



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JOSEPH R. HOPKINS
SECRETARY

May 2, 2024

Mr. Hal R. Pitts
USCG-Fifth Coast Guard District
431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004

Attn: Mr. Michael Thorogood

Subject: **Response to Request for Additional Information** for the Proposed Replacement of Bridge No. 9 over Blounts Creek on Mouth of Creek Road (SR 1112) in Beaufort County, North Carolina; TIP No. B-5614, Federal Aid Project No. 1112019; WBS 45569.1.2

Reference: March 21, 2024, Email from USCG with Drawings Comments
March 26, 2024, Conference Call/Meeting
April 4, 2024, Email from USCG

Enclosures: Revised USCG Bridge Plans

Dear Mr. Thorogood,

Pursuant to our conference call/meeting on March 26, 2024, and subsequent email on April 4, 2024, please find NCDOT's responses for the requested information.

During the processing of the application by the US Coast Guard, it became apparent that the existing bridge structure is different than the structure identified since the last permitting action in 1935.

The following information is provided to assist in the completion of the record on the history of Bridge 9 in Beaufort County, North Carolina.

The original bridge that was permitted in 1935 and built thereafter, was primarily constructed with wood and steel components in a marine environment. Due to the deterioration of those materials, the bridge has undergone numerous maintenance activities over the past 89 years.

As such, today's bridge, although occupying the same footprint as it did in 1935, looks very different than the bridge permitted in 1935.

Below is a table that compares the structure as built in 1935, is present today, and the proposed replacement structure:

<i>All values in linear feet.</i>	1935 Structure	Today	Proposed Bridge
Length (linear feet)	584	600	963.75
Spans	33	15	8
Navigational Span Width (linear feet)	33	35'2"	111.28*
Navigational Span Height (linear feet)	14	14.5	13.6

*Per request of the USCG, we will show 85' to allow for the installation of a future fender system, if necessary.

In addition, please find below the significant timeline of events for Bridge 9:

Significant Timeline:

- 1935 Section 9 Permit Issued, Bridge 9 is constructed.

- 1935-1990 Various bridge maintenance activities.

- ≈1986-1989 NCDOT Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) B-1045 proposed to replace the current structure. Historical documents indicate an Application was sent to the US Coast Guard and the NC Division of Coastal Management.

 On July 6, 1989 the NC Division of Coastal Management denied the permit. NCDOT did not appeal the denial and withdrew the US Coast Guard Application.

 Project B-1045 was never constructed and was deleted by NCDOT.

- 1990 Assumed/ though little documentation exists, based on the cancellation of the bridge replacement project, a significant maintenance rehabilitation activity occurred during this time to extend the bridge's life. This is likely the source of NCDOT's NEPA documentation and Navigation Reports referencing that the bridge was "built" in 1990.

- Oct 13, 2022 NCDOT Received 401 Water Quality Certification

- Nov 15, 2022 NCDOT applied for a US Coast Guard Permit

- Nov 28, 2022 NCDOT Received USACE 404 and Section 10 Permit

- Jan 6, 2023 NCDOT Received NC Division of Coastal Management Major Development Permit

Specific Questions from the April 4, 2024, email from Mr. Michael Thorogood:

US Coast Guard Question

1. A timeline as to when you will be submitting additional project information.
- a. As-built drawings of the existing 1990 bridge
- We will need these drawings to at least depict the navigational channel and the clearance values of the navigational envelope of the bridge at North American Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88).

NCDOT Response:

Please find attached “As it stands today” drawings for the current structure.
As requested, the drawings depict the navigational channel and the clearance values of the navigational envelope of the bridge at NAVD 88.

US Coast Guard Question

- b. Letter explaining what appears to be replacement of the 1935 bridge to the existing structure, including commencement date and completion date.

NCDOT Response:

As noted above, the original bridge that was permitted in 1935 and built thereafter, was primarily constructed with wood and steel components in a marine environment. Due to the deterioration of those materials, the bridge has undergone numerous maintenance activities. No single project or rehabilitation activity changed the bridge to the configuration that stands today, and instead was the result of numerous maintenance activities over the 89-year period. As such, today’s bridge, although occupying the same footprint as it did in 1935, looks very different than the bridge permitted in 1935.

