

APPENDICES



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APPENDIX A

SPECIAL PROJECT COMMITMENTS

SPECIAL PROJECT COMMITMENTS



This "GREEN SHEET" identifies the special project commitments made to avoid, minimize, or mitigate project impacts beyond those required to comply with applicable federal and state requirements and regulations.

During the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, commitments are made to avoid, minimize, or mitigate project impacts. Commitments result from public comment or through the requirements of, or agreements with, environmental resource and regulatory agencies.

In addition to compliance with applicable federal and state requirements and regulations, such as Section 404 Individual Permit Conditions, Nationwide Permit Conditions, Regional Conditions, and State Consistency Conditions; North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) *Guidelines for Best Management Practices for the Protection of Surface Waters*; General Certification Conditions and Section 401 Conditions of Certification, and the Endangered Species Act, **Table A-1** lists special project commitments that have been agreed to by the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA).

TABLE A-1: Special Project Commitments

Item	Final EIS Section		Project Commitment	Project Stage
1	Community Resources and Services	2.5.1.5	NCTA will coordinate with Gaston County Public Schools and Mecklenburg County Public Schools to share information.	Final Design through Construction Management
2	Community Resources and Services	2.5.1.5	NCTA will coordinate with the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Catawba Lands Conservancy to identify needed accommodations for any existing and funded greenways that cross the Preferred Alternative. NCTA will incorporate into the final design accommodations for existing and funded greenways, subject to applicable cost sharing.	Final Design
3	Community Resources and Services	2.5.1.5	Implementation of the Preferred Alternative may require re-routing of emergency service routes during construction. NCTA will coordinate with the Gaston County Fire Marshal to ensure continuation of services during construction.	Final Design through Construction Management
4	Community Resources and Services	2.5.1.5	The refined preliminary design for the Preferred Alternative results in the direct taking of the Dixie Community Center on Garrison Road. If final design results in a direct taking, NCTA will conduct additional coordination with the Garrison Road Community Center non-profit organization and provide mitigation for the loss of this facility. The organization would be eligible for all the benefits for non-residential relocatees under the NCDOT's relocation assistance program described in Section 2.5.1.2 . Benefits would include, but not be limited to, advisory services to identify replacement sites, moving costs, and reestablishment expenses.	Final Design, ROW Acquisition
5	Neighborhoods	2.5.1.3	NCTA will provide additional community outreach and take the necessary steps to effectively engage owners and tenants of the potentially low-income developments of Fall Estates, Levi Mobile Home Park (MHP), and Orion Oaks MHP.	Final Design, ROW Acquisition

