STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2026

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
Transportation Permitting Branch

NC Division of Water Resources
Transportation Permitting Branch

ATTN: NCDOT Coordinator NCDOT Coordinator

Subject: Application for: **Section 404 Permit and 401 Water Quality Certification** as the result of **Hurricane Helene** for the **Establishment of Bridge 678** over **Rocky Broad River** on **Chimney Rock State Park Road in Rutherford County, Division 13** WBS DF18313.1081015

Dear NCDOT Coordinators:

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes the following project as the result of damage caused by Hurricane Helene in September 2024: Establishment of Bridge 678 over Rocky Broad River.

Bridge 658 carrying Chimney Rock Park Road, and Bridge 313 carrying Southside Drive were destroyed by Helene and will be replaced with this single structure.

Approvals Requested:

404 Nationwide Permit 3. Notification required due to:
- greater than 0.008 acre of impacts other than temporary dewatering in a Designated Trout Watershed.
- Biological Conclusion other than "No Effect"

401 General Certification 8562 Written authorization for a Certificate of Coverage is required due to stream impacts greater than 150 lf.

FHWA is the lead federal agency for this project.

Brief Damage Summary and Current Temporary/ Emergency Structure:

The previous Bridge 658 carrying Chimney Rock Scenic Road was a 218 foot long, 6-span bridge, and Bridge 313 carrying Southside Drive was a 176 foot long, 5-span bridge.
Both were completely washed away by the storm.
Temporary rail-car bridges were constructed near the previous facilities.

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT
1598 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1598

Telephone: (919) 707-6000
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968
Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
1000 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH NC 27610

Proposed Replacement:
A new 3-span, 337-foot-long bridge will replace the aforementioned bridges at a new location between the previous bridges.
The existing temporary railcar bridges will continue to serve both facilities during construction.

Avoidance and Minimization:
-Two bridges will be replaced with one bridge.
-The bridge length will be increased, significantly increasing the hydraulic opening.
-The proposed bridge will have no direct discharge into the Broad River.
-Stormwater runoff is discharged as far away from the stream and at the lowest velocities practicable.
-A riprap free zone will exist under the north side of the bridge.

Proposed Activities in Streams:

Impact Site	Permanent Fill – Bank Stabilization	Temporary Impacts	Permit Proposed/ Impact Description
Site 1 Interior Bent #1 and Temporary Work Pad	16 lf < 0.01 ac	69 lf 0.32 ac	A temporary work bridge will be required to construct the bridge pier in the dry, and also for construction access for large equipment to cross the Rocky Broad River. 16 lf (<0.01 ac) of the work pad will retained as permanent impact (bank stabilization) to protect the bridge pier.*
Site 2 Interior Bent #2 and Temporary Work Pad	44 lf < 0.01 ac	192 lf 0.08 ac	A temporary work bridge will be required to construct the bridge pier in the dry, and also for construction access for large equipment to cross the Rocky Broad River. 44 lf (<0.01 ac) of the work pad will retained as permanent impact (bank stabilization) to protect the bridge pier.*
Totals*:	**60 lf** **< 0.01 ac**	**261 lf** **0.4 ac**	

*Note, an upcoming project will provide permanent repairs to US 74A and will include a river restoration component in this stretch of the Rocky Broad River. Hydraulic designers are taking all practicable steps to stabilize the Rocky Broad River in this section to traverse between the piers of this bridge so that these piers will be located in upland areas.

Project Vicinity, from current, temporary Chimney Rock State Park Road temporary bridge:



Endangered Species Act
Protected Species listed from IPaC[1] as of the date of this application:

Common Name	Habitat Present	Survey Dates	Proposed Biological Conclusion	FWS Concurrence Remarks
Gray bat	Yes	n/a	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect	USFWS Concurrence of PBO Use Attached
Northern long-eared bat	Yes	n/a	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect	
Tricolored bat	Yes	n/a	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect	
Indiana bat	Yes	n/a	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect	
Small whorled pogonia	No	n/a	No Effect	n/a
White irisette	No	n/a	No Effect	n/a
Rock gnome lichen	No	n/a	No Effect	n/a
Bog Turtle[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Monarch butterfly (Proposed)[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1 IPaC – Information for Planning and Consultation (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
2 Similarity of Appearance (Threatened); A species that is threatened due to similarity of appearance with another listed species and is listed for its protection.
3 Due to the recent listing of monarch butterfly within the proposed action area, NCDOT does not have complete information at this time. It is anticipated that construction will be complete by the timeframes proposed for full listing, should the species be formally listed.

Historic Resources Summary (documentation included)

106 Topic	Findings	
Historic Architecture	No Adverse Effect	
Archaeology	No Survey Required	
Tribal Coordination	**Tribe**	**Response**
Tribal Coordination Letters were sent to the following Tribes on January 6, 2025:	Catawba Indian Nation	No response received
	Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	No response received
	Muscogee (Creek) Nation	No response received
	Cherokee Nation	No response received
	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma	No response received

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Michael Turchy, at maturchy@ncdot.gov or (919) 707-6157.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Michael Turchy

Michael A. Turchy
Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group Leader

ePCN

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

NATIONWIDE PERMIT PRE-CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION (PCN)

For use of this form, see 33 CFR 330; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R.

Form Approved - OMB No. 0710-0003
Expires: 2027-10-31

DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

Authority Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Regulatory Program of the Corps of Engineers (Corps); Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332.

Principal Purpose Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the nationwide permit pre-construction notification.

Routine Uses This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of the agency coordination process.

Disclosure Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can

The public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0710-0003, is estimated to average 11 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.

One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (*see sample drawings and/or instructions*) and be submitted to the district engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned.

(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)

1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETE
		10/15/2026	

(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)

5. APPLICANT'S NAME	8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (*agent is not required*)
First – Michael Middle – Last – Turchy	First – Middle – Last –
Company – North Carolina Department of Transportation	Company –
Company Title –	E-mail Address –
E-mail Address – maturchy@ncdot.gov	
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS	**9. AGENT'S ADDRESS**
Address – 1598 Mail Service Center	Address –
City – Raleigh State – NC ZIP – 27606 Country – US	City – State – ZIP – Country –
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOs. with AREA CODE	**10. AGENT'S PHONE NOs. with AREA CODE**
a. Business b. c. Fax	a. b. c. Fax
+19197076157	

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

11. I hereby authorize, to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this nationwide permit pre-construction notification and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this nationwide permit pre-construction notification.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT DATE

NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

12. PROJECT NAME or TITLE (*see instructions*)

NCDOT / Helene Bridge 678 / Rocky Broad River / Chimney Rock State Park Road / Rutherford / Div 13 / DF18313.1081015

NAME, LOCATION, AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (*if applicable*)

14. PROPOSED ACTIVITY STREET ADDRESS (*if applicable*)

Address: 447 B Main St

15. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY (*see instructions*)

Latitude: 35.4398061 °N Longitude: -82.2498214 °W

City: Chimney Rock State: NC Zip: 28720

16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (*see instructions*)

Section – Township – Range –

County – Rutherford County Project Area – 5 Acres State Tax Parcel ID –

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

18. IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC NATIONWIDE PERMIT(S) YOU PROPOSE TO USE

NWP 3 Maintenance

19. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED NATIONWIDE PERMIT ACTIVITY (*see instructions*)

This project is the replacement of two bridges (Bridge 658 carrying Chimney Rock State Park Road and Bridge 313 carrying Southside Drive) destroyed by Hurricane Helene, with one bridge in Chimney Rock, NC.

Bridge replacement project and road realignment.

20. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES (*see instructions*)

No impacts will result in the loss of waters for this project.

21. PURPOSE OF NATIONWIDE PERMIT ACTIVITY (*Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions*)

Replacement of bridges destroyed during Hurricane Helene in September 2024.

22. QUANTITY OF WETLANDS, STREAMS, OR OTHER TYPES OF WATERS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY PROPOSED NATIONWIDE PERMIT ACTIVITY

(*see instructions*)

See Appendix B

Each PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, on the project site.

25. List any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. (*see instructions*)

26. If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands and/or the loss of greater than 3/100-acre of stream bed and requires pre-construction notification, explain how the compensatory mitigation requirement in paragraph (c) and/or paragraph (d) of general condition 23 will be satisfied, or explain why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required for the proposed activity.

27. Is any portion of the nationwide permit activity already complete? ☐ Yes ☑ No

If Yes, describe the completed work:

28. List the name(s) of any species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act that might be affected by the proposed NWP activity or utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed NWP activity. (*see instructions*)

Gray bat,Indiana bat,Monarch butterfly,Northern Long-Eared Bat,Rock gnome lichen,Small whorled pogonia,Tricolored bat,White irisette
ADDITIONAL AFFECTED SPECIES:
See included USFWS Concurrence with use of PBO.

29. List any historic properties that have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property or properties. (*see instructions*)

See attached finding of No Adverse Effect determination documentation.

30. For a proposed NWP activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, identify the Wild and Scenic River or the "study river":

31. If the proposed NWP activity also requires permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, have you submitted a written request for section 408 permission from the Corps district having jurisdiction over that project? ☐ Yes ☑ No

If "yes", please provide the date your request was submitted to the Corps district:

32. If the terms of the NWP(s) you want to use require additional information to be included in the PCN, please include that information in this space or provide it on an additional sheet of paper marked Block 30. (*see instructions*)

33. Pre-construction notification is hereby made for one or more nationwide permit(s) to authorize the work described in this notification. I certify that the information in this pre-construction notification is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein

or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

Michael Turchy	10/15/2026		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	DATE	SIGNATURE OF AGENT	DATE

The pre-construction notification must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) and, if the statement in Block 11 has been filled out and signed, the authorized agent.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

Instructions for Preparing a

Department of the Army

Nationwide Permit (NWP) Pre-Construction Notification (PCN)

Blocks 1 through 4. To be completed by the Corps of Engineers.

Block 5. Applicant's Name. Enter the name and the e-mail address of the responsible party or parties. If the responsible party is an agency, company, corporation, or other organization, indicate the name of the organization and responsible officer and title. If more than one party is associated with the preconstruction notification, please attach a sheet of paper with the necessary information marked Block 5.

Block 6. Address of Applicant. Please provide the full address of the party or parties responsible for the PCN. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 6.

Block 7. Applicant's Telephone Number(s). Please provide the telephone number where you can usually be reached during normal business hours.

Blocks 8 through 11. To be completed, if you choose to have an agent.

Block 8. Authorized Agent's Name and Title. Indicate name of individual or agency, designated by you, to represent you in this process. An agent can be an attorney, builder, contractor, engineer, consultant, or any other person or organization. Note: An agent is not required.

Blocks 9 and 10. Agent's Address and Telephone Number. Please provide the complete mailing address of the agent, along with the telephone number where he / she can be reached during normal business hours.

Block 11. Statement of Authorization. To be completed by the applicant, if an agent is to be employed.

Block 12. Proposed Nationwide Permit Activity Name or Title. Please provide a name identifying the proposed NWP activity, e.g., Windward Marina, Rolling Hills Subdivision, or Smith Commercial Center.

Block 13. Name of Waterbody. Please provide the name (if it has a name) of any stream, lake, marsh, or other waterway to be directly impacted by the NWP activity. If it is a minor (no name) stream, identify the waterbody the minor stream enters.

Block 14. Proposed Activity Street Address. If the proposed NWP activity is located at a site having a street address (not a box number), please enter it in Block 14.

Block 15. Location of Proposed Activity. Enter the latitude and longitude of where the proposed NWP activity is located. Indicate whether the project location provided is the center of the project or whether the project location is provided as the latitude and longitude for each of the "corners" of the project area requiring evaluation. If there are multiple sites, please list the latitude and longitude of each site (center or corners) on a separate sheet of paper and mark as Block 15.

Block 16. Other Location Descriptions. If available, provide the Tax Parcel Identification number of the site, Section, Township, and Range of the site (if known), and / or local Municipality where the site is located.

Block 17. Directions to the Site. Provide directions to the site from a known location or landmark. Include highway and street numbers as well as names. Also provide distances from known locations and any other information that would assist in locating the site. You may also provide a description of the location of the proposed NWP activity, such as lot numbers, tract numbers, or you may choose to locate the proposed NWP activity site from a known point (such as the right descending bank of Smith Creek, one mile downstream from the Highway 14 bridge). If a large river or stream, include the river mile of the proposed NWP activity site if known. If there are multiple locations, please indicate directions to each location on a separate sheet of paper and mark as Block 17.

Block 18. Identify the Specific Nationwide Permit(s) You Propose to Use. List the number(s) of the Nationwide Permit(s) you want to use to authorize the proposed activity (e.g., NWP 29).

Block 19. Description of the Proposed Nationwide Permit Activity. Describe the proposed NWP activity, including the direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause. The description of the proposed activity should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal. Identify the materials to be used in construction, as well as the methods by which the work is to be done.

Provide sketches when necessary to show that the proposed NWP activity complies with the terms of the applicable NWP(s). Sketches usually clarify the activity and result in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed NWP activity (e.g.,a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans.

The written descriptions and illustrations are an important part of the application. Please describe, in detail, what you wish to do. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 19.

Block 20. Description of Proposed Mitigation Measures. Describe any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed NWP activity. The description of any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or additional mitigation measures.

Block 21. Purpose of Nationwide Permit Activity. Describe the purpose and need for the proposed NWP activity. What will it be used for and why? Also include a brief description of any related activities associated with the proposed project. Provide the approximate dates you plan to begin and complete all work.

Block 22. Quantity of Wetlands, Streams, or Other Types of Waters Directly Affected by the Proposed Nationwide Permit Activity. For discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, provide the amount of wetlands, streams, or other types of waters filled, flooded, excavated, or drained by the proposed NWP activity. For structures or work in navigable waters of the United States subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, provide the amount of navigable waters filled, dredged, or occupied by one or more structures (e.g., aids to navigation, mooring buoys) by the proposed NWP activity.

For multiple NWPs, or for separate and distant crossings of waters of the United States authorized by NWPs 12 or 14, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 21 to provide the quantities of wetlands, streams, or other types of waters filled, flooded, excavated, or drained (or dredged or occupied by structures, if in waters subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899) for each NWP. For NWPs 12 and 14, include the amount of wetlands, streams, or other types of waters filled, flooded, excavated, or drained for each separate and distant crossing of waters or wetlands. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 22.

Block 23. Identify Any Other Nationwide Permit(s), Regional General Permit(s), or Individual Permit(s) Used to Authorize Any Part of Proposed Activity or Any Related Activity. List any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. For linear projects, list other separate and distant crossings of waters and wetlands authorized by NWPs 12 or 14 that do not require PCNs. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 23.

Block 24. Compensatory Mitigation Statement for Losses of Greater Than 1/10-Acre of Wetlands and/or of Greater Than 3/100-Acre of Stream Bed When Pre-Construction Notification is Required. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of NWP general condition 23 require compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one replacement ratio for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and/or for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation is more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed NWP activity are no more than minimal without compensatory mitigation, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. Describe the proposed compensatory mitigation for wetland losses greater than 1/10 acre and/or for losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre, or provide an explanation of why the district engineer should not require wetland and/or stream compensatory mitigation for the proposed NWP activity. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 24.

Block 25. Is Any Portion of the Nationwide Permit Activity Already Complete? Describe any work that has already been completed for the NWP activity.

Block 26. List the Name(s) of Any Species Listed As Endangered or Threatened under the Endangered Species Act that Might be Affected by the Nationwide Permit Activity. If you are not a federal agency, and if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the proposed NWP activity, or if the proposed NWP activity is located in designated critical habitat, list the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed NWP activity or utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed NWP activity. If you are a Federal agency, and the proposed NWP activity requires a PCN, you must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Block 27. List Any Historic Properties that Have the Potential to be Affected by the Nationwide Permit Activity. If you are not a Federal agency, and if any historic properties have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity, list the name(s) of those historic properties that have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity. If you are a Federal agency, and the proposed NWP activity requires a PCN, you must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Block 28. List the Wild and Scenic River or Congressionally Designated Study River if the Nationwide Permit Activity Would Occur in such a River. If the proposed NWP activity will occur in a river in the National Wild and Scenic River System or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, provide the name of the river. For a list of Wild and Scenic Rivers and study rivers, please visit http://www.rivers.gov/.

Block 29. Nationwide Permit Activities that also Require Permission from the Corps Under 33 U.S.C. 408. If the proposed NWP activity also requires permission from the Corps under 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will temporarily or permanently alter, occupy, or use a Corps federal authorized civil works project, indicate whether you have submitted a written request for section 408 permission from the Corps district having jurisdiction over that project.

Block 30. Other Information Required For Nationwide Permit Pre Construction Notifications. The terms of some of the Nationwide Permits include additional information requirements for preconstruction notifications:

* NWP 3, Maintenance –information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of the outfalls, intakes, small impoundments, and canals.
* NWP 31, Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities –a description of the maintenance baseline and the dredged material disposal site.
* NWP 33, Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering –a restoration plan showing how all temporary fills and structures will be removed and the area restored to pre project conditions.
* NWP 44, Mining Activities –if reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the final reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre construction notification.
* NWP 45, Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events –documentation, such as a recent topographic survey or photographs, to justify the extent of the proposed restoration.
* NWP 48, Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Activities –(1) a map showing the boundaries of the project area, with latitude and longitude coordinates for each corner of the project area; (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; (3) whether canopy predator nets will be used; (4) whether suspended cultivation techniques will be used; and (5) general water depths in the project area (a detailed survey is not required).
* NWP 49, Coal Remining Activities –a document describing how the overall mining plan will result in a net increase in aquatic resource functions must be submitted to the district engineer and receive written authorization prior to commencing the activity.
* NWP 50, Underground Coal Mining Activities –if reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre construction notification.

If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 30.

Block 31. Signature of Applicant or Agent. The PCN must be signed by the person proposing to undertake the NWP activity, and if applicable, the authorized party (agent) that prepared the PCN. The signature of the person proposing to undertake the NWP activity shall be an affirmation that the party submitting the PCN possesses the requisite property rights to undertake the NWP activity (including compliance with special conditions, mitigation, etc.).

