



## **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

# **PROPOSED MILITARY CUTOFF ROAD (S.R. 1409) EXTENSION**

**TIP PROJECT NO. U-4751**

WBS Number 40191.1.2

New Hanover County

### **Design Public Meeting**

**Informal Open House 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**  
**Formal Presentation 7:00 p.m.**

Northeast Regional Library – David Paynter Lg. Assembly Room  
1241 Military Cutoff Road  
Wilmington, NC 28405

**August 28, 2012**

## **PURPOSE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Today's meeting is another important step in the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) procedure for making you, the public, a part of the project development process. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain public input on the design being considered for the project.

Planning and environmental studies on the highway project are provided in the planning and environmental document – Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Copies of that report along with today's meeting maps are available for public review at the following locations:

- NCDOT Division 3 Office located at 5501 Barbados Blvd., Castle Hayne;
- Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, 305 Chestnut St., 4th Floor, Wilmington; and
- New Hanover County Planning Office, 230 Government Center Dr., Suite 110, Wilmington

Copies of the map and DEIS are also available on the project website at:  
<http://www.ncdot.org/projects/US17HampsteadBypass/>

Copies of the DEIS are also available for review at:

- Northeast Regional Library at 1241 Military Cutoff Rd., Wilmington and
- Hampstead Branch Library, 75 Library Dr., Hampstead

## **YOUR PARTICIPATION**

Now that the opportunity is here, you are encouraged to participate by making your comments and/or questions a part of the public record. This may be done by having them recorded at the formal Public Meeting or by writing them on the attached comment sheet. Several representatives of the North Carolina Department of Transportation are present. They will be happy to talk with you, explain the project to you and answer your questions. You may write your comments or questions on the comment sheet and leave it with one of the representatives or mail them by September 14, 2012 to the following address:

Mr. Jammie A. Robbins  
NCDOT - Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598  
Email: [jarobbins@ncdot.gov](mailto:jarobbins@ncdot.gov)

Everyone present is urged to participate in the proceedings. It is important, however, that **THE OPINIONS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS BE RESPECTED REGARDLESS OF HOW DIVERGENT THEY MAY BE FROM YOUR OWN**. Accordingly, debates, as such, are out of place at public meetings. Also, the public meeting is not to be used as a **POPULAR REFERENDUM** to determine the location and/or design by a majority vote of those present.

## **WHAT IS DONE WITH THE INPUT?**



A post-hearing meeting will be conducted after the comment period has ended. NCDOT staff representing Planning, Design, Traffic Operations, Division, Right of Way, Public Involvement & Community Studies and others who play a role in the development of a project will attend this meeting. The project will also be reviewed with federal agencies such as the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well as state agencies such as the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. When appropriate, local government staff will attend.

All spoken and written issues are discussed at the post-hearing meeting. Most issues are resolved at the post-hearing meeting. The NCDOT considers safety, costs, traffic service, social impacts and public comments in making decisions. Complex issues may require additional study and may be reviewed by higher management, Board of Transportation Members and/or the Secretary of Transportation.

Minutes of the post-hearing meeting will be summarized and are available to the public by noting your request on the attached comment sheet.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

Comments received about the design of the Military Cutoff Rd. Extension from the public meeting will be reviewed at the post-hearing meeting and incorporated, where feasible, into the development of final design plans for the project. Further studies and surveys will be conducted on the preliminary findings collected from the initial corridor studies for both the Military Cutoff Rd. Extension and Hampstead Bypass projects, such as hazardous materials, historic and archaeological sites, and access to residences and businesses.

Another environmental document – Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) - will be prepared based on the results of the items above. The FEIS will be circulated for public and agency review.

A future design public hearing will be held for the Hampstead Bypass project at a later date, following the completion of the FEIS. More detailed information will be available on the Hampstead Bypass at that future hearing.

## **PURPOSE AND NEED OF PROJECT**

The purpose of the project is to improve the traffic carrying capacity and safety of the US 17 and Market Street corridor in the study area (see Figure 1). The project is expected to address the following needs and provide the following benefits:

- **Improve traffic flow and level of service (LOS) on US 17 and Market Street in the study area.**

The level of service (LOS) of a roadway is the measure of its traffic carrying ability. Levels of service range from A to F, "A" being the best scenario with unrestricted maneuverability and operating speeds, and "F" being the worst scenario where travel on a roadway is characterized by "stop and go" conditions.

