

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ACTION CLASSIFICATION FORM

TIP Project No.	K-4908
State Project No.	39894.1.1
Federal Project No.	

A. Project Description: (Include project scope and location and refer to the attached project location map.)

Proposed rest area within median of I-77 near mile marker 59, Iredell County.

B. Purpose and Need:

Purpose is to replace four existing outdated rest areas, thereby reducing maintenance and operating costs.

C. Proposed Improvements:

Circle one or more of the following Type II improvements which apply to the project:

1. Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (e.g., parking, weaving, turning, climbing).
 - a. Restoring, Resurfacing, Rehabilitating, and Reconstructing pavement (3R and 4R improvements)
 - b. Widening roadway and shoulders without adding through lanes
 - c. Modernizing gore treatments
 - d. Constructing lane improvements (merge, auxiliary, and turn lanes)
 - e. Adding shoulder drains
 - f. Replacing and rehabilitating culverts, inlets, and drainage pipes, including safety treatments
 - g. Providing driveway pipes
 - h. Performing minor bridge widening (less than one through lane).
 - i. Slide Stabilization
 - j. Structural BMP's for water quality improvement
2. Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting.
 - a. Installing ramp metering devices
 - b. Installing lights
 - c. Adding or upgrading guardrail
 - d. Installing safety barriers including Jersey type barriers and pier protection
 - e. Installing or replacing impact attenuators
 - f. Upgrading medians including adding or upgrading median barriers
 - g. Improving intersections including relocation and/or realignment
 - h. Making minor roadway realignment
 - i. Channelizing traffic
 - j. Performing clear zone safety improvements including removing hazards and flattening slopes
 - k. Implementing traffic aid systems, signals, and motorist aid
 - l. Installing bridge safety hardware including bridge rail retrofit.

3. Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings
 - a. Rehabilitating, reconstructing, or replacing bridge approach slabs
 - b. Rehabilitating or replacing bridge decks
 - c. Rehabilitating bridges including painting (no red lead paint), scour repair, fender systems, and minor structural improvements
 - d. Replacing a bridge (structure and/or fill).
 4. Transportation corridor fringe parking facilities.
 5. Construction of new truck weigh stations or rest areas.
 6. Approvals for disposal of excess right-of-way or for joint or limited use of right-of-way, where the proposed use does not have significant adverse impacts
 7. Approvals for changes in access control.
 8. Construction of new bus storage and maintenance facilities in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is not inconsistent with existing zoning and located on or near a street with adequate capacity to handle anticipated bus and support vehicle traffic.
 9. Rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing rail and bus buildings and ancillary facilities where only minor amounts of additional land are required and there is not a substantial increase in the number of users.
 10. Construction of bus transfer facilities (an open area consisting of passenger shelters, boarding areas, kiosks and related street improvements) when located in a commercial area or other high activity center in which there is adequate street capacity for projected bus traffic.
 11. Construction of rail storage and maintenance facilities in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is not inconsistent with existing zoning and where there is no significant noise impact on the surrounding community.
 12. Acquisition of land for hardship or protective purposes, advance land acquisition loans under section 3(b) of the UMT Act. Hardship and protective buying will be permitted only for a particular parcel or a limited number of parcels. These types of land acquisition qualify for a CE only where the acquisition will not limit the evaluation of alternatives, including shifts in alignment for planned construction projects, which may be required in the NEPA process. No project development on such land may proceed until the NEPA process has been completed.
 13. Acquisition and construction of wetland, stream and endangered species mitigation sites.
 14. Remedial activities involving the removal, treatment or monitoring of soil or groundwater contamination pursuant to state or federal remediation guidelines.
- D. Special Project Information: (Include Environmental Commitments and Permits Required.)

E. Threshold Criteria

The following evaluation of threshold criteria must be completed for Type II actions:

Ecological		Yes	No
1	Will the project have a substantial impact on any unique or important natural resource?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Does the project involve habitat here federally listed endangered or threatened species may occur?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Will the project affect anadromous fish?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	If the project involves wetlands, is the amount of permanent and/or temporary wetland taking less than one-tenth (1/10) of an acre and have all practicable measures to avoid and minimize wetland takings been evaluated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Will the project require the use of U. S. Forest Service lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Will the quality of adjacent water resources be adversely impacted by proposed construction activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Does the project involve waters classified as Outstanding Water Resources (OWR) and/or High Quality Waters (HQW)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Will the project require fill in waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout counties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Does the project involve any known underground storage tanks (UST's) or hazardous materials sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Permits and Coordination		Yes	No
10	If the project is located within a CAMA county, will the project significantly affect the coastal zone and/or any "Area of Environmental Concern" (AEC)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