DELINEATION OF WETLANDS, OTHER SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES, AND OTHER WATERS

Each PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current wetland delineation manual and regional supplement published by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. The 45 day PCN review period will not start until the delineation is submitted or has been completed by the Corps.

DRAWINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

General Information.

Three types of illustrations are needed to properly depict the work to be undertaken. These illustrations or drawings are identified as a Vicinity Map, a Plan View or a Typical Cross Section Map. Identify each illustration with a figure or attachment number. For linear projects (e.g. roads, subsurface utility lines, etc.) gradient

drawings should also be included. Please submit one original, or good quality copy, of all drawings on 8½x11 inch plain white paper (electronic media may be substituted). Use the fewest number of sheets necessary for your drawings or illustrations. Each illustration should identify the project, the applicant, and the type of illustration (vicinity map, plan view, or cross section). While illustrations need not be professional (many small, private project illustrations are prepared by hand), they should be clear, accurate, and contain all necessary information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

For proposed NWP activities that involve discharges into waters of the United States, water quality certification from the State, Tribe, or EPA must be obtained or waived (see NWP general condition 25). Some States, Tribes, or EPA have issued water quality certification for one or more NWPs. Please check the appropriate Corps district web site to see if water quality certification has already been issued for the NWP(s) you wish to use. For proposed NWP activities in coastal states, state Coastal Zone Management Act consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see NWP general condition 26). Some States have issued Coastal Zone Management Act consistency concurrences for one or more NWPs. Please check the appropriate Corps district web site to see if Coastal Zone Management Act consistency concurrence has already been issued for the NWP(s) you wish to use.

Appendix B. Aquatic Resource Inventory:

Aquatic Resource Name	*State*	*Cowardin System*	*Cowardin Class*	*HGM Class*	*Local Waterway Name*	*Measurement Type*	*Measurement Amount*	*Measurement Units*	*Waters Type*	*Latitude*	*Longitude*
Rocky Broad River	North Carolina					Linear	500	FOOT	DELIN.NOJD-404	35.4398061	-82.2498214

Appendix C. Impact Inventory:

Water Name	*Impact Name*	*Activity*	*Type of Material Being Discharged*	*Resource Type*	*Permanent Loss (Y/N)*	*Impact Duration*	*Amount Type*	*Proposed Length*	*Proposed Width*	*Proposed Amount*	*Amount Units*
Rocky Broad River	Site 1	Discharge of fill material	Rip Rap	Other	No	Temporary	Fill Area			0.32	Acres
Rocky Broad River	Site 2	Discharge of fill material	Rip Rap	Other	No	Temporary	Fill Area			0.08	Acres
Rocky Broad River	Site 1	Discharge of fill material	Rip Rap	River/Stream	No	Permanent	Fill Area	16	5	0.001837	Acres
Rocky Broad River	Site 2	Discharge of fill material	Rip Rap	River/Stream	No	Permanent	Fill Area	192	19	0.083747	Acres

Provide any additional information you may have about the proposed quantity of wetlands, streams, or other types of waters directly affected by the proposed activity. This level of detail is helpful to better understand the type of impacts that are proposed for your project.

Site 1: A temporary work bridge will be required to construct the bridge pier in the dry, and also for construction access for large equipment to cross the Rocky Broad River. 16 lf (<0.01 ac) of the work pad will retained as permanent impact (bank stabilization) to protect the bridge pier.*

Site 2: A temporary work bridge will be required to construct the bridge pier in the dry, and also for construction access for large equipment to cross the Rocky Broad River. 44 lf (<0.01 ac) of the work pad will retained as permanent impact (bank stabilization) to protect the bridge pier.*

*Note, an upcoming project will provide permanent repairs to US 74A and will include a river restoration component in this stretch of the Rocky Broad River. Hydraulic designers are taking all practicable steps to stabilize the Rocky Broad River in this section to traverse between the piers of this bridge so that these piers will be located in upland areas.

Appendix H. Supporting Information:

Document Type	*Document Created Date (YYYY-MM-DD)*	*Document Label*	*Information Source/Citation*	*Uploaded file name*
Historic Properties Cultural Resources Information	2026-10-15	Archaeology - No Survey Required Form	NCDOT	Rutherford 678 2024-12-30 Archaeology.pdf
Historic Properties Cultural Resources Information	2026-10-15	Tribal Coordination Letters - no responses	NCDOT	Rutherford 678 2026-01-06 Tribal Coordination Letters (no responses).pdf
Threatened Endangered Species Report	2026-10-15	Use of PBO Concurrence	FWS	Rutherford 678 2026-04-24 PBO Response Letter.pdf
Historic Properties Cultural Resources Information	2026-10-15	Historic Effects Determination	NCDOT	Rutherford 678 2026-07-02 HAL.pdf
Maps Plans Plots or Plats	2026-10-15	Permit Drawings	NCDOT	Rutherford 678 2026-09-29 Permit Drawings.pdf
Other Information	2026-10-15	Cover Letter/ Project Information	NCDOT	Rutherford 678 2026-10-15 Application Cover Letter.pdf

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

PERMIT INFORMATION SHEET

PERMIT FORM TYPE	DATE RECEIVED
ENG 6082	10/15/2026

TYPE OF PERMIT YOU'RE REQUESTING

☐ Standard ☐ Letter Of Permission ☑ General Permit

APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY

☑ Section 404 Clean Water Act ☐ Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act

☐ Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act

DO YOU PROPOSE COMPENSATORY MITIGATIONS?

No

COASTAL DISTRICT

WOULD THE PROJECT OCCUR IN THE TERRITORIAL SEAS OR OCEAN WATERS?

No

DESCRIBE THE ACTIVITY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE BASELINE FROM WHICH THE TERRITORIAL SEA IS MEASURED

SECTION 408 USACE CIVIL WORKS PROJECTS

WILL THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY REQUIRES PERMISSION FROM THE USACE PURSUANT TO 33 U.S.C. 408 BECAUSE IT WILL ALTER OR TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY OCCUPY OR USE A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED CIVIL WORKS PROJECT?

☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ I'm not sure

IF YES, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SECTION 408 PERMISSION FROM THE USACE DISTRICT HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THAT PROJECT?

☐ Yes ☑ No

GENERAL PERMIT INFORMATION

WILL THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY RESULT IN A LOSS TO WETLANDS OR WATERS THAT EXCEEDS NATIONAL OR DISTRICT THRESHOLDS?

No

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT – PARTNER APPENDIX

For use of this form, see 33 CFR 325. The proponent agency is CECW-COR.

AUTHORITIES: The Department of Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and partner entities have established a joint process for activities impacting jurisdictional waterways that require review and/or approval of both the Corps and its partners. Department of Army permits are required by Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1899 for any structure(s) or work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States and by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including adjacent wetlands. This supplemental information is provided to the partner entity along with the standard regulatory forms.

PARTNER INFORMATION

ORGANIZATION:	**PARTNER ID:**	**NAME AND CODE:**
NC Division of Water Resources (DWR)		**Form Name**: NATIONWIDE/GENERAL/INDIVIDUAL PERMIT - DWR 401 Application Form NC Division of Water Resources Application Information **Form Code**: NCDWR 401

In North Carolina, many activities covered by Nationwide and Regional General Permits, as well as Individual Permits, also require a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Division of Water Resources. To streamline the application process for both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) - Division of Water Resources (DWR), we have collaborated on this joint application form.

This joint application form serves to fulfill reporting requirements for both agencies under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899, for specific activities permitted through Nationwide Permits (NWPs), Regional General Permits (RGPs), and Individual Permits. The RRS is now the preferred method for submitting application information for these permits.

For questions, please contact the USACE at (910) 251-4633.

The Wilmington District and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) have collaborated to develop a Joint Permit Application (JPA) within the Regulatory Request System (RRS) for use with Nationwide Permits (NWP) and Regional General Permits (RGP), as well as, Individual Permits. This system functions similarly to previous versions of the Pre-Construction Notification form (also known as e-PCN). The RRS is an online platform that enables applicants to electronically upload and submit all required information to the reviewing agencies.

The RRS JPA fulfills the application and reporting requirements for both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and NCDEQ for activities authorized under Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, as well as Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

Projects that fall within the North Carolina Division of Coastal Manangement (NCDCM) review area, will need to coordinate their application with NCDCM directly. To learn more, visit the [NCDCM website](https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/division-coastal-management).

USACE/NCDWR Joint Application Form for Nationwide Permits, Regional General Permits, and Individual Permits (along with corresponding Water Quality Certifications)

PLEASE NOTE: THE SYSTEM IS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT, AND DATA CURRENTLY DOES NOT TRANSMIT ELECTRONICALLY TO NCDEQ'S DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR). UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT COMPLETED RRS JPA DOCUMENTS THROUGH [NCDEQ'S "PROJECT SUBMITTAL INTERIM FORM" WEBSITE](https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/Supplemental-Information-Form).
[Additional Instructions](https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/WaterResources/Browse.aspx?dbid=0&startid=3890140)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION COLLECTED

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION - Property Owner

- Is the owner the same as the applicant?
  - Yes

- Provide Primary Property Owner information
    - Please see the JPA_ContactReport.xlsx to review the provided contact data.

- Provide Additional Property Owner information
    - Please see the JPA_ContactReport.xlsx to review the provided contact data.

PROCESSING INFORMATION -

- Does the project involve maintenance dredging funded by the Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund OR involve the distribution or transmission of energy or fuel (including natural gas, diesel, petroleum, or electricity)?
    - No

- Is this project connected with (American Rescue Plan Act) ARPA funding or S.L. 2023-134 (earmark)?
    - No

- Please select:
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Please provide the DWI ARPA Funding Project Number (ie: SRP-W-ARP-1234 or SRP-W-134-1234):
  *The DWI Funding Project number can be located on the "Letter of Intent to Fund" (LOIF) or "Offer and Acceptance Letter". If you do not know your DWI project #, please contact your DWI project manager or fund recipient (e.g., LGU).
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Is this a NC Division of Mitigation Services (NCDMS) Project? Note - Select Yes only if NCDMS is the applicant/co-applicant.
    - No

- Is this project a public transportation project?
    - Yes

- Is this a NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) project?
    - Yes

- (NCDOT only) T.I.P. (Transportation Improvement Program) or state project number:
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- (NCDOT only) WBS #
    - DF18313.1081015

- Application for NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) Certification.
  Type(s) of approval sought from the DWR? (Select all that apply)
    - 401 Water Quality Certification

- Is this a modification OR new project with existing ID?
    - No

- Please provide the DWR ID number.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Is the project located in any of NC's twenty coastal counties?
    - No

- Is the project located within a NC Division of Coastal Management (DCM) Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Is the project located in a designated trout watershed? [Learn more about Trout](https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Agency-Coordination/Trout.aspx)
    - Yes

- If yes, attach a copy of existing correspondence from the Wildlife Resource Commission Office.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

WATERS DETAILS -

- Name of nearest waterbody? [Surface Water Lookup](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7073e9122ab74588b8c48ded34c3df55/)
    - Rocky Broad River

- Does the proposed activity impact perennial or intermittent streams?
    - Yes

- Please ensure that the Aquatic Resource Inventory section includes all perennial and intermittent streams and be sure to identify them with appropriate Cowardin codes.
  (Click the Aquatic Resources Inventory in the menu on the left to navigate to that section.)

  Note: Use the Cowardin Code "R2 or R3" for perennial. Use Cowardin Code "R4" for intermittent.
  If no code provided, waters will be assumed to be perennial.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

NON-JD IMPACT DETAILS - NOTE: Questions only appear in this section when 'Non-404 Jurisdictional Waters Permit' has been included among the Type(s) of approval sought from the DWR.

- Will the project result in impacts to Non-404 JD waters?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Please ensure that the associated Non-404 Jurisdictional Waters have been entered in the Aquatic Resource Inventory section of the Permit Application. Use the Aquatic Resource Type of "DELIN.NOJD-404".
  (Click the "Aquatic Resources Inventory" option in the menu on the left to navigate to that section.)

    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

BUFFER IMPACTS AND MITIGATION SUMMARY - Additional impacts and mitigation not previously covered in this application: Buffers

- Will project occur in an area subject to state riparian buffer regulations?
    - No

- Will project result in any impacts within a protected riparian buffer?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Which protected basin(s) is the project located within?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Other Protected Basin
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Are the buffer regulations implemented by a delegated local government?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Please specify which local government.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Impact Details
    - Please see the JPA_DynamicTableReport.xlsx to review the provided data.

- Total Temporary Buffer Impacts
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Total Permanent Buffer Impacts
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Total Combined Buffer Impacts
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Will the project result in an impact within a protected riparian buffer that requires buffer mitigation?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- If yes, you must fill out this entire section - please contact DWR for more information.
  Identify the square feet of impact to each zone of the riparian buffer that requires mitigation. Calculate the amount of mitigation required in the table below.
    - Please see the JPA_DynamicTableReport.xlsx to review the provided data.

- How is buffer mitigation proposed to be met?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- If payment to mitigation bank or NCDMS, attach a valid statement of availability or DMS acceptance letter. OR Attach mitigation plan for review.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN -

- Does this project disturb >1 acre of land?
    - Yes

- Is this an NCDOT project subject to compliance with NCDOT's Individual NPDES permit NCS000250?
    - Yes

- Is this project subject to review and approval under a state post-construction stormwater program (DEMLR) or state-approved local government stormwater program?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- What entity has reviewed/is reviewing the Stormwater Management Plan?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- What is the Stormwater Management Plan status?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Does this project meet the requirements for low density projects as defined in 15A NCAC 02H.1003(2)? For details on how Low Density Projects are characterized, click the help icon.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- For low density projects, submit documentation including built-upon area (BUA) delineation, percent BUA calculations, stormwater drainage plan, and designs for vegetated conveyances.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- For all High Density projects submit a Stormwater Management Plan that includes stormwater control measures for water quality treatment.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN BUFFERED BASINS - All stormwater generated from high ground within regulated buffer basins must be in compliance with the stormwater management requirements of the applicable buffer rules.

NOTE: Questions only appear in this section when 'Will project occur in an area subject to state riparian buffer regulations?' is answered Yes.

- Does the project comply with the stormwater management requirements of the applicable buffer rules?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Please explain why the project does not comply.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION -

- Is an environmental document required under NCEPA (01 NCAC 25 .0100)?
    - No

- Has the document review been finalized by the State Clearing House?
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Comments
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- Attach a copy of the SEPA final approval document.
    - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

VIOLATIONS -

- Is the site in violation of DWR Water Quality Certification Rules (15A NCAC 2H .0500), Isolated Wetland Rules (15A NCAC 2H .1300), or DWR Surface Water or Wetland Standards or Riparian Buffer Rules (15A NCAC 2B .0200)?

- No

- Please explain.
  - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS -

- Will this project (based on past and reasonably anticipated future impacts) result in additional development?
  - No

- Provide a qualitative or quantitative cumulative impact analysis in accordance with the most recent DWR policy. [Learn more about Cumulative Impact Policy](https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Water%20Quality/Surface%20Water%20Protection/401/Policies_Guides_Manuals/CumulativeImpactPolicy.pdf)
  - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

- If not, provide a short narrative description.
  - Not Applicable (Question not presented)

PLEASE NOTE: THE SYSTEM IS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT, AND DATA CURRENTLY DOES NOT TRANSMIT ELECTRONICALLY TO NCDEQ'S DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR). UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT COMPLETED RRS JPA DOCUMENTS THROUGH [NCDEQ'S "PROJECT SUBMITTAL INTERIM FORM" WEBSITE](https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/Supplemental-Information-Form).
[Additional Instructions](https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/WaterResources/Browse.aspx?dbid=0&startid=3890140)

Project Submittal Interim Form

Updated March 16, 2026

*Please note: fields marked with a red asterisk * below are required. You will not be able to submit the form until all mandatory questions are answered.*

Project Type: *

- ○ For the Record Only (Courtesy Copy)
- ○ Modification/New Project with Existing ID
- ○ Other Agency Comments
- ○ Re-Issuance\Renewal Request
- ◉ New Project
- ○ More Information Response
- ○ Pre-Application Submittal
- ○ Stream or Buffer Appeal

*** If this is a GP reissuance/renewal please reference the date of the plans and PCN that were originally verified.**

New Project - Please check the new project type if you are trying to submit a new project that needs an official approval decision.

Pre-Application Submittal – Please check the pre-application submittal if you just want feedback on your submittal and do not have the expectation that your submittal will be considered a complete application requiring a formal decision.

Modification/New Project With An Existing ID - Please check this box if you are submitting for a new phase of an existing project, a modification to an existing project or for any additional impacts to an existing project for an official approval decision.

More Information Response - Please check this type if you are responding to a request for information from staff and you have and ID# and version for this response.

Other Agency Comments - Please check this if you are submitting comments on an existing project.

Re-issuance\Renewal Request – Please check this if you are submitting for a re-issuance\renewal prior to expiration date for the corresponding 401/404. If submitting after the expiration date or if modification needed use Modification\New Project with Existing ID option.

Submittal Type: *

401 Application - Certificate of Coverage

Is buffer approval also required? *

○ Yes ◉ No

Project Contact Information

Name:

Michael Turchy

Who is submitting the information?

Email Address: *

maturchy@ncdot.gov

Project Information

Project Name: *

NCDOT / Helene Bridge 678 / Rocky Broad River / Chimney Rock State Park Road / Rutherford / Div 13 / DF18313.1081015

Is this a public transportation project? *

(●) Yes ( ) No

Is this a DOT project? *

(●) Yes ( ) No

TIP#:

WBS#:

DF18313.1081015

(Applies to DOT projects only)

Project Status

If you selected "Re-Issuance/Renewal Request" or "Modification/New Project with Existing ID" for your project type at the top of this form, please enter the current status of your project.

(●) Pre-let ( ) Under Construction

( ) Utility Relocation Underway ( ) In-Field Adjustment

Only choose "In-Field Adjustment" if directed to do so by 401 staff

Is this application for a project associated with emergency response/repairs from Hurricane Helene impacts to your project or property? *

(●) Yes ( ) No

Is the project located within a NC DCM Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)? *

( ) Yes (●) No ( ) Unknown

Does this project involve maintenance dredging funded by the Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Aquatic Weed Fund, electric generation projects located at an existing or former electric generating facility, or involve the distribution or transmission of energy or fuel, including natural gas, diesel, petroleum, or electricity? *

( ) Yes (●) No

Is this project connected with ARPA funding or S.L. 2023-134 (earmark)? *

( ) ARPA ( ) S.L. 2023-134 (earmark) (●) No

Is this application being filed jointly with another party involved with this project? *

( ) Yes (●) No

County (ies) *

Rutherford

Please upload all files that need to be submited.