US Coast Guard Question:

- c. Finalized bridge drawings, as discussed, in addition to the edits requested in the recent Plan Sheet Job Aid, the horizontal clearance of the proposed bridge navigational envelope will be 80 feet, this is to allow for construction of a bridge fender system, if required at a later date.

NCDOT Response:

Per request of the USCG, NCDOT has reduced the horizontal clear navigation envelope to 85 feet to allow for a future fender system, should one be deemed necessary in the future.

Job Aid: Page 2:

Label Sheet 2 of 5: “Bridge Overview: Plan View”

NCDOT Response:

This title has been added to Sheet 2 of 5.

Job Aid: Section 3, Location/ Vicinity Map, Checkbox 4:

Please depict the ebb/flood on Sheet 1 of 5.

NCDOT Response:

This has been added to the Sheet 1 of 5.

Job Aid: Section 4. Plan View, Checkbox 5:

Please identify/label the mean high water and mean low water lines on Sheet 3 of 5.

NCDOT Response:

Pursuant to the guidance, and meeting on March 26th, it was understood that since the difference in the mean high and low water elevation is minimal to the slope of the waterway banks, only one water line will be displayed.

<p>Job Aid: Section 4, Plan View, Checkbox 11 AND 13: Please define the “minimum” horizontal clearance through the 3rd span from the west abutment (leave room for installation of a fender system, in the case one is needed in the future,; this office would like to see a horizontal clearance of 80 or 90 feet to leave room for a fender system.</p>
<p>NCDOT Response: Per request of the USCG, NCDOT has reduced the horizontal clear navigation envelope to 85 feet to allow for a future fender system, should one be deemed necessary in the future.</p>
<p>Job Aid: Section 4, Plan View, Checkbox 14: Please show water depths at various locations in the channel, upstream and downstream of the bridge on Sheet 3 of 5.</p>
<p>NCDOT Response: Water depths have been added to Sheet 3 of 5.</p>
<p>Job Aid: Section 5, Elevation View: Remove Base HW (0100) elevation and WSE elevation, and the 2.8466%, the triangle, and the - 3.1745%; Please define the “minimum” horizontal clearance through the 3rd span from the west abutment (leave room for installation of a fender system, in the case one is needed in the future,; this office would like to see a horizontal clearance of 80 or 90 feet to leave room for a fender system) on Sheet 4 of 5.</p>
<p>NCDOT Response: The requested items have been removed. Per request of the USCG, NCDOT has reduced the horizontal clear navigation envelope to 85 feet to allow for a future fender system, should one be deemed necessary in the future.</p>
<p>Job Aid: Section 5, Checkbox 4 AND 5: Please see comment under “Elevation View” heading regarding leaving room for installation of a fender system in the future.</p>
<p>NCDOT Response: Per request of the USCG, NCDOT has reduced the horizontal clear navigation envelope to 85 feet to allow for a future fender system, should one be deemed necessary in the future.</p>
<p>Job Aid: Section 5, Checkbox 10: Please insert and label the 100-year flood elevation on elevation view Sheet 4 of 5 in the 3rd span from the west abutment.</p>
<p>NCDOT Response: The 100-year flood elevation has been added to Sheet 4 of 5.</p>

<p>US Coast Guard Question d. Confirmation of the May 15, 2024, permit issuance date. (This date may be subject change, if the information is not provided in a timely manner.)</p>
<p>NCDOT Response: May 15, 2024 is confirmed, but we understand may be delayed based on the timeliness of this response.</p>

NCDOT appreciates the continued meetings, explanations, and cooperation as we work through the USCG Application process for this project. Based on the responses provided, NCDOT respectfully requests the resumption of the processing of the USCG Permit Application for Bridge 9.

