



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

South Carolina

October 31, 2024

1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1270
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
803-765-5411
803-253-3989

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Mr. Chad Long
Director Environmental Services Office
South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT)
955 Park Street, P.O. Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. Long:

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) recently submitted for FHWA's approval, a Non-Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (NPCE) for the emergency replacement of the US 76 Bridge over the Chauga River in Oconee County, South Carolina (Federal Project Number P043969). The FHWA finds that the project will not induce significant impacts and will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or cause adverse impacts to historic resources. Therefore, a CE determination under 23 CFR § 771.117(c)(28) and (c)(9) is appropriate for this project. Enclosed is the approved NPCE for the project.

SCDOT is authorized to proceed with further project development. Please ensure that the project commitments made during the NEPA process are included in the project construction proposal and ultimately carried out. Please address any questions to Mr. J. Shane Belcher at jeffrey.belcher@dot.gov or 803-253-3187.

Sincerely,

(for) Emily O. Lawton
Division Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Will McGoldrick, SCDOT Design-Build NEPA Coordinator



**NON-PROGRAMMATIC
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

Project ID No. P043969
Route: Road Name(s)

County: Oconee
Date: 10/30/24

To: Federal Highway Administration
From: Will McGoldrick, Design Build Environmental Coordinator; SCDOT
Description: US 76 over Chauga River Emergency Bridge Replacement

(SEE ATTACHMENT)

The Department proposes to demolish and replace the existing US 76 bridge over the Chauga River near the City of Westminster, South Carolina. The Department’s environmental review has determined the effects of this project are as described in the “Programmatic Agreement Between the Federal Highway Administration, South Carolina Division and the South Carolina Department of Transportation Regarding Approval of Actions Classified as Categorical Exclusions for Federal-Aid Highway Projects” dated May 23, 2016, and is in compliance with the required findings reflected below. The project has been assessed for possible effects on the human and natural environment with a determination that no significant environmental impact will occur. The class of action and impact determination documented by this statement would qualify this project as a categorical exclusion under 23 CFR 771, Section 117(c) Emergency Repairs under 23 USC 125.

Based on the lack of suitable habitat and no records of observations of the listed species in the project area, the proposed action will have no effect on any threatened or endangered species or critical habitats currently listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Oconee County.

The project will impact waters of the U.S. and will be covered by the Nationwide 3 authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, it has been determined that the undertaking will have not adverse effects to historic properties.

<p>10-31-24</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Will McGoldrick Digitally signed by Will McGoldrick Date: 2024.10.31 11:43:27 -04'00'</p> <hr/> <p>South Carolina Department of Transportation</p>
<p>10-31-24</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>J. Shane Belcher Digitally signed by J. Shane Belcher Date: 2024.10.31 12:11:27 -04'00'</p> <hr/> <p>Federal Highway Administration</p>

Date: 10/29/2024



Project ID: P043969 County: Oconee District: District 3 Doc Type: PCE Total # of Commitments: 6

Project Name: US 76 over Chauga River Emergency Bridge Replacement

The Environmental Commitment **Contractor Responsible** measures listed below **are to be included in the contract and must be implemented**. It is the responsibility of the Program Manager to make sure the Environmental Commitment **SCDOT Responsible** measures are adhered to. If there are questions regarding the commitments listed please contact:

CONTACT NAME: Tyler Clark

PHONE #: (803)-737-4596

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS FOR THE PROJECT

Water Quality

NEPA Doc Ref:

Responsibility:

SCDOT

The contractor will be required to minimize possible water quality impacts through implementation of BMPs, reflecting policies contained in 23 CFR 650B and the Department's Supplemental Specification on Erosion Control Measures (latest edition) and Supplemental Technical Specifications on Seeding (latest edition). Other measures including seeding, silt fences, sediment basins, etc. as appropriate will be implemented during construction to minimize impacts to water quality.

Special Provision

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

NEPA Doc Ref:

Responsibility:

CONTRACTOR

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 USC § 703-711, states that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 in regard to the avoidance of taking of individual migratory birds and the destruction of their active nests.

The contractor shall notify the Resident Construction Engineer (RCE) at least four (4) weeks prior to construction/demolition/maintenance of bridges and box culverts. The RCE will coordinate with SCDOT Environmental Services Office (ESO), Compliance Division, to determine if there are any active birds using the structure. After this coordination, it will be determined when construction/demolition/maintenance can begin. If a nest is observed that was not discovered after construction/demolition/maintenance has begun, the contractor will cease work and immediately notify the RCE, who will notify the ESO Compliance Division. The ESO Compliance Division will determine the next course of action.

The use of any deterrents by the contractor designed to prevent birds from nesting, shall be approved by the RCE with coordination from the ESO Compliance Division. The cost for any contractor provided deterrents will be provided at no additional cost to SCDOT.

Special Provision

Stormwater

NEPA Doc Ref:

Responsibility:

SCDOT

Stormwater control measures, both during construction and post-construction, are required for SCDOT projects with land disturbance and/or constructed in the vicinity of 303(d), TMDL, ORW, tidal, and other sensitive waters in accordance with the SCDOT's MS4 Permit. The selected contractor would be required to minimize potential stormwater impacts through implementation of construction best management practices, reflecting policies contained in 23 CFR 650 B and SCDOT's Supplemental Specifications on Seed and Erosion Control Measures (latest edition).

Special Provision

Project ID: P043969

SCDOT
NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS
FORM



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS FOR THE PROJECT

Cultural Resources

NEPA Doc Ref:

Responsibility:

CONTRACTOR

The contractor and subcontractors must notify their workers to watch for the presence of any prehistoric or historic remains, including but not limited to arrowheads, pottery, ceramics, flakes, bones, graves, gravestones, or brick concentrations during the construction phase of the project, if any such remains are encountered, the Resident Construction Engineer (RCE) will be immediately notified and all work in the vicinity of the discovered materials and site work shall cease until the SCDOT Archaeologist directs otherwise.

Special Provision

Floodplains

NEPA Doc Ref:

Responsibility:

SCDOT

The Engineer of Record will send a set of final plans and request for floodplain management compliance to the local County Floodplain Administrator.

Special Provision

Non-Standard Commitment

NEPA Doc Ref:

Responsibility:

CONTRACTOR

Historic Resource Protection

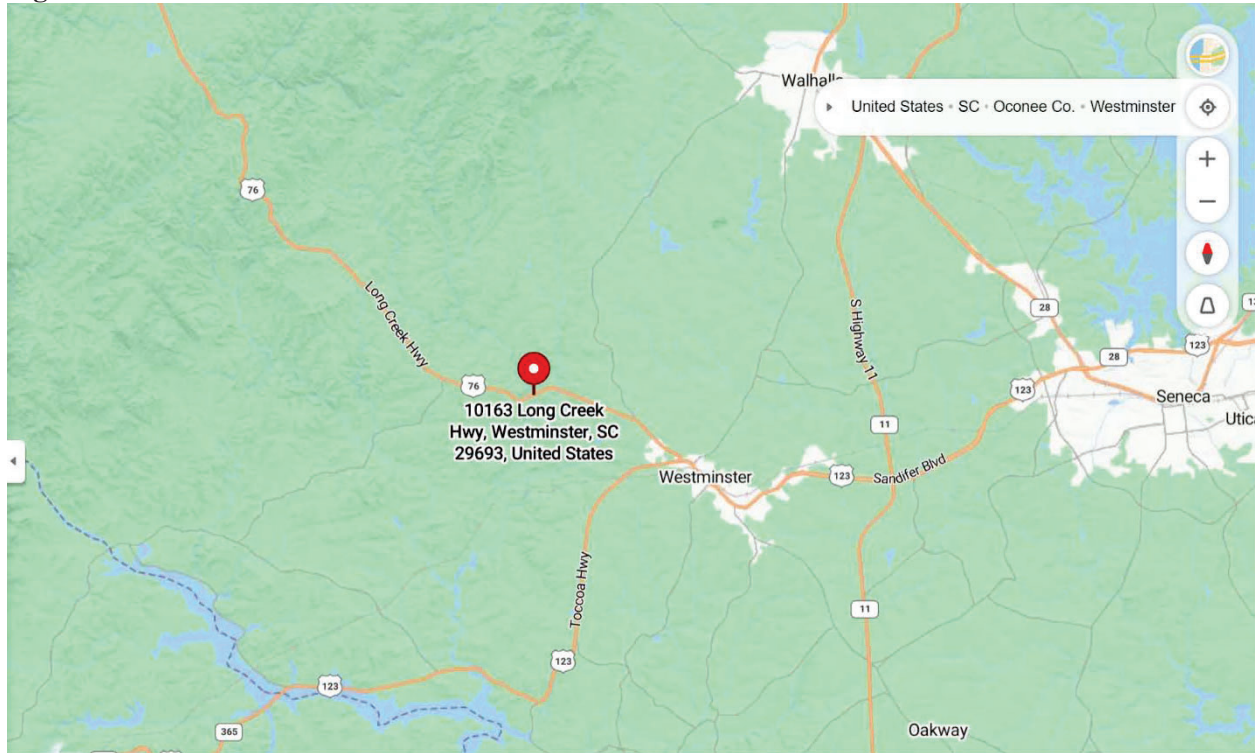
The project planners will be required to design the project to avoid impacts to the 1928 bridge unless authorized by SCDOT.

Special Provision

Project Description

The South Carolina Department of Transportation proposes to demolish and replace the existing US 76 bridge to the west of the City of Westminster, SC. The bridge suffered damage during Hurricane Helene in September 2024 and was immediately closed to traffic due to safety concerns. The bridge is located in the northwestern portion of Oconee County. A location map of the site is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the bridge to good condition and to correct deficiencies in structurally compromised components and lost roadway portions at the approaches in order to re-open the bridge and roadway to travelling public.

The need for the project originates from damage to the structure. The bridge was irreparably damaged during Hurricane Helene in September of 2024. Storm waters and debris undermined the bridge bents resulting in damage to the bridge abutment and the loss of one bridge span. Additionally heavy rain washed out portions of the roadbed, shoulder slopes, and embankment. The bridge was immediately closed after inspections to protect users as portions of the roadway were not traversable.

Reasonable Availability of Funding

FHWA requires demonstration of fiscal constraint at the NEPA stage of project development. This project has been deemed an emergency replacement and FHWA has agreed to fund the project through the use of emergency relief (ER) funds.

Acquisitions and Displacements

It has been determined that the project would not result in the relocation or displacement of commercial or residential establishments. The majority of the project would be constructed within existing right-of-way. Minor strips of new right-of-way would be required.

Public Involvement

A website was developed and placed on the SCDOT Projects Portal to provide an opportunity for the public to view project updates and information. A press release was issued also notifying the public about the project. No public comments were received.

Cultural Resources

Background research of the project study area was performed through a review of ArchSite, Google Earth, and historic topographic maps. The review determined that the project had not been previously surveyed for cultural resources and none were noted within the half mile search. Archaeological field reconnaissance was done on 10-8-24 and no new resources were identified. Architectural resources were surveyed on 10-8-24 and three (3) were identified.

Site 0191 was identified as the 1928 bridge crossing the river on an old US 76 alignment. The alignment was shifted in 1965 when the existing bridge was constructed. Site 0192 is a short section of the old alignment that was left in place in 1965. It mainly consists of the former roadbed for approximately 700 feet. Site 0193 was identified as a circa 1955 barn on private property.

