

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	<u>17BP.11.R.153</u>
WBS Element	<u>17BP.11.PE.153</u>
Federal Aid Project No.	<u>N/A</u>

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The proposed project will replace Bridge No. 419 on Red Top Road (S.R. 1148) over Naked Creek in Wilkes County. The replacement structure will be a single span cored slab bridge 72.94 feet long with a deck width of 30 feet. The new structure will include 10-foot lanes and variable width shoulders that average 3 feet, 11 inches.

The length of the overall improvement project is 300 feet. The roadway approaches measure 155.53 feet from the west end of the bridge and 89.47 feet from the east end of the bridge. The bridge will be replaced on the existing alignment while detouring traffic offsite during construction.

The replacement of Bridge No. 419 is part of the *Growing Rural Economy and Agriculture through Transportation and Technology Enhancement or Replacement in North Carolina* (GREATER-NC) Project under the United States Department of Transportation's 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program. The purpose of the grant and this bridge replacement project is to provide transportation infrastructure to support economic development and improve physical and digital connectivity in rural communities in North Carolina.

B. Consultation Phase: (Check one)

- Right-of-Way
- Construction
- Other:

C. NEPA/SEPA Class of Action Initially Approved as: (Check one)

- FHWA Class II (CE) 1/23/2020

Additional Notes: **Type I A CE**

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

Water Resources

Water resources and classifications in the project area have not changed since the completion of the above referenced document.

Protected Species

As of 7/17/2020, the USFWS lists four species for Wilkes County. No surveys are required for bog turtle and rusty-patched bumble bee.

Northern long-eared bat:

NCDOT has determined that the proposed action does not require separate consultation on the grounds that the proposed action is consistent with the final Section 4(d) rule, codified at 50 C.F.R. § 17.40(o) and effective February 16, 2016. NCDOT may presume its determination is informed by best available information and consider Section 7 responsibilities fulfilled for NLEB.

Gray bat:

On January 9, 2020, NCDOT biologists assessed the bridge project footprint for potential gray bat habitat. No evidence of bats (bats, staining or guano) was observed. No shallow vertical top sealed crevices or deep vertical unsealed crevices suitable for roosting were present on the structure. No caves or mines are located within the project footprint or within line of sight of the bridge. Based on the lack of evidence of bats during the bridge inspection, the type of bridge (timber and steel), and lack of caves or mines in the project vicinity, the proposed project will have a biological conclusion of No Effect for gray bats.

Archaeology/Historic Architecture

NCDOT has reviewed the Section 106 effects findings for historic properties within the project’s area of potential effects (APE), that were made as part of the NEPA analysis. NCDOT has confirmed there is no new information that would alter the original Section 106 findings and, therefore, they remain valid.

E. Conclusion:

The above NEPA/SEPA documentation has been reevaluated (as required by either 23 CFR 771 or by NC General Statute Chapter 113A Article 1). It has been determined that the current proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposed action. Proposed changes, if any, are noted in Section D. 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.

F. Coordination

NCDOT personnel have discussed the current project parameters with qualified NCDOT representatives and FHWA (where applicable). The NCDOT Project Manager, Jacquelyn Bowles, PE, hereby verifies the involvement of the following staff and the incorporation of their technical input:

MS Consultants Design Engr.:	Travis Potts	2/11/2021
NCDOT Environ. Specialist:	Michael Turchy	1/29/2021
NCDOT Hydraulics:	Brian Radakovic	2/5/2021

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project 17BP.11.R.153

Prepared By:

2/22/2021

Date

DocuSigned by:
Allison N. Woodall

Allison Woodall, Transportation Engineering Associate

NCDOT

2/22/2021

Date

DocuSigned by:
Eugene Tarascio

Eugene Tarascio, Project Management Unit

NCDOT

Prepared For:

DocuSigned by:
Jacquelyn Bowles

Jacquelyn Bowles, PE

NCDOT, Structures Management Unit

Reviewed By:

2/22/2021

Date

DocuSigned by:
John Jamison

John Jamison

NCDOT, Environmental Policy Unit



Approved

In adherence with 23 CFR 771 (NEPA) or NC General Statute Chapter 113A Article 1 (SEPA), NCDOT approves this Consultation.

or



Certified

NCDOT staff certifies if FHWA signature was previously required or where changes have resulted in FHWA signature being required.

2/22/2021

Date

DocuSigned by:
David Stults

David Stults, PE -Project Engineer -PEF/Program Management
North Carolina Department of Transportation

FHWA Approved: FHWA signature required for Type I(B) CE, Type II(B) CE, Type III CE, FONSI or ROD.

Date

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

H. Project Commitments (as of 02/11/2021)

Wilkes County
Replace Bridge 419 on Red Top Road (S.R. 1148) over Naked Creek.
WBS No. 17BP.11.PE.153
TIP No. 17BP.11.R.153

NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit (EAU) / Biological Surveys Group (BSG)
Unresolved Biological Conclusion

Additional information for this Northern long-eared bat will be provided by the NCDOT – Biological Surveys Group prior to project construction.

NCDOT has determined that the proposed action does not require separate consultation on the grounds that the proposed action is consistent with the final Section 4(d) rule, codified at 50 C.F.R. § 17.40(o) and effective February 16, 2016. NCDOT may presume its determination is informed by best available information and consider Section 7 responsibilities fulfilled for NLEB.

