

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Date: 7/3/10
Rev: 12/12/14

TIP No.: R-5777C	County: Craven
Federal-Aid No.: TBD	WBS No.: 44648.1.4
NCDOT Division: 2	Scoping Meeting Date: November 13, 2019

Project Description:

- Length: 6.5 miles
- Termini (US Hwy / SR): U.S. 70, S.R. 1116 (Thurman Road) to Havelock Bypass
- MPO / RPO: New Bern Area MPO; Down East RPO
- NEPA / 404 Merger Candidate? Yes No Unknown
- General Description of Project (STIP):

Improve US 70 from east of E. Thurman Road intersection to the proposed Havelock Bypass. Upgrade roadway to freeway and construct service roads

- General Project Need: The project is intended to improve regional mobility, assist economic development in primarily rural areas of eastern NC, provide a closer interstate connection to the Port of Morehead City, benefit military interconnectivity, and make the corridor safer by reducing intersections. In May 2016, the US 70 Corridor was designated the Future I-42 between I-40 and Morehead City.
- Proposed Typical Section: Freeway with interchanges at major intersections and service roads. Two 12' travel lanes in each direction, 10' paved outside shoulders, 4' paved inside shoulders. 46' grass median.
- Proposed Right of Way Width: Approximately 200' – 300' along mainline US 70

Design Data (Existing Conditions):

- Functional Classification: Principal Arterial
- Strategic Transportation Corridor: Yes, Corridor P Future I-42
- CTP Designation (Facility Type): Freeway/Expressway (*NBAMPO 2040 Highway Map*)
- Type of Access Control: Partial Access Control
- Typical Section: 4-lane shoulder facility with a grass median
- Right of Way: varies between 195'-260' (195' between Fisher Ave. and Falcon Bridge Dr. where the existing ROW for US 70 overlaps ROW for railroad.
- Posted Speed: 55 mph
- Structure Inventory (bridges, RCBC, Walls, etc):

	Location	Existing Structure	Preliminary Hydraulic Recommended Structure
Site 1	UT to Goodwin Creek at US 70 near Lewis Farm Road	1 @ 48" RCP	1 @ 6'x8' RCBC buried 1'

Source: Hydraulic Planning Report, VHB, October 2019

- Other TIP Projects in the Area

R-1015 Havelock Bypass – U.S. 70 corridor improvements project adjoins R-5777C at the southern terminus. Right of way acquisition started summer 2019, and a 4-year construction period is anticipated.

U-5713 and R-5777A & B James City Improvements – US 70 corridor improvement projects were planned together and adjoin R-5777C at the northern terminus. A single design-build contract is expected to be awarded mid-September 2019. Right of way acquisition is scheduled to begin early 2020, with construction starting late 2020 or early 2021, and completed May 2024.

R-5516 Slocum Road Flyover - this project on US 70 involves construction of an interchange at Slocum Road, which provides access to the MCAS Cherry Point back gate. The project lies approximately 2.3 miles south of R-5777C. The interchange is under construction and is scheduled to be completed March 2020.

- Railroad Involvement:

North Carolina Rail Road (NCRR) owns the railroad corridor that runs along US 70 within the project study area and is operated by Norfolk Southern (NS) through an operating and maintenance agreement. No passenger service is provided. Proposed service roads are located within the existing rail ROW.

Long Range Plan History:

Destination 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) (NBAMPO 2016) recommends that U.S. 70 be upgraded to freeway standards and R-5777 is included in the table of recommended projects.

Traffic Data (AADT, vehicles per day):

Current Year (No-Build)	2019	29,900 - 32,800
Design Year (Build)	2045	38,700 - 42,500

Cost Estimates (2020-2029 STIP):

	Construction	Right-of-Way	Utilities	Total
STIP Estimate	\$123,500,000	\$28,500,000	\$1,100,000	\$153,100,000

Project Schedule:

Environmental Document – Type III CE	June 2020
Right-of-Way	2020
Let	2020

Initial/Additional Scoping Comments:

A Start of Study letter for the project was sent out on 3/26/2019. The following agencies provided comments and are attached:

- USEPA (3/29/2019)
- NCWRC (5/10/2019)

A local officials informational meeting and a public meeting were held on June 18, 2019 to provide information on design concepts to the public. 11 local officials and 167 people attended each meeting, respectively. Summaries of these meetings are also attached.

See Preliminary Study Area Resource Inventory Table and Figures attached for Merger Screening information.

Preliminary Study Area Resources Inventory Table – STIP R-5777C

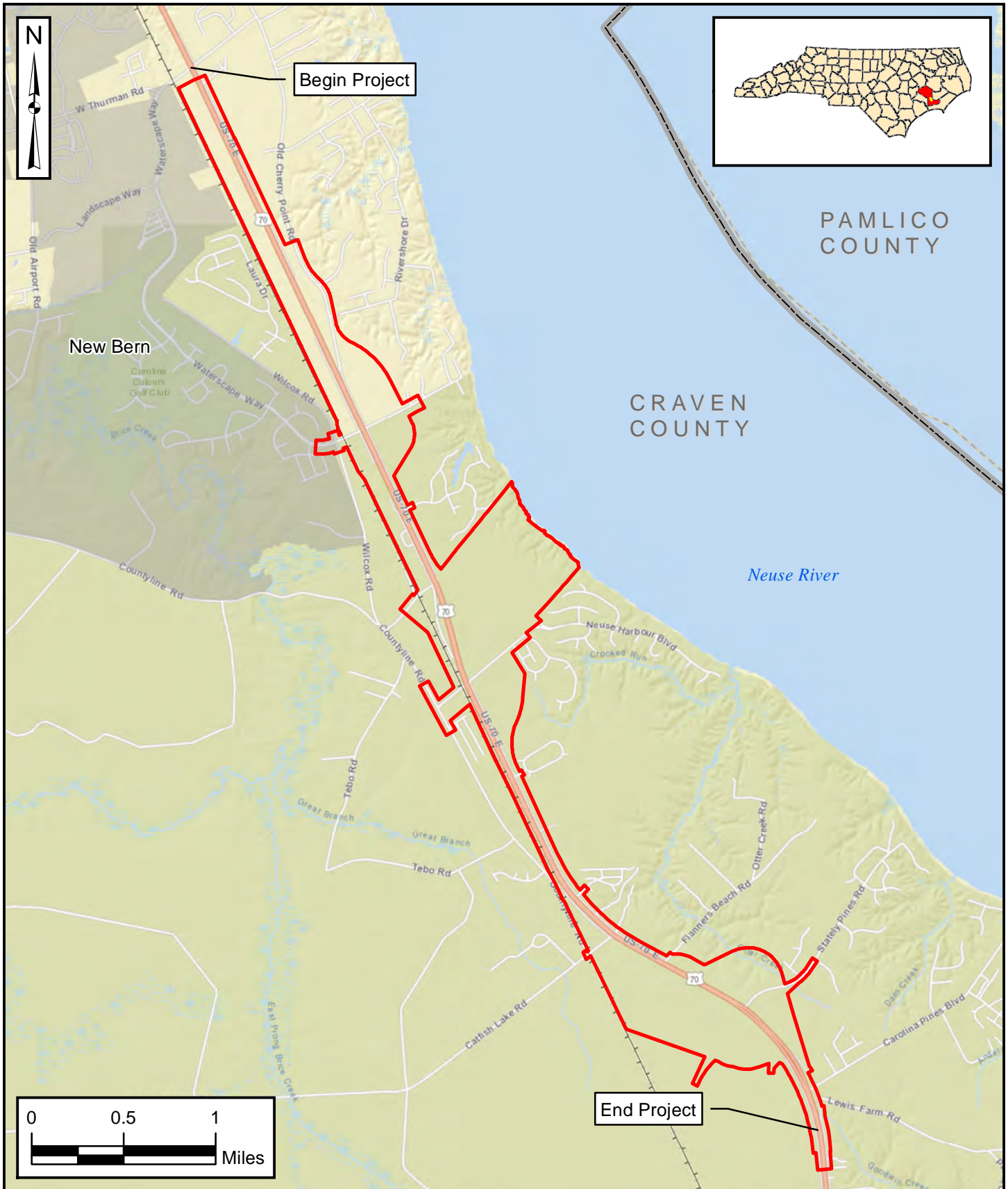
(Use with Figures 2, 3, and 4)

