



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

June 29, 2015

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley
State Historic Preservation Office
N.C. Department of Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

RE: Mid-Currituck Bridge Project, Currituck and Dare Counties, North Carolina,
STIP No. R-2576, WBS# 34470.1.TA1

Dear Renee:

The Mid-Currituck Bridge Project is funded in the new 2016-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was issued in January 2012. Since it has been more than three years since the FEIS was signed, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are preparing a FEIS reevaluation to determine if notable changes have occurred in the setting of the Preferred Alternative that could change FEIS impact findings or the Preferred Alternative decision.

Surveys for historic resources were conducted for the project in December 2007 and March 2009. The results were documented in two historic resource survey reports issued in 2008 and 2009. The HPO agreed with the survey reports' findings on listed and eligible National Register properties in a March 2009 letter. The FEIS concluded that the Preferred Alternative would have No Adverse Effect on the National Register-eligible Samuel McHorney House and Daniel Saunders House. It would have No Effect on the other historic resources in the project area. These determinations were made at a meeting between representatives of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA), NCDOT, and the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) in September 2009.

Do you see a need as a part of the FEIS re-evaluation to conduct a new survey for National Register-eligible historic architectural resources or to re-visit the effect determinations? The location and design of the Preferred Alternative has not changed since the preparation of the FEIS.

Terrestrial and underwater archaeological surveys completed in October 2011 both within and adjacent to the Area of Potential Effect (APE) did not find any archaeological sites

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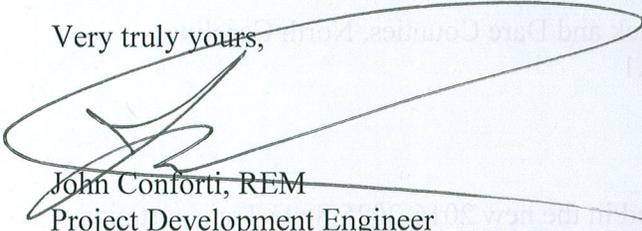
eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The HPO and Office of State Archaeology (OSA) concurred with the October 2011 survey findings for terrestrial archaeological sites. However, they requested that diving be done in Currituck Sound to affirm the October 2011 underwater survey findings, which were based on remote sensing. A September 2012 diving survey found no archaeologically significant underwater cultural resources within the APE. In a December 14, 2012 letter, HPO and OSA concurred with the September 2012 diving survey findings.

Do you or OSA see any need for additional archaeological surveys as a part of the FEIS reevaluation? Again, the location and design of the Preferred Alternative has not changed since the preparation of the FEIS.

Please respond by July 15, 2015 if possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



John Conforti, REM
Project Development Engineer

cc: Mary Pope Furr, PDEA – Human Environment Section
Matt Wilkerson, PDEA – Human Environment Section