Of the three sites, 0191 was the only one determined eligible as a historic property. Based on coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Department's archaeologist concluded that no additional cultural resources investigations were necessary and that the undertaking would result in no adverse effects to Site 0191. A Cultural Resources Short Form was completed in accordance with the Section 106 Regulations and concurrence obtained from the SHPO. For additional information regarding the resources and concurrence see Attachment 1.

Section 4(f)/6(f)

One Section 4(f) resource was identified within the project boundary. The old 1928 US 76 bridge (Site 0191) qualifies as a historic property and meets the definition of a 4(f) resource under 23 CFR 774.5(c). The project construction is being developed to avoid the old bridge, therefore there are no anticipated impacts to the resource. In consultation with FHWA, it has been determined that there will be no Section 4(f) use due to the avoidance of the old 1928 bridge (Site 0191).

Due to potential scour and resiliency concerns associated with the 1928 bridge, SCDOT plans to investigate an option to demolish the historic bridge. If demolition of the 1928 bridge is determined to be a feasible option, SCDOT will re-initiate Section 106 consultation with the SHPO and federally-recognized tribes. If Section 106 consultation results in an adverse effect determination, SCDOT will resolve adverse effects through the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). A Programmatic 4(f) Evaluation will also be prepared if demolition of the bridge is determined to be a feasible option.

No Section 6(f) properties are located within the project limits and thus there are no anticipated impacts to these resources.

Wetlands and Streams

A Permit Determination was completed for the Project Study Area (PSA) on October 11, 2024. The Chauga River was identified as the only jurisdictional feature in the study area. The bridge will be constructed to avoid impacts to Waters of the U.S. (WOUS). Therefore, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit is *not* required to construct the project. The Permit Determination is in Attachment 2.

Water Quality

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) conducts water quality assessments and protection on a watershed basis. SCDES has assigned a classification to each State Water based on the desired uses of each waterbody, not on natural or existing water quality. Classifications protect waters for recreation, ecological resources, fish and aquatic life survival and propagation, and industrial and agricultural uses. Each classification has specific pollutant thresholds. Waters that exceed the threshold

for their specific classification are targeted for water quality management action and are listed on the State of South Carolina Section 303(d) list. Monitoring stations around the state provide the data necessary to assess the quality of surface waters.

In October 2024, the SCDES' Water Quality and Watersheds tools were accessed to determine if any impaired waters were located downstream of the project area. No impaired waters were identified within the required downstream analysis (see Attachment 3). Chauga River is classified as Fresh Water (FW) according to SCDES' water classification system (R.61-68-Water Classifications and Standards, effective June 27, 2014)¹.

The proposed project is not expected to have long term impacts to water quality in the watersheds. Stormwater control measures, both during construction and post-construction, are required for SCDOT projects constructed in the vicinity of 303(d), TMDL, ORW, tidal, and other sensitive waters in accordance with the SCDOT's MS4 Permit.

Floodplains

The proposed project area is located within Zone A. This designation indicates a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that does not have base flood elevations established. SFHAs are defined as the area that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. A copy of the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map can be found in Attachment 4. The proposed project will not impact the floodplain.

Threatened, Endangered, and Protected Species

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a field survey was conducted within the study area. No suitable habitat for the protected plant species was located in the study area. Habitat for the non-listed tricolor bat was suitable but limited. The bridge was inspected for presence and suitability but no species or indications of presence were found. Therefore, based on the lack of suitable habitat and no records of observations of the listed species located in the project area, the proposed action will have no effect upon any threatened or endangered species or critical habitats currently listed by the USFWS for Oconee County. Results are included in Attachment 5.

Noise

Since the bridge will be replaced on alignment and the vertical and horizontal elevations will remain approximately the same, no noise impact analysis was completed. There will be no noise impacts from the construction of the project.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to ensure its actions do not result in disproportionate or adverse effects to minority or low-income communities.² Low-income population percentages and socioeconomic data was obtained through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Justice (EJ)-Screening Tool. See Table 1 and Attachment 6 - EJ Screen Report for summaries of these results.

¹SCDHEC, <https://live-sc-dhec.pantheonsite.io/sites/default/files/media/document/R.61-68.pdf>, last assessed January 7, 2019

² Minority Populations - According to the U.S. Census Bureau, population of people who are not single-race white and not Hispanic. Populations of individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic.

Low-Income - A reference to populations characterized by limited economic resources. The US Office of Management and Budget has designated the Census Bureau's annual poverty measure as the official metric for program planning and analysis.

Table 1. EPA EJ Screening Tool Results

Identifier	Study Region	Statewide average
Minority population	3 %	39 %
Low-income population	61 %	36 %

The EJ study area is much larger than the project study area since it is based on analysis at the blockgroup level; whereas the project study area is more immediate to the bridge location. There are both minority and low-income populations within the EJ study area. The percentages of minority populations are below the statewide average but the low-income populations are higher than the statewide average. However, there are no disproportionate and adverse impacts to an EJ community. The bridges would be replaced near the current alignment, with minimal right of way needed. Benefits and impacts of construction would be experienced by all users. Overall benefits to EJ populations and other users include re-opening the roadway and providing safe structures to use. There would be no impacts to community cohesion, access to community facilities, no additional disruption of emergency services travel patterns, and minimal temporary impacts to overall travel patterns in the study area. It is determined that there is not a disproportionate or adverse impact to EJ populations.

Land Use

The bridge is located outside the city of Westminster, South Carolina. Land use in the immediate vicinity is comprised of forested, residential and agricultural properties. The project will not modify existing land use or change the timing or density of development in the area. The project is not in conflict with any plan, existing land use, or zoning regulation.

Farmlands

The project has been assessed under the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981. The FPPA outlines several different criteria that determine the presence of prime farmland. Prime farmland is land that is best suited for producing high yield crops because of soil quality, growing season, and moisture content. The area evaluated for farmland conversion totals 27 acres. Only 1.7 acres were identified as being farmland of statewide importance. A Farmland Conversion Rating form was completed and resulted in a total point assessment of less than 160 thereby not resulting in an impact to farmland requiring coordination with Natural Resources Conservation Service. See Attachment 7 for information regarding the analysis.

Hazardous Materials

A desktop survey of the anticipated right-of-way for the proposed project was conducted to identify regulated sites involving the presence and/or past use of underground storage tanks (USTs), above-ground storage tanks (ASTs), and/or hazardous materials. No sites were identified or determined to be present. If avoidance of hazardous materials is not a viable alternative and soils that appear to be contaminated are encountered during construction, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will be informed. Hazardous materials will be tested and removed and/or treated in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the SCDES requirements, if necessary.

Supplemental Information

Other supplemental information used in evaluating the project can be found in Attachment 8.

Attachment 1

October 22, 2024

Ms. Mary Sherrer
Review Coordinator for Transportation Projects
State Historic Preservation Office
SC Department of Archives & History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223

RE: Cultural Resources Survey of the US 76 over Chauga River Emergency Bridge Replacement Project, Oconee County, South Carolina

SCDOT Project #: P043969

Dear Ms. Sherrer:

Please find attached a copy of the above referenced report that describes cultural resources investigations conducted for the emergency replacement of the US 76 (Long Creek Highway) bridge over the Chauga River in Oconee County.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) proposes the emergency replacement of the US 76 bridge over the Chauga River. The existing US 76 bridge was irreparably damaged due to flooding associated with Hurricane Helene. Proposed repairs would include replacing the bridge, bridge abutments, and guardrail, as well as restoring washed out road bed and shoulder slopes. The project area is defined as that area within 100 feet of the either side of the proposed roadway centerline, with an additional 75 feet to the south of the proposed new bridge, and extending 1,320 feet from either end of the bridge. The archaeological survey covered the entire project area, while the architectural survey examined the Area of Potential Effects (APE), which includes a 300 viewshed buffer around the project area.

The archaeological survey did not identify any archaeological sites within the project area. The historic architectural survey identified three new architectural resources, SHPO Site Nos. 0191-0193. SHPO Site Nos. 0192, an older alignment of US 76 and 0193, a circa-1955 barn, are recommended **not eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). SHPO Site No. 0191 is a former US 76 bridge over the Chauga River constructed in 1928. The structure is the earliest surviving example of a reinforced concrete T-beam bridge in Oconee County and is recommended **eligible** for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C at the local level and requires additional research to determine its eligibility for listing under Criterion A.

SHPO Site No. 0191 is located within the project's APE and it is anticipated that additional right-of-way will need to be purchased at the resource location to allow maintenance access to the newly constructed bridge. However, project planners will be required to design the project to avoid impacts to the 1928 bridge, ensuring that it will be protected during construction of the new US 76 bridge over the Chauga River. Protective measures will include avoidance notices within project plans and on-site flagging/signage to notify project teams of the need for avoiding impacts to the historic bridge. With these protective measures in place there will be **no adverse effects** to SHPO Site No. 0191.



Based on SHPO concurrence with the proposed project's effect determination, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) intends to make a de minimus finding regarding impacts to this site, thus satisfying the requirements of Section 4(f).

Per the terms of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on October 6, 2017, the Department is providing this information on behalf of the FHWA. It is requested that you review the enclosed material, and, if appropriate, indicate your concurrence in the Department's findings. Please respond within 30 days if you have any objections or if you have need of additional information.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Shepherd
Chief Archaeologist

RES:res
Enclosures: Cultural resources survey report

I (~~do not~~) concur in the above determination.

Signed:  Date: 10/25/24

ec: Shane Belcher, FHWA
Russell Townsend, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Stephen J. Yerka, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Elizabeth Toombs, Cherokee Nation
LeeAnne Wendt, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Acee Watt, United Keetoowah
Whitney Warrior, United Keetoowah

cc: Wenonah G. Haire, Catawba Nation
Keith Derting, SCIAA



CULTURAL RESOURCES FIELD REPORT
SCDOT ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION


TITLE: Cultural Resources Survey of the US 76 over Chauga River Emergency Bridge Replacement Project

DATE OF RESEARCH: October 8, 2024

ARCHAEOLOGIST: Rebecca Shepherd, Tracy Martin

COUNTY: Oconee

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN: David Kelly

PIN: P043969

PROJECT: US 76 over Chauga River Emergency Bridge Replacement

DESCRIPTION: The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) proposes the emergency replacement of the US 76 (Long Creek Highway) bridge over the Chauga River (**Figure 1**). The existing US 76 bridge was irreparably damaged due to flooding associated with Hurricane Helene. Storm waters and debris undermined the bridge bents resulting in damage to the bridge abutment and the loss of one bridge span. Additionally heavy rain washed out portions of the roadbed, shoulder slopes, and embankment. Proposed repairs would include replacing the bridge, bridge abutments, and guardrail, as well as restoring washed out road bed and shoulder slopes. The project area is defined as that area within 100 feet of the either side of the proposed roadway centerline, with an additional 75 feet to the south of the proposed new bridge, and extending 1,320 feet from either end of the bridge. The archaeological survey covered the entire project area, while the architectural survey examined the Area of Potential Effects (APE), which includes a 300 viewshed buffer around the project area.

LOCATION: The project area is located in the northwestern portion of Oconee County approximately 3.25 miles northwest of the town of Westminster.