Resource/Affected Environment & Measure	Applicability/ Resources in Study Area
General Project Information	
Length of project (approximate in miles)	6.5 miles
Crossing or Intersecting (#) <i>Intersections include:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. West Camp Kiro Road/East Camp Kiro Road (SR 1112) 2. River Bluffs Drive (SR 1992), T-intersection from the east 3. Riverdale Road (SR 1108), T-intersection from west 4. West Fisher Avenue/East Fisher Avenue (SR 1104) 5. Catfish Lake Road (SR 1100)/Connors Way 6. Flanners Beach Road (SR 1107), T-intersection from the east 7. Stately Pines Road (SR 1106), T-intersection from the east 8. Carolina Pines Boulevard (SR 1176), T-intersection from the east 	0 – signalized intersection 8 – unsignalized intersections
Cultural Resources	
NRHP (and eligible sites, districts, other properties) (#) Surveys are being conducted for both archaeological and historic architectural resources. One NRHP-eligible resource, a large Civil War site (large and intact Civil War redoubt), has been identified within the study area near Catfish Lake Road. The nature of the impacts will be determined once preliminary design plans are available. This site may warrant preservation in place. Resources listed on http://gjis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study listed properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tom Haywood Store – west side of US 70 across from Falcon Bridge Drive ○ Croatan Presbyterian Church • Surveyed only properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ House on west side of US 70 approx. 1 mile north of W. Camp Kiro Road ○ McDaniels House, Ebron House, and another house on west side of US 70 just north of Riverdale Road 	1 – NRHP-eligible site 2 - state study listed sites 4 – surveyed only sites
Human Environment	
Community Resources (#) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brices Creek Bible Church (future church site), 2. Unnamed Cemetery, Old Cherry Point Road 3. Croatan Village Assisted Living 4. St. Matthew's Disciples 5. Mount Olive AME Zion Church and cemetery 6. Croatan Presbyterian Church 7. Croatan Free Will Baptist Church 8. Unnamed Cemetery located across U.S. 70 Service Road S.R. 1162 from the Croatan Free Will Baptist Church <p><i>Source: Draft Community Characteristics Report (CCR), Three Oaks Engineering, October 2019</i></p>	8 – community resources 4 – places of worship 3 - cemeteries 1 – assisted living facility

<p>Public Parks/Section 4(f) Properties (#)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Croatan National Forest recreational sites are located outside the study area but are accessed from roads that connect to the project corridor <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Fishers Landing</u> – located approx. 0.5 miles east of the project on the west bank of the Neuse River, and is accessed via Fishers Landing, a U.S. Forest Service Road. The site allows dispersed camping, picnicking, and river fishing. <u>Flanners Beach/Neuse River Recreation Area and Campground</u> is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the project on the west bank of the Neuse River, and is accessed via Flanners Beach Road (SR 1107). The Recreation Area includes bike and walking trails, a day-use picnic area, and beach, while the separate but adjacent campground contains 40 campsites with restroom and shower facilities. <p>Source: Draft CCR, Three Oaks Engineering, October 2019</p>	<p>Recreational sites are potential section 4(f) properties</p>
<p>Greenways, Game Lands, Land and Water Conservation Fund Properties, etc. (#)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croatan National Forest Game Lands located on both sides of US 70 	<p>Croatan Game Land</p>
<p>Residential Properties (# potentially affected)</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Business Properties (# potentially affected)</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>High % Special Populations (Low-income, Minority)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The criteria for Environmental Justice (EJ) populations are met in Census Tract (CT) 9610.02, Block Group (BG) 2 based on income, where 44.0% of the population is living below Poverty Level, compared to 15.4% in Craven County. Field visit observations indicate that low income EJ populations in this BG likely live outside the DCIA. Based on field visit observations of distressed properties, vacant buildings and mobile home parks, low-income populations are found in four areas described below. Low-income populations were observed living in three mobile home parks on the east side of U.S. 70 at the south end of the project The neighborhood west of the NCRR between West Fisher Avenue and Riverdale Road is also home to low-income populations. Based on the presence of an African-American Mt. Olive AME Zion Church, and discussions with property owners at the June 2019 public meeting, the neighborhood is also home to minority populations. <p>Source: Draft CCR, Three Oaks Engineering, October 2019</p>	<p>EJ populations present</p>
<p>Natural Environment</p>	
<p>Streams (# of stream crossings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goodwin Creek Otter Creek UT to Otter Creek (SA, SB, SC, SD, SE) UT to Great Branch (SF, SG) UT to Brice Creek 	<p><u>Study Area</u> 14 potential jurisdictional stream crossings 7,954 linear feet streams</p> <p><u>Potential Impact Area</u> 12 potential jurisdictional stream crossings 2,819 linear feet streams</p>

Wetlands (est. acres)	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>Study Area</u></p> <p>20 pot. jurisdictional wetlands 22.6 acres total delineated area</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Potential Impact Area</u></p> <p>14 – pot. jurisdictional wetlands 2.9 - acres total delineated area</p>
Ponds (est. acres)	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>Study Area</u></p> <p>3 - ponds 0.8 - acres total delineated area</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Potential Impact Area</u></p> <p>1 - pond 0.3 - acres total delineated area</p>
Source – Draft NRTR, Three Oaks Engineering, September 2019 (Delineations have not been verified)	See attached impact tables for potential impacts to wetlands, streams and ponds within the study area and area of potential impact.
Critical Water Supply Watersheds	None
Riparian Buffer Rules apply	yes – Neuse River
Identified Critical Habitat/ESA Species (# known)	0 – critical habitat 4 – habitat present 9 – no habitat present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No habitat present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Atlantic sturgeon ○ Carolina madtom ○ Green sea turtle ○ Leatherback sea turtle ○ Neuse River Waterdog ○ Red knot ○ West Indian manatee ○ Sensitive joint-vetch ○ Shortnose Sturgeon • Habitat present – Biological Conclusion (BC): May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect (MALAA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Northern long-eared bat • Habitat present – BC No Effect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Alligator ○ Red-cockaded woodpecker ○ Rough-leaved loosestrife <p>Source – Draft NRTR, Three Oaks Engineering, September 2019</p> <p>Surveys are also being conducted for the Croatan National Forest Service lands within the project study area for the USFS-listed plant and animal species.</p>	
Physical Environment	
Hazardous Materials (# suspected/known sites)	2 potential sites
Utilities	Potential impacts to water/waste water, cable, phone, fiber, electric, gas
Active agriculture (Voluntary Agricultural District)	none – not within study area limits
Noise	Impacts TBD - noise sensitive receptors in study area

NOTES: Refer to the Community Context Map (Figure 2), the Environmental Features Map (Figure 3), and the USGS Map (Figure 4).

