### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

# CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS and THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section

2600 Bull Street

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2015-00194 November 30, 2017

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 <u>et. seq.</u>), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

#### South Carolina Department of Transportation c/o Mr. Will McGoldrick P.O. Box 191 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

for a permit to place fill material in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, to act as a suitable road base to reconstruct two existing bridges and accommodate a northwesterly shift in a section of U.S. 176, in

#### Dean Swamp and adjacent wetlands

at a location along U.S. Route 176, between State Road S-38-174 and Old Gilliard Road, over Dean Swamp, in Holly Hill, Orangeburg and Berkeley Counties, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.279678°N, Longitude: -80.353645°W), as shown on the Sandridge, South Carolina quadrangle map.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

#### NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

#### 15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

#### 30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of the replacement of two existing bridges over Dean Swamp and improvement of the roadway approaches and the 750-feet of road between both bridges. The approaches, bridges, and causeway in between, will be offset approximately 28-feet to the north-northeast using a staged construction method. The current overflow bridge is approximately 27.5-

feet wide by 84-feet long bridge and will be replaced with a 40-foot wide by 160-foot long bridge supported by five bents. The main bridge is an approximately 25.5-foot wide by 135-foot long bridge that will be replaced with a 40-foot wide by 240-foot long bridge supported by eight bents. The offset bridge replacements will require a northwesterly shift to approximately 1,250 linear feet of U.S. 176 north of the overflow bridge and approximately 1,100 linear feet of U.S. 176 south of the main bridge. According to the applicant, existing causeway fill material will be removed from the ends of both existing bridges to provide better hydrologic connection within Dean Swamp. The proposed project will have permanent fill impacts to 1.57-acres of wetlands, permanent clearing impacts to 0.191-acre of wetlands, temporary fill impacts to 0.912-acre of wetlands for construction access, and temporary clearing impacts to 1.08-acres of wetlands for erosion and sedimentation control, for a total of 3.753-acres of wetland impacts.

<u>Purpose and Need:</u> As stated by the applicant: "The purpose of the project is to replace two structurally deficient functionally obsolete bridges."

Avoidance and Minimization: As stated by the applicant: "Efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. include the following: Each of the proposed bridge lengths has been increased to reduce the necessary causeway to support the new roadway approaches. The overflow bridge was increased from 84 to 160 feet, and the main bridge has been increased from 135 to 240 feet. Roadway profile increases were minimized to reduce roadway approach improvements and associated wetland impacts. Roadway approach fill slopes were reduced from 6:1, as recommended by the SCDOTs Highway Design Manual, to a maximum of 4:1 throughout the project to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. Roadway approach fill slopes were also further reduced to 2:1 where feasible or practicable to further minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. Temporary clearing was minimized along the causeway between to the bridges. Temporary clearing in this area is limited to 12 feet beyond the toe-of-fill for the installation of necessary erosion control devices. SCDOT would install sediment and erosion control measures, consistent with state best management practices (BMPs), during construction of the project to prevent runoff and sedimentation of waters of the U.S. Roadway construction would be conducted from the existing roadway, uplands, or authorized fill areas to avoid additional impacts to undisturbed waters of the U.S. No heavy machinery will operate within waters of the U.S. beyond the permitted limits of disturbance."

<u>Compensatory Mitigation:</u> The applicant has proposed to mitigate for all unavoidable project impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, by purchasing 45.25 wetland mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank servicing the project area. In addition, the proposed project will impact a portion of a parcel of land that was previously placed under restrictive covenants and preserved from development as compensatory mitigation for a separate project (Action ID No. SAC-89-2A-055). As a result, the SCDOT has proposed to offset this impact by acquiring a 6.534-acre parcel of land from the National Audubon Society, and in part, recording restrictive covenants on the parcel.

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <a href="http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices">http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices</a>.

