

FEASIBILITY STUDY

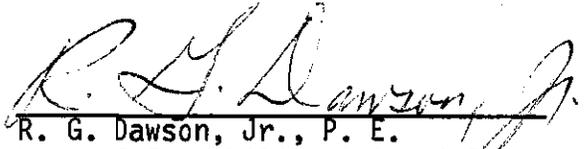
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Caldwell County, New Connector
From US 64-NC 18 to SR 1310 (Abingdon Road)
R-2626

Prepared by
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I. DESCRIPTION

This report covers a preliminary study of a proposed connector from US 64-NC 18 to Abingdon Road in Lenoir. General project location is shown on Figure 1. The project is on a list of priority projects proposed by the Caldwell County Chamber of Commerce. This project is included in the 1990-1996 Transportation Improvement Program (T.I.P.) for feasibility study and/or right-of-way protection and is not currently funded.

II. PURPOSE OF PROJECT

Existing Conditions

Abingdon Road (SR 1310), NC 18 and the proposed connector are classified as major thoroughfares on the mutually adopted Lenoir Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan (see Figure 2). The north end of the project ties into Abingdon Road at its intersection with SR 1314. This section of Abingdon Road is a 20-foot paved roadway with 4-foot grassed shoulders. The south end of the project ties into US 64-NC 18 at its signalized intersection with SR 1404. US 64-NC 18 at this point is a 5-lane, 60-foot shoulder section which extends eastward to the NC 18 Bypass of Lenoir.

Abingdon Road is a well traveled facility carrying 5400 vehicles per day (VPD) in 1989. US 64 served over 13,000 VPD in the same year.

The area crossed by the connector is primarily agricultural and woodland. There is some residential development on SR 1404 and SR 1314.

Need for Project

The proposed connector would provide better access to the West Caldwell High School located near the south end of the connector. The high school has over 1000 students. Also, the new connector would provide improved access between US 64 and Abingdon Road, both of which are major thoroughfares.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS AND COSTS

Location and Design

Approximate recommended location for the connector is shown on Figures 1 and 2. It traverses undeveloped rolling terrain for the most part and utilizes portions of SR 1404 and SR 1314.

If the project is built, the estimated traffic volume that would use the new facility is 3000 VPD. Estimated traffic volume for the year 2010 is 5000 VPD.

The recommended cross section for the connector between Abingdon Road and NS 64-NC 18 is a 24-foot pavement with 8-foot shoulders including 2-foot paved. Based on the estimated traffic, this cross section should be adequate for many years. A right of way width of 100 feet was used for cost estimate purposes.

Costs

The estimated costs of the recommended improvements for a project length of approximately 1.3 miles are as follows:

<u>Construction Cost</u>	<u>Right-of-Way Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
\$1,250,000	\$ 400,000	\$1,650,000

The construction cost includes engineering and contingencies, and the right-of-way cost includes relocation, acquisition, and utility costs.

IV. ALTERNATIVES

Since the project involves the construction of a roadway on new location, several alternative locations could be developed. However, the recommended alignment is in accordance with the mutually adopted Thoroughfare Plan, and no other locations were considered.

