



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III

SECRETARY

November 13, 2018

Memorandum To: Agency Representatives
From: David Stutts, P.E.
Subject: BR-0020 External Scoping Meeting – Background Information

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has started the planning process for the replacement of Bridge No. 91 on US 29/74 (Wilkinson Blvd) over Catawba River in Belmont (STIP BR-0020). This is currently a state funded project. The project is located on the county line between Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties and is in between Divisions 10 and 12. An Internal/External Scoping Meeting has been scheduled for November 28, 2018 and will be held in the Structure Design Conference Room C in Building A of the NCDOT Century Center (1000 Birch Ridge Drive) in Raleigh from 3pm-5pm.

The general purpose of this meeting is to begin early coordination with our agency partners by discussing the known information about the project and project area. There are Project Data Sheets, mapping, and other materials for this meeting in the project file located on CONNECT. Please review the material and be prepared to discuss any additional known information regarding your resource and/or area of expertise as it may concern the project. We would especially appreciate any information you might have that would be helpful in identifying and evaluating important issues or topic that should be considered.

Thank you for your assistance in the project development process. Comments and questions concerning the project or the Project Data Sheets can be directed to David Stutts, Project Manager, at (919) 707-6442 or by email at dstutts@ncdot.gov. You may also contact Maggie Wiener of RK&K at (919) 653-7472 or by email at mwiener@rkk.com. If you cannot attend the meeting, please forward your comments by November 27, 2018. Please include the STIP Project Number, BR-0020, in all correspondence and comments.

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1000 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
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PROJECT FACT SHEET

Basic Project Information

TIP Number:	BR-0020
WBS:	67020.1.1
Federal Aid Number:	N/A
Division / County:	12 / Gaston
Project Description:	Bridge 91 on US 29/74 over Catawba River
Design Units:	English
Scales:	Plans: 1" = 50' Profiles: 1" = 50' H 1" = 10' V Cross-sections: 1" = 10'
Design Speed:	60 MPH
Posted Speed:	55 MPH
Design Exceptions:	No exceptions anticipated
Traffic Volumes:	Year ADT =TBD Year ADT = TBD D = TBD % K = TBD %
Truck Traffic:	Duals = TBD % TTST = TBD %
Functional Classification:	Principal Arterial
Tier Classification:	Sub-Regional
Design Standard:	2018 NCDOT Standard Specifications & Drawings
Terrain:	Rolling
Typical Section:	4-lane undivided

Right-of-Way: Existing:	100'
Proposed:	120 feet
Detours:	Phased construction to the north or the south
School Buses:	TBD
Bicycle Route:	Wilkinson Boulevard is a proposed bicycle route based on NCDOT's Map of NC Bicycle Facilities. Further coordination with various local stakeholder and NCDOT's Bike and Ped Group will determine how and if bicycle accommodations will occur on this project.
Sidewalk:	Yes
Access Control:	No
Noise Walls:	No
Railroad Involvement:	No
Utility Impacts:	TBD
Hazardous Sites:	TBD
Number of Parcels:	TBD
Number of Relocatees:	TBD
Historic Sites:	This is Sloan's Ferry bridge which is determined eligible for the national register. There are multiple properties over 50 years of age and an NCDOT's Architectural Historian has indicated that a <u>survey is required</u> .
Archaeological Sites:	<u>No archaeological survey</u> is required based on a screening completed by NCDOT's archaeological group on 1/30/18.
Limited English Proficiency/ Environmental Justice Communities:	Yes
Greenways:	Yes; Riverfront walk along Iswa Nature Preserve
Grade Separation/ Stream Crossing/ Interchange:	No Yes No

Structures: Existing: Bridge Length-1124 ft.; Road Width-40 ft.
Proposed: 6 Lanes Wide with length TBD

Signals: The project will tie into an intersection on the west end which is signalized. Some adjustments to the signal or its timing may be required because of the project.

Project Length:	<u>Alignment</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Design Lengths (FT)</u>
	-L-Line	US 29/74	4000 feet

Total Length: 4000 Total Length (FT)

Programmed R/W Date: Jan 2021

Programmed Let Date: Jan 2022

Funding Source: State Funds Federal Funds

Contract Type: Lump Sum

General Important Project Details

Project History: The bridge was first built in 1911 and made with reinforced concrete. The current Sloan's Ferry Bridge was built in 1933, and is made of concrete and steel. It was erected as a memorial to the Gaston and Mecklenburg County soldiers who fought in the World War (1917-1918). This project was programmed as B-5857 but deleted in 2017 and reprogrammed as BR-0020 due to different funding.

