

## MINIMUM CRITERIA DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

**TIP Project No.**            **R-3826 Closing of Railroad Crossings**  
**W.B.S. Project No.**       **34553.1.2**

**Project Location:** Williamston, Martin County

**Project Description:** The project proposes the closure of two existing at-grade CSX railroad crossings at SR 1410 (Cullipher Road), located west of Williamston, and at Slade Street in Williamston, Martin County.

The proposed work will involve closing the railroad crossings at SR 1410 (Cullipher Road) and Slade Street by installing barricades and signs, removing the asphalt paving, and placing borrow material, seed and mulch. A paved turnaround will be installed on the southwest side of the tracks at Slade Street to provide a turn-around location for emergency vehicles.

**Purpose and Need:** The purpose of the proposed work is to improve safety at railroad crossings in the Williamston area. The two existing at-grade crossings at SR 1410 (Cullipher Road) and at Slade Street will be closed to satisfy the CSX Transportation safety requirements prior to opening the new at-grade crossing of the CSX railroad proposed as part of the NC 125 Williamson Bypass project (TIP Project. R 3826).

**Anticipated Permit or Consultation Requirements:**

No federal or state permits are required for closing the two at-grade railroad crossings at SR 1410 and at Slade Street in Williamston.

**Special Project Information:**

**Environmental Commitments:** There are no special commitments for this project.

**Alternatives Considered:** The NCDOT Rail Division conducted a rail corridor study for the Williamston area to identify at-grade rail crossings with potential safety issues which could be closed or which require improvements. The study corridor extended from west of Williamston at the SR 1410 (Cullipher Road) crossing to east of Williamston at the SR 1500 (Holly Springs Road) crossing. The study identified four crossings for potential closure which included Cullipher Road, Slade Street, Factory Street and Pearl Street. Cullipher Road and Slade Street were recommended to be closed.

SR 1410 (Cullipher Road) is a rural, low-volume, state-maintained road west of Williamston off of US 64A. The 0.73 mile long road connects SR 1409 with US 64A. Cullipher Road crosses the tracks at-grade and is unpaved north of the tracks with asphalt paving on the south side of the tracks. This crossing is currently marked with cross-bucks only. The area is predominantly woods and farmland with some residences south of the tracks. Alternative routes are SR 1407 to the west and SR 1409 to the east.

Slade Street is a town-maintained street which crosses the CSX tracks at-grade between Main Street and Washington Street. This crossing is currently marked with cross-bucks only and there is a stop sign on Slade Street on either side of the crossing, requiring vehicles to stop before

crossing the tracks. Slade Street is paved with curb and gutter and connects residential areas intermixed with business and industrial across the railroad corridor. EJ Hayes Elementary School is located to the south of the tracks where Slade Street intersects with Andrews Street. Hunter Street parallels the tracks to the northeast and intersects Slade Street less than 50 feet from the actual track crossing. Sight distance at this crossing is also limited due to the curvature of the track in the vicinity of this crossing. Although school buses use this crossing daily, the Washington Street crossing is located less than 0.1 mile to the south. The Washington Street crossing has signals and crossing gates. A grade separated crossing is located approximately one quarter mile northwest at Main Street. Closing the Slade Road crossing may present minor inconvenience to the surrounding neighborhood, but the improved safety of closing the crossing outweighs the inconvenience.

NCDOT proposes to close the railroad crossings at SR 1410 (Cullipher Road) and Slade Street by installing barricades and signs, removing the asphalt paving, and placing borrow material, seed and mulch. A paved turnaround will be installed on the southwest side of the tracks at Slade Street to provide a turn-around location for emergency vehicles.

**Public Involvement:** Both the Town of Williamston and NCDOT have held public hearings regarding the proposed closings. The Town Council has approved closing the Slade Street crossing and the NCDOT Board of Transportation has approved closing the SR 1410 (Cullipher Road) crossing.

**PART A: MINIMUM CRITERIA**

	YES	NO
1. Will the proposed project involve land disturbing activity of more than ten acres that will result in substantial, permanent changes in the natural cover or topography of those lands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the proposed project require the expenditure of more than ten million dollars in public funds?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the proposed project listed as a type and class of activity which would qualify as a Non-Major Action under the Minimum Criteria rules?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If “yes”, under which category? 3 - Construction of safety projects such as guardrails, grooving, glare screen, safety barriers, and energy attenuators

(Note: If either Category #8 or #15 is used, complete Part D of this checklist.)

If “yes” is selected for either Question 1 or 2 and “no” is selected for Question 3, then the project does not qualify as a Non-Major Action. A state environmental impact statement (SEIS) or state environmental assessment (SEA) will be required.

**PART B: MINIMUM CRITERIA EXCEPTIONS**

	YES	NO
4. Does the proposed activity have a significant adverse effect on wetlands; surface waters such as rivers, streams, and estuaries; parklands; prime or unique agricultural lands; or areas of recognized scenic, recreational, archaeological, or historical value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Will the proposed activity endanger the existence of a species on the Department of Interior’s threatened and endangered species list?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Would the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse air quality impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Would the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse water quality or groundwater impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Is the proposed activity expected to have a significant adverse effect on long-term recreational benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Is the proposed activity expected to have a significant adverse effect on shellfish, finfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Will the proposed activity have secondary impacts or cumulative impacts that may result in a significant adverse impact to human health or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Is the proposed activity of such an unusual nature or does the proposed activity have such widespread implications, that an uncommon concern for its environmental effects has been expressed to the NCDOT?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note: If any of Questions 4 through 11 in part B are answered “YES”, the proposed project does not qualify as a Non-Major Action. A SEIS or SEA will be required.

**PART C: COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

	YES	NO
<u>Ecological Impacts</u>		
12. Is a federally protected threatened or endangered species, or its habitat, likely to be impacted by the proposed action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. Does the action require the placement of fill in waters of the United States?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. Does the project require the placement of a significant amount of fill in high quality or relatively rare wetland ecosystems, such as mountain bogs or pine savannahs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15. Does the project require stream relocation or channel changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16. Is the proposed action located in an Area of Environmental Concern, as defined in the Coastal Area Management Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Cultural Resources</u>		
17. Will the project have an “effect” on a property or site listed on the National Register of Historic Places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. Will the proposed action require acquisition of additional right of way from publicly owned parkland or recreational areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

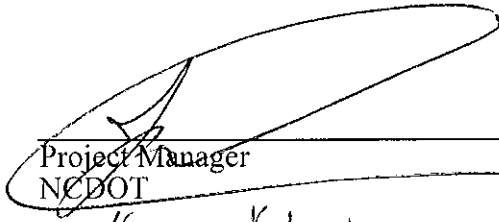
**PART D: (To be completed when either category #8 or #15 of the rules is used.)**


- 19. Project length:
  - 20. Right of Way width:
  - 21. Total Acres of Disturbed Ground Surface:
  - 22. Total Acres of Wetland Impacts:
  - 23. Total Linear Feet of Stream Impacts:
  - 24. Project Purpose:
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Reviewed by:

1-9-2018  
Date

1/9/2018  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Manager  
NCDOT

  
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Consultant Project Manager (if applicable)

## **PROJECT COMMITMENTS**

Proposed Closure of At-Grade CSX Railroad Crossings at Cullipher Road (SR 1410) and Slade Street in Williamston, North Carolina

Martin County

TIP Project No. R-3826

WBS Element 34553.1.2

There are no project commitments for this project.