

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	BR-0126
WBS Element	48835.1.1
Federal Aid Project No.	2020001

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

- B. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 960667 on SR 1749 (Austin Traphill Road) over Sparks Creek, in Wilkes County. (Refer to Figure 3 in the consultation attachments.)

The project proposes to replace the existing structure with a 39-foot wide, two-span cored slab bridge, with two 11-foot travel lanes and a shoulder-width varying from three to 11.8 feet. The approach roadways will have two 11-foot travel lanes and three-foot unpaved shoulders, with guardrail at the bridge approaches. The proposed bridge will be 112 feet in length, with a proposed right-of-way ranging from 40 feet to 100 feet. Traffic will be detoured on-site during construction.

The replacement of Bridge No. 960667 is part of the *Growing Rural Economy and Agriculture through Transportation and Technology Enhancement or Replacement in North Carolina (GREATTER-NC) Project*, under the *United States Department of Transportation 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 to improve the physical and digital connectivity in rural communities in North Carolina. The existing, posted weight-restriction on Bridge No. 960667 prohibits large or heavy vehicles, typically used in transporting agricultural and manufactured, products from using the bridge. Vehicles above the posted weight must detour 7 miles to avoid the bridge. Replacing the existing bridge will eliminate posted weight limits by providing a safe crossing for all legal loads, and will create accommodations for broadband installation, to support economic competitiveness.

C. Consultation Phase: Construction

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



FHWA Class 1-II (Type IA CE 09-27-2019)

E. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

As documented in the issuance of the Section 404 permit, NCDOT revised the easements and stream impacts based on typical design progression. These design revisions are contained within the proposed project study area.

PROTECTED SPECIES: As of July 17, 2020, the USFWS lists four protected species for Wilkes County. A memo stating that NCDOT is compliant with 4(d), regarding the northern long-eared bat, was sent to USFWS (Claire Ellwanger) on 1/6/2020. No biological conclusion is required for bog turtle or rusty-patched bumble bee, and there is no habitat for gray bat present. Section 7 has been resolved for this project.

ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE: 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.

F. 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.

G. 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:

STV Design Engineer:	Kevin Bailey	10-08-2020
STV NEPA Specialist:	Michelle Lopez	10-08-2020
NCDOT Env. Specialist:	Erin Cheely	10-02-2020
NCDOT Cultural Resources:	Jamie Lancaster	10-12-2020
NCDOT Hydraulics:	Brian Radakovic	10-13-2020

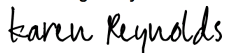
H. Construction Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project BR-0126:

Prepared By:

11/6/2020

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Karen S. Reynolds, PM
NCDOT, Project Management Unit

Prepared For:

11/9/2020

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Jacquelyn Bowles, PE
NCDOT, Structures Management Unit

Reviewed By:

11/6/2020

Date

DocuSigned by:



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John Jamison, Western 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.

11/9/2020

Date

DocuSigned by:



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David Stutts, PE, Project Engineer, PEF/Project 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.

Date

N/A

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

I. Project Commitments (as of 10-30-2020)

Wilkes County
Replace Bridge No. 960667 on SR 1749 (Austin Traphill Road) over Sparks Creek
WBS No. 48835.1.1
Project No. BR-0126

Changes to the project commitments as shown in the CE for the project, are printed in italics.

NCDOT Hydraulics Unit
Floodplain Mapping 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).

Coordination initiated on January 31, 2020, resulted in approval on June 3, 2020, for the FEMA NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) under the NCDOT MOA with the FMP.

NCDOT Hydraulics Unit, NCDOT Division 11
FEMA Coordination

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.

This commitment is still valid.

NCDOT Structures Management Unit
Public Involvement Newsletter

Prior to ROW Acquisition beginning, newsletters will be sent by STV staff on behalf of the NCDOT, informing affected property owners of the project impacts.

This commitment has been accomplished.

NCDOT Division 11
Agricultural Land Use

Continued coordination should occur through right-of-way acquisition, with the owners of the agricultural lands that are impacted by the right-of-way needs for the project.

This commitment is still valid or has been accomplished.

NCDOT Division 11
Continued Coordination with Schools and Emergency Services

NCDOT should coordinate with Wilkes County Schools (Eric Barker, 336-667-1126) and Wilkes County Emergency Services (Timothy Pennington, 336-651-7363), at least one month prior to construction.

This commitment is still valid.

COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING:

No special commitments were made during permitting.