Click the upload button or drag and drop files here to attach document

Rutherford 678 2026-07-02 HAL.pdf	16.72MB
Rutherford 678 2026-10-15 Application Cover Letter.pdf	434.21KB
Generated_Turchy_60071_71029_0_Appx_B_Aquatic_Resources.pdf	49.54KB
Generated_Turchy_60071_71029_0_Appx_C_Impacts.pdf	70.46KB
Generated_Turchy_60071_71029_0_Appx_H_Supporting_Files.pdf	52.05KB
Generated_Turchy_60071_71029_0_ENG_6082_PCN.pdf	541.89KB
Generated_Turchy_60071_71029_0_NCDWR 401_JPA_Report.pdf	91.28KB
Generated_Turchy_60071_71029_0_Permit_Additional_Info.pdf	215.78KB
Rutherford 678 2026-09-29 Permit Drawings.pdf	1.94MB

Only pdf or kmz files are accepted.

Describe the attachments or add comments:

*

☑ By checking the box and signing box below, I certify that:

- I, the project proponent, hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I, the project proponent, hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.
- I agree that submission of this online form is a “transaction” subject to Chapter 66, Article 40 of the NC General Statutes (the “Uniform Electronic Transactions Act”);
- I agree to conduct this transaction by electronic means pursuant to Chapter 66, Article 40 of the NC General Statutes (the “Uniform Electronic Transactions Act”);
- I understand that an electronic signature has the same legal effect and can be enforced in the same way as a written signature; AND
- I intend to electronically sign and submit the online form.

Signature: *



Submittal Date:

Permit Drawings

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Highway Stormwater Program

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR NCDOT PROJECTS

(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)

WBS Element:		TIP/Proj No:	18313.1081015	County(ies):	Rutherford

General Project Information

WBS Element:		**TIP Number:**	18313.1081015	**Project Type:**	Bridge Replacement	**Date:**	9/23/2026
NCDOT Contact:	Malcolm Watson			**Contractor / Designer:**	STV Engineers, Inc		
	Address:	1020 Birch Ridge Drive Room #16 Raleigh, NC 27610			**Address:**	2151 Hawkins St. Suite 1400 Charlotte, NC 28203	
	Phone:	919-707-6614			**Phone:**	919-420-7660	
	Email:	mcwatson@ncdot.gov			**Email:**	wjernigan@gfnet.com	
City/Town:	Chimney Rock			**County(ies):**	Rutherford		
River Basin(s):	Broad			**CAMA County?**	No		
Wetlands within Project Limits?	No						

Project Description

Project Length (lin. miles or feet):	110'	**Surrounding Land Use:**	Businesses				
	Proposed Project			**Existing Site**			
Project Built-Upon Area (ac.)	0.6	ac.		-	ac.		
Typical Cross Section Description:	Proposed project is a 2-lane, 50' road curb and gutter and a sidewalk on both sides.			Existing bridge has been washed away			
Annual Avg Daily Traffic (veh/hr/day):	Design/Future:	-	Year: -	Existing:	-	Year:	-
General Project Narrative: (Description of Minimization of Water Quality Impacts)	The purpose of this project is construct the proposed bridge #800678 in Rutherford County. This new bridge replaces Rutherford County Pre-Helene Bridges #658 and #313 after they were washed away by Hurricane Helene. Roadway improvements were minimized to reduce impacts to the maximum extent practicable. The proposed structure is a concrete deck on Florida I-beams. There are <0.01ac of permanent impacts associated with this project for the 2 interior bents of the proposed bridge, and 0.4ac of temporary impacts for the construction of the bridge.						

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Highway Stormwater Program

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR NCDOT PROJECTS

(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)

General Project Information

Waterbody Information

Surface Water Body (1):	Broad River		**NCDWR Stream Index No.:**	9-(1)		
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		**Primary Classification:**	Class C			
		Supplemental Classification:	Trout Waters (Tr)			
Other Stream Classification:	None					
Impairments:	None					
Aquatic T&E Species?	No	Comments:				
NRTR Stream ID:	NA			**Buffer Rules in Effect:**	N/A	
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?	Yes	**Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?**	No	**Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?**	No	
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?	No	(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)		
(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)						

Surface Water Body (2):			**NCDWR Stream Index No.:**			
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		**Primary Classification:**				
		Supplemental Classification:				
Other Stream Classification:						
Impairments:						
Aquatic T&E Species?		Comments:				
NRTR Stream ID:				**Buffer Rules in Effect:**		
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?		**Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?**		**Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?**		
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)		
(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)						

Surface Water Body (3):			**NCDWR Stream Index No.:**			
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		**Primary Classification:**				
		Supplemental Classification:				
Other Stream Classification:						
Impairments:						
Aquatic T&E Species?		Comments:				
NRTR Stream ID:				**Buffer Rules in Effect:**		
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?		**Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?**		**Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?**		
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)		(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)		
(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)						

TIP PROJECT: 18313.1081015

CONTRACT: CXXXXXX

$$$$$SYSTIME$$$$$
$$$$$$$$$DGN$$$$$$$$$
$$$$$$$USERNAME$$$$$$$
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

STATE	STATE PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
N.C.	18313.1081015	1	

STATE PROJ. NO.	F. A. PROJ. NO.	DESCRIPTION
18313.1081015	N/A	DESIGN–BUILD

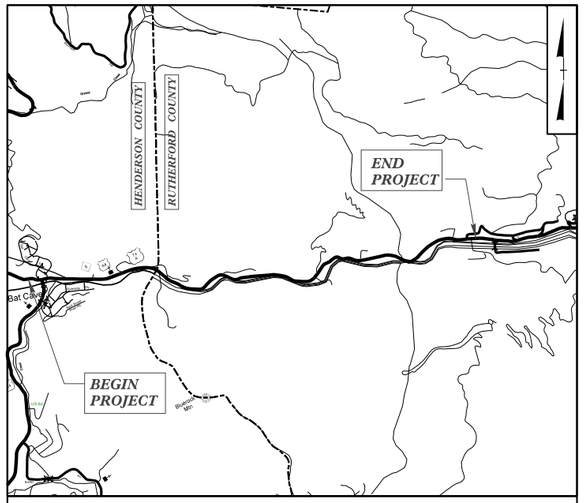
HENDERSON/RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

LOCATION: US 74A FROM WEST OF US 64 IN BAT CAVE EAST OF SR 1300 (TERRACE DRIVE)

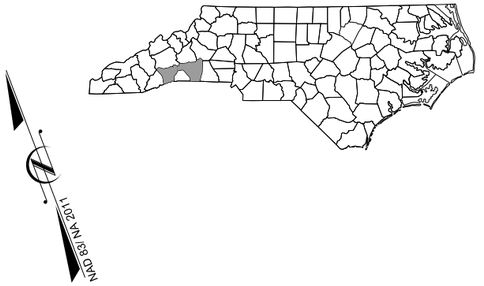
TYPE OF WORK: GRADING, DRAINAGE, PAVING, AND STRUCTURES

WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS PERMIT

PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 1 OF 5

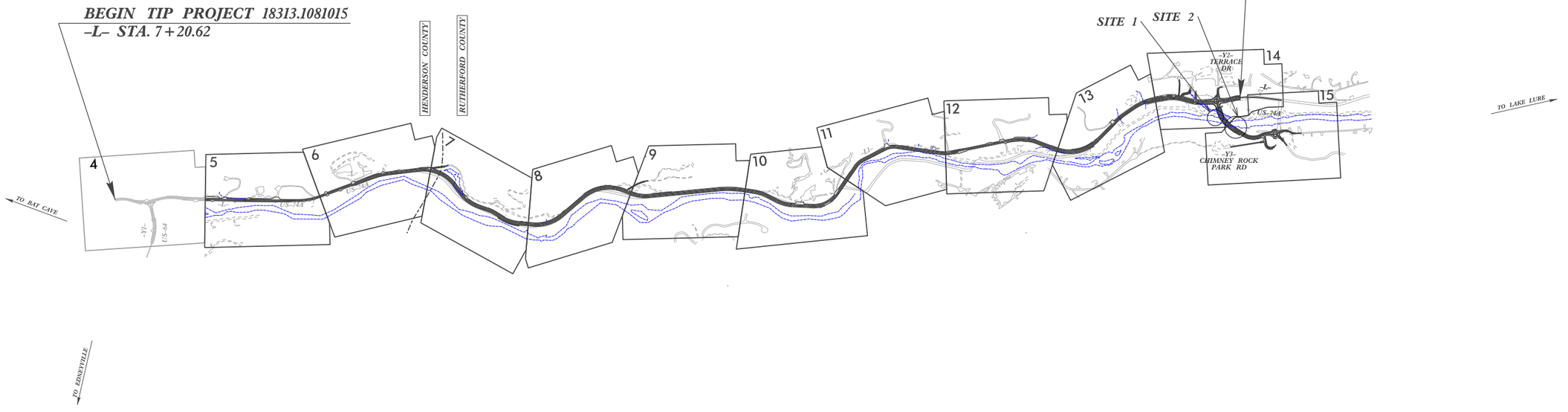


VICINITY MAP N.T.S.



END TIP PROJECT 18313.1081015
–L– POT STA. 144+23.39

BEGIN TIP PROJECT 18313.1081015
–L– STA. 7+20.62



GRAPHIC SCALES

PLANS: 40 20 0 20 40

PROFILE (HORIZONTAL): 50 25 0 50 100

PROFILE (VERTICAL): 10 5 0 10 20

DESIGN DATA

ADT 2019 = xxxxxx
ADT 2045 = XXXXXX
K = X%
D = XX%
T = X%*
V = 40 MPH
* (TTST=X%+DUAL X%)
FUNC. CLASSIFICATION = MINOR ATERIAL

PROJECT LENGTH

LENGTH ROADWAY TIP PROJECT 18313.1081015 = 2.595 MILES

LENGTH STRUCTURE TIP PROJECT 18313.1081015 = xxxx MILES

TOTAL LENGTH OF TIP PROJECT 18313.1081015 = 2.595 MILES

NCDOT CONTACT: MALCOLM WATSON, PE
NCDOT – ALTERNATE DELIVERY UNIT

PLANS PREPARED FOR THE NCDOT BY:

GFT
GFT Infrastructure, Inc.
One Glenwood Avenue, Suite 900
Raleigh, NC 27603
919-420-7660
NC Lic. No. F-0270

WRIGHT BROTHERS | stv

2024 STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

RIGHT OF WAY DATE: _____, 2025

LETTING DATE: _____, 2025

CURTIS HALL, PE
PROJECT ENGINEER

ANTHONY GILLESPIE, PE
PROJECT DESIGN ENGINEER

HYDRAULICS ENGINEER

SIGNATURE: *P.E.*

ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER

SIGNATURE: *P.E.*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION •

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.
CRPDB	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER

GFT Infrastructure, Inc. 5121 Kingcrowell Avenue, Suite 990 Raleigh, NC 27603 919-424-7650 NC Lic. No. P-0670

WRIGHT BROTHERS | stv

TS TS TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

S S SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

TEMP. WORK PADS

SPILL-THROUGH ABUTMENT RIP-RAP

PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 2 OF 5

NAD 83 NA 2011

SITE 1

SITE 2

TEMP. WORK PAD

TEMP. WORK BRIDGE

TEMP. WORK PAD

TEMP. WORK BRIDGE

TEMP. WORK PAD

CLASS II RIPRAP WITH GEOTEXTILE
330 TONS CL II RIPRAP
380 SY GEOTEXTILE
(STRUCTURES PAY ITEM)

CLASS II RIPRAP WITH GEOTEXTILE
240 TONS CL II RIPRAP
285 SY GEOTEXTILE
(STRUCTURES PAY ITEM)

BEGIN BRIDGE
-Y3- POT STA. 10+81 ±

END BRIDGE
-Y3- POT STA. 14+16 ±

-Y3- STA. 10+58

-Y3- STA. 10+65

-Y3- STA. 13+80

-Y3- STA. 14+34

RETAINING WALL

10 TONS CL I RIP RAP
23 SY GEOTEXTILE

ROCKY BROAD RIVER

SOIL HAUL ROAD

B-77

GRAPHIC SCALE 20' 0' 20' 40' 60

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.
CRPDB	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER

NAD 83 2011

TS TS TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

S S SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

TEMP. WORK PADS

SPILL-THROUGH ABUTMENT RIP-RAP

PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 3 OF 5

-Y3- STA. 10+58

-Y3- STA. 10+65

CLASS II RIPRAP WITH GEOTEXTILE
240 TONS CL II RIPRAP
285 SY GEOTEXTILE
(STRUCTURES PAY ITEM)

BEGIN BRIDGE
-Y3- POT STA. 10+81 ±

END BRIDGE
-Y3- POT STA. 14+16 ±

10 TONS CL I RIP RAP
23 SY GEOTEXTILE

RIP RAP
GEO

ROCKY BROAD RIVER

ANKMENT

TEMP. WORK PAD

TEMP. WORK BRIDGE

TEMP. WORK PAD

SITE 1

SITE 2

CLASS II RIPRAP WITH GEOTEXTILE
330 TONS CL II RIPRAP
380 SY GEOTEXTILE
(STRUCTURES PAY ITEM)

-Y3- STA. 13+80

RETAINING WALL

TEMP. WORK BRIDGE

-Y3- STA. 14+34

TEMP. WORK PAD

B-77

20' 0' 20' 40' 60
GRAPHIC SCALE

PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 4 OF 5

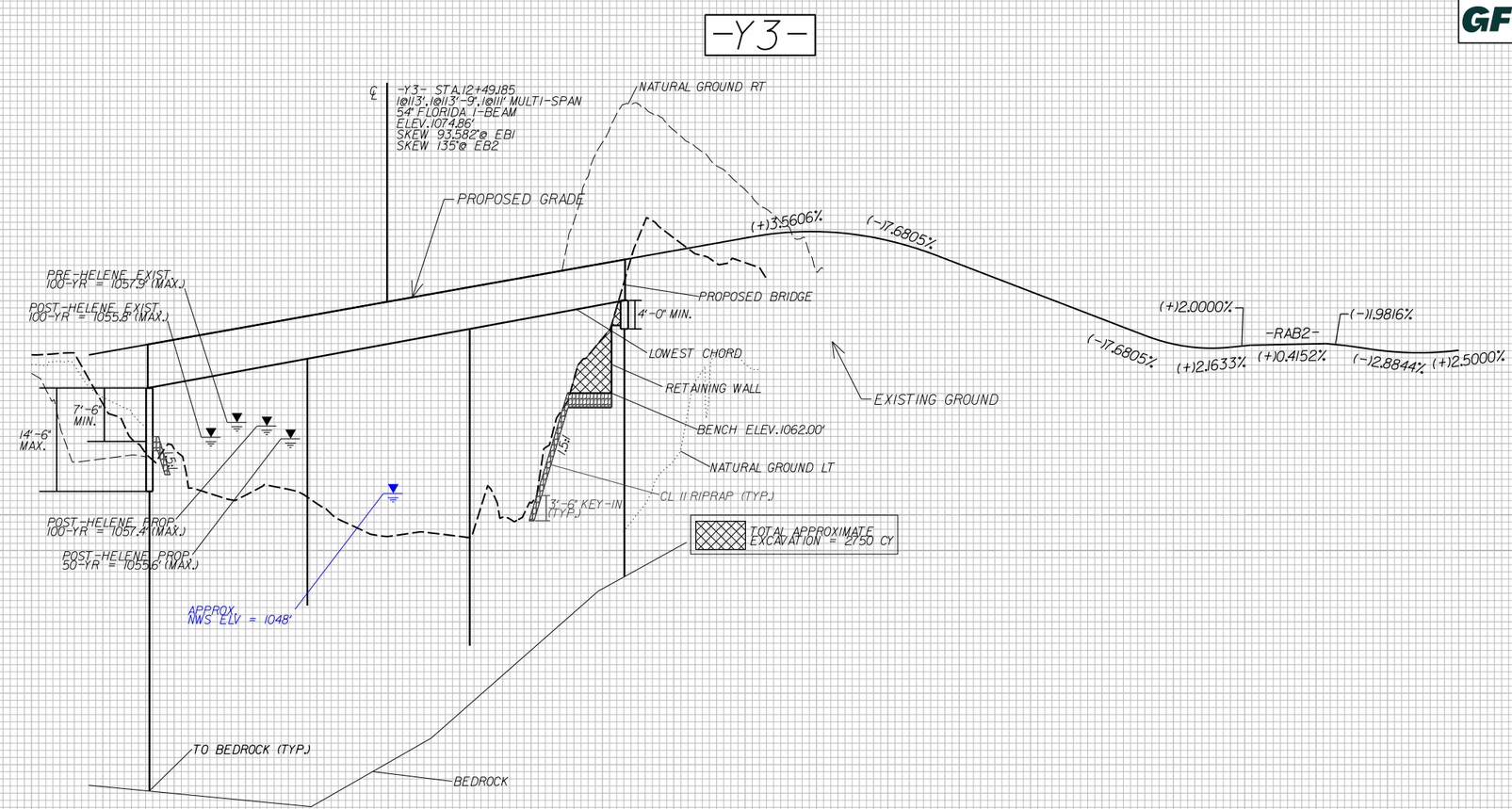
PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.
CRPDB	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER

INCOMPLETE PLANS
DO NOT USE FOR R/W ACQUISITION

GFT Infrastructure, Inc.
One Glenwood Avenue, Suite 900
Raleigh, NC 27603
919-410-7650
NC Lic. No. P-0570

WRIGHT BROTHERS
Lincolnton, NC 28092
NC License Number F-0991

stv



WETLAND AND SURACE WATER IMPACTS SUMMARY

			WETLAND IMPACTS					SURFACE WATER IMPACTS				
Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	Permanent Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Excavation in Wetlands (ac)	Mechanized Clearing in Wetlands (ac)	Hand Clearing in Wetlands (ac)	Permanent SW impacts (ac)	Temp. SW impacts (ac)	Existing Channel Impacts Permanent (ft)	Existing Channel Impacts Temp. (ft)	Natural Stream Design (ft)
1	-Y3- 11+60 - 12+31	Interior Bent #1 & Temporary Work Pads						< 0.01	0.32	16	69	
2	-Y3- 12+75 - 14+47	Interior Bent #2 & Temporary Work Pad						< 0.01	0.08	44	192	
TOTALS*:								< 0.01	0.40	60	261	0

*Rounded totals are sum of actual impacts

NOTES:
Interior bents to be constructed via temporary work bridges and work pads

Revised 2018 Feb

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

09/28/2026
Rutherford
18313.1081015

ESA Consultation

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Asheville Field Office
160 Zillicoa Street Suite B
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

April 24, 2026

Subject: Review Response for Transportation Project(s) Covered by the Western North Carolina Bat Programmatic Biological Opinion

Greetings:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Asheville Ecological Services Field Office, has reviewed the project(s) submitted on April 23, 2026 for coverage under the Western North Carolina (WNC) Bat Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO), issued April 1, 2025. Based on the submitted materials and any supplemental information provided, we confirm the project(s) meet the criteria for coverage under this PBO in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543) (ESA), thus concluding formal consultation for the project(s).

