

## **MINIMUM CRITERIA DETERMINATION CHECKLIST**

The following questions provide direction in determining when the Department is required to prepare environmental documents for state-funded construction and maintenance activities. Answer questions for Parts A through C by checking either “Yes” or “No”. Complete Part D of the checklist when Minimum Criteria Rule categories #8, 12(i) or #15 are used.

**TIP Project No.:U-2581BA**

**State Project No.: WBS 34840.1.4**

**Project Location: US 70 from Mt. Hope Church Road to Birch Creek Road, Guilford County**

**Project Description:** U-2581BA is in Guilford County, which is part of Division 7. The specific location of this project is US 70 from SR 3045/SR 2819 (Mt. Hope Church Road) to SR 3175/SR 2826 (Birch Creek Road). The purpose of this project is to widen the existing three-lane roadway to a five-lane facility to relieve existing and projected congestion along the project length.

**Anticipated Permit or Consultation Requirements:** USACE Nationwide Permit 14

**Special Project Information:** NCDOT Division 7 has requested to restart a portion of the larger U-2581B project, but to limit it to approximately 1.2 miles of the original corridor (BA); subsequent environmental review and design stages will follow for the BB and BC sections of U-2581B. Logical termini for this project are present at its starting point, an existing five-lane section west of SR 3045/SR 2819 (Mt. Hope Church Road), and its end of SR 3175/SR 2826 (Birch Creek Road), which is a regional planning route.

**PART A: MINIMUM CRITERIA**

***Item 1 to be completed by the Engineer.***

1. Is the proposed project listed as a type and class of activity allowed under the Minimum Criteria Rule in which environmental documentation is not required?

**YES**

**NO**

If the answer to number 1 is “no”, then the project does not qualify as a minimum criteria project. A state environmental assessment is required.

If yes, under which category? **8b**

If either category #8, #12(i) or #15 is used complete Part D of this checklist.

**PART B: MINIMUM CRITERIA EXCEPTIONS**

***Items 2 – 4 to be completed by the Engineer.***

2. Could the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse air quality impacts?
3. Will the proposed activity have secondary impacts or cumulative impacts that may result in a significant adverse impact to human health or the environment?
4. 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 Department?

**YES**

**NO**

***Item 5-8 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.***

5. 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?
6. Will the proposed activity endanger the existence of a species on the Department of Interior's threatened and endangered species list?
7. Could the proposed activity cause significant changes in land use concentrations that would be expected to create adverse water quality or ground water impacts?

- |   | <b>YES</b>               | <b>NO</b>                           |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8. Is the proposed activity expected to have a significant adverse effect on long-term recreational benefits or shellfish, finfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

If any questions 2 through 8 are answered “yes”, the proposed project may not qualify as a Minimum Criteria project. A state environmental assessment (EA) may be required. For assistance, contact:

Manager, Environmental Analysis Unit  
 1598 Mail Service Center  
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1598  
 (919) 707 – 6000  
 Fax: (919) 212-5785

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

- | <i>Items 9- 12 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.</i>  | <b>YES</b>                          | <b>NO</b>                           |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9. 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"/> |
| 10. Does the action require the placement of temporary or permanent fill in waters of the United States?<br><i>NCDOT will be pursuing the required USACE/DWR permits.</i>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 11. 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"/> |
| 12. 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"/> |

- | <i>Items 13 – 15 to be completed by the Engineer.</i>              |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13. Does the project require stream relocation or channel changes? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Cultural Resources

- |   |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 14. 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"/> |
| 15. 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"/> |

Questions in Part “C” are designed to assist the Engineer and the Division Environmental Officer in determining whether a permit or consultation with a state or federal resource agency may be required. If any questions in Part “C” are answered “yes”, follow the appropriate permitting procedures prior to beginning project construction.

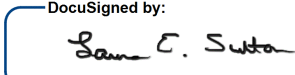
**PART D:( To be completed when either category #8, 12(i) or #15 of the rules are used.)**


**Items 16- 22 to be completed by Division Environmental Officer.**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 16. Project length:                                | <u>1.2 miles</u>          |
| 17. Right of Way width:                            | <u>Varies 120'-135'</u>   |
| 18. Project completion date:                       | <u>2021</u>               |
| 19. Total acres of newly disturbed ground surface: | <u>Approx. 8.5 acres</u>  |
| 20. Total acres of wetland impacts:                | <u>Approx. 0.25 acres</u> |
| 21. Total linear feet of stream impacts:           | <u>Approx. 100'</u>       |
| 22. Project purpose:                               | <u>Congestion Relief</u>  |

If Part D of the checklist is completed, send a copy of the entire checklist document to:

David B. Harris, PE  
State Roadside Environmental Engineer  
Mail Service Center 1557  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1557  
(919) 707-2925  
Fax: (919) 715-2554  
Email: davidharris@ncdot.gov

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