

Section 404/NEPA Merger Project Team Meeting Agreement

Concurrence Point 1

Purpose and Need and Study Area Defined

Project Description: STIP Project R-5706 proposes widening NC 73 (Davidson-Concord Road/Davidson Highway) from SR 2693 (Davidson-Concord Road) to US 29 (Concord Parkway) to four-lanes. The project is comprised of two segments: R-5706A and R-5706B. R-5706A extends from SR 2693 (Davidson-Concord Road) to SR 1394 (Poplar Tent Road) near the Mecklenburg County – Cabarrus County line. R-5706B extends from SR 1394 (Poplar Tent Road) to US 29 in Cabarrus County. The project will include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

STIP Project: R-5706

Purpose and Need of Proposed Project:

The current year (2017) annual average daily traffic (AADT) along NC 73 ranges from 12,800 vehicles per day (vpd) to 24,800 vpd. In 2040, NC 73 is expected to carry between 22,400 vpd and 46,800 vpd.

Population and employment growth will increase travel demand along NC 73, with most sections of the roadway forecasted to increase in traffic volumes by approximately 30 percent in 2040.

NC 73 is currently congested during peak commuting hours with poor level of service (LOS). The corridor currently operates at LOS E during AM and PM peak hours. Without the proposed improvements, the corridor will continue to operate at LOS E in 2040 during peak hours. With the proposed improvements, the corridor is expected to operate at LOS C during AM peak hour and LOS D during PM peak hour.

The existing NC 73 corridor currently experiences safety issues likely associated with intersection conflicts and high traffic volumes. The total and non-fatal injury crash rates along NC 73 exceeded the statewide and critical crash rates for the five-year period analyzed (October 2012 to September 2017). The most widely-occurring type of crash along the corridor, including at signalized intersections, was rear-end crashes, which are typically associated with congested conditions.

West of I-85, NC 73 provides the only direct route between the Davidson, Cornelius, Huntersville and western Kannapolis areas and I-85 north of I-485 in the Charlotte region. Other east-west connections are provided through local routes, but these are often indirect and primarily serve local traffic.

East of I-85, NC 73 is a critical route serving Concord's and Kannapolis' mobility between I-85 and US 29.

The purpose of the project is to increase mobility between the Davidson, Concord, Huntersville, Kannapolis and Concord areas to I-85, reduce congestion at the intersections, and improve traffic operations along NC 73, with an operational target of LOS D in the 2040 design year. A secondary project purpose is to enhance pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

Study Area Boundary:

Study Area boundary is attached in the Concurrence Point 1 meeting packet.

The Merger Team has concurred on this date of **July 19, 2018** on the above-mentioned project purpose and need and the study area for STIP Project No. R-5706.

USACE _____ NCDOT _____

USEPA _____ USFWS _____

NCWRC _____ FHWA _____

NCDWQ _____ SHPO _____

CRTPO _____ CRMPO _____