

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM
T.I.P. No. U-3330**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Consultation Phase:** Right-of-Way
- B. Project Description:** US 301 Bypass Improvements
Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Nash County
- C. Federal Project No.:** STP-301 (28)
WBS No: 36596
- D. Document Type:** FONSI 1-8-2013
Date

II. CONCLUSIONS

The subject environmental document has been reevaluated as required by 23 CFR 771. 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 herein. Therefore, the original Administration Action remains valid.

III. CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Project Commitments are attached. No additional obligations are listed.

Design Changes

Since the Categorical Exclusion was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in January 2008, several changes in design have occurred - which reduced stream and wetland impacts but increased impacts to riparian buffers.

To enhance understanding of design changes and associated environmental impacts, this Consultation includes five figures from the FONSI:

Exhibit 2.1 is a Location Map

Exhibits 3.1a to 3.1c depict the preferred Alternative A1, which widens US 301 from four to six lanes, as presented as a new “hybrid alternative” in the FONSI.

Exhibit 9.1 – shows stream and wetland locations, as well as a newly-classified jurisdictional stream.

Specific Changes in Design:

1. The southern project terminus will be extended southward through the May Drive intersection, to incorporate repaving over existing pavement. This activity does not add any impervious area or create additional impacts.
2. During design phase, an unnamed tributary was newly-classified as a jurisdictional stream. See Exhibit 9.1: The stream is located on the west side of US 301, and south of Stoney Creek. To minimize impacts to this resource, NCDOT proposes to construct a retaining wall to limit fill from the US 301 widening.

Construction Staging and Traffic Control

Traffic control plans are presently being developed to accommodate during-construction traffic. Typical plans are anticipated; however designers are focusing on the Stony Creek bridge replacement, and a replacement bridge with increased vertical clearance that will carry US 64 business over the US 301 Bypass.

Jurisdictional Resource Impacts

Stream and wetland impacts have reduced since the FONSI as a result of design modifications, while riparian buffer impacts have increased slightly. See Exhibit 9.1.

With regard to riparian buffers, a new jurisdictional stream was identified to the west side of Stoney Creek (Exhibit 9.1). NCDOT minimized impacts by proposing a retaining wall at this location; however 0.24 acres of buffer impact remain. In addition, 0.22 acres of buffer are impacted with improvements to the existing culvert location on Goose Branch. Total buffer impacts are estimated to be 0.46 acres.

Compared below are the FONSI impacts and currently-envisioned worst-case impacts:

	<u>FONSI</u>	<u>Current Impacts</u>	<u>Change</u>
Wetland	0.81 acres	0.36 acres	- 0.45 acres
Stream	151 lf	47 lf	- 104 lf
Buffer	0.07 acres	0.46 acres (net)	+ 0.39 acres

Wetland impacts of 0.36 acre fall within the threshold of a Nationwide 14 Permit.

Water Resources

Water resource classifications have not changed since the FONSI was completed.

Protected Species

As of January 24, 2014 the USFWS lists four federally protected species for Nash County (Table 1). This list has not changed since the FONSI was completed in 2013.

Table 1. Federally protected species listed for Robeson County.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGPA	No	N/A
Dwarf wedgemussel	<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	E	No	No Effect
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	No	No Effect
Tar River spiny mussel	<i>Elliptio steinstansana</i>	E	No	No Effect

Key: E= Endangered, T(S/A)= Threatened(Similarity of Appearance)

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) database, updated April 2014, indicated no occurrences of a protected species within one mile of the project study area.

IV. LIST OF SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

NCDOT will implement all practical measures and procedures to minimize and avoid environmental impacts. See the attached list of Project Commitments and its updates.

V. COORDINATION

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch personnel have discussed current project proposals with others as follows:

Roadway Design Engineer:	<u>Andrew Young, P.E.</u>	<u>7-9-2014</u> Date
Structural Engineer:	<u>Krishna Sedai, P.E.</u>	<u>7-9-2014</u> Date
Hydraulics Engineer:	<u>William Zerman, P.E.</u>	<u>7-10-2014</u> Date
Permits Section:	<u>Gordon Cashin</u>	<u>7-9-2014</u> Date
NCDOT Division 6:	<u>Wendi Johnson, P.E.</u>	<u>7-9-2014</u> Date
FHWA Engineer:	<u>Ron Lucas</u>	<u>8-29-2014</u> Date

VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE



Thomas E. Devens, P.E.
Project Development Engineer

8/29/2014

Date



Brian F. Yamamoto, P.E.
Group Leader

9/2/14

Date

FOR 

Richard W. Hancock, Manager
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit

9/2/14

Date

VII. FHWA CONCURRENCE



Federal Highway Administration, Area Engineer

10-8-14

Date

PROJECT COMMITMENTS

US 301 BYPASS IMPROVEMENTS ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA

TIP PROJECT NO. U-3330 WBS PROJECT NO. 36596.1.1.1 PROJECT COMMITMENTS

Hydraulics Unit / Roadside Environmental Unit

To reduce the potential for stormwater pollution to Section 303(d) listed water bodies and the City of Rocky Mount's water supply watershed and intake critical area, the NCDOT will 1) include stormwater treatment devices in the proposed roadway's final design; and 2) utilize protective sediment and erosion control best management practices (BMPs) during construction as detailed in 15A NCAC 4B .0124 (*Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds*). Final design of the proposed project will maintain adherence to the Tar-Pamlico Riparian Buffer Rules.

During final design, the hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), the delegated state agency for administering FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, to determine status of the project with regard to applicability of NCDOT's Memorandum of Agreement with FMP (dated 6/5/08), or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

~~The southern portion of the project, which encompasses the UT to the Tar River, is within a water supply watershed (WS-IV) for the City of Rocky Mount and within the water supply "critical area" which is defined as the land within a 0.5-mile upstream radius of a water intake. Measures will be taken to restrict construction limits to the north of the drainage divide. However, if construction limits cannot be maintained north of the drainage divide, then NCDOT Hydraulics Unit will investigate the need for hazardous spill containment measures during the final design stage.~~

~~The portion of U-3330 that lies within the critical area (at the beginning of the project) does not drain to a blue line on the quad. During final design this was confirmed and as such according to the guidelines a hazardous spill basin is not required for U-3330. Therefore the commitment paragraph above is shown in strikethrough font to indicate it will be removed from further consideration.~~

