JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, SC 29412 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-2018-00748 January 23, 2020

Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), 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 (SCDOT) c/o MR. WILLIAM MCGOLDRICK P.O. BOX 191 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

for a permit to place fill material in wetlands and other waters of the United States to facilitate the widening of an existing interstate highway in

waters that drain to Crim Creek, Rocky Creek, Summers
Branch, Risters Creek, Wateree Creek, Boyd Branch, Wildhorse Branch, Metz Branch,
Hope Creek, and Nicholas Creek with ultimate drainage to the Broad River

along Interstate 26 (I-26) from mile marker (MM) 85 to MM101, beginning 1.6 miles west of the SC 202 (Exit 85) interchange to the US 176 (Exit 101) interchange, in Newberry, Lexington, and Richland Counties, South Carolina (Start Latitude: 34.232002°N, Longitude: 81.441305°W; End Latitude: 34.100006°N, Longitude: 81.175945°W), Quad Sheet-Little Mountain, Chapin, and Richtex.

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 26 miles of widening improvements to I-26 and reconstructing three interchanges. Improvements would take place from 1.6 miles west of the SC 202 (Exit 85) interchange to the US 176 (Exit 101) interchange. The improvements would widen the mainline of I-26 from Exit 85 (MM85) to Exit 101 (MM101). I-26 would be widened to a total of six lanes (three in each direction from Exit 85 to Exit 97) and to eight lanes (four in each direction from Exit 97 to Exit 101). The widening would be constructed towards the existing median, minimizing impacts and areas of new disturbance. Interchange improvements would be provided at Exits 85, 91, and 97. A total of seven overpasses that cross I-26 would be replaced including S-36-167 (Parr Road), S-36-39 (Holy Trinity Church Road), S-32-49 (Peak Street), S-40-58 (Old Hilton Road), S-40-234 (Mt. Vernon Church Road), S-40-80 (Shady Grove Road), and S-40-58 (Koon Road). The truck weigh station near MM94 would be improved as a weigh-in-motion station.

The applicant proposes impacts to 4,988 linear feet of relatively permanent waters, to mechanically clear 0.10 acre of jurisdictional wetlands, to fill 0.75 acre of jurisdictional wetlands, and to fill 0.31 acre of open (pond) waters for improvements to the existing I-26. The applicant has proposed to mitigate for impacts to wetlands and/or waters of the United States by purchasing 10 wetland mitigation credits and 27,372 stream credits from the proposed Gregorys Creek Mitigation Site. As stated by the applicant, the project purpose is to improve public traffic safety by improving the existing deficient roadway.

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

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. 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 4,988 linear feet of relatively permanent waters and 1.16 acres of estuarine substrates and 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 the 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 project will have <u>no effect</u> on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in

the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity.

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. Per the applicant's prior coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), dated January 22, 2018, the SHPO concurred that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project. 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.

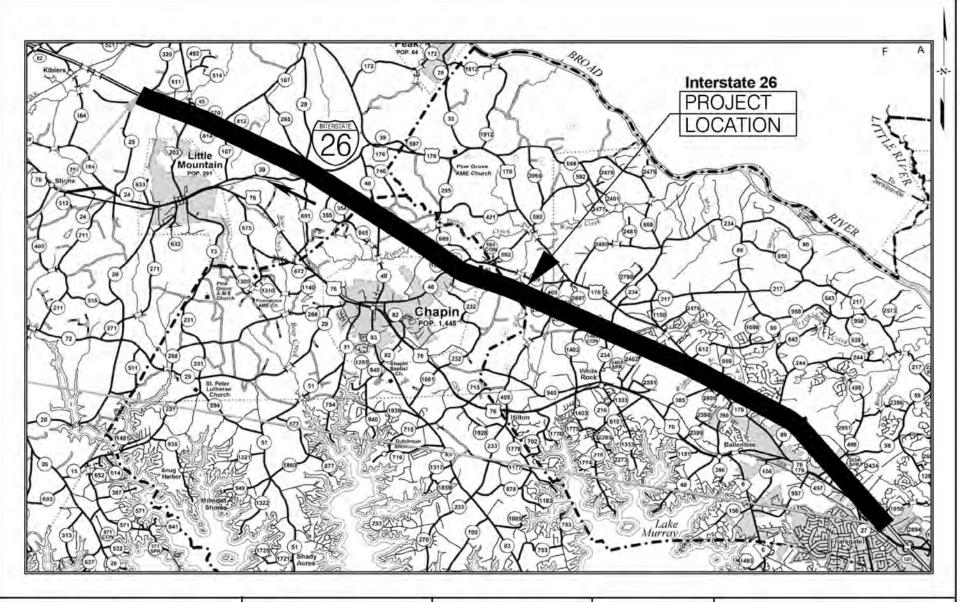
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. 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

