



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE  
SECRETARY

MEMO TO: Public Input Participants

FROM: Bryan Sowell, PE  
Division 12, Project Engineer

DATE: December 9, 2022

SUBJECT: **Public Notice of Alternative Selection**  
STIP Project R-4045/BR-0012  
Improvements to US 74 and Replacement of Bridges 48 and 49 on  
US 74, Cleveland County

**Background**

Since the time of the public meeting, NCDOT gathered remaining input and has summarized the input in a Public Meeting Summary found on the project website. With the input in hand, NCDOT met the group of agencies who are responsible for ensuring the project upholds various regulatory requirements to reach concurrence on an alternative that represents the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative. The group includes the Federal Highway Administration as the lead federal agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, N.C. Division of Water Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, N.C. Historic Preservation Office, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, and the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Municipal Planning Organization.

There were four decisions to make:

1. Interchange Configuration;
2. Service Road for Duncan Road and the Cornerstone Baptist Church;
3. Service Road at East Main Street to Davis Mobile Home Park, and;
4. Service Road from Redbird Lane to mobile home at NW corner of bridges over Sandy Run Creek

Those decisions and the reasons for them are as follows:

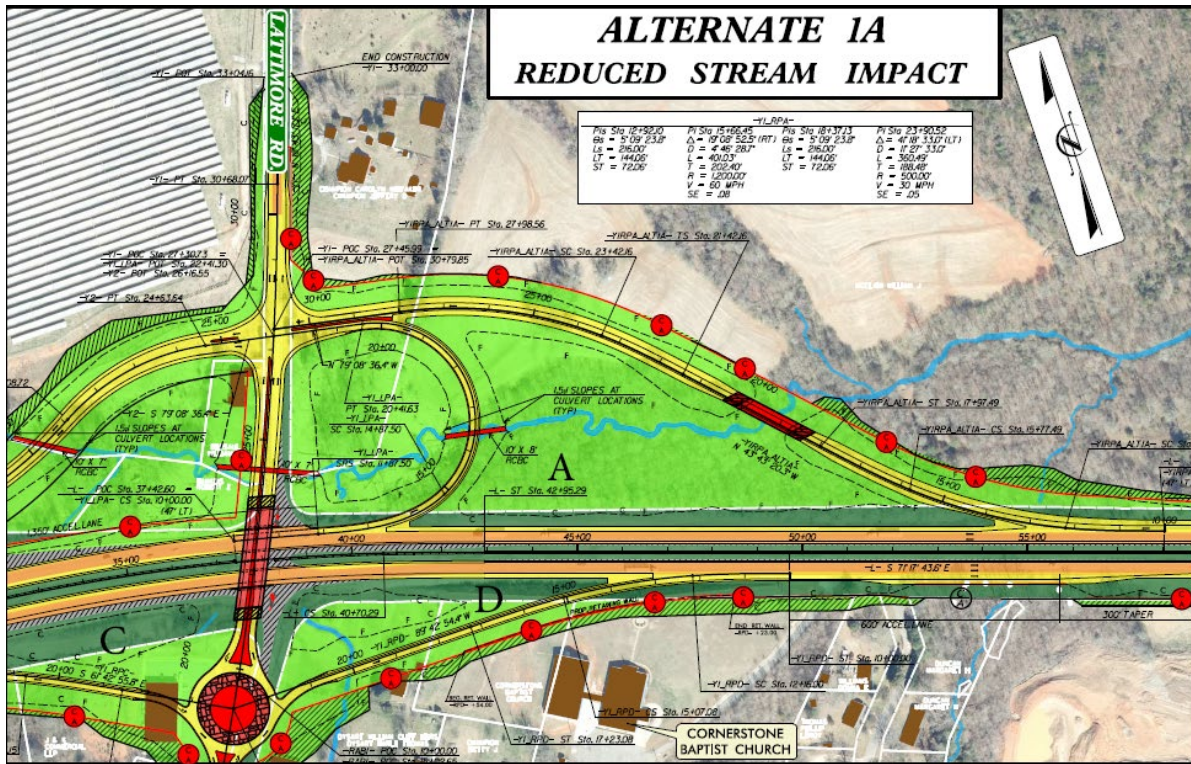
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**Interchange – Preferred Alternative**

77 of 91 citizens expressed support for Alternative 1. Alternative 1A has the same configuration as Alternative 1 but includes a bridge and other minimization which lower stream impacts but at a slightly higher cost. Because the cost of Alternative 1A was only slightly higher than Alternative 1 and because impacts of Alternate 1A are comparable to Alternate 2A, Alternative 1A is the Preferred Alternative.



**Service Road – Preferred Service Road for Cornerstone Baptist Church and Duncan Road**

88 of 91 citizens expressed support for Option 3. Option 3 has no relocatees and lower costs than Options 1 or 2 but does have 250 linear feet of stream impacts not found in Options 1 or 2. In view of the benefits of Option 3, the US Army Corps of Engineers requested that NCDOT analyze if impacts on the stream could be reduced. NCDOT evaluated and determined that if the eastern end of the alignment was shifted 100 feet south then impacts could be reduced to 145 linear feet. Option 3, with the modified eastern end (as shown below in color), is the Preferred Alternative. A larger scale version of this is attached at the end of this document.





**Service Road at East Main Street to Mobile Home Park**

6 of 6 residents that provided comment supported a service road from East Main Street to the Mobile Home Park. The service has no jurisdictional impacts and is justified from a cost perspective as well as from an avoidance of relocations. Therefore, the Service Road from East Main Street to the Davis Mobile Home Park will be built as proposed.



**Service Road - Redbird Ln. to mobile home at NW corner of bridges over Sandy Run Creek**

Based on conversations with the property holder and costs of construction, this service road will not be constructed as part of the project and the property owner will be relocated.