This correspondence conveys our review for listed/proposed bats covered by the WNC Bat PBO only. The lead federal agency (Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or North Carolina Department of Transportation as their designee, or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) remains responsible for ensuring that any other listed or proposed species and/or designated critical habitat that occurs within the project action area are addressed in accordance with section 7 of the ESA. For other listed species potentially occurring in the action area, if suitable habitat is absent from the action area, “No Effect” determinations are appropriate. For plants, in instances where suitable habitat is present and botanical surveys conducted during the optimal survey window and within the past one or two years (depending on the species) have negative results, we would concur with a biological determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA).

Review and concurrence under the WNC Bat PBO are considered complete for the following project(s):

Project Title	NCDOT STIP/ID#	USFWS Log #
Bridge 110105 on US64/NC18 over Johns River subsurface borings.	BR-0010	18-427
Replace Timber Bridge 100162 on Blackberry Inn Road / SR 2115 over Reems Creek	DF18313.2011265.PR	25-195
Replace Timber Bridge 990032 on Roses Brach Road / SR 1314 over Rose Creek	DF18313.2100416.PR	25-198
Replace Timber Bridge 990202 on Sampson Mountain Road / SR 1401 over Bald Mountain Creek	DF18313.2100478.PR	25-199
Replace Timber Bridge 990216 on Barn Road / SR 1357 over Jacks Creek	DF18313.2100056.PR	25-400

US 74 over Broad River Chimney Rock bridge replacement	18313.1081	26-155
Replace Timber Bridge 100506 on Blackberry Inn Road / SR 2115 over Reems Creek	DF18313.2011447.PR	26-157
Replace Timber Bridge 990225 on Honeycutt Road / SR 1359 over Jacks Creek	DF18313.2100317.PR (aka BP13.T015)	26-158
Replace Timber Bridge 100161 on Blackberry Inn Road / SR 2115 over Reems Creek	DF18313.2011266.PR	26-159
Richardson Greenway South project	EB-5932	26-161
Replace timber bridge no. 560184 over Gabriel Creek on SR 1355 (Bailey Street)	BP13.R009	26-162
SR 1700 (Riverside Drive) road repairs	DF18314.2045452	26-163
SR 1123 (Little River Road) Pipe Replacement over UT to Mud Creek	DF18314.2045441	26-164
SR 2122 (Westbridge Road) Pipe Replacement over Little Mud Creek	DF18314.2045282	26-165
SR 1282 (Kanuga Lake Road) Pipe Replacement over UT to Mud Creek	DF18314.2045256	26-166
SR 1173 (White Pine Road) Pipe Replacement over Wash Creek	DF18314.1045031	26-167
SR 1164 (Erkwood Drive) Pipe Replacement over UT to King Creek	DF18314.1045055	26-168
SR 1514 (Bamboo Road) roadway improvements	44170.11	26-169
Lower Shut-In Rd. (SR 1303) roadway improvements.	DF18313.2057070	26-156
River Road roadway improvements.	DF18313.2057084	26-170
Davis Mountain Road (SR 1188) emergency repairs	DF18314.2045155	26-142

We appreciate the opportunity for review and comment.

Sincerely,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Asheville Field Office

Archaeology

Project Tracking No.:

24-11-0012

NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REQUIRED 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:	**US 64 US 74 Helene**	*County:*	**Henderson & Rutherford**
WBS No:	**49082.2.13**	*Document:*	**CE**
F.A. No:	**tbd**	*Funding:*	☐ State ☒ Federal

Federal Permit Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No *Permit Type:* **USACE**

Project Description:

NCDOT proposes to reestablish the US 64/US 74 route destroyed by Hurricane Helene parallel to the Broad River from Bat Cave to Chimney Rock in Henderson and Rutherford Counties. For this emergency restoration and repair for parts of the highway removed from the landscape following devastating flooding, there is potential for federal funding and USACE coordination is expected. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act applies for this federal undertaking.

The project's western limit is near the split of highways US 64, US 74alt, and NC 9 at Bat Cave, between Red Anderson Road (SR 1611) and Chimney Rock Road (US 64). The eastern end of the project is between Chimney Rock Park Road and Southside Drive (SR 1190). Bridge No. 440214 on US 64 at Bat Cave will also be repaired as part of this effort. Overall, the project length covers about 2.90 miles of highway with travel lanes which have been removed, destroyed, damaged, or compromised by flooding. Repair, temporary roadway, or road rebuilding is required throughout the project which now contains some impassable or limited access portions spanning 1.5 miles (8,000 feet) with only patches of intact highway. Note, there is partial overlap with the separate project to replace the now destroyed Bridge No. 800658 (Chimney Rock Park Road over the Broad River) which has been reviewed as PA 24-11-0018.

For the Archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE), this investigation considers all areas of potential earth disturbing activities, including all the current and any proposed new ROW. The scouring volume of flooding deposited new terrain and reformed or replaced much of the landforms associated with US 64/US 74. This unique circumstance requires earthmoving, and a lot of fill or cuts to grade and drain the recently modified terrain. The APE length end to end is about 2.90 miles (15,300 feet). No formal design was available at the time of this review, therefore the APE width is buffered to allow flexibility to study a range of potential, successful roadway solutions. The width is 350 feet which allows 100 feet to either side of the recent centerline plus an additional 150 feet on the river side of the roadway.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW

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

This stretch of highway was strongly affected by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helen in late September 2024. Severe flooding, characterized by massive quantities and rapid flow, raised and surpassed the established banks of the Broad River, tributaries, and drainages. The rushing water expanded and reformed channels, obliterating portions of the highway and removing vulnerable buildings from the landscape. New deposits are now present, consisting of debris, boulders, and alluvium originating upstream and from the mountain slopes (see Figure 3). Most of the APE now has modified terrain which includes an expanded buffer into the previously established riverbed. The volume and extent of changes caused by flooding results in a new landscape with large areas filled in with flood deposits. The flooding event combines with major 20th century grading for the roads to

leave little chance for intact soils containing cultural materials and living horizons in situ, a poor archaeological context.

There are no recorded archaeological sites within, adjacent or in the nearby vicinity of the APE. Outside of the valley bottom on a ridge spur, a Native American archaeological site, 31Rf177, overlooks the middle part of the affected areas about 800 feet to the north, outside of the APE. No known cemeteries are close to the project area. The NC Office of State Archaeology lists a recent environmental review (ER 24-2608) mapped on the north side of the river, tangential to the APE, for the "Chimney Rock Borrow Site." The 45-acre boundary includes side slopes with some spurs present. Related to Helene flood damage recovery, a surveys was recommended and has been conducted. No archaeological sites were identified during that survey and a full report is underway. An inactive archaeological review, GS 24-1607 (Great State Tris Grant: Construct Lower Ghost Town), is 1000 feet north of the APE and Chimney Rock Main Street, covering about 17 acres. A decade ago, an archaeological review for CT 16-0233 (Stealth Flagpole Terrace Drive) covered about 1 acre north of the APE was reviewed for archaeology. One hundred feet away and near a tourist chair lift, it is inactive, and no archaeological survey was recommended. One last OSA review, ER 23-2663 (Improve Streetscape, Main Street), is inside the APE near the entrance to Chimney Rock State Park and required no survey (inactive). This is near the destroyed Bridge No. 8000658, covered under PA 24-11-0018. The HPO maps RF0614 within the APE, comprised of two extant stone entranceways or gatehouses, as the Chimney Rock Park Entrance.

The APE for urgently required repairs of the US 64/US 74alt highway between Bat Cave and Chimney Rock, portions of which were swept away by Helene flooding, has been majorly altered. Construction of the highway and other twentieth century development graded usable land along the Broad River. A large volume of riverbank has been scoured and new alluvium deposited, most recently by Helene flood waters, but also in 1916 when the mountains endured an earlier damaging flood event of similar scale. The probability to encounter and affect undocumented, intact, and significant archaeological sites within the APE is low. No archaeological survey is required. A separate cultural resources review is underway by NCDOT Architecture Historians which will address above ground structures and properties.

This project falls within North Carolina Counties which the following federally recognized tribes have expressed an interest: the Catawba Indian Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. We recommend that this documentation is forwarded to tribes using the process described in the current NCDOT Tribal Protocol and PA Procedures Manual.

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

The undertaking involves needed restoration of lanes removed from the landscape due to Hurricane Helene flooding. The Broad River and the adjacent highway witnessed massive amounts of soil and rock displacement. The riverbanks and terrain have changed. Earth removed and swept away has been replaced with new alluvium. No archaeological sites are expected to remain in the riverbed and banks that have been reformed. The approaches of the Broad River from either side have been disturbed by previous roadway and bridge construction. No archaeological survey is warranted for this highway repair project.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

See attached: ☒ Map(s) ☐ Previous Survey Info ☐ Photos ☐ Correspondence
☐ Photocopy of County Survey Notes Other:

FINDING BY NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST

NO ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY REQUIRED

12/30/2024

NCDOT ARCHAEOLOGIST Date

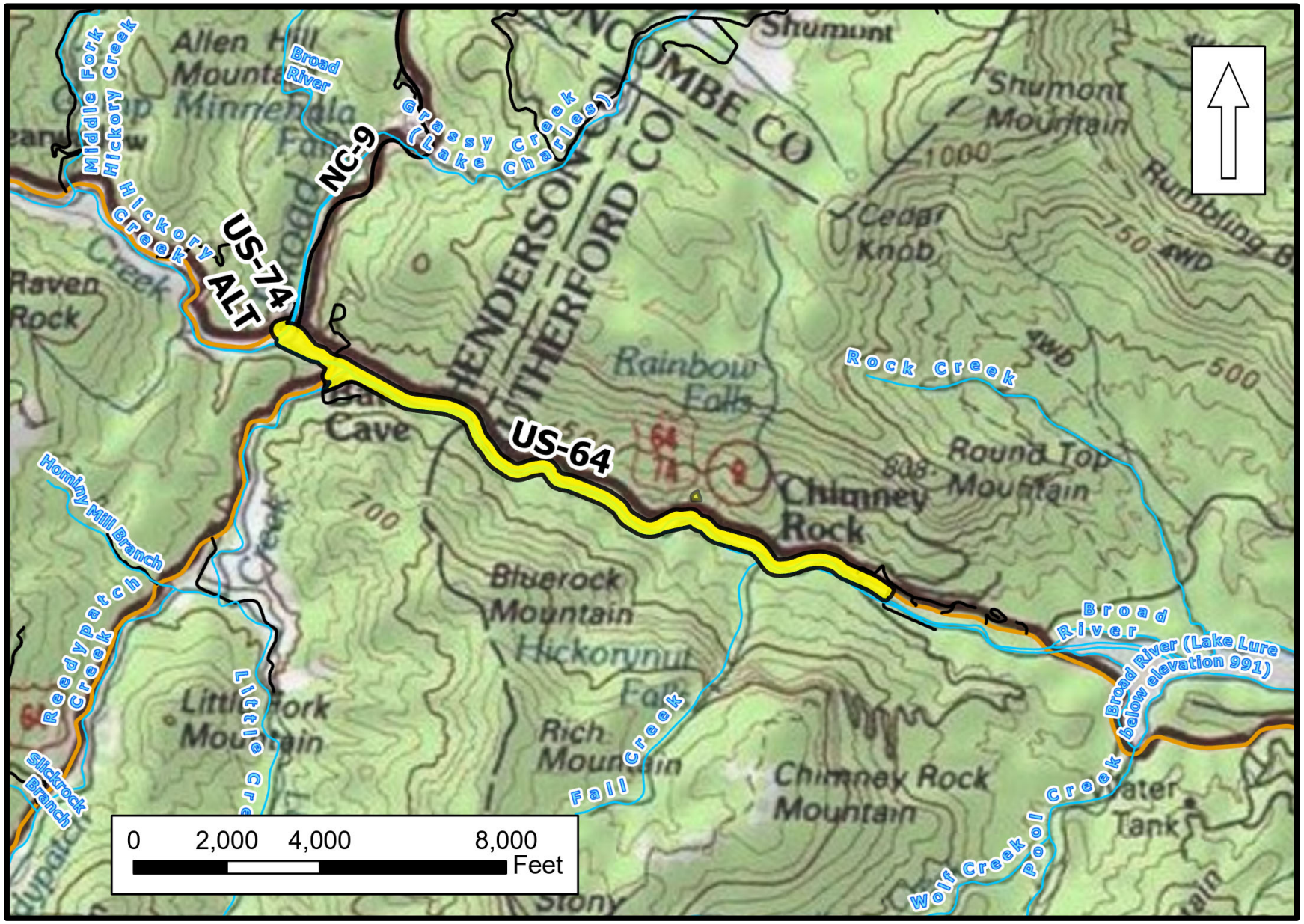


Figure 1. Vicinity for the repair of destroyed, damaged, and compromised portions of US 64 between Chimney Rock and Bat Cave shown on USGS mapping (Bat Cave, Lake Lure). The approximate APE is shaded yellow with a black outline.

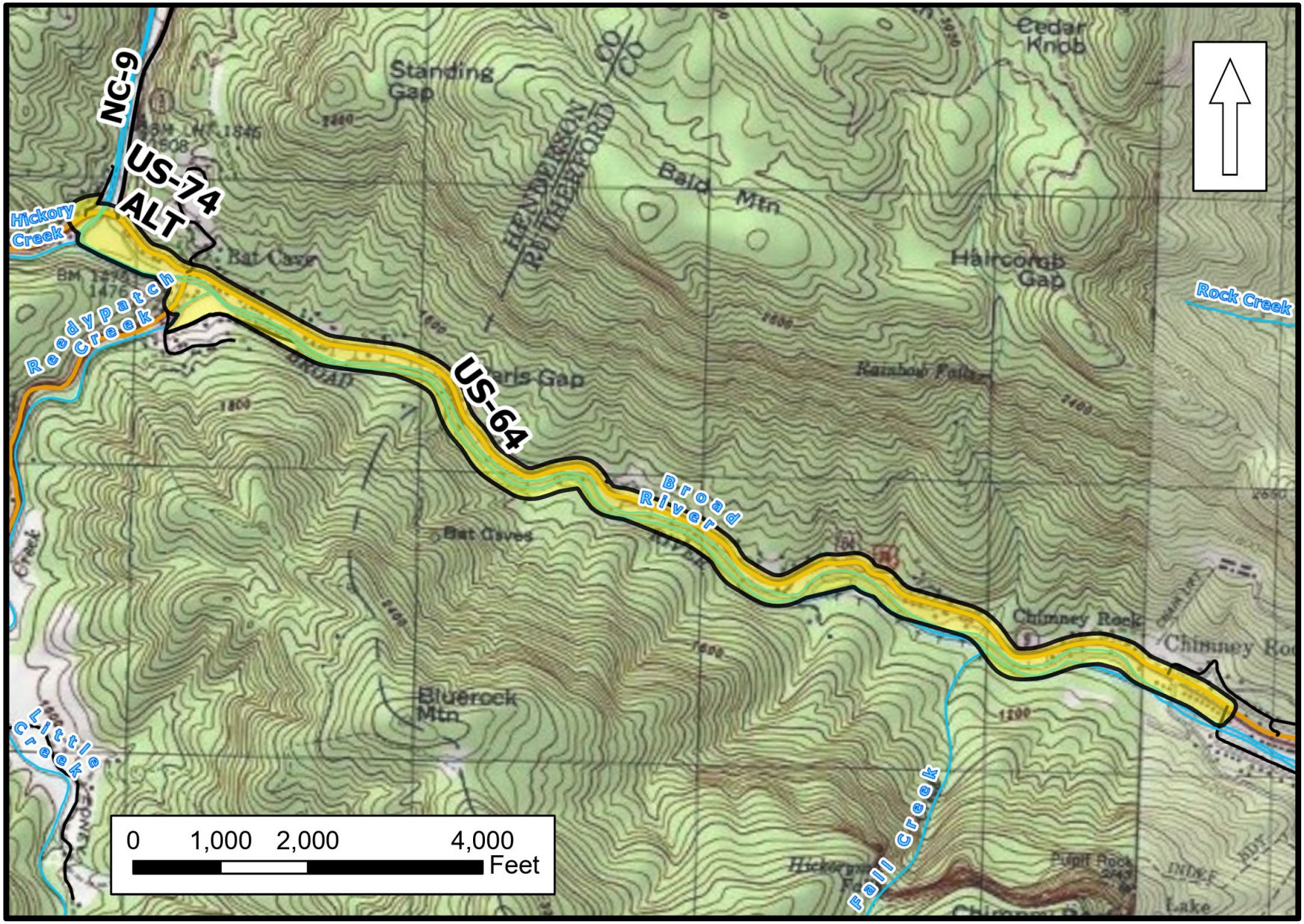


Figure 2. More detailed topography for the repair of destroyed, damaged, and compromised portions of US 64 between Chimney Rock and Bat Cave shown on USGS mapping (Bat Cave, Lake Lure). The approximate APE is shaded yellow with a black outline.