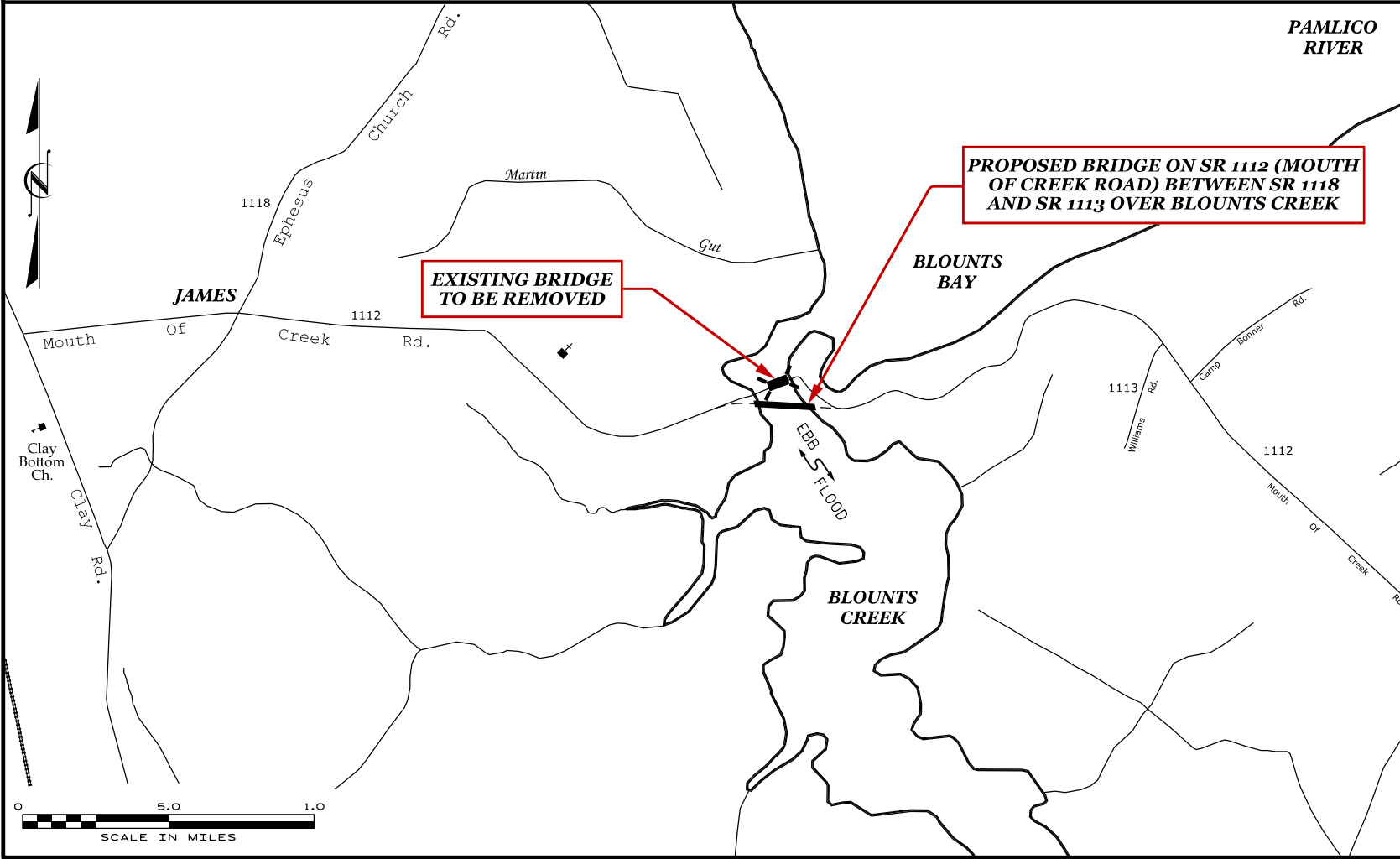
Sincerely,



Michael Turchy, Group Leader
Environmental Coordination and Permitting
Enclosures: Revised Bridge Plans