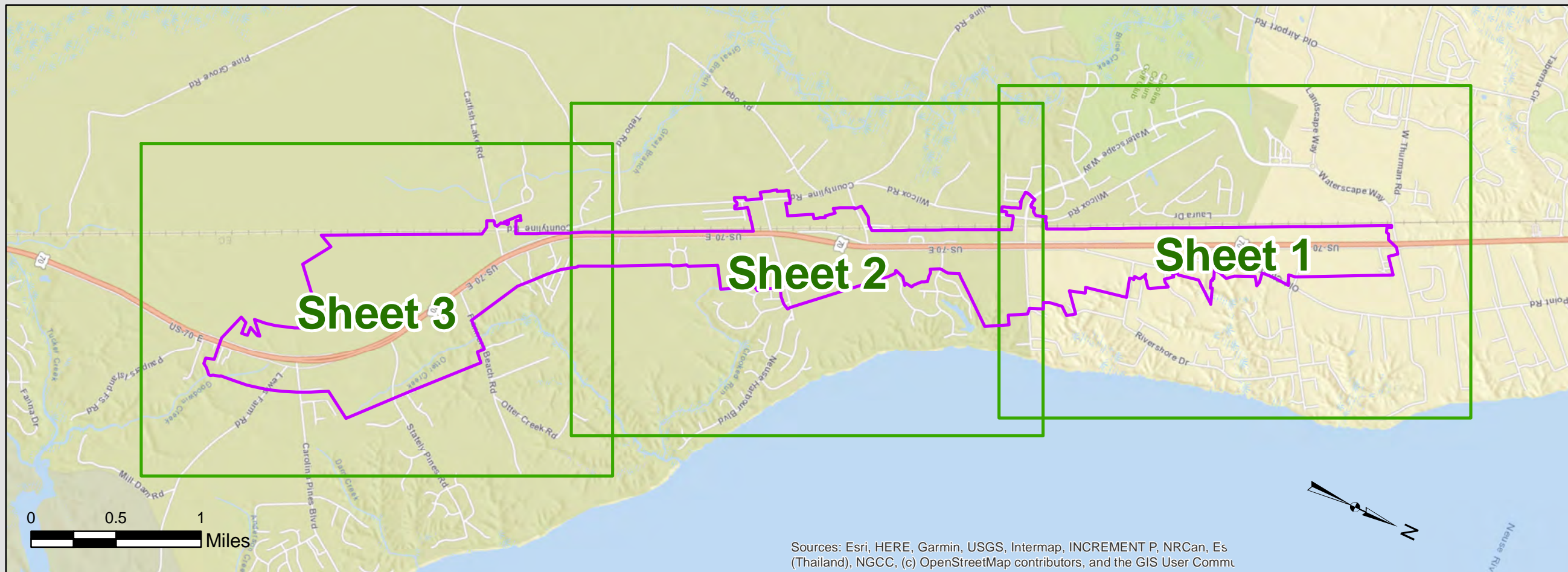


**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS**

**VICINITY MAP
US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
FROM SR 1116 (THURMAN RD)
TO THE HAVELOCK BYPASS
CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C**

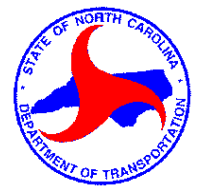
County:	CRAVEN
Div: 2	STIP# R-5777C
WBS:	44648.1.4
Date:	NOVEMBER 2019

**Figure
1**



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCAN, Es (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Legend for Sheets		
STIP Projects	Bike Lanes	Croatan National Forest
R-5777C DCIA Boundary	Hurricane Evacuation Route	Streets
Private Railroad Crossing	Strategic Transportation Corridor - STRAHNET / STRACNET	Railroads
Cemetery	Voluntary Agricultural Districts	Streams
Place of Worship	Active Agricultural / Forestry	Waterbody
Fire Department	Mobile Home Park	Parcel Boundary
		Municipal Boundary



NORTH CAROLINA
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COMMUNITY CONTEXT MAP
US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
FROM SR 1116 (THURMAN RD)
TO THE HAVELOCK BYPASS
CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C
WBS 44648.1.4

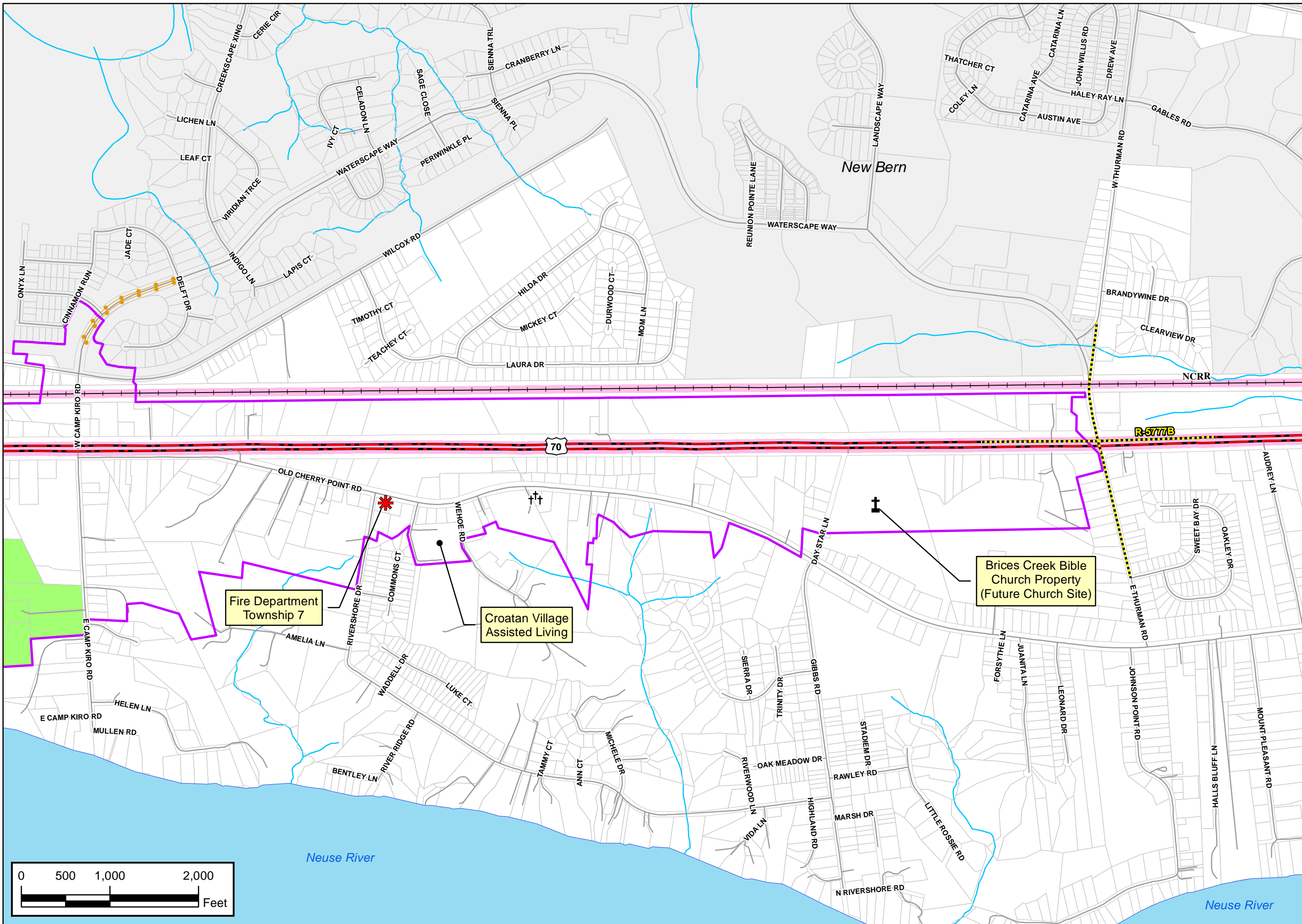
By:
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County:
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Div: 2	STIP# R-5777C
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Date:
NOVEMBER 2019

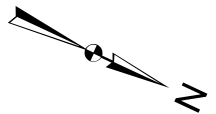
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COMMUNITY CONTEXT MAP
US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
FROM SR 1116 (THURMAN RD)
TO THE HAVELOCK BYPASS

CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C
WBS 44648.1.4



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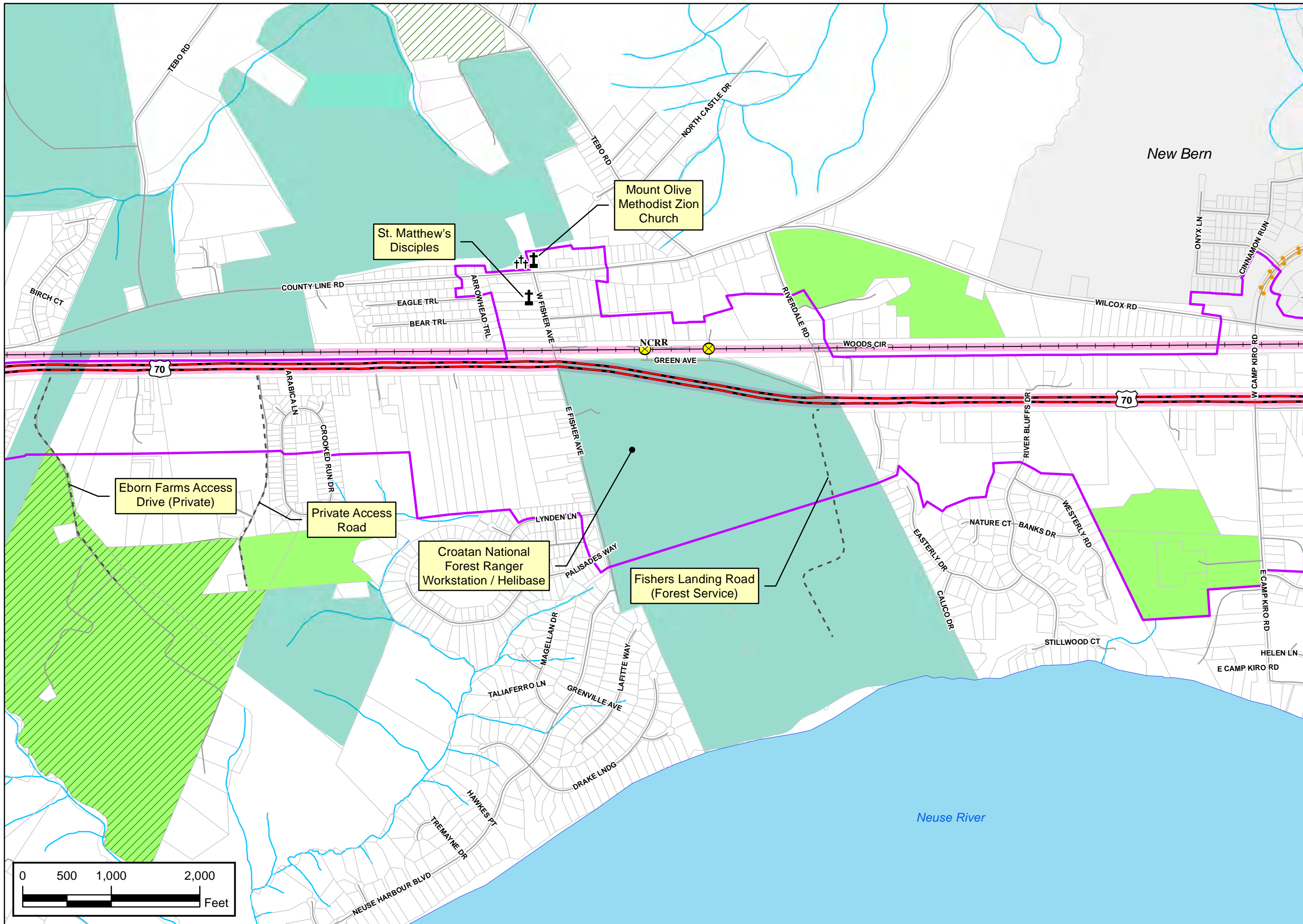
Div: 2	STIP# R-5777C
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NOVEMBER 2019

Figure

2

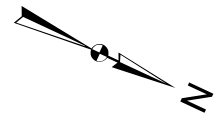
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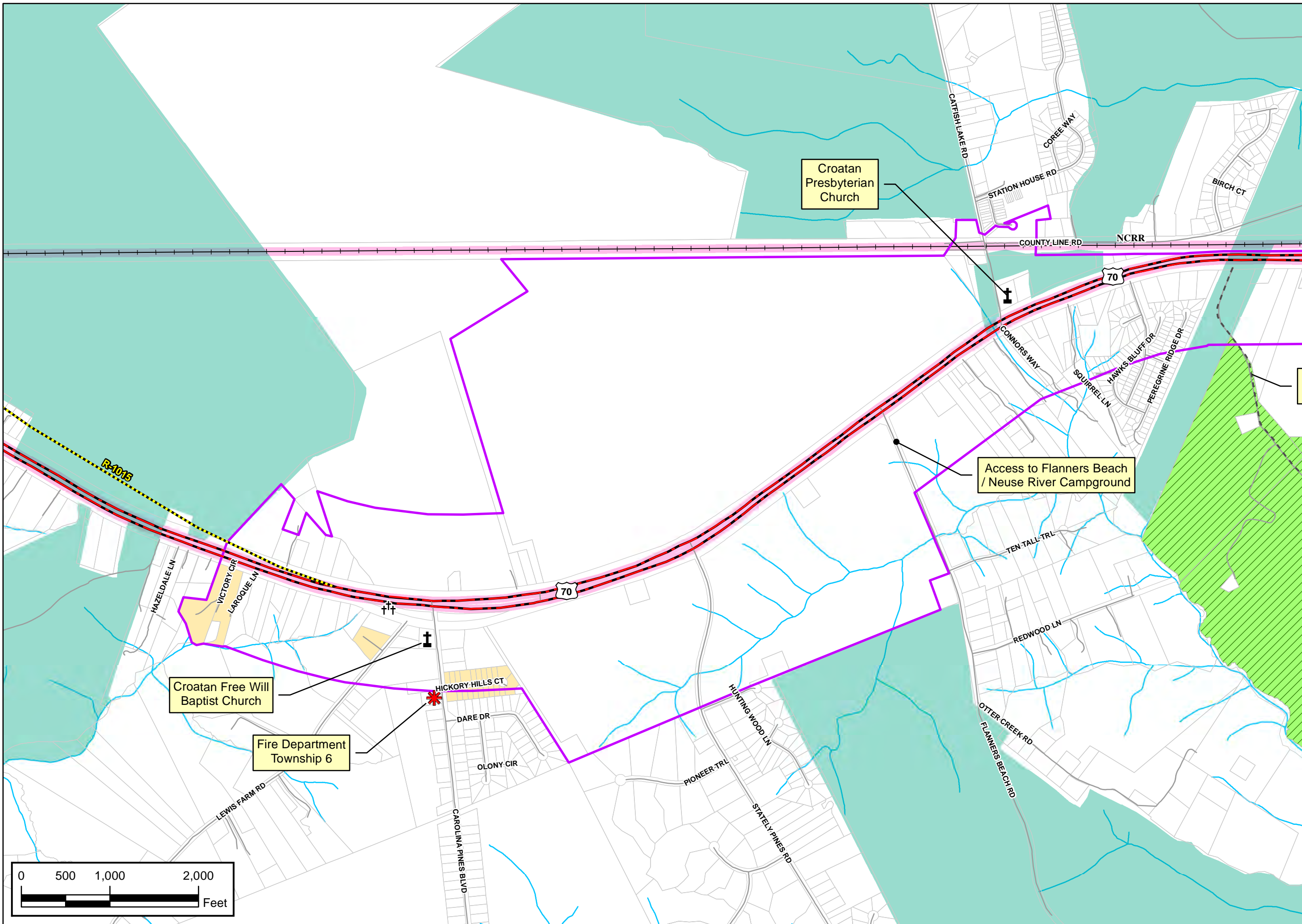
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Figure

