



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

DATE: February 8, 2017

TO: Patrick A. Norman, PE
Director, Planning & Programming Division

FROM: Michael L. Holder, PE
Chief Engineer

SUBJECT: Environmental Documentation for R/W Authorizations

In an effort to continue to improve project delivery efforts across the state, we must be able to provide our Divisions and Central Design staff the most flexibility possible in advancing their project development efforts while still adhering to both federal and state guidelines. As you are aware, NCDOT and FHWA recently entered into a programmatic agreement allowing the Department to determine whether a project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) on behalf of FHWA. As part of this agreement, a CE checklist was developed to satisfy the administrative and documentation requirements for projects in the CE category. In addition, state environmental guidance has already provided a Minimum Criteria Checklist (MCC) as documentation of environmental review for state funded projects with limited or no environmental impacts. As such, for federally funded CE projects and low impact state funded projects, the completed CE checklist or MCC should be considered adequate documentation to allow for right of way funding authorizations on those projects. With this information in mind, please implement necessary processes to ensure funding authorizations are approved accordingly.

MLH/lmw

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