

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007



**US 17 Wilmington Bypass
New Hanover County
TIP No. R-2633CA
CAMA permit No. 130-00**



Prepared By:
Natural Environment Unit & Roadside Environmental Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
June 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1.0 Introduction	2
.1 Project Description	2
.2 Purpose	2
.3 Project History	2
2.0 Vegetation:	3
.1 Success Criteria	3
.2 Description of Species	3
.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring	3
.4 Conclusions.	3
3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations	3

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Vicinity Map	4
Figure 2 – Site Location Map	5

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Site Photos

SUMMARY

The US 17 Wilmington Bypass (R-2633CA) is located in New Hanover County. This is an annual report for temporary impacts associated with the construction of the US 17 Wilmington Bypass. The site was completed in November 2006.

The temporary impacts encompass approximately 2.08 acres. The temporarily impacted area is being monitored to ensure that it re-attains wetland jurisdictional status. Temporary impacts to coastal marsh occurred only at permitted Site #1; therefore no temporary impact monitoring has occurred at permit Sites #2, #3 and #4 (See Figure 2). No hydrologic monitoring is required for this site; however, vegetation monitoring is required for three years.

After the first year of monitoring, the US 17 Wilmington Bypass site shows by visual observation that the temporarily impacted areas are re-attaining wetland jurisdictional status.

NCDOT recommends continuing vegetation monitoring of this site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The US 17 Wilmington Bypass (R-2633CA) is located in New Hanover County. This is an annual report for temporary impacts associated with US 17 Wilmington Bypass (Figure 1).

1.2 Purpose

In order for a temporarily impacted site to be considered successful, the site must re-attain wetland jurisdictional status. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2007 at the US 17 Wilmington Bypass site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for this site.

1.3 Project History

June 2007



Vegetation Monitoring (1 year)

2.0 VEGETATION: US 17 WILMINGTON BYPASS SITE (YEAR 1 MONITORING)

2.1 Success Criteria

Temporary wetland impacts will occur during several aspects of project construction. The permittee states that the temporarily impacted wetlands are expected to naturally revegetate over time. However, due to the possibility that site alterations may prevent the temporary wetland impact area from re-attaining wetland jurisdictional status, the permittee shall provide an annual update on the wetland areas temporarily impacted by this project. This annual update will consist of photographs and a report on the progress of these temporarily impacted areas in re-attaining wetland jurisdictional status. Three years after project completion of construction of the permitted by-pass, the permittee shall schedule an agency field meeting with the Division of Coastal Management, the Division of Water Quality and the Wildlife Resources Commission to determine if the wetland areas temporarily impacted by this project have re-attained jurisdictional wetland status. If at the end of 3 years the wetland areas temporarily impacted by this project have not re-attained jurisdictional wetland status, the above listed agencies shall determine whether additional compensatory wetland mitigation will be required.

2.2 Description of Species

There were no species planted for the temporary impacts. The temporarily impacted areas were left to revegetate naturally.

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

The temporary impact areas are naturally re-vegetating with a variety of marsh grass species.

2.4 Conclusions

There were approximately 2.08 acres of temporary impacts on site. By visual observation US 17 Wilmington Bypass site shows that natural re-vegetation is occurring and that the impacted areas are re-attaining jurisdictional wetland status.

3.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NCDOT recommends continuing vegetation monitoring at the US 17 Wilmington Bypass Site.