TABLE A-1: Special Project Commitments

Item	Final EIS Section		Project Commitment	Project Stage
6	Community Safety	2.5.1.6	NCTA will ensure the bridge over the Catawba River will be designed so as not to preclude future accommodation of a pedestrian/bicycle facility funded by others, such as local jurisdictions. For established and planned bicycle routes, NCTA will coordinate with MUMPO and GUAMPO to accommodate these facilities where appropriate.	Final Design
7	Noise	2.5.2.1	A Design Noise Study will be prepared to update the noise analysis based upon the most recent FHWA regulations and NCDOT noise policies, traffic forecasts, and the final design.	Final Design
8	Farmland	2.5.2.3	NCTA will comply with the VAD ordinance (Gaston County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance, Gaston County Web site: www.co.gaston.nc.us/ordinances/VADordinance2004-07-22.pdf) and will work with Gaston County regarding public hearings related to land condemnation proceedings against the VAD parcels prior to right-of-way acquisition.	Final Design, ROW Acquisition
9	Utilities and Infrastructure – Electrical	2.5.2.4	NCTA will coordinate with local utilities to avoid and minimize disruptions in service.	Final Design, Construction
10	Utilities and Infrastructure – Railroads	2.5.2.4	NCTA will coordinate with the NCDOT Rail Division and Norfolk Southern during final design for the project’s interchange at I-85, which would affect the east-west rail mainline through Gaston County.	Final Design
11	Utilities and Infrastructure – Railroads	2.5.2.4	NCTA will coordinate with the NCDOT Rail Division and Norfolk Southern during final design of the crossing of the rail spur that serves Duke Energy Corporation’s Allen Steam Station.	Final Design
12	Utilities and Infrastructure – Railroads	2.5.2.4	NCTA will coordinate with the NCDOT Rail Division and Norfolk Southern during final design for the project’s interchange at US 321, which would affect the Norfolk Southern branch line that runs north-south parallel to the east side of US 321.	Final Design
13	Visual Resources	2.5.2.5	NCTA will investigate the feasibility and reasonableness of incorporating cost-effective treatments for the bridge sides, piers, and railings on the bridges over the South Fork Catawba River and Catawba River as part of an aesthetic plan for the project. If the preliminarily feasible and reasonable noise barrier recommended along the east side of the Preferred Alternative at the Belfast Drive/Shannon Bradley Road/Broomfield community (Barrier 1-1) is determined in final design to be feasible and reasonable, additional landscaping should be provided in this area to reduce visual impacts.	Final Design
14	Hazardous Materials	2.5.2.6	When the final proposed alignment is established and right of way limits are determined, a hazardous materials site assessment will be performed to the degree necessary to determine levels of contamination at any potential hazardous materials sites along the Preferred Alternative. The assessment will be made prior to right-of-way acquisition.	Final Design, ROW Acquisition
15	Historic Architectural Resources	2.5.3.1	NCTA will ensure that there is no taking of property, either by fee simple or permanent easement, from the JBF Riddle House.	Final Design
16	Historic Architectural Resources	2.5.3.1	NCTA will ensure that full access is maintained to the existing driveway at the Harrison Family Dairy Farm.	Final Design

TABLE A-1: Special Project Commitments

Item	Final EIS Section		Project Commitment	Project Stage
17	Archaeological Resources	2.5.3.2	NCTA will inform the selected contractor team of the potential for abandoned mines in the area. If geotechnical studies or surveys conducted by NCTA discover abandoned mines in the project corridor in the course of the study or survey, this information will be provided to the selected contractor team.	Final Design through Construction Management
18	Water Resources	2.5.4.2	NCTA will coordinate with Duke Energy Corporation to obtain the necessary FERC permit. The process is expected to result in a FERC license revision to allow the granting of an easement within the FERC project boundary to NCTA for construction of the Gaston East-West Connector, including the bridges over Lake Wylie.	Final Design
19	Water Resources	2.5.4.2	An erosion and sedimentation plan will be developed for the Preferred Alternative prior to construction in accordance with all applicable regulations and guidance. FHWA, NCTA, and NCDOT will work with the permitting agencies to determine the appropriate best management practices to implement for the project. These will include implementing <i>Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds</i> for the entire project.	Final Design
20	Small Group Meetings	3.1.3	NCTA will review the refined preliminary design to evaluate ways to minimize costs and impacts on the Bruce's Iron & Metal site.	Final Design
21	Wildlife	2.5.4.3	NCTA will coordinate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission on the feasibility and the design of a wildlife passage at Stream S156. Stream S156 is located between Forbes Road to the west and Robinson Road to the east.	Final Design

APPENDIX B

CORRESPONDENCE



July 11, 2011

Mr. Steve DeWitt, P.E.
Chief Engineer
North Carolina Turnpike Authority
1578 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1578

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

Subject: EEP Letter of Commitment:

U-3321, Gaston East-West Connector, Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) will provide compensatory stream and riparian wetland mitigation for the subject project as needed by the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA). The total amount of stream and wetland mitigation needed from the EEP has not yet been determined. EEP's Beaverdam Creek mitigation project is located adjacent to the project corridor and has been identified as a potential mitigation site for TIP U-3321. EEP commits all stream mitigation assets associated with this mitigation site toward offsetting stream impacts associated with this project. The Beaverdam Creek mitigation site is located in Mecklenburg County on the eastern end of the proposed roadway project in HUC 03050101 170040 of the Catawba River basin. Currently, the project has an estimated 13,534.60 stream mitigation credits (13,014 restoration credits and 520.60 restoration equivalent credits) and is in the fifth year of monitoring.

