

[illegible]

The “Duration of Road Closure” is the duration of time that through traffic will be forced to use the off-site detour under consideration (not necessarily the duration of the project).

The “Additional Travel Time” is defined as the difference between time of travel on the detour route and the time of travel on the normal route by the average road user during the peak hour of travel.

Overriding Considerations

EMS: Contact the county EMS coordinator to determine if an offsite detour is acceptable. **If EMS expresses and maintains a strong opposition to an offsite detour citing high risk of loss of human life, this factor outweighs all other considerations resulting in maintaining traffic onsite.** If EMS states a moderate or low concern, other factors will be considered in the analysis.

Condition of the Detour Route: The condition of the detour route should be at least as good as the route being closed and capable of handling the additional traffic volumes. Therefore, a route should not be closed nor traffic detoured unless the condition, safety and geometry of the offsite detour are acceptable or can be improved to an acceptable level.

Bridges on the Detour Route: Determine the condition and postings of other bridges. The postings and/or geometry should be at least as good as that of the bridge being replaced. If not, a determination must be made whether permanent or temporary improvements to the bridge(s) on the offsite detour in question are possible and/or appropriate.

Improvements to the Proposed Offsite Detour: If improvements are required to use the offsite detour and result in increased footprint impacts, the impacts must be evaluated as part of the NEPA document and weighed as part of the evaluation on using the offsite detour.

Jeopardy Opinion: A jeopardy opinion from USFWS might outweigh an Unacceptable (U) delay.

Other Considerations: There are other possible factors such as High Volumes of traffic on an at-grade railroad crossing or frequent flooding conditions on a detour route. Best judgement must be exercised in coming to a decision

Final Determination

All issues including delay, overriding considerations, impacts to the human and natural environment as well as economics must be weighed in making the final determination. Political and permitting issues must also be considered. The final determination of an offsite detour falls to those who are ultimately responsible for safety and determining whether the costs (both environmental and economical) are acceptable to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and NCDOT. Therefore, the Division and PDEA will reach consensus and then PDEA will seek approval from FHWA in the planning document.