

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	B-5947
WBS Element	45983.1.1
Federal Aid Project No.	0581032

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to replace Nash County Bridge No. 630091 on NC 581 over Tar River. Bridge No. 630091 is 311 feet long. The replacement structure will be a bridge approximately 330 feet long providing a minimum 34 feet clear deck width. The bridge will include two 12-foot lanes and 5-foot offsets. The bridge length is based on preliminary design information and is set by hydraulic requirements. The roadway grade of the new structure will be raised to match the existing low chord elevation. The proposed bridge will be replaced to the west of the existing bridge. Traffic will be maintained on the existing bridge during construction of the proposed bridge.

The approach roadway will extend approximately 1,100 feet from the south end of the new bridge and 1,150 feet from the north end of the new bridge. The approaches will be widened to include two 12-foot lanes and eight-foot shoulders will be provided on each side (11-foot shoulders where guardrail is included) with 2' paved shoulders. The roadway will be designed as a Major Collector Route with a 60 mile per hour design speed.

Timber components of Bridge No. 630091 are experiencing an increasing degree of deterioration that can no longer be addressed by reasonable maintenance activities, therefore the bridge 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) 2/17/2020

Additional Notes: **Type I(A)**

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

Design Changes

No major design changes have occurred since the signing of the Categorical Exclusion, and no additional impacts to any resources have occurred due to these design changes.

Water Resources

The water resource classifications for the streams identified in the Categorical Exclusion remain accurate.

Protected Species

The list of protected species has changed since completion of the Categorical Exclusion. The Atlantic pigtoe, Neuse River waterdog and Carolina madtom have received federal designation as threatened or endangered species by the USFWS. Due to this project occurring within an Identified Stream Reach for all the listed aquatic species, biological conclusions of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect were rendered. To satisfy Section 7, NCDOT has made payment to the NC Nongame Aquatic Species Fund for both freshwater mussels and Neuse River waterdog/Carolina madtom as detailed in the Programmatic Biological Opinions (PBOs) for the species. Construction conditions remain the same as previously agreed upon for the earlier identified species (yellow lance and Tar River spiny mussel).

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.

Project Commitments (Greensheet)

The Categorical Exclusion included a Greensheet with project commitments. Permits have been received for this project, and a revised Greensheet is attached.

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:

Design Engineer:	Greg Purvis (Wetherill Eng., Inc.)	5/2/22
Environmental Specialist:	Jason Dilday	5/2/22
FHWA (if applicable):	N/A	
Other:	N/A	

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project B-5947**Prepared By:**

6/30/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

Greg S. Purvis

Greg S. Purvis, PE Project Manager
Wetherill Engineering, Inc.

Prepared For:

DocuSigned by:

Jacquelyn Bowles

Jacquelyn Bowles, PE
NCDOT, Structures Management Unit

Reviewed By:

6/30/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

Colin Mellor

Colin Mellor, Eastern Regional Team Lead
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.

7/5/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

Kristy Alford

Kristy Alford, PE – Project Engineer – Field Operations Divisions 1-7
NCDOT – Structures Management Unit

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

N/A

Date

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

NCDOT PROJECT COMMITMENTS

STIP Project No. **B-5947**
Bridge No. 630091 on NC 581
Over Tar River
Nash County
Federal Aid Project No. 0581032
WBS Element 45983.1.1

NCDOT 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).

Coordination resulted in approval on October 15, 2020 for the FEMA NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) under NCDOT's MOA with the FMP. This commitment has been completed.

NCDOT Division Four Construction, Resident Engineer's Office -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.

NCDOT Hydraulic Unit – Buffer Rules

The Tar-Pamlico River Basin Rule applies to this project.

NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit – Section 7

Section 7 will need to be resolved for the Yellow lance mussel and the Tar River spiny mussel prior to permitting and construction.

Due to this project occurring within an Identified Stream Reach for all the listed aquatic species, biological conclusions of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect were rendered. To satisfy Section 7, NCDOT has made payment to the NC Nongame Aquatic Species Fund for both freshwater mussels and Neuse River waterdog/Carolina madtom as detailed in the Programmatic Biological Opinions (PBOs) for the species. Adherence to the construction conditions detailed in the PBOs will be adhered to.