EEP commits to implementing sufficient compensatory stream and wetland mitigation credits to offset the impacts associated with this project in accordance with the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Ecosystem Enhancement Program In-Lieu Fee Instrument dated July 28, 2010 as needed by the NCTA. To this effect, EEP also has available 17,500 stream restoration equivalent High Quality Preservation credits located in the Southern Piedmont Eco-region and over 4,000,000 Riparian buffer restoration credits available in Catawba 03050101 for potential use to offset impacts associated with the roadway project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Beth Harmon at 919-715-1929.

Sincerely,

Michael Ellison
EEP Deputy Director

cc: Ms. Liz Hair, USACE – Asheville Regulatory Field Office
Mr. Brian Wrenn, Division of Water Quality, Wetlands/401 Unit
Mr. Jerry McCrain, Ph.D., CEP, PWS, Atkins
Mr. Michael Gloden, PWS, Atkins
Ms. Linda Fitzpatrick, NCDOT – PDEA
File: U-3321

Restoring... Enhancing... Protecting Our State



APPENDIX D

SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

APPENDIX D – SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

The supporting project documentation listed below are the technical memoranda and reports incorporated by reference into the Draft EIS, Final EIS, and/or ROD. These are available for review upon request by contacting the NCTA via email at gaston@ncturnpike.org or via telephone at (919) 571-3000. Documents also available on the NCTA Web site (www.ncdot.org/projects/gardenparkway) are marked with an asterisk (*).

D.1 SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION PRIOR TO PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT EIS

The supporting project documentation listed below are technical memoranda and reports created prior to publication of the Draft EIS in April 2009. These are incorporated by reference into the Draft EIS.

2003, September	Phase I (Reconnaissance Level) Historic Architectural Survey for the Gaston County East-West Corridor. Prepared by Mattson, Alexander and Associates
2004, June	Phase II Traffic Analysis Technical Memorandum – Gaston County East-West Corridor Study. Prepared by PBS&J
2004, March	Citizens Informational Workshop #1 Summaries – Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
2005, March	Gaston County East-West Connector Study – Draft Report – Transportation Demand Modeling. Prepared by Martin/Alexiou/Bryson
2005, May	Draft Traffic Technical Memorandum – Gaston County East-West Connector Study. Prepared by PBS&J
2006, April	Citizens Informational Workshop #2 Summary – Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
*2006, October	Proposed Gaston East-West Connector Preliminary Traffic and Revenue Study Final Report. Prepared by Wilbur Smith Associates
2006, October	Gaston East-West Connector Traffic Forecasting and System Level Analysis for the Detailed Study Alternatives. Prepared by Martin/Alexiou/Bryson
2007, April	Archaeological Assessment of Detailed Study Alternatives for the Proposed Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by Coastal Carolina Research, Inc.
2007, April	Gaston East-West Connector Traffic Forecasting and System Level Analysis for the Detailed Study Alternatives – Revised. Prepared by Martin/Alexiou/Bryson
2007, November	Community Characteristics Report for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
*2007, December	Final Preliminary Hydraulic Technical Memorandum for the Gaston County East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
2007, December	Final Traffic Operations Technical Memorandum for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
*2008, January	Preliminary Engineering Designs for the Gaston East-West Connector Detailed Study Alternatives. Prepared by PBS&J and Gibson Engineers. (See Public Hearing Maps dated April 2009 available on the NCTA Web site)

