

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	BR-0096
WBS Element	67096.1.1
Federal Aid Project No.	N/A

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

This project replaces bridge number 780176 on SR 1700 (Fisher Hill Road) over NC 14/NC 87 in Rockingham County (NCDOT Division 7). The existing bridge is a deteriorating fifty-six-year-old bridge with a low posted weight limit. The new bridge will have two 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders (). The bridge will be replaced on the existing alignment. During construction, traffic will be detoured onto the existing loop/ramp in the northwest quadrant of the SR 1700/NC 14-87 intersection; NC 14-87; Old NC 87; and NC 700 back to SR 1700. The detour is about 3.2 miles.

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)

- ☒ Type I(A) CE – Ground Disturbing Action 1/26/2023

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

There have not been any design alterations nor changes in predicted environmental impact for this project since the January 25, 2023 CE approval.

Federally Protected Species

Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a programmatic conference opinion (PCO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NCDOT for the tricolored bat (TCB) (*Perimyotis subflavus*) in eastern North Carolina. The PCO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT projects and activities. NCDOT, FHWA, and USACE have agreed to three conservation measures (listed in the PCO) which will avoid/minimize take to

TCBs. These conservation measures apply to all counties in Divisions 1-8. The programmatic determination for TCB for the NCDOT program is May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect. Once the TCB is officially listed, the PCO will become the programmatic biological opinion (PBO) by formal request from FHWA and USACE. The PBO will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for approximately five years (effective through December 31, 2028) for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes Rockingham County, where BR-0096 is located.

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, Sara Sherman, PE, hereby verifies the involvement of the following staff and the incorporation of their technical input:

Structure Design Engineer:	Kristy Alford, PE	11/16/23
Environmental Specialist:	N/A	N/A
FHWA (if applicable):	N/A	N/A
Other (Utility Design):	Andy Larrick, PE (David Martin Powell and Associates, Inc)	11/16/23

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project BR-0096

Prepared By:

12/18/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

Hannah Headrick

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Hannah Headrick
NCDOT – Environmental Policy Unit (EPU)

Prepared For:

DocuSigned by:

Sara Sherman

A6F8142EAEFD4DF...

Sara Sherman, PE
NCDOT – Project Management Unit (PMU)

Reviewed By:

12/18/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

John Jamison

CA084B4A6412432

John Jamison, PWS, CPM – Unit Head
NCDOT – Environmental Policy Unit (EPU)



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.

12/18/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

Morgan Weatherford

B8ED306C5CEB44E

Morgan Weatherford – Eastern Team Lead
NCDOT – Environmental Policy Unit (EPU)

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

N/A

Date

Yolonda Jordan, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

H. Project Commitments (as of December 14, 2023)

**Rockingham County
Replace Bridge 780176 on SR 1700 over NC 14/NC 87
WBS Element 67096.1.1
STIP Project No. BR-0096**

Integrated Mobility Bicycle Route Coordination

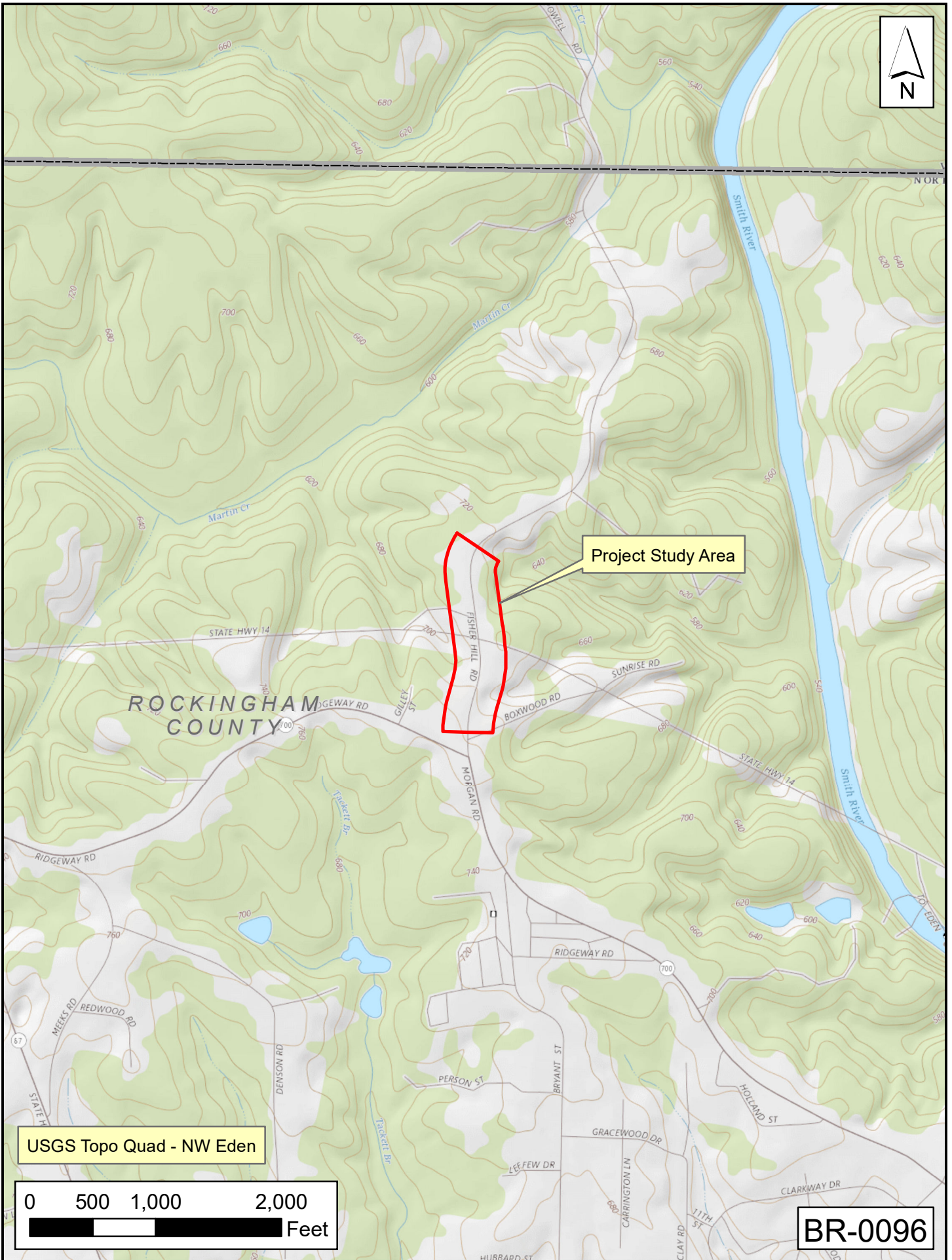
The NCDOT Project Manager will coordinate with Integrated Mobility Division and Division 7 construction staff to install “Watch for Bicyclists” signs along the detour route sections of NC 700 and Old NC 87.

This commitment is still valid.

Federally Protected Species

Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)

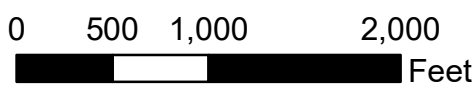
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ROCKINGHAM
COUNTY

Project Study Area

USGS Topo Quad - NW Eden



BR-0096