

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	B-5986
WBS Element	47818.1.1
Federal Aid Project No.	0231009

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Wake County Bridge #34 along NC 231 over the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Division 5 in Wendell (Figure 1, attached). The proposed replacement structure will be a single span bridge approximately 124 feet long using steel plate girders with integral end bents and providing 36 feet of clear roadway width. The proposed improvements to the approach roadway will extend approximately 325 feet from the south end of the new bridge and 395 feet from the north end of the new bridge. The approaches will include a 32-foot pavement width providing two 12-foot lanes and two 4-foot shared-use sections with curb and gutter. Both the structure and the roadway approaches will include 5 to 6-foot sidewalks on both sides. The roadway is classified as a minor arterial and will be designed using the Sub-Regional Tier Classification, with a design speed of 40 miles per hour and a posted speed of 35 miles per hour.

Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in Spring 2023, and construction is scheduled to begin in late 2024.

NCDOT Bridge Management Unit records indicate Bridge No. 34 is in poor condition with a Superstructure rating of 4 out of 9; the bridge is classified as structurally deficient. The existing two-lane bridge was built in 1938 and is 89 feet long with a reinforced concrete deck atop steel beams/girders. The bridge deck consists of two travel lanes with a roadway width of 36 feet. Maintenance has been recently performed to improve safety and extend the life of the bridge; however, the maintenance is considered temporary. Based on the low Superstructure rating and the on-going need for maintenance, the bridge is considered at the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement.

The purpose of this project is to replace an aged structure with a new bridge that complies with current AASHTO Greenbook guidelines.

B. Consultation Phase:

☒ Right-of-Way

C. NEPA/SEPA Class of Action Initially Approved as:

☒ FHWA Class II (CE) 2/17/2022

Additional Notes: **Type I(A) - Ground Disturbing Action**

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

Design Modifications since the approval of the Categorical Exclusion

The only design changes include the structure type and the span arrangement of the bridge; these changes do not cause an increase in project impacts. No other substantial changes to the proposed design (intersection modifications, right-of-way modifications, offsite detour route revisions) have occurred.

NOTE: The current design is contained within the study area shown in Figure 1. The study area may need to be expanded along E 3rd Street to accommodate utility relocations. Any changes to the design or the study area will be noted in the Construction Consultation.

Endangered Species

When the Categorical Exclusion was completed in 2022, the Dwarf Wedgemussel, the Yellow Lance, the Atlantic Pigtoe, the Bald Eagle, the Neuse River Waterdog, the Carolina Madtom, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, the Tar River Spiny mussel, the Michaux's Sumac, and the Northern Long-eared Bat were noted as threatened or endangered species for Wake County. As of January 2023, 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 January 16, 2023. The following species have been added for the project study area, along with the ones mentioned above:

- Tricolored Bat - proposed endangered

On September 13, 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal to list the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus* – PESU) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Given the proposal to list PESU as Federally Endangered, NCDOT is initiating a conference programmatic consultation to address impacts to this species. USFWS has not provided an official effective listing date, but it is anticipated to occur in the second half of 2023. Construction activities for this project will not take place until Endangered Species Act compliance is satisfied for PESU.

Common Name	Listing Since Last Document or Consultation	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion
Dwarf wedgemussel	Unchanged	E	No	No Effect
Yellow lance	Unchanged	T	No	No Effect
Atlantic Pigtoe	Unchanged	T	No	No Effect
Bald Eagle	Unchanged	BGPA	Yes	No Effect
Neuse River Waterdog	Unchanged	T	No	No Effect
Carolina madtom	Unchanged	E	No	No Effect
Red-cockaded woodpecker	Unchanged	E*	No	No Effect
Tar River spiny mussel	Unchanged	E	No	No Effect
Michaux's sumac	Unchanged	E	No	No Effect
Northern long-eared bat	Unchanged	T	Yes	MANLAA ¹
Tricolored bat	Added	P	Yes	MANLAA ¹

IPaC data checked on February 6, 2023

¹ May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect

Federal Status: E – Endangered; T – Threatened; * Historical; BGPA -Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; P – Proposed

Cultural Resources

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 in March 2021. Correspondence from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office was received noting “no immediate concerns with regards to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas.”

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 (Stantec):	Steve Smallwood	1/18/2023
Environmental Specialist:	Deanna Riffey	2/16/2023
FHWA (if applicable):	N/A	

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project B-5986**Prepared By:**

3/30/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

Michael Wray

Michael Wray, P.E., Transportation Engineer

Starter

DocuSigned by:

*Jacquelyn Bowles***Prepared For:**

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

Reviewed By:

3/30/2023

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.

3/31/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

*David Stutts*David Stutts, P.E. – 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.

N/A

Date

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

H. Project Commitments (as of 3/22/2023)

**TIP No. B-5986
Replacement of Bridge #34 on NC 231 over Norfolk Southern Railroad
Wake County
Federal Aid Project No. 0231009
WBS No. 47818.1.1**

NCDOT – Division 5 – Offsite Detour

Wake County Schools-Transportation will be contacted at least one month prior to start of construction by NCDOT in order to have time to adequately adjust school bus schedules.

Phone: (919) 805-3030

NCDOT – Division 5 – Offsite Detour

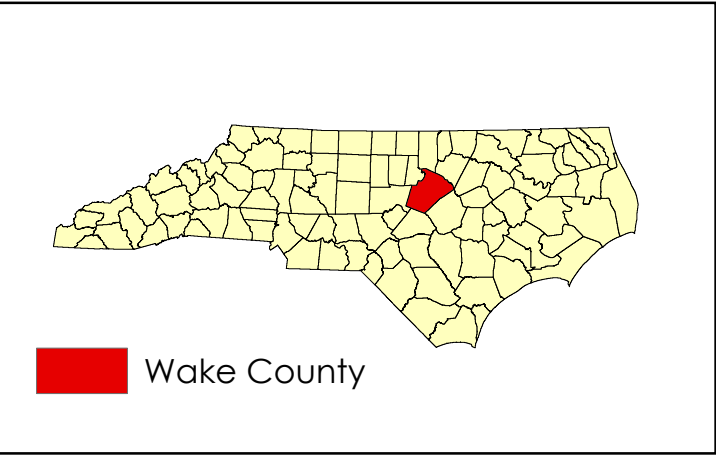
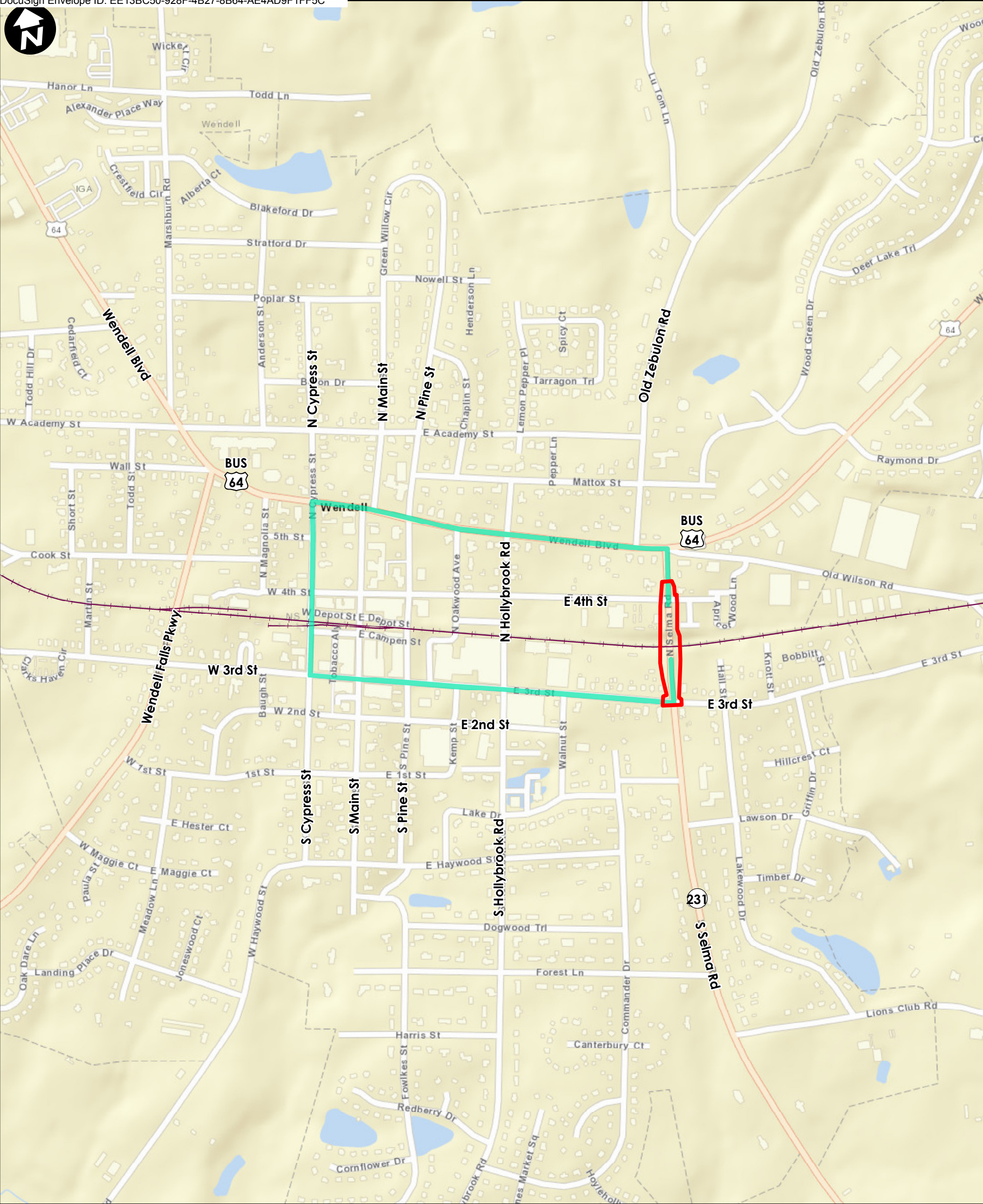
Wake County Emergency Services will be contacted by NCDOT at least one month prior to start of construction to make the necessary temporary reassignments to primary response units.