12	Will a U. S. Coast Guard permit be required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13	Will the project result in the modification of any existing regulatory floodway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14	Will the project require any stream relocations or channel changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Social, Economic and Cultural Resources	Yes	No
15	Will the project induce substantial impacts to planned growth or land use for the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16	Will the project require the relocation of any family or business?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17	Will the project have a disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effect on any minority or low-income population?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18	If the project involves the acquisition of right of way, is the amount of right of way acquisition considered minor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Will the project involve any changes in access control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20	Will the project substantially alter the usefulness and/or land use of adjacent property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21	Will the project have an adverse effect on permanent local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22	Is the project included in an approved thoroughfare plan and/or Transportation Improvement Program (and is, therefore, in conformance with the Clean Air Act of 1990)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Is the project anticipated to cause an increase in traffic volumes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
24	Will traffic be maintained during construction using existing roads, staged construction, or on-site detours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25	If the project is a bridge replacement project, will the bridge be replaced at its existing location (along the existing facility) and will all construction proposed in association with the bridge replacement project be contained on the existing facility?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Is there substantial controversy on social, economic, or environmental grounds concerning the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Is the project consistent with all Federal, State and local laws relating to the environmental aspects of the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Will the project have an "effect" on structures/properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
29	Will the project affect any archaeological remains which are important to history or pre-history?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
30	Will the project require the use of Section 4(f) resources (public parks, recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, historic sites, or historic bridges, as defined in Section 4(f) of the U. S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
31	Will the project result in any conversion of assisted public recreation sites or facilities to non-recreation uses, as defined by Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965, as amended?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
32	Will the project involve construction in, across, or adjacent to a river designated as a component of or proposed for inclusion in the Natural System of Wild and Scenic Rivers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

F. Additional Documentation Required for Unfavorable Responses in Part E
(Discussion regarding all unfavorable responses in Part E should be provided below.
Additional supporting documentation may be attached, as necessary.)

G. CE Approval

TIP Project No. K-4908
State Project No. 39894.1.1
Federal-Aid Project No. _____

Project Description: (Include project scope and location. Attach location map.)

Categorical Exclusion Action Classification: (Check one)

TYPE II(A)
 TYPE II(B)

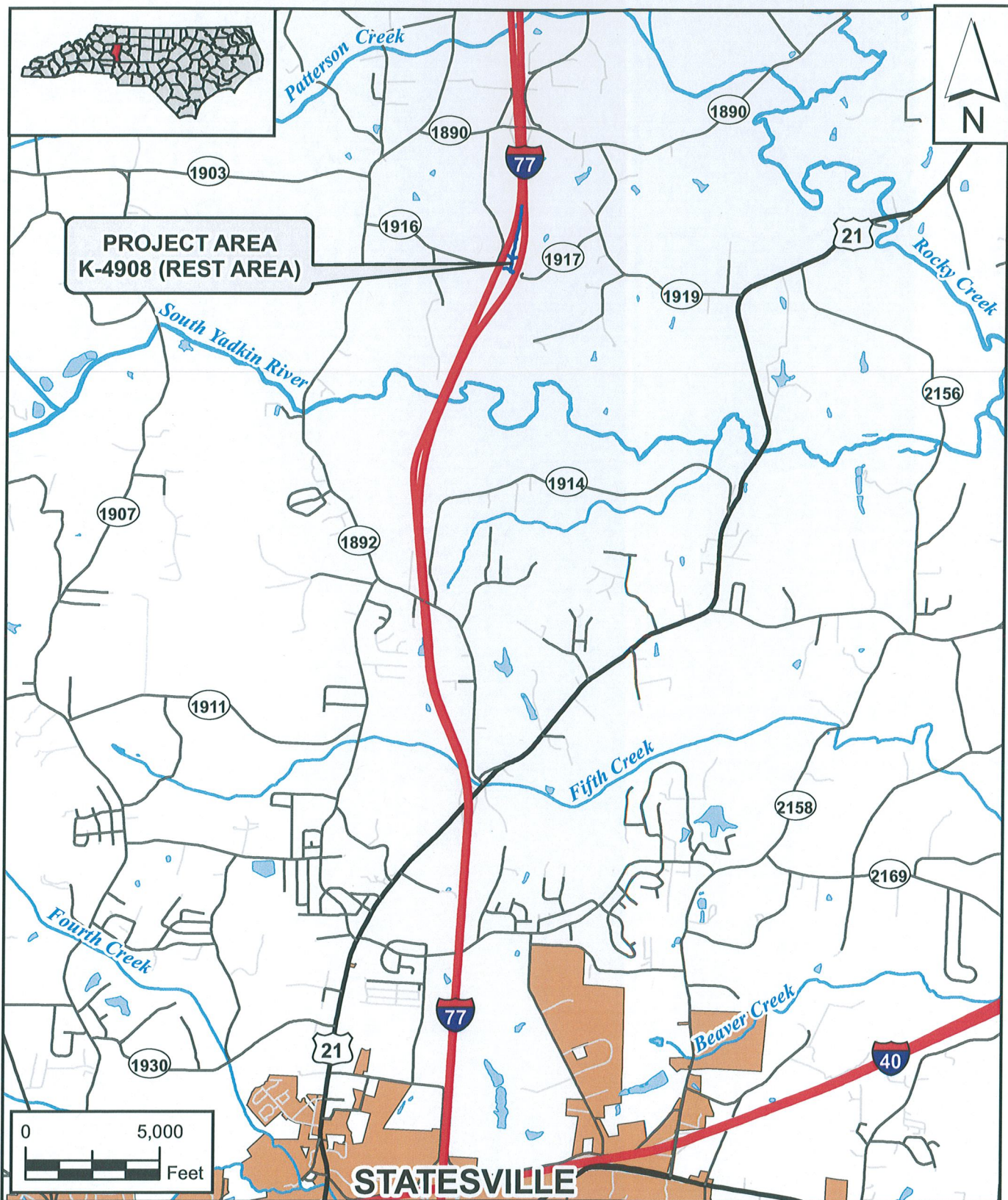
Approved:

10-11-13 Jennifer H. Harris
Date Western Region Section Head
Project Development & Environmental Analysis

10-10-13 [Signature]
Date Western Region Group Leader
Project Development & Environmental Analysis

10-10-13 [Signature]
Date Project Planning Engineer
Project Development & Environmental Analysis

Date _____

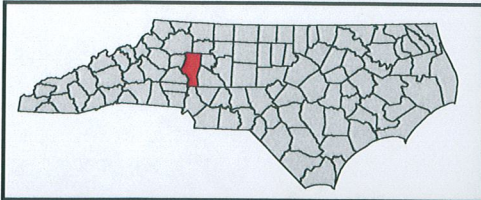



 NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT
 OF TRANSPORTATION
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND
 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT

VICINITY MAP
I-77 PROPOSED
REST AREA
 IREDELL COUNTY
 TIP PROJECT K-4908

County:	IREDELL
Div: 12	TIP# K-4908
WBS:	39894.1.1
Date:	October 2013

Figure
1



By: J.TORTORELLA



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT

**K-4908 AERIAL MAP
WITH REST AREA TEMPLATE**
IREDELL COUNTY
TIP PROJECT K-4908



County: **IREDELL**

Div: **12** TIP#: **K-4908**

WBS: **39894.1.1**

October 2013

**Figure
2**



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

May 2, 2012

Memorandum To: Michael Wray
PDEA Planning Engineer

From: Jeff Hemphill, Environmental Specialist
Natural Environment Project Management Unit

Subject: **Preliminary Environmental Screening** for Dual Rest Area on I-77 between Exit 56 & Exit 59 on I-77 in Iredell County, Federal Aid Project No. IMS-77-1(177)39; Division 12; TIP No. K-4908, WBS Element 39894.1.1.

The following memorandum provides information for a Preliminary Environmental Screening to assist in site selection for a dual rest area on I-77 in Iredell County. NCDOT personnel visited the prospective site on May 1 and found five streams running through the property. Four of the streams are tributaries of an UT to the South Yadkin River. None of the streams were GPS'd but are depicted in the attached map (all stream locations are approximate). The South Yadkin River is classified as WS-V and none of the streams on or within one mile project site are designated 303(d). Some marginal habitat for dwarf-flowered heartleaf was observed on the project site especially the northeast facing slopes of the hill on the south end of the project but no plants were found. Hydrophytic vegetation was observed on the west central portions of the project and the southern tip of the site (probably outside the project study area) but any wetlands on the site would be small and a source of minor impacts (if any).