USGS QUADRANGLE: Holly Springs, SC

DATE: 1963

SCALE: 7.5

UTM: DATUM: NAD83

ZONE: 17N

PROJECT CENTERPOINT: EASTING: 302900 **NORTHING:** 3840288

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The project area is situated in the Piedmont physiographic region, although it is in close proximity to the Blue Ridge physiographic region. Elevations within the project area range from 720 to 820 feet about mean sea level (amsl). The eastern landscape of the project area is primarily characterized as rural residential. However, a commercial logging operation, The Wood Yard, is located within the northeastern quadrant of the project area. The western half of the project area is wooded and undeveloped.

NEAREST RIVER/STREAM AND DISTANCE: The Chauga River bisects the project area. The Chauga River is a tributary of the Tugaloo River and flows southward to Lake Hartwell.

SOIL TYPE: The project area is comprised of nine soil types, all of which are well drained. However most are characterized as significantly sloped and moderately to severely eroded. A small portion of the project area (6.2 percent) has soils classified as frequently flooded (**Table 1; Figure 2**).

Table 1. Soils Mapped in the Project Area

Symbol	Soil Type	Drainage Class	Notes	Acres in Project Area	Percent of Project Area
CcD3	Cecil clay loam	Well drained	10 to 15 percent slopes, severely eroded	5.5	43.8
CdC2	Cecil sandy loam	Well drained	6 to 10 percent slopes, moderately eroded	0.2	1.3
CdF	Cecil sandy loam	Well drained	25 to 35 percent slopes	0.0	0.4
Gh	Gullied land, hilly	Well drained		1.7	13.7
HcF	Hayesville and Cecil fine sandy loams	Well drained	25 to 45 percent slopes	0.0	0.1
LcE3	Lloyd clay loam	Well drained	15 to 35 percent slopes, severely eroded	1.2	9.2
LdF	Lloyd sandy loam	Well drained	25 to 35 percent slopes	2.7	21.0
Mv	Riverview-Chewacla complex	Well drained	0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	0.8	6.2
PaD	Pacolet sandy loam	Well drained	15 to 25 percent slopes	0.0	0.0
W	Water			0.6	4.4
Total				12.7	100.0

REFERENCE FOR SOILS INFORMATION:

USDA-NCRS Soil Survey Division, Custom Soil Resources Report (websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov)

GROUND SURFACE VISIBILITY: 1-25% ___ 26-50% X 51-75% ___ 76-100% ___

CURRENT VEGETATION: The vegetation in the project area primarily consists of mixed pine and hardwoods with a moderately dense understory. The western half of the project area is heavily wooded,

while the eastern half consists of a mix of wooded areas, manicured lawns, a timber farm, and a plowed field (**Figures 3-6**).

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION: Background research was conducted prior to the field investigation using the online ArchSite GIS database maintained by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH). The background investigation indicated that the project has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources and that no previously recorded resources are located within the half mile search radius.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: An archaeological reconnaissance of the project area was conducted on October 8, 2024. Survey methods consisted of pedestrian reconnaissance of the entire project area augmented by the excavation of shovel tests at 30 meter intervals. Shovel tests were not excavated within areas with a steep slopes (15 percent or greater), wetlands, manicured yards, or areas with obvious ground disturbance.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS: The western half of the project area was found to exhibit significantly steep slopes and was not shovel tested. Slopes within the eastern half of the project area were more gentle, however much of the land within the project area exhibited significant disturbance from roadside ditches, buried utility lines, paved/graveled driveways, and erosion. Pedestrian survey was conducted in these areas. A plowed field located on the northeast bank of Chauga River was the only location suitable for shovel testing. Three shovel tests were placed in this location (**Figure 7**). Shovel test profiles varied slightly, but generally consisted of two strata. Stratum I was a reddish brown (5YR 4/4) sandy loam present up to 40 centimeters below surface (cmbs) overlying a yellowish red (5YR 4/6) sandy clay subsoil. All excavated shovel tests were negative for cultural material.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY: A historic architectural survey was conducted on October 8, 2024 to identify all above-ground resources 50 years of age or older located with the project's APE. Such resources were documented with South Carolina State Survey forms and photography and assessed for NRHP eligibility in accordance with the *South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Survey Manual: South Carolina Statewide Survey of Historic Places*.

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY RESULTS: Three new architectural resources, SHPO Site Nos. 0191-0193, were recorded (see **Figure 7**). The bridge to be replaced (Asset ID: 4624) was constructed in 1965 and was not evaluated per the exemptions associated with the Federal Highway Administration's Post-1945 Bridges Program Comment. This 5-span pre-cast concrete T-beam structure measures approximately 250 feet in length and 30 feet in width and is a common bridge type for the period.

SHPO Site No. 0191 – Former US 76 Bridge over the Chauga River

Situated between 20 to 55 feet south of the current US 76 over Chauga River bridge, stands SHPO Site No. 0191, the former US 76 over Chauga River bridge. This earlier structure is a five-span, reinforced concrete T-beam bridge with a “cathedral” type railing that was constructed in 1928. It measures approximately 250 feet in length and 25 feet in width. Other architectural features include a cosmetic arch feature running between the sub-structural bridge support columns, a utilitarian capitol feature on each of those columns, and concrete corbel supports for the bridge railing. A panel with the construction date of 1928 is stamped on the railing at either end of the bridge. **Figures 8-11** show the resource at the time of survey.

SHPO Site No. 0191 was replaced by the existing US 76 bridge over the Chauga River in 1964, a construction event that shifted the alignment of US 76 to the north. SCDOT records could not explain why the 1928 bridge was left in place when the new bridge was built. Although SHPO Site No. 0191 has

not been utilized as a highway bridge since 1964, it still retains a good level of overall integrity. Except for a small section of the eastern bridge approach that was removed to prevent motorists from driving across the structure, the bridge is surprisingly intact for its age.

Reinforced concrete T-beam bridges, along with steel stringer bridges, were innovations of the 1920s era of South Carolina bridge building and their designs would be standardized over the years to become the predominant bridge type in South Carolina. SHPO Site No. 0191 is an early example of the concrete T-beam bridge type. Although there are earlier extant examples of concrete T-beam bridges across the state, SHPO Site No. 0191 appears to be the earliest surviving bridge of this type in Oconee County. This bridge would have been designed under the leadership of Captain Joseph Barnwell, who served as the State Bridge Engineer from 1919 to 1935. One of Barnwell's goals was to develop standardized plans and specifications to be used for bridge construction by the county Highway Department offices. The standardized approach developed during this period would guide the improvement of South Carolina's highway bridges through the 1950s (TransSystems 2006). In South Carolina the earliest standardized plans for T-beam bridges were developed by 1917 and these standards were used ubiquitously through the 1920s and 1930 (TransSystems/Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers 2014). The plans for the design of the piers and bents of SHPO Site No. 0191, which were drafted in 1927 and approved by Joseph Barnwell, can be seen in **Figure 12**.

The 1928 US 76 Bridge over the Chauga River, is a notable early example of an innovative bridge design and the earliest surviving example of a reinforced concrete T-beam bridge in Oconee County. Therefore, SHPO Site No. 0191 is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C for significance in architectural design on the local level. Although the bridge was constructed using standardized plans developed under the leadership of Captain Joseph Barnwell, who was an important figure in the development of early twentieth century bridge design in South Carolina, the connection of Barnwell to this single bridge is not strong enough to convey this significance. Therefore, SHPO Site No. 0191 is recommended not eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion B. The bridge is recommended as unevaluated under Criterion A. Although beyond the scope of this emergency bridge replacement project, further research into why the bridge was built and its relationship to the role of US 76 and the increasing use of automobile transportation in Oconee County could show that the bridge is significant to the development of the transportation network in Oconee County.

SHPO Site No. 0192 – Former Alignment of US 76

SHPO Site No. 0192 is a short segment of the original alignment of US 76. The former road segment is approximately 700 feet in length and approximately 20 feet wide. The eastern end of the segment begins at the western termination of the 1928 US 76 over the Chauga River bridge (SHPO Site No. 0191) and circles to the west and peters out into a exposed surface driveway. In some portions of the road alignment asphalt is still present and visible, particularly in the section close the bridge. However, the asphalt along most of the roadbed is either covered in soil or has been removed. Evidence of the road cut can be seen along much of the roadbed. According to the SCDOT plans library, this section of US 76 was constructed 1928 concurrently with the former US 76 over Chauga River bridge. When the existing US 76 over Chauga River bridge was constructed in 1964 the road alignment was shifted to the north, cutting off this segment. **Figures 13-14** show the resource at the time of survey.

SHPO Site No. 0192 is currently unused as a roadway and moderately overgrown with vegetation. It is in a poor state of preservation and lacks integrity. SHPO Site No. 0192 does not embody any distinctive characteristics of a period or method of construction. Furthermore, it is not known to be associated with persons or events significant to the history of the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, or C.

SHPO Site No. 0193 – 847 Castle Rock Circle

SHPO Site No. 0193 is a circa 1955 barn set back approximately 45 feet south of US 76 (Long Creek Highway), but associated with the non-historic residence at 847 Castle Rock Circle. The structure is present on a 1956 aerial photograph, therefore a construction date of circa 1955 has been applied. The barn features a square plan with a gable front and includes three bays (two of which are completely open), and a hayloft area with access fenestration over the central bay of the structure. The roof is standing seam metal and wooden rafter tails are seen at its sides. Two enclosed stalls with open entryways are present inside the structure. It appears that the barn's primary functions would have been storage of farm machinery and hay. **Figures 15-16** show the resource at the time of survey.

SHPO Site No. 0193 does not embody any distinctive characteristics of a period or method of construction. Furthermore, it is not known to be associated with persons or events significant to the history of the area. Therefore, this resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, or C.

REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The cultural resources survey resulted in the identification of no archaeological sites and three architectural resources (SHPO Site Nos. 0191-0193). SHPO Site Nos. 0192 and 0193 are recommended not eligible for listing on the NRHP. SHPO Site No. 0191, the 1928 bridge over the Chauga River, is recommended eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C at the local level and requires additional research to determine its eligibility for listing under Criterion A.

SHPO Site No. 0191 is located within the project's APE and it is anticipated that additional right-of-way will need to be purchased at the resource location to allow maintenance access to the newly constructed bridge. However, project planners will be required to design the project to avoid impacts to the 1928 bridge, ensuring that it will be protected during construction of the new US 76 bridge over the Chauga River. Protective measures will include avoidance notices within project plans and on-site flagging/signage to notify project teams of the need for avoiding impacts to the historic bridge. With these protective measures in place there will be no adverse effects to SHPO Site No. 0191.

SIGNATURE:



DATE: 10-22-2024

References Cited

TransSystems

2006 *South Carolina Historic Bridge Survey Statewide: Historic Context for Transportation Networks in South Carolina*. Report prepared for SCDOT.

TransSystems and Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers

2014 *South Carolina Historic Bridge Survey Statewide: Historic Context for Bridge Building Technology in South Carolina*. Report prepared for SCDOT.

