MERGER TEAM MEETING – CONCURRENCE POINT 2A BRIDGING DECISIONS AND ALIGNMENT REVIEW

NC 73 IMPROVEMENTS – NC 16 TO NORTHCROSS DRIVE (SR 2316) LINCOLN AND MECKLENBURG COUNTIES STIP PROJECT NOS. R-5721 and U-5765

JUNE 6, 2018

PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING

The purpose of today's meeting is to provide the Merger team with a project update and to discuss bridging locations and preliminary alignment. Concurrence will be requested on bridging decisions and alignment review for Concurrence Point 2A (CP 2A).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Project Nos. R-5721 and U-5765 consist of widening NC 73 from NC 16 to Northcross Drive (SR 2316), a distance of approximately 8.5 miles. These projects are included in the 2018-2027 STIP. The limits for each project are described as follows and are shown on Figures 1 and 2:

- R-5710 Improve the intersection of NC 73 and NC 16 Business, Lincoln County. *Deleted at the December 2017 Board of Transportation meeting. Improvements to be included under R-5721.*
- R-5721 Widen NC 73 to multi-lanes from NC 16 to West Catawba Avenue (SR 5544), Lincoln and Mecklenburg Counties
- U-5765 Widen NC 73 from West Catawba Avenue to Northcross Drive, Mecklenburg County

PROJECT SCHEDULE/COST

The right of way acquisition and construction schedule for the project in the 2018-2027 STIP is currently:

Begin Right of Way Acquisition: Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Begin Construction: FY 2022

Estimated costs are described in Table 1.

	R-5721	U-5765				
ROW	\$75,180,000	\$3,900,000				
Utilities	\$7,100,000	\$500,000				
Construction	\$70,350,000	\$7,000,000				
Total Cost	\$152,630,000	\$11,400,000				
Grand Total	Total \$164,030,000					

Table 1: Cost Estimates (STIP)

PROJECT PURPOSE & STUDY AREA

Initial concurrence on the purpose of the project (CP 1) was reached at a NEPA/404 Merger Team meeting held on August 9, 2017. Due to minor study area expansions, CP 1 was revisited and formal concurrence on the changes was reached on March 22, 2018.

Purpose statement: The purpose of the proposed project is to increase the traffic carrying capacity of NC 73 within the study area to operate at an acceptable level of service (LOS D or better) through the design year 2040 and preserve long-term mobility of the corridor. A secondary purpose is to safely accommodate multi-modal uses of the corridor.

ALTERNATIVES FOR DETAILED STUDY

Initial concurrence on the alternatives for detailed study (CP 2) was reached at a NEPA/404 Merger Team meeting held on August 9, 2017. The alternatives were revisited and formal concurrence was reached on March 22, 2018. Team members agreed on the study alternatives described below:

- No-Build Alternative
- Alternative 1: Best Fit Widening Along Existing NC 73
- Alternatives 2A and 2B: Best Fit Widening Along Existing NC 73 with Realignment in the Vicinity of the McGuire Nuclear Station and Beatties Ford Road
 - Alternative 2A resembles an alignment proposed in local and regional plans
 - Alternative 2B provides a more shallow realignment than Alternative 2A

The Alternatives are compared in Table 2.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A Public Meeting for STIP Project Nos. R-5721, U-5765, and I-5715 was held on February 5, 2018 at Meadowlake Church in Huntersville. A second Public Meeting for STIP Project Nos. R-5721 and U-5765 was held on February 6, 2018 at East Lincoln Community Center.

The Town of Huntersville held a meeting with the Birkdale neighborhood on March 7, 2018 to provide information and answer questions.

The Town of Cornelius hosted a meeting on March 12, 2018. NCDOT gave a presentation on the project and answered questions from the public.

The Birkdale Homeowner's Association hosted a meeting on April 17, 2018. NCDOT gave a presentation on the project and answered questions from the public.

BRIDGING DECISIONS AND ALIGNMENT REVIEW

CP 2A consists of the identification of potential impacts to jurisdictional areas including streams, wetlands, and other surface waters based on the preliminary design. CP 2A also includes a discussion of NCDOT hydraulic requirements and potential bridging locations being proposed at major stream or wetland crossings. Water resources in the study area are part of the Catawba River Basin. Based on a preliminary hydraulic study, eight crossings require structures that are 72 inches or greater in diameter. All other crossings can be contained in smaller pipes. The structure locations and hydraulic sites are described in Table 3 and illustrated on Figures 3.1-3.4 and 4.1-4.7. Jurisdictional areas have been surveyed and mapped using GPS. The impact area for streams and wetlands is defined as the slope stakes plus a 25-foot buffer area.

