

MEETING SUMMARY

Merger Meeting – Concurrence Point 1

TIP No. U-5706

Eastern Rockingham Corridor Study, Richmond County, NC

Date May 10, 2017

Time..... 1:00 p.m.

Location Century Center A, Structure Design Conference Room

Purpose..... Request concurrence on project purpose and project study area

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Email Address
Gary Jordan	USFWS	gary_jordan@fws.gov
Cynthia Van Der Wiele	USEPA	vanderwiele.cynthia@epa.gov
Amy Chapman	NCDWR	amy.chapman@ncdenr.gov
Travis Wilson	NCWRC	travis.wilson@ncwildlife.org
Jay McInnis	NCDOT – PDEA	jmcinnis@ncdot.gov
Joseph Miller	NCDOT – PDEA	josephmiller@ncdot.gov
Herman Huang	NCDOT – Community Studies	hhuang@ncdot.gov
Deanna Riffey	NCDOT – NES	driffey@ncdot.gov
Ron Cribbs	NCDOT – Roadway Design	rlcribbs@ncdot.gov
Kerry Morrow	NCDOT – TPB	kmorrow@ncdot.gov
Mike Stanley	NCDOT – Planning & Programming	mtstanley@ncdot.gov
Jeffrey Teague	NCDOT – Division 8	jlteague@ncdot.gov
John Olinger	NCDOT – Division 8	jolinger@ncdot.gov
Jamie Yow	NCDOT – Division 8 Utility	jdyow@ncdot.gov
Mark Staley	NCDOT – Roadside Environmental	mstaley@ncdot.gov
Greg Myrick	NCDOT – Location & Surveys	gmyrick@ncdot.gov
Jim Harris	NCDOT – Rail Division	jbharris@ncdot.gov
Bryan Lopez	NCDOT – Bike & Ped Division	balopez@ncdot.gov
Kristin Maseman	Lochner	kmaseman@hwlochner.com
Brian Eason	Lochner	beason@hwlochner.com
Kenny Smith	Lochner	ksmith@hwlochner.com

Joining Via Conference Call:

Name	Organization	Email Address
Andy Williams	USACE	Andrew.E.Williams2@usace.army.mil
James Lastinger	USACE	James.C.Lastinger@usace.army.mil

Summary of Discussions

Lochner provided a meeting handout including a discussion of the proposed project purpose and need and the project vicinity and environmental features map (attached).

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Following opening remarks by Joseph Miller and introductions by attendees, Kristin Maseman provided an overview of the project and elaborated on certain items using the PowerPoint presentation. Key points discussed at the meeting were:

1. Screening criteria for purpose and need – Andy Williams suggested that the project team consider establishing screening criteria for evaluating the ability of various alternatives to meet the project purpose. After discussions, the Merger Team concluded that screening criteria do not need to be established at this stage of project development.
2. Purpose and Need – The Merger Team concurred with the project purpose and need as listed in the meeting handout. Merger Team members present at the meeting signed the concurrence form; NCDOT will provide an electronic copy of the concurrence form to the members not present at the meeting (USACE, HPO, and Lumber River RPO) and request their signatures via Docusign.
3. Project Study Area – To better facilitate development of project alternatives and to provide a consistent northern terminus for alternatives, meeting attendees agreed to shift the northwest boundary of the study area to follow Richmond Road. A project study area map showing the revised study area is attached to the concurrence form.

There was discussion about the possibility of shifting the eastern boundary of the project area to incorporate Wiregrass Road, allowing development of an alternative that would improve Wiregrass Road. NCDOT explained that preliminary analysis and discussions with local planners in Rockingham have indicated that area travelers do not typically use Wiregrass Road to travel between residential areas northeast of town and the commercial areas on US 74 Business. For this reason, the project team does not think that an alternative on Wiregrass Road would meet the project purpose.

There was also discussion about the possible relationship of the R-2501 US 1 Bypass project with U-5706. John Olinger explained that the status of R-2501 is uncertain due to changing conditions in the vicinity of that project. Division 8 is now considering refocusing that project to improvements to US 1, rather than a new location bypass.

4. Project Alternatives – Cynthia Van Der Wiele indicated that EPA would favorably view incorporating multimodal improvements into the typical section for U-5706.
5. Project Schedule
 - Alternative Screening Merger Meeting – July 2017
 - Public Meeting – August 2017
 - Concurrence Point 2 (Alternatives Carried Forward) – October 2017
 - State FONSI – May 2019
 - Right-of-way Acquisition – 2020
 - Project Let - 2021

Action Items

1. Lochner will revise project study area boundary and forward a revised study area map to NCDOT.
2. NCDOT will send the Concurrence Form to USACE, HPO, and the Lumber River RPO for signatures via Docusign.

NEPA/404 MERGER TEAM MEETING AGREEMENT

Concurrence Point No. 1: Purpose and Need & Study Area Defined

PROJECT NO./TIP NO./ NAME/DESCRIPTION:

Federal Aid Project Number: NA
State Project Number: WBS Element 50157.1.1
TIP Project Number: U-5706
TIP Description: Eastern Rockingham Corridor Study – Proposed new connector between US 74 Business and SR 1426 (Aberdeen Road)

The Project Team concurred on this date of May 10, 2017, with the purpose of and need for the proposed project as stated below and the project study area as described below and shown in the attached exhibit.

