

Type I or II Categorical Exclusion Action Classification Form

STIP Project No.	BR-0096
WBS Element	67096.1.1
Federal Project No.	N/A

A. Project Description:

This project replaces Rockingham County Bridge number 780176 on SR 1700 (Fisher Hill Road) over NC 14/NC 87 (NCDOT Division 7). The bridge will be replaced on the existing alignment while detouring traffic offsite (see Figure 1 for vicinity map and Figure 2 for offsite detour).

B. Description of Need and Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to address a deteriorating fifty-six-year-old bridge with a low posted weight limit.

C. Categorical Exclusion Action Classification:

Type I(A) - Ground Disturbing Action

D. Proposed Improvements:

28. Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e)(1-6).

E. Special Project Information:

Offsite Detour

The proposed off-site detour for the bridge replacement project will use the existing loop in the northwest quadrant of the grade-separated intersection. The detour is approximately 3.2 miles roundtrip, and it is anticipated to route traffic west on NC 14/87, southeast on Old NC 87 (SR 1605), east on NC 700, and north on SR 1700 (see Figure 2). Initial coordination by NCDOT Community Studies (CS) involved sending input forms to the local EMS only, as there are no school buses using the bridge. The completed EMS forms were not returned to NCDOT CS as of July 2022 for completion of the DIST; NCDOT Environmental Policy staff followed up with EMS staff in December 2022 and were able to confirm that EMS staff do not anticipate any impacts to EMS services.

Design Issues

Traffic:	Current – 580 VPD, Year 2043 – 1000 VPD
Truck portion:	TTST – 2%, Dual – 1%
Functional Class:	Local Subregional Tier
Design Speed:	40 MPH
Design Exceptions:	No design exceptions required

Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations

The portion of SR 1700 within the project limits is part of an on-road bicycle facility that “needs improvement.” To accommodate this bike route, 4-foot paved shoulders will be added to SR 1700 within the project footprint, with a standard 42” F-shape concrete barrier rail on the bridge itself.

Protected Species

As of January 25, 2023, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service lists Roanoke logperch within the project study area. There are no streams or wetlands within the project study area, therefore this project will have No Effect on the species due to absence of habitat. The tricolored bat is proposed for listing but has not yet been officially listed.

Public Involvement

Landowner letters were sent in May of 2019 to property owners adjacent to the project. No responses or correspondence were received concerning the proposed project.

Native American Indian Tribe Protocols

There are two Native American Indian Tribes that identify Rockingham County as an area of interest and want to be notified of NCDOT's projects: the Catawba and Monacan Tribes. Per NCDOT's Tribal Coordination Protocols, NCDOT notified and requested comments from the Catawba Indian Nation and the Monacan Indian Nation in memos dated January 6, 2022.

The Monacan Indian Nation replied on January 27, 2022, indicating that they "do not wish to actively participate in this consultation project, because the project's impacts are anticipated to be minimal."

The Catawba Indian Nation replied on February 14, 2022, indicating that "the Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas."

