

# STIP Project HO-0027

## U.S. 64 Wildlife Crossings in Dare County

### Public Meeting Summary

NCDOT held two in-person meetings for the proposed U.S. 64 Wildlife Crossings project (STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) Project HO-0027), on June 23, 2026, at the Manns Harbor Community Building located at 6657 US Hwy 64/264 in Manns Harbor, North Carolina. A Local Officials Informational Meeting was held from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, followed by a public information meeting from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the project to the public, present information on the proposed wildlife underpasses and exclusion fencing, and request feedback.

**Figure 1: NCDOT HO-0027 Regional Location Map**



## In-Person Meeting Content and Format

Prior to the public open house, two local officials attended the Local Officials Informational Meeting which was held on June 23, 2026, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The Open House followed from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, with 36 people in attendance. A presentation was delivered live at 6:00 PM, followed by a Q&A and discussion with the project team.

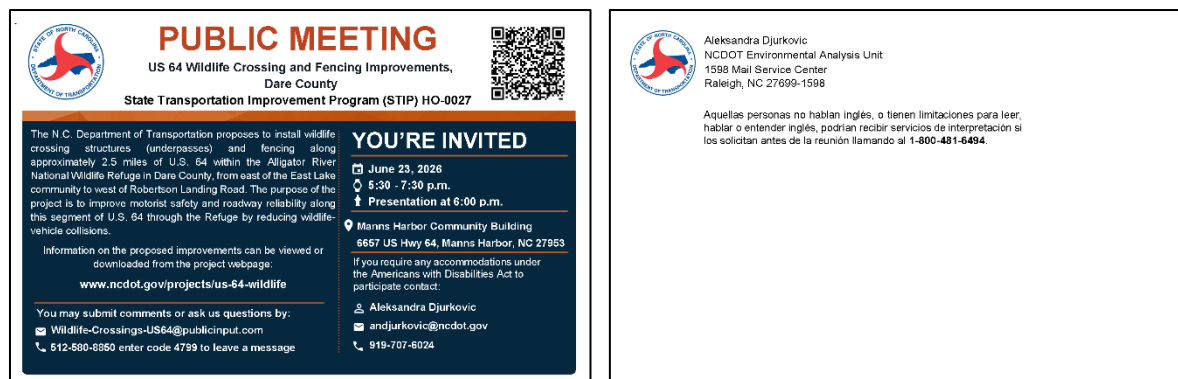
A sign-in table was set up at the entrance, and meeting materials, including static display boards and project handouts, were arranged around the room's perimeter. The nine display boards included:

1. Welcome
2. Title VI
3. Nondiscrimination
4. Schedule and Cost
5. Typical Sections
6. U.S. 64 Wildlife Collision Hotspots (2021-2026)
7. Conceptual 3D Renderings
8. Wildlife Crossing Examples
9. Thank You/QR Code to Project Website

## Meeting Advertisement

Postcards were mailed to approximately 144 addresses within the focused outreach area on June 3, 2026.

**Figure 2: Front and Back of Postcard Mailer**



## Overview of Comments

The public comment period associated with the public meeting was open from June 23 to July 10, 2026.

### Comments Received

- 12 public comments received

### Comment Types

- Website: 10
- Voicemail: 1
- Written: 1

### Comment Subject Matter:

- Stating Support: 8
- Information Request: 2
- Design: 1
- Stating Opposition: 1

### General Project Opinions

- 67 percent (8) expressed direct support for the project as proposed.
- 8 percent (1) expressed direct opposition to the project as proposed.
- 25 percent (3) expressed neutral opinions for the project, mostly suggesting design revisions or requesting information.

### General Response to Comments

*The responses provided in this summary are applicable at the time this meeting summary was drafted; however, updated information will be included in the Environmental Document as it becomes available.*

### Stating Support

Eight comments expressing direct support for the project were received. Commenters cited reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions, protecting the endangered Red Wolf and other wildlife species, improving motorist safety along a primary route to the Outer Banks, and the corridor's documented history of wildlife mortality on the road. Several supportive comments also offered design suggestions, including fencing placement and maintenance access, crossing elevation considerations, and protection of roadside canals during construction.

### Response:

- Thank you for your interest and support of the NCDOT STIP Project HO-0027, U.S. 64 Wildlife Crossings. NCDOT recognizes the importance of public input and will consider each comment as the project continues to progress.



## **Information Request**

Two comments were received requesting information from, or contact with, the project team.

### *Response:*

- The request was forwarded to NCDOT project managers, who completed the direct follow-up. All public meeting materials are available on the project website at <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/us-64-wildlife>. NCDOT recognizes the importance of public input and will consider each comment as the project continues to progress.

## **Design**

One comment was received relating to design. The comment requested that the project be designed to accommodate a potential future widening of U.S. 64 where practicable, and that exclusion fencing be designed to minimize impacts to adjacent property owners while still keeping wildlife off the roadway.

### *Response:*

- Widening U.S. 64 to four lanes is outside the scope of the HO-0027 project, and the project's federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program grant funds are allocated specifically for the proposed wildlife crossings and fencing improvements. The funds allocated for the HO-0027 project are to be used specifically for the proposed project, as outlined in NCDOT's grant agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Compatibility of the proposed improvements with potential future projects along the corridor will be considered as the design is developed. Fencing locations and treatments in the vicinity of residences and private property have not yet been determined and will be developed in coordination with adjacent property owners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. NCDOT will continue to work to minimize impacts to the community and natural environment while meeting the purpose and need of the project. NCDOT recognizes the importance of public input and will consider each comment as the project continues to progress.

## **Stating Opposition**

One comment was received expressing opposition to the project, questioning whether the number of reported wildlife-vehicle crashes along the corridor justifies the project cost.

### *Response:*

- The purpose of the project is to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity along U.S. 64 through the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. Wildlife-vehicle collisions constitute a safety concern along this corridor, and the reduction of these collisions is in line with NCDOT's Vision Zero goals. The project is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, a competitive federal grant program established specifically to fund projects that reduce wildlife-vehicle



collisions. The funds allocated for the project are to be used specifically for the proposed project and cannot be transferred to other transportation improvements or maintenance activities. NCDOT will continue to work to minimize impacts to the community and natural environment while meeting the purpose and need of the project. NCDOT recognizes the importance of public input and will consider each comment as the project continues to progress.