APPENDIX D

- *2008, February Natural Resources Technical Report for the Gaston East-West Connector, Prepared by Earth Tech, Inc.
- *2008, February Phase II Architectural Resources Survey Report for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.
- *2008, June Relocation Reports for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by Carolina Land Acquisitions, Inc. (Draft EIS Appendix F)
- *2008, July Final Traffic Noise Technical Memorandum for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2008, August Gaston East-West Connector (U-3321) Traffic Forecasts for Toll Alternatives. Prepared by Martin/Alexiou/Bryson
- *2008, August Utility Impact Report for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by TBE Group, Inc.
- 2008, September Analysis of Potential Icing Impacts due to Allen Steam Station SO₂ Scrubber for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by Mactec
- 2008, August Citizens Informational Workshop Series #3 Summary – Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2008, September Final Air Quality Technical Memorandum for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2008, September Final Toll Traffic Operations Technical Memorandum - Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2008, September Final Traffic Operations Technical Memorandum for I-85, I-485, US 29-74, and US 321 Under Various Scenarios – Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- 2008, September Memorandum – Gaston County East-West Connector – TIP Project U-3321 – Effects on Impacts if the US 29-74 Interchange is Removed from DSAs. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2008, October Addendum to the Final Alternatives Development and Analysis Report for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2008, October Final Community Impact Assessment for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2008, October Final Updated Purpose and Need Statement for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- 2008, October Section 6002 Project Coordination Plan. Prepared by PBS&J
- 2009, January Gaston Cost Estimate Support Memorandum. Prepared by HNTB
- 2009, February Memorandum – Gaston County East-West Connector – STIP Project U-3321 – Logical Termini. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2009, March Indirect and Cumulative Effects Assessment for the Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by Louis Berger Group, Inc.

D.2 SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT EIS

The supporting project documentation listed below are technical memoranda and reports created after publication of the Draft EIS in April 2009 for the Final EIS. These are incorporated by reference into the Final EIS.

- *2009, September Gaston East-West Connector Preferred Alternative Report. Prepared by PBS&J
- 2009, October Gaston East-West Connector (U-3321), Hazardous Materials Report. Prepared by NCDOT Geotechnical Engineering Unit GeoEnvironmental Section
- 2009, November Gaston East-West Connector (U-3321) Final Traffic Forecast Memorandum 2009 and 2035 No Build/Build. Prepared by HNTB
- 2009, December Proposed Gaston East-West Connector December 2009 Update to the 2006 Preliminary Study Interchange Analysis. Prepared by Wilbur Smith Associates
- 2009, December Gaston East-West Connector Summary -- Citizens Informational Workshop Series #4 – Public Hearings . Prepared by PBS&J
- 2010, February Memorandum – Endangered Plant Species Surveys – Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2010, April Gaston East-West Connector (U-3321) Revised Final Traffic Capacity Technical Memorandum 2030 Non-Toll/2035 Toll. Prepared by HNTB.
- *2010, April Traffic Noise Technical Memorandum Addendum. Prepared by PBS&J
- 2010, May Final Gaston East-West Connector Service Road Study. Prepared by PBS&J
- *2010, May Gaston East West Connector Updated Traffic Forecast and Preliminary Design Traffic Capacity Analysis for the Preferred Alternative. Prepared by HNTB
- *2010, June Gaston East-West Connector Conceptual Mitigation Plan. Prepared by PBS&J
- 2010, July Archaeological Survey and Evaluation of Detailed Study Alternative 9 (Recommended Route) for the Proposed Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by Coastal Carolina Research.
- *2010, August Gaston East-West Connector Quantitative Indirect and Cumulative Effects Analysis. Prepared by Louis Berger Group, Inc.

D.3 SUPPORTING PROJECT DOCUMENTATION AFTER PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL EIS

The supporting project documentation listed below are technical memoranda and reports created after publication of the Final EIS in December 2010 for the ROD. These are incorporated by reference into the ROD.

- 2010, October Memorandum – 2010 Plant Surveys in Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties for the Gaston East-West Connector (STIP U-3321). Prepared by PBS&J
- *2011, July Gaston East-West Connector Revised Final Quantitative Indirect and Cumulative Effects Analysis. Prepared by Louis Berger Group, Inc.
- *2011, July Traffic Noise Technical Memorandum Addendum #2 for Administrative Action Environmental Impact Statement Gaston East-West Connector. Prepared by Atkins.