

# Section 404/NEPA Merger Project Team Meeting Agreement

## Concurrence Point 1

### Purpose and Need and Study Area Defined

Project Description: STIP Project R-5706 proposes widening NC 73 (Davidson-Concord Road/Davidson Highway) from SR 2693 (Davidson-Concord Road) to US 29 (Concord Parkway North) to four-lanes. The project is comprised of two segments: R-5706A and R-5706B. R-5706A extends from SR 2693 (Davidson-Concord Road) to SR 1394 (Poplar Tent Road) near the Mecklenburg County – Cabarrus County line. R-5706B extends from SR 1394 (Poplar Tent Road) to US 29 in Cabarrus County. The project will include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

STIP Project: R-5706

#### Purpose and Need of Proposed Project:

The current year (2017) annual average daily traffic (AADT) along NC 73 ranges from 12,800 vehicles per day (vpd) to 24,800 vpd. In 2040, NC 73 is expected to carry between 22,400 vpd and 46,800 vpd.

Population and employment growth will increase travel demand along NC 73, with most sections of the roadway forecasted to increase in traffic volumes by approximately 75-80 percent in 2040.

NC 73 is currently congested during peak commuting hours with poor level of service (LOS). The corridor currently operates at LOS E during AM and PM peak hours. Without the proposed improvements, the corridor will continue to operate at LOS E in 2040 during peak hours. With the proposed improvements, the corridor is expected to operate at LOS C during AM peak hour and LOS D during PM peak hour.

The existing NC 73 corridor currently experiences safety issues likely associated with intersection conflicts and high traffic volumes. The total and non-fatal injury crash rates along NC 73 exceeded the statewide and critical crash rates for the five-year period analyzed (October 2012 to September 2017). The most widely-occurring type of crash along the corridor, including at signalized intersections, was rear-end crashes, which are typically associated with congested conditions.

West of I-85, NC 73 provides the only direct route between the Davidson, Cornelius, Huntersville and western Kannapolis areas and I-85 north of I-485 in the Charlotte region. Other east-west connections are provided through local routes, but these are often indirect and primarily serve local traffic.

East of I-85, NC 73 is a critical route serving Concord's and Kannapolis' mobility between I-85 and US 29.

#### Purpose Statement

The purpose of the project is to increase mobility between SR 2693 (Davidson-Concord Road) and I-85 and between US 29 (Concord Parkway North) and I-85, reduce congestion at the intersections, improve traffic operations along NC 73 with an operational target of LOS D in the 2040 design year, and provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