Hydraulics / NCDOT Division 4

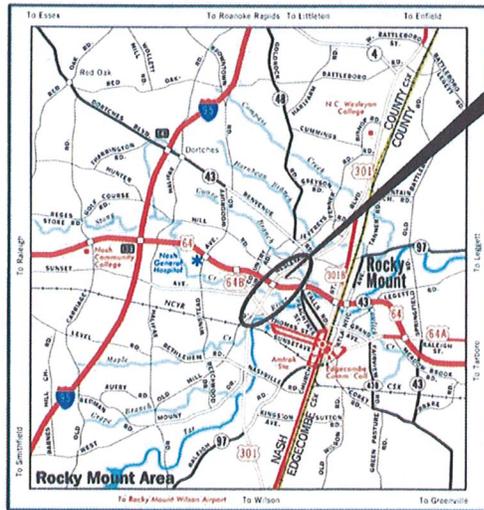
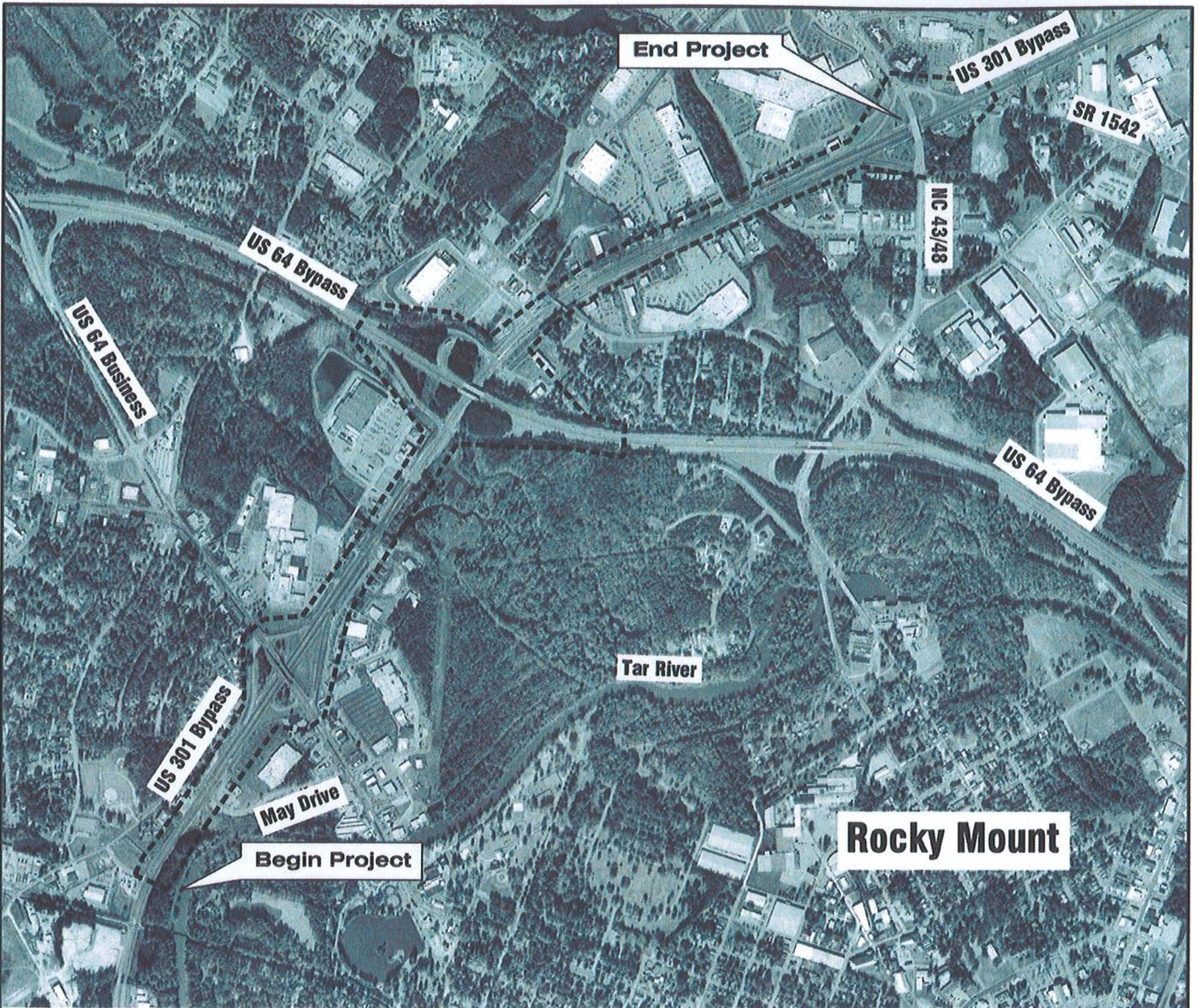
This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction, certifying that the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment that are located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.

Roadway Design / Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

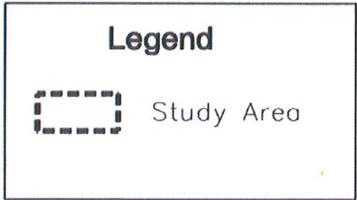
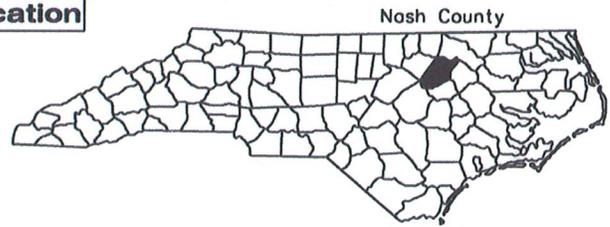
Noise Walls:

A wall that is 10 feet in height and 1,070 feet long was found to be feasible based on a planning level noise analysis. Based on NCDOT Noise Abatement Policy, a design noise wall analysis will be conducted during final design to further investigate the feasibility of a wall at this location.

The project noise analysis was conducted in 2008, showing affects to the Rosedale subdivision. Specifically, NCDOT desired to determine whether a noise wall will be constructed adjacent to the southbound entrance ramp to US 301 from US 64 Business. In 2011 however; new federal requirements emerged which have caused PDEA to initiate an updated Noise and Air analysis of the project length. The analysis will determine whether any noise walls are justified, and further coordination with local residents will determine whether a specific noise wall is desired/built. Noise wall decisions will be made during the final design phase, but these decisions may not precede the right-of-way start date.

