



Bonner Bridge Update

TIP Project No. B-2500

Dare County, North Carolina

BRIDGE ON NEW LOCATION ALTERNATIVE PREFERRED FOR NC 12 AT RODANTHE, REVISED EA AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has released for public review a Revised Environmental Assessment (EA) for Phase IIb (Rodanthe Breach) of the Bonner Bridge Replacement Project. The original EA was released in December 2013 and public hearings were held in January 2014.

Phase IIb of the Bonner Bridge Replacement Project is a long-term solution for the section of NC 12 in the southern portion of the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) and in northern Rodanthe. The long term solution will be designed to last at least the next fifty years.

The Revised Phase IIb EA identifies a new Preferred Alternative, the 2014B Bridge on New Location Alternative. A drawing on the back of this newsletter shows its location. In the 2013 Phase IIb EA, the Bridge within Existing NC 12 Easement Alternative was identified as preferred. The change was made in response to environmental resource and regulatory agency comments, as well as citizen comments on the 2013 Phase IIb EA. The 2014B Bridge on New Location Alternative is preferred because it would minimize impacts to the Refuge, the ocean shoreline/beach, the Rodanthe community (including residential relocations), and submerged aquatic vegetation in Pamlico Sound. The 2014B Bridge on New Location Alternative also has the

support of federal and state environmental resource and regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies that will issue permits for its construction.

The 2014B Bridge on New Location Alternative consists of building a 2.4-mile bridge in Pamlico Sound. The bridge in the sound would bypass the area considered susceptible to future breaches and shoreline erosion. In the Refuge, the existing surface road would be removed, and that land would be returned to the Refuge. In Rodanthe, the existing NC 12 roadway would remain to provide access to private properties. Traffic would be maintained on NC 12 throughout construction of the new bridge. The 2014B Bridge on New Location Alternative's alignment is closer to the shoreline than the 2013 Bridge on New Location Alternative assessed in the 2013 Phase IIb EA. The two alignments are virtually identical on land in Rodanthe and in the Refuge. The alignment change in Pamlico Sound was made to minimize impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation. Details are available at the EA review locations listed on the back of this newsletter and on-line at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/NC12Rodanthe/>. The Revised Phase IIb EA includes responses to citizen and agency comments made regarding the findings of the 2013 Phase IIb EA.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED

Locations and times of the public hearings, scheduled for June 20, 21, and 22, 2016, are listed to the left on the Bulletin Board. The purpose of the hearings is to give citizens the opportunity to discuss the project with the study team and comment on the findings of the Revised Phase IIb EA.

All three public hearings are open houses, and the public is welcome to drop in any time during the hours indicated. Study team members will be available to discuss the findings of the Revised Phase IIb EA and the Preferred Alternative, answer questions, and receive comments. The same information will be available at all three public hearings. Written comments for the public hearing record can be placed in the comment box at each hearing, mailed, e-mailed, or faxed until July 15.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in these hearings. Anyone requiring special services should contact Drew Joyner at (919) 707-6077.

How to Comment on the EA

Comments on the EA and the Preferred Alternative may be submitted in writing at any of the public hearings. Comments also can be mailed to:

Drew Joyner
Human Environment
Section Head
NCDOT

1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598
 emailed to **PublicInvolvement2@ncdot.gov**
 or faxed to **(919) 212-5785**.

The deadline for comments is July 15, 2016

Bulletin Board PHASE IIb PUBLIC HEARINGS

June 20, 2016

OCRACOKE
 Ocracoke Community Center
 999 Irvin Garrish Highway

Open House Hearing:
 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

June 21, 2016

RODANTHE
 Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo
 Community Center
 23186 Myrna Peters Road

Open House Hearing:
 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

June 22, 2016

MANTEO
 Dare County Administration Bldg
 954 Marshall Collins Drive

Open House Hearing:
 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

PHASE IIB 2014B BRIDGE ON NEW LOCATION ALTERNATIVE (PREFERRED)



Aerial date: April 13, 2013



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit
Attention: Nora McCann
 1548 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT After reviewing comments from citizens, local government, and state and federal regulatory and resource agencies, NCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will decide if the proposed Phase IIb project results in any significant new impacts beyond those previously taken into consideration and if a Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) is necessary. If an SFEIS is not needed, a Record of Decision (ROD) that identifies the Selected Alternative will be issued in the summer of 2016. NCDOT plans to award a design-build construction contract as early as fall 2016.

Feel Free to Contact the Study Team

If you have any questions or wish to be added to our newsletter mailing list, please call John Page on our **Toll-Free Project Information Line, 1-866-803-0529**. You may also write the study team at:

Ms. Nora McCann -- or -- **Mr. John Page**
 NC Department of Transportation
 Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit
 1548 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1548
 namccann@ncdot.gov

Parsons Brinckerhoff
 434 Fayetteville Street
 Suite 1500
 Raleigh, NC 27601
 pagej@pbworld.com

EA Review Locations

The Revised EA and a map showing the design of the Preferred Alternative are available for public review at the following locations:

- Dare County, North Carolina library locations in Hatteras Village, Kill Devil Hills, and Manteo
- Fessenden Recreation Center in 46830 NC Highway 12, Buxton NC
- NCDOT Resident Engineer's Office, 349 Water Plant Road, Unit B, Manteo, NC
- Ocracoke School & Community Library, 225 Back Road, Ocracoke, NC
- Dare County Planning and Inspections Satellite Office, 50347 NC Highway 12, Frisco, NC

The EA and maps also are posted for online review on NCDOT's website at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/NC12Rodanthe/>