Special Considerations: This is an historic bridge that is determined eligible. It is in FERC boundary and USCG waters. Iswa Nature Preserve and Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park border the project site on the right and left side.

Restrictions / Moratoriums: TBD

General Comments: Coordination with FERC and USCG will be necessary. Adverse effect will be likely finding at Section 106 effects meeting. Section 6(f) is possible given two parks present.

Other Transportation Projects in the Area
From TIP

TIP U-6038: US 74 (Wilkinson Blvd) Implement adaptive signal system from NC 7 (Catawba St) to SR 2209 (Wesleyan Dr.). ROW 2019, Const. 2019

TIP U-5959: US 74 (Wilkinson Blvd) at NC 273 (Park St). Construct intersection improvements. ROW 2020, Const. 2021

TIP U-3608: Widen NC 7 to multi-lanes from I-85 to US 29/74. ROW and Const. 2021

TIP 5800: Intersection of NC 7/US 74 and NC 7/US 29. Construct northbound through lane and intersection improvements. ROW 2019, Constr. 2021

From CTP

US 29/74 (Wilkinson Blvd): Multiway boulevard from Lakewood Rd to NC 7 (Catawba St)

NC 273 (Park St): Construct 4 lane divided multiway boulevard with bike lanes, access lane, and on-street parking. From I-85 to US 29/74 (Wilkinson Blvd)
Construct 4 lane divided multiway boulevard with bike lanes, access lane, and on-street parking. From US 29/74 (Wilkinson Blvd) to NC 7 (Catawba St)

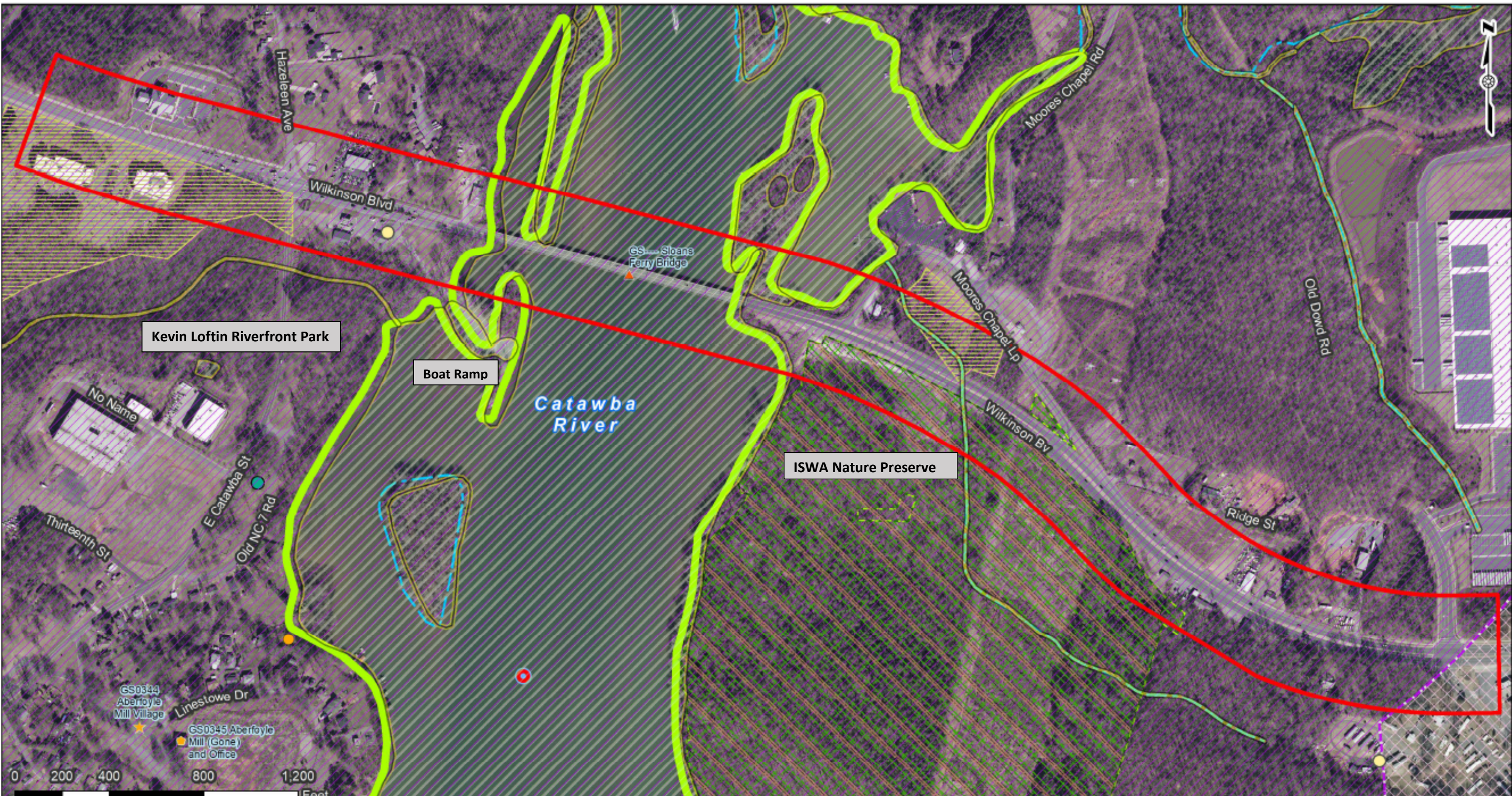
NC 273 (Keener Blvd): Construct 4 lane multiway boulevard with bike lanes and improved signalization. From NC 7 (Catawba St) to RL Stowe Rd

