



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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SECRETARY

January 09, 2015

TO: Meeting Participants

FROM: Joseph Miller, P.E.  
Project Planning Engineer

SUBJECT: December 18, 2014, Concurrence Point 2 Meeting for US 158 (Shortcut Road),  
from east of NC 34 (Shawboro Road) at Belcross to NC 168 (Caratoke Highway).  
Camden- Currituck Counties, TIP Project R-2574

**ATTENDEES**

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

Joseph Miller (NCDOT – PDEA) opened the meeting by welcoming attendees. A merger package containing project information was made available on the NCDOT website prior to the meeting and hard copies were available at the meeting. Joseph Miller asked that all attendees sign-in, and this was followed by introductions.

A formal PowerPoint presentation followed introductions. The presentation covered the project description, purpose, schedule, cost, and a comparison of preliminary alternatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss project alternatives and reach concurrence on the alternatives to be studied in detail (Concurrence Point 2).

## ***DETAILED STUDY ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSION***

The proposed improvements include four 12-foot travel lanes, a 46-foot median, and 8-foot grassed shoulders (4-foot paved). Preliminary alternatives considered widening to the north side and south side within six sections of the 10.6-mile project as described in the meeting handout. Potential impacts for the preliminary alternatives were compared using the following evaluation factors:

- Jurisdictional wetlands, streams, and surface waters have been delineated and described in a Natural Resources Technical Report for the project.
- Construction limits are assumed to be within a 250-foot impact area.
- Potential relocations of homes, businesses, and non-profits are based on the assumed impact area.
- Historic properties and cemeteries were considered but are not affected.
- Community facilities would be affected by right of way but not relocated.

Major topics discussed within each section of the project are described below.

### **Section 1** – West end of project to just west of SR 1135 - 1.5 miles

- North side widening is anticipated to impact no wetlands or streams, 0.01 acre of surface waters, and to relocate two homes and three businesses.
- South side widening is anticipated to impact no wetlands or streams, 0.01 acre of surface waters, and to relocate four homes and one business.
- On the north side in this area, a business park is being developed, and more businesses would be affected with widening to this side.
- NCDOT believes south side widening is more desirable in Section 1 to reduce business impacts.

### **Section 2** – Just west of SR 1135 in Camden County to approximately 0.6 mile west of the western SR 1148 intersection in Currituck County – 0.7 mile

- This section passes through Run Swamp, and a bridge is located at the Currituck County line. Wetlands in this area have a high quality rating.
- North side widening is anticipated to impact 13.34 acres of wetlands, no streams, 3.81 acres of surface waters, and to relocate one home.
- South side widening is anticipated to impact 13.30 acres of wetlands, no streams, 3.76 acres of surface waters, and to relocate one home.
- NCDOT believes a best fit alignment is more desirable in this location to join with Section 3.
- Cathy Brittingham (NCDOT) commented that the bridge crossing of the Run Swamp Canal is considered a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Area of Environmental Concern (AEC). The proposed bridge length will be a topic of conversation at the next merger team meeting. It

was noted the existing bridge is approximately 42 feet by 45 feet and has a sufficiency rating of 93.5. Gary Lovering explained the existing bridge will likely be replaced even though it has a high sufficiency rating. It is expected the grade of the existing roadway will be raised in this area, possibly by five feet. Paul Atkinson with the Hydraulics Unit commented no recommendations have been made yet regarding the roadway grade.

Section 3 – Approximately 0.6 mile west of the western SR 1148 intersection to approximately 0.7 mile east of the eastern SR 1148 intersection - 3.5 miles

- North side widening is anticipated to impact 0.39 acre of wetlands, 239 feet of stream, 0.71 acre of surface waters, and to relocate 14 homes, one business, and one church.
- South side widening is anticipated to impact 0.57 acre of wetlands, 298 feet of stream, 0.72 acre of surface waters, and to relocate nine homes and one church.
- More residences are located on the north side of US 158.
- NCDOT believes south side widening is more desirable in this area to reduce relocation impacts.
- Amy Chapman (NCDWR) requested consideration of north side widening in order to reduce wetland and stream impacts.