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management

Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact <u>no</u> estuarine substrates or emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, and the District Engineer has determined, based on the most recently available information that the proposed project will have <u>no effect</u> on the frosted flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), American wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*), Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), American chaffseed (*Schwalbea Americana*), Canby's dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. Furthermore, in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's guidance outlined in their August 1, 2017 letter, "*Revised – Clearance Authorization for Potential Impacts to Northern Long-eared Bat Under the Nationwide Permit Program*", the Corps has determined that the proposed project <u>may affect</u>, <u>but is not likely to adversely affect</u>, the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and per the agreement, no further consultation is necessary.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(/)(1)), and has initially determined that there are historic properties present, but they will not be affected; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

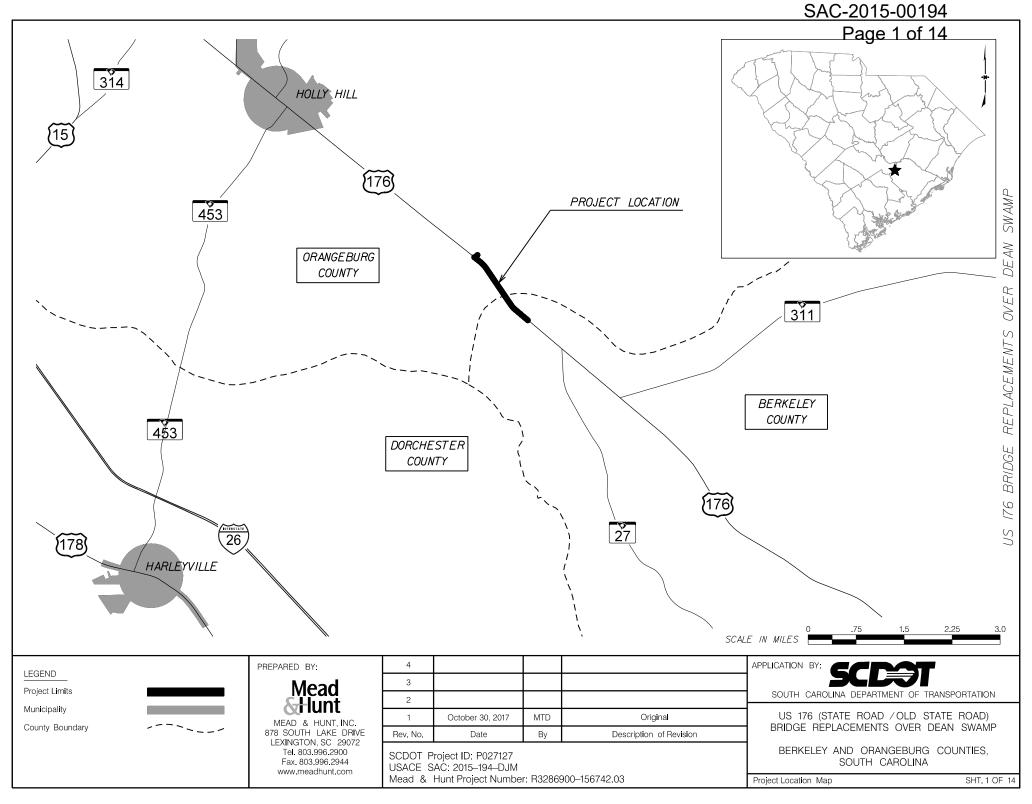
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

