

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	<u>BR-0110</u>
WBS Element	<u>48819.1.1</u>
Federal Aid Project No.	<u>2020001</u>

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

This project is comprised of the Replacement of Bridge No. 060072 over Chocowinity Creek on SR 1127 (Possum Track Road) in Beaufort County, North Carolina. The bridge will be replaced on the existing alignment while detouring traffic offsite, see attached: Figure 1 - BR-0110 Project Location Map, and Figure 2 - BR-0110 Project Vicinity Map.

The proposed bridge will be approximately 97 feet long with a minimum clear roadway width of 30.8 feet. The approach roadway will extend approximately 146 feet and 267 feet on the west and east ends of the bridge, respectively. Two-foot paved shoulders will be provided on each side.

The replacement of Bridge No. 072 is part of the Growing Rural Economy and Agriculture through Transportation and Technology Enhancement or Replacement in North Carolina (GREATER-NC) Project under the United States Department of Transportation's 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program. The purpose of the grant and this bridge replacement project is to provide transportation infrastructure to support economic development and improve physical and digital connectivity in rural communities in North Carolina.

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) 8/21/2019

Additional Notes: **TYPE I A**

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

Design

No Substantial changes since completion of CE.

Water Resources

Water resources in the study area are part of the Tar-Pamlico River basin [United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit 03020104]. Water resources have not changed since the NRTR and CE were completed and the issuances of the USACE permit and DWR Water Quality Certification and Buffer Authorization in November 2019. Two streams, Meadow Branch and SB (Unnamed tributary to Chocowinity Creek) were identified in the study area. The project is in the Tar-Pamlico Buffer Basin and Chocowinity Creek is subject to the Tar-Pamlico Buffer rules.

Federally Protected Species

As of October 15, 2020, the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) lists twelve federally protected species, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), for Beaufort County. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) also lists the Atlantic sturgeon as potentially occurring in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin in Beaufort County. A review of NHP records on October 15, 2020 indicates no known new occurrences of any listed species within 1.0 mile of the project area.

Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB)

The USFWS has developed a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), USACE, and NCDOT for the NLEB (*Myotis septentrionalis*) 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 is May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect. The PBO provides 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 Beaufort County, where this project is located. This level of incidental take is authorized from the effective date of final listing through December 31, 2020 (the USFWS, FHWA, USACE, and NCDOT are coordinating to reinstate Section 7 to extend the PBO beyond this date).

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.

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

Design Engineer:	Sam Cullum	10/07/20
Hydraulic Unit	Jerry Snead	10/07/20
Environmental Specialist:	Deanna Riffey	10/20/20
FHWA (if applicable):	Name	Date
Other:	Name	Date


G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project BR-0110

Prepared By:

11/12/2020

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Verrol McLeary
NCDOT, Project Management Unit

Prepared For:

DocuSigned by:



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Jacquelyn Bowles, PE
NCDOT, Structures Management Unit

Reviewed By:

11/16/2020

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Colin Mellor,
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

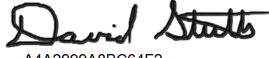


Certified

NCDOT staff certifies if FHWA signature was previously required or where changes have resulted in FHWA signature being required.

11/16/2020

Date

DocuSigned by:

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David Stutts, PE - Project Engineer – PEF/Program Management
North Carolina Department of Transportation

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 November 2020)

Beaufort County
Bridge No. 060072 over Chocowinity Creek on SR 1127 (Possum Track Road)
Federal Project No. 2020001
WBS No. 48819.1.1
TIP No. BR-0110

Status of project commitments as shown in the CE for the project are printed in italics.

NCDOT Division 2 – Emergency Services and School Transportation Coordination:

Southside High School and Beaufort County emergency services shall be notified of project construction at least one month prior to beginning of construction. Contact Beaufort County emergency services at (252) 946-2046 and Southside High School at (252) 940-1881.

Status: Update on November 4, 2020 from Division 2 construction Engineer's Office to notify Southside High School and Beaufort County emergency services at least one month prior to beginning of construction. This is a standard operation procedure.

NCDOT Division 2 – Access:

Access will be maintained throughout construction for the Edwards Cemetery and Southside High School to the west and east of the project.

