

# North Carolina Department of Transportation

## NEPA/SEPA Consultation Form

STIP Project No.	<u>U-6093</u>
WBS Element	<u>47748.1.1</u>
Federal Aid Project No.	<u>2542004</u>

### A. Project Description, Location, and Purpose:

The City of Raleigh (COR), in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), proposes to widen approximately 0.8 miles of SR 2542 (Rock Quarry Road) from Olde Birch Drive to SR 2544 (Sunnybrook Road) in southeast Raleigh (see attached vicinity map Figure 1). The proposed project is located in southeastern Wake County.

Existing Rock Quarry Road is a two-lane roadway with a center turn lane and intermittent wider sections along the south side at Sunnybrook Road and the north side at Olde Birch Drive. The proposed project is to widen Rock Quarry Road to four 11-foot travel lanes with an 11-foot turn lane median. The proposed project will include curb and gutter for the entire project length. Existing bridge number 910609 over I-40 will be replaced under project I-5111/I-4739 (site 4): A 6-foot sidewalk is proposed on the north side and a 10-foot multiuse path is proposed on the south side of the entire project.

The purpose of the proposed project is to relieve congestion on Rock Quarry Road from Olde Birch Drive to Sunnybrook Road and to provide bicyclist and pedestrian accommodations and sidewalks connectivity throughout the project corridor.

### B. Consultation Phase:

Construction

### C. NEPA/SEPA Class of Action Initially Approved as:

FHWA Class II (CE) 4/18/2019

Additional Notes: Type III

### D. Changes in Proposed Action & Environmental Consequences:

#### **Changes in Proposed Action**

The project has no major design changes since the completion of the CE dated April 18, 2019.

#### **Environmental Consequences**

The design will occur within the study area identified in the 2019 CE for the project.

Water Resources

No jurisdictional waters of the United States have been identified in the project study area.

Federal Protected species

Protected species were address in the CE, and the Natural Resources Technical Report completed in June 2018.

**Table 1. ESA federally protected species within the study area<sup>1</sup>**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Habitat Present	Biological Conclusion
<i>Noturus furiosus</i>	Carolina madtom	E	No	No Effect
<i>Necturus lewisi</i>	Neuse River waterdog	T	No	No Effect
<i>Picoides borealiis</i>	Red-cockaded woodpecker	E	Yes	No Effect
<i>Fusconaia masoni</i>	Atlantic pigtoe	T	No	No Effect
<i>Alasmidonta heterodon</i>	Dwarf wedgemussel	E	No	No Effect
<i>Rhus michauxii</i>	Michaux's sumac	E	Yes	No Effect

<sup>1</sup> Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) data checked on April 12, 2022  
E-Endangered, ARS—At Risk Species, T-Threatened

The Natural Resources Technical Report (2018) reached a Biological Conclusion of No Effect for bald eagle, Cape Fear shiner, red-cockaded woodpecker, dwarf wedgemussel and Michaux's sumac. Due to the absence of water resources in the study area, the same conclusion of No Effect is appropriate for Carolina madtom, Neuse River waterdog, and Atlantic pigtoe which have been added to the Wake County list since the completion of the NRTR.

A survey for Michaux's sumac was conducted in the study area on May 10, 2021 and no specimens of this species were found.

**Bald Eagle**

The NRTR found no water bodies large enough or sufficiently open to be considered potential feeding sources. Since there was no foraging habitat within the review area, a survey of the study area and the area within 660 feet of the project limits was not conducted.

Additionally, a review of NCNHP records in April 2022 (GIS layer updated January 2022), revealed no known occurrences of this species within 1.0 mile of the project study area. Due to the lack of habitat, known occurrences, and minimal impact anticipated for this project, it has been determined that this project will not affect this species.

**Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)**

The USFWS has revised the previous programmatic biological opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), USACE, and NCDOT for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) in eastern North Carolina. The

PBO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT projects and activities. Although this programmatic opinion covers Divisions 1-8, NLEBs are currently only known in 22 counties, but may potentially occur in 8 additional counties within Divisions 1-8. NCDOT, FHWA, and USACE have agreed to two conservation measures which will avoid/minimize mortality of NLEBs. These conservation measures only apply to the 30 current known/potential counties shown on Figure 2 of the PBO at this time. Harnett and Cumberland Counties are not included in this list of 30 counties. The programmatic determination for NLEB for the NCDOT program is “May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect.” The PBO will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for ten years (effective through December 31, 2030) for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes Wake County, where U-6093 is located.

**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. The NCDOT Project Manager, Elmo Vance, hereby verifies the involvement of the following staff and the incorporation of their technical input:

Design Engineer:	Brandon McInnis, PE (RK&K)	03/30/2022
Environmental Specialist:	Gordon Cashin (NCDOT)	04/13/2022
FHWA:	Joe Geigle	03/28/2022
City of Raleigh	Jason Myers	03/28/2022

**G. Consultation Approval for NCDOT Project U-6093**

**Prepared By:**

05/17/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Elmo Vance*

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Elmo Vance  
Project Management Unit-Division 5 & 8  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

**Reviewed By:**

05/17/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:

*Jason S Myers*

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Jason Myers, Senior Transportation Planner  
Transportation Services  
City of Raleigh



**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.

05/18/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Colin Mellor, Eastern Regional Team Lead  
Environmental Policy Unit  
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.

05/23/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:



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

H. Project Commitments (as of May 17, 2022)

**Wake County  
Widening of SR 2542 (Rock Quarry Road)  
From Olde Birch Drive to SR 2544 (Sunny Brook Road)  
WBS No. 47748.1.1  
TIP No. U-6093**

**COMMITMENTS FROM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN**

**NCDOT Design-Build Section—Resident Engineer**

Prior to construction, a soil and groundwater assessment will be conducted to determine possible hazardous material sites in the study area. Any properties identified as potential hazardous materials sites will be analyzed prior to right of way acquisition.

- *This commitment has been completed. Two sites were identified and have been addressed.*

The City of Raleigh will participate in the cost of new sidewalks and multi-use paths where they do not currently exist. NCDOT will prepare a municipal agreement for signature by the City of Raleigh for the portion of betterment costs prior to project construction.

- *This commitment has been completed.*

The Design-Build Section—Resident Engineer will coordinate with the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation to evaluate the necessary level of bicycle/pedestrian access accommodations during construction.

- *Existing access will be maintained with traffic during construction.*

Prior to construction, the Design-Build Section—Resident Engineer will coordinate with affected property owners and businesses regarding access needs and options for temporary solutions to maintain access during construction.

- *Standard construction practice will provide access during construction*

In order to minimize potential impacts to bus stops and delays to school buses and school related traffic, the NCDOT Design-Build Section—Resident Engineer will coordinate with the Wake County Public Schools Transportation Department prior to construction.

- *This commitment is still valid.*

~~Final decision on the installation of any noise abatement measures shall be made upon completion of the project design, the public involvement process, and concurrence with the NCDOT Traffic Noise Policy.~~

- *The final noise study will be completed prior to construction as part of standard procedure by the Design Build Team.*

**NCDOT Environmental Analysis Unit**

Prior to construction activities, a biologist will conduct a survey for Michaux's sumac, during the optimal survey window, to determine the Biological Conclusion. A construction consultation will be completed with the outcome of the survey.

*A survey for Michaux's sumac was conducted in the study area on May 10, 2021 and no specimens of this species were found. The Biological Conclusion is therefore No Effect.*

- *This commitment is still valid.*

Figure 1

