

R-2576 Mid-Currituck Bridge

Attachment 6:

**Utility Relocation
Environmental Narrative,
February 27, 2024**

Utility Relocation Environmental Narrative

NCDOT STIP No. R-2576

Mid-Currituck Bridge

Currituck & Dare Counties
North Carolina

Prepared for:
North Carolina Turnpike Authority
and
NCDOT Utilities Unit

Prepared by:
H. W. Lochner, Inc.

February 27, 2024

The purpose of this narrative is to furnish information concerning the general location, dimensions, and characteristics of major utilities found within the limits of the preliminary design for STIP Project R-2576, Mid-Currituck Bridge in Currituck and Dare Counties, North Carolina, and the potential environmental impacts of any utility relocations on jurisdictional resources.

The Mid-Currituck Bridge project is to connect US 158 to NC 12 via proposed toll bridges first crossing Maple Swamp and then crossing Currituck Sound. The project would begin at US 158 near the community of Coinjock and end at NC 12 in Corolla. The project also includes widening NC 12 north and south of the bridge as well as adding a left-turn lane along Albacore Street at NC 12 to the south of the bridge crossing. East of the Wright Memorial Bridge on US 158 there will be an additional westbound lane constructed from west of Duck Woods Drive to Cypress Knee Trail as part of this project.

This narrative is to be considered “Preliminary” since it is based on less than final design plans. As the project progresses through the remainder of the design process, the alignment, grades, typical sections, drainage, and sediment and erosion control design would likely be expected to be further refined. This could potentially have an impact on the project construction limits which could in turn impact the proposed utility relocations and their environmental impacts on jurisdictional resources. Once the final construction limits are determined, the associated utility conflicts will be known. During this latter stage of design, the proposed utility relocation design would be further reviewed and refined to minimize right-of-way needs and to avoid/minimize jurisdictional environmental impacts. However, the current design has been developed with avoidance and minimization of regulatory environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

The prior preliminary utility coordination and investigation effort on this project from 2011 was conducted by Wetherill Engineering, Inc. as part of the Currituck Development Group under a public-private partnership pre-development agreement with the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) for this project. This prior effort involved obtaining as-built plans and copies of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) encroachment agreements, conducting on-site field investigations, and verbally communicating with existing utility owners. Initially, a list of utility owners and contacts was provided by NCTA. Additional utility owners were identified, and updated contact information was obtained via site visits, meetings with utility representatives during field visits, and phone calls. These contacts were updated in this document in February 2024.

The approach for utility relocation was contained in a 2011 preliminary utility relocation plan prepared for NCTA by Currituck Development Group. This plan has been utilized in conjunction with the current roadway design plans as to the approach for utility relocation on the project. Generally, utilities along US 158 are relocated out of the interchange area to a utility corridor east of US 158 and west of Maple Swamp (see roadway plan sheets 4 and 19 through 23 for the location of the utility relocation corridor labeled as PUE). Existing utilities along NC 12 are relocated to just outside the roadway footprint on either side of NC 12 and are generally not anticipated to have any environmental impacts. There are no anticipated utility relocations associated with project improvements along Albacore Street at NC 12 and the project improvements along US 158 to the east of the Wright Memorial Bridge.

The following provides a summary of utilities that are believed to have existing facilities in the vicinity of R-2576, the Mid-Currituck Bridge, along with potential contact information and anticipated environmental impacts associated with their relocation.

Electric

Aerial Electrical Lines

Dominion Energy North Carolina owns aerial distribution lines running along the west side of Waterlily Road and the west side of US 158 in Currituck County through the project area on the mainland. These distribution lines will need to be relocated immediately to the east of the US 158 interchange area and west of Maple Swamp. There will be some temporary environmental impacts associated with the removal of existing wooden power poles in wetland areas along US 158. This temporary fill impact is estimated to be 0.03 acres covering 11 pole locations. These impacts are depicted on the utility permit drawings as sites U-1A, U-1B, U-1C, U-1D, U-1E, U-1F, U-1G, U-1H, U-1I, U-1J, and U-1K. Additionally, the relocated aerial distribution lines will have some hand-clearing impacts in wetlands of 0.02 acres along Waterlily Road (SR 1142) at an existing cleared utility corridor (see utility permit drawings for sites 2 and 3).

There is also an aerial distribution line along Narrow Shore Road in Aydlett on the mainland located between the Maple Swamp Bridge and the Currituck Sound Bridge. This line is not anticipated to require relocation.