Revised Bridge Drawings

VICINITY MAP

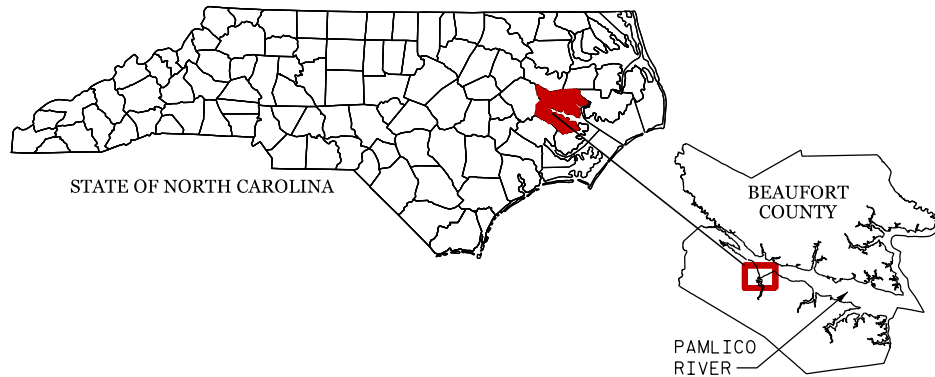


PAMLICO RIVER

PROPOSED BRIDGE ON SR 1112 (MOUTH OF CREEK ROAD) BETWEEN SR 1118 AND SR 1113 OVER BLOUNTS CREEK

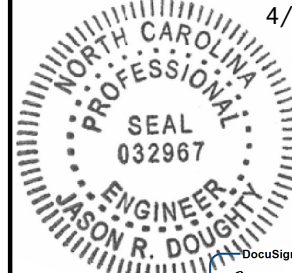
EXISTING BRIDGE TO BE REMOVED

DATUM DESCRIPTION
VERTICAL DATUM: NAVD 88



THIS BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.

4/8/2024



DocuSigned by:
Jason R Doughty

5E73FA2DEA974E8

State of North Carolina

Department of Transportation
Raleigh, NC

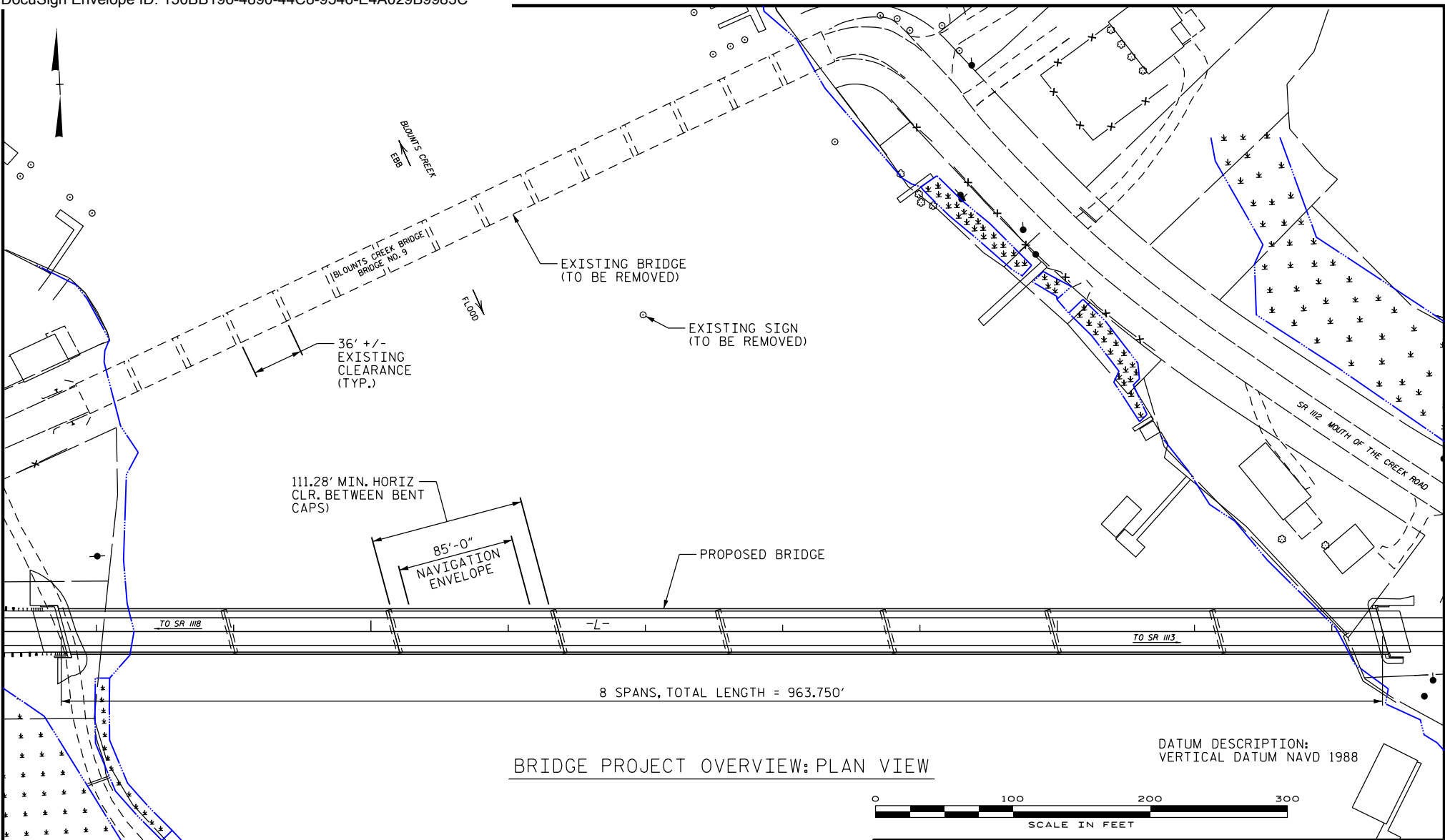
Proposed Bridge
No. 9 over Blounts Creek on
SR 1112 (Mouth of Creek Road)
mile point 0.26 from mouth of
Blounts Creek near
Chocowinity, NC