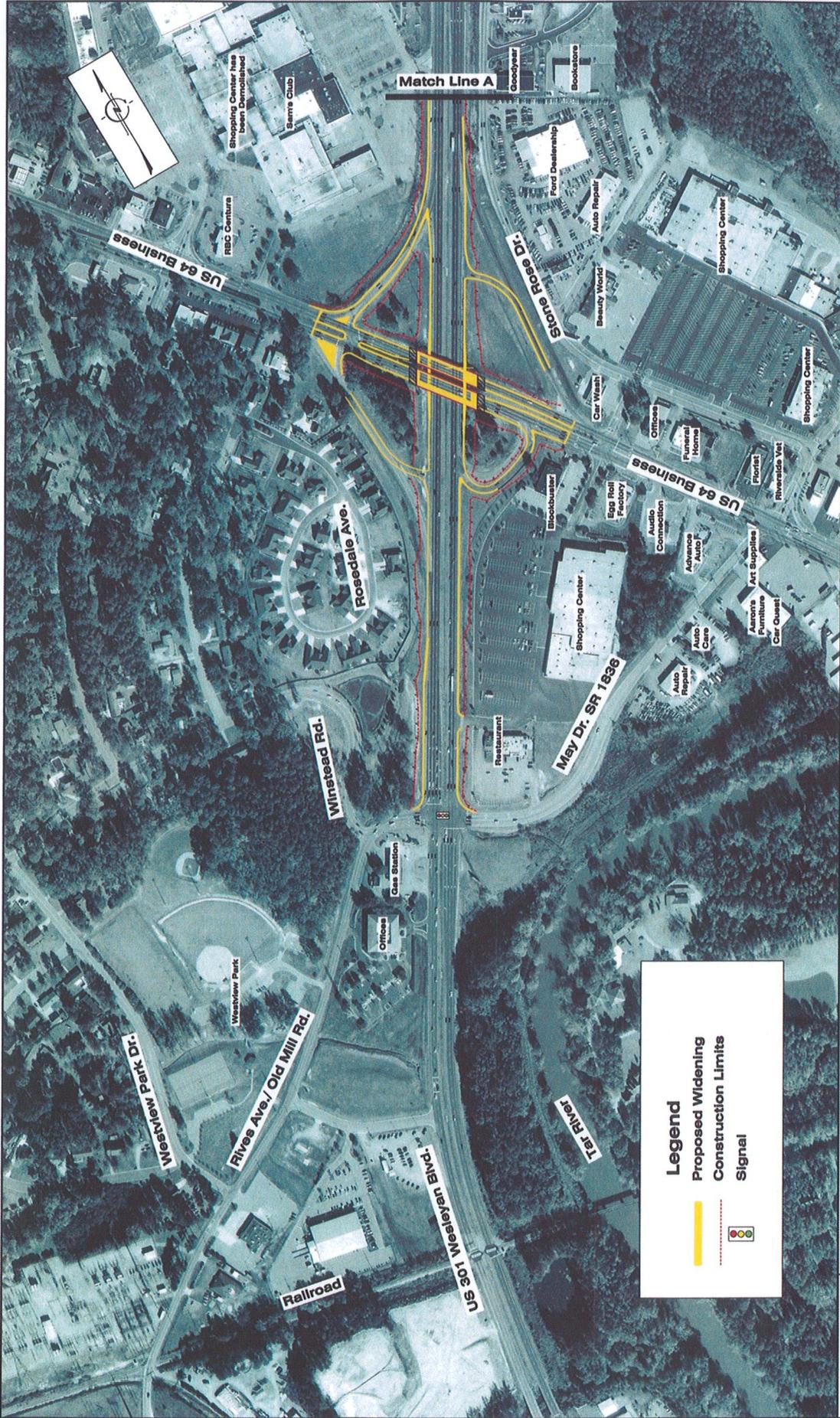


Project Location



US 301 Bypass
 TIP No. U-3330
 SR 1836 (May Drive) to NC 43/48 (Benvenue Road)
 Nash County, North Carolina