F. Project Impact Criteria Checklists:

F2. Ground Disturbing Actions – Type I (Appendix A) & Type II (Appendix B)			
<p>Proposed improvement(s) that fit Type I Actions (NCDOT-FHWA CE Programmatic Agreement, Appendix A) including 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 18, 21, 22 (ground disturbing), 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, &/or 30; &/or Type II Actions (NCDOT-FHWA CE Programmatic Agreement, Appendix B) answer the project impact threshold questions (below) and questions 8 – 31.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any question 1-7 is checked “Yes” then NCDOT certification for FHWA approval is required. • If any question 8-31 is checked “Yes” then additional information will be required for those questions in Section G. 			
<u>PROJECT IMPACT THRESHOLDS</u> (FHWA signature required if any of the questions 1-7 are marked “Yes”.)		Yes	No
1	Does the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)? 1/18/2022 FWS letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Does the project result in impacts subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)? 1/18/2022 USFWS letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Does the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, for any reason, following appropriate public involvement? DIST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Does the project cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts relative to low-income and/or minority populations? DIST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Does the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right of way acquisition? DIST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) approval? DIST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Does the project include adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or have an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)? 8/07/2019 NCDOT Archaeology form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If any question 8-31 is checked “Yes” then additional information will be required for those questions in Section G.			
<u>Other Considerations</u>		Yes	No
8	Is an Endangered Species Act (ESA) determination unresolved or is the project covered by a Programmatic Agreement under Section 7? 1/18/2022 USFWS letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Is the project located in anadromous fish spawning waters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Does the project impact waters classified as Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), High Quality Water (HQW), Water Supply Watershed Critical Areas, 303(d) listed impaired water bodies, buffer rules, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Does the project impact Waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout streams?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Does the project require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Section 404 Permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Will the project require an easement from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Other Considerations for Type I and II Ground Disturbing Actions (continued)		Yes	No
14	Does the project include a Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) effects determination other than a No Effect, including archaeological remains?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15	Does the project involve GeoEnvironmental Sites of Concerns such as gas stations, dry cleaners, landfills, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Does the project require work encroaching and adversely affecting a regulatory floodway or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 23 CFR 650 subpart A?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Is the project in a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) county and substantially affects the coastal zone and/or any Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	Does the project require a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19	Does the project involve construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a designated Wild and Scenic River present within the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Does the project impact federal lands (e.g. U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, etc.) or Tribal Lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Does the project involve any changes in access control or the modification or construction of an interchange on an interstate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
23	Does the project have a permanent adverse effect on local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Will maintenance of traffic cause substantial disruption? DIST – 3.2 mile detour for local traffic and temporary increased congestion for bicyclists along Rockingham County Bike Route 2 or Rockingham County Century Challenge.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Is the project inconsistent with the STIP, and where applicable, the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
26	Does the project require the acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Tribal Lands, or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with public-use money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Does the project involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout properties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
28	Does the project include a <i>de minimis</i> or programmatic Section 4(f)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Is the project considered a Type I under the NCDOT Noise Policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Is there prime or important farmland soil impacted by this project as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)? However, with State funding no documentation has been completed to date. If changed to Federal funding, Preliminary Screening of Farmland Conversion Impacts must be completed per FHWA requirements. No active farmland is anticipated to be impacted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	Are there other issues that arose during the project development process that affected the project decision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

G. Additional Documentation as Required from Section F (ONLY for questions marked 'Yes'):

Question 24 – Maintenance of traffic cause substantial disruption: There is an on-road bicycle facility that “needs improvement” within the project limits on Fisher Hill Road that will have to be detoured at least 3.2 miles during the construction of the project. Additionally, there is an existing bike route (Rockingham County Bike Route 2) that is to be part of the detour which will likely encounter increased motor vehicle traffic volumes during construction.

Question 30 – Prime Farmland located in project study area: The extent of any farmland will depend on the exact location of easements. However, no further action is needed at this time as the project is anticipated to remain state-funded. There are no VADs or EVADs in the project study area, and no active farmland is anticipated to be impacted.

H. Project Commitments:

NCDOT PROJECT COMMITMENTS

STIP Project No. **BR-0096**
Replace Bridge 780176 on SR 1700 over NC 14/NC 87
Rockingham County
Federal Aid Project No. N/A
WBS Element 67096.1.1

Integrated Mobility Bike Route Coordination – Project Management Unit

The NCDOT Project Manager will coordinate with Integrated Mobility Division and Division 7 construction staff to install “Watch for Bicyclists” signs along the detour route sections of NC 700 and Old NC 87.

I. Categorical Exclusion Approval:

STIP Project No. BR-0096
WBS Element 67096.1.1
Federal Project No. N/A

Prepared By:

01/26/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

Hannah Headrick

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Hannah Headrick, NEPA Specialist
NCDOT – Environmental Policy Unit

Prepared For:

Kristy Alford, PE, SMU & Sara Sherman, PE, PMU

Reviewed By:

01/25/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

John Jamison

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John Jamison, PWS, Unit Head
NCDOT – Environmental Policy Unit



Approved

- If NO grey boxes are checked in Section F (pages 2 and 3), NCDOT approves the Type I or Type II Categorical Exclusion.



Certified

- If ANY grey boxes are checked in Section F (pages 2 and 3), NCDOT certifies the Type I or Type II Categorical Exclusion for FHWA approval.
- If classified as Type III Categorical Exclusion.

