



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

November 26, 2014

TO:

Senator Kathy Harrington
NC Senate
16 W. Jones St., Room 2113
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2808

Representative Frank Iler
NC House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 637
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Representative John A. Torbett
NC House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 538
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

Secretary Bill Daughtridge, Jr.
NC Department of Administration
116 W. Jones Street, Room 5106
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Fiscal Research Division
Legislative Office Building
300 North Salisbury Street, Suite 619
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

FROM: Michael L. Holder, PE
Chief Engineer

This letter serves as the Department's report on the identification of federally owned property that is necessary to construct or to manage existing and future transportation corridors on the Outer Banks as required by Session Law 2014-100, Section 14.7(h), which reads as follows:

SECTION 14.7.(h) Identification of Outer Banks Transportation Corridor. – No later than November 30, 2014, the Department of Transportation shall identify federally owned property that is necessary to construct or to manage existing and future transportation corridors on the Outer Banks and shall report this information to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, to the Secretary of the Department of Administration, and to the Fiscal Research Division.

Recognizing that NC 12 and the Oregon Inlet are important transportation corridors on the Outer Banks and the draft Dare County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, the Department has identified the following projects with locations that involve federally owned property:

B-2500 (Bonner Bridge Replacement Project)

Cape Hatteras National Seashore, US Fish & Wildlife Service and NCDOT have been finalizing a minor shift in the existing easements needed for the construction of the replacement of Bonner Bridge at Oregon Inlet. Tentative agreement was reached in March 2014 for an easement shift on Bodie Island, which is managed by Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Agreement was reached in September 2014, and is pending execution, for a minor easement shift on Pea Island which is managed by the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

B-2500A (Pea Island Long-Term Improvements, Bonner Bridge Replacement Project Phase IIa)

For the Bridge within Existing NC 12 Easement Alternative approximately 2.5 acres of temporary construction easement within the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is needed. Most of the temporary construction easement is located on each side of the existing temporary bridge location with the remainder required along the length of the west side of NCDOT's existing NC 12 easement. Temporary construction access is also required at three areas along the west of the project to access water in the Pamlico Sound necessary for pile jetting.

B-2500B (NC 12 – Rodanthe Breach Long-Term Improvements, Bonner Bridge Replacement Project Phase IIb)

The Department and FHWA have completed an Environmental Assessment for this phase of the NC 12 / Bonner Bridge replacement project. Two alternatives were considered in that document: 1) Bridge within Existing NC 12 Easement and 2) Bridge on New Location. Although NCDOT named the Bridge within Existing NC 12 Easement as its Preferred Alternative, consideration is still being given to both alternatives in light of comments received from the public and from resource and regulatory agencies. Depending on the final decision, estimated use of federally owned property is as follows:

- 1) Bridge within Existing NC 12 Easement Alternative – Approximately 2.1 acres of temporary construction easement within the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge would be needed for this option. The temporary construction easement is located along most of the length of this option on both sides of NCDOT's existing NC 12 easement.
- 2) Bridge on New Location Alternative – Approximately 2.8 acres of land within the boundary of the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge would be needed for this alternative. The new permanent easement consists of land at the northern terminus of the alternative west of the existing NC 12 easement and assumes an easement width of 100 feet. An additional 0.7 acres of temporary construction easement is also expected beyond the 2.8 acres of permanent easement.

R-3116A (Northern Ocracoke Island Hot Spot)

The Department is currently preparing a feasibility study considering both short-term (5 years) and long-term (50 years) options for stabilizing this area of Ocracoke Island that is prone to ocean overwash. Up to 60 acres of National Park Service lands within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore could be required as easement for the long-term options under consideration. During the project development process, alternatives may be added based on input from the public and agency stakeholders that could change this early estimate of needs.

R-4070B (Buxton/Avon Hot Spot)

The Department is currently preparing a feasibility study considering both short-term (5 years) and long-term (50 years) options for stabilizing this area of Hatteras Island. The draft of the feasibility study report estimates up to 50 acres of land within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore may be needed as easement for long-term alternatives under consideration. During the project development process, alternatives may be added based on input from the public and agency stakeholders that could change this early estimate of needs.

R-3116B (Hatteras Village Hot Spot)

The Department is currently preparing a feasibility study considering both short-term (5 years) and long-term (50 years) options for stabilizing this area of southern Hatteras Island. Up to 50 acres of land within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore may be needed as easement for long-term alternatives under consideration. During the project development process, alternatives may be added based on input from the public and agency stakeholders that could change this early estimate of needs.

Please advise if you have questions or need clarification on these matters.

MLH/GRP

Attachment- Map of NCDOT Projects on North Carolina's Outer Banks

cc: Mr. Keith Weatherly

Attachment:

Map of NCDOT Projects on North Carolina's Outer Banks



NCDOT Projects

- Bonner Bridge Replacement Project (STIP No. B-2500)
- Buxton to Avon Planning and Environmental Studies for Maintaining Roadway (STIP No. R-4070B)
- Ocracoke Island Hot Spot Interim Improvements (STIP No. R-3116A)
- Hatteras Village Hot Spot Interim Improvements (STIP No. R-3116B)