

APPROVED
By Planning Board
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PROJECT PLANNING REPORT
US 64, Manteo to NC 345
Dare County
State Project 8.1050105
Federal-Aid Project F-36-4(18)
R-862

Submitted to
Planning Board
by
Planning and Research Branch
Division of Highways
N. C. Department of Transportation

R. G. Dawson, Jr.
Project Engineer

T. L. Waters
Manager of Planning and
Research Branch

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Description

The proposed project involves widening of the subject road extending from the end of the existing curb and gutter section in Manteo southward to the intersection with NC 345. Total project length is approximately 1.0 mile. Location of the project is shown on Figure 1.

Existing Conditions

The studied section of US 64 has a 22-foot pavement with 9-foot shoulders, including some 4-foot paved, and ditches on each side of the roadway. To the north, the existing section adjoins a 3-lane, 44-foot curbed section which extends to the northern corporate limits of Manteo. Existing right of way width is 100 feet.

Current year round traffic volume on this section of road is approximately 8000 vehicles per day (vpd). This volume increases to 13,000 vpd during the summer months. Approximately 7 percent of the total traffic volume is composed of TTST and dual tired trucks.

Medium density development exists along the roadside and consists primarily of commercial establishments with some residences.

Recommended Improvements

The recommended plan is to widen the existing roadway to a 44-foot face to face of curbs width. This proposal would provide continuity of a three-lane curbed section that exists on adjacent portions of US 64 in Manteo. The new section would improve traffic operation by providing a center lane for conflicting left turns associated with abutting commercial development and enhance appearance and safety by removing roadway ditches.

Estimated construction cost of the proposed improvements is \$600,000. No right of way cost is anticipated, since the existing right of way should be adequate to contain the proposed construction.

Environmental Evaluation

The nature and magnitude of the proposed project should not produce any significant adverse effect on the environment. The project is a minor improvement of an established highway with no additional right of way required.

The construction of an additional lane for left turns and curb and gutter will have a beneficial impact on the community through safer and smoother traffic operation and improved aesthetics of the area. Since it is modernization of an existing highway, the project is considered as a Federal "categorical exclusion".

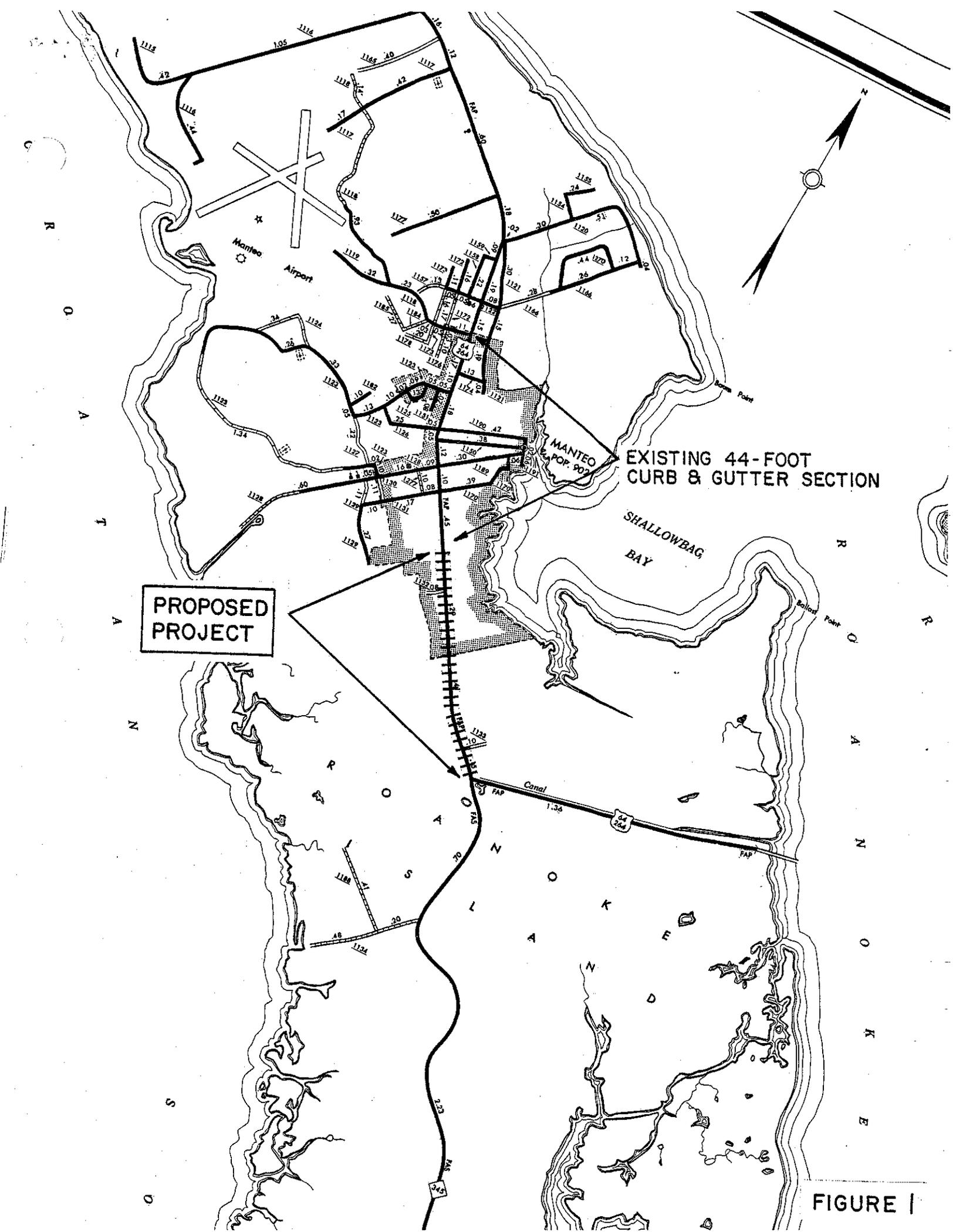
Since the project is to be constructed entirely within the existing right of way, no businesses, residences, or historical and archaeological sites will be affected.

The proposed widening of US 64 should have no significant effect on animal and plant life. Much of the land adjacent to the road is disturbed by commercial and residential development. No wetlands or streams will be encroached by the improvement.

Possible erosion or siltation of adjacent properties may occur during construction but should be minimized by anticipated minor grading for the widening and by use of standard erosion control methods.

The proposed project should have no significant impact on noise levels or air quality. The addition of a lane to an existing two-lane road will not change the pattern or volume of traffic using the facility. Any increase in noise levels or air pollution by vehicles is expected to be attributed to normal growth of traffic over the design period of the project. No significant adverse construction noise impacts can be identified. On the basis of the above evaluation, no additional noise reports are required.

RGDje/pl



PROPOSED PROJECT

EXISTING 44-FOOT CURB & GUTTER SECTION

FIGURE 1