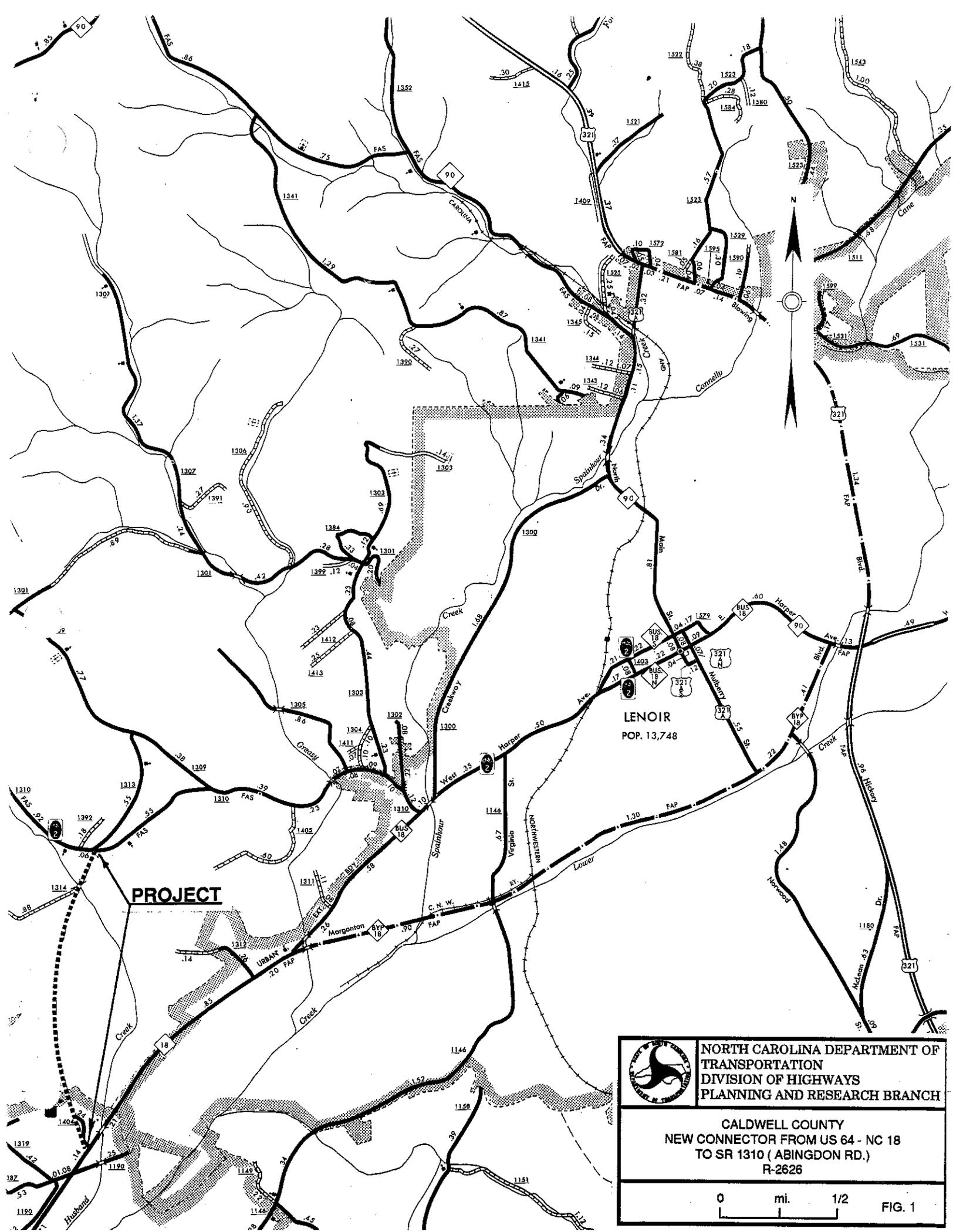
A minimum 100-foot right-of-way width is recommended in the event that future traffic volumes are higher than expected to require additional lanes. The proposed two-lane cross section could be widened to a multi-lane roadway with no increase necessary in right-of-way width.

V. OTHER COMMENTS

The implementation of the proposed project is not expected to result in any significant impact on the environment. Possible negative impacts of the proposed connector are as follows: (1) loss of wildlife habitat; (2) loss of forested land; and (3) increase in noise levels for the remaining development close to the roadway. No displacement of any residences would be required.

If the project is to be implemented at a future date, all feasible alternatives and their associated impacts will need to be evaluated in a planning/environmental document prior to that time, and a final decision made as to the most appropriate improvement.