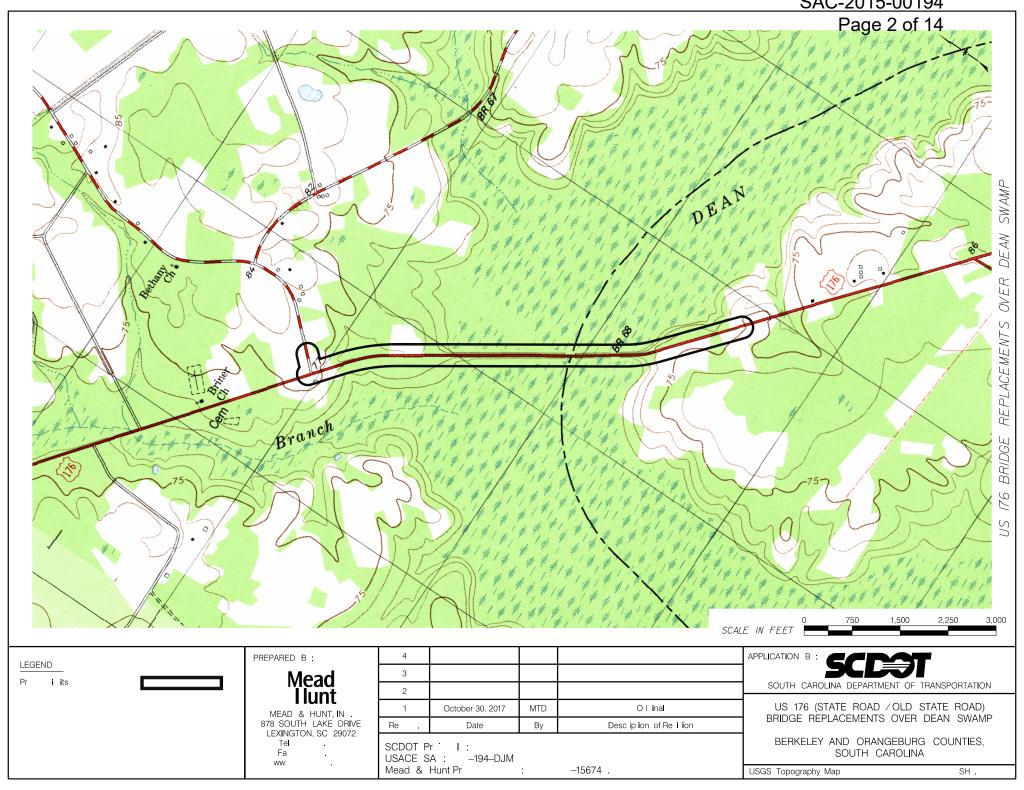
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

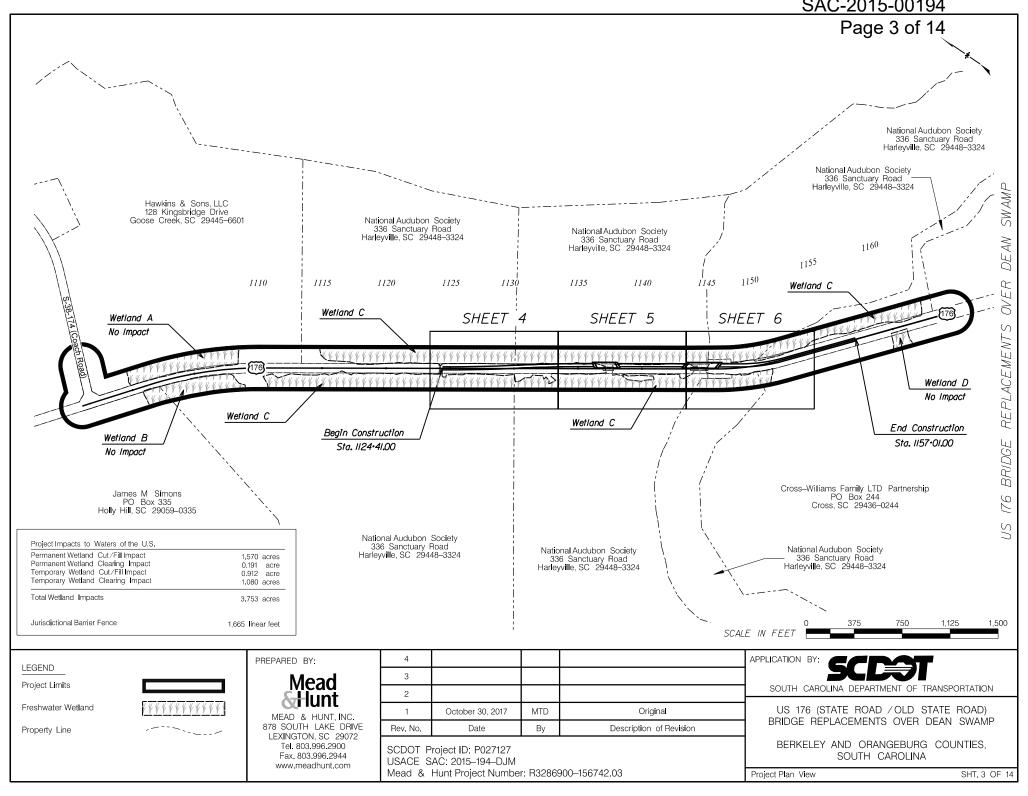
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity. **Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:** 