Section 4 – Approximately 0.7 mile east of the eastern SR 1148 intersection to approximately 0.1 mile east of Maple Road - 1.4 miles

- This section passes through Great Swamp. No bridges or major culverts exist in this section. Wetlands in this area have a high quality rating.
- North side widening is anticipated to impact 28.68 acres of wetlands, no streams, 14.5 acres of surface waters, and has no relocations.
- South side widening is anticipated to impact 27.91 acres of wetlands, no streams, 14.87 acres of surface waters, and has no relocations.
- NCDOT believes south side widening is more desirable in this area to reduce wetland impacts.
- Travis Wilson (NCWRC) noted the North River Game Land is located on both sides of US 158 within Great Swamp, near the Currituck County Airport. Minimization should be considered during the development of preliminary designs. Mr. Wilson stated south side widening would probably have less effect on the game land than north side widening. He said even though the larger part of the game land is on the south side of the road, the game land property on the south side is further away from the road than the property on the north.
- Gary Jordan (USFWS) commented the Northern long eared bat is proposed for listing as a federally protected species. It is expected the listing will be effective in April 2015. Live bats have been captured in Currituck County within the North River Game Land. The USFWS is developing a programmatic agreement for assessing potential effects on this species.
- Cathy Brittingham noted the Great Swamp Natural Heritage Area is located in Section 4. Travis Wilson noted incidences of wildlife mortality in this location. These issues will be of concern during future meetings when discussing potential bridging.

Section 5 – Approximately 0.1 mile east of Maple Road to approximately 0.2 mile west of Will Poyner Lane – 1.1 miles

- The Currituck County Regional Airport, Currituck Family YMCA, and Central Elementary School are all located on the north side of the roadway in this section.
- North side widening is anticipated to impact 0.37 acre of wetlands, no streams, 0.05 acre of surface waters, to relocate two homes and one church, and to acquire right of way from the airport and school.
- South side widening is anticipated to impact 0.11 acre of wetlands, no streams, 0.08 acre of surface waters, to relocate six homes, and to acquire some right of way from the school.

- NCDOT believes south side widening is more desirable in this area to reduce impacts to wetlands, the airport, and the school.
- Travis Wilson noted that a small portion of the North River Game Land is located on the south side of US 158 across from Central Elementary School.
- Cynthia Van Der Wiele (EPA) suggested there may be opportunities for displaced mobile homes in this section to be moved to another area within the same community.
- Cathy Brittingham asked if realignments are being considered in the vicinity of the airport to accommodate the future airport expansion. Jay McInnis (NCDOT - PDEA) noted the airport had asked about realigning the road. Widening to the south side will be considered, but not realignment.

**Section 6** – Approximately 0.2 mile west of Will Poyner Lane to east end of project - 1.6 miles

- North side widening is anticipated to impact 1.01 acre of wetlands, no streams, 0.42 acre of surface waters, and to relocate 19 homes and one business.
- South side widening is anticipated to impact 0.42 acre of wetlands, no streams, 0.42 acre of surface waters, and to relocate 17 homes and one business.
- NCDOT believes south side widening is more desirable in this area to reduce impacts to wetlands and homes.

Cathy Brittingham commented that Shane Staples of the NCDCM will coordinate with the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) regarding whether or not there is a need for DMF to participate in the merger process for this project. Ms. Brittingham noted the Division of Marine Fisheries can be marked off the concurrence form if they choose not to participate.

**CONCLUSION**

Jay McInnis asked for the Merger Team's consensus on the widening alternatives to carry forward. The Merger Team agreed with NCDOT's widening preferences in Section 1 (south side), Section 2 (best fit), Section 4 (south side), and Section 5 (south side). The Merger Team decided to consider other options in Section 3 (north side and best fit) and Section 6 (south side and best fit). The Merger Team agreed to the detailed study alternatives as follows:

Section Number	Section Description	Length (miles)	(Check All That Apply) Widening Alternative		
			North Side	South Side	Best Fit
<b>1</b>	West end of project to just west of SR 1135	1.5		✓	
<b>2</b>	Just west of SR 1135 in Camden County to approximately 0.6 mile west of the western SR 1148 intersection in Currituck County	0.7			✓
<b>3</b>	Approximately 0.6 mile west of the western SR 1148 intersection to approx. 0.7 mile east of the eastern SR 1148 intersection	3.5	✓		✓
<b>4</b>	Approximately 0.7 mile east of the eastern SR 1148 intersection to approximately 0.1 mile east of Maple Road	1.4		✓	
<b>5</b>	Approximately 0.1 mile east of Maple Road to approximately 0.2 mile west of Will Poyner Lane	1.1		✓	
<b>6</b>	Approximately 0.2 mile west of Will Poyner Lane to east end of project	1.6		✓	✓

The concurrence form was signed by the merger team members in attendance, and the meeting came to a close. Merger team members not present at the meeting signed the form electronically following the meeting. A copy of the signed concurrence form is attached.