

PROJECT COMMITMENTS

NC 273 (South Main Street)
From Tuckaseege Road (at Beatty Drive) to Highland Street (at A&E Drive),
Widen to Multi-Lanes, Mount Holly
Gaston County
Federal Aid Project STP-273-(1)
WBS Element 37649.1.1
STIP Project No. U-3633

NCDOT Division 12

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

Roadside Environmental Unit

NCDWQ requests Design Standards for Sensitive Watersheds be adhered to in any area that drains to streams with WS-CA classifications.

NCDOT Hydraulics Unit

The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Flood Plain 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).

The Best Usage Classifications for the unnamed tributaries (UT-1 and UT-2) to Catawba River are WS-IV;CA and there is a structure located within one half mile of the this Critical Area, therefore Hazardous Spill Basins will be required.

Roadway Design, Program Development

The construction of a sidewalk, where included in the proposed project, will be dependent upon a cost-sharing and maintenance agreement between NCDOT and the City of Mount Holly as outlined in NCDOT's *Pedestrian Policy Guidelines* dated October 1, 2000.

ACTION:

Municipal agreement pending.

Project Development and Environmental Analysis –Natural Environment Section

A survey for Schweinitz's sunflower and any necessary coordination with the USFWS will be completed prior to construction.

ACTION:

A survey for Schweinitz's sunflower was conducted on July 8, 2014.

North Carolina Department of Transportation
UPDATED PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM
I. D. No. U-3633

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. Consultation Phase: Right-of-Way Consultation
- b. Project Description: NC 273 (South Main Street), From Tuckaseege Road (at Beatty Drive) to Highland Street (at A&E Drive), Widen to Multi-Lanes, Mount Holly, Gaston County
- c. Federal Project: STP-273-(1)
WBS No: 37649.1
- d. Document Type: Categorical Exclusion 8/2012

II. CONCLUSIONS

The above 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, if any, are noted below in Section III. 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.

III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

There are no changes in potential environmental effects from those presented in the Categorical Exclusion (CE). The attached memorandum dated July 18, 2014 addresses water resources and the protected species potentially impacted by the project and updates the referenced CE.

An additional intermittent jurisdictional stream was identified within the project area in 2013; however the water classifications for all jurisdictional streams within the project area remain as stated in the CE.

As of January 14, 2014, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists two federally protected species for Gaston County. Schweinitz's sunflower is the only listed species with habitat within the project area. Surveys for this species were conducted in 2009, 2011, and 2013; no Schweinitz's sunflower specimens were observed. There is a known population within a mile of this project. Coordination in July 2014 with

USFWS determined a biological conclusion of "No Effect" was appropriate after confirmation that all construction activities will occur within the studied project area.

A USFWS proposal for the listing of the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as an endangered species was published in the Federal Register in October 2013. The listing will become effective on or before April 2015. Furthermore, this species is included in the USFWS's current list of protected species for Gaston County. NCDOT will continue to coordinate with USFWS.

IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

NCDOT will implement all practical measures and procedures to minimize and avoid environmental impacts. See the attached Project Commitments, Green Sheet for the environmental commitments developed during the project.

V. COORDINATION

PDEA personnel have discussed current project proposals with others as follows:

Roadway Design Engineer	Jason Moore	Date	7/15/14
Hydraulics Engineer	Stephen Morgan	Date	7/24/14
Environmental Specialist	Erin Cheely	Date	7/18/14
Soil and Water Operations Engineer	Mark Staley	Date	7/14/14
Division 12	Larry Carpenter	Date	9/05/14
Structure Design	Laura Sutton	Date	7/11/14
FHWA	Mitch Batuzich	Date	9/22/14

VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE

Angela Sanderson

Angela Sanderson
NCDOT-PDEA-Western Region

9/22/14

Date

Stacy Oberhausen

Stacy Oberhausen, PE
NCDOT-PDEA-Western Region

09.22.2014

Date

Michael Batuzich
Mitch Batuzich
FHWA

9-22-14

Date



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT L. MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

July 18, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Angela Sanderson, Project Planning Engineer
Project Development Section

FROM: Erin Cheely, Environmental Specialist
Natural Environment Section (NES), Project Management Group

SUBJECT: Water resources and protected species review for a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Right of Way Consultation for the proposed widening of NC 273 (South Main Street) from Tuckasee Road to Highland Street in Gaston County. Federal Aid Project No. STP-273-(1), WBS Element 37649.1.1, Division 12, TIP No. U-3633.

REFERENCE: Categorical Exclusion (CE), signed August 2012
Right of Way Consultation, signed July 2013

WATER RESOURCES

Water classifications within the project area have not changed since the 2012 CE. The North Carolina Final 303(d) list has been updated from 2010 to 2012 since the CE. However, no changes were made to streams within or within 1.0 mile of the project area, therefore the 303(d) information from the CE remains valid.

An additional intermittent jurisdictional stream (SE) was identified within the project area in 2013. It is depicted on the attached map.

