



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: August 29, 2006
Comment Deadline: September 29, 2006
Corps Action ID #: SAW-2006-40466-174

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant: North Carolina Department of Transportation
Project Development & Environmental Analysis
1548 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide which alternative represents the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) pursuant to applicable procedures of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899.

Location

The proposed TIP project R-2250 involves constructing a new road from Greenville bypass at US 264 to NC 11 south of NC 102. The project will be approximately 12 miles on new location. Interchanges are provided at NC 102, Memorial Drive, NC 903, US 264A/NC13 and US 264 for all build alternatives. The proposed project crosses wetlands and tributaries to Gum Swamp, Horsepen Swamp and Simmon Branch all of which connect to Swift Creek which connects to the Neuse River. The proposed project is located in subbasins of the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River watersheds. These river basins are classified by Hydrologic Cataloging Units, to which Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) are assigned; HUC numbers 03020202 and 03020203 for the Neuse River Basin and HUC number 03020103 for the Tar-Pamlico River Basin.

Existing Site Conditions

The project study area lies in the rural region of Pitt County southwest of Greenville. This portion of Pitt County is expected to continue to experience some of the highest growth rates in the area and is becoming more suburban in nature. Land uses in the area consist primarily of agriculture, forestry, and low-density residential and commercial development. Most of the proposed road alignment is currently cleared agricultural land.

The topography in the study area is characterized as rather flat, with low, gently rolling hills. The study area is located in the Coastal Plain physiographic province of North Carolina.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The purpose of this project is to ease congestion of Memorial Drive (NC 11) and Stantonsburg Road (US 264 Business) in Greenville. The purpose and need for this project was agreed upon by federal, state, and local agency representatives in February 2001.

Project Description

The following description of work is taken from data provided by the applicant. The proposed project is approximately 12 miles long and is roughly located to the south and west of Greenville. The bypass is proposed as a four-lane median divided freeway with controlled-access and a design speed of 70 miles per hour. Grade separations would be constructed at road crossing and grade separations with interchanges at major road crossings. Interchanges are provided at NC 102, Memorial Drive, NC 903, US 264A/US 13, and US 264 for all alternatives. The proposed right-of-way is approximately 250 feet for all alternatives with the exception of the interchanges, which will require additional right-of-way.

Wetland Impacts (Acres)

Wetland Type	Alternative 1B-EXT	Alternative 4-EXT	Alternative 5-EXT
Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest	0.2	---	---
Coastal Plain Small Stream Swamp	0.3	---	1.52
Nonriverine Wet Hardwood Forest	0.01	--	0.01
Wet Pine Flatwoods	---	0.1	---

Based on Schafale and Weakley Classification

Stream Impacts (Linear Feet)

	Alternative 1B-EXT	Alternative 4-EXT	Alternative 5-EXT
Perennial	2,628.6	1,276.8	2,342.1

Intermittent	1,408.7	329.8	2,584.5
Total	4,037.3	1,606.7	4,926.6

Riparian Buffer Impacts (acres)

Riparian Buffer Zone	Alternate 1B-EXT	Alternate 4-EXT	Alternate 5-EXT
Zone 1 Impacts	5.5	2.2	6.9
Zone 2 Impacts	3.7	1.5	4.7
Total Impacts	9.2	3.7	11.6

Floodplain Impacts

Bypass Alternative	Floodplain (acres)
Alternative 1B-EXT	0
Alternative 4-EXT	0
Alternative 5-EXT	18.3

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice in the NCDWQ Central Office in Raleigh serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, Transportation Permitting Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Mr. John Hennessy by September 22, 2006.

Essential Fish Habitat

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and has determined that registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area and/or will be affected by the proposed work. Three properties were identified within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) that are considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): Charles McLawhorn Houses, Alfred McLawhorn House, and William Amos Shivers House. In 2002, two additional historic properties were identified within the APE, one of which, the Cox-Ange House, is listed on the NRHP. The other, A.W. Ange and Company Store Building, was included on the NC State Historic Preservation Office's (HPO) North Carolina Stuey List. These historic resources are described below. The HPO concurred with eligibility determinations in letters dated September 29, 1995 and August 23, 2002. The APE also includes a National Register listed historic district. The Renston Rural Historic District was placed on the National Register in 2003.