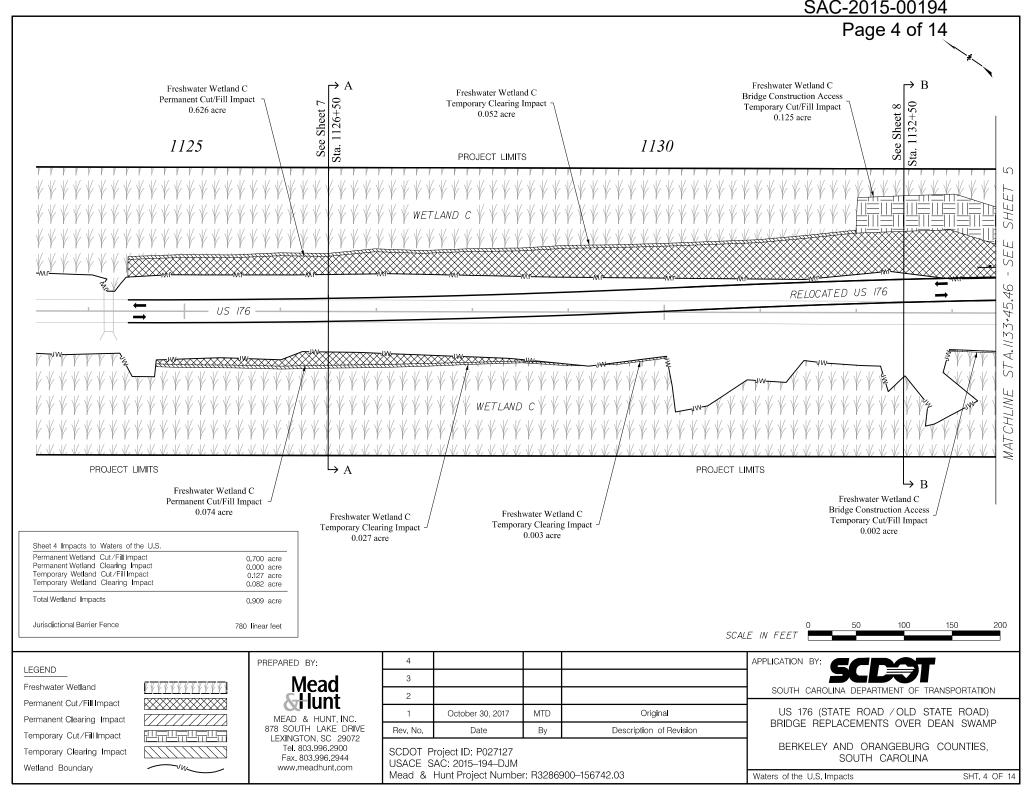
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: Regulatory Division 69-A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