MAILING ADDRESS:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
1598 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1598

TELEPHONE: 919-707-6100
FAX: 919-212-5785

WEBSITE: WWW.NCDOT.ORG

LOCATION:
1020 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH NC 27610-4328

Wray, Michael G

From: Hemphill, Jeffrey L
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 9:57 AM
To: Wray, Michael G
Subject: RE: K-4908

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I checked and it does not appear that a stream relocation will be needed
Jeff

From: Wray, Michael G
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 10:06 AM
To: Hemphill, Jeffrey L
Subject: RE: K-4908

Jeff,

It is my understanding that the design has been shifted so that only culvert extensions will be necessary. The latest design is on the project server; if you could, please review it as soon as you can and verify that the current design does not qualify as a stream relocation or channel change.

Thanks,
Michael

From: Hemphill, Jeffrey L
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 4:21 PM
To: Wray, Michael G
Subject: K-4908

Michael

In reference to your email below about K-4908; I believe there is a possibility that the stream in the center of the study area may be relocated into a pipe as one of the proposed parking areas may cover a portion of it. This may be a better question for Rdwy or Hydro as I'm just speculating.

Jeff

Michael,

Mitch Batuzich told me to contact you for clarification on a PCE checklist item. As of now, it appears that there will be one or two culvert extensions on the K-4908 rest area project. I just wanted to make sure that would not fall under the box of "stream relocations or channel changes." Mitch said he thought that we were OK, but to double check with you. Please let me know your opinion when you can, thanks.

Michael Wray, P.E.
Project Planning Engineer, Western Unit
PHONE: (919) 707-6050

Wray, Michael G

From: Parrish, James B
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 12:58 PM
To: Wray, Michael G
Cc: Pitts, Jennifer P
Subject: RE: K-4908 PCE Question

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Michael,

The only thing that will impact the existing stream that I am aware of is culvert extensions on the decel ramp southbound and the accel ramp on the northbound lane. You can contact Jeanie Tyson or Jason Moore in Roadway for further info or plans if needed.

Thanks,
Jimmy

From: Wray, Michael G
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 10:32 AM
To: Parrish, James B
Subject: K-4908 PCE Question

Hi Jimmy,

I am trying to finalize the PCE for the K-4908 rest area project, and it appears that the only areas of concern are the streams running through the project area. I was wondering if you have a final footprint for the rest area, and whether or not the streams could be avoided. If not, will they be relocated or rechanneled in any way? In that instance, we will need some documentation as to how those impacts are being minimized, as well as sign off from FHWA (if there are no stream impacts, the FHWA signature won't be necessary).

Please let me know as soon as possible, thanks.

Michael Wray, P.E.
Project Planning Engineer, Western Unit
PHONE: (919) 707-6050
FAX: (919) 250-4224

Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

12-09-0062

NO SURVEY REQUIRED FORM**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project No: K-4908 County: Iredell
 WBS No: 39894.1.1 Document: PCE
 F.A. No: Funding: State Federal

Federal (USACE) Permit Required? Yes No Permit Type:

Project Description:

Construct a new rest area site in the median of I-77 in the vicinity of SR 1916.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW*Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:*

Review of HPO quad maps, relevant background reports, historic designations roster, and indexes was undertaken on October 16, 2012. Based on this review, there were no existing NR, SL, LD, DE, or SS properties in the Area of Potential Effects (APE). There no structures in the APE of this project.

Brief Explanation of why the available information provides a reliable basis for reasonably predicting that there are no unidentified historic properties in the APE:

Using HPO GIS website and Iredell County GIS Tax Data website provides reliable information regarding the structures in the APE. These combined utilities are considered valid for the purposes of determining the likelihood of historic resources being present.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: Maps

FINDING BY NCDOT CULTURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONALNO SURVEY REQUIRED FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE


 NCDOT Cultural Resources Specialist

Oct 16, 2012
 Date

12-09-0062



**NO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
ELIGIBLE OR LISTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
PRESENT OR AFFECTED FORM**



This form only pertains to ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES for this project. It is not valid for Historic Architecture and Landscapes. You must consult separately with the Historic Architecture and Landscapes Group.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No: **K-4908** County: **Iredell**
 WBS No: **39894.1.1** Document: **CE**
 F.A. No: **IMS-77-1(177)39** Funding: State Federal
 Federal (USACE) Permit Required? Yes No Permit Type: **?**

Project Description: NCDOT intends to construct a new rest area location in the median of 1-77 as a replacement for four current rest areas in Iredell and Yadkin Counties. This proposed rest area is located generally between SR 1916 and SR 1917. According to scoping meeting minutes provided the proposed rest area encompasses an area of roughly 60 acres (nearly 24.3 hectares). This project is federally funded and although no United States Army Corps of Engineer permits are listed, they are probably likely.