Purpose and Need of Proposed Project

The purpose of the project is to provide direct connectivity between commercial areas along US 74 Business and residential areas northeast of central Rockingham and reduce conflicts between through traffic and local traffic on Long Drive.

Project Study Area

The project study area boundaries are shown in the attached exhibit.

US Army Corps of Engineers

DocuSigned by:

Andrew Williams

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US Environmental Protection Agency

Cynthia F. VanDerWeil

Gary Jordan

US Fish and Wildlife Service

J. H. R.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

DocuSigned by:

Renee Gledhill Earley

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NC State Historic Preservation Office

Amy Chapman for Rob Ridings

NC Division of Water Resources

DocuSigned by:

Janet E. Roberston

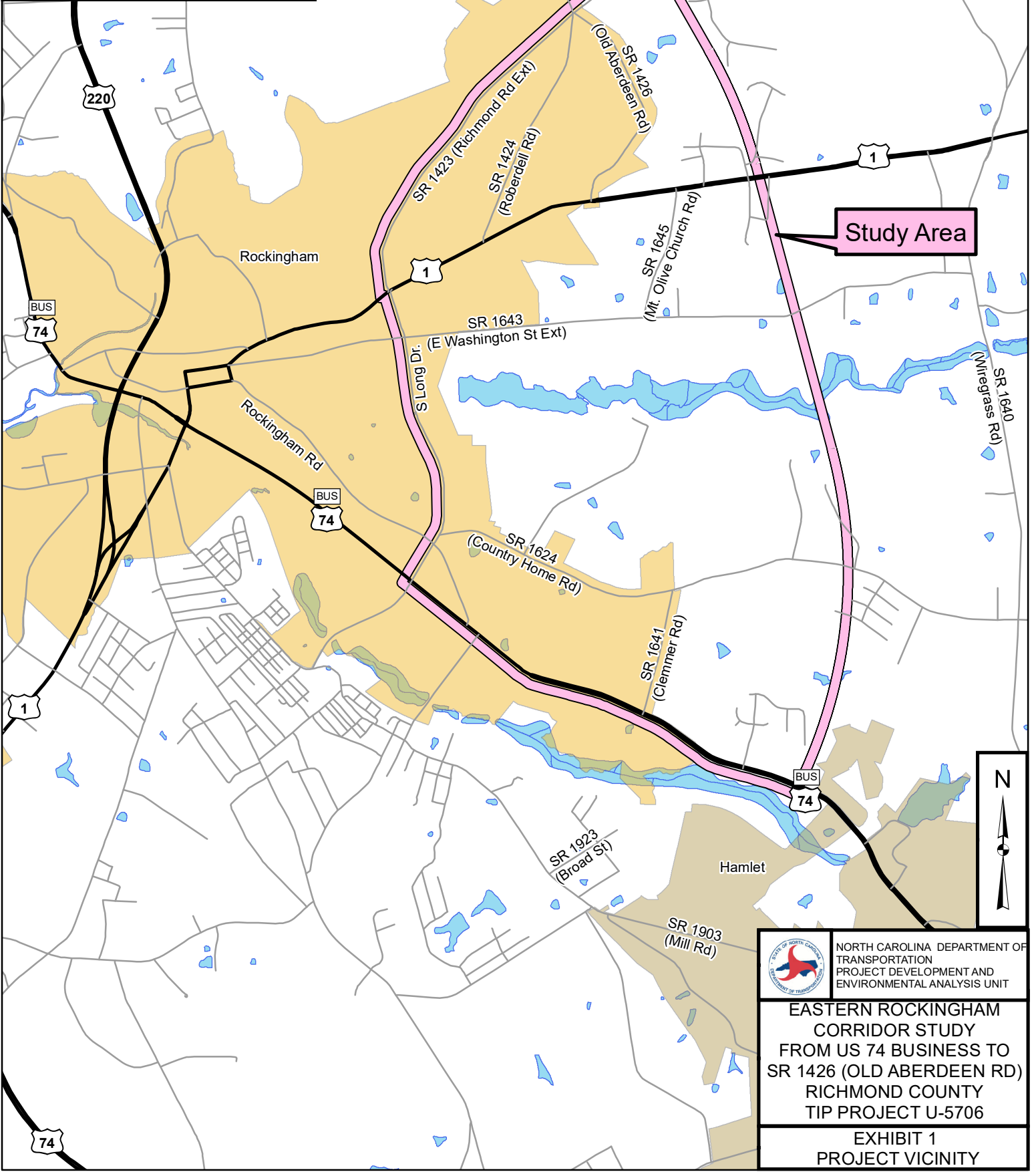
Lumber River Rural Planning Organization


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NC Department of Transportation

Greg Miller

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 NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT

EASTERN ROCKINGHAM CORRIDOR STUDY
FROM US 74 BUSINESS TO SR 1426 (OLD ABERDEEN RD)
RICHMOND COUNTY
TIP PROJECT U-5706

**EXHIBIT 1
PROJECT VICINITY**

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