Traffic volumes on US 17 in the project vicinity are expected to increase substantially over the next 25 years. Average daily traffic volumes along existing roads in the study area will more than double in some locations by 2035 from the 2008 base conditions. Roadway capacity analyses show that most of the arterials and intersections in the study area would either approach or exceed the roadway capacity limits during at least one peak hour of the day in 2035.

The proposed projects will increase the capacity of the US 17 corridor and improve level of service, benefiting both local and through traffic. The proposed project will provide a new route for travelers with destinations in northern New Hanover County and area beaches. The project will remove much of the through traffic from the existing roadway, allowing it to better serve local traffic.

- **Enhance safety along US 17 and Market Street in the study area.**

A total of 87 crashes occurred on Military Cutoff Road between Station Road and US 17 Business (Market Street) between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009. The total crash rate for Military Cutoff Road in this area is above the 2005-2007 statewide crash rate for urban Secondary Routes.

A total of 612 crashes including three fatal crashes occurred on Market Street between Station Road and the US 17 Wilmington Bypass interchange at Market Street between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009. The total crash rate for Market Street in this area is above the 2005-2007 statewide crash rate for urban United States routes.

Separating through traffic from the local traffic that is using the existing roadway to access schools, shopping and residential areas will enhance safety.

US Census Bureau statistics indicate New Hanover County grew by 33.3 percent from 1990 to 2000 and by 22.3 percent between 2000 and 2010. Pender County grew by 42.4 percent between 1990 and 2000 and 32.9 percent between 2000 and 2010. Both counties are expected to continue to experience high growth rates through the year 2030. This growth in population, tourism and supporting services has resulted in an increase in mixed-purpose traffic on US 17.

The proposed roadway improvements are consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plans for the local municipalities within the study area. Local governments within the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization, as well as NCDOT, have adopted this plan.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The NCDOT, Division of Highways, proposes to extend Military Cutoff Road (SR 1409) as a six-lane divided roadway on new location from its current terminus at US 17 (Market Street) in Wilmington north to an interchange with the US 17 Wilmington Bypass (John Jay Burney Jr. Freeway). Limited and full control of access is proposed.

The project begins at a proposed interchange at Military Cutoff Road and Market Street. It extends north through vacant County property between the two sections of Ogden Park and residential areas. It then turns northwest and ends near Plantation Road and Crooked Pine Road at a proposed interchange with the US 17 Wilmington Bypass, approximately midway between I-40 and Market Street.

The Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has requested a multi-use path be constructed along proposed Military Cutoff Road Extension. The multi-use path would tie into an existing multi-use path along Military Cutoff Road. The construction of a multi-use path as part of the proposed project will be dependent upon a cost-sharing and maintenance agreement between the NCDOT and the Wilmington MPO. The NCDOT will continue to coordinate with the Wilmington MPO on the inclusion of the multi-use path along Military Cutoff Road Extension.

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## **TRAFFIC NOISE SUMMARY**

The NCDOT Traffic Abatement Policy contains provisions that limit state and federal responsibilities for traffic noise reduction to locations where development existed, or for which building permits were issued, at the "Date of Public Knowledge".

The "Date of Public Knowledge" of the location and potential noise impacts of a proposed highway project will be the approval date of the final environmental document, which includes a Categorical Exclusion (CE), State or Federal Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or State or Federal Record of Decision (ROD).

1. After this date, the federal and state governments are no longer responsible for providing noise abatement measures for new development within the noise impact area of the proposed highway project.
2. The criteria (i.e., trigger date) for determining when undeveloped land is "planned, designed and programmed" for development will be the approval date of a building permit for an individual lot or site.
3. It is the responsibility of local governments and private landowners to ensure that noise-compatible designs are used for development permitted after the Date of Public Knowledge.