United States Geologic Survey (USGS)

1956 Aerial Photo Single Frames. Entity ID 1VLD000010139, Project VLD00, Roll 000001, Frame 139, Scale 3200, Retrieved from USGS Earth Explorer <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>

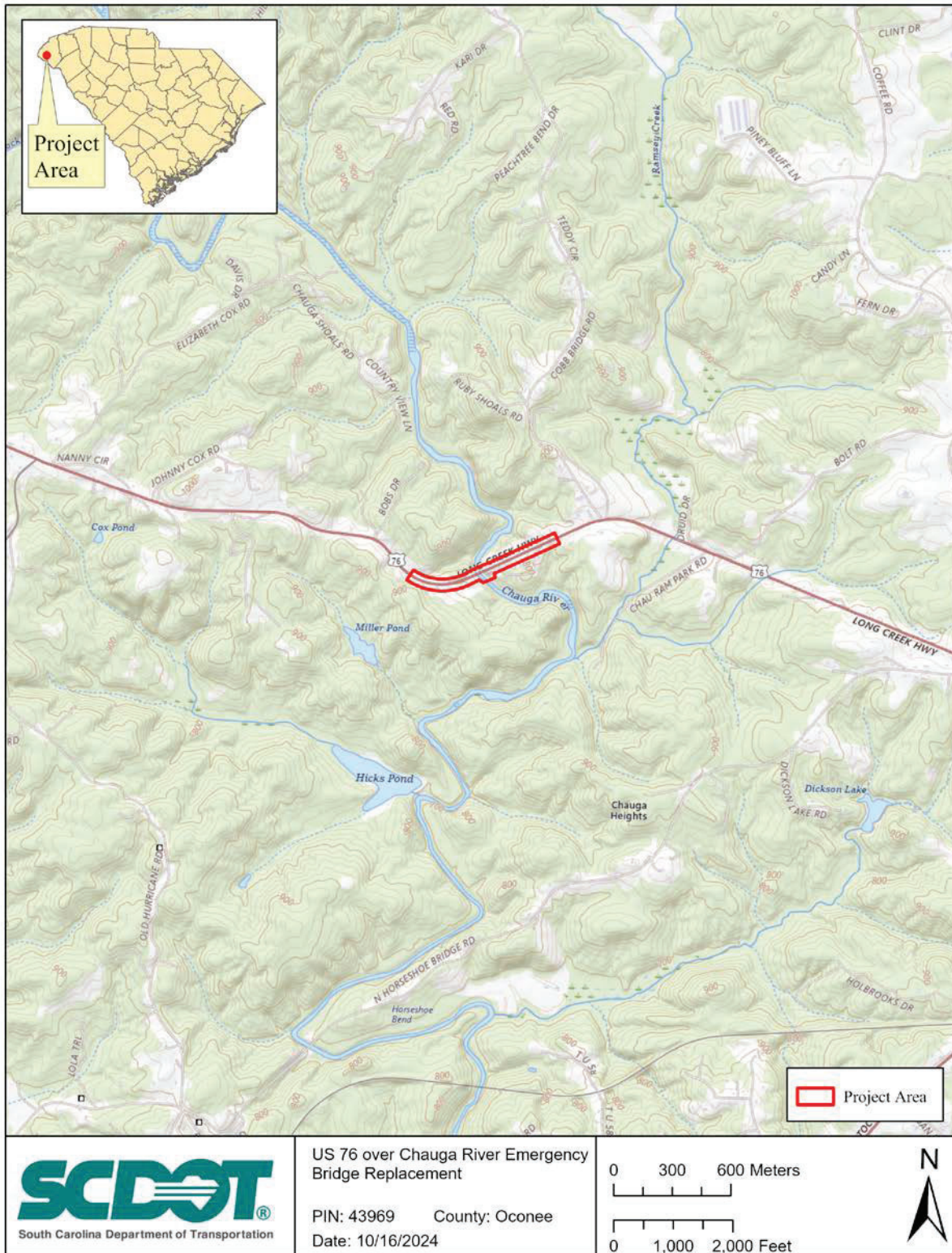


Figure 1. Project Location



Figure 2. Soils Mapped in the Project Area



Figure 3. View of Project Area, looking west toward bridge



Figure 4. View of Project Area, looking west from bridge



Figure 5. View of Project Area, looking east from bridge



Figure 6. View of Project Area, looking south toward bridge from plowed field

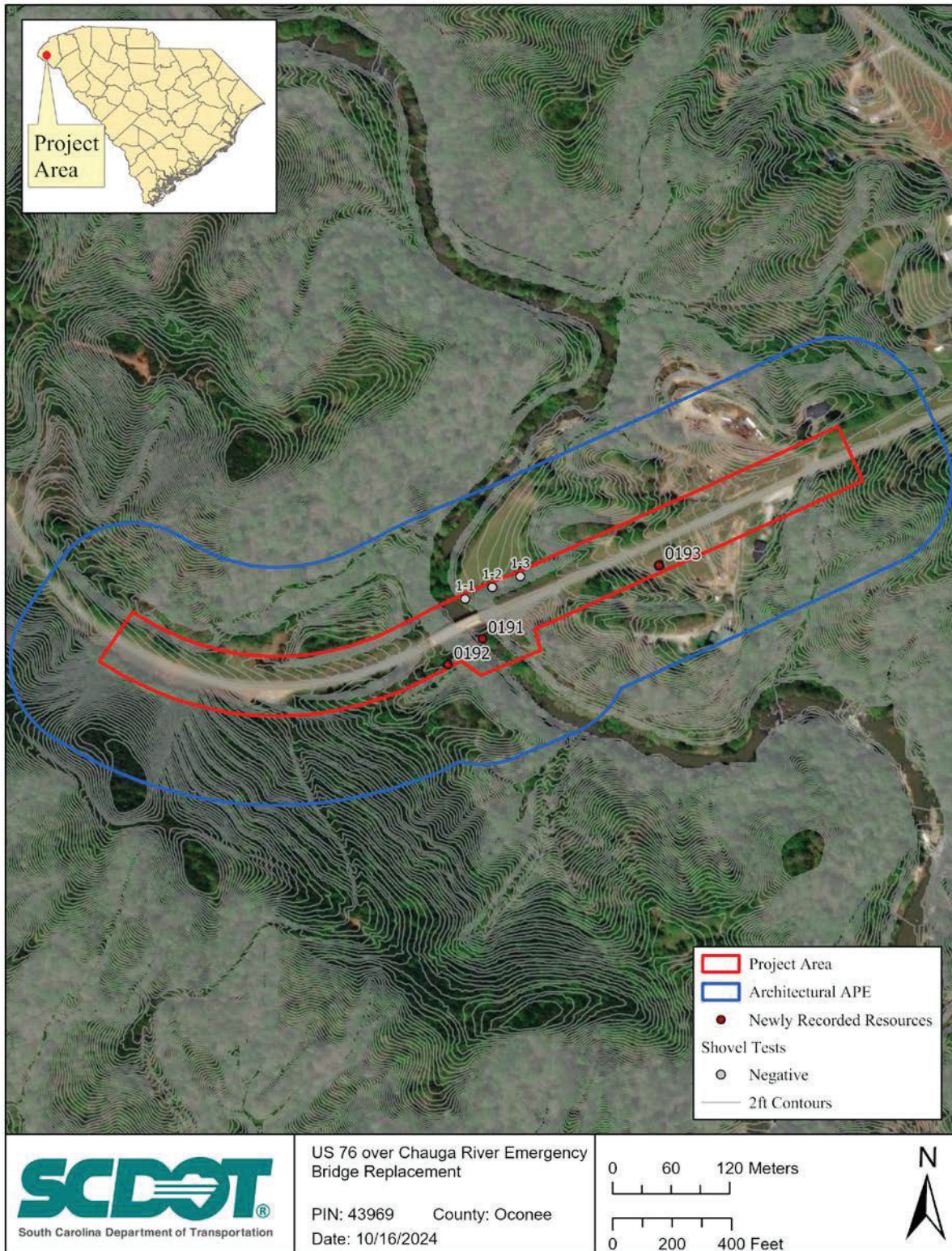


Figure 7. Shovel Test Results and Newly Recorded Resources



Figure 8. SHPO Site No. 0191, looking northwest



Figure 9. SHPO Site No. 0191, looking southeast



Figure 10. SHPO Site No. 0191, substructure, looking west



Figure 11. SHPO Site No. 0191, deck, looking east



Figure 12. SHPO Site No. 0191, deck, looking northwest

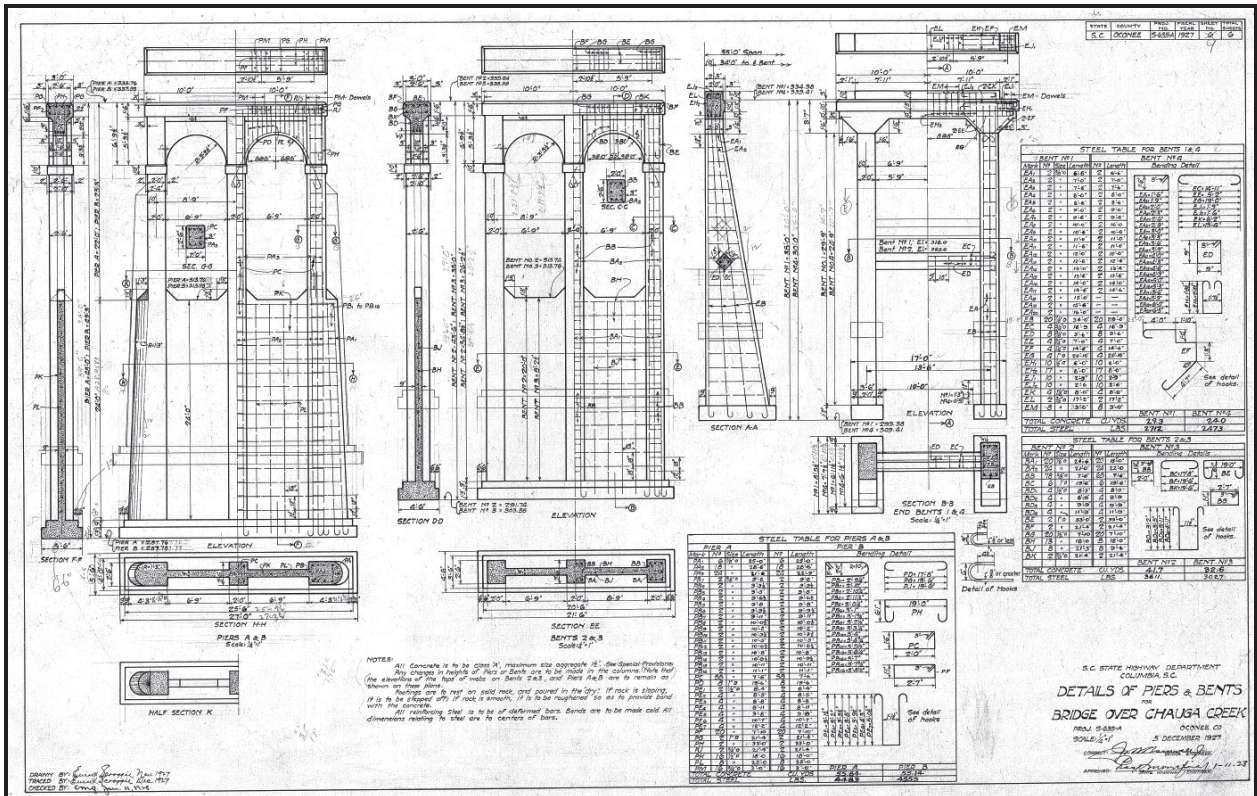


Figure 13. SHPO Site No. 0191, 1927 construction plans



Figure 14. SHPO Site No. 0192, looking southwest



Figure 15. SHPO Site No. 0192, looking northeast



Figure 16. SHPO Site No. 0193, looking south



Figure 17. SHPO Site No. 0193, looking southwest

Attachment 2

PERMIT DETERMINATION

Date:

Project ID:

From: Caycee Cleaver

Company: SCDOT

Contact Info (phone and/or email): cleavercc@scdot.org

Permit Manager: Will McGoldrick - Alternative Delivery Coordinator

Project Name: US 76 over Chauga River Emergency Bridge Replacement

County:

(Optional) Structure #: 4624

STUDY AREA:

Does there appear to be WOTUS in the study area? YES NO

PERMIT TYPE:

It has been determined that no permit is required because:

The following permit(s) is/are necessary:

(Please check which type(s) of permit the project will need)

USACE Permit GP IP NWP

OCRM Permit Individual CAP CAP GP

Navigable Permit State NAV USCG

408 PROJECT INFO:

Is it within a 408 Project: YES NO

408 Project Name: _____

MITIGATION:

Mitigation Bank: YES NO

Mitigation Bank Name: _____

Comments:

The determination above was based on the most recently available information at the time. This is a preliminary determination and is subject to change if the design of the project is modified.