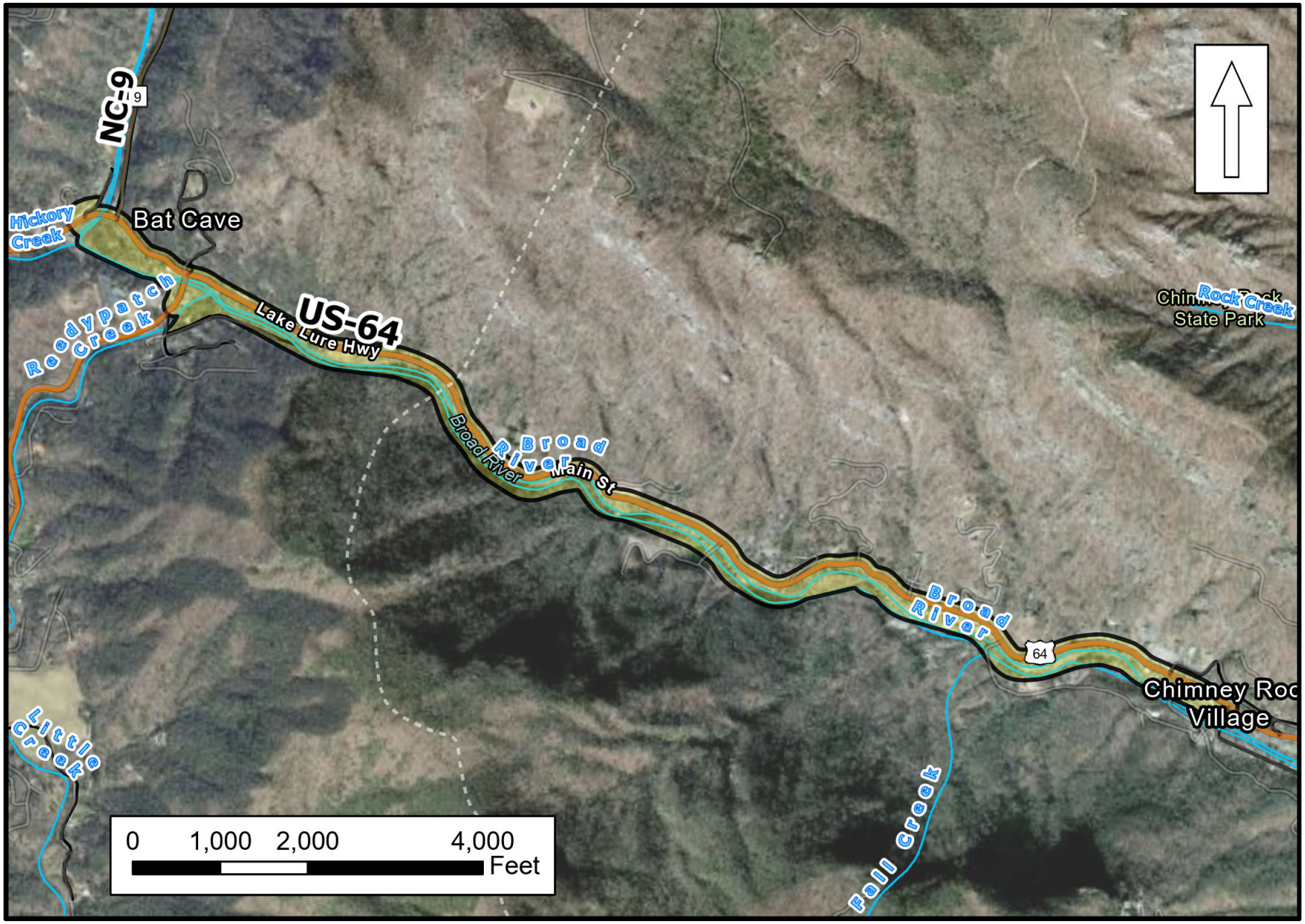


Figure 3. Aerial photography of the destroyed, damaged, and compromised portions of US 64 between Chimney Rock and Bat Cave reviewed for archaeology. Helene flooding removed segments of the highway. The approximate APE is shaded yellow with a black outline.

Historic Architecture & Landscapes



HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS FORM

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project No:	No TIP	***County***:	Rutherford
WBS No.:	49082.2.13	***Document Type***:	CE
Fed. Aid No:		***Funding***:	☐ State ☒ Federal
Federal Permit(s):	☒ Yes ☐ No	***Permit Type(s)***:	USACE

Project Description:
NCDOT's Division 13 proposes to replace Rutherford Bridges 313 and 658 @ Chimney Rock State Park with a single structure over the Rocky Broad River in Chimney Rock. The bridges served as access and entry to Chimney Rock State Park and the Southside Drive neighborhood. Both bridges were destroyed during Hurricane Helene, only the two stone gatehouses which were the original entrance to the park remain on the north side of the Rocky Broad River.

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPES REVIEW

Description of review activities, results, and conclusion
An NCDOT architectural historian reviewed the known historic properties in proximity to the APE using HPOWeb, Rutherford County GIS, survey site files from the HPO Western Office. In addition, the NCDOT architectural historian visited the APE in April 2025 to assess the condition of the known properties and identify others that should be evaluated. In May 2025 a report was submitted to the HPO for the eligibility of Chimney Rock Park (RF0703). The HPO concurred with the recommendations that the park was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and they concurred with the proposed historic boundary.



Damaged Bridge 658 and Chimney Rock Park stone gates, January 2025

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

Property Name:	Chimney Rock Park	***Status***:	DE Criteria A and B
Survey Site No.:	RF0703	***PIN***:	multiple

Effects

☐ No Effect ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect

Explanation of Effects Determination:

The Chimney Rock Park Road bridge (No. 800658) and the Southside Drive bridge (No. 800313) will be replaced with a single bridge, west of the Chimney Rock Park Entrance Gate (RF0614) on the site of the former Old Rock Café, on US 74A in Chimney Rock. Temporary bridges were erected following Hurricane Helene to allow access to Southside Drive and the Park. Once the new bridge is constructed the temporary bridges will be removed. The single bridge will have three-spans, be approximately 335.5 feet long, and use 54-inch prestressed concrete Florida I-beams. The end bents will require retaining walls due to the scouring that occurred during Hurricane Helene. The bridge typical section consists of two 12-foot travel lanes, 2-foot shoulders, and 5.5-foot sidewalks. In addition, 2-bar anodized brown metal rails will sit atop concrete parapets on both sides of the bridge. At the bridge end bent on the Village side, anodized brown metal railing will be used for pedestrian safety. This anodized brown railing will also be used along the Village-planned and funded design for a new overlook to the west of the bridge along US 74A. The parapet walls will be constructed such that conduit and fixtures for lighting can be included. The light fixtures will shine along the footpath (approximately 3 feet or less above the sidewalk). Conduit placement, and lighting will be paid for, installed and maintained by the Village. In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered

Species Act, for threatened and endangered bat species Conservation Measures, the design for the permanent lighting system will be for an average illumination level of 0.6 footcandle and prioritize use of LED light sources with a color temperature of no more than 3,000 Kelvins to minimize the effects of blue light exposure.

In addition to Bridge 800658 being destroyed by Hurricane Helene, Chimney Rock Park Road, and a portion of the Park along the Rocky Broad River were also scoured out by the velocity of the water, leaving only remnants of pavement behind. Consequently, a new road is needed to connect the Park entrance, Park administrative buildings, and Southside Drive to the proposed bridge. The replacement bridge will connect the US 74A/Chimney Rock Village (north) side to the Park (south) side, landing at a higher elevation and slightly west, approximately 130 feet, of the original Chimney Rock Park Road. At this southern bridge approach a retaining wall will also be needed along the new road for approximately 100 feet with an estimated maximum height of 20 feet. The road will curve on similar alignment to the original road. To accommodate commercial buses, the driveway around the Bradshaw House (aka LLC Building) will be improved, requiring a retaining wall (approximately 120 feet long with a maximum height of 15 feet). The House and stone wall at the back of the house will be protected during construction of the driveway retaining wall and driveway widening with exclusion fencing or similar protective device. Vibration monitoring will also be set up to monitor the effects of construction activities. The driveway exit, Park entrance, Southside Drive, and connecting road will have a roundabout intersection treatment. The slope that was scoured out by the Rocky Broad River will be replaced with a 2:1 slope and a retaining wall, approximately 70 feet long with a maximum height of approximately 12 feet. A sidewalk along the river side of the connecting road will extend to the roundabout and wood-facing guardrail will be placed along the roadway at the back of the berm. Lighting will be terminated at the end of the bridge and will not be included along the connecting road.

The proposed replacement of the Chimney Rock Park Road bridge is estimated to require approximately 2.5 acres from Chimney Rock State Park for right of way. This will be a State conversion of property due to its conservation designation with the Natural Heritage Program.

NCDOT held a Small Group Meeting for the property owners along Southside Drive. A presentation explaining

- where the bridge design is to-date,
- Section 106 and the historic eligibility of the Park and bridge,
- various iterations of the design, and
- visualization of the proposed design and aesthetics.

Following the presentation, a question-and-answer session was held. There were no comments regarding the design or aesthetics presented for the bridge and connecting road. All comments centered on Southside Drive.

List of Conditions:

- Vibration monitoring will be set up at the Entrance Gate and Bradshaw House to monitor effects of construction activities.
- The concrete structure of the bridge, including retaining walls, end caps, parapets, etc. will be stained a medium gray. This is in keeping with and not detracting from the stone of the historic entrance gates.

- Anodized (brown) two-bar metal rail will be used on the bridge structure.
- Anodized brown railing will be used at the intersection of the bridge terminus and US 74A for pedestrian safety.
- The Bradshaw House and stone wall at the back of the house will be protected during construction of the driveway retaining wall and driveway widening with exclusion fencing or similar protective device.
- The retaining walls on the Park (south) side of the bridge and the retaining wall in front of both end bents will use a shotcrete facing and "boulderscaping" to make a natural-looking rock surface. The natural-looking surface must be similar in appearance to the natural stone of the area.
- Lighting on the bridge will be downcast and designed to be included at a height of 3 feet or less from the bottom of the parapet wall. Lighting will be terminated at the end of the bridge and will not be included along the connecting road.
- Design permanent lighting systems for an average illumination level of 0.6 footcandle (fc), reducing overall brightness. A 25% minimization from a standard 0.8 fc illumination. In addition, design and prioritize use of LED light sources with a color temperature of no more than 3,000 Kelvins to minimize the effects of blue light exposure.
- The guardrail along the connecting road will have wood facing in keeping with the Park's appearance.
- The 2:1 slope will be revegetated with native seed or plantings in cooperation with NC Parks.
- NCDOT will continue to coordinate with NC Parks regarding their operational needs for their gate and signage.

SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

FHWA Intends to use the State Historic Preservation Office's concurrence as a basis for a "de minimis" finding for the following properties, pursuant to Section 4(f):

Chimney Rock State Park

☒Map(s) ☐Previous Survey Info. ☒Photos ☐Correspondence ☒Design Plans

FINDING BY NCDOT AND STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Historic Architecture and Landscapes – ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS WITH CONDITIONS

DocuSigned by:
Mary Pope Furr
ED3110443890489...

07/02/2026

NCDOT Architectural Historian — Date

Signed by:
Renee Gledhill-Earley
C26A1556A275464...

07/02/2026

State Historic Preservation Office Representative — Date

Signed by:
Seth Wilcher
9967A500F8714F0...

07/02/2026

Federal Highway Administration Representative — Date

Signed by:
M. Scott Jarvis
83D6BD4B1A1B4E1...

07/02/2026

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Representative — Date

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.
18313.108101S	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER
FOR REFERENCE ONLY	

WRIGHT BROTHERS | stv

STV Engineers, Inc.
P: (704) 372-1880
2101 Hawkins St. Suite 1400
Charlotte, NC 28203
NC License Number F-0991

DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED

CHIMNEY ROCK VILLAGE
DB 825 PG 308
PB 24 PG 7
PB 24 PG 31

KNS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC
DB 2060 PG 1736
PB 24 PG 7

GALE & JAECER RETAIL, LLC.
DB 2034 PG 1326
DB 2034 PG 1329
DB 2034 PG 1332
PB 4 PG 89

JOHN F. THOMPSON
DB 2051 PG 1052

JOSEPH J. MELISKI & WIFE PAMELA MELISKI
DB 2025 PG 4232
PB 4 PG 89

KIMBER J. SHERRILL
DB 1569 PG 342
DB 1569 PG 345

SALAVAT AKHMEROV TRUSTEE
DB 2051 PG 1053
PB 4 PG 89

GARRETT SCHMELTER & WIFE MEGHAN McGAHA
DB 2051 PG 1313
PB 30 PG 106

347 MAIN, LLC.
DB 2035 PG 4718

CHIMNEY ROCK VILLAGE
DB 890 PG 876
DB 972 PG 430
DB 1074 PG 398
DB 1069 PG 297
PB 1 PG 56

LYTLE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.
DB 1009 PG 139
PB 40 PG 24