01/25/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

John Jamison

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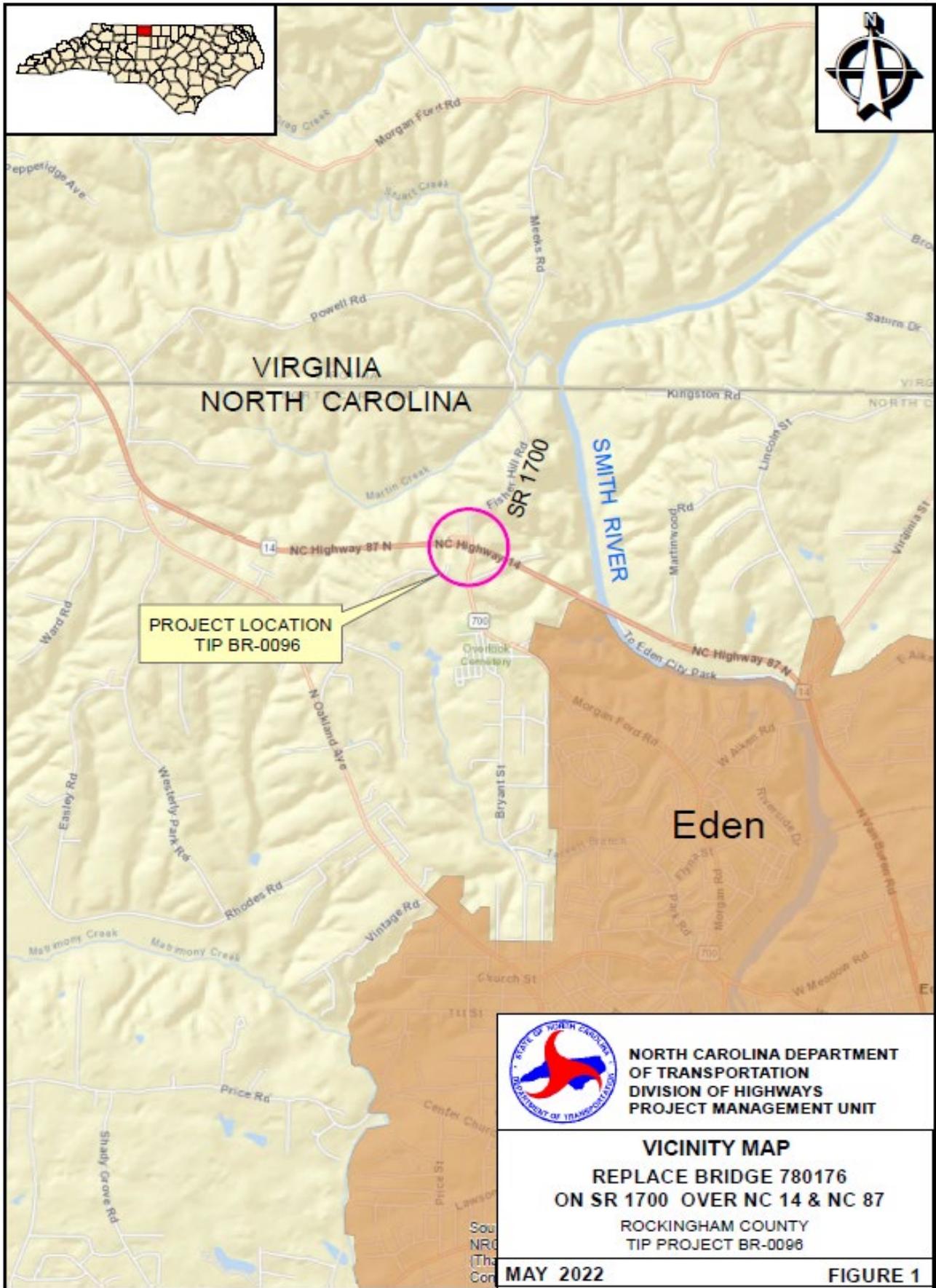
John Jamison, PWS, Unit Head
NCDOT – Environmental Policy Unit

FHWA Approved: For Projects Certified by NCDOT (above), FHWA signature required.

Date

N/A
for John F. Sullivan, III, PE, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Note: Prior to ROW or Construction authorization, a consultation may be required (please see Section VII of the NCDOT-FHWA CE Programmatic Agreement for more details).