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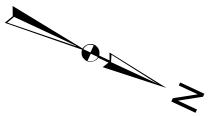
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US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
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CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C
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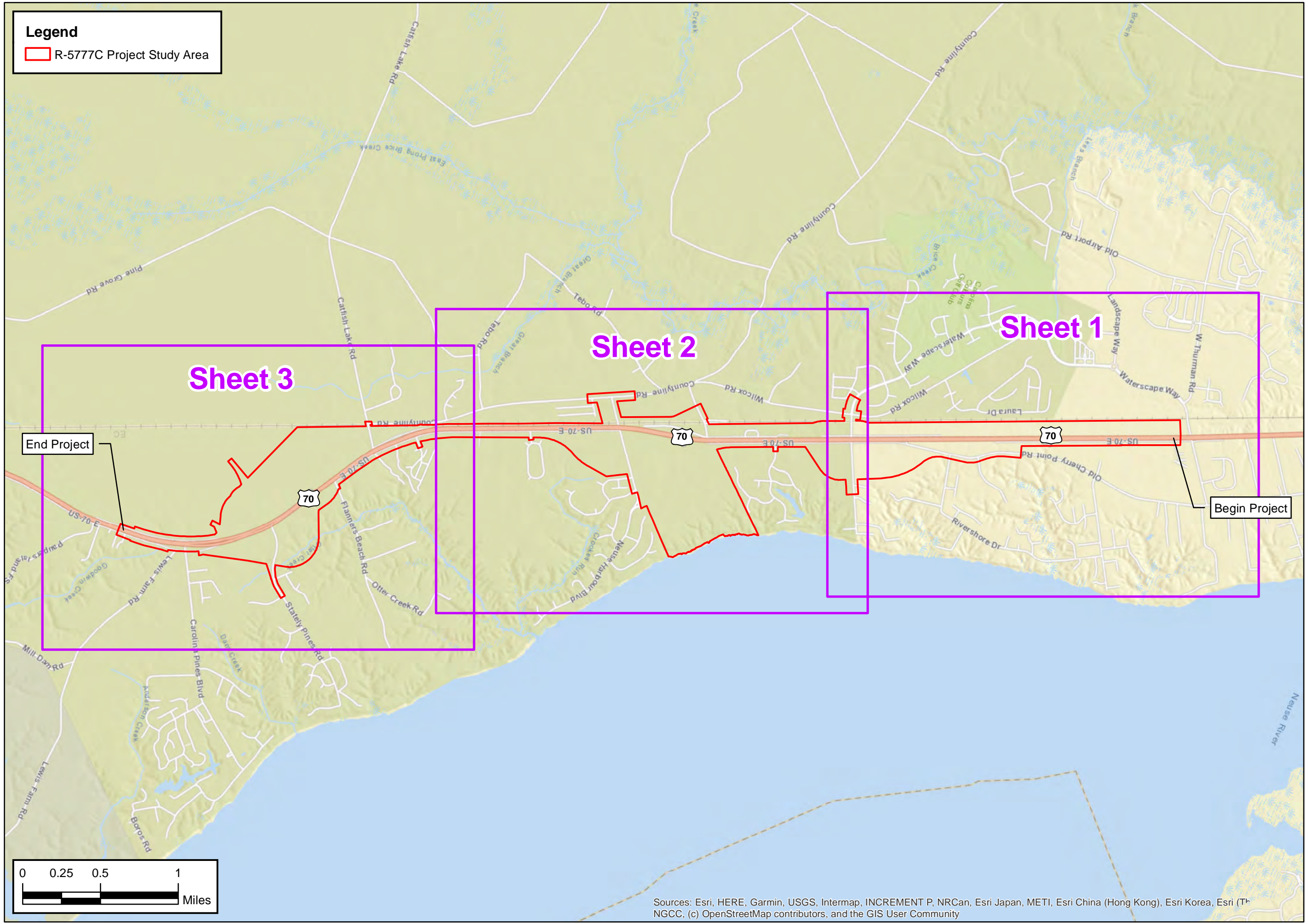
Figure

2

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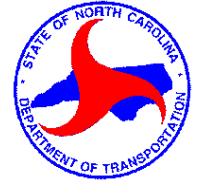
Legend

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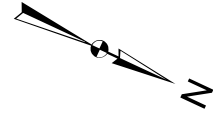
End Project

Begin Project



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
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ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES MAP
US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
FROM SR 1116 (THURMAN RD)
TO THE HAVELOCK BYPASS
CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C
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By:
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CRAVEN

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NOVEMBER 2019

Figure

3

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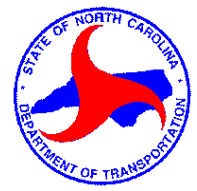
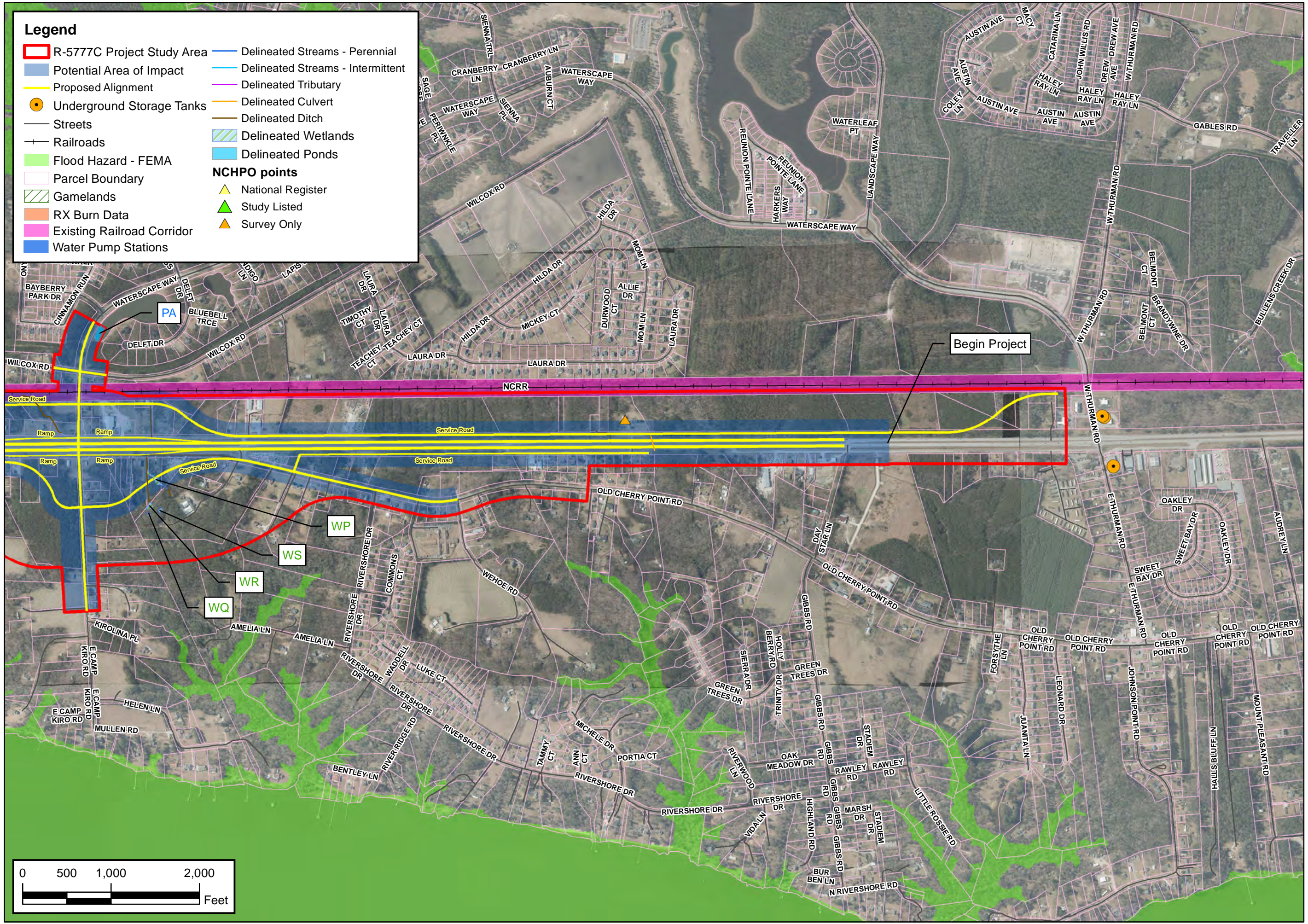
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Legend

- R-5777C Project Study Area
- Potential Area of Impact
- Proposed Alignment
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Streets
- Railroads
- Flood Hazard - FEMA
- Parcel Boundary
- Gamelands
- RX Burn Data
- Existing Railroad Corridor
- Water Pump Stations
- Delineated Streams - Perennial
- Delineated Streams - Intermittent
- Delineated Tributary
- Delineated Culvert
- Delineated Ditch
- Delineated Wetlands
- Delineated Ponds

NCHPO points

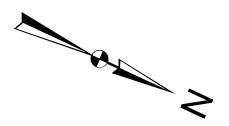
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- ▲ Study Listed
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NORTH CAROLINA
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ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES MAP
US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
FROM SR 1116 (THURMAN RD)
TO THE HAVELOCK BYPASS

CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C
WBS 44648.1.4



By: C ROWELLS	
County: CRAVEN	
Div: 2	STIP# R-5777C
Date: NOVEMBER 2019	

Figure

3

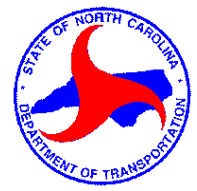
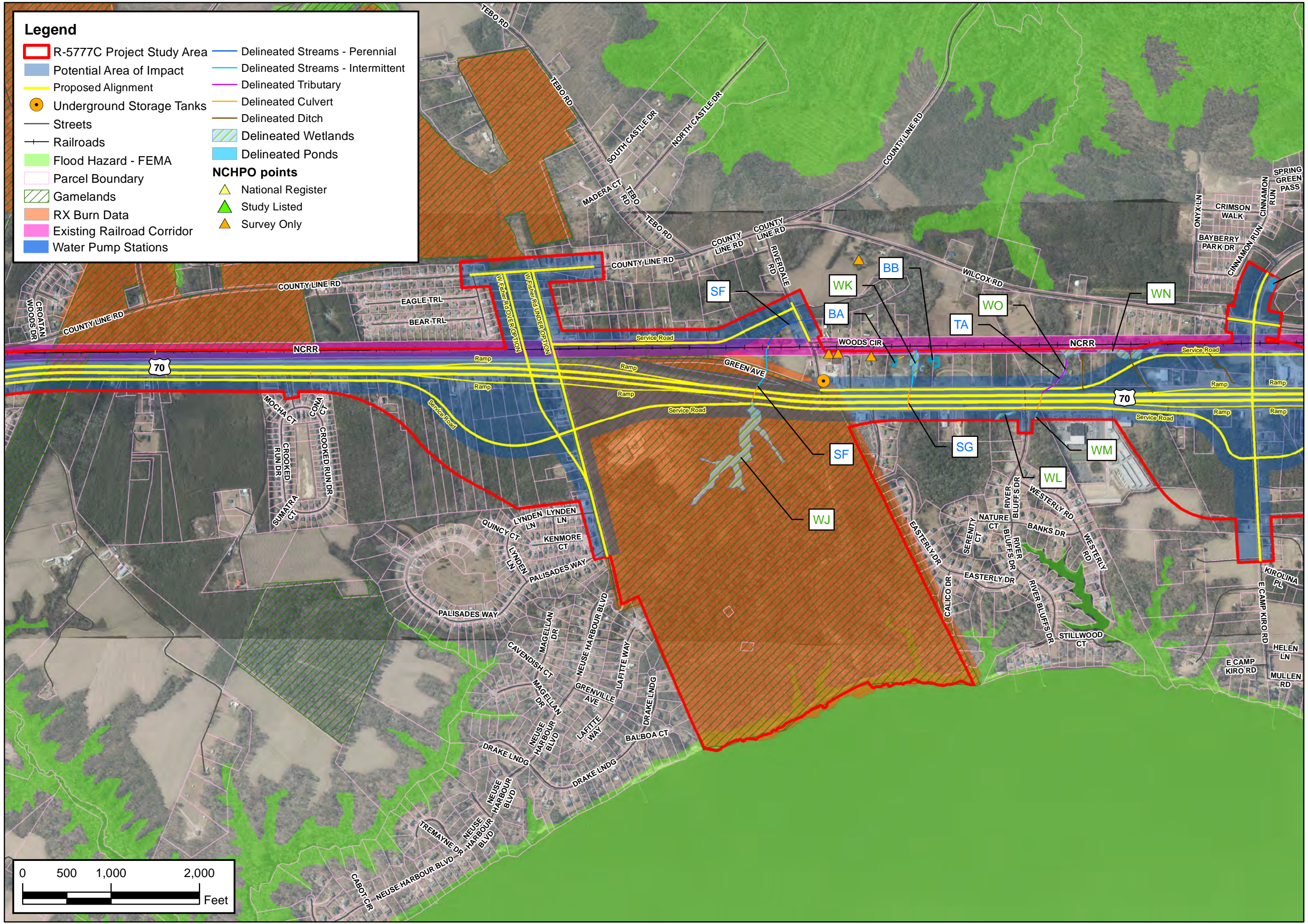
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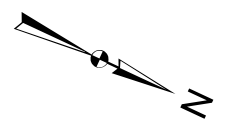
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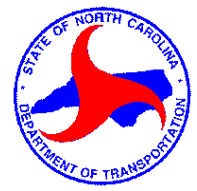
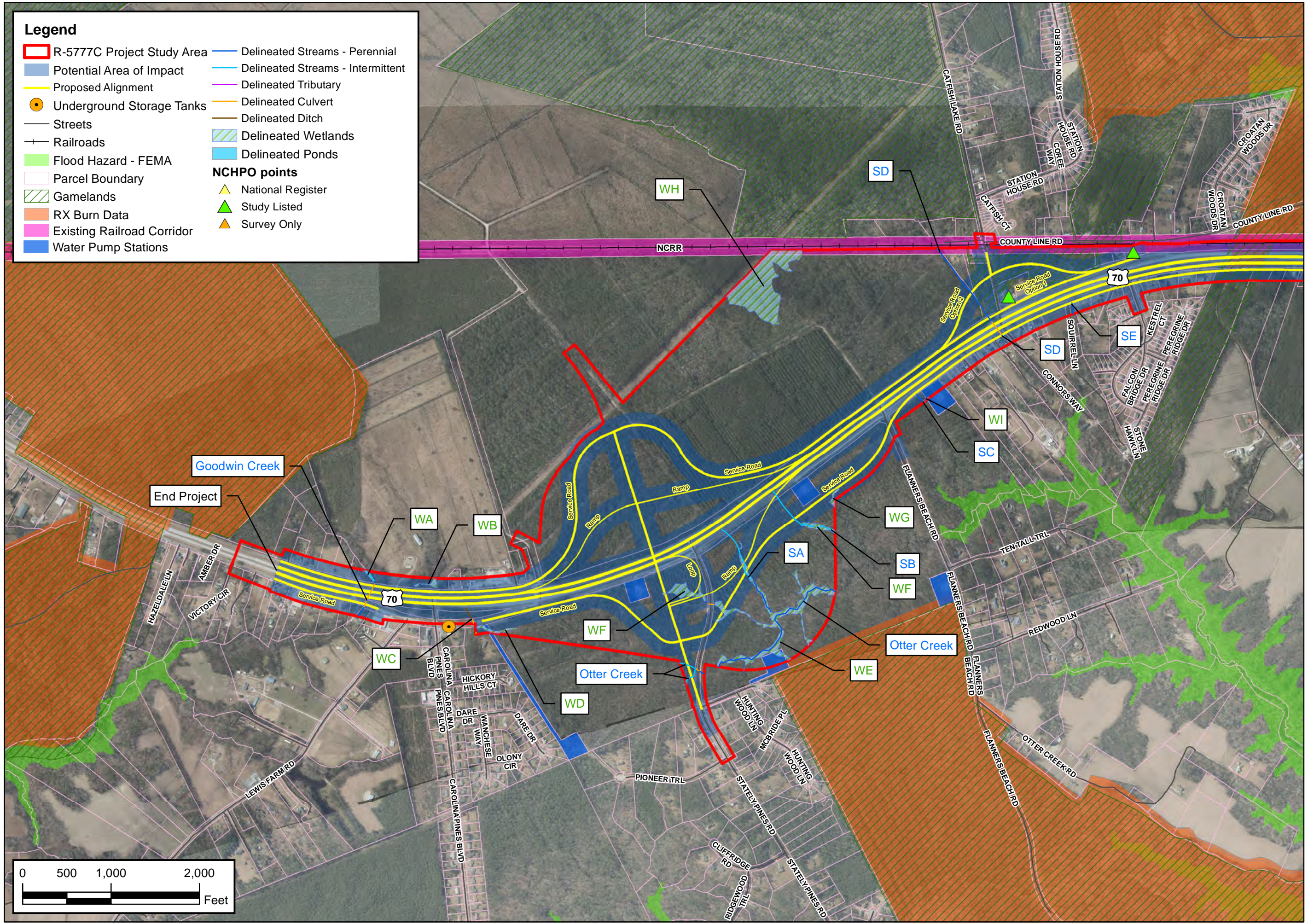
Figure
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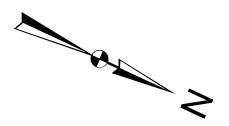
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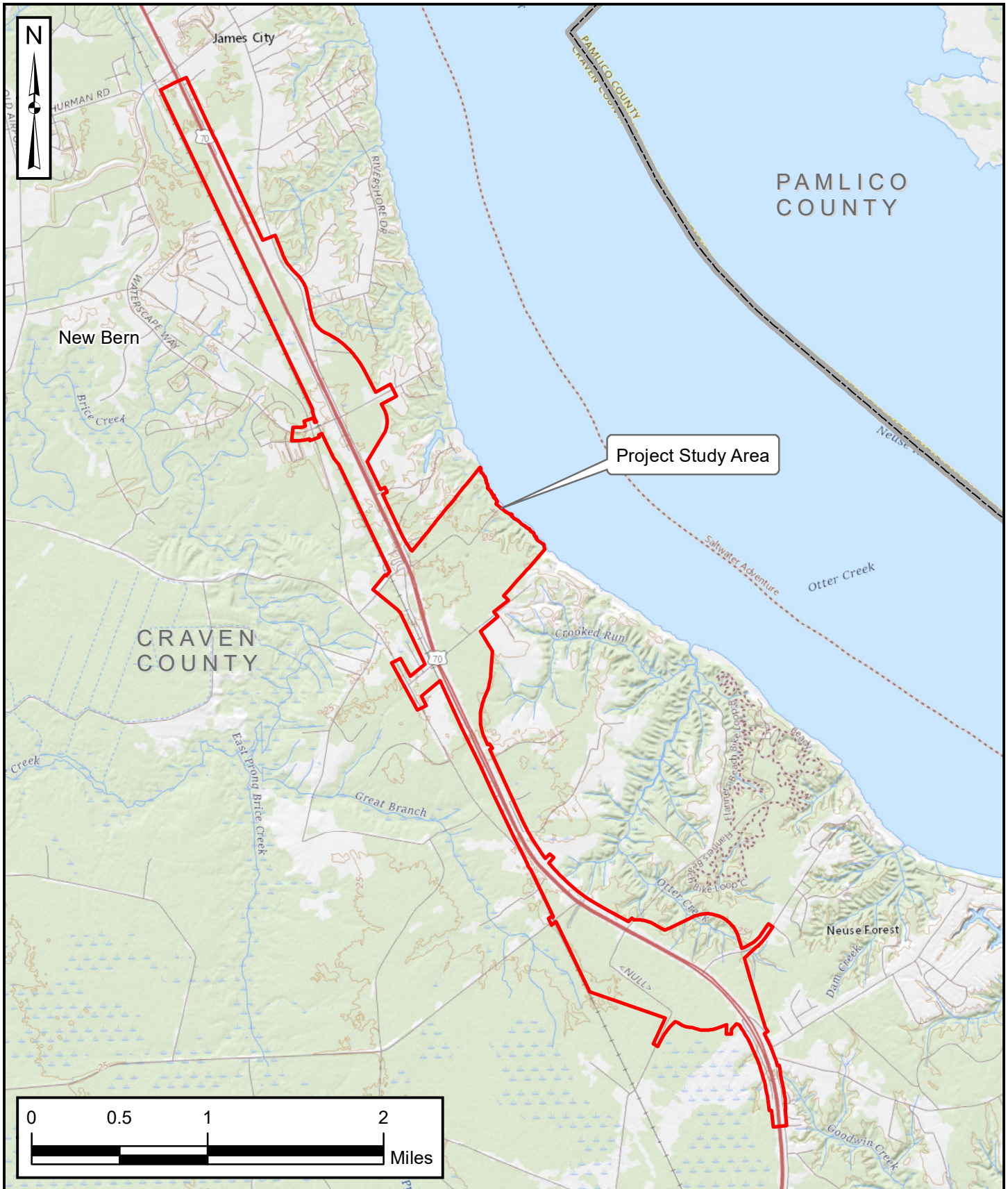
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US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
FROM SR 1116 (THURMAN RD)
TO THE HAVELOCK BYPASS
CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C
WBS 44648.1.4



