

North Carolina Department of Transportation
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM
I. D. No. B-4565

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

a. Consultation Phase: Construction

b. Project Description:

Replacement Lenoir County Bridges 42 & 43 over Neuse River Bridges
26 & 28 over Neuse River Overflow on Queen Street in Kinston, NC &
Improvements to the Offsite Detour

c. State Project: 33773.1.1
Federal Project: BRSTP-70B(5)

d. Document Type: Categorical Exclusion 10/07/13
Date

II. CONCLUSIONS

The above environmental document has been reevaluated as required by 23 CFR 771. It was determined that the current proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposed action. Proposed changes, if any, are noted below in Section III. 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.

III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The design for the replacement of the bridges along Queen Street is the same as described in the document. Some of the construction improvements to the offsite detoured discussed in the CE and identified in the attached project commitments sheet are currently under construction with the remainder to be started shortly.

There has been a revision in the traffic control plan. Upon the completion of the deck, temporary barrier rails will be placed to form two-lane two-way traffic in the middle of the bridge until the permanent bridge rails are completed. This will allow partial opening of the bridge 60 to 75 days earlier. Upon completion of the bridge rails, traffic will be shifted to the outside allowing the concrete median to be poured and then four lane two-way traffic will be restored on Queen Street.

Water resource classification have not changed since the CE was completed. The Water Quality best usage classification for the Neuse River remains C; NSW.

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As of January 26, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists two federally protected species for Lenoir County. No species have been added to the list for this county since the last document. Biological Conclusions remain "No Effect" for both the Sensitive joint-vetch and Red cockaded woodpecker.

IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

See Attached Project Commitments (Greensheet).

V. COORDINATION

PDEA personnel have discussed current project proposals with others. Please note who was coordinated with and the date. This section is to be filled out by the project manager and does not require signatures.

Design Engineer: Chris Lee 11-12-14
Date

FHWA Engineer: N/A _____
Date

NEU-PM: John Merritt 11-06-14
Date

VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE


Project Planning Engineer

11-13-14
Date


Federal Manager, Project Development and Environmental
Analysis Branch

11/13/14
Date

VII. FHWA CONCURRENCE

N/A
Federal Highway Administration
Division Administrator

Date

PROJECT COMMITMENTS

T.I.P. No. B-4565
Replacement of Bridges 42, 43, 26, 28 on Queen St (US 70/258 Bus/NC 58)
Over Neuse River & Neuse River Overflow
Lenoir County
Federal Aid Project No. BRZ-70B(5)
W.B.S. No. 33773.1.1

COMMITMENTS FROM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

Division Two Construction, Resident Engineer's Office – Offsite Detour

In order to have time to adequately reroute school busses, Lenoir County Schools will be contacted at (252) 527-7092 at least one month prior to road closure.

Lenoir County Emergency Services will be contacted at (252) 559-6126 at least one month prior to road closure to make the necessary temporary reassignments to primary response units.

These will be addressed in the pre-construction meeting.

All Design Groups/ Division Resident Construction Engineer – Anadromous Fish

A moratorium on in-water construction will be in place from February 15th to June 30th of any given year.

The availability date has been set to accommodate the moratorium.

Stream Crossing Guidelines for Anadromous Fish will be implemented in the design and construction of this project.

These have been incorporated into the design and will be implemented during construction.

Contracts Unit - Length of Construction

In order to address specific requests from the School Transportation Director for Greene County, NCDOT will set the **minimum** reasonable contract time to reduce the period of road closure.

This has been incorporated into the contract.

All Units – Avoid Impacts to Underground Storage Tanks (UST's)

There are USTs just outside of the project limits on the northeast quadrant at the abandoned gas station. Any extension of the project footprint in that vicinity would require appropriate measures.

These have been avoided. However, as the project developed, three additional UST's were identified on parcel 4. One of these has been scheduled for removal prior to construction to allow for the needed space.

Hydraulic Unit, Natural Environment Unit –Buffer Rules

The Neuse River Basin Buffer Rules apply to this project.

These have been accounted for design.

Hydraulic 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).

The Department has obtained a Letter Of Map Revision (LOMR).

Division Construction-FEMA

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 will be implemented during the construction phase of the project.