Status: Update on November 4, 2020 that Division 2 construction Engineer's Office will maintain access for Edwards Cemetery and Southside High School which are to the west and east of the project throughout construction. This is a standard operation procedure.

NCDOT Hydraulics 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).

Status: Project is approved for FEMA NFIP compliance under our MOA with NCFMP.

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.

Status: This commitment will be fulfilled after the completion of the project construction.

NCDOT Hydraulic Unit–Buffer Rules

The project located in the Tar-Pamlico Buffer Basin and Chocowinity Creek is subject to the Tar-Pamlico Buffer rules.

Status: This is a standard project commitment.

Commitments from Permitting

No new special commitments were developed during permitting.

Attachments

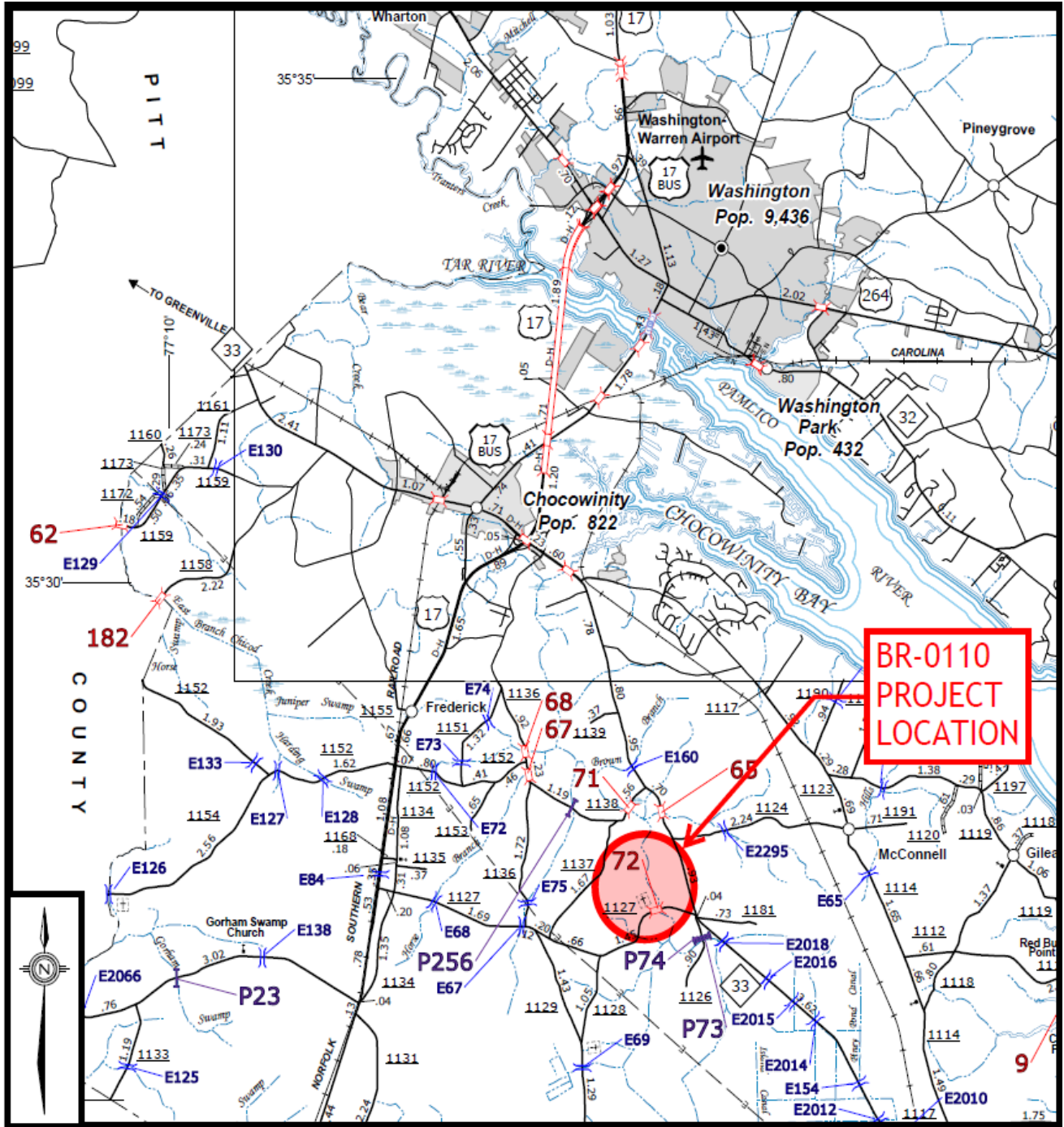


Figure 1: BR-0110 Project Location Map

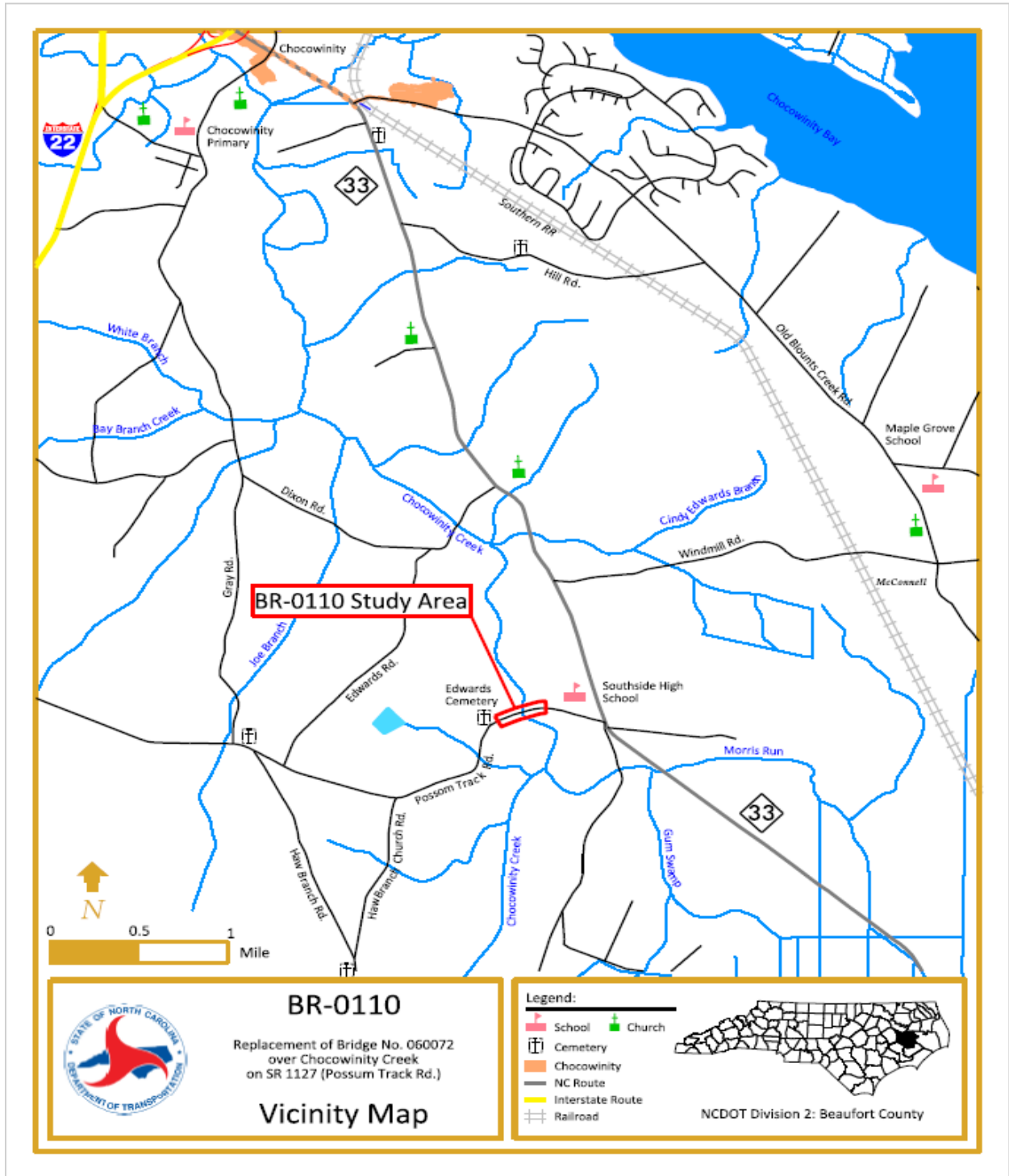


Figure 2: BR-0110 Vicinity Map