***The "Date of Public Knowledge" for this project will be the date of the state Record of Decision (SROD). The SROD is expected to be completed and signed in the Spring of 2013.***

Two noise study areas have been identified on this project. These areas meet preliminary justification criteria for noise barriers and will be further studied during final project design. The noise study areas are located 1) along northbound and southbound portions of proposed Military Cutoff Road Extension between Putnam Drive and Lendire Road, and 2) along southbound Proposed Military Cutoff Road Extension near Torchwood Boulevard.

Once a final determination is made on the location of the noise barriers during final design, NCDOT will contact all property owners and tenants who are expected to receive at least 5 decibels noise reduction due to the proposed barrier. Each owner and/or tenant will be provided a ballot so they can vote their preference for or against the noise wall. The noise barriers will be constructed unless a simple majority vote by these property owners/tenants indicates they **do not** prefer noise wall construction.

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Length:** See Table 1

**Typical Section:** See Figure 2

**Right of Way:** Variable width of 150ft – 350ft

**Access Control:** ***Full Control of Access:***

Access only provided via ramps at interchanges. No private driveway connections will be allowed.

***Limited Control of Access:***

Access only provided via ramps at interchanges for major crossings and at intersections for minor crossings and service roads. No private driveway connections will be allowed.

**Relocatees:** See Table 1

**Project Costs:** See Table 1

**Current**

**Schedule:** The *tentative* schedule is shown below. A number of factors can affect a project schedule, so schedules are subject to change.

**Right of Way Acquisition – State Fiscal Year 2014**  
**Construction – State Fiscal Year 2017**

Table1. Summary of Military Cutoff Road Extension Alternative M1 Impacts

<b>Military Cutoff Road Extension Alternative M1</b>	
<b>Feature</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<b>Length</b> (miles)	3.56
<b>Delineated Wetland Impacts</b> (acres)	99.83
<b>Delineated Stream Impacts</b> (linear feet)	11,558
<b>Delineated Surface Water Impacts</b>	
Stormwater ponds with a connection to tributary waters (acres)	1.16
Stormwater ponds with no connection to tributary waters (acres)	0.02
Tributary waters determined to be jurisdictional based on the presence of an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) (square feet/acres)	13,722/0.32
<b>Displacements</b>	
Residential	13
Business	27
Non-profit	2
<b>Red-cockaded Woodpecker Future Potentially Suitable / Potentially Suitable Habitat</b> (acres)	0
<b>Other Surveyed Federal / State Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Present</b>	Yes
<b>Natural Heritage Program SNHA, Managed Areas and Wetland Mitigations Sites</b> (acres)	4.29
<b>Prime Farmlands/Farmlands of Statewide Importance</b> (acres)	0
<b>Forest</b> (acres)	116
<b>100 Year Floodplain and Floodway Impacts</b> (acres)	0
<b>Historic Properties</b> (no.)	1
<b>Noise Receptor Impacts</b> <sup>2</sup>	147
<b>Recorded Archaeological Sites</b> (no.)	0
<b>Wildlife Refuge/Game Lands</b> (acres)	0
<b>Recreational Areas/Parks</b> (no.)	0
<b>High Quality Waters(HQW, ORW, WS Protected or Critical Areas)</b> (acres)	3.03
<b>Public Water Supply Wells (100' Buffer)</b>	0
<b>Cemeteries</b> (no.)	2
<b>Potential UST / Hazmat Sites</b> (no.)	4
<b>Total Cost</b> (in millions) <sup>3</sup>	\$113.1

<sup>2</sup>Impacted noise receptors will be updated in a Design Noise Report and recommended noise barrier locations will be reviewed.

<sup>3</sup>Updated costs will be included in the FEIS.