Roadway/Division – Archaeological Site – Civil War Bridge Pilings

The proposed project is located adjacent to one known archaeological site (Civil War Bridge Pilings) that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

For the piles on shore on the eastern edge of construction limits the plans shall identify this area as “shall not disturb” and the contractor will install hi-visibility fencing to prohibit access to this area.

For the remainder of the piles in the water, the area shall be delineated on the plans as “shall not disturb”

The plan sheets address both of these concerns.

Roadway Design/Program Development Branch – Sidewalks

There are existing sidewalks that NCDOT will replace as a part of the project. NCDOT will cover 100% of the costs.

These have been incorporated into the project.

US Coast Guard Exemption – Natural Environment Section, Structure Management Unit

The US Coast Guard has indicated that they will likely grant an exemption once NCDOT demonstrates that we will maintain the current navigable opening in the new bridge. NCDOT Natural Environment Section will coordinate with Structures Management Unit to gather the necessary drawings and then NES will coordinate with the USCG to request an exemption.

Upon further review, the Coast Guard determined that an Advanced Approval was appropriate for this site and has granted it accordingly.

Natural Environment Section – Bald Eagle Surveys

With nesting and foraging habitat present, an additional survey will be performed within two years prior to project LET. If nests or bald eagles are identified, NCDOT biologists will coordinate with the USFWS in order to take appropriate measures.

A bald eagle survey was performed March 27, 2014. No eagles or nests were observed.

All Units – Municipal Agreement

In coordination with the City of Kinston to mitigate the impacts of the off-site detour, additional work to be included within the scope of the project shall include the following:

- A. Modification to Skinner's Bypass as included below:
 - a. Construct a free flow westbound right-turn lane from US 70 westbound onto northbound NC 11-55;
 - b. Extend dual left-turn lanes from southbound NC 11-55 onto eastbound US 70 to provide 450 feet of full storage;
 - c. Extend right-turn lane on westbound US 70 at NC 11-55 to provide 650 feet of full storage; and
 - d. Optimize/revise traffic signal phases and timing to reduce stop delay and queuing.

These improvements are approaching completion.

- B. Resurface King Street from Skinner's Bypass (US70) to bridges over the Neuse River.

These improvements are approaching completion.

- C. Install lighting on bridges as part of bridge project.

This has been included in the design plans.

- D. Install Texas Classic Rail on Bridge No. 42 and Bridge No. 43.

This has been included in the design plans

- E. Provide signal pre-emption equipment for emergency vehicles at the following intersections:

- a. US 70 at Trenton Highway
- b. US 70 at Meadowbrook
- c. US 70 at Queen
- d. US 70 at King (Skinner's Bypass)
- e. King at Heritage
- f. King at Queen
- g. Queen at Caswell
- h. Queen at Gordon
- i. Queen at North
- j. Queen at Blount (If possible – currently has railroad pre-emption)
- k. Queen at Peyton
- l. Queen at Washington
- m. Queen at Lenoir
- n. Queen at Vernon
- o. Vernon at McLewean

The Department will provide and install pre-emption equipment in signal cabinets at these locations. The Municipality is responsible for maintenance costs.

The Department will provide the pre-emption equipment only for 28 emergency response vehicles, to each appropriate response agency for their installation and future maintenance.

The pre-emption equipment will be installed just prior to the availability date.

In addition, the following items will be provided by the Department:

- A. Provide shuttle service to local bicyclists and pedestrians that currently cross the bridges, if needed, as mutually agreed to by all parties.

This is currently under negation between Lenoir County and NCDOT with the City of Kinston participating in the discussion. This will be in place prior to the availability date.

- B. Provide temporary directional signing during construction for the "South Queen Street Shopping Areas."

This will be accomplished as part of construction.

COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING

Division 2 Construction/Roadside Environmental Unit

Stream Crossing Guidelines for Anadromous Fish will be implemented in the design and construction of this project.

The design has incorporated these guidelines.

Division 2 Construction

A moratorium on in-water construction will be in place from February 15 to June 30 of any given year for anadromous; this moratorium includes adjacent inundated wetlands with an active connection to the Neuse River.

The availability date has been set to accommodate the moratorium.