CATS Light Rail

There is a light rail project being considered for this corridor. It is not currently funded but is being submitted by Division 10 to SPOT for consideration.

Project Schedule

Final Environmental Document	2020 Mar
ROW Date	2021 Jan
Let Date	2022 Jan



Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park

Boat Ramp

ISWA Nature Preserve

Catawba River



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES MAP
BR-020: Replaces Gaston Co. Bridge No. 91
On US 29/74 over Catawba River

Study Area	NWI Wetlands	Regional Underground Storage Tank	Determined Eligible - DOE
Natural Heritage Program Area	State Managed Land	NPDES	Surveyed Only
State Owned Complex	Unnamed Tributary	Surface Water Intake	Surveyed Area Center Point
Critical Watershed	2014IRCat5 303d 1.30	PARTF_all_awards_6(f)_Nov 2016	
Protected Watershed	Inactive Hazardous Site		

Background Project Information

The current bridge was built in 1933 with concrete and steel. With a deck geometry rating of 2 out of 9, the bridge is functionally obsolete and has a sufficiency rating of 57.17. The purpose of this project is to replace the functionally obsolete bridge and address design year traffic capacity deficiencies. Based on the 6-lane section coming in from the west and the 5-lane section going out to the east, a typical section of 6 lanes will be applied to the new bridge. Phased construction alternatives to the north or the south are currently being evaluated. Both local officials and Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) are interested in pursuing light rail along this corridor. NCDOT met with CATS on this subject on October 19, 2018 to obtain their input. There are several resources located in the vicinity of the project site, listed in the table below.

Project Features	
Cultural Resources	
Properties for National Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge No. 91 (Sloan’s Ferry Bridge) is eligible for National Register
Human Resources	
Community Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaston College-Kimbrell Campus west of project site
Residential Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several residential properties north of the project site
Business Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several businesses north and south of the project site including State Employees Credit Union, Dale’s Superette, T&T Auto Repair, Bolin’s Produce, Russel Mason Inc.
Public Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Loftin Riverfront Park west of the project site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Boat landing is located off of the park • Iswa Nature Preserve east of the project site
Bicycle, Ped, and Greenways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilkinson Blvd is a proposed bicycle route • Greenways on both sides of bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Riverfront Walk along Iswa Nature Preserve • A multi-use path is recommended
% Low Income/Minority Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is located in a Census block group with low-income populations
Natural Resources	
Endangered Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No known occurrences of T&E species in project study area. T&E species listed for Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties include: Bald Eagle, Bog Turtle, NLEB, Dwarf Flowered heartleaf, Schweinitz’s sunflower, Carolina heelsplitter, Rusty-patched bumblebee, Michaux’s sumac, Smooth coneflower
Catawba River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge is located over Catawba River, north of Lake Wylie Dam—potential FERC involvement • Bridge is located over unobstructed and navigable waters—potential Coast Guard involvement
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWI wetlands in project study area
Water classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WS-IV; Catawba River on 303(d) list