## **RIGHT-OF-WAY PROCEDURES**

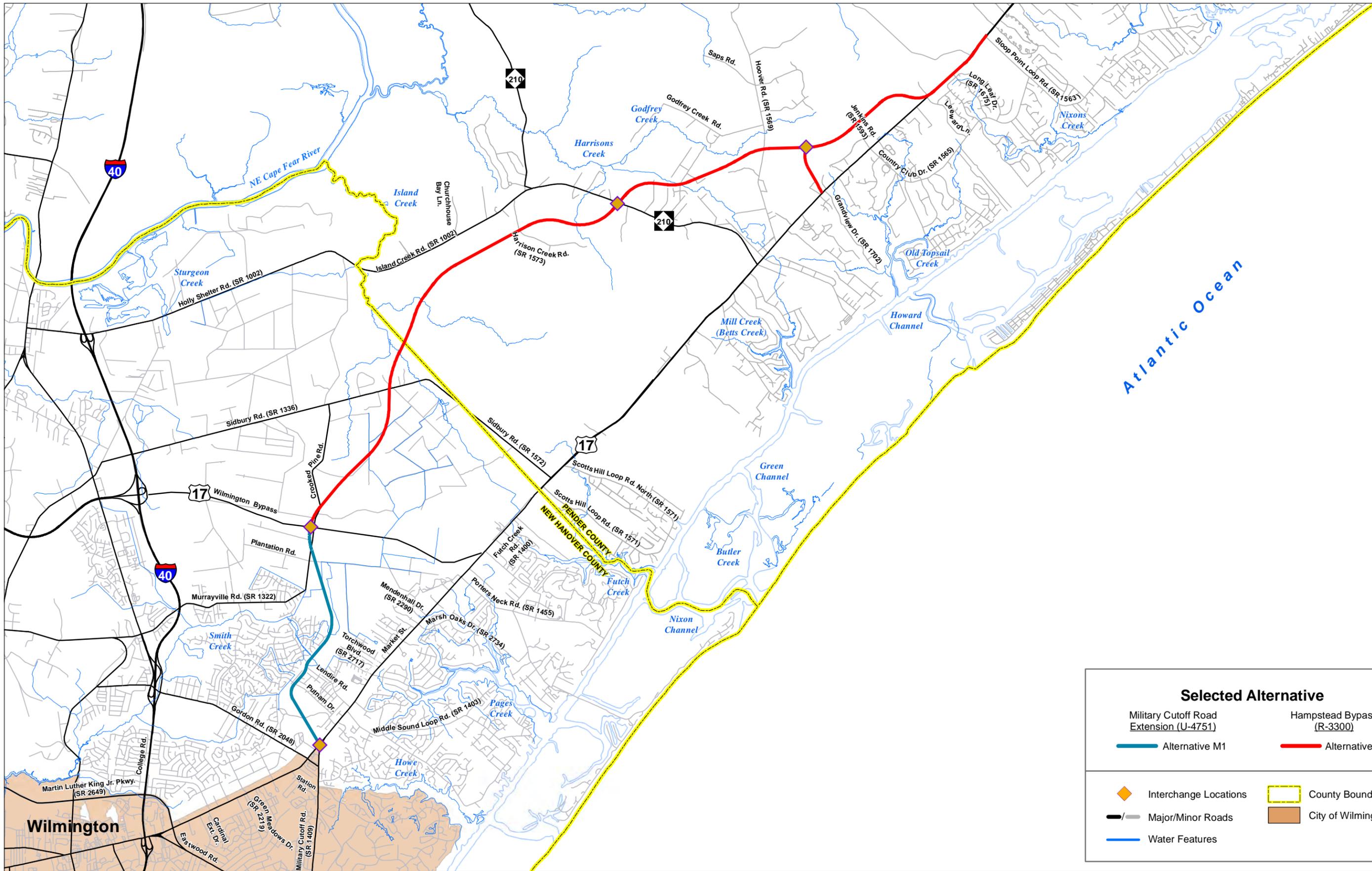
After decisions are made regarding the final design, the proposed right-of-way limits will be staked in the ground. If you are an affected property owner, a Right-of-Way Agent will contact you and arrange a meeting. The agent will explain the plans and advise you as to how the project will affect you. The agent will inform you of your rights as a property owner. If permanent right-of-way is required, professionals who are familiar with real estate values will evaluate or appraise your property. The evaluations or appraisals will be reviewed for completeness and accuracy, and then the Right-of-Way Agent will make a written offer to you. The current market value of the property at its highest and best use when appraised will be offered as compensation. The Department of Transportation must:

1. Treat all owners and tenants equally.
2. Fully explain the owner's rights.
3. Pay just compensation in exchange for property rights.
4. Furnish relocation advisory assistance.