PROTECTED SPECIES

As of January 14, 2014 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists two federally protected species for Gaston County (bog turtle and Schweinitz's sunflower). Of the two listed species, only Schweinitz's sunflower has suitable habitat within the project area. Surveys for this species were conducted on September 28, 2009; September 28, 2011 and October 1, 2013 and no individuals were found. There is a known population of Schweinitz's sunflower less than half a mile away from the project, therefore USFWS was contacted to determine the appropriate

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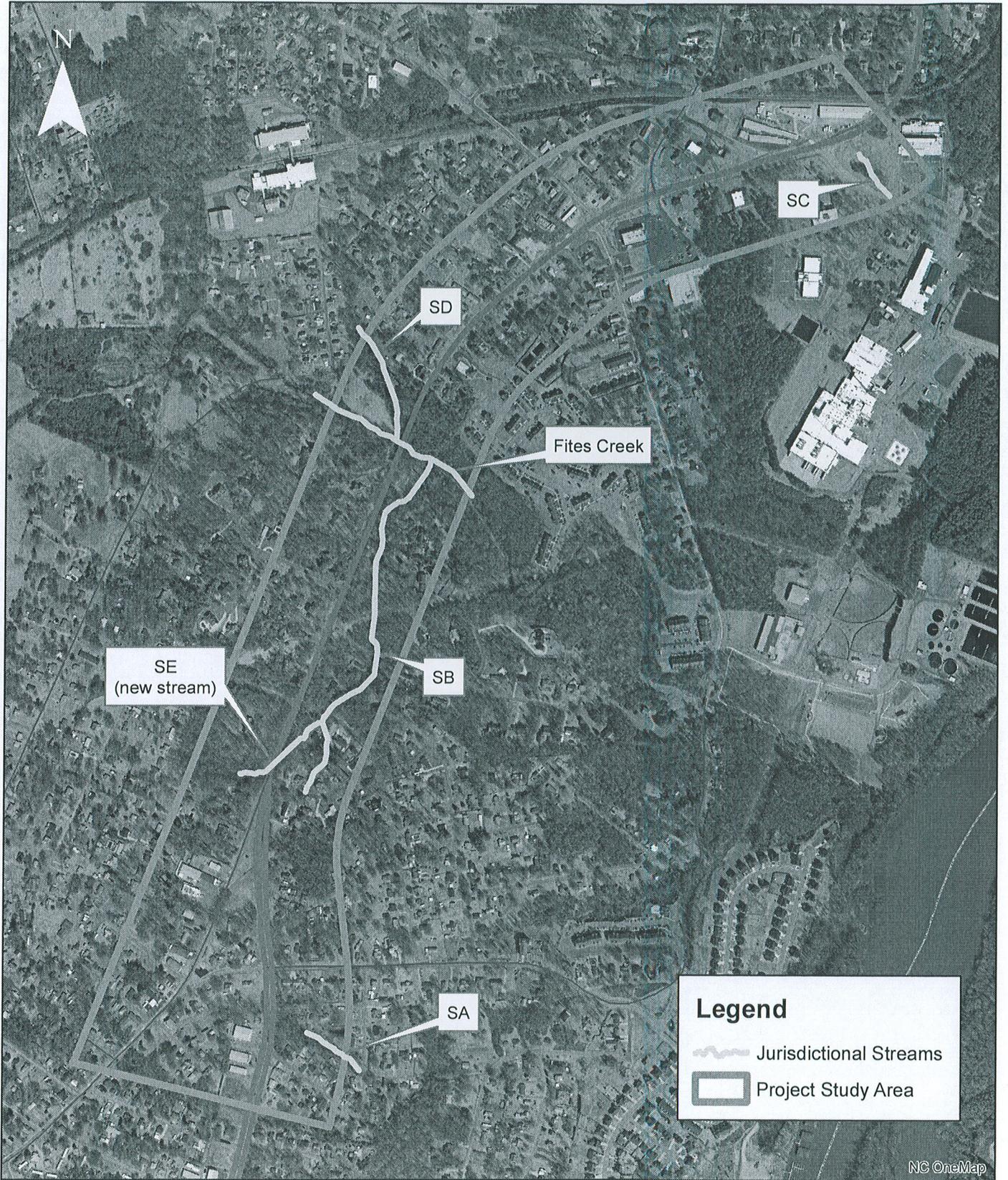
biological conclusion for this species. It was determined via e-mail communication with Marella Buncick of USFWS on July 8, 2014 that a “**No Effect**” biological conclusion for Schweinitz’s sunflower was appropriate so long as all construction activities (including utility relocations) occur within the studied project area. The Utilities Unit has been notified to alert NES if any areas outside the project study area will be utilized for utility relocations so they can be surveyed for Schweinitz’s sunflower. Per the NCDOT Utilities Unit via e-mail July 16, 2014, all planned relocations will occur within the studied project area.

A USFWS proposal for listing the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as an Endangered species was published in the Federal Register in October 2013. The listing will become effective on or before April, 2015. Furthermore, this species is included in USFWS’s current list of protected species for Gaston County. NCDOT is working closely with the USFWS to understand how this proposed listing may impact NCDOT projects. NCDOT will continue to coordinate appropriately with USFWS to determine if this project will incur potential effects to the Northern long-eared bat, and how to address these potential effects, if necessary.

GREENSHEET COMMITMENTS

NES has fulfilled the last commitment (see "Protected Species" above).

U-3633 Jurisdictional Resources



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

NC OneMap