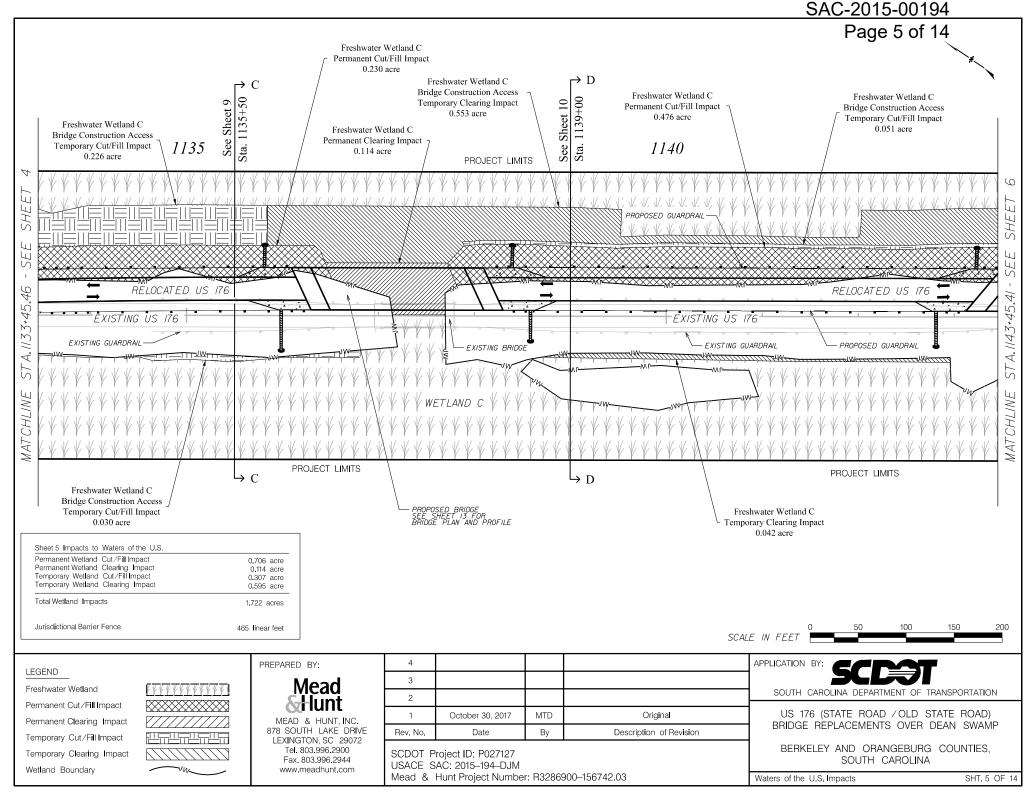
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact John N. Policarpo, Project Manager at (843) 329-8043, toll free at 1-866-329-8187, or at <a href="mailto:John.N.Policarpo@usace.army.mil">John.N.Policarpo@usace.army.mil</a>.

