

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	B-4571
WBS Element	38414.1.2
Federal Aid Project No.	N/A

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The project proposes to replace the 189-foot long Lincoln County Bridge No. 7 along NC 182 over Indian Creek. The replacement structure will be approximately 202.9-feet long and provide a minimum 36.5-foot clear deck width and 11-foot lanes with 7.25 foot offsets. The approach roadway improvements extend approximately 364 feet from the west end of the bridge and 559 feet from the east of the bridge. The approaches will be constructed to include a 32-foot pavement width providing two 11-foot lanes with 5-foot wide full-depth paved shoulders. A total minimum shoulder width of 6 feet will be provided on each side of the roadway (9-foot shoulders where guardrail is included). The roadway will be designed as a Rural Major Collector using Sub-regional Tier guidelines with a 30 mile per hour design speed.

Based on the March 1, 2022, Structure Safety Report, Bridge No. 7 is considered structurally deficient due to a rating of 4 out of 9 according to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards. The bridge, which was constructed in 1951, has a seventy-one year old timber substructure which has a typical life expectancy between 40 to 50 years due to the natural deterioration rate of wood. Rehabilitation of a timber structure is practical only when a few members are damaged or prematurely deteriorated. However, past a certain degree of deterioration, timber structures become impractical to maintain and upon eligibility are programmed for replacement. Bridge No. 7 is approaching the end of its useful life.

B. Consultation Phase: (Check one)

- ☐ Right-of-Way
- ☒ Construction
- ☐ Other: Identify the trigger – (e.g., design change, change in impacts)

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

- ☒ FHWA Class II (CE) June 2, 2017

Additional Notes: **Type 1-A**

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

Design Modifications since the approval of the Categorical Exclusion

The driveway providing access to the property in the northeastern quadrant of Bridge No. 7 was extended beyond the existing study area to minimize the grade approaching NC 182. Additional field surveys were conducted to ensure these design revisions did not result in impacts to jurisdictional or cultural resources.

Endangered Species

When the Categorical Exclusion was completed in 2015, the Dwarf-flowered heartleaf, the Michaux's sumac, and the Northern-long eared bat were listed as threatened or endangered species for Lincoln County. As of October 2022, the Northern Long-eared bat is not listed for the study area.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) and the Natural Heritage databases were reviewed on September 27, 2022. The following species are currently listed for the project study area.

- Tricolored bat - proposed endangered
- Dwarf-flowered heartleaf - threatened
- Michaux's sumac - endangered

The Natural Heritage Program (NHP) has a historic entry for Michaux's sumac for all of Lincoln County. Known occurrences of dwarf flowered heartleaf were noted approximately two miles southwest and approximately three miles north of the project study area. Potential habitat for dwarf-flowered heartleaf and the Michaux's sumac is present in the study area. However, no dwarf-flowered heartleaf (or any other species of *Hexastylis*) or Michaux's sumac were observed during the follow-up surveys completed in October 2021.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion
<i>Hexastylis naniflora</i>	Dwarf-flowered heartleaf	T	Yes	No Effect
<i>Rhus michauxii</i>	Michaux's sumac	E	Yes	No Effect

Cultural Resources

As noted, the driveway in the northeastern quadrant of the project area was extended. However, the extension did not extend beyond the cultural resources Area of Potential Effects. As such, no additional cultural resources coordination is required.

Tribal Coordination

In accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, NCDOT initiated coordination with the Catawba Indian Nation, the Cherokee Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma on October 25, 2021. Correspondence from their respective THPOs was received noting “no immediate concerns with regards to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, or Native American archaeological sites within the proposed study area” or noting concurrence with NCDOT’s determination that “No Survey was Required” for archaeological resources.

High Quality Waters

Indian Creek is designated as a High Quality Water – Stream Index Number [11-129-8-(1)]; Best Usage Classification WS-II;HQW.

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, Tierre Peterson, hereby verifies the involvement of the following staff and the incorporation of their technical input:

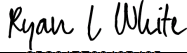
Design Engineer:	Steve Smallwood	10/14/2022
Environmental Specialist:	Erin Cheely	10/24/2022
FHWA (if applicable):	N/A	
Other:	N/A	

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project B-4571**Prepared By:**

11/1/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

Ryan L. White, P.E., Senior Transportation Engineer
Stantec Consulting**Prepared For:**

DocuSigned by:



Jacquelyn Bowles, P.E. NCDOT-Structures Management Unit

Reviewed By:

11/1/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

John Jamison, Unit Head
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.

11/1/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

David Stutts, PE – Project Engineer-PEF/Program Management
NCDOT – Structures Management Unit**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 October 28, 2022)

**Lincoln County
Replacement of Bridge No. 7 over Indian Creek along NC 182
Federal Project No. N/A
WBS No. 38414.1.2
TIP No. B-4571**

Updates to the project commitments shown in italics.

Hydraulics Unit – FEMA Coordination

NCDOT will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (NCFMP), 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 Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

Status: The NCFMP recommendation letter signed on October 9, 2018, states the project has been recommended for approval as a Type 2a MOA.

Division 12 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.

Division 12 Construction, Resident Engineer's Office – Offsite Detour

In order to have time to adequately reroute school buses, Lincoln County Schools Transportation Offices will be contacted at (704) 732-2261 at least one month prior to road closure.

Lincoln County Emergency Management will be contacted at (704) 736-9385, at least one month prior to road closure to make the necessary temporary reassignments to primary response units.