Historic Resource Impacts

Historic Feature	Alternate 1B-EXT	Alternate 4-EXT	Alternate 5-EXT
Renston Rural Historic District	AE	AE	NAE
Alfred McLawhorn House	NE	NE	NE
William Amos Shivers House	NE	NE	NAE
Cox-Ange House	NE	NE	NE
A.W. Ange & Company Store	NE	NE	NE
Charles McLawhorn Houses	NAE	NE	NE

AE = Adverse Effect, NAE = No Adverse Effect, NE = No Effect

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), that the proposed project will not affect federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat. Consultation under Section 7 of the ESA will be initiated and no permit will be issued until the consultation process is complete.

Evaluation

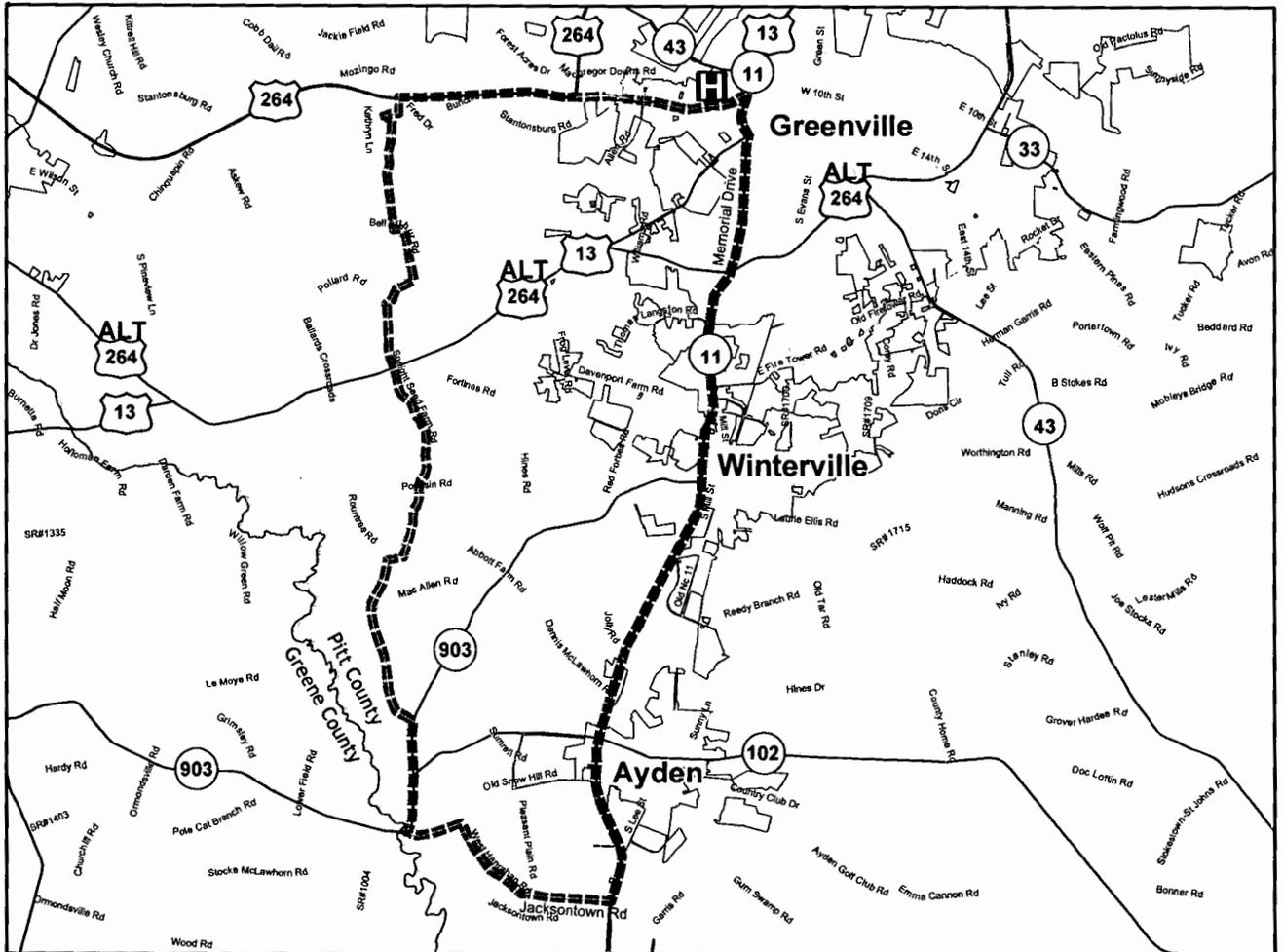
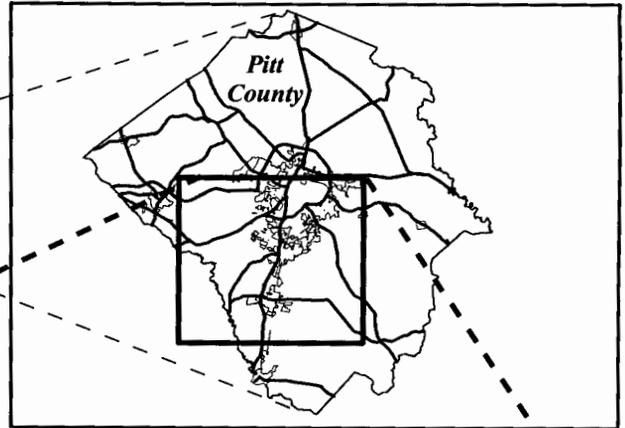
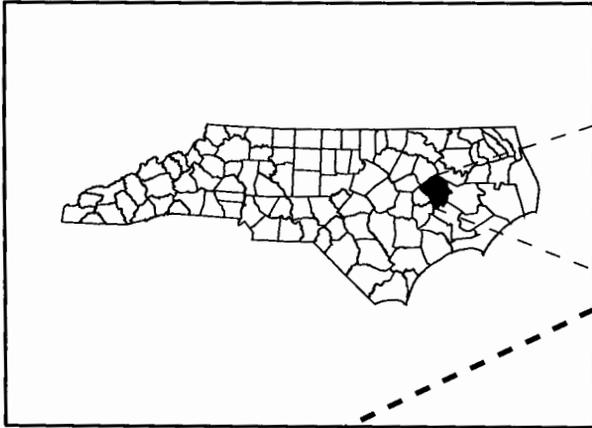
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