The Merger team's concurrence with the drainage structure recommendations included in this packet is requested.

DR/ws

Table 2. Detailed Study Alternative Comparison

Resource/Affected Environment	Alternative 1	Alternative 2 Realignments*						
		Alt 2A	Alt 2B					
General Project Information								
Length of Alternative (miles)	8.5	1.8	1.1					
Cultural Resources								
NRHP (eligible sites, districts, etc.) (#) Stillwell-Hubbard Complex (DOE)								
Archaeology	Archaeological Survey Of Federa Recommended Prior To Per							
Human Environment								
Churches/Cemetery (#)**	4	0	1					
Schools**	2	0	0					
Public Parks	Blythe Landing Community Park	0						
Greenways, Game Lands, Land and Water Conservation Fund Properties, etc. (#)	3 – Hwy 73 Access Area, Cowans Ford Waterfowl Refuge, 0 McDowell Creek Greenway							
High % Special Populations	Language Assistance	(Spanish)						
Natural Environment								
Threatened or Endangered Species with a 'No Effect' Biological Conclusion	 4 – Dwarf-flowered heartleaf, Michaux's sumac, Schweinitz's sunflower, Smooth coneflower 							
Threatened or Endangered Species Requiring Additional Surveys	2 – Northern long-eared bat, Carolina heelsplitter							
Streams (linear feet)	us (linear feet) 1,560 - 2,475							
Wetlands (acres)	2.11 - 4.08	0.00	0.92					
Critical Water Supply Watersheds	2 – Lake Norman, Mounta	in Island Lake						
Riparian Buffer Rules	Catawba River E	Basin						
Identified Critical Habitat/ESA Spp. (# known)	None known	1						
Physical Environment								
Haz Mat (# suspected/known sites) Impacts To Be Determined								
Utilities	McGuire Nuclear Station, electric, water, sewer, power transmission corridors and towers, phone							
Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD)	2 – VAD parcels (one operation) 0							
Noise Impacts To Be Determined								
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Licensing								
3 – Highway 73 Access Area, Cat (Mountain Island Development and C		N/A	N .					

* The impacts for the Alternative 2 realignment options reflect only the section of realignment between approximately McGuire Nuclear Station and Beatties Ford Road.