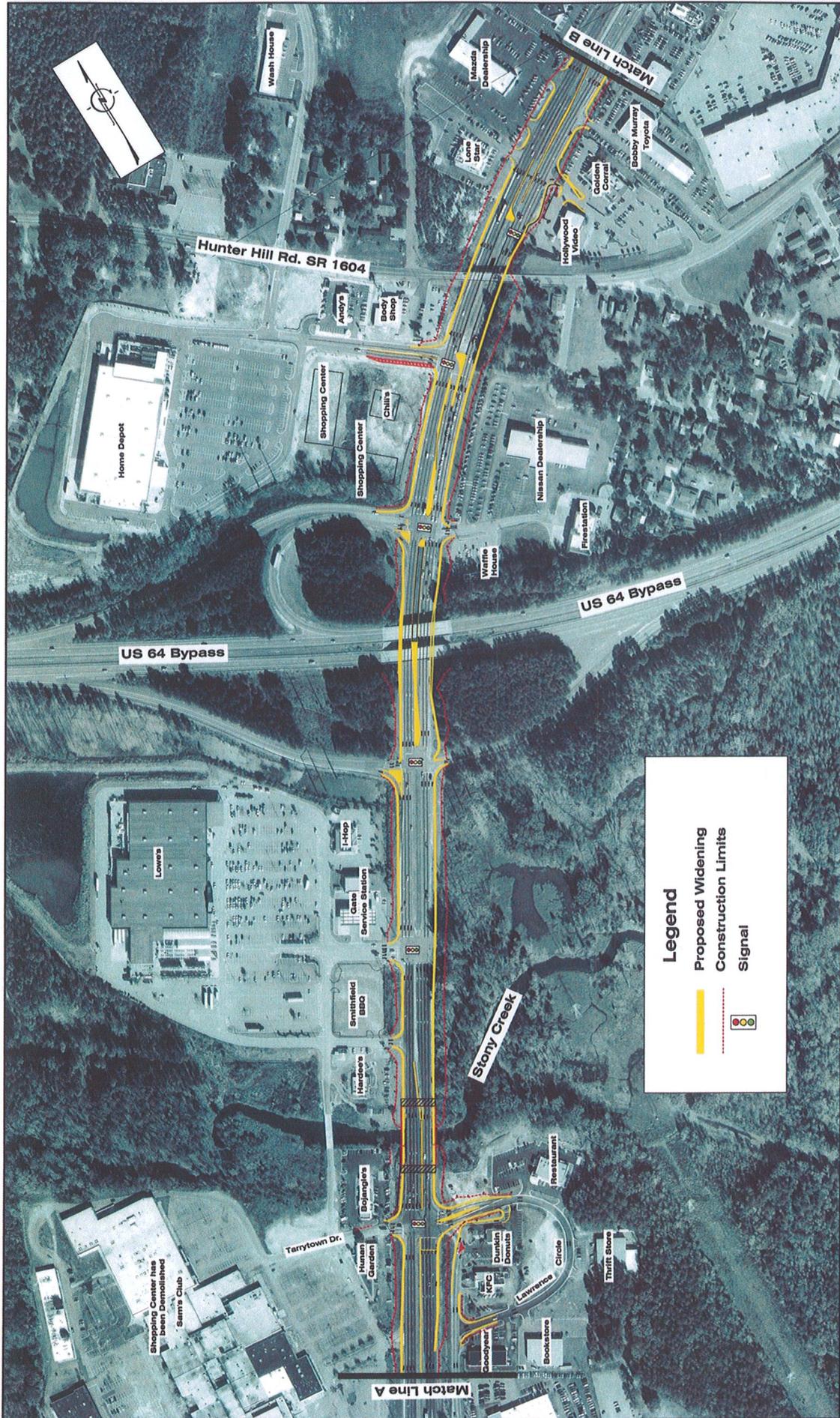
**Project Location
 and Study Area Map
 Not To Scale
 Exhibit 2.1**



Preferred Alternative
 Alternative A1
 Scale: 1" = 300'
 Exhibit 3.3a

US 301 Bypass
 TIP No. U-3330
 SR 1836 (May Drive) to NC 43/48 (Benvenue Road)
 Nash County, North Carolina





Preferred Alternative A1
 Alternative A1
 Scale: 1" = 300'
 Exhibit 3.3b

US 301 Bypass
 TIP No. U-3530
 SR 1836 (May Drive) to NC 43/48 (Benvenue Road)
 Nash County, North Carolina