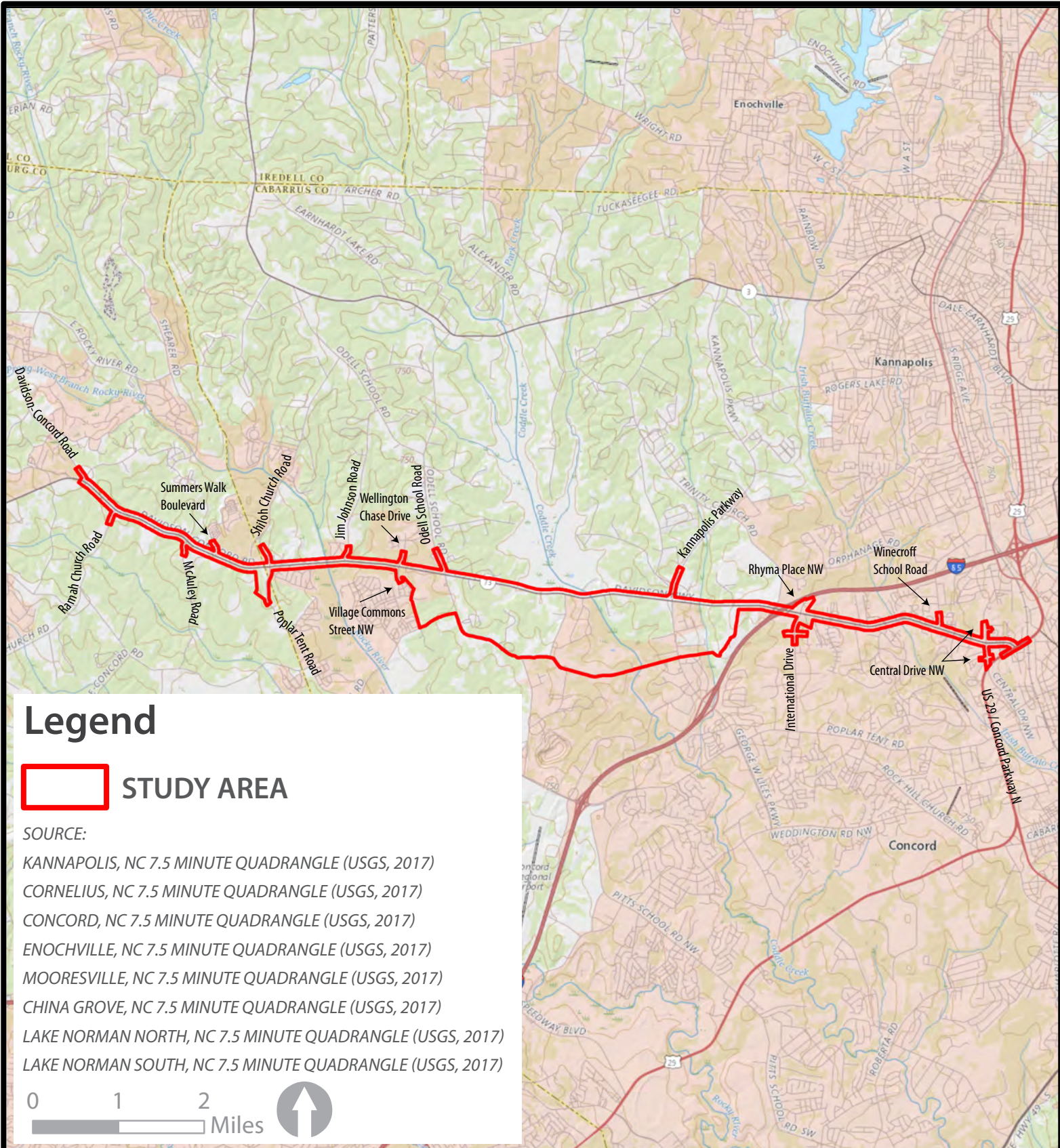
**Study Area Boundary:**

Reference Figure 2 (attached) for a map of the Study Area boundary. A description of the Study Area is as follows:

The study area extends along NC 73 from Davidson-Concord Road to US 29, generally encompassing an area 250 feet on each side of the existing road centerline. To incorporate potential new location alignments south of Howell Reservoir, the study area expands southward (to a width of as much as one mile) between Village Commons Street Northwest and Biscayne Drive. The study area extends between approximately 1,000 and 2,800 feet along numerous y-lines and has varying widths along the y-lines.

The Merger Team has concurred on this date of July 19, 2018, on the above-mentioned project purpose and need and the study area for STIP Project No. R-5706.

USACE	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Monte Matthews</i> <small>311178CE040C4D1...</small>	NCDOT	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Theresa Ellerby</i> <small>9876C06756C9407...</small>
USEPA	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Amaretta Somerville</i> <small>86CDC015C7334AE...</small>	USFWS	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Marella Buncick</i> <small>A39FFFDDE1E74BB...</small>
NCWRC	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Marla Chambers</i> <small>B1D3DCA076AD4C9...</small>	NCDWR	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Donna Hood</i> <small>E0164749F4A5476...</small>
SHPO	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Renee Gledhill-Earley</i> <small>C20A1556A375464...</small>	CRTPO	<i>Robert W. Cook</i>
CRMPO	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Phil Conrad</i> <small>D5010C42B857419...</small>		



## Legend

 **STUDY AREA**

**SOURCE:**

- KANNAPOLIS, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)
- CORNELIUS, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)
- CONCORD, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)
- ENOCHVILLE, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)
- MOORESVILLE, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)
- CHINA GROVE, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)
- LAKE NORMAN NORTH, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)
- LAKE NORMAN SOUTH, NC 7.5 MINUTE QUADRANGLE (USGS, 2017)



## Study Area Map

Widening of NC 73 from Davidson-Concord Road to US 29

TIP No: R-5706

WBS #: 46378.1.1

Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties

August 2018

**FIGURE 2**