Commenting Information

In order to more fully integrate Section 404 permit requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to give careful consideration to our required public interest review and 404 (b)(1) compliance determination, the Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comment on the merits of the proposal and on the alternatives evaluated in the DEIS. At the close of this comment period, the District Engineer will evaluate and consider the comments received as well as the expected adverse and beneficial impacts of the proposed road construction to select the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative (LEDPA). The District Engineer is not authorizing construction of the R-2250 at this time. A final Department of the Army permit could be issued, if at all, only after our review process is complete, impacts to the aquatic environment have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable, and a compensatory mitigation plan has been approved.

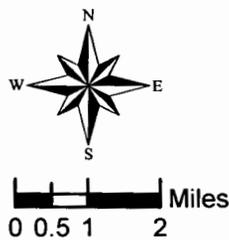
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, September 29, 2006. Comments should be submitted to US Army Corps of Engineer, attn: William Wescott Post Office Box 1000, Washington, NC 27889.



Legend

Project Study Area



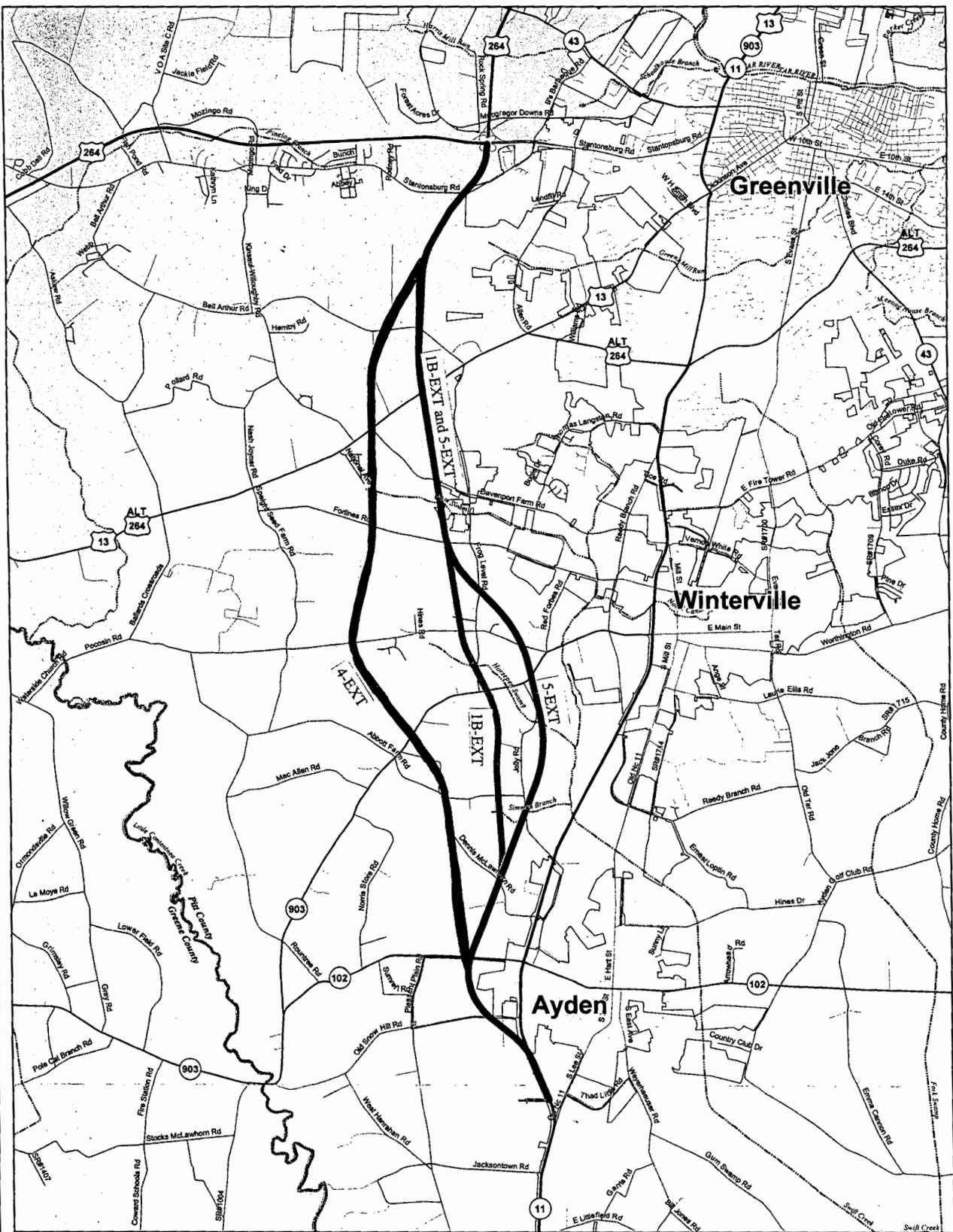
North Carolina
Department of Transportation