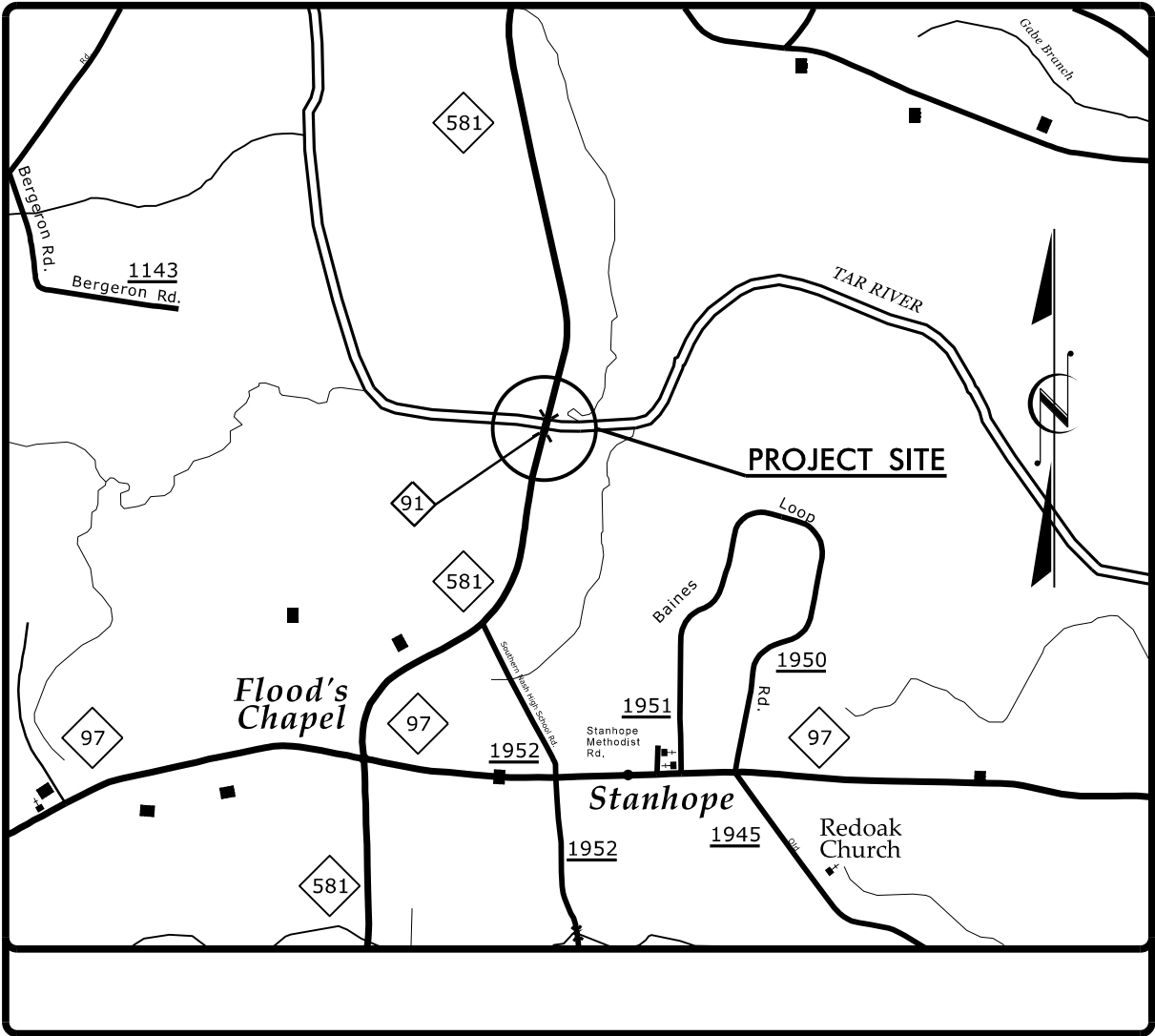
COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING

NCDOT Division 4 Construction

USACE General Permit 50 Special Condition 21

21. NAVIGATION

- a.) The authorized structure and associated activity must not interfere with the public's right to free navigation on all navigable waters of the United States. No attempt will be made by the permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to the authorized work for reasons other than safety.
- b.) Temporary work bridge shall be illuminated at night with blinking yellow lights as well as reflective signage posted on the upstream/downstream/left/right channel opening for public navigation safety.



B-5947

**REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 630091
ON NC 581
OVER TAR RIVER**

NASH COUNTY

WBS 45983.1.1

**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION 4**

VICINITY MAP – FIGURE 1