

North Carolina Department of Transportation

NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	<u>U-4758</u>
WBS Element	<u>40251.1.1</u>
Federal Aid Project No.	<u>0710025/0710027</u>

A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to improve Johnson Street (SR 1818) and Sandy Ridge Road (SR 1850) from Skeet Club Road (SR 1820) to Interstate 40 (I- 40) in the City of High Point and Guilford County. The project is approximately 4.4 miles long. The purposes of this project are to improve existing and projected traffic flow and capacity on Johnson Street and Sandy Ridge Road, to provide facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists along the corridor, and to provide a facility that conforms to NCDOT roadway design standards.

B. Consultation Phase: (Check one)

- Right-of-Way
- Construction
- Other

C. NEPA/SEPA Class of Action Initially Approved as: (Check one)

- FHWA Class II (CE) 11/29/2018

Additional Notes: **Type III**

D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

Design Changes

No major design changes have occurred since the signing of the CE. Temporary drainage and construction easements will be required to reconnect the entrance of the Johnson Street Sports Complex to the widened road. Both Section 4(f) FHWA and 6(f) LWCF regulations apply to this property. The Section 4(f) compliance for Johnson Street Sports Complex will meet the five criteria for temporary occupancy and will be satisfied by NCDOT; therefore, the impacts to this property do not constitute a Section 4(f) use. The 6(f) compliance for Johnson Street Sports Complex is being coordinated with the City and NC State Parks and will be completed prior to construction authorization.

Water Resources

The water classifications and resources within the project area have not changed since completion of the CE.

Protected Species

The list of federally protected species has changed since completion of the Natural Resources Technical Report (NRTR) as referenced in the CE (see table below). The Schweinitz's sunflower was recently added to the list of federally protected species for Guilford County. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate flowering season for the species (Fall 2021). Construction Authorization will not be requested until Section 7 consultation is resolved for the project.

Federally protected species listed for Guilford County.

Species	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion
Small whorled pogonia	Threatened	Yes	No Effect
Northern long-eared bat	Threatened	Yes	May Effect, Likely to Adversely Affect (Programmatic biological opinion will be used)
<i>Added since the completion of the NRTR:</i>			
Cape Fear shiner	Endangered	Outside of Range	n/a
Roanoke logperch	Endangered	Outside of Range	n/a
Schweinitz's sunflower	Endangered	Yes	TBD ¹

¹Schweinitz's sunflower was recently added to the list of protected species for Guilford County. Surveys will be conducted during the flowering season in September and October 2021.

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

Design Engineer:	Bruce Payne, PE, Atkins	8/6/21
Environmental Coord.:	Michael Turchy	8/8/21
Historic Archeology:	Paul Mohler	8/18/21
FHWA:	Suzette Morales, PE	8/12/21

G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project U-4758

Prepared By:

10/20/21

Date

DocuSigned by:



Eugene Tarascio, Project Manager
NCDOT, PMU Team C, Divisions – 7,9, & 10

Prepared For:

Laura E. Sutton, PE

NCDOT, PMU Team C, Divisions – 7,9, & 10

Reviewed By:

10/20/21

Date

DocuSigned by:



John Jamison, Western Region 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.

or

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

10/26/2021

Date

DocuSigned by:

Sam E. Sutton

Laura E. Sutton, PE, PMU Team C Lead, Divisions - 7, 9 & 10
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.

10/26/2021

Date

For

DocuSigned by:

Suzette Morales

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

H. Project Commitments (as of 9/20/21)

Guilford County
Johnson Street / Sandy Ridge Road Widening
Federal Project No. – 0710025/0710027
WBS No. – 40251.1.1
STIP No. – U-4758

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

NCDOT Project Management Unit

- Continue to coordinate and support the City with the LWCF conversion of use and non-conforming use requests to ensure process completion.
 - *Section 6(f) Compliance will be completed prior to construction authorization.*
- Due to complexity and schedule of the adjacent projects (I-5712, U-6068, and I-5981), additional coordination will be necessary in order to finalize the roadway configurations of Norcross Road, Endicott Road, and the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market entrance.
- During final design, determine feasibility and reasonableness of installing noise barriers NW5A, NW5B, and NW10.
- Hazardous spill protection measures will be provided at stream crossings within ½ mile of the water supply watershed critical area for Oak Hollow Reservoir.
 - *Hazardous Spill Basins are included within 0.5 miles of the water supply watershed critical area for Oak Hollow Reservoir as applicable and to the extent feasible at stream crossings. This commitment is incorporated into the current designs.*

NCDOT Division 7

- Unmarked graves are possible at the Sandy Ridge Methodist Cemetery. North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 65, Article 12 and North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 70, provide protections for the cemeteries. If avoidance is not possible, it will be necessary to comply with these statutes after consultation with the State Archaeologist to determine the method any burials are to be removed and relocated.
 - *GPR anomalies identified as potential unmarked graves are present at the Sandy Ridge Methodist Cemetery along Sandy Camp Road. Some of these anomalies extend partially into in the existing right of way. A special provision will be included in the contract to avoid disturbance of the gravesites during construction. As a future preventive measure, Division 7 will retain the locational information for these unmarked anomalies, as reference for any future maintenance or construction activities along Sandy Camp Road. North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 65, Article 12 and North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 70, provide protections for cemeteries. If avoidance is not possible, it will be necessary to comply with these statutes after consultation with the State*

Archaeologist to determine the method any burials are to be removed and relocated. The NCDOT Archaeology Team can help facilitate this consultation.

- This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to a FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division will submit sealed as-built construction plants to the NCDOT Hydraulics Unit Upon completion of project construction, certifying the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.
- ~~Due to total wetland and surface water impacts being less than one-half acre and permanent impacts to any given stream are less than 300 linear feet, a Nationwide14 permit for Linear Transportation Projects or General Permit may be used. A NCDWR Water Quality Certification No. 3886 would also be required. If the above stated thresholds are exceeded, the project will require Individual Section 404 and 401 permits. The USACE holds the final discretion as to what permit will be required to authorize project construction. If a Section 404 permit is required then a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the NCWR will be needed.~~
- *This commitment is not a special condition and will be removed from future greensheets.*

NCDOT ECAP

- *Schweinitz's sunflower was recently added to the list of federally protected species for Guilford County. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate flowering season for the species (Fall 2021). Construction Authorization will not be requested until Section 7 consultation is resolved for the project.*