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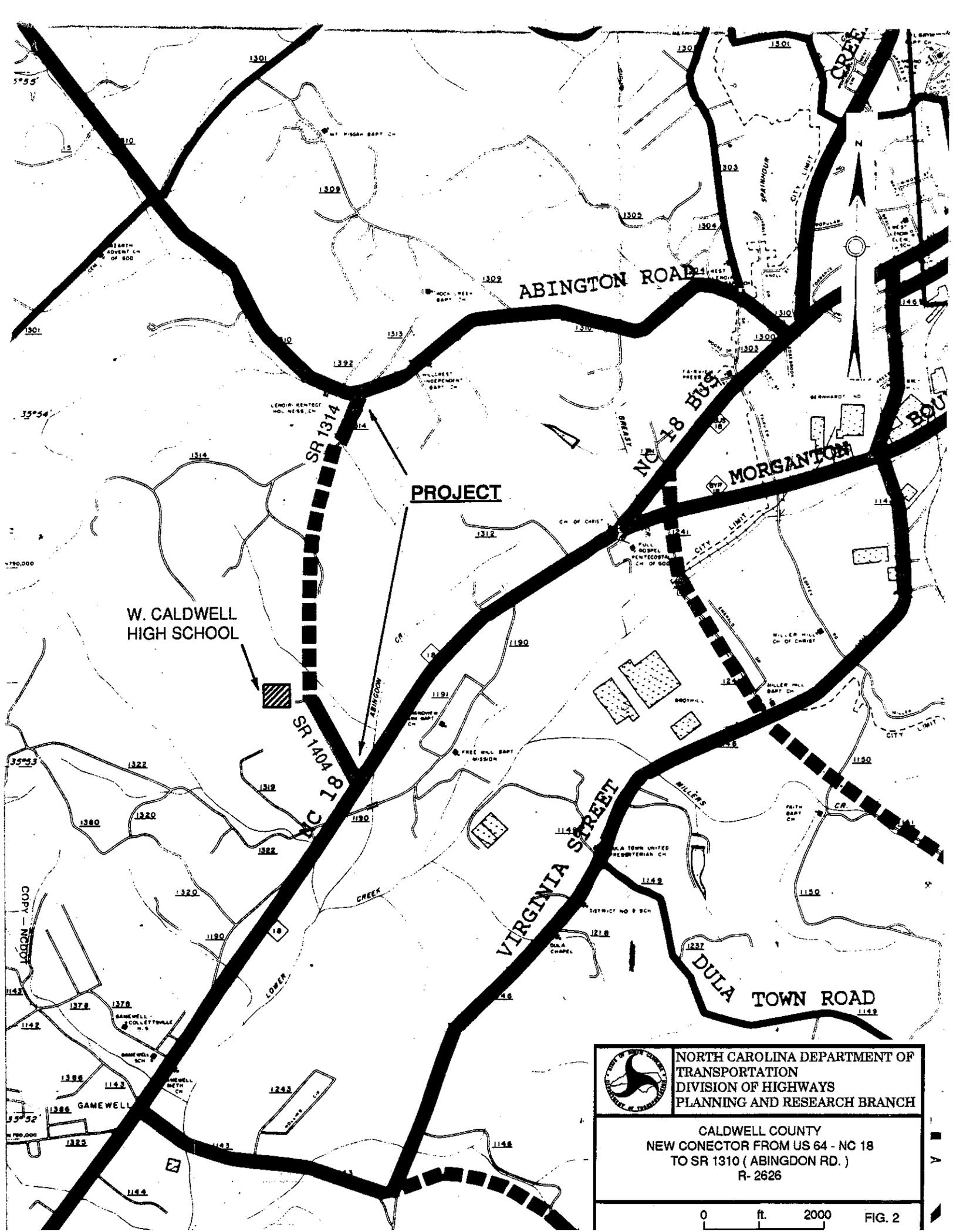
PROJECT



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
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PLANNING AND RESEARCH BRANCH**

**CALDWELL COUNTY
NEW CONNECTOR FROM US 64 - NC 18
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0 mi. 1/2 **FIG. 1**



PROJECT

W. CALDWELL
HIGH SCHOOL

ABINGTON ROAD

MORSANTON ROAD

VIRGINIA STREET

DULA TOWN ROAD

SR 1314

SR 1404

NC 18 BUS



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0 ft. 2000 FIG. 2