** Does not indicate relocation - only potential impact.

Table 3. Major Drainage Structures

Site No.	Name/ Map ID	Drainage Area (mi²)	Existing Structure	FEMA Stream	Hydraulic Recommendation	Estimated Minimum Bridge Dimensions	Culvert Extension / Total Length	Culvert Cost ¹	Bridge Cost ¹	Stream Class- ification	Culvert Impacts to Streams / Wetlands ²	Bridge Impacts to Streams / Wetlands ²	Intermittent / Perennial / Channel Dimensions	Riparian Buffer Impacts	Figure #
	Catawba River Tributary 6/SDD		2@9'X8' RCBC	Yes; Limited Detailed Study	(1A) 2@9'x10' RCBC	(1A) 45'X407' Dual Bridges	(A) N/A / 453'	Structure: \$1.7 mil <mark>Mitigation: \$700K</mark> Total: \$2.4 mil	Structure: \$6.7 mil <mark>Mitigation: \$300K</mark> Total: \$7.0 mil		(1A) 585' / 1.7 ac.	(1A) <mark>175' /</mark> <mark>1.1 ac.</mark>			
1		2.4			(1B) 2@9'x10' RCBC	(1B) 45'X1063' Dual Bridges (B) N/A / 802'	Structure: \$3.0 mil Mitigation: \$1.6 mil Total: \$4.6 mil	Structure: \$14.3 mil Mitigation: \$200K Total: \$14.5 mil	WS-IV;	(1B) 1,340' / 3.5 ac.	(1B) <mark>0' /</mark> <mark>1.0 ac.</mark>	Perennial	N/A	3.1,	
		2.4			(1C) Retain Existing and Extend and New 2@9'x10' RCBC	(1C) ³ 45'X185' Single Bridge	(C) Existing 127' / 297' New N/A / 195'	Structures: <mark>\$2.5 mil</mark> Mitigation: \$1.1 mil Total: \$3.6 mil	Structures: <mark>\$2.9 mil</mark> Mitigation: \$700K Total: \$3.6 mil	CA	(1C) 905' / 2.5 ac.	(1C) <mark>500' /</mark> <mark>1.9 ac.</mark>	Bank width 10-12 ft., water depth 10-20 in.	N/A	4.1-4.4
					(1D) 2@9'x10' RCBC	(1D) 45'X454' Dual Bridges	(D) N/A / 583'	Structure: \$2.2 mil Mitigation: \$1.0 mil Total: \$3.2 mil	Structure: \$7.4 mil Mitigation: \$500K Total: \$7.9 mil		(1D) 875' / 2.3 ac.	(1D) <mark>320' /</mark> <mark>1.5 ac.</mark>			
2	Catawba River	1,778	Bridge No. 50, 33'X883'	Yes; Redelineated	Dual Bridges	45'X883'	N/A	N/A	Structure: \$14.8 mil Mitigation: \$30K Total: \$14.83 mil	WS-IV; CA	N/A	<mark>0' / 0.2 ac.</mark>	Perennial Bank width 743 ft., water depth 12 ft.	Catawba River	3.1, 4.1-4.4
3	UT to McDowell Creek/SBB	0.16	72" CMP	No Study	Retain Existing and Extend Upstream	Not Practical	<mark>15' / 765'</mark>	N/A	N/A	WS-IV	10' / 0 ac.	N/A	Perennial Bank width 3 ft., water depth 6-12 in.	N/A	3.3, 4.7
4	McDowell Creek	3.52	Culvert #83, 3@8'X9' RCBC	Yes; Detailed Study; 100 yr. flood event overtops roadway	Retain Existing RCBC and Extend Each Side	Not Practical	<mark>103' / 220'</mark>	N/A	N/A	WS-IV	135' / 0.1 ac.	N/A	Perennial Bank width 12 ft., water depth 6-12 in.	N/A	3.3, 4.7
5	Caldwell Station Creek	3.16	Culvert #84, 2@10'X9' RCBC	Yes; Detailed Study	Retain Existing RCBC and Extend Each Side	Not Practical	<mark>96' / 230'</mark>	N/A	N/A	WS-IV	345' / 0.1 ac	N/A	Perennial Bank width 12 ft., water depth 4-16 in.	N/A	3.3, 4.7
6	Caldwell Station Creek	3.14	Culvert #16 2@10'X8' RCBC	Yes; Detailed Study	Retain Existing RCBC and Extend Each Side	Not Practical	<mark>93' / 180'</mark>	N/A	N/A	WS-IV	205' / 0 ac.	N/A	Perennial Bank width 12 ft., water depth 4-16 in.	N/A	3.3, 4.7
7	UT to Caldwell Station Creek/SCC	0.36	1@8'X5' RCBC	No Study	Retain Existing RCBC and Extend Upstream	Not Practical	30' / 453'	N/A	N/A	WS-IV	55' / 0 ac.	N/A	Perennial Bank width 3-5 ft., water depth 2-12 in.	N/A	3.3, 4.7
8	UT9 to Catawba River/SJ	0.32	N/A	No Study	1@8'x7' RCBC	45'x131' Dual Bridges	0' / 192'	Structure: \$325K Mitigation: \$200K Total: \$525K	Structure: \$2.2 mil <mark>Mitigation: \$0</mark> Total: \$2.2 mil	WS-IV; CA	260' / 0 ac.	<u>0' / 0.0 ac.</u>	Perennial Bank width 7-9 ft., water depth 6-12 in.	N/A	3.2, 4.5

<u>Notes:</u>

Highlighted text represents updates/revisions made since CP 2A package distribution on May 24. CMP = Corrugated Metal Pipe, RCBC = Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert

¹ Mitigation costs are at the higher fee HUC at a 2:1 Ratio. \$394 per linear foot of stream and \$71,772 per acre of riparian wetland.

² Impacts are based on 25' beyond the slope stakes. There are additional wetland impacts beyond those documented near the major drainage structure areas.

³ Only one bridge is feasible under Option 1C (split median concept) for eastbound traffic. Option 1C requires a 200' longer bridge over the Catawba River at Site 2. Option 1C accounts for this additional cost. Other impacted streams that do not require a major drainage structure 72" or greater in diameter include: SD, SE, SF, SG, SI, and SK.

Impacted wetlands across all possible alternative scenarios include: WB, WS, WR, WN, WO, WQ, WL, WK, WI, and WJ.

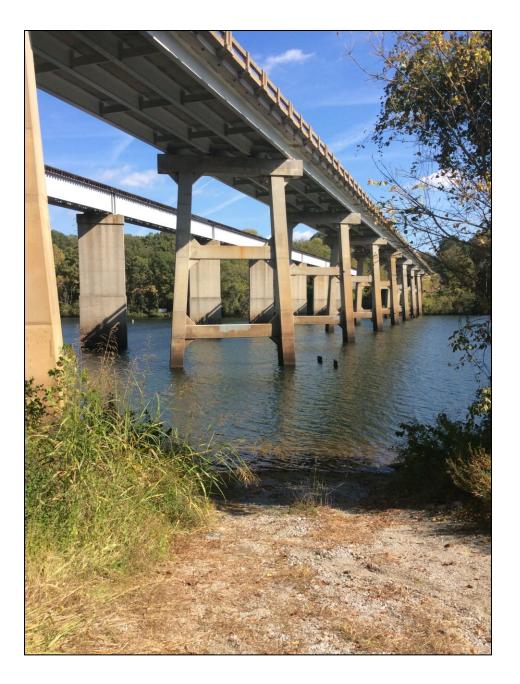
All impacted streams and wetlands are illustrated on Figures 3.1-3.3.