By: C ROWELLS	
County: CRAVEN	
Div: 2	STIP# R-5777C
Date: NOVEMBER 2019	

Figure
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**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS**

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
US 70 IMPROVEMENTS
FROM SR 1116 (THURMAN RD)
TO THE HAVELOCK BYPASS
CRAVEN COUNTY
STIP PROJECT R-5777C**

County:	CRAVEN
Div: 2	STIP# R-5777C
WBS:	44648.1.4
Date:	NOVEMBER 2019

**Figure
3**

STIP R-5777C US 70 in Craven County - Potential Stream, Wetland, and Pond Impacts within Potential Area of Impact

Streams	Perennial (ft)	Intermittent (ft)	Tributary (ft)	Total (ft)
Goodwin Creek	167	148		315
Otter Creek		281		281
SA		544		544
SB		214		214
SC	118			118
SD	312			312
SE	127			127
SF	358	129		487
SG		132		132
TA			289	289
				2819

Wetlands	Acres
WA	0.1236
WB	0.2145
WC	0.0001
WD	0.1825
WE	0.8248
WI	0.0273
WJ	0.3841
WK	0.0094
WL	0.2195
WM	0.0534
WN	0.6510
WO	0.0003
WP	0.1911
unnamed	0.0213
	2.9029

Ponds	Acres
PA	0.2851
	0.2851

STIP R-5777C US 70 in Craven County - Potential Stream, Wetland and Pond Impacts within Study Area

Streams	Perennial (ft)	Intermittent (ft)	Tributary (ft)	Total (ft)
Goodwin Creek	167	148		315
Otter Creek	2029	395		2424
SA	412	677		1089
SB		895		895
SC	118			118
SD	1038			1038
SE	127			127
SF	612	424		1036
SG		427		427
TA			485	485
				7954

Wetlands	Acres
WA	0.1237
WB	0.2146
WC	0.0071
WD	0.3686
WE	5.2961
WF	1.4543
WG	0.1815
WH	7.1911
WI	0.0273
WJ	4.8698
WK	0.6049
WL	0.2195
WM	0.0534
WN	1.5606
WO	0.0520
WP	0.2028
WQ	0.0181
WR	0.0937
WS	0.0457
unnamed	0.0213
	22.6061

Ponds/Basins	Acres
BA	0.1699
BB	0.3138
PA	0.2858
	0.7695

MEETING SUMMARIES

Local Officials Information Meeting & Public Meeting

STIP Project No. R-5777C, U.S. 70 improvements to upgrade to freeway standards and construction service roads from Thurman Road to the Havelock Bypass, Craven County

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Time: LOIM – 2:00pm to 3:00pm, Public Meeting – 4:00pm to 7:00pm
Location: Tucker Creek Middle School Gym, 200 Sermons Boulevard, Havelock, NC 28532

Attendance

Local Officials Information Meeting – 11
Public Meeting – 167

Local Officials Information Meeting Summary

Casey Whitley opened the meeting with introductions of the project team. Craig Young (Three Oaks Engineering) began the project discussions by walking the meeting attendees through the public meeting handout. He then explained the maps being presented and provided a description of the conceptual designs.

- Access to US 70 will be fully controlled at interchanges and service roads will be constructed to provide access to adjacent properties that currently access US 70 directly.
- The North Carolina Railroad corridor forces the use of compressed diamond interchanges at Camp Kiro Road and Fisher Avenue and this could involve the use of retaining walls.
- Two options are available for each of the three interchanges: raise US 70 over the intersecting cross streets, or raise the cross streets over US 70
- According to NCDOT standards, the ideal spacing between the freeway and ramp terminals is 1000'; however, this is not always possible due to land use constraints. For example, the proposed interchange at Camp Kiro displays approximately 500' of separation.
- There are two alignment options for Fisher Avenue. If US 70 is raised over Fisher Avenue, Fisher Avenue will remain along its existing alignment. If Fisher Avenue is raised over US 70, the alignment will need to be shifted to the left in order to avoid impacts to residential properties.
- Coordination with NCRRA will be necessary regarding the currently shown service road that bisects Fisher Avenue to determine if this will be constructed or if access to the residential properties in that area will remain via private at-grade crossings.
- Impacts to the ranger station near Fisher Avenue may occur and coordination with the US Forest Service is currently underway.
- The proposed service road will not be continuous on the west side due to the constraints of the rail corridor.
- A standard diamond interchange is proposed at Stately Pines due to the lack of existing development. The extended distance of the west side service road at this interchange is meant to keep the service road near the rail and utility corridors and not bisect the property between the rail corridor and the US 70/Stately Pines interchange

Craig then opened the meeting to questions from local officials.