HANS SORENSEN & WIFE KELLEY SORENSEN
DB 2028 PG 769
PB 1 PG 56

SHELIA M. MINICK
DB 1009 PG 147
PB 1 PG 56

KNS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC
DB 2036 PG 3088

RIVER HOUSE PROPERTIES, LLC.
DB 2052 PG 1572

PALMER DUNCAN & VIRGINIA W. DUNCAN
DB 890 PG 887
PB 4 PG 89

ANDRES ALMANZAR & WIFE MARGORZATA ALMANZAR
DB 932 PG 92

BRUCE COOZIK
DB 2060 PG 1533

THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DB 3109 PG 595

WILLIAM L. ROBSON & WIFE DONNA J. ROBSON
DB 1079 PG 35

397 MAIN, LLC.
DB 2035 PG 4715

CHIMNEY ROCK VILLAGE
DB 703 PG 522

PETER G. O'LEARY & WIFE ANN O'LEARY
DB 724 PG 548

PETER G. O'LEARY & WIFE ANN O'LEARY
DB 950 PG 243

379 MAIN LLC
DB 2035 PG 1721

379 MAIN LLC
DB 2035 PG 1719

OFF THE DEEP END INC
DB 1060 PG 255

PIRATES OF THE CAROLINAS, LLC.
DB 1062 PG 1385

RUDD REALTY LLC.
DB 36 PG 43
PB 36 PG 43

BRENDA B. CRAWFORD
DB 2088 PG 1816
PB 45 PG 445
DB 2088 PG 188

LAWENA FLACK HEIRS
DB 0000 PG 000
RD REC'D FOUND
AREA FROM GIS MAPPING

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DB 3109 PG 595
PB 4 PG 89

KENAN ERDMER & SPOUSE ERIN ERDMER
DB 2035 PG 4711

KAS INVESTMENTS LLC.
DB 2068 PG 2779

CONNIE C. COUNTS LIVING TRUST
DB 949 PG 595
PB 4 PG 24

CHRISTIL. FOWLER
DB 1884 PG 520
PB 4 PG 24

DEAN A. ATKINSON & WIFE CAROLINE ATKINSON
DB 1884 PG 543
PB 40 PG 159

WILLIAM LUTTRELL & WIFE MARY JA. LUTTRELL
DB 1777 PG 220
DB 2022 PG 1941

PATRICIA S. OGLTREE
DB 2039 PG 1600
PB 40 PG 325

GAB M. TRUMP & HUSBAND LARRY M. TRUMP
DB 923 PG 299

ZACHARY F. COUNTS & MOTHER CONNIE C. COUNTS
DB 984 PG 48

SARA FRYE AND AMANDA FRYE
DB 2058 PG 3600

RICHARD P. DUFFY & MADALYN DUFFY
DB 2073 PG 3262
PB 4 PG 24

NICHOLAS T. SOTOLA & WIFE KRISTEN SOTOLA
DB 2077 PG 2013

ANNE M. BROWN
DB 803 PG 269

22' PAVED ROADWAY US 74

18' PAVED ROADWAY CHIMNEY ROCK PARK RD

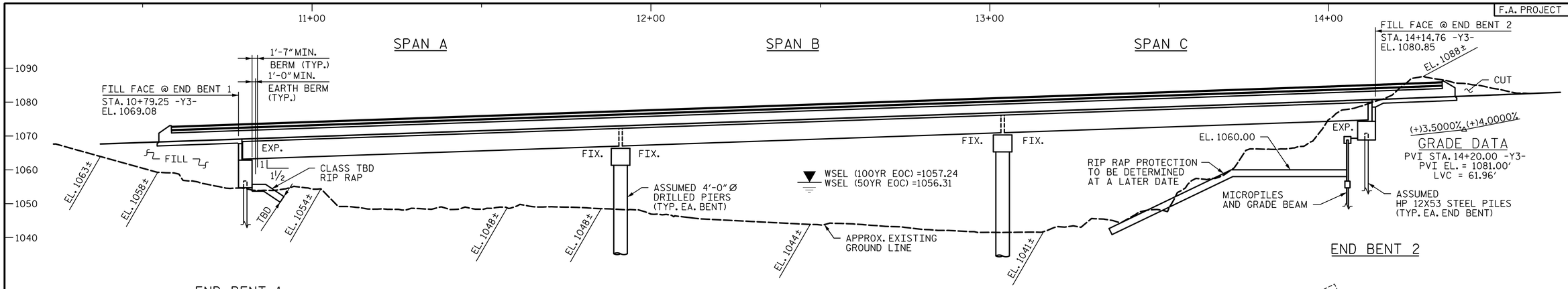
12' PAVED ROADWAY SOUTH

SOIL HAUL ROAD

B-77

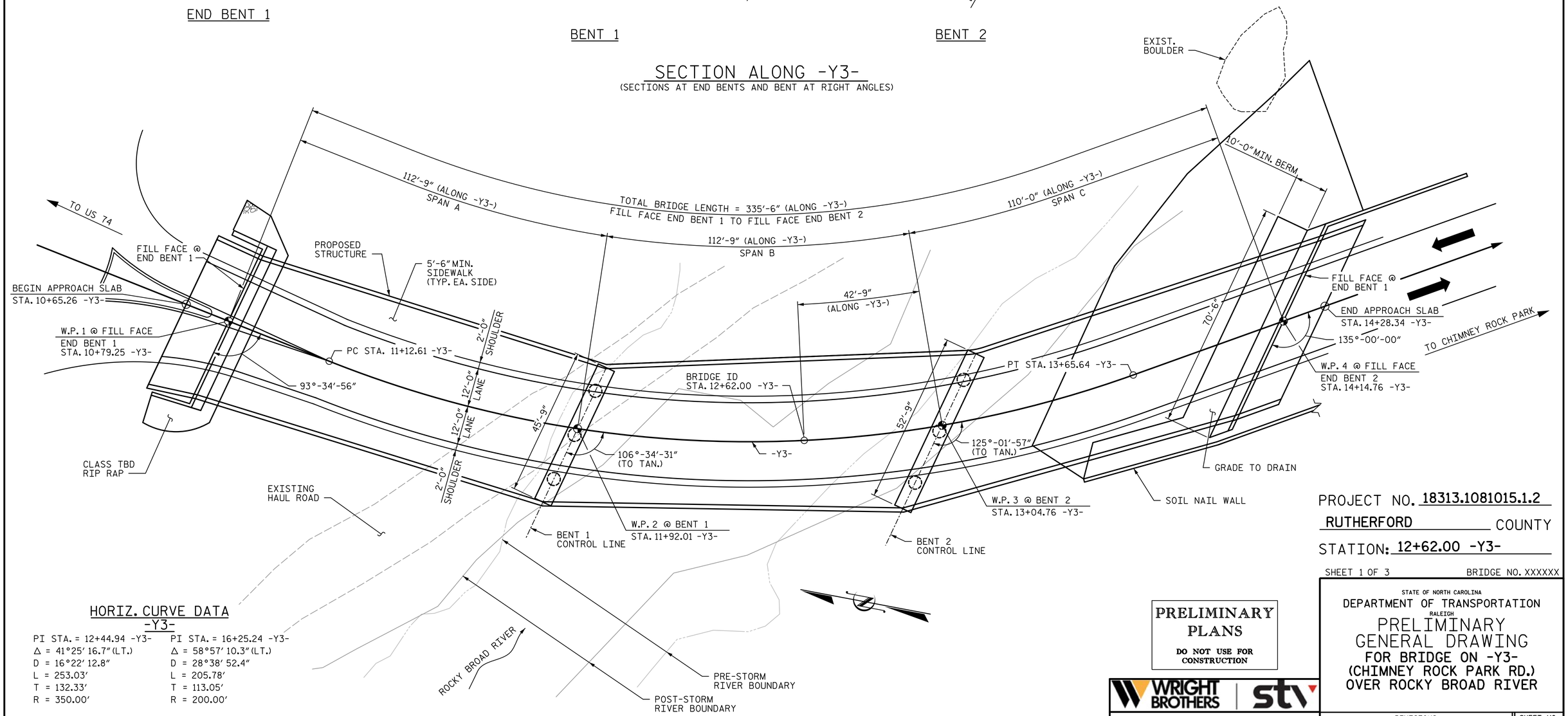
Kat_exhibit.dgn 4/28/2026 12:29:55 PM

F.A. PROJECT NO. ER24383



SECTION ALONG -Y3-

(SECTIONS AT END BENTS AND BENT AT RIGHT ANGLES)



PLAN

(PILES NOT SHOWN FOR CLARITY)

HORIZ. CURVE DATA -Y3-

PI STA. = 12+44.94 -Y3-	PI STA. = 16+25.24 -Y3-
Δ = 41°25' 16.7"(LT.)	Δ = 58°57' 10.3"(LT.)
D = 16°22' 12.8"	D = 28°38' 52.4"
L = 253.03'	L = 205.78'
T = 132.33'	T = 113.05'
R = 350.00'	R = 200.00'

PROJECT NO. 18313.1081015.1.2

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

STATION: 12+62.00 -Y3-

SHEET 1 OF 3 BRIDGE NO. XXXXXX

PRELIMINARY PLANS

DO NOT USE FOR CONSTRUCTION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RALEIGH

PRELIMINARY GENERAL DRAWING FOR BRIDGE ON -Y3- (CHIMNEY ROCK PARK RD.) OVER ROCKY BROAD RIVER

WRIGHT BROTHERS | stv

STV Engineers, Inc.
2151 Hawkins St. Suite 1400
Charlotte, NC 28203
NC License Number F-0991

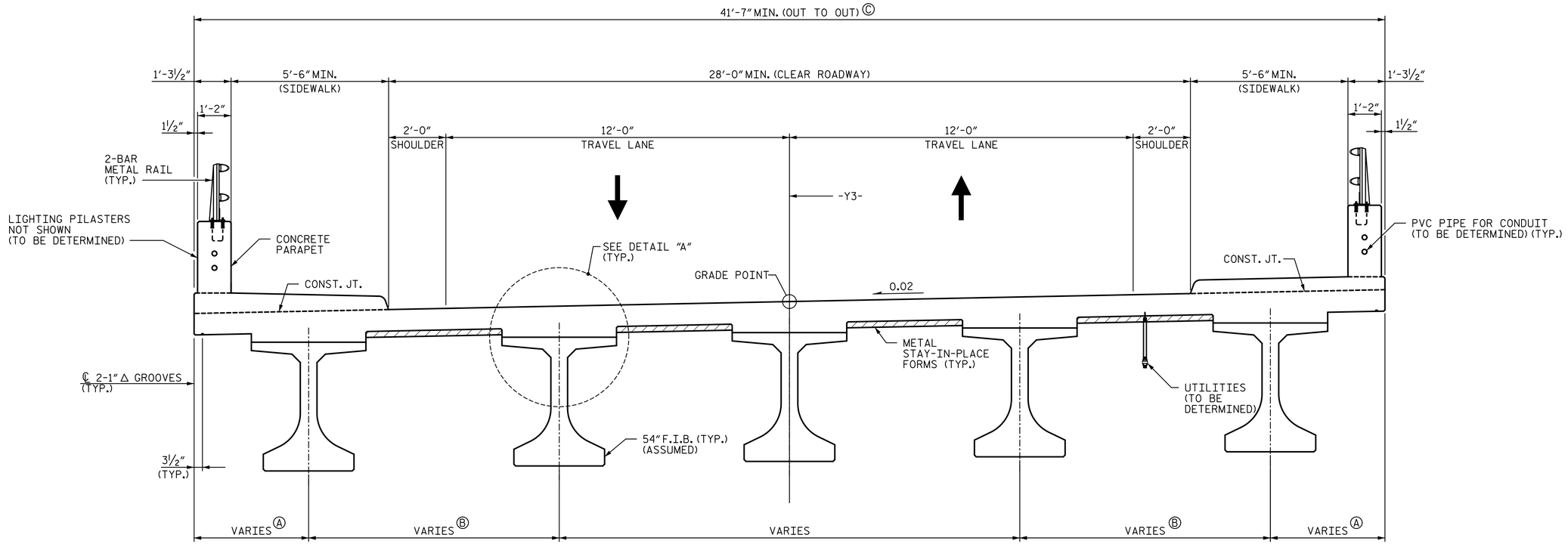
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NO.	BY:	DATE:	NO.	BY:	DATE:	S2-01
1			3			TOTAL SHEETS
2			4			4

DRAWN BY : VKS DATE : 6-25

CHECKED BY : MBK DATE : 6-25

DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED

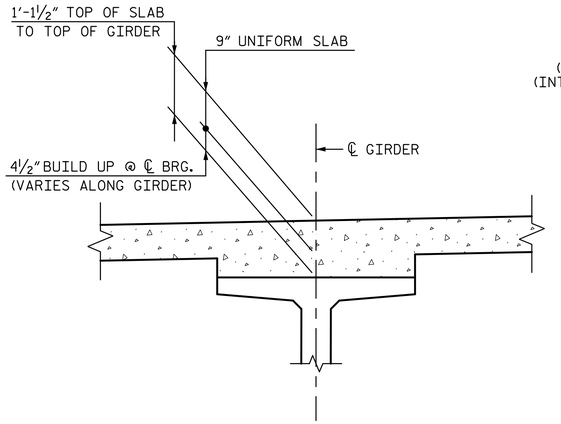
DATE: 9/16/2025 TIME: 8:15:21 AM
FILE: R:\Structures\02 Park Entrance Bridge (Y3)\03 ustation\00 Proposal Phase\Y3 - Plan & Elevation.dgn



Ⓐ EXTERIOR GIRDER IS PERPENDICULAR TO EDGE OF DECK

Ⓑ FIRST INTERIOR GIRDER IS PERPENDICULAR TO EXTERIOR GIRDER

Ⓒ EDGE OF DECK IS CHORDED BETWEEN SPANS AND MAINTAINS MINIMUM CLEAR ROADWAY WIDTH.



DETAIL "A"

TYPICAL SECTION

(CONTINUOUS FOR LIVE LOAD WITH A COMPOSITE DECK)
(INTERMEDIATE STEEL DIAPHRAGMS NOT SHOWN FOR CLARITY)

PROJECT NO. 18313.1081015.1.2

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

STATION: 12+62.00 -Y3-

SHEET 3 OF 3

PRELIMINARY PLANS
DO NOT USE FOR CONSTRUCTION

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RALEIGH

PRELIMINARY TYPICAL SECTION
FOR BRIDGE ON -Y3-
(CHIMNEY ROCK PARK RD.)
OVER BROAD RIVER

WRIGHT BROTHERS | stv

STV Engineers, Inc.
2151 Hawkins St. Suite 1400
Charlotte, NC 28203
NC License Number F-0991

REVISIONS						SHEET NO.
NO.	BY:	DATE:	NO.	BY:	DATE:	S1-03
1			3			TOTAL SHEETS
2			4			3

DRAWN BY : MDH DATE : 5-25
CHECKED BY : MBK DATE : 6-25

DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED

DATE: 9/16/2025 TIME: 7:43:23 AM
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Design
Chimney Rock Village

Overview looking toward park



Bridge view toward park



Bridge on Village side with Historic Gate



Bridge Shown with Roundabout



Under Bridge Village Side



Bridge and riprap on side opposite the Gates looking toward the Village



Bridge end bent and retaining wall looking toward the park



Design
Southside Drive &
Chimney Rock State Park

Entire overview



Park side overview



Bus Loop



Park Side Roundabout



Park Side Roundabout Alternate View



Tribal Coordination

Docusign Envelope ID: 44270CC7-3599-41B5-B6D0-58E68069F4BD

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

January 6, 2025

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Dear Dr. Haire,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is currently working on environmental and engineering studies for the permanent repair to US 74A due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The repair area extends 2.6 miles on US 74A from the US 64 / US 74A / NC 9 intersection to East of US 74A / Terrace Drive intersection in Rutherford and Henderson counties.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and a Permit is anticipated under the Section 404 Process with the USACE. A project vicinity map is attached. The coordinates for this project are approximately: Western terminus: 35.451, -82.287, Eastern terminus: 35.440, -82.248.

We would appreciate any information you might have that would be helpful in evaluating potential environmental impacts of the project including recommendation of alternates to be studied. Your comments may be used in the preparation of a NEPA Environmental Document. In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, we also request that you inform us of any historic properties of traditional religious or cultural importance that you are aware of that may be affected by the proposed project. Be assured that, in accordance with confidentiality and disclosure stipulations in Section 304 of the NHPA, we will maintain strict confidentiality about certain types of information regarding historic properties. Additionally, our ongoing studies will be provided to you if any applicable resources are identified.

Please respond by January 31 so that your comments can be used in the scoping of this project. Due to the emergency nature of this project, comments received before January 31 are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions concerning this project, or would like any additional information, please contact me at johnjamison@ncdot.gov or (919) 707-6140.

Thank you,

DocuSigned by:
CA084B4A6412432...

John Jamison, NCDOT Environmental Policy Unit Head

Cc: Matt Wilkerson, NCDOT Archaeology Team Leader
Crystal Amschler, USACE Project Manager
Clarence Coleman, FHWA NC Division

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT
1598 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1598

Telephone: (919) 707-6000
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
1000 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH, NC 27610

Docusign Envelope ID: 44270CC7-3599-41B5-B6D0-58E68069F4BD

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

January 6, 2025

Elizabeth Toombs
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 744465

Dear Ms. Toombs,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is currently working on environmental and engineering studies for the permanent repair to US 74A due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The repair area extends 2.6 miles on US 74A from the US 64 / US 74A / NC 9 intersection to East of US 74A / Terrace Drive intersection in Rutherford and Henderson counties.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

January 6, 2025

Russell Townsend
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
2077 Governors Island Road
Bryson City, NC 28713

Dear Mr. Townsend,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is currently working on environmental and engineering studies for the permanent repair to US 74A due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The repair area extends 2.6 miles on US 74A from the US 64 / US 74A / NC 9 intersection to East of US 74A / Terrace Drive intersection in Rutherford and Henderson counties.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and a Permit is anticipated under the Section 404 Process with the USACE. A project vicinity map is attached. The coordinates for this project are approximately: Western terminus: 35.451, -82.287, Eastern terminus: 35.440, -82.248.

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Thank you,

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C4084B4A6412432...
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Crystal Amschler, USACE Project Manager
Clarence Coleman, FHWA NC Division

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

January 6, 2025

PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

To Whom it May Concern,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is currently working on environmental and engineering studies for the permanent repair to US 74A due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The repair area extends 2.6 miles on US 74A from the US 64 / US 74A / NC 9 intersection to East of US 74A / Terrace Drive intersection in Rutherford and Henderson counties.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and a Permit is anticipated under the Section 404 Process with the USACE. A project vicinity map is attached. The coordinates for this project are approximately: Western terminus: 35.451, -82.287, Eastern terminus: 35.440, -82.248.

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John Jamison, NCDOT Environmental Policy Unit Head

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

January 6, 2025

Roger Cain
Section 106 Coordinator
PO Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Mr. Cain,

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is currently working on environmental and engineering studies for the permanent repair to US 74A due to the damage caused by Hurricane Helene. The repair area extends 2.6 miles on US 74A from the US 64 / US 74A / NC 9 intersection to East of US 74A / Terrace Drive intersection in Rutherford and Henderson counties.

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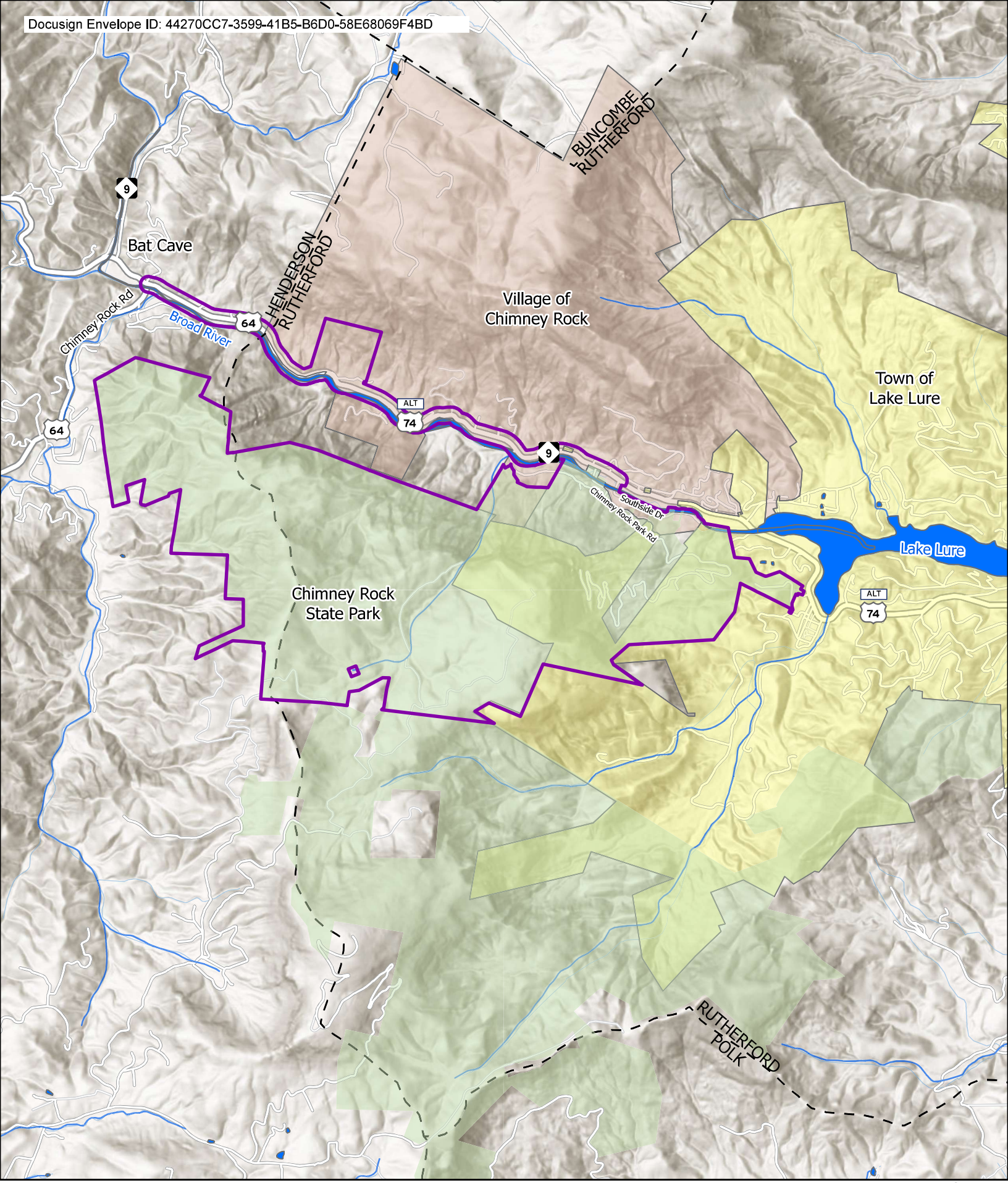
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Legend

- Chimney Rock Study Area
- Chimney Rock State Park
- County Boundary
- Stream

Municipal Boundary

- Village of Chimney Rock
- Town of Lake Lure

N

0 0.25 0.5 Mile

Figure 1.
Study Area Map
Chimney Rock
Hurricane Helene Repair Project
in Henderson and Rutherford, NC

Sources: NCDOT, ESRI ArcGIS Basemap, HNTB. 2024.