## **RELOCATION ASSISTANCE**

If you are a relocatee, that is, if your residence or business is to be acquired as part of the project, additional assistance in the form of advice and compensation is available. You will also be provided with assistance on locations of comparable housing and/or commercial establishments, moving procedures, and moving aid. Moving expenses may be paid for you. Additional monetary compensation is available to help homeowners cope with mortgage increases, increased value of comparable homes, closing costs, etc. A similar program is available to assist business owners. The Right-of-Way Agent can explain this assistance in greater detail.

**NOTE: PAMPHLETS SUMMARIZING RIGHT OF WAY AND RELOCATION PROCEDURES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SIGN-IN TABLE.**



Selected Alternative	
Military Cutoff Road Extension (U-4751)	Hampstead Bypass (R-3300)
Alternative M1	Alternative E-H
Interchange Locations	County Boundary
Major/Minor Roads	City of Wilmington
Water Features	

Prepared by:

Prepared for:



**Selected Alternative**  
 US 17 Corridor Study  
 NCDOT TIP Project Numbers U-4751 & R-3300  
 New Hanover & Pender Counties, NC

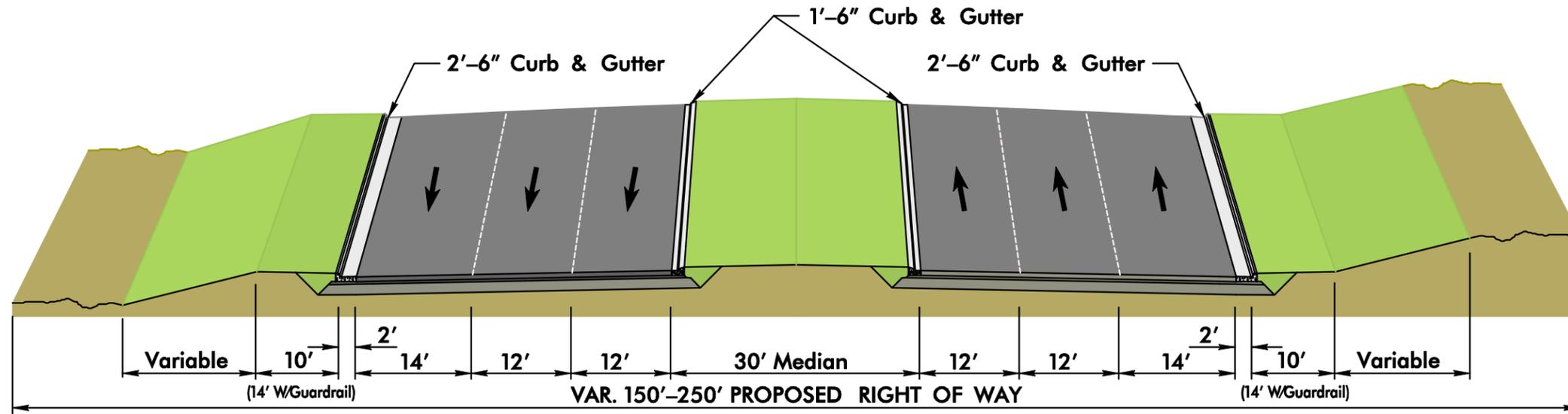


Data Sources: NCDOT and Mulkey GIS  
 Figure Prepared: 7/31/12

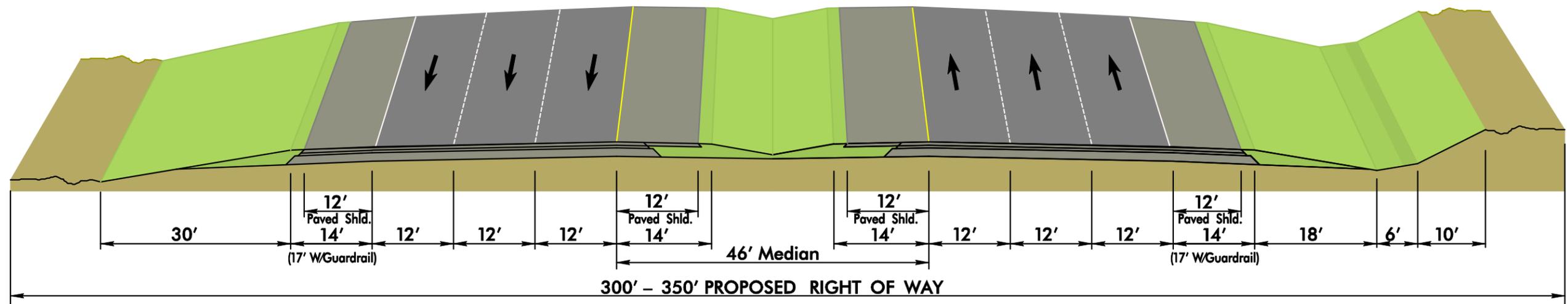


Figure No.

1



Alternatives M1 and M2 - From Market Street to Approximately 1.0 Mile North of Torchwood Boulevard



Alternatives M1 and M2 - From Approximately 1.0 Mile North of Torchwood Boulevard to US 17 Wilmington Bypass

Prepared by: MULKEY ENGINEERS & CONSULTANTS

Prepared for:



**Military Cutoff Road Extension Typical Section Nos. 1 and 2**

US 17 Corridor Study  
 NCDOT TIP Project Numbers U-4751 & R-3300  
 New Hanover & Pender Counties, NC