- Do citizens know that this design is conceptual because some of those impacted by U-5713 and R-5777A&B have relocated down US 70 in the area of this project?
- Have letters/notifications been sent to adjacent properties?
 - Yes, approximately 2,700 postcard notifications were sent out for this project and information about the project was run in local news.
- Will there be curb & gutter or shoulders on the service roads?
 - Although the typical sections for the service roads have not yet been developed, they will likely feature shoulders.
- What is the criteria used to determine whether US 70 or the cross streets will be raised at the three interchanges?
 - The determination is typically made based on cultural resource and natural environment impacts. Public input will also be considered.

After the local officials information meeting was concluded, the Craven County manager discussed with the project team the eight water wells that they have installed at the southern end of this project. He discussed their use in water services for the county and stated that they cannot be impacted. Specifically, no impacts can occur within a one-acre area around the center of the water pipes. The roadway design stated that they would look at revising the proposed design in order to avoid impacting these wells and the Three Oaks biologist stated that he would coordinate with the Craven County manager to conduct a field visit to get an accurate location and area of avoidance for each well.

Public Meeting Summary

An open-house public meeting was held to provide the public with information about the conceptual project designs. The meeting was advertised in local newspapers and TV stations, on NCDOT's public meeting website <https://www.ncdot.gov/news/public-meetings>, and by postcard announcements mailed to nearby property owners and current residents. NCDOT and consultant staff were on hand at the meetings to answer questions about the project. In addition, NCDOT Division 2 Right of Way officers were available to answer questions from impacted property owners and provide information about the right of way acquisition process. Two sets of maps of the conceptual project designs were on display. Meeting attendees were asked to provide comments the conceptual project designs, the proposed interchanges, and potential property impacts.

Major discussion topics:

- What will be the changes in access to US 70 from my property and how will I get onto US 70?
- What is the project timeline? How long will construction take to complete? What is the timeline comparison of this project to the adjacent projects on US 70 (U-5713, R-5777A&B, and R-1015)?
- What is the purpose of this project?

Minor discussion topics:

- What are the impacts to my property?
- What will the speed limit be of the new road?
- Will the interchanges have US 70 traveling over or under the cross streets?

- How accurate is this wetland mapping? Will that impact the construction of this project?

Media

A reporter from WNCT9 was present between the local officials information meeting and public meeting. She filmed project team members discussing the maps and conceptual design with each other and interviewed Jeff Cabaniss about the project. The material was aired on local television and published online later that day at <https://www.wnct.com/news/local-news/ncdot-holds-public-meeting-concerning-us-70-updgrades/2082463887> along with a short article.

A reporter from WITN was present at the public meeting. She filmed project team members discussing the maps with the public and answering questions. She interviewed Jeff Cabaniss about the project. The material was aired on local television and published online later that night at <https://www.witn.com/content/news/Community-feedback-on-Highway-70-project-between-James-City-and-Havelock-511496571.html> along with a short article.



◻ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ◻

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon Yeung, PE
Project Development Unit
NCDOT Division 2

FROM: Travis Wilson, Highway Project Coordinator
Habitat Conservation Program

DATE: May 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Response to the start of study notification regarding fish and wildlife concerns for the proposed upgrade of US 70 from Sr 1116 to the Havelock Bypass, Craven County North Carolina. TIP project: R-5777C

This memorandum responds to a request for our concerns regarding impacts on fish and wildlife resources resulting from the subject project. Biologists on the staff of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) have reviewed the proposed improvements. Our comments are provided in accordance with certain provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661-667d).

Portions of the Croatan National Forest are located within the project study area and are included in the NCWRC Game Lands Program. Impacts to these parcels should be avoided and minimized. To help further facilitate document preparation and the review process our general informational needs are outlined below:

1. Description of fishery and wildlife resources within the project area, including a listing of federally or state designated threatened, endangered, or special concern species. Potential borrow areas to be used for project construction should be included in the inventories. A listing of designated plant species can be developed through consultation with:

NC Natural Heritage Program
Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601.
WWW.ncnhp.org

and,

NCDA Plant Conservation Program

P. O. Box 27647
Raleigh, N. C. 27611
(919) 733-3610

2. Description of any streams or wetlands affected by the project. The need for channelizing or relocating portions of streams crossed and the extent of such activities.
3. Cover type maps showing wetland acreages impacted by the project. Wetland acreages should include all project-related areas that may undergo hydrologic change as a result of ditching, other drainage, or filling for project construction. Wetland identification may be accomplished through coordination with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). If the COE is not consulted, the person delineating wetlands should be identified and criteria listed.
4. Cover type maps showing acreages of upland wildlife habitat impacted by the proposed project. Potential borrow sites should be included.
5. The extent to which the project will result in loss, degradation, or fragmentation of wildlife habitat (wetlands or uplands).
6. Mitigation for avoiding, minimizing or compensating for direct and indirect degradation in habitat quality as well as quantitative losses.
7. A cumulative impact assessment section which analyzes the environmental effects of highway construction and quantifies the contribution of this individual project to environmental degradation.
8. A discussion of the probable impacts on natural resources which will result from secondary development facilitated by the improved road access.
9. If construction of this facility is to be coordinated with other state, municipal, or private development projects, a description of these projects should be included in the environmental document, and all project sponsors should be identified.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in the early planning stages for this project. If we can further assist your office, please contact me at (919) 707-0370.

From: Somerville, Amanetta [<mailto:Somerville.Amanetta@epa.gov>]

Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 3:56 PM

To: Yeung, Hon F <hfyung@ncdot.gov>

Cc: Militscher, Chris <Militscher.Chris@epa.gov>; Somerville, Amanetta <Somerville.Amanetta@epa.gov>

Subject: [External] EPA Start of Study Comments on NC DOT STIP #R-577C - Upgrade of US 70 to freeway standard in Craven County, North Carolina

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to report.spam@nc.gov

Dear Mr. Yeung:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the start of study notice request for the upgrade of US 70 to freeway standards and the construction of service roads from Thurman Road (SR 1116) to the Havelock Bypass in Craven County, North Carolina. In response to your March 26, 2019, notice, the EPA has reviewed the provided information and used geospatial and environmental quality data analysis tools (please see links to online databases and tools provided at the end of this email for reference) to provide the following technical comments and recommendations:

Waters of the United States:

A review of the proposed project area shows the presence of one impaired waterbody, Goodwin Creek. Based on GIS analysis of the National Wetlands Inventory, there are several acres of Freshwater/Forested Shrub wetlands located in the proposed project area as well. The EPA recommends that any contractor working on-site should use best management practices and should address any potential impacts to off-site streams and waterways. The EPA also recommends that site grading, excavation, and construction plans should include implementable measures to prevent erosion and sediment runoff from the project site during and after construction.

Consistent with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the project should avoid and minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, placement of fill into jurisdictional waters of the United States, which include wetlands and streams. Any fill material in waters of the United States will potentially require a permit authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). Any wetland or stream losses allowed under a COE Section 404 permit should be mitigated by the applicant. This mitigation can be designed and implemented by the applicant or procured by the purchase of wetland and/or stream mitigation credits from a commercial wetland mitigation bank. Wetland and stream mitigation can add considerable expense to any project, which is a good reason to avoid and minimize those impacts during the project planning phase.

Stormwater:

The proposed roadway extensions and expansions will increase impervious surface area, thereby increasing stormwater runoff during times of precipitation. A stormwater prevention plan for the project area should be included in the future environmental impact