Phone: (919) 856-6020

NCDOT – Work Zone Traffic Control – Pedestrian Accommodations during Construction

Pedestrian counts will be gathered along NC 231 within the project study area in order to determine the need for temporary pedestrian accommodations during construction.

Recent pedestrian counts have been acquired; no temporary pedestrian structures will be utilized during construction.



Legend

- B-5986 Project Study Area
- Detour Route
- NS Railroad



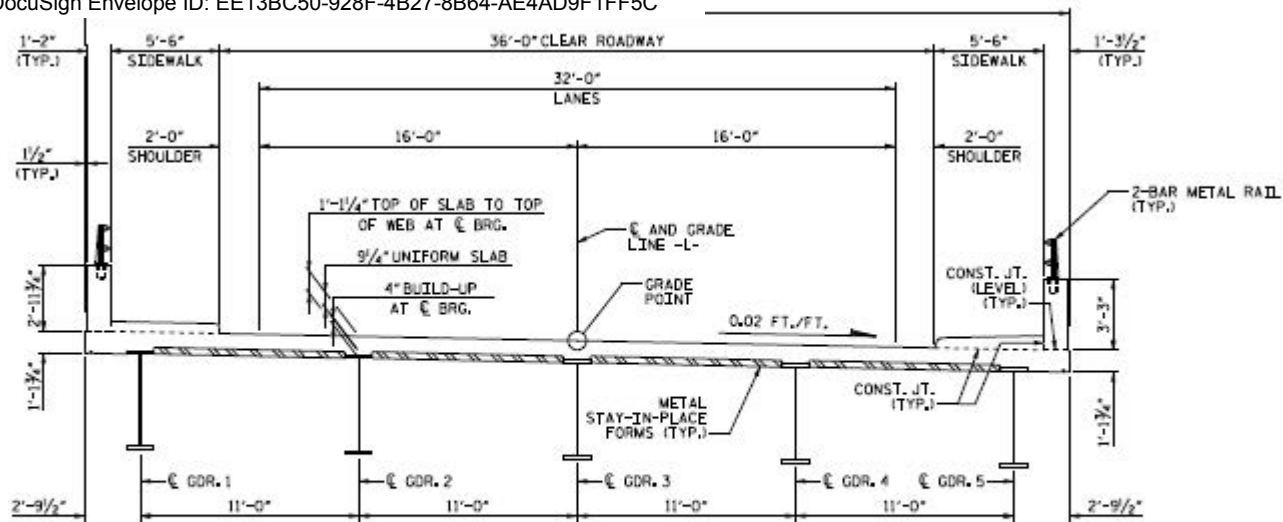
Project Location: Wake County

STIP PROJECT # B-5986
IMPROVEMENTS TO BRIDGE # 34
ON N.C. 231 (N. SELMA RD.)
OVER NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Figure No. 1

- Notes**
- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane North Carolina FIPS 3200 Feet
 - Basemap: ESRI

Vicinity Map (with Detour Route)



TYPICAL SECTION

1 SPAN WITH COMPOSITE DECK ON STEEL
PLATE GIRDERS WITH INTEGRAL END BENTS
GIRDERS PARALLEL TO -L-.