

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
**PROJECT NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM**  
STIP No. I-5711

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. Consultation Phase: Construction
- b. Project Description: Interchange Improvement at I-40/I-85 and  
Mebane Oaks Road (SR 1007)  
Alamance County
- c. STIP Project Nos.: I-5711  
WBS Nos.: 50401.1.FS1  
State Project Nos.: C204352  
Federal Project Nos.: NHPP-040-4(161)220
- d. Class of Action: Type III Categorical Exclusion      November 2017

II. CONCLUSIONS

The subject project proposes improvements to the existing interchange at I-40/I-85 and Mebane Oaks Road (SR 1007) in Alamance County. A Type III Categorical Exclusion Checklist Form was completed for the project in November 2017, noting the presence of six underground storage tanks within the project limits (with a low anticipated risk) and that the project would involve minor shifts to existing control of access along Mebane Oaks Road.

The above environmental document has been reevaluated as required by 23 CFR 711. It was determined that the current proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposed action. Proposed changes are noted below in Section III. It has been determined that anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts were accurately described in the above referenced documents unless noted otherwise below. Therefore, the original Administrative Action remains valid.

III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

**Project Description**

The proposed improvements to the interchange at I-40/I-85 and Mebane Oaks Road are

intended to improve traffic operations and safety of Mebane Oaks Road in the project area. The project would widen Mebane Oaks Road from south of the entrance to the Garrett Crossing shopping center to Arrowhead Boulevard. The improvements would include widening the existing bridge over I-40/I-85, constructing pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, and constructing a median island in some locations.

Traffic analysis for the current proposed design concluded traffic would operate with no significant changes to level of service or safety compared to the preliminary design.

### **Changes in Proposed Action**

The project design has been advanced since the Type III Categorical Exclusion Checklist Form was completed for the project in November 2017. Notable modifications that have been incorporated into the current proposed design are:

- Additional right-of-way was acquired along both sides of Mebane Oaks Road from the entrance to the Garrett Crossing shopping center to the end of the project to accommodate potential future widening of Mebane Oaks Road.
- Additional right-of-way was acquired on the east side of Mebane Oaks Road across from the entrance to the Garrett Crossing shopping center to allow a bulb-out for the future extension of Wilson Road.

These modifications occur within the study area previously addressed in the 2017 environmental document.

### **Environmental Consequences**

The design modifications described above will occur within the study area identified in the 2017 environmental document for the project.

#### **Water Resources**

There are no jurisdictional features within the project footprint; no 404/401/buffer permitting is anticipated based on the current design.

#### **Federally Protected Species**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has added two species to their protected species list for Alamance County (none were listed previously). The Cape Fear shiner a fish species now listed as an endangered in Alamance County; this listing is “Range by Basin” and the project area is within the range of this species. However, there are no water bodies in the project footprint, so the biological conclusion will be No Effect for the Cape Fear shiner. The Atlantic pigtoe is a freshwater mussel species that is proposed for listing as a Threatened species in Alamance County. Due to the absence of water bodies in the project area, the project would have no effect on the Atlantic pigtoe.

Community Resources

The design modifications are not expected to result in additional impacts to community resources, including EJ and LEP communities.

Other Environmental Factors

The design changes for the project have no substantive changes on the project's previously documented effects on other environmental factors. This includes cultural resources, farmlands, hazardous materials, and indirect and cumulative effects.

Agency Coordination

No agency coordination has been necessary since completion of the Categorical Exclusion document.

IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

NCDOT will implement standard best management practices to avoid and minimize environmental impacts. The attached "Green Sheet" summarizes current commitments.

V. COORDINATION

NCDOT personnel have discussed the current project with others as noted herein.

Environmental Policy: John Jamison 12-6-2019  
Date

ECAP: Michael Turchy 12-10-2019  
Date

VI. CONSULTATION APPROVAL FOR NCDOT PROJECT TIP I-5711

**Prepared By:**

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12/18/2019

Kristin Maseman, AICP CEP  
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Date

**Prepared For:** NCDOT Project Management Unit

**Reviewed By:**

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12/18/2019

John Jamison  
Western Regional Team Lead, Divisions - 7, 9-14  
Environmental Policy Unit  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

**Approved**

In adherence with 23 CFR (NEPA), NCDOT approves this Consultation.

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Laura Sutton, P.E.  
PMU Team Lead, Divisions - 7, 9, & 10  
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**FHWA Approved:**

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12/18/2019

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

Date

# PROJECT COMMITMENTS

**Alamance County**  
**I-85/I-40 Interchange Improvements at SR 1007 (Mebane Oaks Road)**  
**Federal Project No. NHPP-040-4(161)220**  
**WBS No. 50401.1.FS1**  
**TIP No. I-5711**

*This "Green Sheet" identifies the project commitments made to avoid, minimize, or mitigate project impacts beyond those required to comply with applicable federal and state requirements and regulations.*

Item	Responsible NCDOT Division/ Unit	Project Commitment	Status
1	Hydraulics Unit	The project shall adhere to Jordan Lake Buffer Rules.	<i>There are no buffered resources within the limits of the current proposed design.</i>
2	Division 7 Construction	Hurdle Field 4W7, a grass air strip, is located to the northwest of the project. Coordination with the air strip will take place during construction to insure that construction equipment does not violate any FAA air surfaces.	<i>This commitment no longer applies, since this air strip has been permanently closed.</i>
3	Division 7 Traffic	A Municipal Agreement with the City of Mebane will be necessary if the City of Mebane Fire Department formally requests a GPS Preemption System within the project limits.	<i>The GPS Preemption System was installed 1/15/2019 per the provisions set forth in a Right of Way Encroachment Agreement between NCDOT and the City of Mebane that was executed on 11/19/2018.</i>