Dominion Energy North Carolina owns aerial transmission lines which may conflict with the proposed interchange at US 158. These lines and towers are located east of US 158 and west of Maple Swamp and run north-south through the project area. There are no direct conflicts with this installation. However, there is an existing transmission tower that possibly could need to be relocated beyond the planned highway right of way (see roadway plan sheet 4 at Station 16+50 left). Alternatively, it may be possible for the highway right of way to be adjusted to exclude this tower. Vertical clearance under these lines is not anticipated to be an issue. However, if required, towers to the north and south of the project may need to be raised for additional vertical clearance. If any towers need to be relocated or raised, this action is not anticipated to have any environmental impacts on jurisdictional resources.

Additionally, there are aerial transmission lines and towers for Dominion Energy North Carolina that currently extend east-west across Maple Swamp, a forested wetland. None of these facilities will be impacted by the project and there will be no utility-related environmental impacts in Maple Swamp associated with this project.

Dominion Energy North Carolina also has aerial transmission lines in Dare County along the north side of US 158 and east of the Wright Memorial Bridge. The widening of US 158, included in this project, will not impact these utility facilities, and therefore, there will be no associated environmental impacts at this location.

Underground Electrical Lines

Dominion Energy North Carolina owns buried power lines along NC 12 in the project area extending from Devils Bay – Herring Street south to the “T” intersection with North

Harbor View. The buried power lines begin again at Ocean Forest Court and extend south through the intersection of NC 12 with South Harbor View and North Harbor View (see roadway plan sheets 18 and 25 through 27). These buried power lines are within the NCDOT right of way by an encroachment agreement. Relocation of these lines is not anticipated to have any environmental impacts on jurisdictional resources.

Dominion Energy North Carolina has buried transmission lines under or on the bottom of Currituck Sound (see roadway plan sheet 13). While no impacts to these lines, and therefore no resulting environmental impacts, are anticipated, additional coordination during final design and construction will be required to ensure that the bridge can be constructed in such a way as to cross these lines without impacting them. These are the only utility lines that cross the 30-foot estuarine shoreline Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA). These lines are buried under the CAMA AEC and the AEC crossing locations are approximately 500 feet south of the project area on the west side of Currituck Sound and about 2,500 feet north of the project area on the east side of Currituck Sound. The Mid-Currituck Bridge project crosses these utility lines out in Currituck Sound about 3,800 feet from the western shoreline of Currituck Sound. There are no other existing or planned utilities that might require relocation within the CAMA AEC areas associated with this project.

There are also buried electric power lines along Albacore Street at NC 12 and along US 158 to the east of the Wright Memorial Bridge. None of these underground installations are expected to be impacted by the proposed project and therefore there are no associated environmental impacts.

Contact:

Dominion Energy North Carolina Electric – Distribution and Transmission
Lucian Gregory
1707 West Ehringhaus Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
(252) 331-6111 or (252) 619-3017
lucian.l.gregory@dominionenergy.com

Telecommunications

Mediacom Communications, Charter Spectrum Communications, and Embarq (CenturyLink/Brightspeed) own aerial and buried lines (cable television, internet, fiber-optic, and/or phone lines) throughout the entire project area. Based on the proposed typical sections, these utilities will need to be relocated to certain locations. These utilities were believed to be installed under an encroachment agreement with NCDOT along existing highway rights of way. The relocation of these facilities will either have no jurisdictional environmental impacts, or the impacts will be concurrent with those in the US 158 interchange area associated with Dominion Energy North Carolina Electric at Waterlily Road.

At the US 158 interchange, there is an aerial telephone line along the east side of US 158 and Waterlily Road. Additionally, there are existing aerial telecommunications lines sharing the utility poles along the west side of US 158 and Waterlily Road. There are

also underground telecommunications lines along US 158 and Waterlily Road in the project area. All of these installations are planned for relocation to the utility corridor to the east of the interchange (see roadway plan sheets 4 and 19 through 23 for the location of the utility relocation corridor labeled as PUE).

Along NC 12, there are underground telecommunication lines that will need to be relocated around project improvements. These relocations are not anticipated to have any jurisdictional environmental impacts. There is a wetland area west of NC 12 and just north of the intersection of NC 12 with South and North Harbor View (wetland WG) that will require a directional boring to relocate a telecommunications line but will not cause any jurisdictional impacts.

While there are underground telecommunications lines along Albacore Street at NC 12 and along US 158 in Dare County east of the Wright Memorial Bridge, none of these installations should require relocation. Therefore, at these locations, there would be no environmental impacts.