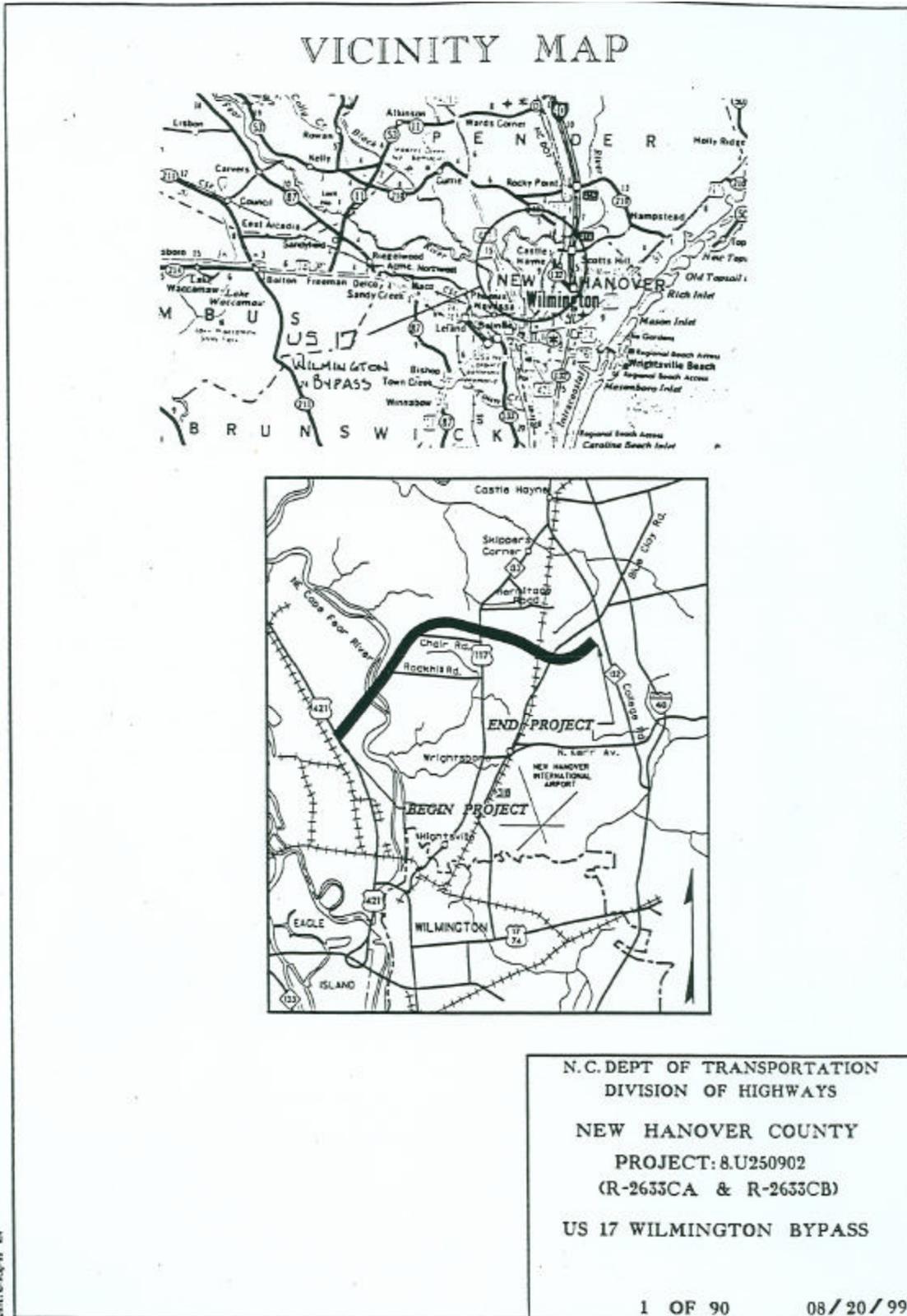


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

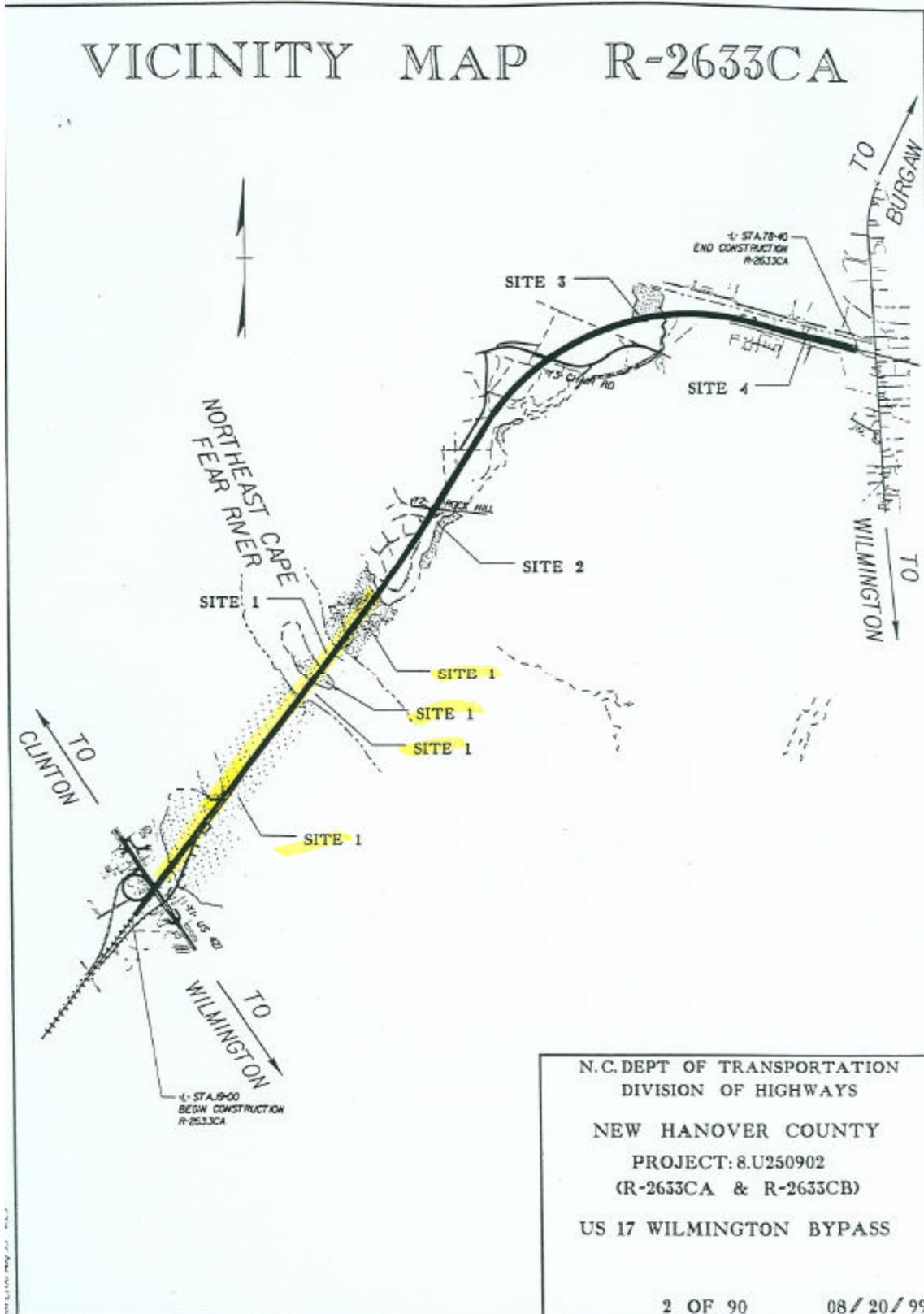


Figure 2. Site Location Map

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOS

US 17 Wilmington Bypass



Photo 1 (Site 1)



Photo 2 (Site 1)



Photo 3 (Site 1)



Photo 4 (Site 1)



Photo 5 (Site 1)