NEPA Document

Docusign Envelope ID: F90E0C0F-721E-8FC6-802A-802D4219AEDA

Type I or II Categorical Exclusion Action Classification Form

STIP Project No.	**US 74A CHRO Bridge – US74A Chimney Rock, Hurricane Helene Repairs**
WBS Element	WBS Element Number (e.g. 12345.1.1)
Federal Project No.	ER24383

A. Project Description:

As part of Hurricane Helene repairs to US 74A – Chimney Rock project, the proposed action facilitates the replacement of the Chimney Rock Park Road bridge (Bridge 658) and Southside Drive bridge (Bridge 313) over the Rocky Broad River with a single new bridge located at the intersection of Terrace Drive and US 74A in Chimney Rock, Rutherford County. The proposed action includes construction of a roundabout at the US 74A / Terrace Drive intersection on the north side of the Rocky Broad River, the replacement bridge, and a roundabout on the south side of the Rocky Broad River providing access to Southside Drive and the Chimney Rock State Park (CHRO) entrance. The proposed action also includes retaining walls, a connecting road, a bus loop driveway, and sidewalks. The new bridge is designed to the 50-year storm event, providing greater resilience than the original structures. The roundabouts at US 74A / Terrace Drive and at the Southside Drive / Chimney Rock State Park entrance provide organized vehicular access and circulation on both sides of the Rocky Broad River. Upon completion of the permanent bridge, the temporary bridge currently serving Southside Drive will be removed. See Figure 1 for the Study Area Map.

B. Description of Need and Purpose:

The Chimney Rock Park Road bridge (Bridge 658) and Southside Drive bridge (Bridge 313) over the Rocky Broad River were destroyed by Hurricane Helene in September 2024. Separate, temporary bridges have been established to provide access to Southside Drive and to CHRO; however, permanent replacement of these bridges is needed. Further, the velocity and debris in the Rocky Broad River scoured out both banks, widening the stream channel. This led to the collapse and loss of Chimney Rock Park Road from the bridge to approximately the LLC Building on the south side of the river, along with houses and commercial buildings on both sides of the river. The purpose of the project is to permanently replace the two destroyed bridges with a single new bridge and associated infrastructure, thereby reestablishing connectivity to Southside Drive and CHRO.

C. Categorical Exclusion Action Classification:

Type I(A) - Ground Disturbing Action

D. Proposed Improvements:

26. Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints listed in 23 CFR 771.117(e)(1-6).

28. Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e)(1-6).

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9. The following actions for transportation facilities damaged by an incident resulting in an emergency declared by the Governor of the State and concurred in by the Secretary, or a disaster or emergency declared by the President pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5121):
   a) Emergency repairs under 23 U.S.C. 125; and
   b) The repair, reconstruction, restoration, retrofitting, or replacement of any road, highway, bridge, tunnel, or transit facility (such as a ferry dock or bus transfer station), including ancillary transportation facilities (such as pedestrian/bicycle paths and bike lanes), that is in operation or under construction when damaged and the action:
      i) Occurs within the existing right-of-way and in a manner that substantially conforms to the preexisting design, function, and location as the original (which may include upgrades to meet existing codes and standards as well as upgrades warranted to address conditions that have changed since the original construction); and
      ii) Is commenced within a 2-year period beginning on the date of the declaration.

E. Special Project Information:

NCDOT conducted a desktop GIS analysis for potential natural and human environment features in April 2026. The project study area is defined as a 50-foot buffer upslope, generally north, and the Rocky Broad River, generally south, of the original US 74A alignment and includes 50 feet to either side of Southside Drive from the centerline and all of Chimney Rock State Park. The proposed action area is limited to the bridge, roundabouts, and bus loop driveway using slope stake limits plus 25 feet (see project maps).

As noted, Hurricane Helene destroyed the Southside Drive and Chimney Rock Park Road bridges, washing both down the Rocky Broad River. Southside Drive is part of the NCDOT road inventory (SR 1190) whereas Chimney Rock Park Road is owned and maintained by NC Parks. In the Winter (20 24-2025) NC parks and NCDOT discussed the possibility of NCDOT re-building the Park bridge and road, taking both into NCDOT'S bridge and roadway inventory. NCDOT developed concepts for replacing both bridges:

Option 1: Replace Chimney Rock Park Road and Southside Drive Bridges on Approximate Original Alignment

Option 2A: Replace Chimney Rock Park Road and Southside Drive Bridges with 1 Bridge West of Original Southside Drive Bridge Alignment and Roundabout

Option 2B: Replace Chimney Rock Park Road and Southside Drive Bridges with 1 Bridge West of Original Southside Drive Bridge Alignment and Traditional Intersection

Option 3A: Replace Chimney Rock Park Road and Southside Drive Bridges with 1 Bridge West of Original Chimney Rock Park Road Bridge Alignment and Roundabout

Option 3B: Replace Chimney Rock Park Road and Southside Drive Bridges with 1 Bridge West of Original Chimney Rock Park Road Bridge Alignment and Traditional Intersection

These options were presented to the public at a meeting held on February 26, 2025, and are available on the project website (https://publicinput.com/US74AChimneyRock). Comments, particularly about which bridge option was preferred, were requested by March 12, 2025. Of the 90 comments received expressing a bridge preference, the majority (39%) preferred Option 3A (see project file). This option was also supported by the Chimney Rock Village Council. Given this response, NCDOT and NC Parks are moving forward with the single combined bridge located west of the CHRO gates, connecting US74A and Terrace Drive with a roundabout intersection type. A land transfer between NC Parks and NCDOT will occur to include the bridge and connecting road right of way into the NCDOT system. Further refinement of the proposed design is included under the Cultural Resources section.

Natural Resources

One stream was identified within the project action area. The Rocky Broad River is identified as Class C, Trout waters. Using slope stake limits plus 25 feet, approximately 298 feet of potential impacts to the Rocky Broad River are anticipated. While the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will make the

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final determination as to the permit required, at this time it is anticipated that an Individual Permit will not be required and that the project would qualify as a Nationwide Permit 14 and corresponding Section 401 Water Quality General Certification.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool was reviewed March 30, 2026. USFWS lists the species in Table 1 as federally protected with potential to be found within the project study area.

Table 1. Federally Protected Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Biological Conclusion
Myotis grisescens	Gray Bat	E	MALAA
Myotis sodalis	Indiana Bat	E	MALAA
Myotis septentrionalis	Northern Long-eared Bat	E	MALAA
Perimyotis subflavus	Tricolored Bat	PE	MALAA
Glyptemys muhlenbergii	Bog Turtle	SAT	N/A
Danaus plexippus	Monarch Butterfly	PT	Not Required
Isotria medeoloides	Small Whorled Pogonia	T	No Effect
Sisyrinchium dichotomum	White Irisette	E	No Effect
Gymnoderma lineare	Rock Gnome Lichen	E	No Effect

[1] E - Endangered; PE – Proposed Endangered; SAT - Similarity of Appearance (Threatened); PT - Proposed Threatened; T – Threatened; MALAA – May Affect Likely to Adversely Affect

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NCDOT, has issued a combined Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) and Programmatic Conference Opinion (PCO) for the following bat species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*, MYSO), gray bat (*M. grisescens*, MYGR), northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*, MYSE), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*, PESU), and little brown bat (*M. lucifugus*, MYLU). Per current design and construction plans, the project is eligible for PBO use, provided NCDOT can adhere to the appropriate Conservation Measures outlined in the PBO/PCO.

The USFWS, Asheville Ecological Services Field Office reviewed this project for coverage under the PBO/PCO issued April 1, 2025. In a letter dated April 24, 2026, USFWS confirmed the project meets the criteria for coverage under this PBO in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531– 1543) (ESA), thus concluding consultation for the project for tricolored bat, Indiana bat, northern Long-eared bat, and gray bat. The PBO will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for five years (effective through April 1, 2030) for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 9-14, which includes Rutherford County, where this Hurricane Helene Repair project is located.

Monarch Butterfly

The Monarch Butterfly was proposed for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in December 2024. However, no regulatory protections will take effect until the listing is finalized. Until that time, proposed species do not receive formal ESA protections. However, federal action agencies are still required to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of the species which would result in an ESA Section 9 violation. These agencies may initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to obtain a Conference Opinion. If and when the listing is finalized, and at the agency's request, the Service may adopt the Conference Opinion as a Biological Opinion — provided no relevant new information has emerged and no substantial changes to the proposed action have occurred.

Cultural Resources

Archeology and Historic Architecture
The project was reviewed by an NCDOT Archaeologist, resulting in a No Effect determination (see project file). NCDOT Historic Architecture identified one resource within the proposed action area.

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Chimney Rock State Park (RF0703), including the Chimney Rock Park Entrance (RF0614), was determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and B. The NC Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the eligibility determination on May 23, 2025.

The design of the bridge, roundabouts, and connecting road was developed in coordination with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NC Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and NC Division of Parks and Recreation (NC Parks) to meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). This coordination led to multiple design concepts resulting in the current design, which ensures aesthetic compatibility with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and does not preclude future plans by Chimney Rock Village or NC Parks.

NC Parks noted their concurrence with the proposed design via email February 20, 2026. SHPO, FHWA, and FEMA requested NCDOT hold a meeting for Southside Drive residents prior to making an Effects Determination. NCDOT held a meeting for Southside Drive residents on March 18, 2026. There were no comments obtained during the meeting or in the two-week period following the meeting that pertained to the historic aspects (including aesthetics) of the Chimney Rock Park resource (see Meeting Summary in file).

At an Effects Meeting held April 30, 2026, NCDOT, SHPO, FHWA, and FEMA agreed that the proposed project would have a conditional No Adverse Effect and Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended, *de minimis* use on the eligible resources (Chimney Rock State Park (RF0703), including the Chimney Rock Park Entrance (RF0614)). See project file.

Parks and Recreation
Chimney Rock State Park is also eligible for protection under Section 4(f) as a park/recreational resource, separate from its eligibility status under the NHPA. FHWA and NCDOT reached the determination of *de minimis* impact on CHRO as a park /recreational area by satisfying the three criteria outlined in 23 CFR Part 774 (see project file). FHWA and NCDOT requested and received concurrence on this determination from the owner with jurisdiction, NC Parks, on June 3, 2026.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement

NCDOT held a public meeting on February 26, 2025, from 5 – 7 PM at Lake Lure Classical Academy. There were 205 attendees present at the public meeting. The public comment period began February 26th and extended through March 12, 2025. Initial comments received focused on Southside Drive, design recommendations, information requests, and preferred bridge alternatives.

As noted in the Cultural Resources section, NCDOT held a small group meeting for Southside Drive residents and property owners on March 18, 2026, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the Chimney Rock Volunteer Fire Department. Thirty-two invitation letters were mailed and 35 were hand-delivered to site addresses; emails were also sent to known resident email addresses. The meeting was presentation format followed by a question and answer period. Twenty-four attendees were present. The two-week public comment period followed the meeting. Comments received focused on sidewalk terminus options, traffic and access, parking, signage, gated access, turnaround area, lighting, and the bus loop.

The project website (https://publicinput.com/US74AChimneyRock) is updated and postcards sent out prior to construction of each "work package". Citizens are encouraged to send comments/feedback/questions via this website.

NCDOT circulated Start of Study Notification to agency representatives on January 15, 2025. Responses were received from NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), NC Division of Water Resources (DWR), NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Division of Parks and Recreation, and US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Responses are included in the project file.

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NCDOT/FHWA initiated tribal coordination with the Catawba Indian Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians on January 6, 2025. No responses have been received to date.

F. Project Impact Criteria Checklists:

F2. Ground Disturbing Actions – Type I (Appendix A) & Type II (Appendix B)

For proposed improvement(s) that fit Type I Actions (NCDOT-FHWA CE Programmatic Agreement, Appendix A) including 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, &/or 30; &/or Type II Actions (NCDOT-FHWA CE Programmatic Agreement, Appendix B), answer the project impact threshold questions (below) and questions 8–31.

- If any question 1-7 is checked "Yes" then NCDOT certification for FHWA approval is required.
- If any question 1-30 is checked "Yes" then additional information will be required for those questions in Section G.

Source documents should be cited for each question as appropriate. If no source is needed or available, denote as "n/a". Please note that some "no" answers should have a corresponding email/memo/report cited for that NCDOT discipline. Project reports or memos/emails should be linked to their location on the project's Precon site; other publications (e.g. the STIP) can be linked directly. Example: (Source: NCDOT HE-0001 NRTR [HE-0001_NRTR.pdf, 2022])

PROJECT IMPACT THRESHOLDS (FHWA signature required if any of the questions 1-7 are marked "Yes.")		Yes	No
1	Does the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in which a "likely to adversely affect determination" has been made? (Source: WNC Bat PBO Coverage Letter, April 2026)	☒	☐
2	Does the project result in effects subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)? (Source: IPAC, April 2026)	☐	☒
3	Does the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, regarding human and/or natural environment concerns, following appropriate public involvement? (Source: Small Group Meeting Summary, March 2026)	☐	☒
4	[redacted]		
5	Does the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right of way acquisition? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
6	Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) approval? (Source: Section 4(f) *de minimis*])	☐	☒
7	Does the project result in adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or result in an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)? (Source: No Adverse Effect form, April 2026])	☐	☒
Other Considerations		Yes	No
8	Is an Endangered Species Act (ESA) determination unresolved or resolved utilizing a Section 7 programmatic agreement? Include in Section G any utilization of a Section 7 Programmatic Agreement. (Source: WNC Bat PBO Coverage Letter, April 2026)	☒	☐
9	Is the project located in anadromous fish spawning waters? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
10	Does the project impact waters classified as Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), High Quality Water (HQW), Water Supply Watershed Critical Areas, 303(d) listed impaired water bodies, buffer rules, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
11	Does the project impact waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout streams? (Source NCWRC Scoping Comments, January 2025)	☒	☐
12	Does the project require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Section 404 Permit? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒

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13	Will the project require an easement from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed facility? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
14	Does the project include a Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) effects findings other than a No Effect, including archaeological remains? No matter the effect finding, list any commitments (conditions) in Section I made in association with the effect finding detailed in Section G. (Source: No Adverse Effect form, April 2026])	☒	☐
15	Does the project involve GeoEnvironmental Sites of Concerns such as gas stations, dry cleaners, landfills, etc.? (Source: ATLAS Screening, March 2026)	☐	☒
16	Does the project require work encroaching and adversely affecting a regulatory floodway or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 23 CFR 650 subpart A? (Source: ATLAS Screening, March 2026)	☒	☐
17	Is the project in a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) county and substantially affects the coastal zone and/or any Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
18	Does the project require a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permit? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
19	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) resources? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
20	Does the project involve construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a designated Wild and Scenic River? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
21	Does the project impact federal lands (e.g., U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, etc.) or Tribal Lands? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
22	Does the project involve any changes in access control to the interstate (modification or construction of an interchange)? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
23	Does the project have a permanent adverse effect on local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
24	Will maintenance of traffic or detours cause substantial disruption? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
25	Is the project inconsistent with the NCDOT's federally approved 4-year STIP or NCDOT's BMIP, and where applicable, the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)? (Source: Not a programmed STIP, BMIP, or MPO TIP project.)	☐	☒
26	Does the project require the acquisition of lands under the protection of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Tribal Lands, Dedicated Nature Preserves, or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with public-use money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
27	Does the project involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout properties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?	☒	☐
28	Does the project "use" Section 4(f) property, and/or result in a *de minimis* determination? (Source: NC Parks *de minimis letter* [2026])	☒	☐
29	Is the project considered a Type I under the NCDOT Noise Policy? (Source: N/A)	☐	☒
30	Does the project impact VAD-enrolled property, or prime or important farmland soil, as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)? (Source: ATLAS Screening, March 2026)	☐	☒

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G. Additional documentation as required from Section F; documentation should address the context and intensity (or severity) of the impact. (Required for all questions marked 'Yes.')

Question 1 and 8:
The ESA determination for federally listed and proposed bat species (Indiana bat, gray bat, northern long-eared bat, and tricolored bat) has been resolved through utilization of the Western North Carolina (WNC) Bat Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO), issued by USFWS on April 1, 2025. The USFWS Asheville Ecological Services Field Office confirmed the project meets the criteria for coverage under the WNC Bat PBO by letter dated April 24, 2026 (USFWS Log #26-155), thus concluding formal Section 7 consultation for the bats covered by the PBO. NCDOT will adhere to the AMMs and CMs outlined in the WNC Bat PBO (see Project Commitments).

Question 11:
The Rocky Broad River in the project area supports wild rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), though habitat for wild trout is declining. Temperatures in the Broad River system are high in summer and are likely to increase due to the recent losses of riparian vegetation along watershed streams. Based on coordination with NCWRC, adherence to a trout spawning moratorium for stream work should not be necessary for this project.

Question 14:
At an Effects Meeting held April 30, 2026, NCDOT, SHPO, FHWA, and FEMA agreed that the proposed project would have a conditional No Adverse Effect and Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended, *de minimis* use on the eligible resources (Chimney Rock State Park (RF0703), including the Chimney Rock Park Entrance (RF0614)). Conditions include:

- Vibration monitoring will be set up at the Entrance Gate and Bradshaw House to monitor effects of construction activities.
- The concrete structure of the bridge, including retaining walls, end caps, parapets, etc. will be stained a medium gray. This is in keeping with and not detracting from the stone of the historic entrance gates.
- Anodized brown two-bar metal rail will be used on the bridge structure.
- Anodized brown railing will be used at the intersection of the bridge terminus and US 74A for pedestrian safety.
- The Bradshaw House and stone wall at the back of the house will be protected during construction of the driveway retaining wall and driveway widening with exclusion fencing or similar protective device.
- The retaining walls on the Park (south) side of the bridge and the retaining wall in front of both end bents will use a shotcrete facing and "boulderscaping" to make a natural-looking rock surface. The natural-looking surface must be similar in appearance to the natural stone of the area.
- Lighting on the bridge will be downcast and designed to be included at knee-height or a height of 3 feet or less from the bottom of the parapet wall. Lighting will be terminated at the end of the bridge and will not be included along the connecting road.
- Design permanent lighting systems for an average illumination level of 0.6 footcandle (fc), reducing overall brightness. This is a 25% minimization from a standard 0.8 fc illumination. In addition, design and prioritize use of LED light sources with a color temperature of no more than 3,000 Kelvins to minimize the effects of blue light exposure.
- The guardrail along the connecting road will have wood facing in keeping with the Park's appearance.
- The 2:1 slope will be revegetated with native seed or plantings in cooperation with NC Parks.
- NCDOT will continue to coordinate with NC Parks regarding their operational needs for their gate and signage.