Complete Section 7 Consultation

NCDOT's Biological Surveys Group will survey the project study area as appropriate for the gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*). Construction authorization will not be provided, and work on the Project will not start, until consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 is complete. EAU will continue to survey and coordinate with the USFWS and/or USACE until concurrence is obtained.

*Surveys have been completed, and the project will have **No Effect** for the species.*

NCDOT Division 11

Continued Coordination Emergency Services

NCDOT should coordinate with Wilkes County Emergency Services (Mr. Timothy Pennington, 336.651.7363) at least one month prior to construction.

This commitment is still valid.

NCDOT Division 11

Continued Coordination School Transportation Services

NCDOT should coordinate with Wilkes County Public Schools (Mr. Eric Barker, 336.667.1126) at least one month prior to construction.

This commitment is still valid.

Hydraulics Unit – FEMA Coordination

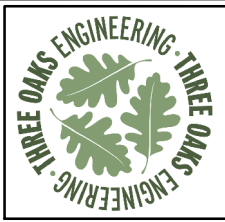
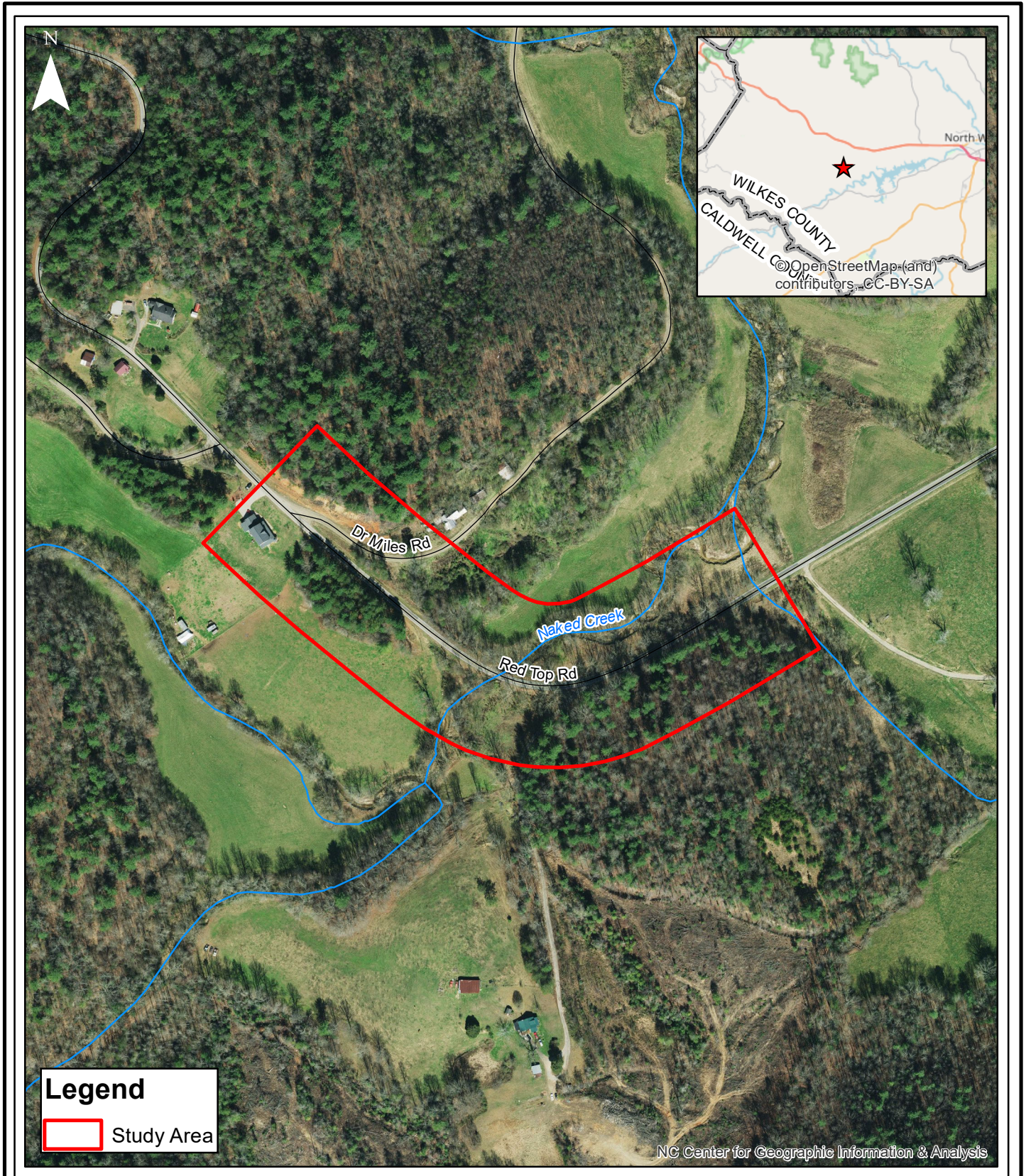
The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), to determine status of project with regard to applicability of NCDOT'S Memorandum of Agreement, or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

This commitment is still valid. Coordination is underway for the FEMA NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) under NCDOT's MOA with the FMP.

NCDOT Division Construction – FEMA Coordination

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction, certifying that the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment that are located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.

This commitment is still valid.



Prepared For:

**Replacement of Bridge No. 960419
on Red Top Rd over Naked Creek
(WBS No. 17BP.11.R.153)**

Project Vicinity Map

Wilkes County, North Carolina

Date:	August 2019
Scale:	0 100 200 Feet
Job No.:	18-025
Drawn By:	Checked By:
CMR	JSM

Figure

1