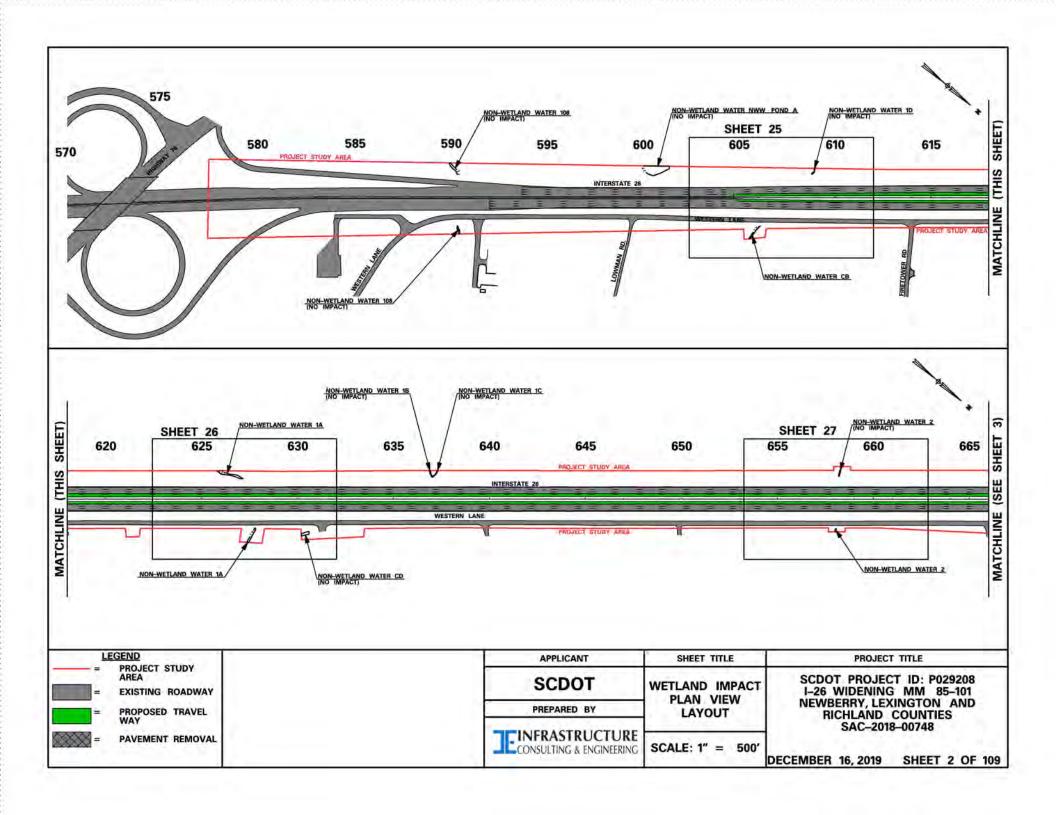
this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, 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:

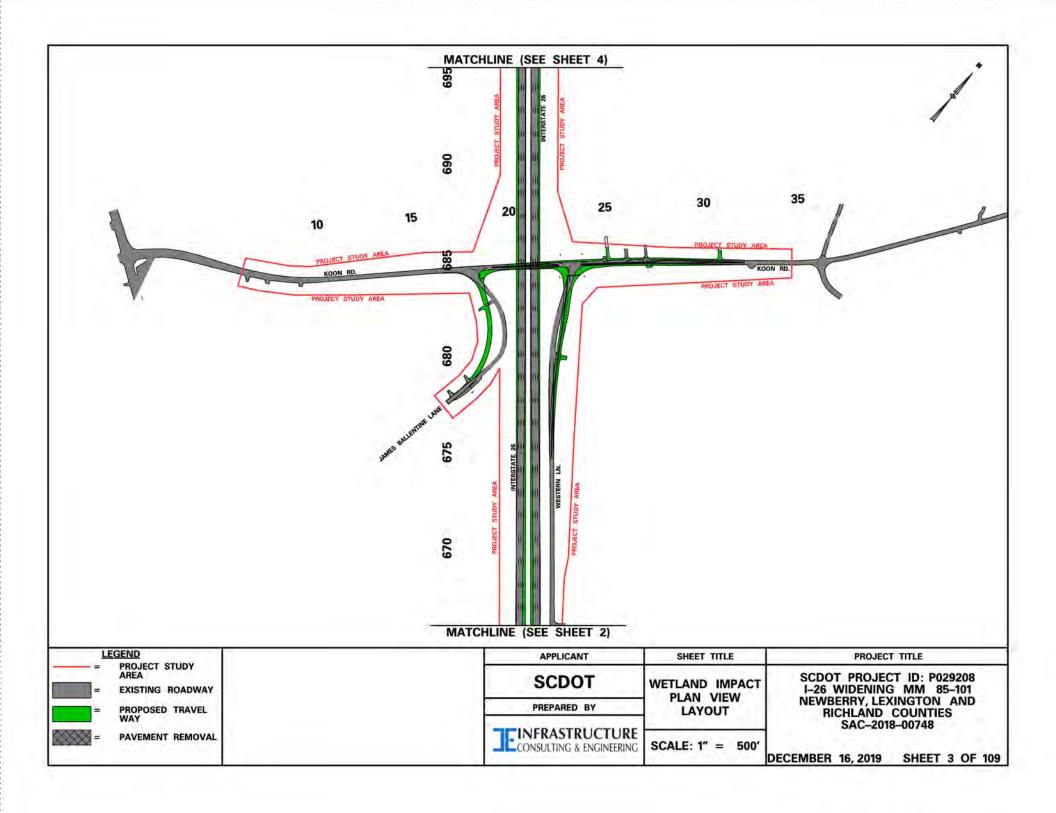
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, SC 29412

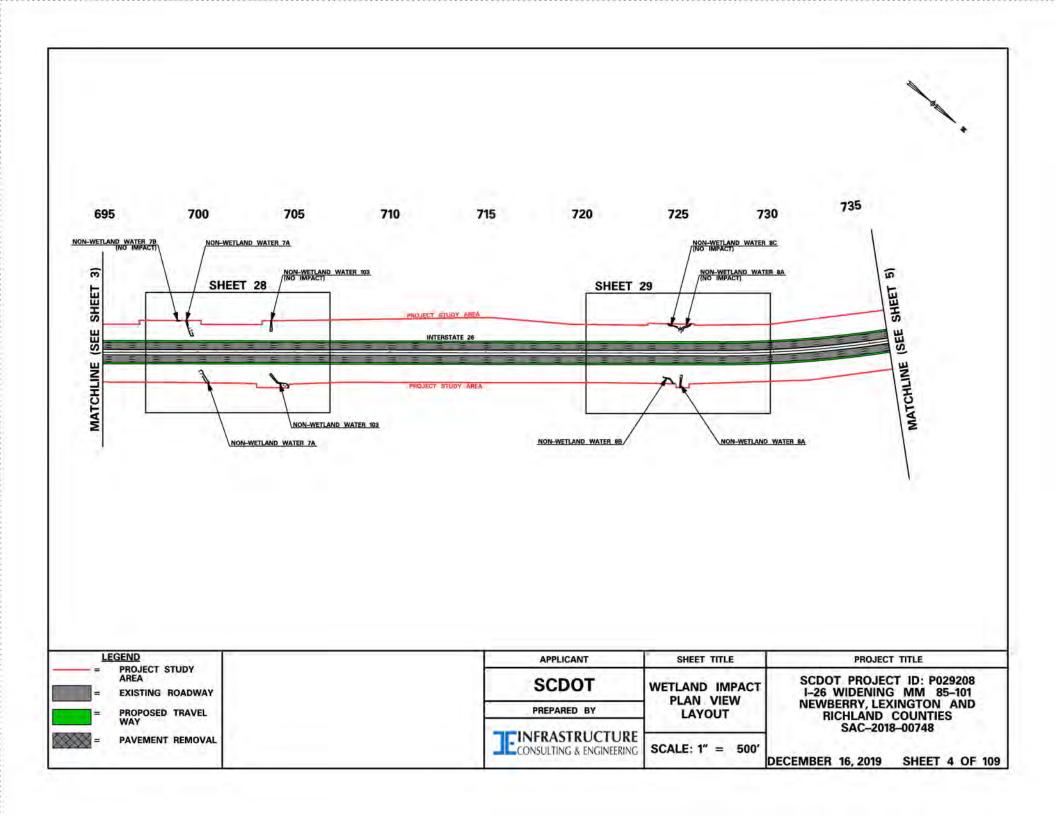
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Ivan W. Fannin, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187, or by email at ivan.fannin@usace.army.mil.