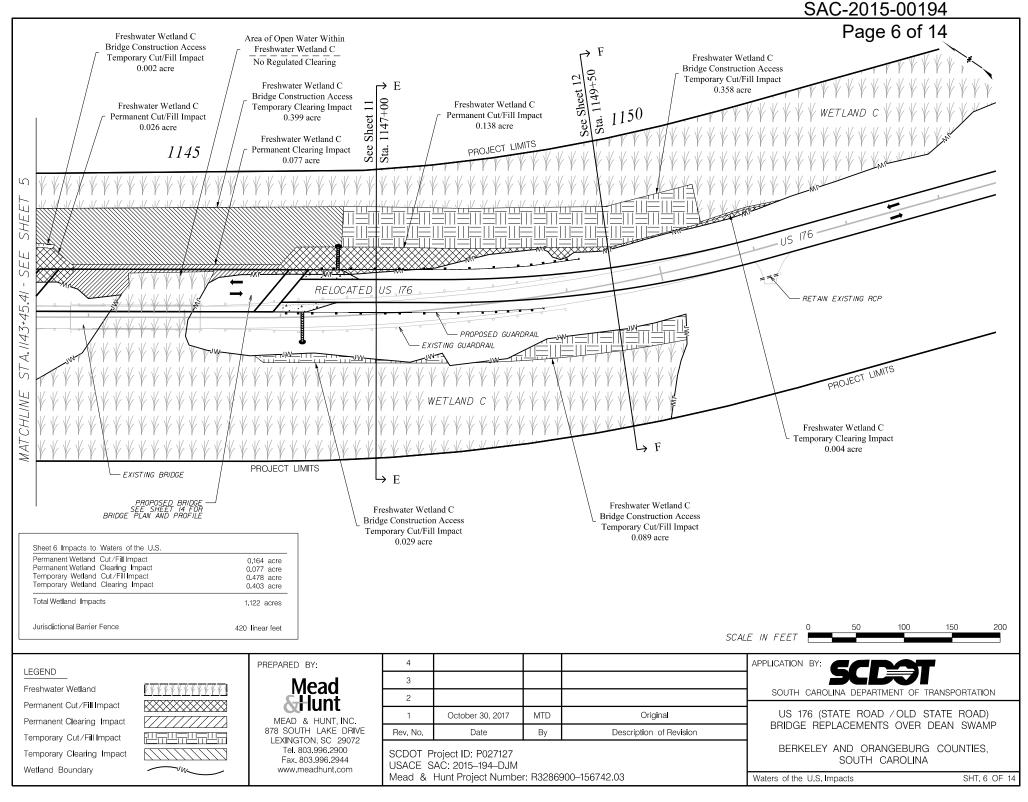






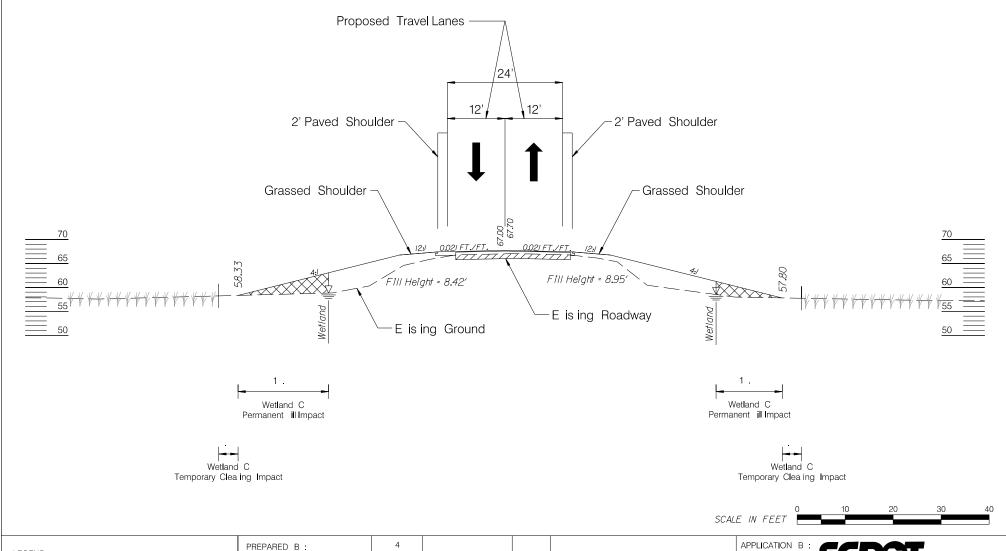






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## US 176 (OLD STATE ROAD) SECTION A STATION 1126+50.00



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878 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE
LEXINGTON, SC 29072
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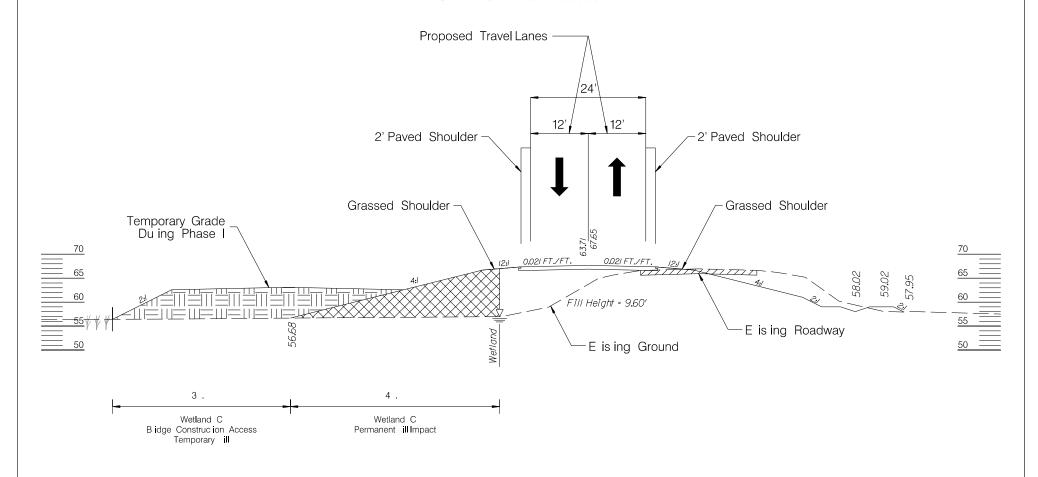
US 176 (STATE ROAD / OLD STATE ROAD) BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS OVER DEAN SWAMP

