

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	<b>BR-0002</b>
WBS Element	<b>49071.1.1</b>
Federal Aid Project No.	<b>N/A</b>

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The proposed project involves replacing Bridge No. 8 on NC 194 over the North Fork New River in Ashe County. Bridge No. 8 will be replaced on the existing alignment. The proposed bridge length will be approximately 280 feet. The bridge will include two twelve-foot lanes and a minimum of five-foot shoulders on each side. The proposed approach width will be 12 ft traveling lanes with 8 ft shoulders of which five feet are paved.

The new bridge will utilize stage construction. A portion of the new bridge will be built on the eastern side of the existing bridge. Traffic will be shifted into a one-lane two-way pattern on the new portion of the bridge. The old bridge will be removed, and the remainder of the new bridge will be completed. Traffic will then be restored into a two-lane two-way pattern.

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)

- ☒ SEPA MCDC 3/11/2020

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

Water Resources:

Water resources and classifications in the project area have not changed since the above-referenced documents.

Protected Species:

As of July 16, 2021, the USFWS lists eleven protected species for Ashe County. Relevant information for northern long-eared bat and gray bay was provided to the USACE with the permit application to satisfy Section 7 for these species.

Habitat is present for Virginia spiraea. Walking visual surveys of all areas of habitat were conducted by NCDOT biologists and no individuals of this species were identified during previous surveys.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act has been resolved for this project by way of the issuance of the 404 permit.

Section 106:

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.

Design Changes:

There are no changes to the design since the document was signed.

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:	Piotr J. Stojda	7/19/2021
Environmental Coordinator	Michael Turchy	7/16/2021
FHWA (if applicable):	N/A	
Other	N/A	

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project BR-0002

**Prepared By:**

8/2/2021

Date

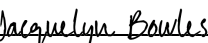
DocuSigned by:



Ahmad Al-Sharawneh  
NCDOT, Project Management Unit

**Prepared For:**

DocuSigned by:



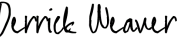
Jacquelyn Bowles, PE  
NCDOT, Structures Management Unit

**Reviewed By:**

8/3/2021

Date

DocuSigned by:



Derrick Weaver, PE, Unit Head  
NCDOT, Environmental Policy Unit

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**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.

8/2/2021

Date

FOR

DocuSigned by:



Keith Paschal, PE - Project Engineer – FO/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 July 2021)

**Ashe County  
Bridge No. 8 on NC 194 over North fork New River  
Federal Project No. N/A  
WBS No. 49071.1.1  
TIP No. BR-0002**

*Current status and new commitments are printed in italics:*

**Division Construction**

Bicycle Accommodations – Structure Design and Roadway Design Units. The design of the project will accommodate bicycles with paved shoulders and the approaches and regarding offset and bicycle safe rail on the bridge.

*Action: Five-foot shoulders on the bridge and approaches have been added on the plans for bicycles accommodation and 42-inch bike safe railing on the bridge have been added to the plans.*

**COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING**

**Division Construction**

*Special Conditions from the Revised 404 Permit issued June 15, 2020:*

3. *The permittee shall adhere to Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds.*
5. *The permittee shall ensure that any equipment that is placed on the causeway is removed when either of the following situations are forecasted or anticipated: (1) the water level will rise to a point where the equipment could be flooded (even during work days), and (2) the water level is expected to rise overnight, or over a non-work period of time, to a point where the equipment could be flooded.*
6. *Upon completion of work that requires the causeway to be in the river, the permittee shall remove all readily detectible causeway material, to the extent practicable, while removing as little of the original riverbed as possible.*

**Division Construction**

*Project Specific Condition from 401 Water Quality Certification issued April 6, 2020:*

7. *For the 16 linear feet of streams being impacted due to site dewatering activities, the site shall be graded to its preconstruction contours and revegetated with appropriate native species. [15ANCAC 02H.0506(b)(2)]*