Beaufort County

State Project No. : B-5614

April 8, 2024

Sheet 1 of 5



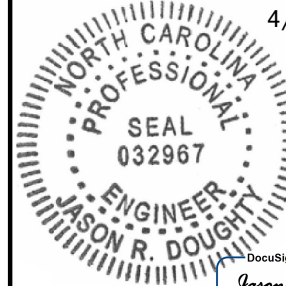
BRIDGE PROJECT OVERVIEW: PLAN VIEW

DATUM DESCRIPTION:
VERTICAL DATUM NAVD 1988



THIS BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE
DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.

4/8/2024



DocuSigned by:
Jason R Doughty

5F73FA2DEA974E8

State of North Carolina

Department of Transportation
Raleigh, NC

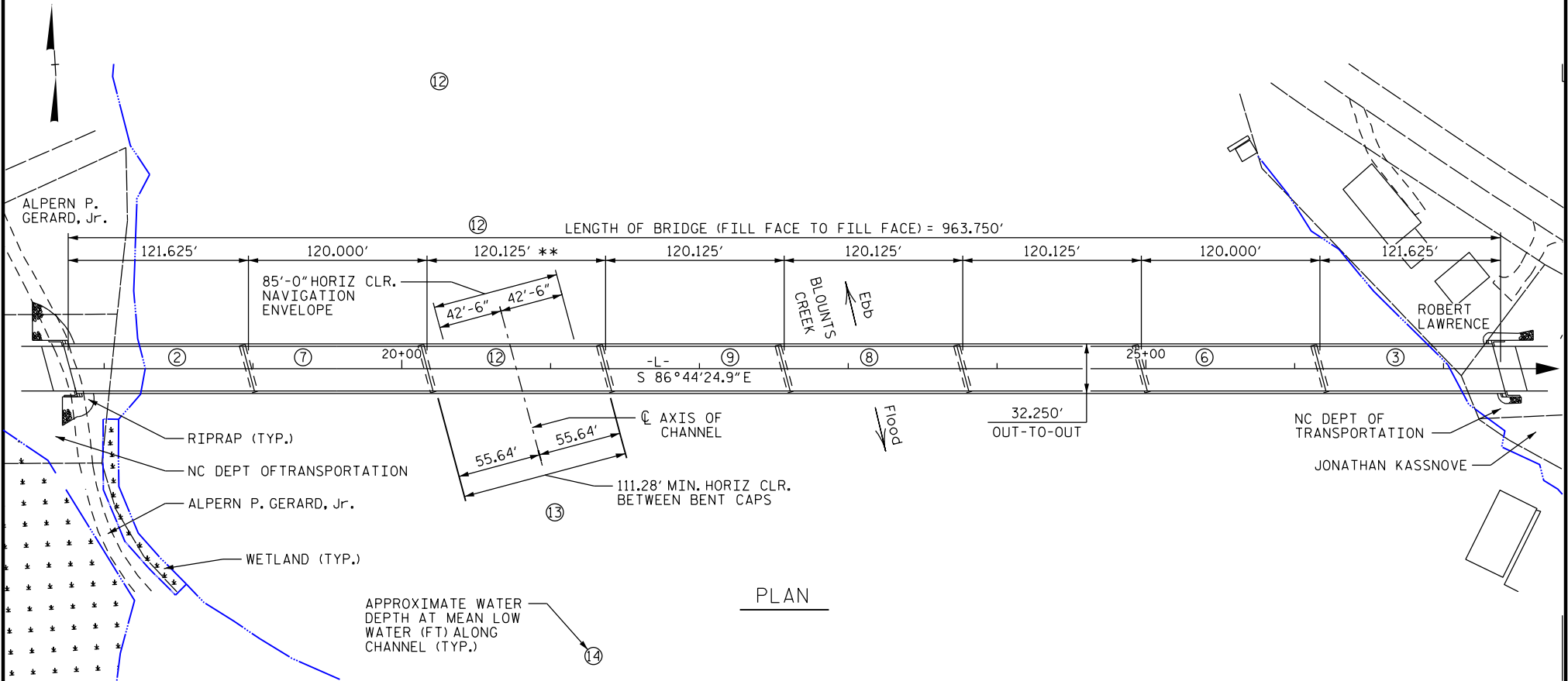
Proposed Bridge
No. 9 over Blounts Creek on
SR 1112 (Mouth of Creek Road)
mile point 0.26 from mouth of
Blounts Creek near
Chocowinity, NC