While a rest area template was provided by the project engineers, the template provided was included in the original information for illustrative purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the project as it will be constructed. No preliminary plans or project limits (including construction easement limits or slope stake boundaries) were provided to aid in the establishment of an Area of Potential Effects (APE) for these archaeological investigations, but the Archaeology Group established a 42.3-acre APE to cover the proposed rest area location. For the purposes of these archaeological investigations this area was considered the project APE for the current investigation.

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Archaeology Group reviewed the subject project and determined:

- There are no National Register listed ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES within the project's area of potential effects.
- No subsurface archaeological investigations are required for this project.
- Subsurface investigations did not reveal the presence of any archaeological resources.
- Subsurface investigations did not reveal the presence of any archaeological resources considered eligible for the National Register.
- All identified archaeological sites located within the APE have been considered and all compliance for archaeological resources with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and GS 121-12(a) has been completed for this project.
- There are no National Register Eligible or Listed ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES present or affected by this project. (Attach any notes or documents as needed)

Brief description of review activities, results of review, and conclusions:

As noted on the Survey Required Form, no previously identified archaeological sites are recorded within the APE, and no archaeological investigations have been carried out in the project vicinity. However, the project area includes water sources and several habitable landforms. Although soil data suggested that the landforms are potentially eroded due to historic period agricultural practices, archaeological reconnaissance survey was recommended to determine the scale and methodology for intensive survey, with this recommendation leading to the intensive survey reported in this document.

On March 25th and 26th, 2013, an archaeological reconnaissance survey of the entire APE area was completed by Coastal Carolina Research (CCR) archaeologists J. Eric Deetz, M.A., RPA (principal investigator); Lindsay Flood, M.A., RPA; Amanda Keeny; and Kathleen Pollard. The survey consisted of pedestrian inspection and shovel test pits at a 30-m interval (n=53). Full consideration was given to the entire APE; however, areas that were wet, disturbed, or steeply sloped were visually inspected but not intensively surveyed. No archaeological resources appearing potentially eligible for the NRHP were recorded within APE.

One historic period site was identified during the survey. Site 31ID359** was defined physically by one positive shovel test in the vicinity of an eight-foot-wide circular depression associated with ornamental plants (daffodils). The positive shovel test contained one handmade brick that was recovered from the second zone (subsoil). In addition there is an abandoned road trace in the site vicinity. A farmstead is indicated just to the north on a 1938 highway map as well as a 1964 aerial photograph (see attachments). A cursory map projection rules out the likelihood of the site representing the core of the farmstead; however, there appears to be a structure in the vicinity on the 1964 aerial photograph. Additional delineating shovel tests were negative and failed to locate buried strata or cultural material. The site has little potential to yield further information due to the lack identifiable cultural features or archaeological contexts.

The soils in the project area include Codorus loam (CsA), 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded, in the northern half and Fairview sandy clay loam (FwE2), 15 to 25 percent slopes, moderately eroded, at the southern end. Udorthents-Urban Land complex (UmF) soils are present along the boundaries of the APE along the cuts for Interstate 77.

The shovel tests confirmed the eroded nature of the soils. Shovel Tests A-10 and B-1 are typical of the lower areas prone to flooding while Shovel Tests A-25, A-27 and A-35 are typical of the upland sloped areas that have suffered significant erosion. Shovel Tests J-4 and 31ID359** ST-1 are typical of the ridge toe where the site was recorded.

References Used in Attachments:

ArcGIS Image Service

2010 NC OneMap Orthoimagery. Electronic document, <http://Imagery.nconemap.com/ArcGis/services>, accessed March 28, 2013.

North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission

1938 *Iredell County*. Electronic document, <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/nccmaps/id/524/rec/6>, accessed March 28, 2013


USGS EarthExplorer

2013 1964 Aerial Image of Portion of Iredell County (Aerial Single Frame Photo ID B640120040512). Electronic document, <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov>, accessed March 28, 2013.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: Map(s) Previous Survey Info Photos Correspondence
 Other: Table of Selected Shovel Test Profile Data

Signed:



04-03-13

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST II

Date