include converting the existing diamond type interchange to a partial cloverleaf with loop on-ramps added to the northeast and southwest quadrants to eliminate left turns on NC 68 at the interchange. Additionally, modifications to Gordon Road, Cypress Court, and Hilton Court are intended to provide better signal spacing in the vicinity of the interchange.

There are no substantial changes to the proposed action since the completion of the Categorical Exclusion (CE) in June 2013.

Water resource classifications for STIP Project No. U-5169 have not changed since the CE was completed. The project is located in the Cape Fear River Basin Watershed (HUC 030300003). West Fork Deep River and its tributaries carry the North Carolina Division of Water Resources' (NCDWR) stream classification of WS-IV:CA. Neither High Quality Waters (HQW), Water Supplies (WS-I or WS-II), nor Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) occur within 1.0 mile of the project area. No surface waters in the project are designated as a North Carolina Natural or Scenic River, or as a national Wild and Scenic River. West Fork Deep River is not listed on DWQs 2014 303(d) list of

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impaired waters in North Carolina nor are any listed within one mile of the project. Four wetlands are present in the project study area. This project is subject to Randleman Buffer rules.

Plants and animals with Federal classification of Endangered (E) or Threatened (T) are protected under provisions of Section 7 and Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. As of March 25, 2015 the USFWS lists two federally protected species for Guilford County. Habitat exists in the project study area (Oak Hollow Reservoir) for bald eagle but surveys in 2010 and 2012 found no nests. A check of NHP data on January 14, 2016 showed an eagle nesting on High Point Lake approximately 2.8 miles east of the project. Another eagle survey will be conducted prior to Let for this project. Surveys conducted in 2011 and 2012 for small whorled pogonia found no plants but since limited habitat is available in the study area, another survey will be conducted prior to Let. The Northern long-eared bat is currently not listed for Guilford County.

**Federally protected species listed for Guilford County.**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>	<b>Habitat Present</b>	<b>Biological Conclusion</b>
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	BGPA	Yes	No Effect
<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Small whorled pogonia	T	Yes	No Effect

There are no new environmental commitments and no substantial changes to the previously identified environmental commitments.

**IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

NCDOT will implement all practical measures and procedures to minimize and avoid environmental impacts.

**NCDOT Human Environment Section**

The Traffic Noise Analysis Technical Memorandum for STIP Project U-5169 recommends seven noise walls for mitigation of noise impacts on all four interchange quadrants. The Final Design Noise Report will verify the final number and location of noise walls based on the NCDOT Traffic Noise Abatement Policy.

*Update since the CE:* The Draft Design Noise Report (DNR) was completed in September 2015 and includes recommendations for noise walls that are generally the same as in the Traffic Noise Analysis (TNA) Technical Memorandum completed in March 2013. However, the DNR shows six walls instead of seven noise walls as shown in the TNA because two walls shown in the TNA were combined into one long wall in the draft DNR. The draft DNR is still undergoing review by NCDOT and the recommendations regarding noise walls may change once that review is complete. The final decision on installation of noise abatement measures will be made upon completion of the project design, the public involvement process, and concurrence with the NCDOT Policy and Federal Highway Administration approval.

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NCDOT Hydraulics Unit

Since the project area is located entirely within either a Water Supply Watershed Critical Area or Water Supply Watershed Protected Area, the most stringent stormwater regulations will be applicable for the project. The existing roadways were constructed prior to the implementation of riparian buffer regulations; therefore, there are no stormwater management facilities in place that serve the project area with the possible exception of grass swales along I-74 (US 311). However, the Proposed Action is subject to Randleman Buffer Rules and a Stormwater Management Plan must be completed as the design is finalized.

NCDOT Natural Environment Section

The four jurisdictional streams within the study area are subject to the Randleman Buffer Rules (15A NCAC 2B .0248) administered by North Carolina Division of Water Resources (NCDWR). Potential impacts to protected stream buffers were reported at 25 feet beyond the slope stake limit (slope stake + 25 feet). It is anticipated that potential riparian buffer impacts would total approximately 34,640 square feet (0.80 acres).

The City of High Point and NCDOT will adhere to the NCDOT's Best Management Practices (BMP) and Design Standards for Sensitive Watersheds and NCDOT's BMPs for Construction and Maintenance Activities. The City of High Point and NCDOT will avoid and minimize impacts to streams and wetlands to the greatest extent practicable during project final design.

The City of High Point and NCDOT will investigate potential on-site stream and wetland mitigation opportunities during the project's final design. If on-site mitigation is not feasible, mitigation will be provided by North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program. The Program will be requested to provide off-site mitigation to satisfy the federal Clean Water Act compensatory mitigation requirements for this project.

NCDOT Division 7 and City of High Point

Although no significant impacts are anticipated, NCDOT and the City of High Point will coordinate with business owners along the NC 68 corridor in order to minimize impacts and to maintain access to the businesses during construction.

**V. COORDINATION**

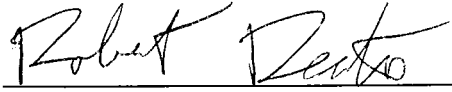
PDEA personnel have discussed current project proposals with others. Please note who was coordinated with and the date. This section is to be filled out by the project manager and does not require signatures.

Design Engineer:	<u>Tatia White, P.E.</u>	<u>2/29/2016</u> Date
FHWA Engineer:	<u>N/A (see below)</u>	<u>                    </u> Date

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NEU-PM: Jeff Hemphill, Senior Environmental Specialist 1/12/2016  
(Construction Consultations only) Date

VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Planning Engineer

3/01/2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager, Project Development and Environmental  
Analysis Unit

3.1.16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

VII. FHWA CONCURRENCE

There is no Section 4(f) involvement associated with STIP Project No. U-5169.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Highway Administration  
Division Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date