Contacts:

- Mediacom Communications
 - Kim Mason – (252) 482-5583 – kmason@mediacomcc.com
 - Marcus Simmons – (563) 529-9294 – msimmons@mediacomcc.com
 - Brent Martin – (706) 249-0200 – brentmartin@mediacomcc.com
 - Matthew Bennett – (252) 793-4827 – mbennett@mediacomcc.com
 - Nathaniel Harris – (252) 793-5256 – nharris@mediacomcc.com
 - Wyatt Reeves – (229) 326-6379 – wreeves1@mediacomcc.com
- Charter Spectrum Communications – Wilbur Haynes – (252) 489-1194 – wilbur.haynes@charter.com
- CenturyLink/Brightspeed – Reggie Aycock (252) 475-0200 – reggie.d.aycock@brightspeed.com

Gas Transmission

Piedmont Natural Gas owns and maintains a 6-inch steel natural gas line within the project area. The gas line is located between the edge of the existing pavement and the right-of-way line along the west side of US 158 and the west side of Waterlily Road. Based on the proposed typical sections, this gas line would need to be relocated to the utility corridor east of the US 158 interchange (see roadway plan sheets 4 and 19 through 23 for the location of the utility relocation corridor labeled as PUE). The gas line was installed under an encroachment agreement with NCDOT. It is anticipated that the relocation of this gas line will either have no jurisdictional environmental impacts, or the impacts will be concurrent with those in the US 158 interchange area with Dominion Energy North Carolina Electric at Waterlily Road.

Additionally, there is an existing gas line along US 158 in Dare County east of the Wright Memorial Bridge. This installation will not be impacted by the proposed project.

Contact:

- Piedmont Natural Gas – Jason Smith – (252) 717-8298 – jason.smith@duke-energy.com

Water and Sewer

Currituck County owns and maintains a 10-inch potable water line and a 12-inch raw (salt) water line along US 158 and Waterlily Road in the project area. The 10-inch waterline is located typically 3 feet from the edge of existing pavement along the east side of US 158 and then also along the east side of Waterlily Road. The 12-inch raw water line is located typically 7 feet from the edge of pavement along the west side of US 158 and then also along the west side of Waterlily Road. The proposed US 158 widening will require both lines to be relocated to the utility corridor located east of the US 158 interchange (see roadway plan sheets 4 and 19 through 23 for the location of the utility relocation corridor labeled as PUE). Currituck County also owns a booster pump station located within the proposed controlled access right of way along US 158 see roadway plan sheet 4, parcel 17). This pump station is not impacted by the preliminary design plans for the interchange, but its access is. Replacement access to the facility will be off Aydlett Road via a service road (see roadway plan sheets 4 and 21). It is anticipated that the relocation of these utilities will either have no jurisdictional environmental impacts or the impacts will be concurrent with those in the US 158 interchange area with Dominion Energy North Carolina Electric at Waterlily Road.

Along NC 12, Currituck County has two 8-inch waterlines north of the bridge area near Herring Street that will require relocation. This relocation will have no jurisdictional environmental impacts. There are four existing waterlines along Albacore Street, but they will not be affected by the project improvements. There is an existing sanitary sewer line along NC 12 through the project area that will require relocation. This relocation will also not have any jurisdictional environmental impacts.

Dare County owns and maintains a water line along US 158 east of the Wright Memorial Bridge. Based on the proposed typical sections, this waterline will not need to be relocated. Therefore, there are no environmental impacts.

Contacts:

- Currituck County Water & Sewer Department
 - Mainland Water – Chase Brinkley – (252) 232-2769 – chase.brinkley@currituckcountync.gov
 - Mainland Water – Dave Spence – (252) 232-6060 – dave.spence@currituckcountync.gov
 - Outer Banks Water – Benjamin Carawan – (252) 453-2620 – benjie.carawan@currituckcountync.gov

Wastewater – Rod Holley – (252) 232-3732 – rod.holley@currituckcountync.gov

- Dare County – Shanna Fullmer – (252) 475-5844 – shanna@darenc.com

Outdoor Advertising Signs

While not utilities, there are 13 outdoor advertising sign locations along US 158 in the project area that will need to be removed. Three of these signs are partially or wholly located in wetland areas west of US 158. These three signs are shown on the utility permit drawings as sites U-1L, U-1M, and U-1N. These signs are mounted on a series of wooden poles. This temporary fill impact is estimated to be 0.03 acres covering these three sign locations. The remaining outdoor advertising signs along US 158 in the project area are all in upland locations.