Beaufort County

State Project No. : B-5614

April 8, 2024

Sheet 2 of 5



PLAN

DATUM DESCRIPTION:
VERTICAL DATUM NAVD 1988

NOTE: NO EXISTING DEFINED NAVIGATION CHANNEL ON WATER BODY

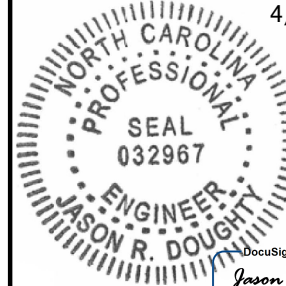


** NCDOT HAS SELECTED THIS SPAN AS THE NAVIGATION ENVELOPE BASED ON THE WATER DEPTH AT THE TIME OF THE PERMIT APPLICATION.

⊙ DENOTES APPROXIMATE WATER DEPTH AT MEAN LOW WATER (FT)

THIS BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.

4/8/2024



DocuSigned by:
Jason R Doughty

SF73FA2DEA974E8...

State of North Carolina

Department of Transportation
Raleigh, NC

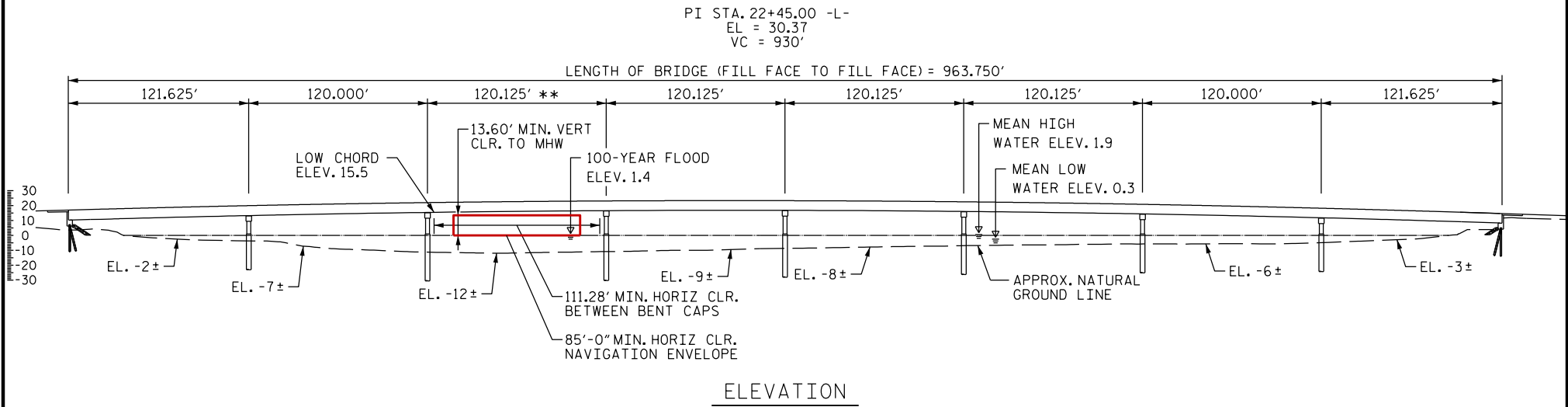
Proposed Bridge
No. 9 over Blounts Creek on
SR 1112 (Mouth of Creek Road)
mile point 0.26 from mouth of
Blounts Creek near
Chocowinity, NC