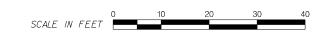
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## US 176 (OLD STATE ROAD) SECTION B STATION 1132+50.00





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US 176 (STATE ROAD / OLD STATE ROAD) BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS OVER DEAN SWAMP

BERKELEY AND ORANGEBURG COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Page 9 of 14 US 176 (OLD STATE ROAD) SECTION C STATION 1135+50.00 Proposed Travel Lanes 12 12' 2' Paved Shoulder 2' Paved Shoulder Temporary Grade Du ing Phase II Grassed Shoulder Grassed Shoulder Temporary Grade Proposed Guardr il -Proposed Guardr il Duing Phase I 9 Fill Height = 9,77" Wetland 56.54 E is ing Roadway E is ing Ground 50 4 . 3 . Wetland C Wetland C Bidge Construcion Access Permanent ill Impact Bidge Construction Access Temporary ill Temporary ill SCALE IN FEET APPLICATION PREPARED B: LEGEND 3 Freshwater Wetland SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 2 Permanent Cut / ill Impact US 176 (STATE ROAD / OLD STATE ROAD) 1 October 30, 2017 MTD O i inal Temporary Cut/ ill Impact BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS OVER DEAN SWAMP 878 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE Re Date Ву Desc ip ion of Re i ion LEXINGTON, SC 29072 BERKELEY AND ORANGEBURG COUNTIES, Tel SCDOT Pr I: Fa SOUTH CAROLINA USACE SA:

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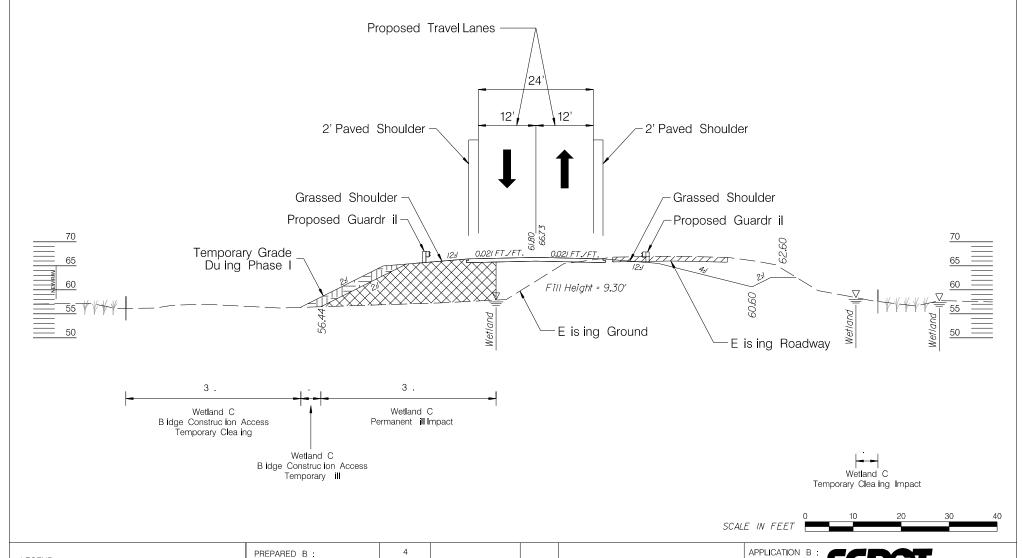
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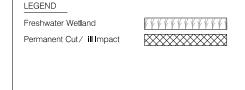
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## US 176 (OLD STATE ROAD) SECTION D STATION 1139+00.00