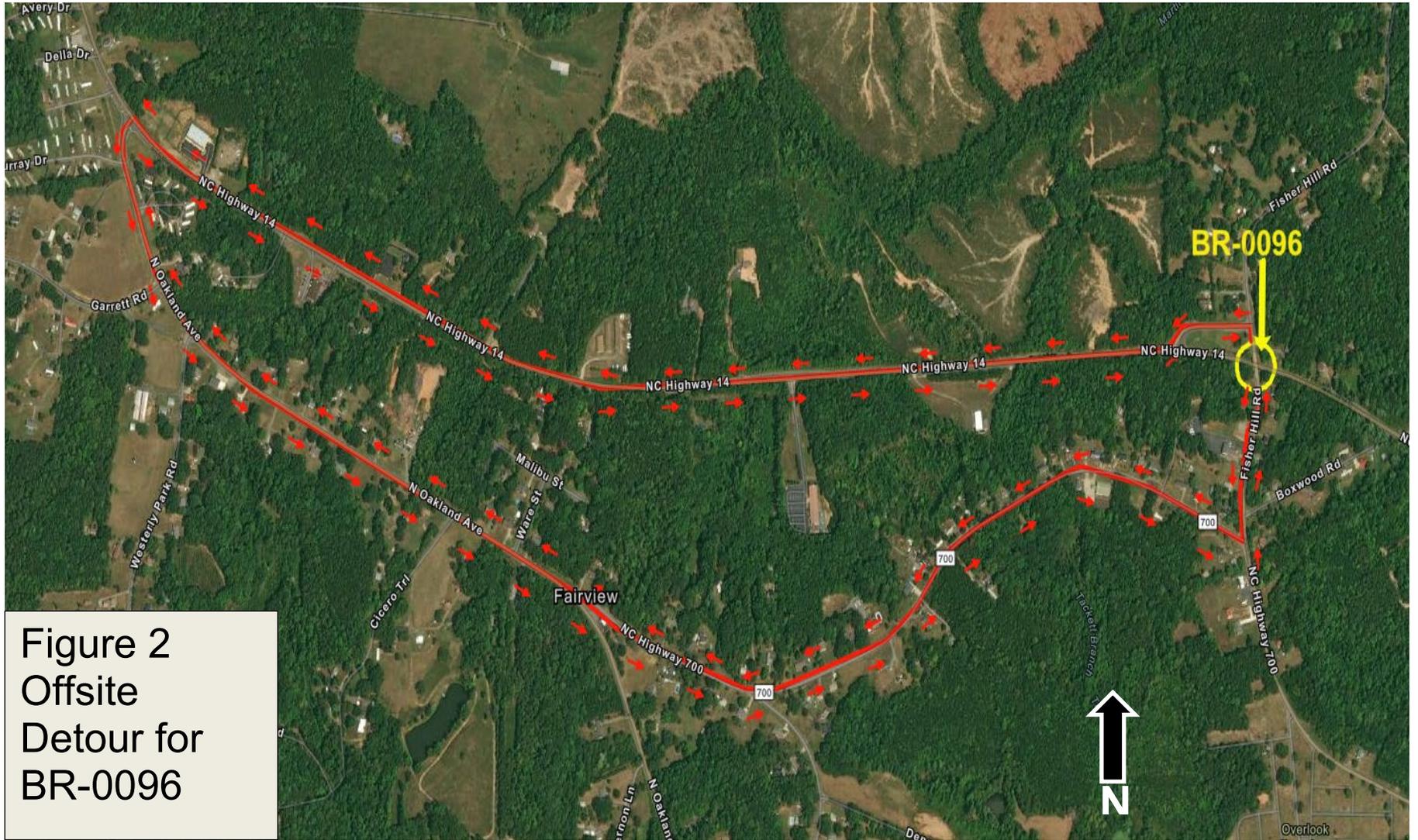


Figure 2
Offsite
Detour for
BR-0096

References

Rockingham County Bike Map

https://www.visitrockinghamcountync.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Rockingham_bike_map2.pdf

Accessed July 21, 2022

Rockingham County Transportation Plan Bicycle Map

https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/TPBCTP/Rockingham%20County/Rockingham_CTP_Bicycle_Map.pdf

Accessed July 21, 2022