Legend

- Proposed Widening
- Construction Limits
- Signal





Legend

- Proposed Widening
- Construction Limits
- Signal

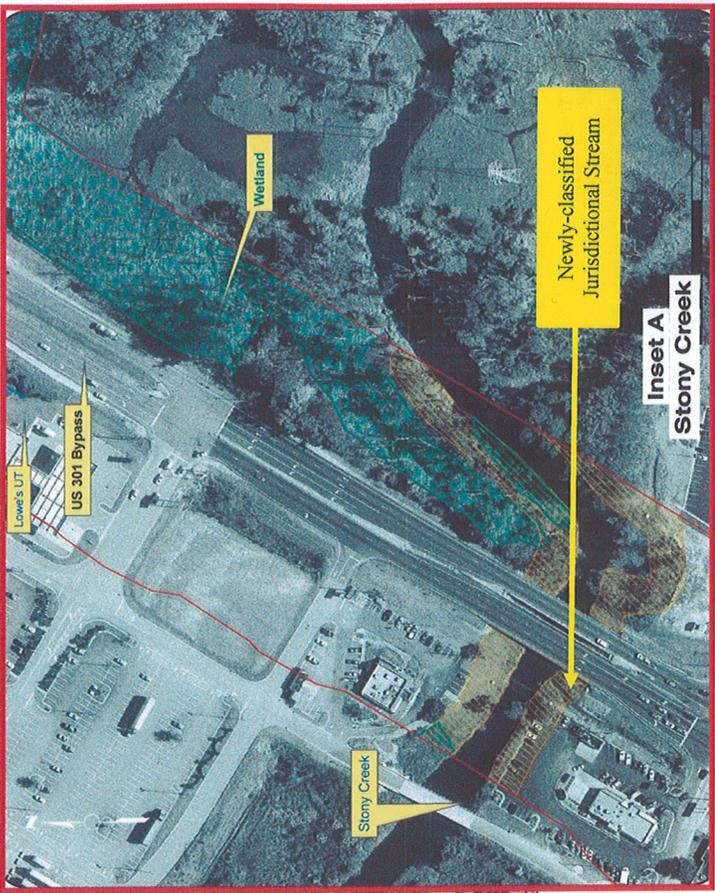
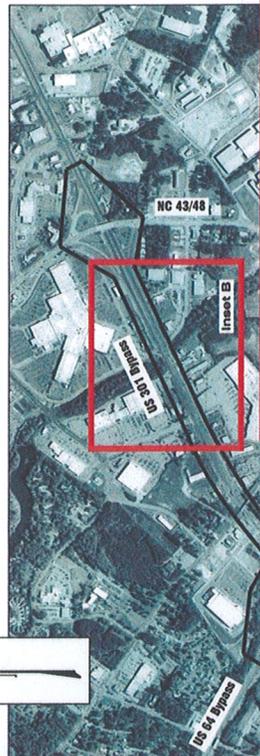
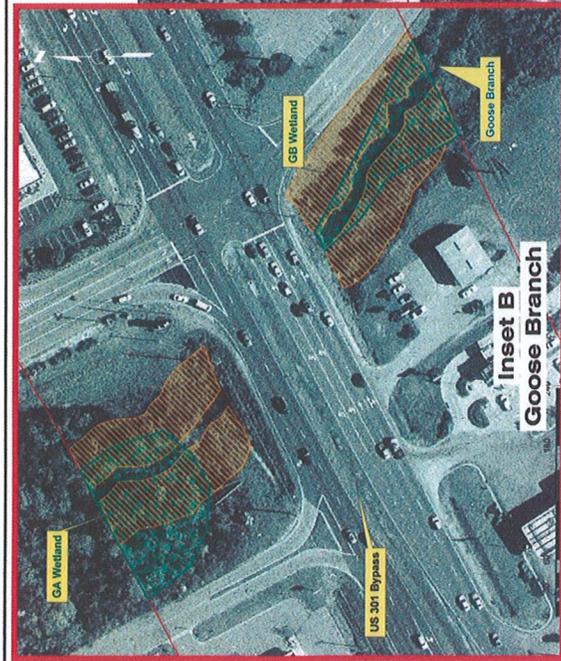
Preferred Alternative
 Alternative A1
 Scale: 1" = 300'
 Exhibit 3.3c

US 301 Bypass
 TIP No. U-3330
 SR 1836 (May Drive) to NC 43/48 (Benvenue Road)
 Nash County, North Carolina



Legend

-  Study Area
-  50 foot Riparian Buffer
-  Wetlands
-  City of Rocky Mount Water Supply Critical Intake Area
-  Water Supply Watershed (WS-IV)
-  Limits of Wetland and Stream Delineations



Riparian Buffers
and Water Supply
Watersheds
Not To Scale
Exhibit 9.1

US 301 Bypass
TIP No. U-3330
SR 1896 (May Drive) to NC 43/48 (Benvenue Road)
Nash County, North Carolina