Division 12 Construction – Sensitive Watersheds

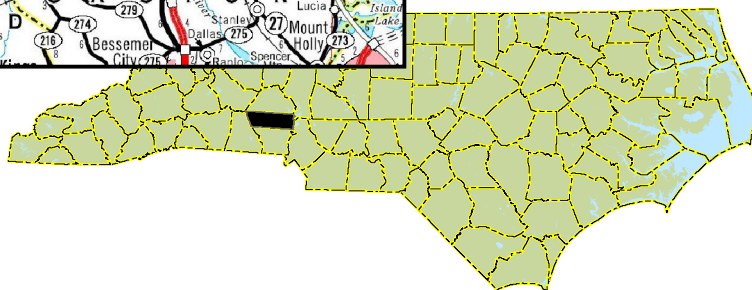
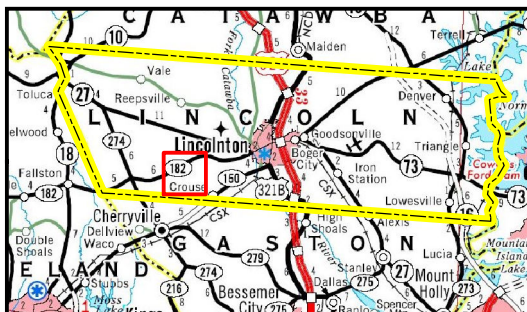
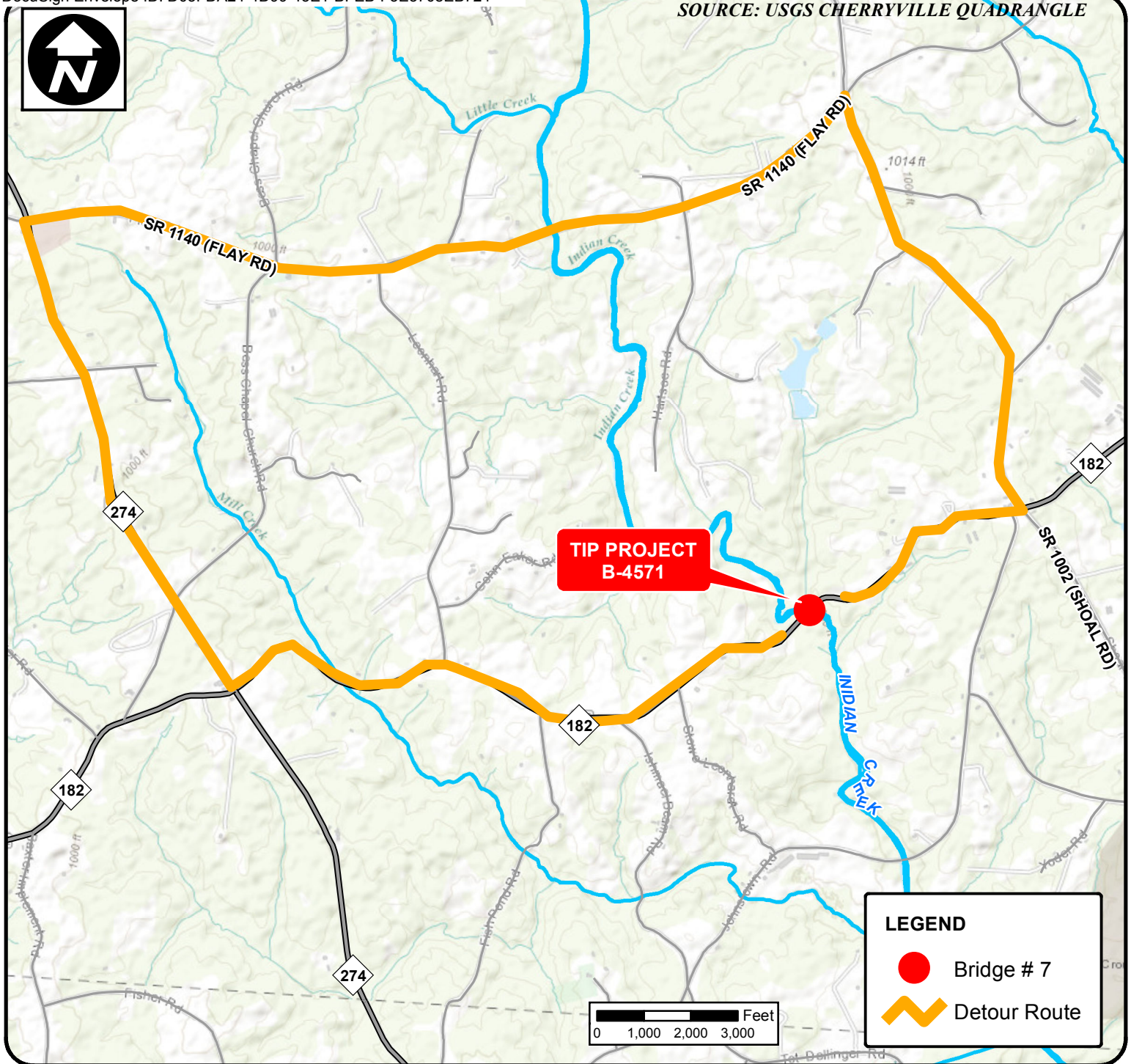
NCDOT will adhere to the Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds for this project due to the HQW classification of Indian Creek.

The Erosion Control plans have been designed to adhere to the Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds.

Natural Environment Section – ~~Northern long-eared bat~~

~~Construction authorization will not be requested until Endangered Species Act compliance is satisfied for the Northern long-eared bat.~~

Status: This commitment was removed because the Northern long-eared bat is no longer listed for the study area.



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

**REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE # 7 ALONG NC 182
OVER INDIAN CREEK**
LINCOLN COUNTY
TIP PROJECT B-4571

FIGURE 1: VICINITY MAP