

# Section 404/NEPA Merger Project Team Meeting Agreement

## Concurrence Point No. 1

### Project Purpose and Need and Study Area Defined

Upgrade US 74 to Interstate Standards from US 74 Business east of Hamlet to US 74 Business west of Laurinburg. STIP Project: I-6055

The US 74 corridor between Hamlet and Laurinburg includes frequent driveways and at-grade intersections which allow turning movements that hinder traffic flow and impede traffic operations and mobility. In addition, the approximately ten-mile section of US 74 between Hamlet and Laurinburg is the only non-freeway segment of the approximately 151-mile proposed I-74 corridor between I-40 south of Winston-Salem and I-95 south of Lumberton.

#### Project Purpose and Need Statement

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve regional and statewide mobility in the I-74 corridor between Hamlet and Laurinburg by implementing improvements that are consistent with current interstate standards. Interstates are multi-lane, median-divided facilities, with full control of access (interchanges without at-grade intersections), designed with wide shoulders and lane widths for interstate traveling speeds. These improvements will support the NCDOT Strategic Transportation Corridor plan to upgrade the US 74 corridor through southwest North Carolina to interstate standards and will provide connectivity and promote the economic vitality of the corridor. This project is also needed to comply with the Congress approved Future I-74 designation of this route from the Virginia to the South Carolina State Lines.

#### Project Study Area

The project study area boundaries are shown on Figure 1, dated May 2026. The study area includes a width of 3,000 feet (1,500 feet either side of the centerline) throughout the length of the corridor, beginning east of Hamlet and extending approximately 10 miles to the project terminus, west of Laurinburg. The study area extends an additional 2,000 feet along McEachin Road and extends an additional 2,000 feet south of Laurel Hill. The project study area would encompass all direct impacts and temporary construction impacts associated with proposed realignments and interchanges, new location roadways, and potential service roads.

The Merger Team has concurred on this date of June 17, 2026, on the above project purpose and need and the study area as shown in Figure 1 for STIP Project I-6055.

USACE \_\_\_\_\_

FHWA \_\_\_\_\_

USEPA \_\_\_\_\_

NCDOT \_\_\_\_\_

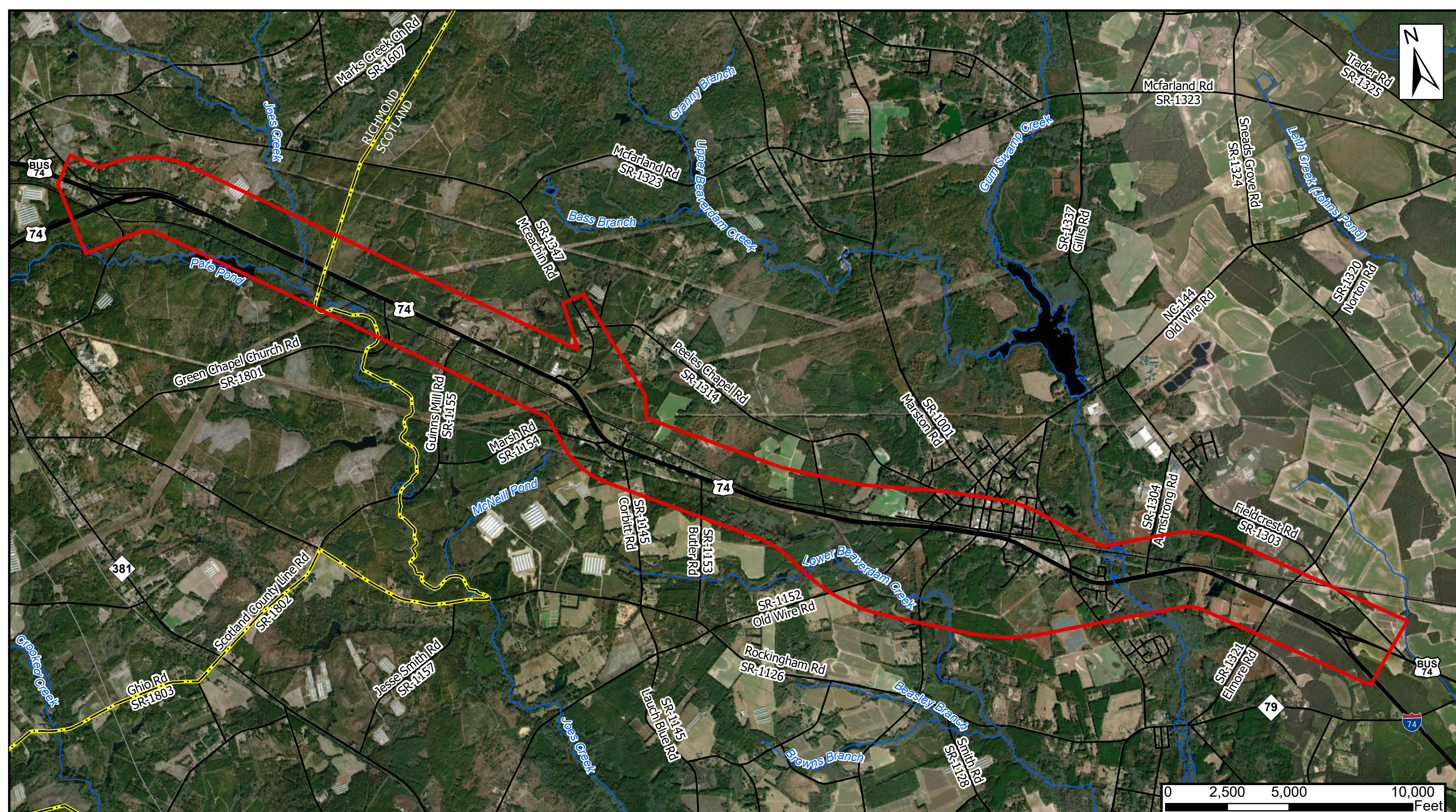
USFWS \_\_\_\_\_

NCHPO \_\_\_\_\_

NCDWR \_\_\_\_\_

LR RPO \_\_\_\_\_

NCWRC \_\_\_\_\_



North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways

May 2026

I-6055  
US 74/Future I-74  
Proposed Upgrade of US 74 to Interstate Standards  
from US 74 Business east of Hamlet to US 74 Business west of Laurinburg

Richmond and Scotland Counties



Proposed Study Area

Figure 1