*Not to Scale*

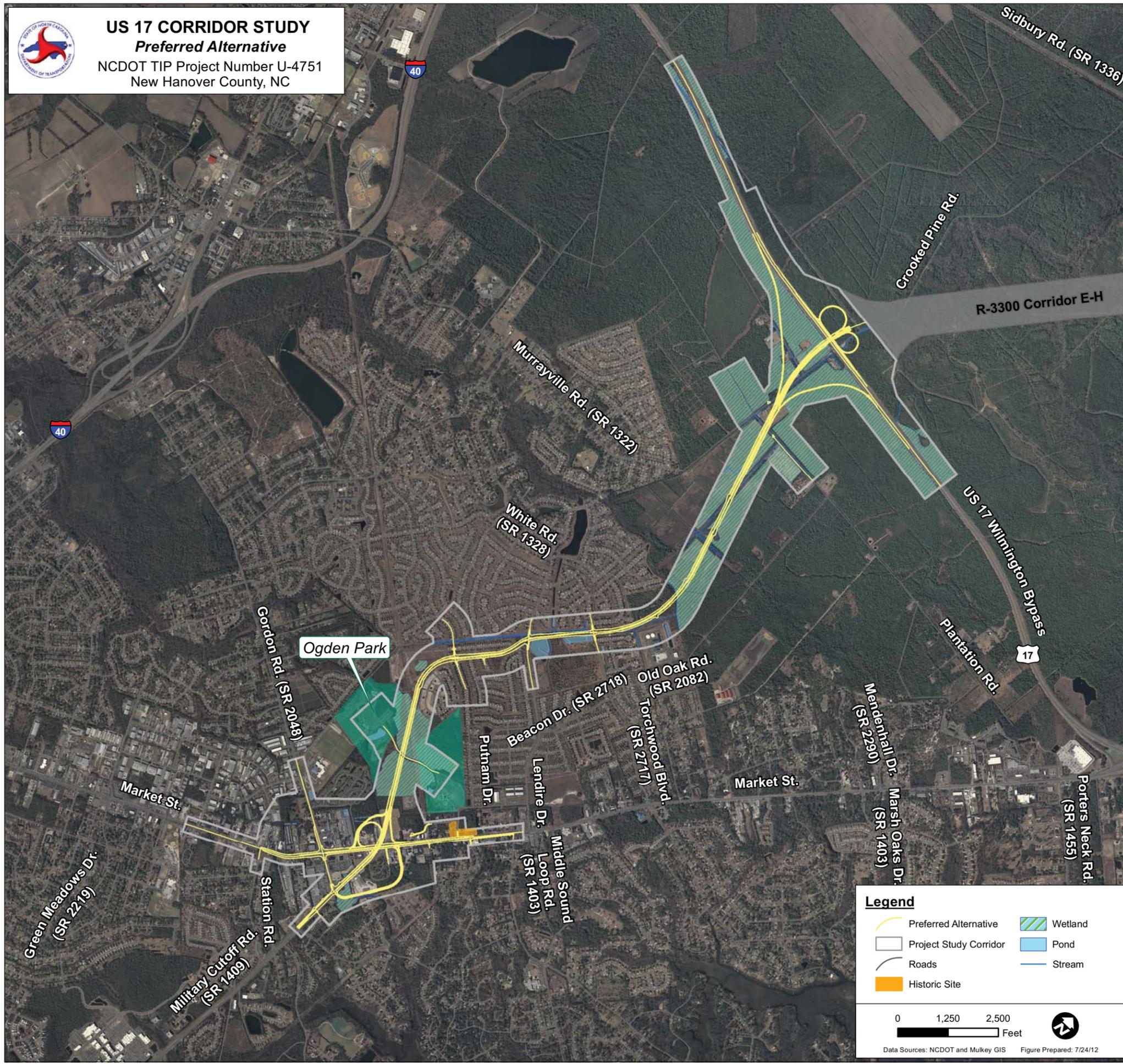
Figure Prepared 2/15/2011

Figure No.

**2**



**US 17 CORRIDOR STUDY**  
**Preferred Alternative**  
NCDOT TIP Project Number U-4751  
New Hanover County, NC



**Legend**

Preferred Alternative	Wetland
Project Study Corridor	Pond
Roads	Stream
Historic Site	



Data Sources: NCDOT and Mulkey GIS Figure Prepared: 7/24/12

# TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORM

Completing this form is **completely** voluntary. You are not required to provide the information requested in order to participate in this meeting.

<b>Meeting Type:</b> Design Public Meeting	<b>Date:</b> August 28, 2012
<b>Location:</b> Northeast Regional Library	
<b>TIP No.:</b> U-4751	
<b>Project Description:</b> Military Cutoff Rd. Extension	

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) assures that no person(s) shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any of the Department's programs, policies, or activities, based on their race, color, national origin, disability, age, income, or gender.

Completing this form helps meet our data collection and public involvement obligations under Title VI and NEPA, and will improve how we serve the public. Please place the completed form in the designated box on the sign-in table, hand it to an NCDOT official or mail it to the PDEA-Human Environment Section, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598.

All forms will remain on file at the NCDOT as part of the public record.

<b>Zip Code:</b> _____	<b>Gender:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>Street Name:</b> (i.e. Main Street) _____	<b>Age:</b>
<b>Total Household Income:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-64
<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47,000 – \$69,999	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older
<input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 – \$19,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000 – \$93,999	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-44