Greenville Southwest Bypass Study
(Improvements to NC 11 & US 264 Bus)

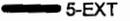
State Project No. 8.1221401
T.I.P. No. R-2250

Figure 1

Project Vicinity



Legend

-  1B-EXT
-  4-EXT
-  5-EXT



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

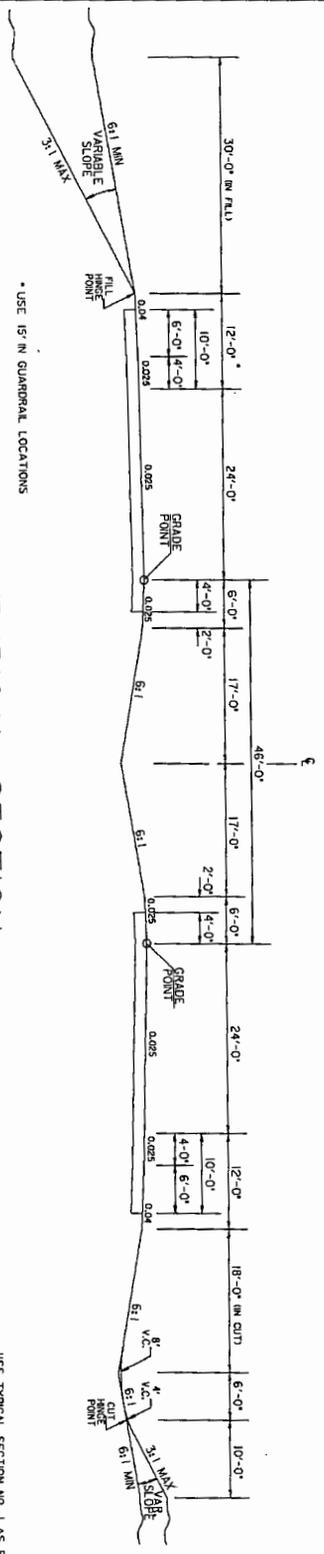
 North Carolina
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Greenville Southwest Bypass Study
(Improvements to NC 11 & US 264 Bus)

State Project No. 8.1221401
T.I.P. No. R-2250

Figure 2 Alternates Selected for Detailed Study

TYPICAL SECTION



• USE 15' IN GUARDRAIL LOCATIONS

USE TYPICAL SECTION NO. 1 AS FOLLOWS:
GREENVILLE SOUTHWEST BYPASS



North Carolina
Department of Transportation

Greenville Southwest Bypass Study
(Improvements to NC 11 & US 264 Bus)

State Project No. 8.1221401
T.J.P. No. R-2250

Figure 3

Build Alternate
Typical Section