Will McGoldrick Digitally signed by Will McGoldrick
Date: 2024.10.11 14:41:14 -04'00'

Biologist, SCDOT/Consultant

Date

US 76 over Chauga River

Freshwater Riverine

Legend

- Chau Ram County Park
- Chauga Rapids Disc Golf Course
- Onelove Community Church
- Ramsey Creek Preserve
- Swing-O-Things Inc
- The Wood Yard
- US 76 over Chauga River (Emergency Bridge)



Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

2000 ft

Attachment 3



Watershed and Water Quality Information

SC Department of Environmental Services

General Information

Applicant Name: Caycee Cleaver

Permit Type: Construction

Address: 10168 LONG CREEK HWY,
WESTMINSTER, SC, 29693

Latitude/Longitude: 34.685586 / -83.151607

MS4 Designation: Not in designated area

Monitoring Station: SV-201

Within Coastal Critical Area: No

Water Classification (Provisional): FW

Waterbody Name: CHAUGA RIVER

Entered Waterbody Name:

Parameter Description

NH3N	Ammonia	CD	Cadmium	CR	Chromium
CU	Copper	HG	Mercury	NI	Nickel
PB	Lead	ZN	Zinc	DO	Dissolved Oxygen
PH	pH	TURBIDITY	Turbidity	ECOLI	Escherichia coli (Freshwaters)
FC	Fecal Coliform (Shellfish)	BIO	Macroinvertebrates (Bio)	TP	(Lakes) Phosphorus
TN	(Lakes) Nitrogen	CHLA	(Lakes) Chlorophyll a	ENTERO	Enterococcus (Coastal Waters)
HGF	Mercury (Fish Tissue)	PCB	PCB (Fish)		

Impaired Status (downstream sites)

Station	NH3N	CD	CR	CU	HG	NI	PB	ZN	DO	PH	TURBIDITY	ECOLI	FC	BIO	TP	TN	CHLA	ENTERO	HGF	PCB
SV-201	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	F	X
SV-344	X	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X

F = Standards full supported A = Assessed at upstream station WnTN = Within TMDL, parameter not supported WnTF = Within TMDL, parameter full supported
 N = Standards not supported X = Parameter not assessed at station InTN = In TMDL, parameter not supported InTF = In TMDL, parameter full supported

Parameters to be addressed (those not supporting standards)

Fish Consumption Advisory

Waters of Concern (WOC)

TMDL Information - TMDL Parameters to be addressed

In TMDL Watershed: No
TMDL Report No:
TMDL Document Link:

TMDL Site:
TMDL Parameter:

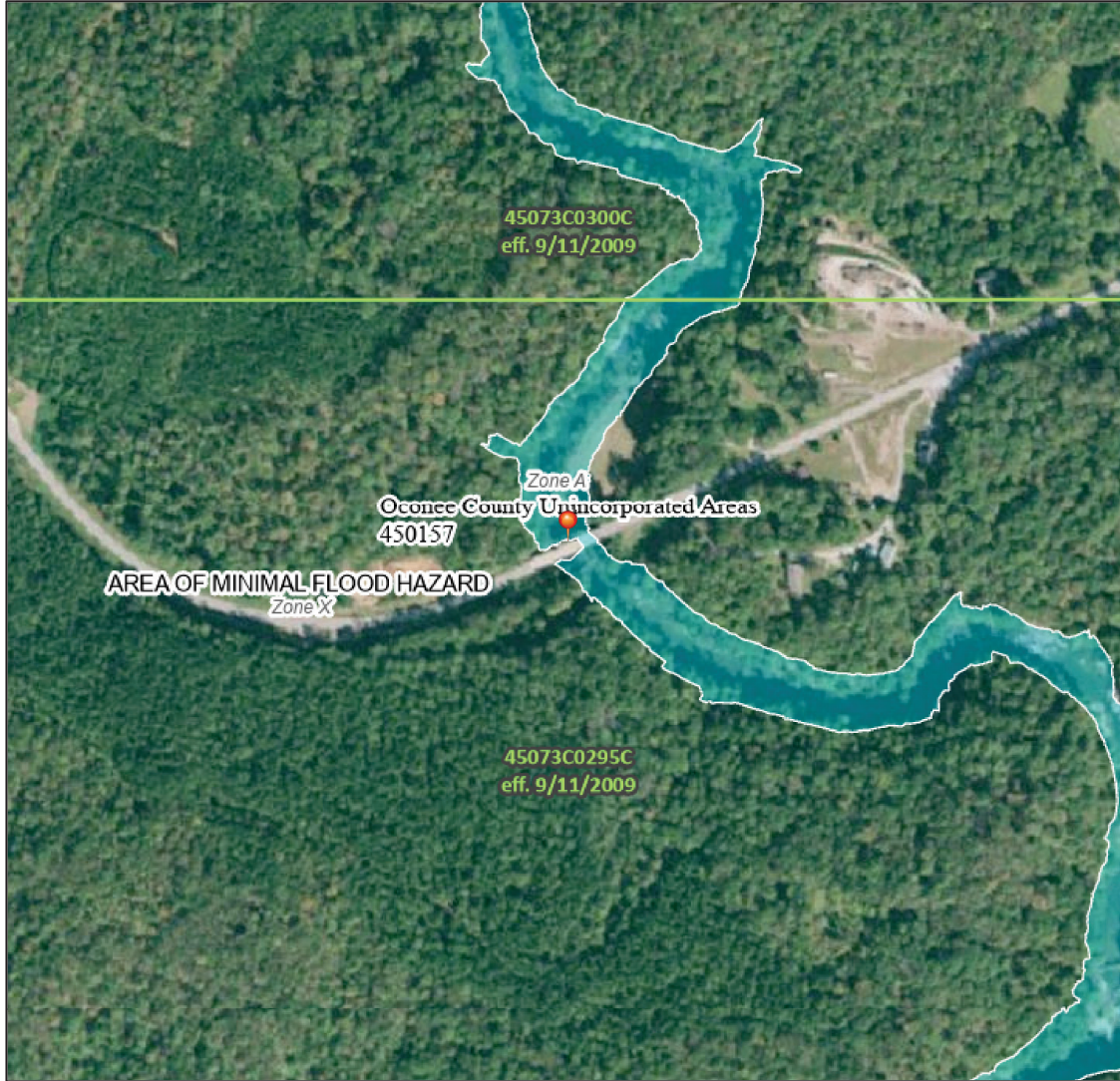
Report Date: October 7, 2024

Attachment 4

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



83°9'25"W 34°41'23"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS	Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, AB99 With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD	0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS	NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
GENERAL STRUCTURES	Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES	Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation Coastal Transect Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study Jurisdiction Boundary Coastal Transect Baseline Profile Baseline Hydrographic Feature
MAP PANELS	Digital Data Available No Digital Data Available Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on **10/16/2024 at 10:10 AM** and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 1:6,000

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

Attachment 5



Biological Assessment Report

Project Title: US 76 Bridge Replacement over Chauga River

County: Oconee

SCDOT PIN: P043969

Date: 10/16/2024

Prepared By: Chris Beckham

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act a field survey was conducted within the project corridor. The project was also entered into the USFWS Information for Planning Consultation (IPaC) tool. A copy of the official species list letter from IPaC is included in Appendix B. The following list of threatened (T) and endangered (E) species was evaluated:

Description

The project involves the replacement of the US 76 bridge over the Chauga River in Oconee County, South Carolina. The existing bridge was damaged during hurricane Helene and is closed to traffic. The project study area (PSA) includes waters of the Chauga River and approximately 10 acres of forested upland habitats. Dominant plant species within the corridor include water oak (*Quercus nigra*), sweet gum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and river birch (*Betula nigra*). Much of the forest understory and the road right of way is dominated by invasive species such as kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) and privet (*Ligustrum sp.*) The bridge will be replaced on existing alignment and will involve some minor clearing and in-water work for construction access.

Species List

Species	Federal Protection Status	Effect Determination
Tricolored bat (<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>)	Endangered*	-
Small whorled pogonia (<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>)	Threatened	NE
Smooth coneflower (<i>Echinanea laevigata</i>)	Threatened	NE

*Tricolored bat was proposed as endangered in September 2022. The effect determination will be updated when the listing becomes final.

Plant Species

There are two plant species listed as threatened in the portion of Oconee County where the project is located. The smooth coneflower and the small whorled pogonia. The smooth cone flower grows in open, sunny areas in alkaline soils. It is often found in maintained right of ways such as roadways or power lines. Small whorled pogonia is a member of the orchid family that grows in older hardwood stands of beech, birch, maple, oak and hickory with an open understory. The PSA is mostly forested with large canopy trees. Maintained right of way areas are covered with dense kudzu vines and other vegetation making the habitat unsuitable for the smooth cone flower. There are some tree species associated with the preferred habitat of the small whorled pogonia; however, the understory is too dense to provide suitable habitat due to the presence of invasive species. Due to the lack of suitable habitat, the project will have no effect on the smooth coneflower or the small whorled pogonia.

Mammals

The tricolored bat is found within Oconee County and there is potentially suitable habitat within the project study area. Portions of the bridge not damaged by the hurricane that could be accessed safely were inspected for the presence of roosting bats. No bats were observed, and there were no unexplained stains or guano found on the bridge surfaces. The structure of the bridge lacked significant cavities that could be utilized for roosting bats. The construction of the project will involve some tree removal in suitable habitat. The number of trees removed will be the minimal amount necessary to construct the project. A formal evaluation for the species will be completed at the time of final listing if the project has not been completed. Because of the minimal impacts, and the lack of bats using the structure, the project would be expected to have no adverse effect on tricolored bats.

Results

The impacts of the project will be minimal and will have no effect on the small whorled pogonia or smooth coneflower. The tricolored bat is currently proposed for listing and does not have the full protection under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. If the listing status for tricolored bat goes into effect prior to completion of the proposed work, SCDOT will initiate consultation with the USFWS at that time. The proposed project will have no effect on any currently listed species or critical habitat.