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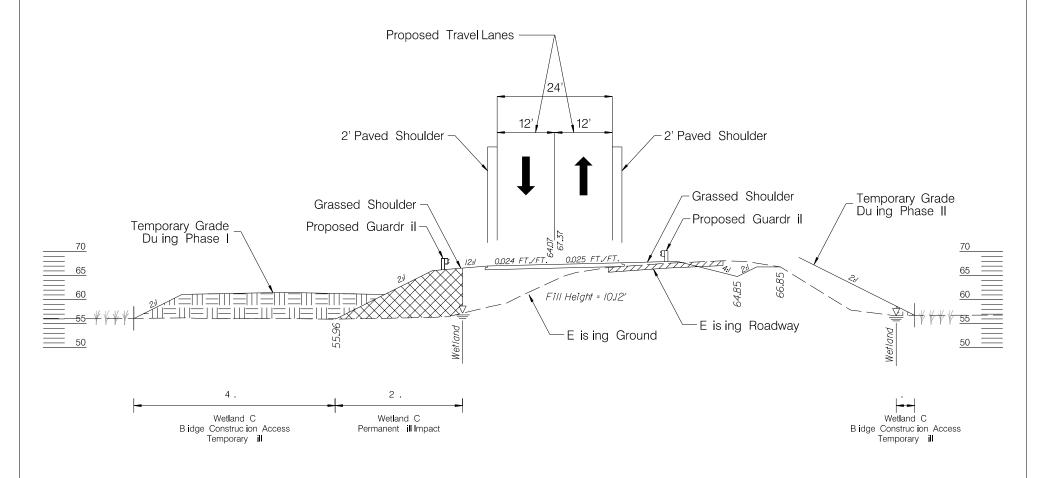
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BERKELEY AND ORANGEBURG COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

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## US 176 (STATE ROAD) SECTION E STATION 1147+00.00





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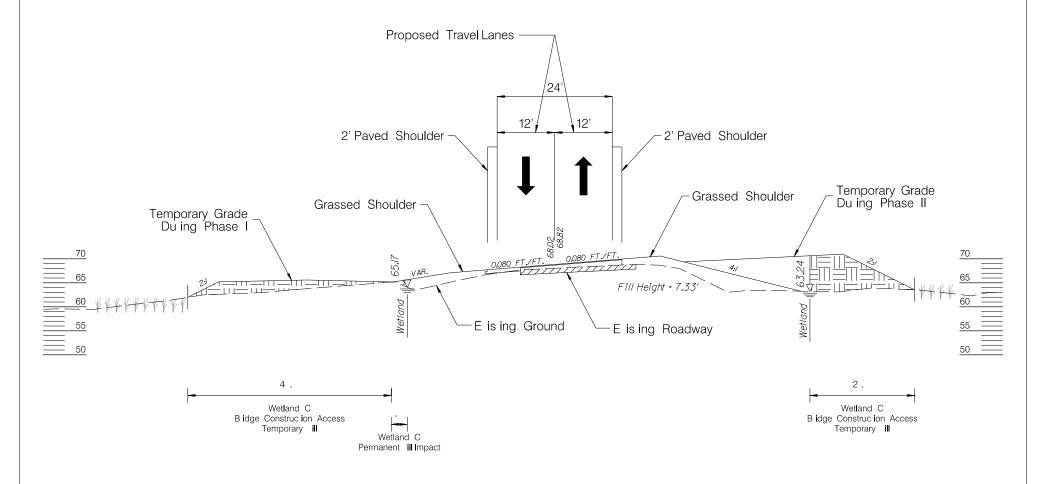
US 176 (STATE ROAD / OLD STATE ROAD) BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS OVER DEAN SWAMP

BERKELEY AND ORANGEBURG COUNTIES, SOUTH CAROLINA

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## US 176 (STATE ROAD) SECTION F STATION 1149+50.00





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