

**Section 404/NEPA Merger Project Team Meeting Agreement**  
**Concurrence Point No. 1 (December 19, 2018)**  
**Project Purpose and Need and Study Area Defined**

**STIP Project:** U-3125

**Project Name/Description:** Upgrade approximately 24 miles of the US 117 corridor<sup>1</sup> to interstate standards, part on new location, from I-40 in Sampson County to north of NC 581 (West Ash Street) [I-795] in Wayne County.

**Project Purpose:** The primary purpose of the proposed project is to enhance north-south mobility in the region by completing the I-795 freeway connection between I-40 and I-95. The freeway connection would provide a high-speed facility with full control of access within the US 117 corridor.

Mobility refers to the ability to efficiently move people and goods safely along single or linked transportation facilities.

**Measures of Effectiveness:** The measures of effectiveness when comparing alternatives include:

- achieving interstate design standards;
- achieving an average travel speed of 60 mph during peak hour for through traffic along the freeway in the design year (2045); and
- achieving level of service D or better during peak hour at signalized interchange ramp terminals in the design year (2045).

**Secondary Benefits:** Other desirable outcomes of the project are a reduced potential for crashes due to the elimination of driveways, intersections and at-grade railroad crossings by reducing/eliminating exposure to conflicting movements; and fulfilling the Strategic Transportation Corridor vision.

**Study Area:** The study area is generally centered along US 117 Connector /US 117 but expands at the I-40 interchange, other major intersections, and in the Goldsboro area to encompass potential interchange locations, grade-separations and/or new alignment alternatives.

**The Project Team has concurred on this date of December 19, 2018, on the above-mentioned project purpose and need and the study area as defined for STIP Project U-3125.**

_____ USACE	_____ HPO
_____ USEPA	_____ NCDOT
_____ USFWS	_____ Upper Coastal Plain RPO
_____ NCWRC	_____ Eastern Carolina RPO
_____ NCDWR	_____ Goldsboro MPO

<sup>1</sup> In addition to US 117, the "US 117 corridor" refers to the US 117 Connector (from I-40 to US 117 in Calypso), as well as US or NC routes that run concurrently with portions of US 117: US 13, NC 403, and NC 581.