

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

TIP Project No.	BR-0043
WBS Element	67043.1.1
Federal Aid Project No.	N/A

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is proposing to replace bridge 780151 on US 158 over US 29 in Rockingham County (Figure 1). A new bridge will be constructed on the same location as the existing bridge using staged construction to maintain traffic on-site throughout construction. The proposed action is listed in NCDOT's Bridge Program as project BR-0043.

Bridge number 780151 is located in Rockingham County just east of Reidsville and within its extra territorial jurisdiction and is part of the interchange that carries US 158 over US 29. In the immediate vicinity of the proposed project, the land is largely rural residential, agricultural, or undeveloped.

The existing bridge includes four 12-foot travel lanes, variable width left turn lanes, and shoulders. The bridge is approximately 220 feet long with four spans. The proposed replacement bridge would be approximately 167.5 feet long with four 12-foot lanes and dedicated left-turn lanes for the interchange ramps. Existing US 158/NC 14 west of the bridge is four lanes. Existing US 158 east of the bridge tapers down to two lanes. The proposed project improvements would begin approximately 678 feet west of the bridge and extend approximately 1,242 feet east of the bridge.

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace a structurally deficient bridge. Bridge No. 780151 is considered structurally deficient, with National Bridge Inventory (NBI) Condition Grades of 4 out of 9 for the deck, superstructure, and substructure (NBI Guide Items 58, 59, and 60, respectively, per the Federal Coding Guide), per the most recent National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) inspection data available. The current bridge was constructed in 1968 and is reaching the end of its useful life.

B. Consultation Phase: (Check one)

- ☒ Right-of-Way
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Other:

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

FHWA Class II (CE)

07/01/2019

Additional Notes: **Type I (A)**D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

This consultation is being completed due to the length of time that has passed since the CE was completed. There have been no changes to the status of water resources in the project footprint since the environmental document was completed.

Permanent Utility Easement (PUE) has been determined to be required for the project since completion of the CE. The PUE is required on a single property located south of US 158 along SR 2579 (Brooks Road) due to Duke Energy pole relocations. The total area of PUE is 428.03 sq. ft. (0.0098 acres). Minor additional right of way acquisition is needed to capture drainage impacts from the proposed design.

Permanent Drainage Easement (PDE) has been determined to be required for the project since completion of the CE. Approximately 318 square feet of PDE outside of the existing right of way is required to the east of US 29 at Sta. 39 +45.50. No additional impacts to water resources (Stream SB) are anticipated.

Tribal coordination letters were sent to the Catawba and Monacan Indian Nations requesting any comments on the project. No comments were received from the Catawba or Monacan Indian Nations.

Updates to the programmatic biological opinion for the Northern Long-eared bat are documented on the Project Commitments sheet.

Water resources and protected species were reviewed on August 25, 2022. The United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) lists the following federally protected species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within the study area:

- Roanoke logperch
- Atlantic pigtoe

Aquatic surveys completed in 2018 found poor habitat for Roanoke logperch, James spinymussel, and Atlantic pigtoe and found a biological conclusion of No Effect. Aquatic surveys will be updated prior to let.

Postcards will be distributed to property owners in the vicinity of the project to update them on the project status, preferred alternative, and project schedule prior to let.

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, David Stutts, PE, hereby verifies the involvement of the following staff and the incorporation of their technical input:

Design Engineer:	AECOM – Casey Morrison, PE	08/30/22
Environmental Specialist:	Erin Cheely	08/25/22
FHWA (if applicable):	Name	Date
Other:	Name	Date

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project BR-0043**Prepared By:**

9/9/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Celia Miars, AICP, Environmental Planner
AECOM**Prepared For:**

9/9/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Jacquelyn Bowles, PE
NCDOT Structures Management Unit**Reviewed By:**

9/9/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:



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John Jamison, Western 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.

9/9/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:



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David Stutts, PE – Project Engineer – PEF/Program Management
North Carolina Department of TransportationFHWA 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 8/25/2022)

Rockingham County
Replace Bridge No. 780151 on US 158 over US 29
Federal Project No. N/A
WBS No. 67043.1.1
TIP No. BR-0043

Updates to the project commitments shown in italics.

Division 7 Construction Northern Long-eared Bat

~~The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NCDOT for the NLEB in eastern North Carolina. The PBO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT projects and activities. The programmatic determination for NLEB for the NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8 is "May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect." The PBO will provide incidental take coverage for NLEB and will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for five years for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes Rockingham County, where the project is located. This level of incidental take is authorized from the effective date of final listing through April 30, 2020.~~

~~Project requirement for PBO compliance: After project completion, the contract administrator for construction must submit the actual amount of tree clearing reported in tenths of acres. This information should be submitted to the NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit-Biological Surveys Group.~~

The reporting of tree clearing acreage is no longer required.

*The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has revised the previous programmatic biological opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NCDOT for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in eastern North Carolina. The PBO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT projects and activities. Although this programmatic agreement covers Divisions 1-8, NLEBs are currently only known in 19 counties, but may potentially occur in 11 additional counties within Divisions 1-8. NCDOT, FHWA, and USACE have agreed to two conservation measures which will avoid/minimize mortality of NLEBs. These conservation measures only apply to the 30-current known/potential counties shown on Figure 2 of the PBO at this time. The programmatic determination for NLEB for the NCDOT program is **May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect**. The PBO will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for 10 years (effective through December 31, 2030) for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes Rockingham County, where Project BR-0043 is located.*

Figure I. Project Study Area