Alternative 2 realignment 2B does not involve crossings that require a major drainage structure.





<u>SITE 2</u>



SITE 3



SITE 4



<u>SITE 5</u>



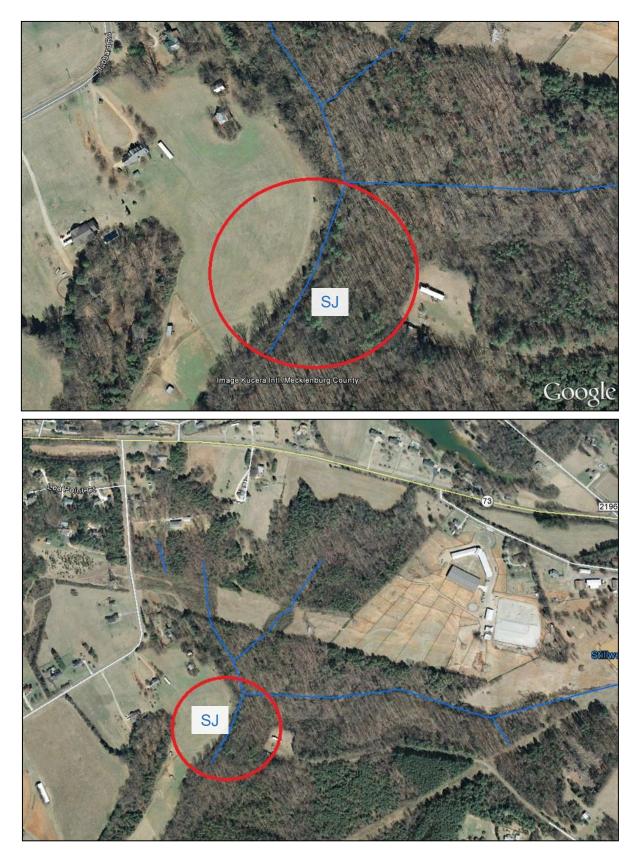
<u>SITE 6</u>



<u>SITE 7</u>



<u>SITE 8</u>



NEPA/404 MERGER TEAM AGREEMENT Concurrence Point No. 2A: Bridging Decisions and Alignment Review

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

NC 73 Improvements from NC 16 to SR 2316 (Northcross Drive), Lincoln and Mecklenburg Counties STIP Project Nos. R-5721 and U-5765

Recommended Major Structures

SITE		EXISTING STRUCTURE NO., SIZE, TYPE	PROPOSED STRUCTURE SIZE, TYPE						
SITE NO.	MAP ID			Realignment Options*					
			Alt 1A	Alt 1B	Alt 1C	Alt 1D	Alt 2A		
1	SDD	2@9'x8' RCBC	Replace with 2@9'x10' RCBC	with with 2@9'x10', 2@9'x8' RCBC and Construct New		Replace with 2@9'x10' RCBC			
2	Catawba River	Bridge No. 50, 33'x883'	Replace with Dual Bridges 45'x883'	with Dualwith DualBridgesBridgesBridges45'x883'		Replace with Dual Bridges 45'x883'			
3	SBB	72" CMP	Retai	n Existing 72	" CMP and Extend Ups	tream			
4	McDowell Creek	Culvert #83, 3@8'x9' RCBC	Reta						
5	Caldwell Station Creek	Culvert #84, 2@10x8' RCBC	Reta						
6	Caldwell Station Creek	Culvert #16, 2@10x8' RCBC	Reta						
7	SCC	1@8'x5' RCBC	Ret						
8	SJ	N/A					1@8'x7 RCBC		

NOTES: CMP = Corrugated Metal Pipe, RCBC = Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert See Figures 3.1-3.3 and 4.1-4.7 for Locations of Hydraulic Sites and Jurisdictional Streams There are no major drainage structures for Alternative 2B.

The Project Team concurred on this date of June 6, 2018 with the structures to be considered for the proposed project as described above.

US Army Corps of Engineers US Fish and Wildlife Service NC Division of Water Resources Charlotte Regional TPO

US Environmental Protection Agency

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NC Department of Transportation

Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO

