



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## NCDOT US Highway 64 Widening and Bridge Project (Regulatory)

- **A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).**
- **Department of the Army authorization, pursuant to both Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, is required for the construction of the bridge and the widening.**
- **Merger Team meetings planned in 2013 to reach concurrences on Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.**

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC-03

DATE: 8 April 2013

1. **PURPOSE:**

To provide the status of the proposal by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to replace the bridge over the Alligator River and to widen the existing road from a two-lane highway to a four-lane highway, Tyrrell and Dare Counties, North Carolina (State Project No. 6.049002T, T.I.P. No. R- 2544 & R-2545). Action ID 199811011.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. On June 17, 1999, an interagency meeting was conducted with agency representatives to discuss the feasibility of the proposed project. It was determined the project did not have a valid Purpose and Need (P & N).

b. On June 19, 2002, the first Merger Team meeting was held to discuss Concurrence Point (CP) No. 1 (P & N) for the project. A new feasibility study dated 2 June 2002 was presented with a new P & N statement. Concurrence was not reached for P & N and NCDOT was advised that they must provide justification that supports hurricane evacuation as a valid P & N for the project before the Merger Team could consider it valid.

c. On July 24, 2002, a Merger Team meeting was held to hear a presentation about the development of the current Hurricane Evacuation Model developed for North Carolina.

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d. On February 11, 2007, a Merger Scoping Meeting was held to discuss the proposed project and updates since the project was delayed years ago. The team was advised that NCDOT was waiting on the completion of a new 2005 Hurricane Evacuation Report.

e. On June 14, 2007, a merger team meeting was held for CP No. 1. Concurrence was reached for P & N and the study area was defined for the project.

f. On June 19, 2008 and August 21, 2008, merger team meetings were held for CP No.2 (alternatives selected for detailed study). Several issues and concerns were raised during the meeting and concurrence was not reached because median widths to be studied through the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge could not be agreed upon. CP No. 2 was elevated for review to the Merger Management Team as part of the conflict/dispute resolution process.

g. On October 16, 2008, the Merger Management Team agreed to CP No. 2.

h. On April 27 and 28, 2009, citizen's informational workshops were held in East Lake and Columbia, North Carolina.

i. Between May 7, 2010 and December 6, 2011, four preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) were circulated between NCDOT and the Corps for editing.

j. On December 14, 2011, the DEIS was approved and signed by NCDOT. On January 11, 2012, the DEIS was approved and signed by the Corps.

k. On February 17, 2012, the Notice of Availability of the DEIS was published in the Federal Register and a Corps Public Notice was issued announcing the availability of the DEIS and also asking for comments on the various alternatives being considered for the project.

l. On April 23 and 24, 2012, NCDOT held a corridor public hearing in Columbia and East Lake, North Carolina to solicit comments regarding the project.

3. **CURRENT STATUS:**

One Merger Team meeting was held in December 2012 and two more are scheduled in early 2013 to try and reach concurrence on CP No. 3 (Selection of the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative, LEDPA).