Appendix A – Agency Correspondence



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Carolina Ecological Services
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407-7558
Phone: (843) 727-4707 Fax: (843) 727-4218

In Reply Refer To:

10/08/2024 13:30:17 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0003029

Project Name: US 76 bridge replacement over Chauga River

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

South Carolina Ecological Services
176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407-7558
(843) 727-4707

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0003029

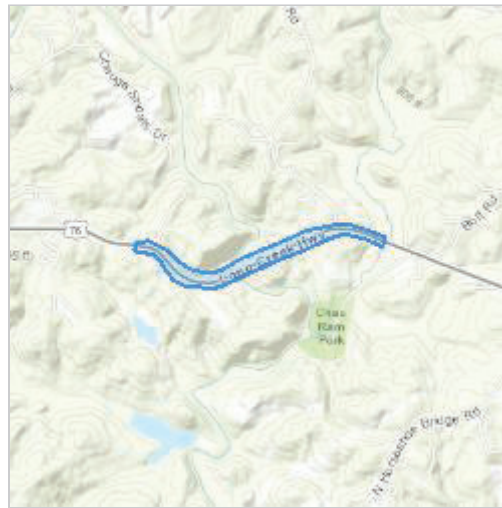
Project Name: US 76 bridge replacement over Chauga River

Project Type: Road Repair

Project Description: The US Highway 76 bridge was damaged during a recent storm event and the road is currently closed. SCDOT plans to remove the damaged bridge and construct a new bridge on the existing roadway alignment.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.686581,-83.14945901552079,14z>



Counties: Oconee County, South Carolina

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Small Whorled Pogonia <i>Isotria medeoloides</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1890	Threatened
Smooth Coneflower <i>Echinacea laevigata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3473	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act¹ and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats³, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

THERE ARE NO BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF YOUR PROJECT AREA.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats³ should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)".

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Eastern Whip-poor-will <i>Antrastomus vociferus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10678	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Kentucky Warbler <i>Geothlypis formosa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9443	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 20
Prairie Warbler <i>Setophaga discolor</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9513	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

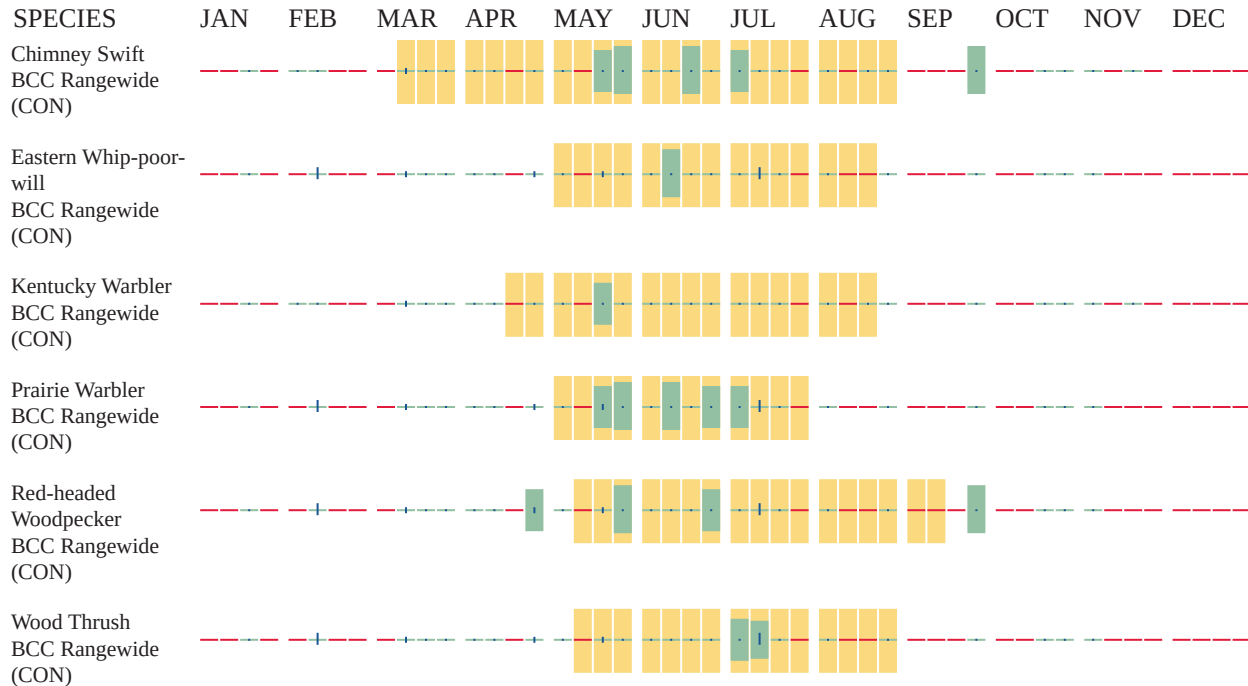
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

RIVERINE

- R3UBH

- R3RBH

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PSS1/3A

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: South Carolina Department of Transportation

Name: Chris Beckham

Address: 955 Park Street

City: Columbia

State: SC

Zip: 29201

Email: beckhamjc@scdot.org

Phone: 8036099464

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Federal Highway Administration

Attachment 6



EJScreen Community Report

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

Oconee County, SC

Blockgroup: 450730311002

Population: 926

Area in square miles: 12.96

Dynamic map initially showing the user-selected area

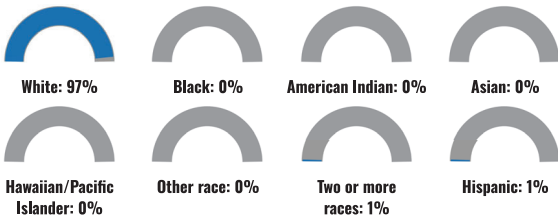
COMMUNITY INFORMATION

LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	94%
Spanish	6%
Total Non-English	6%



BREAKDOWN BY RACE



BREAKDOWN BY AGE



LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

Report for Blockgroup: 450730311002

Report produced October 7, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

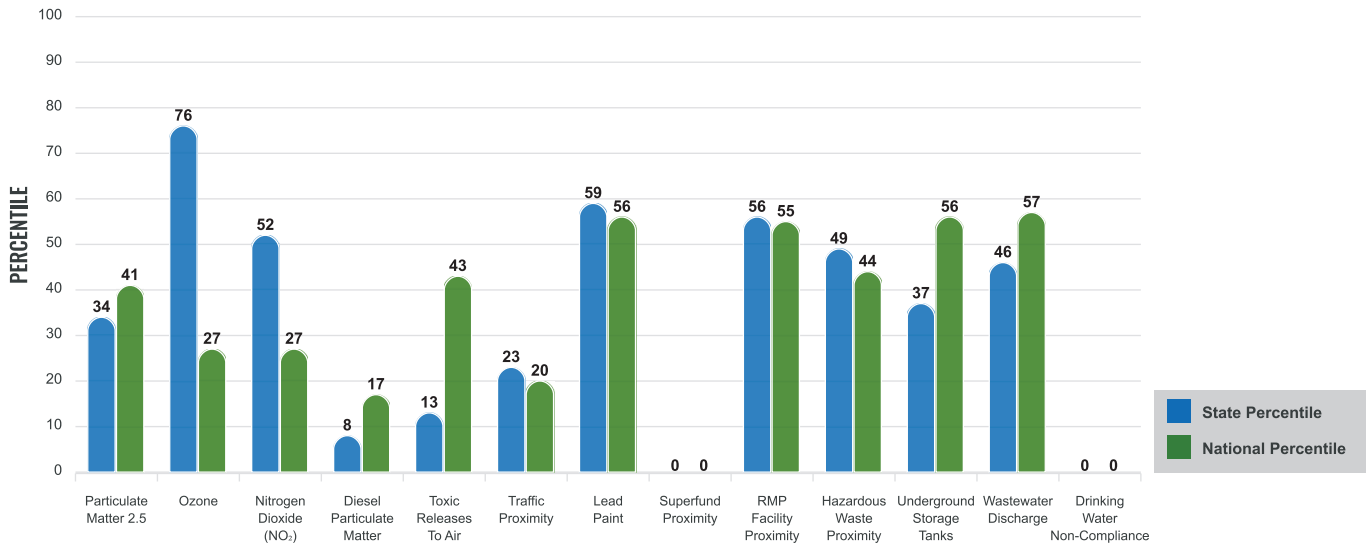
Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the [EJScreen website](#).

EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

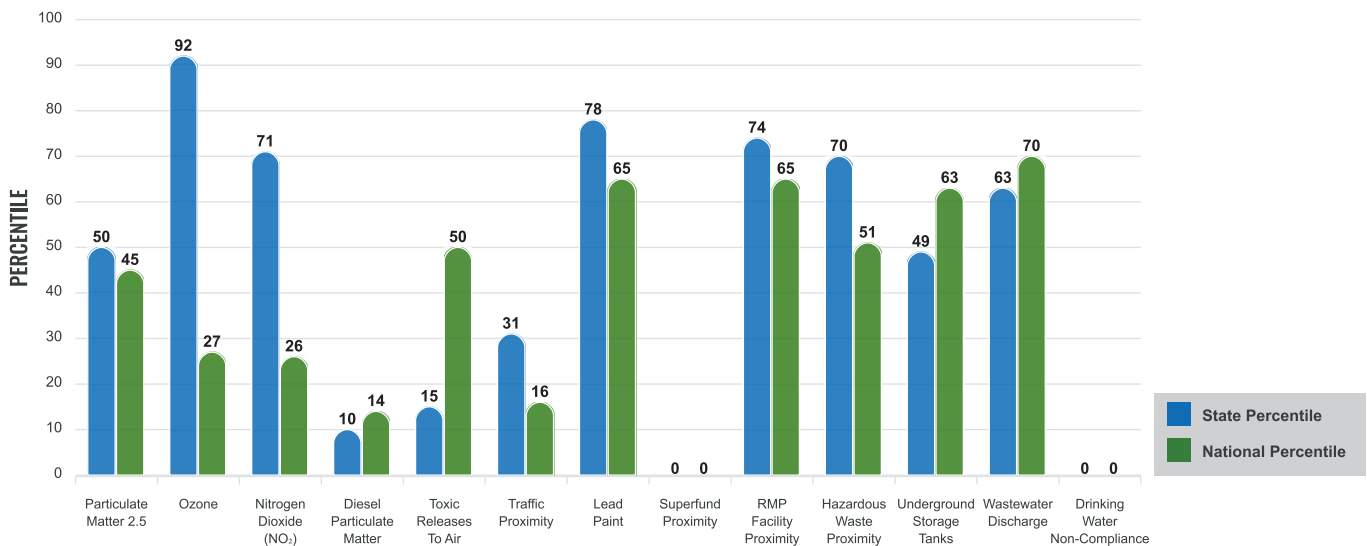
EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low income, percent persons with disabilities, percent less than high school education, percent limited English speaking, and percent low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



Report for Blockgroup: 450730311002

Report produced October 7, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN INDICATORS					
Particulate Matter 2.5 (µg/m ³)	7.29	7.64	26	8.45	24
Ozone (ppb)	53.5	53.2	68	61.8	14
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) (ppbv)	3.9	4.6	40	7.8	13
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m ³)	0.0515	0.116	6	0.191	8
Toxic Releases to Air (toxicity-weighted concentration)	120	3,000	9	4,600	26
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	34,000	390,000	16	1,700,000	9
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.12	0.16	55	0.3	38
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0	0.26	0	0.39	0
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.12	0.37	43	0.57	36
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.28	0.79	39	3.5	26
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km ²)	0.15	2.8	26	3.6	35
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	17	1200	35	700000	40
Drinking Water Non-Compliance (points)	0	0.22	0	2.2	0
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Demographic Index USA	1.48	N/A	N/A	1.34	62
Supplemental Demographic Index USA	2.64	N/A	N/A	1.64	91
Demographic Index State	1.53	1.58	53	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Demographic Index State	2.45	1.56	91	N/A	N/A
People of Color	3%	39%	4	40%	6
Low Income	61%	36%	87	30%	89
Unemployment Rate	0%	6%	0	6%	0
Limited English Speaking Households	0%	1%	0	5%	0
Less Than High School Education	24%	12%	87	11%	87
Under Age 5	6%	5%	61	5%	59
Over Age 64	27%	20%	80	18%	83