Question 16:
This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to FEMA-regulated stream(s). Therefore, the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project

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construction, certifying that the drainage structure(s) and roadway embankment that are located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically. The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), to determine status of project with regard to applicability of NCDOT's State Floodplain Compliance (SFC), or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

Question 27:
Two property owners within the proposed action area have requested property acquisitions under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), also known as buy-outs. FEMA accepted application requests through October 2025. NCDOT is actively working with NC Emergency Management and FEMA to coordinate right of way and temporary construction easement needs with these requests.

Question 28:

FHWA and NCDOT requested and received concurrence on this determination from the owner with jurisdiction, NC Parks, on June 3, 2026. Measures to minimize harm include:

1. The majority of the land on the south side of the river that is being acquired from the Park is largely on the same location as the original Park road.
2. The riverbank on the south side was covered in vegetation, shielding the original Park road from view from the River and the River from the road. This embankment and all of the vegetation were scoured out and the bank denuded by Hurricane Helene. NCDOT will revegetate the slope with native plants in coordination with NC Parks, such that the chosen plants do not compromise the integrity of the slope or road.
3. NC Parks requested a roundabout intersection type in keeping with its Master Plan and to provide traffic control at its new gate/ticket booth location and safety of ingress/egress by Southside Drive residents. To allow for commercial buses, NCDOT will improve and widen the driveway behind the Chimney Rock Management, LLC building. The current slope behind the building will be cut and a retaining wall installed. All of the retaining walls used for this proposed action will be “boulderscaped” to look like native rock in keeping with the natural surroundings.
4. Guardrail on the connecting road will use a wood-faced steel guardrail to mimic the wooden guardrail in the Park.
5. The bridge structure will have two-bar anodized brown metal railing, sidewalks on both sides, and conduit for downward footpath lighting. The bridge bents are located such as to allow for any additional CHRO improvements (e.g. riverwalk, benches, etc) on the north (Village) side that the Village or NC Parks may add in the future.
6. NC Parks decided not to rebuild on the Olde Rock Café’s previous location, instead allowing the land to be converted and used for the bridge approach and intersection.

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H. Categorical Exclusion Approval:

STIP Project No.	**US 74A CHRO Bridge – US74A Chimney Rock, Hurricane Helene Repairs**
WBS Element	WBS Element Number (e.g. 12345.1.1)
Federal Project No.	ER24383

Prepared By:

6/11/2026
Date

DocuSigned by:
Kat Bukowy
03145D025F1A4A0...
Kat Bukowy, AICP
HNTB

Prepared For: Nathan Moneyham, P.E.

Reviewed By:

6/11/2026
Date

DocuSigned by:
Marissa Cox
A47BC39EA6B347F...
Marissa Cox, EPU, Western Team Lead
North Carolina Department of Transportation

☐ **Approved**

- If NO grey boxes are checked in Section F, NCDOT approves the Type I or Type II Categorical Exclusion.

☑ **Certified**

- If ANY grey boxes are checked in Section F, NCDOT certifies the Type I or Type II Categorical Exclusion for FHWA approval.

6/11/2026
Date

Signed by:
CA084B4A0412432...
John Jamison, EPU, Unit Head
North Carolina Department of Transportation

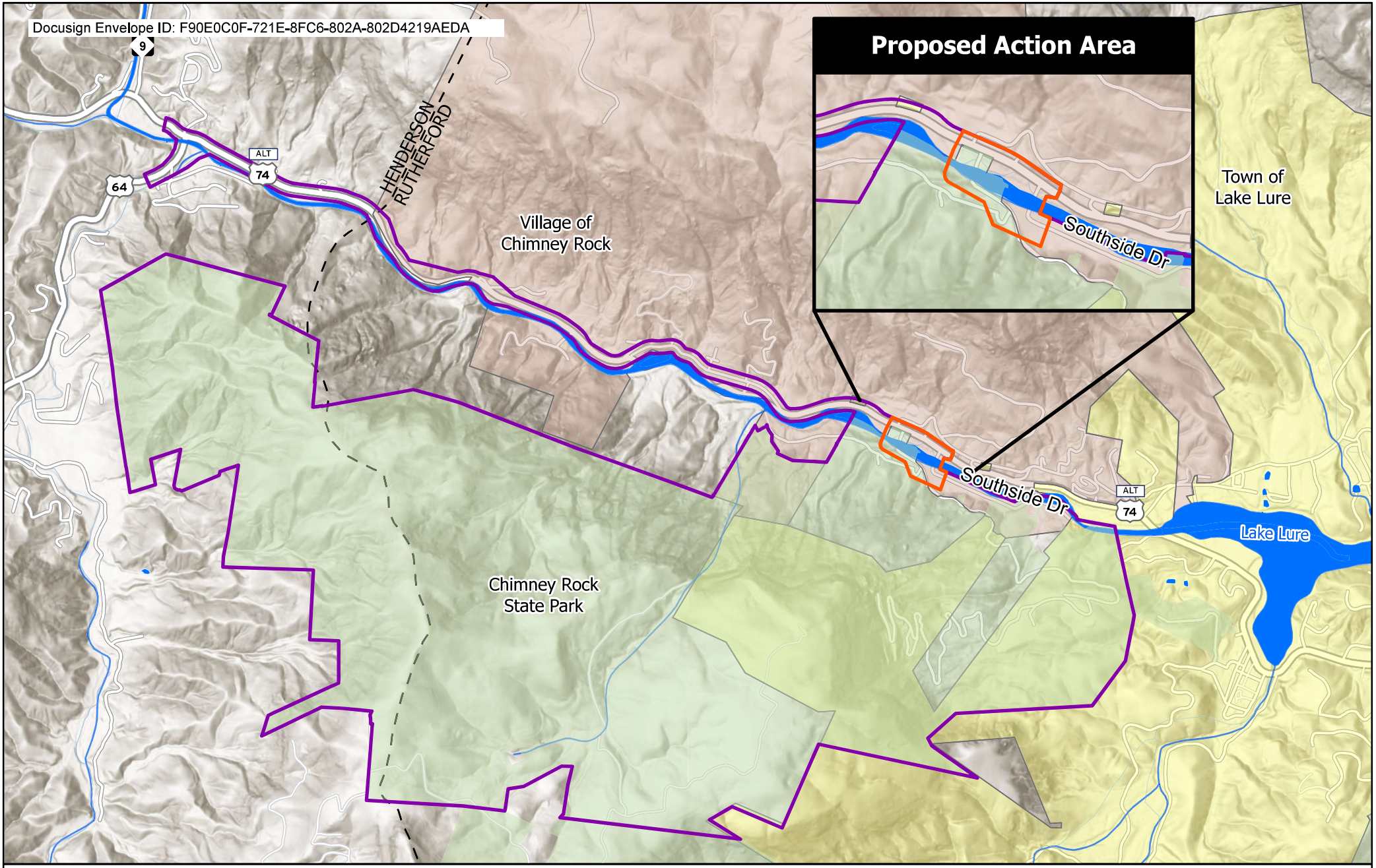
FHWA Approved: For Projects Certified by NCDOT (above), FHWA signature required.

6/11/2026
Date

Signed by:
Seth Wilcher
9967A500F5714F6...
for Yolonda K. Jordan, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Note: Prior to ROW or Construction authorization, a consultation may be required (please see Section VIII of the NCDOT-FHWA CE Programmatic Agreement for more details). Upload final documentation to ATLAS workbench and add commitments to the green sheet and Commitments dashboard.

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Legend

- Study Area
- Proposed Action Area
- Chimney Rock State Park
- County Boundary
- Pre-Helene Open Water
- Pre-Helene Stream

Municipal Boundary

- Village of Chimney Rock
- Town of Lake Lure

N

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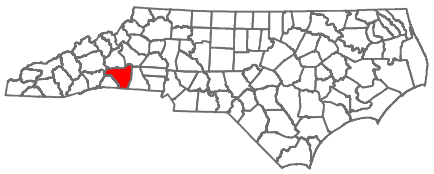


Figure 1.
Study Area Map
with Proposed Action Area Inset
Hurricane Helene Repair Project
Henderson & Rutherford Counties
Chimney Rock, NC

Source: NCDOT, Esri ArcGIS Basemap, HNTB. 2026.

PROJECT COMMITMENTS

US 74A Mainline – US 74A Chimney Rock, Helene Repairs
From just east of the NC 9 and US 74A intersection in Bat Cave, Henderson County to just west of Terrace Drive in Chimney Rock, Rutherford County.
County: Henderson and Rutherford
Federal Aid Number: ER24383
WBS: 18313.1081015

COMMITMENTS FROM PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

Division Office - Bat Cave Schoolhouse - Temporary Fencing

Place temporary fencing along the western edge of US 64, along the historic property boundary for the Bat Cave Schoolhouse, located just south of the US 64 bridge over the Rocky Broad River. This temporary fencing is intended to protect the resource and prevent staging activities on the property.

EAU - BioSurveys - Batch BO/CO for US 64 Bridge - Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) and Conservation Measures (CMs)

General (regardless of species): The following AMMs will be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to listed/proposed species and their habitat:

General AMM 1: Ensure all operators, employees, and contractors working in areas of suitable habitat for federally listed/proposed species are aware of all NCDOT environmental commitments, including all applicable AMMs and all associated NCDOT guidance documents.

General AMM 2: Best management practices (BMP) and sediment and erosion control (SEC) measures will be utilized to prevent non-point source pollution, control storm water runoff, and minimize sediment damage to avoid and reduce overall water quality degradation.

General AMM 3: Areas of disturbance, such as tree clearing, grubbing, and grading, will be limited to the maximum extent possible.

General AMM 4: Borrow pits and waste sites should only be created when needed and be no larger than necessary to minimize noise and tree clearing impacts. Sites closer to the project are recommended to reduce the effects of hauling in the region.

General AMM 5: Streambanks/riparian areas will be revegetated with native seed, live stakes, bare root, or containerized plants as appropriate.

Bats - General AMMs will minimize impacts to listed/proposed bats. The following AMMs will also be incorporated into project work:

Bat AMM 1: NCDOT will avoid night work, and tree clearing during the bat active season (March 15 and November 15) to the maximum extent possible; however, given constraints with the project timeline, portions of those activities may occur when listed/proposed bats are within the action area.

Bat AMM 2: For temporary construction lighting between March 15 and November 15: limit all construction-related lighting to whatever is necessary to maintain safety in active work areas. Any lighting needed for night work will be directed at the work area and shieled from surrounding waters/landscape, only on when needed, no brighter than necessary, and blue light emissions will be limited.

Bat AMM 3: To the maximum extent possible:
Avoid removing suitable roost trees within 0.25 mile of a known NLEB and/or TCB hibernaculum entrance(s) during spring staging (April 1 – May 14) and fall swarming (August 16 – November 15).
Avoid removing suitable roost trees within 0.25-mile of a known NLEB and/or TCB hibernaculum when flightless young are present (i.e., pup season May 15 – July 31).

Bat AMM 4: Avoid removing known roost trees and suitable roost trees within 0.25-mile of a known NLEB and/or TCB maternity roost during the pup season (May 15 – July 31).

Bat AMM 5: Avoid removing suitable roost trees within 1.5 miles of a post white-nose syndrome decline (2013) NLEB and/or TCB capture or acoustic record during the pup season (May 15 – July 31). Records will be determined from the NC Natural Heritage Program Element Occurrence database.

EAU - BioSurveys - BO/CO for US 74 Mainline Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) and Conservation Measures (CMs)

General (regardless of species): The following AMMs will be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to listed/proposed species and their habitat:

General AMM 1: Ensure all operators, employees, and contractors working in areas of suitable habitat for federally listed/proposed species are aware of all NCDOT environmental commitments, including all applicable AMMs and all associated NCDOT guidance documents.

General AMM 2: Best management practices (BMP) and sediment and erosion control (SEC) measures will be utilized to prevent non-point source pollution, control storm water runoff, and minimize sediment damage to avoid and reduce overall water quality degradation.

General AMM 3: Areas of disturbance, such as tree clearing, grubbing, and grading, will be limited to the maximum extent possible.

General AMM 4: Borrow pits and waste sites should only be created when needed and be no larger than necessary to minimize noise and tree clearing impacts. Sites closer to the project are recommended to reduce the effects of hauling in the region.

General AMM 5: Streambanks/riparian areas will be revegetated with native seed, live stakes, bare root, or containerized plants as appropriate.

Bats - General AMMs will minimize impacts to listed/proposed bats. The following AMMs will also be incorporated into project work:

Bat AMM 1: NCDOT will avoid night work, and tree clearing during the bat active season (March 15 and November 15) to the maximum extent possible; however, given constraints with the project timeline, portions of those activities may occur when listed/proposed bats are within the action area.

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Bat AMM 4: Avoid removing known roost trees and suitable roost trees within 0.25-mile of a known NLEB and/or TCB maternity roost during the pup season (May 15 – July 31).

Bat AMM 5: Avoid removing suitable roost trees within 1.5 miles of a post white-nose syndrome decline (2013) NLEB and/or TCB capture or acoustic record during the pup season (May 15 – July 31). Records will be determined from the NC Natural Heritage Program Element Occurrence database.

Bat CM 1: For any clearing reported from April 1 - November 15, the NCDOT will contribute a payment* to the N.C. Bat Conservation Fund (or other Service-approved Fund) in support of the recovery of federally listed bat species.
*Contributions made will be based on a 2:1 ratio multiplier. This ratio offers the most protective coverage based on the current unknowns surrounding time-of-year clearing. The amount will be determined using the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Real Estate Value for North Carolina for the current year (2025 = $5,470/acre). https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays_Reports/reports/land0825.pdf
Example calculation: $5,470 x 20 ac = $109,400 x 2 (critical life stage multiplier) = $218,800 contribution amount.

Terms & Conditions
1. NCDOT shall adhere to all measures as listed in the Avoidance and Minimization and Conservation Measures section as summarized in this Opinion.
2. The NCDOT will immediately inform the Service if the amount or extent of incidental take in the incidental take statement is exceeded.
3. NCDOT will immediately inform the Service if the area of disturbance extends beyond the currently identified action area.
4. When incidental take is anticipated, the Terms and Conditions must include provisions for monitoring project activities to determine the actual project effects on listed fish or wildlife species (50 CFR §402.14(i)(3)). In order to monitor the impact of incidental take, the NCDOT must report the action impacts on the species to the Service according to the following:
a. The NCDOT will submit a report each year not later than September 30 identifying the following for the preceding calendar year ending December 31:
i. Acreage and dates of tree removal.

Division Office - EAU - US74A Chimney Rock Bridge - Western Bat PBO/CO

Replant riparian areas with native, fast-growing tree and shrub species such as American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), river birch (Betula nigra), silky dogwood (Cornus amomum), and black willow (Salix nigra) where vegetation has been removed. Riparian plantings will not occur in utility, drainage, and construction easements. If excess property is available outside normal maintenance limits at bridge locations, riparian plantings will be installed where safety requirements allow.

For tree clearing or structure removal, submit final numbers of tree clearing and/or number of structures demolished and the date(s) that these activities actually occurred. This will ensure accurate payments and submittal to USFWS in the required annual report. Numbers must be reported using the link to the PBO Reporting Requirement Form on the Biological Surveys Group (BSG) Connect site here https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/iiEeEtHFU4.

Design permanent lighting systems for an average illumination level of 0.6 footcandle, reducing overall brightness, a 25% minimization from a standard 0.8 fc illumination.

Design and prioritize use of LED light sources with a color temperature of no more than 3,000 Kelvins to minimize the effects of blue light exposure.

Construction Office - Historic Architecture Measures - US 74A Chimney Rock Bridge

Vibration monitoring will be set up at the Entrance Gate and Bradshaw House to monitor effects of construction activities.

The concrete structure of the bridge, including retaining walls, end caps, parapets, etc. will be stained a medium gray. This is in keeping with and not detracting from the stone of the historic entrance gates.

Anodized brown two-bar metal rail will be used on the bridge structure.

Anodized brown railing will be used at the intersection of the bridge terminus and US 74A for pedestrian safety.

The Bradshaw House and stone wall at the back of the house will be protected during construction of the driveway retaining wall and driveway widening with exclusion fencing or similar protective device.

The retaining walls on the Park (south) side of the bridge and the retaining wall in front of both end bents will use a shotcrete facing and “boulderscaping” to make a natural-looking rock surface. The natural-looking surface must be similar in appearance to the natural stone of the area.

Lighting on the bridge will be downcast and designed to be included at knee-height or a height of 3 feet or less from the bottom of the parapet wall. Lighting will be terminated at the end of the bridge and will not be included along the connecting road.

Design permanent lighting systems for an average illumination level of 0.6 footcandle (fc), reducing overall brightness. This is a 25% minimization from a standard 0.8 fc illumination. In addition, design and prioritize use of LED light sources with a color temperature of no more than 3,000 Kelvins to minimize the effects of blue light exposure.

The guardrail along the connecting road will have wood facing in keeping with the Park's appearance.

The 2:1 slope will be revegetated with native seed or plantings in cooperation with NC Parks.

NCDOT will continue to coordinate with NC Parks regarding their operational needs for their gate and signage.

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Blue Rock House, Toll House (RF0707/HN1999) & The Gables (HN1123): Coordinate with property owner regarding the amount of fill in the void between temporary road and property road/driveway (aka the "frog pond"). Coordinate with property owner regarding repair of the void under the property road/driveway.

Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration (HN1116): Provide appropriate height trees within the PUE in coordination with the property owner. Avoid the septic field (i.e. no parking). Coordinate with property owner on replacement of the non-historic sign. No right of way to be acquired.

Rockwood Inn (HN1251): Design plans will include "Do Not Disturb" around the rock wall adjacent to the roadway.

COMMITMENTS FROM PERMITTING

No permitting commitments developed to date.

*****END OF PROJECT COMMITMENTS*****

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US 74A Mainline – US 74A Chimney Rock, Helene Repairs
Last Modified Date: 06/11/2026