Beaufort County

State Project No. : B-5614

April 8, 2024

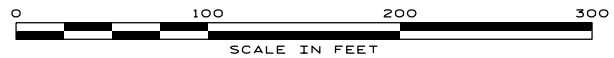
Sheet 3 of 5



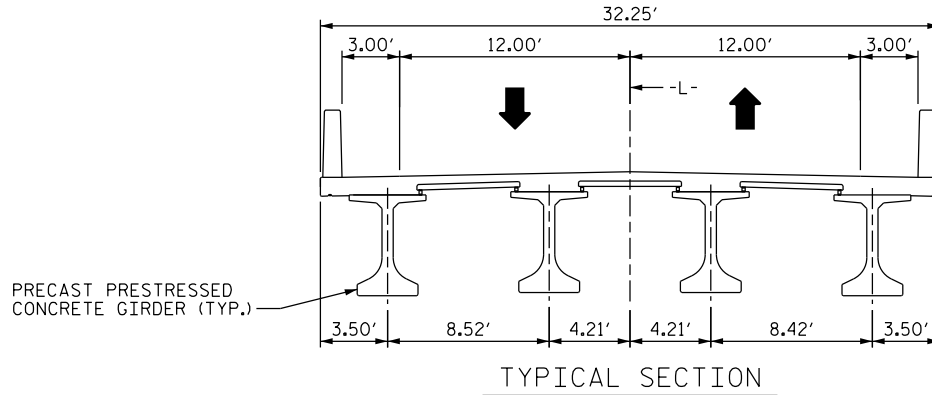
NOTE: NO EXISTING DEFINED NAVIGATION CHANNEL ON WATER BODY

** NCDOT HAS SELECTED THIS SPAN AS THE NAVIGATION ENVELOPE BASED ON THE WATER DEPTH AT THE TIME OF THE PERMIT APPLICATION.

DATUM DESCRIPTION:
VERTICAL DATUM NAVD 1988



<p>THIS BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.</p> <p>4/8/2024</p> <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Jason R Doughty</i> 5F73FA2DEA974E8...</p>	<p>State of North Carolina</p> <p>Department of Transportation Raleigh, NC</p>
	<p><i>Proposed Bridge No. 9 over Blounts Creek on SR 1112 (Mouth of Creek Road) mile point 0.26 from mouth of Blounts Creek near Chocowinity, NC</i></p>
	<p>Beaufort County</p>
	<p>State Project No. : B-5614</p>
	<p>April 8, 2024</p>

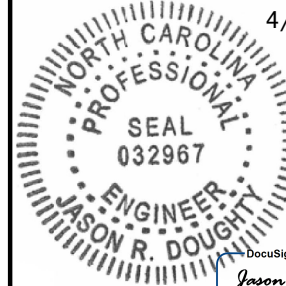


DATUM DESCRIPTION:
VERTICAL DATUM NAVD 1988



THIS BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF AASHTO LRFD BRIDGE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.

4/8/2024



DocuSigned by:
Jason R Doughty

SF73FA2DEA974E8...

State of North Carolina

Department of Transportation
Raleigh, NC

*Proposed Bridge
No. 9 over Blounts Creek on
SR 1112 (Mouth of Creek Road)
mile point 0.26 from mouth of
Blounts Creek near
Chocowinity, NC*