*Diesel particulate matter index is from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	0
Water Dischargers	0
Air Pollution	0
Brownfields	0
Toxic Release Inventory	0

Other community features within defined area:

Schools	1
Hospitals	0
Places of Worship	4

Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Impaired Waters	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Report for Blockgroup: 450730311002
 Report produced October 7, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	24%	21%	76	20%	88
Heart Disease	8	6.2	89	5.8	88
Asthma	10.1	9.9	58	10.3	46
Cancer	7.3	6.6	77	6.4	68
Persons with Disabilities	24.1%	15.2%	93	13.7%	93

CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	11%	12%	70	12%	69
Wildfire Risk	0%	19%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	36%	17%	89	13%	94
Lack of Health Insurance	14%	11%	73	9%	81
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Report for Blockgroup: 450730311002

Report produced October 7, 2024 using EJScreen Version 2.3

Attachment 7

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request				
Name of Project US 76 over Chauga River		Federal Agency Involved FHWA				
Proposed Land Use Transportation		County and State Oconee, SC				
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form: Will McGoldrick		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS				
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		0				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		0				
C. Total Acres In Site		1.7				
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland						
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland						
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted						
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value						
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		100				
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	15			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	10			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)	1			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	0			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)	0			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)	0			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	0			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)	0			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	1			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)	0			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)	0			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	0			
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	27	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	100	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	27	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	127	0	0	0
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: Will McGoldrick					Date: 10-30-24	

STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map, or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

(For Federal Agency)

Part I: When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

Part III: When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

Part VI: Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

Part VII: In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

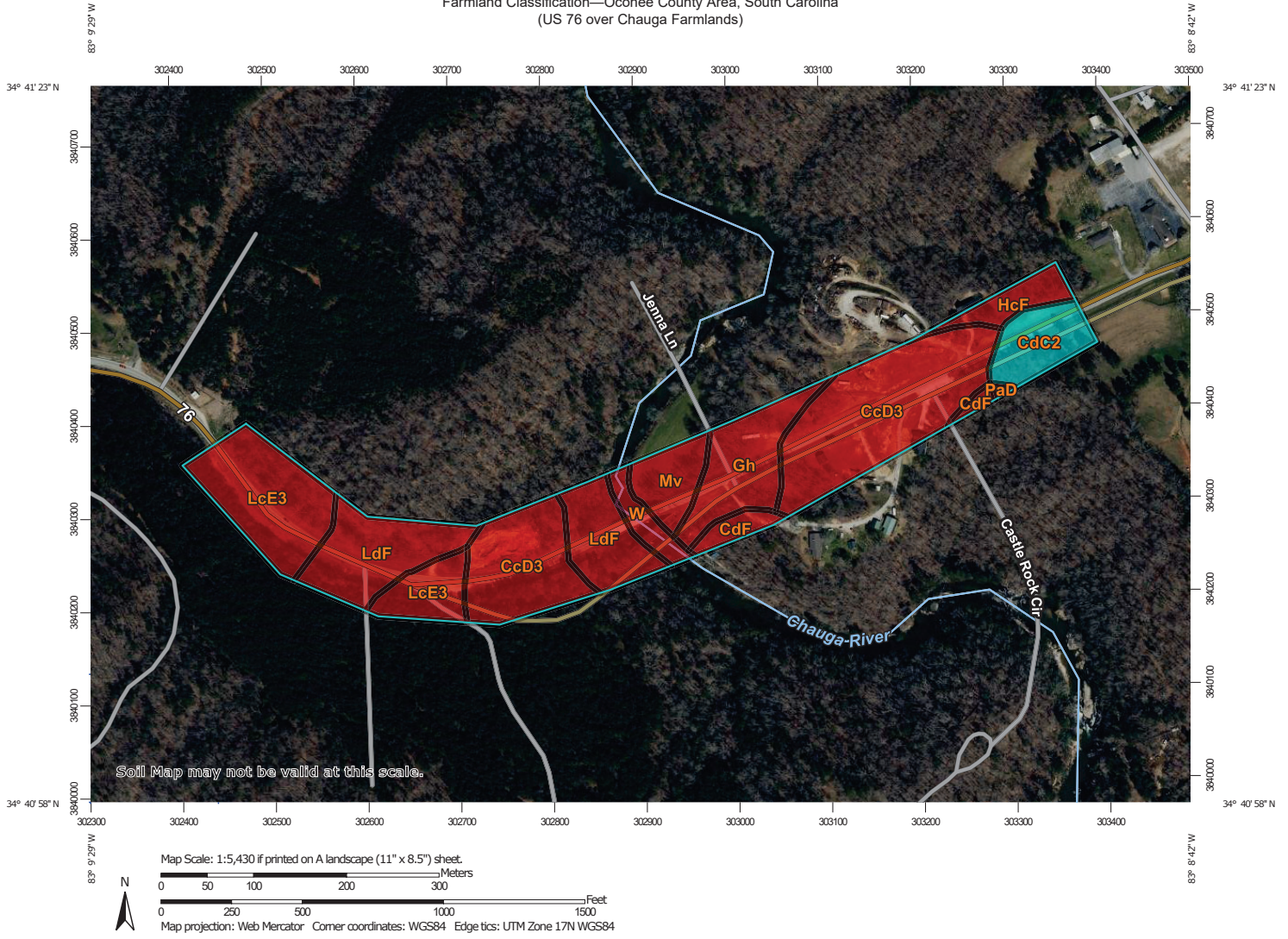
Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$$

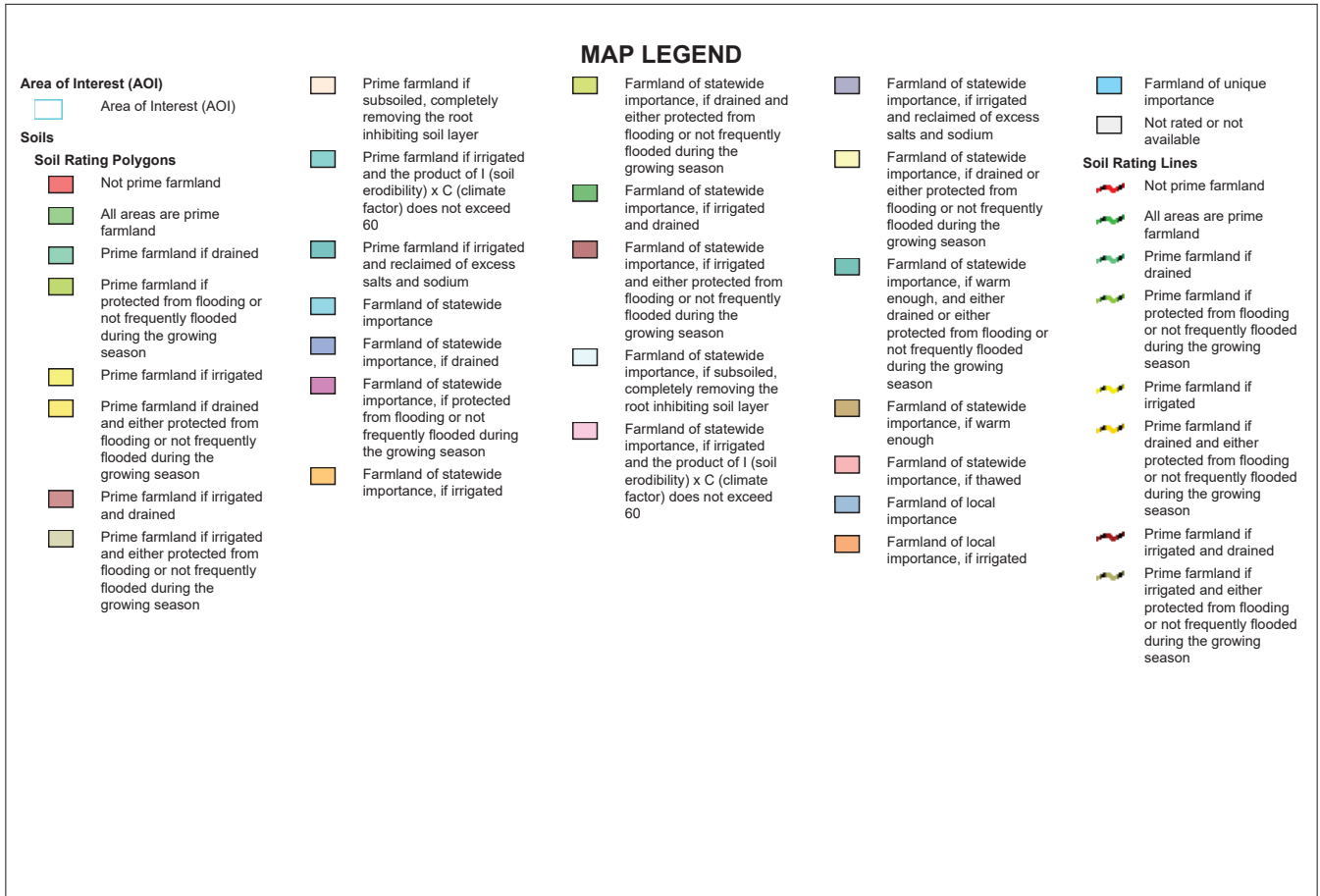
For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.

Farmland Classification—Oconee County Area, South Carolina
(US 76 over Chauga Farmlands)
























Farmland Classification—Oconee County Area, South Carolina
(US 76 over Chauga Farmlands)



Farmland Classification—Oconee County Area, South Carolina
(US 76 over Chauga Farmlands)

	Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Farmland of unique importance		Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
	Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season	Soil Rating Points			Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
	Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Not prime farmland		Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
	Farmland of statewide importance		Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer		Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed		All areas are prime farmland		Farmland of statewide importance
	Farmland of statewide importance, if drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60		Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough		Prime farmland if drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
	Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of local importance		Farmland of local importance, if thawed		Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated		Farmland of local importance, if irrigated		Farmland of local importance, if irrigated		Prime farmland if irrigated		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
							Prime farmland if irrigated and drained		Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
							Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season		

Farmland Classification—Oconee County Area, South Carolina
(US 76 over Chauga Farmlands)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough  Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed  Farmland of local importance  Farmland of local importance, if irrigated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of unique importance  Not rated or not available <p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Streams and Canals <p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Rails  Interstate Highways  US Routes  Major Roads  Local Roads <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Aerial Photography 	<p>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</p> <p>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</p> </div> <p>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</p> <p>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL: Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)</p> <p>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</p> <p>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.</p> <p>Soil Survey Area: Oconee County Area, South Carolina Survey Area Data: Version 26, Sep 17, 2024</p> <p>Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</p> <p>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Mar 19, 2022—Apr 20, 2022</p> <p>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</p>
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Farmland Classification

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
CcD3	Cecil clay loam, 10 to 15 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland	9.3	33.9%
CdC2	Cecil sandy loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes, moderately eroded	Farmland of statewide importance	1.7	6.1%
CdF	Cecil sandy loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	0.7	2.7%
Gh	Gullied land, hilly	Not prime farmland	2.7	9.9%
HcF	Hayesville and Cecil fine sandy loams, 25 to 45 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	1.0	3.6%
LcE3	Lloyd clay loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, severely eroded	Not prime farmland	4.9	17.9%
LdF	Lloyd sandy loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	4.9	17.7%
Mv	Riverview-Chewacla complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Not prime farmland	1.4	5.1%
PaD	Pacolet sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	Not prime farmland	0.1	0.2%
W	Water	Not prime farmland	0.8	2.8%
Totals for Area of Interest			27.4	100.0%

Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Tie-break Rule: Lower

Attachment 8

**South Carolina Department of Transportation
Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Floodplains Checklist**

23 CFR 650, this regulation shall apply to all encroachments and to all actions which affect base floodplains, except for repairs made with emergency funds. Note: These studies shall be summarized in the environmental review documents prepared pursuant to 23 CFR 771.