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 – \$30,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$94,000 – \$117,999	<b>Have a Disability:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> \$31,000 – \$46,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$118,000 or greater	
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>	<b>National Origin:</b> (if born outside the U.S.)
<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Mexican
<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American	<input type="checkbox"/> Central American: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> South American: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native	<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____

How did you hear about this meeting? (newspaper advertisement, flyer, and/or mailing) \_\_\_\_\_

For more information regarding Title VI or this request, please contact the NCDOT Title VI Section at (919) 508-1808 or toll free at 1-800-522-0453, or by email at [slipscomb@ncdot.gov](mailto:slipscomb@ncdot.gov).

Thank you for your participation!



**NCDOT - PDEA  
Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598**

**COMMENT SHEET**

Military Cutoff Road (S.R. 1409) Extension

Design Public Meeting

TIP Project No. U-4751

New Hanover County

**NAME:**

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**ADDRESS:**

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**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

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**COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS:**

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**Comments may be mailed by September 14, 2012 to:**

Mr. Jammie A. Robbins  
NCDOT - Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598  
Phone: 919.707.6085 FAX: 919.212.5785  
Email: [jrobbins@ncdot.gov](mailto:jrobbins@ncdot.gov)

Jamille A. Robbins  
NCDOT - Human Environment Section  
1598 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598