Beaufort County

State Project No. : B-5614


April 8, 2024

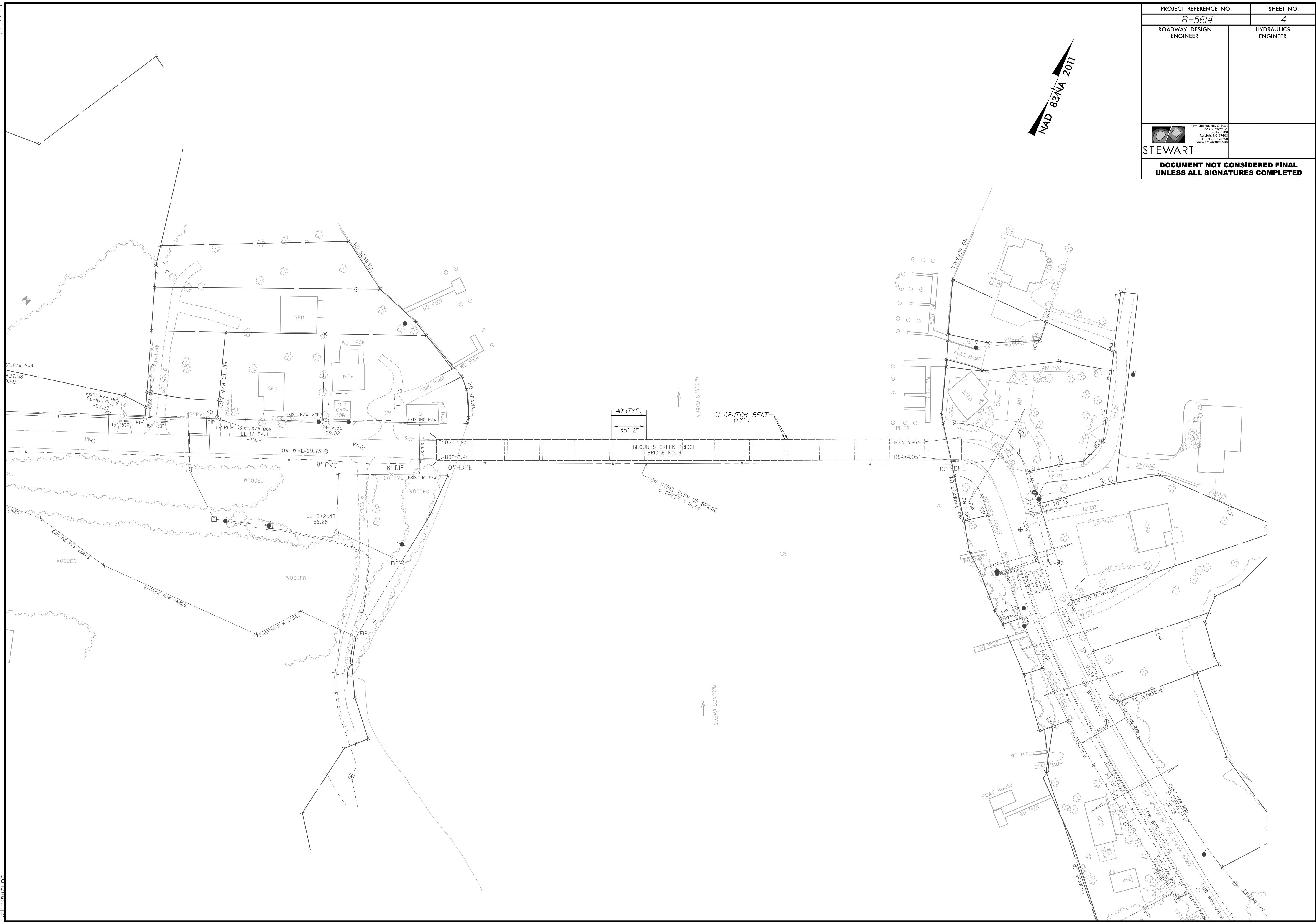
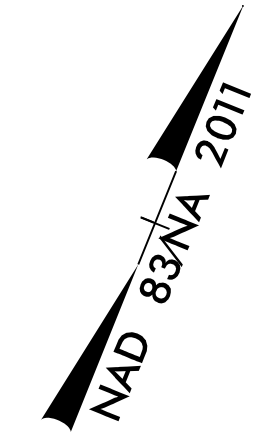
Sheet 5 of 5

Bridge 9

Current
Drawings

8/17/99

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.		SHEET NO.	
B-5614		4	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER		HYDRAULICS ENGINEER	
 Firm License No. C-1251 223 S. West St. Raleigh, NC 27603 P. 919.386.8799 www.stewartinc.com			
DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED			



4/22/2024 10:56:02 AM BOY_PSH04.dgn
 IJSEI

PROJECT REFERENCE NO. B-5614	SHEET NO. 5
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER
<small>Firm License No. C-1021 223 S. West St. Raleigh, NC 27603 T: 919.386.8100 www.stewartinc.com</small>	
STEWART	
DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED	

5/14/99

4/26/02 BODY_PFL_05.dgn
15:15:00