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

US 76 Emergency Bridge Replacement over Chauga River in Oconee County
(Hurricane Helene Damage) Asset ID: 4624

A. Narrative Describing Purpose and Need for Project

- a. Relevant Project History:
- b. General Project Description and Nature of Work (attach Location and Project Map):
- c. Major Issues and Concerns:

Bridge has been damaged from hurricane Helene and is no longer safe or functional. Route is currently closed to traffic and a detour is in place. Replacement under emergency funds.

B. Are there any floodplain(s) regulated by FEMA located in the project area?

Yes No

C. Will the placing of fill occur within a 100-year floodplain?

Yes No

D. Will the existing profile grade be raised within the floodplain?

No. The profile is not expected to be raised.

E. If applicable, please discuss the practicability of alternatives to any longitudinal encroachments.

The longitudinal encroachments will be negligible if any on this project.

F. Please include a discussion of the following: commensurate with the significance of the risk or environmental impact for all alternatives containing encroachments and those actions which would support base floodplain development:

a. What are the risks associated with implementation of the action?

Risks are minimal. The bridge is being replaced because of structural issues and not hydraulic. The new bridge should qualify for a statement of no impact.

b. What are the impacts on the natural and beneficial floodplain values?

No impacts are anticipated.

c. What measures were used to minimize floodplain impacts associated with the action?

No impacts are anticipated.

d. Were any measures used to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial floodplain values impacted by the action?

No impacts are anticipated.

G. Please discuss the practicability of alternatives to any significant encroachments or any support of incompatible floodplain development.

No encroachments are anticipated.

H. Were local, state, and federal water resources and floodplain management agencies consulted to determine if the proposed highway action is consistent with existing watershed and floodplain management programs and to obtain current information on development and proposed actions in the affected? Please include agency documentation.

All analysis for the project will be performed in accordance with SCDOT, FEMA, and local regulations.

Levi McLeod Digitally signed by Levi McLeod
Date: 2024.10.16 14:42:41
-04'00'
SCDOT Hydraulic Engineer

10/16/24
Date

BRIDGE SCOPE AND RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

COUNTY: Oconee

DATE: 10/16/2024

ROAD #: US 76

STREAM CROSSING: Chauga River

Purpose & Need for the Project:

US 76 Emergency Bridge Replacement over Chauga River in Oconee County (Hurricane Helene Damage) Asset ID: 4624. Bridge has been damaged from hurricane Helene and is no longer safe or functional. Route is currently closed to traffic and a detour is in place. Replacement under emergency funds.

I. FEMA Acknowledgement

Is this project located in a regulated FEMA Floodway? Yes No

Panel Number: 45073C0295C Effective Date: 09/11/2009 (See Attached)

II. FEMA Floodmap Investigation

FEMA Flood Profile Sheet Number N/A illustrates the existing 100 year flood:

- Passes under the existing low chord elevation.
- Is in contact with the existing low chord elevation.
- Overtops the existing bridge finished grade elevation.

III. No Rise/CLOMR Preliminary Determination

- Preliminary assessment indicates this project may be constructed to meet the "No-Rise" requirements. A detailed hydraulic analysis will be performed to verify this assessment.

Justification: Zone A : Backwater will be 1 foot or less over the natural condition and not increased from the existing condition.

- Preliminary assessmnet indicates this project may require a CLOMR/LOMR. Impacts will be determined by a detailed hydraulic analysis.

Justification:

BRIDGE SCOPE AND RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

IV. Preliminary Bridge Assessment

A. Locate Existing Plans

a. Bridge Plans Yes File No. 37.467 Sheet No. _____ (See Attached)
 No

b. Road Plans Yes File No. 37.467.1 Sheet No. _____ (See Attached)
 No

B. Historical Highwater Data

a. USGS Gage Yes Gage No. N/A Results: USGS Notified
 No

b. SCDOT/USGS Documented Highwater Elevations
 Yes Results: 761.8
 No

c. Existing Plans Yes See Above
 No

V. Field Review

A. Existing Bridge

Length: 250 ft. Width: 37 ft. Max. span Length: 50 ft.

Alignment: Tangent Curved

Bridge Skewed: Yes No Angle: _____

End Abutment Type: 1.5:1 Spill Through.

Riprap on End Fills: Yes No Condition: Exposed rock on western side.

Superstructure Type: Prestressed Concrete

Substructure Type: Cast-in-Place concrete piers on spread fc

Utilities Present: Yes No

Describe: Two water lines attached, one abandoned.

Debris Accumulation on Bridge: Percent Blocked Horizontally: 40 %

Percent Blocked Vertically: 10 %

Hydraulic Problems: Yes No

Describe: debris accumulation in channel at center 50' span.
Washout from Hurricane around east end bent.

BRIDGE SCOPE AND RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

V. Field Review (cont.)

B. Hydraulic Features

a. Scour Present: Yes No Location: Rock in river bed

b. Distance from F.G. to Normal Water Elevation: 50 ft.

c. Distance from Low Steel to Normal Water Elev.: 45 ft.

d. Distance from F.G. to High Water Elevation: 25 ft.

e. Distance from Low Steel to High Water Elev.: 20 ft.

f. Channel Banks Stable: Yes No

Describe: Rock in channel, upstream and downstream

g. Soil Type: silty sand/clay (existing embankment) on top of rock

h. Exposed Rock: Yes No Location: channel & western abutment slope

i. Give Description and Location of any structures or other property that could be damaged due to additional backwater.

None, rural area and river cuts through mountainous foothills

C. Existing Roadway Geometry

a. Can the existing roadway be closed for an On-Alignment Bridge Replacement

Yes No

Describe:

Currently Closed due to flood damage.

If "yes", does the existing vertical and horizontal curves meet the proposed design speed criteria?

Yes

If "No", will the proposed bridge be:

Staged Constructed

Replaced on New Alignment

BRIDGE SCOPE AND RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

VI. Field Review (cont.)

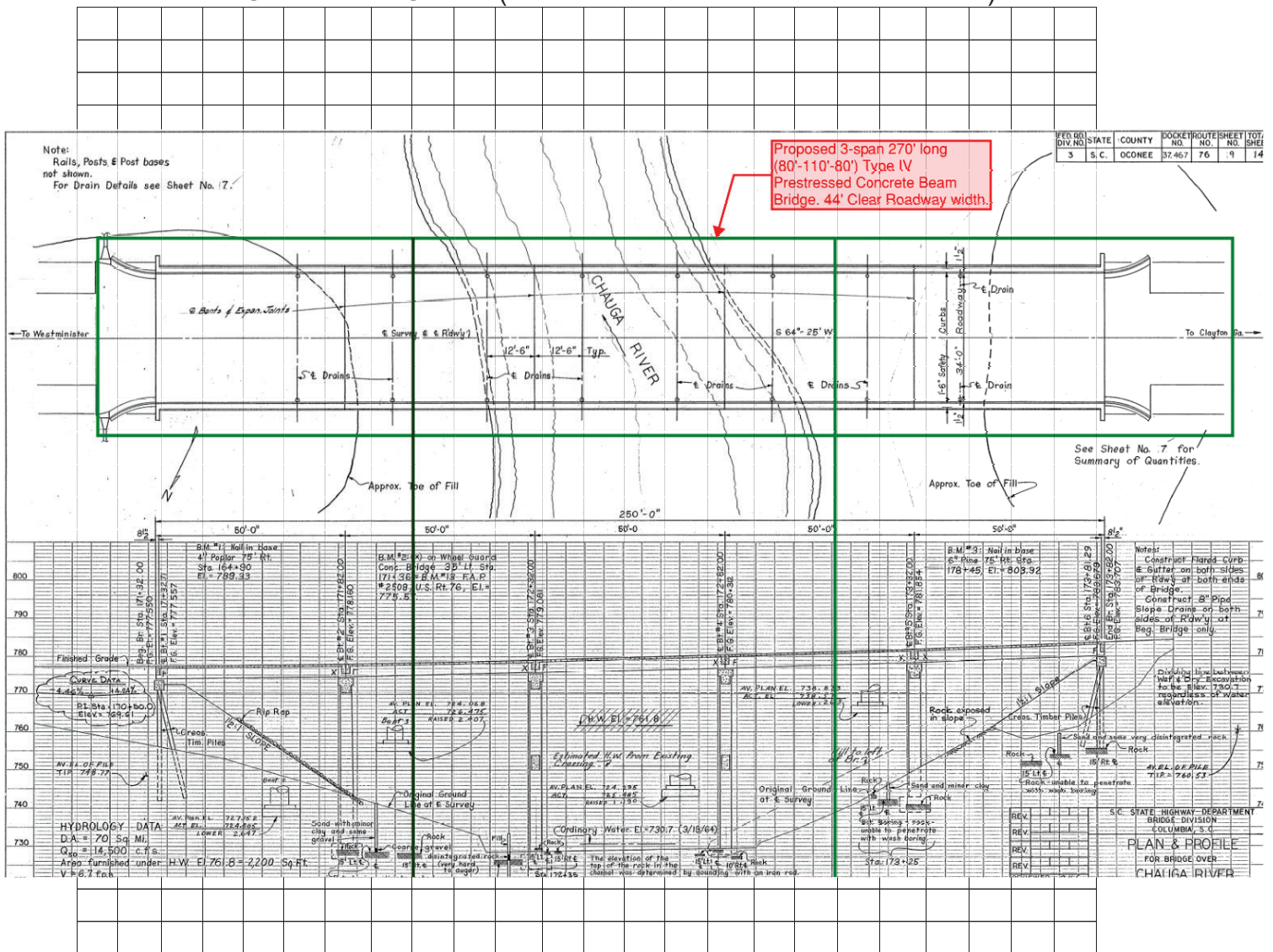
A. Proposed Bridge Recommendation:

Length: 270 ft. Width: 46 ft. Elevation: 780+ ft.

Span Arrangement: 3-span (70'-110'-90')=270'

Notes: Provide 110' main span for majority of channel and 270' minimum bridge length to construct 2:1 riprap spill-through slope on east side of river and retain existing rock slope on west side of river. Construct Drilled Shaft interior bent foundations to alleviate scour concerns. Emergency Design-Build Procurement.

BRIDGE SITE DIAGRAM: (Show North Arrow and Direction of Flow)



Performed By: John Caver & Levi McLeod

US 76 over Chauga River

Legend

- Chau Ram County Park
- Chauga Rapids Disc Golf Course
- Onelove Community Church
- Ramsey Creek Preserve
- Swing-O-Things Inc
- The Wood Yard
- ★ US 76 over Chauga River (Emergency Bridge)

