

## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE GOVERNOR EUGENE A. CONTI, JR. Secretary

May 3, 2010

Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District (obr) LANTAREA Bridge Administration Federal Building 431 Crawford Street Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004

ATTN: Mr. Waverly Gregory Chief, Bridge Administration

Dear Sir:

Subject: US Coast Guard Permit Application for the Replacement of Bridge No. 19 on eastbound US 158 over the Pasquotank River in Pasquotank and Camden Counties. Federal Aid Project No. STP-0158(31) TIP No. U-4438, WBS Element 35742.1.1.

Application is hereby made by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for approval by the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, of the replacement of Bridge No. 19 on eastbound US 158 over the Pasquotank River near Elizabeth City in Pasquotank and Camden Counties. The project involves the reconstruction of East Elizabeth Street which will maintain a 54-foot, five-lane cross-section, which consists of four 11-foot lanes and a 10-foot two-way center left turn lane. Sidewalks, which currently vary in width, will be rebuilt. The north leg of the East Elizabeth Street/Water Street intersection will be closed to through traffic. Bridge No. 19 will be replaced with a new, wider drawbridge on existing location. The new structure will be 15.4 feet wider than the existing 24.1-foot wide bridge in order to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian access. The replacement bridge will include a movable double-leaf bascule span over the Pasquotank River. The total width of 39.5 feet includes 24 feet for two eastbound driving lanes, 8 feet for a bicycle lane, and 5.5 feet for a raised pedestrian walkway. The new bridge will be the same length as the existing structure, approximately 846 feet. Construction ends 100 feet east of the end of the bridge structure. During construction, traffic will be maintained on the existing westbound bridge and at least two lanes on East Elizabeth Street will remain open throughout project construction. Total project length is 2,915 ft.

The replacement bridge will include a bridge tender house on the south side of the west bascule pier. The operation of the bascule span for Bridge No. 19 and the existing bascule span of Bridge No. 27 will be controlled from the new bridge tender house.

The proposed bridge will be designed and constructed so as not to interfere with the operation and maintenance of the navigation channel in the Pasquotank River. Construction of the new bridge may require a temporary work bridge extending from the east bank, the west bank, or both, but not crossing the

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existing navigational channel. The contractor will have the option to work from barges where water depths make it possible to do so.

The vertical clearance will be unlimited when the bascule span is in the open position. The horizontal clearance will be a minimum of 90 feet using a fender system for vessel impact. The proposed bridge will be constructed so as not to interfere with the operation and maintenance of the navigational channel. Navigational lighting will be provided.

Legal authority for bridges is found in the General Bridge Act of 1946. Federal funds will be utilized for this project. However, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must approve this project under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The N.C. Division of Water Quality must approve this project under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The NCDOT is preparing and will submit a Joint Permit Application for both State and Federal Permits.

The NCDOT is also required to obtain a permit from the N.C. Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM) for major development in areas of environmental concern (AECs). It is anticipated that a formal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZM) consistency statement is not required from the NCDCM since their position on consistency will be part of the NCDCM's Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Major Development Permit. Copies of all appropriate federal and state permits will be forwarded to your office once they are obtained.

The NCDOT analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the project in an Environmental Assessment (EA) that was signed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on April 30, 2009. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed by the FHWA on January 28, 2010. The NCDOT and FHWA have determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the human or natural environments. A summary of environmental impacts of the project is provided in Table 2 of the FONSI. The names and addresses of the adjacent property owners are included with this application. Also, please find enclosed four originals of the proposed bridge design for the project.

Please initiate review of the proposed project for authorization under a U.S. Coast Guard Permit. It is requested that any correspondence from your office regarding this project include the NCDOT TIP Number (U-4438). Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Mr. Chris Rivenbark at (919) 431-6762.

E. L. Luck Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D.

Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D. Environmental Management Director, PDEA

Enclosures (Electronic format):

- (1) A copy of a vicinity map and drawings of the bridge.
- (2) A copy of the EA and FONSI.
- (3) List of property owners within one-half mile of the bridge.
- (4) Supplemental information for the Findings of Facts.

cc (via email): Bill Biddlecome, USACE Wilmington District Joel Scussel, USACE Norfolk District