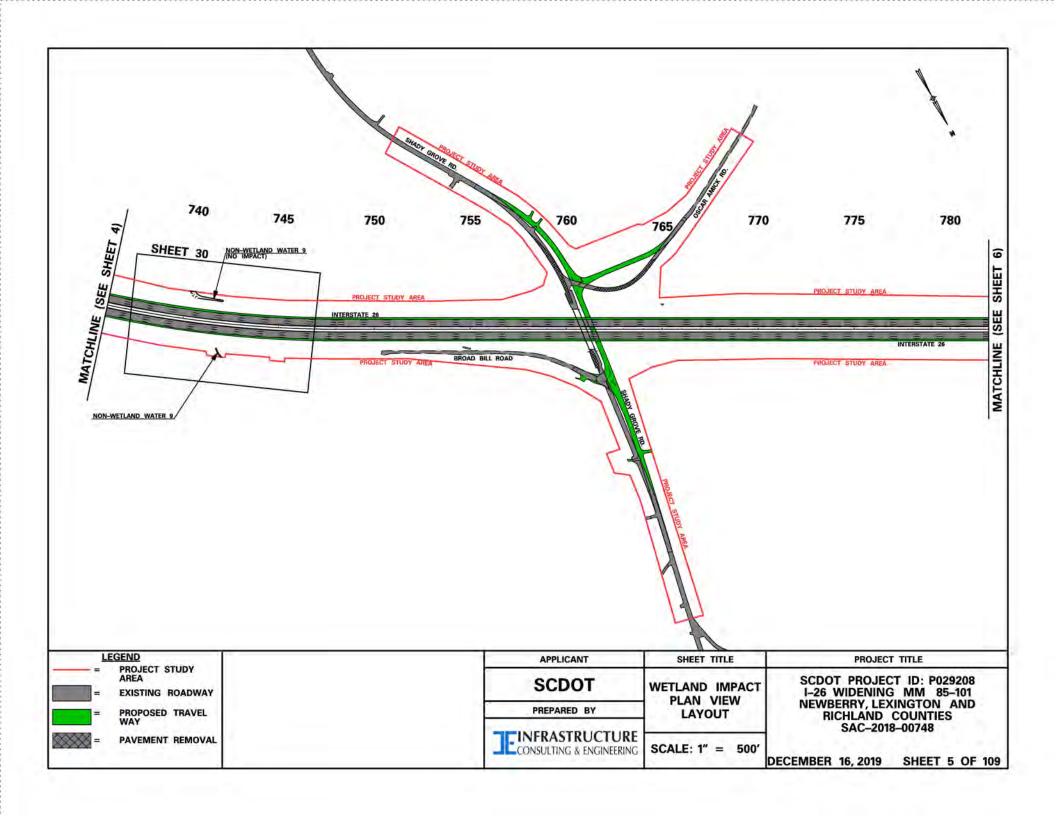


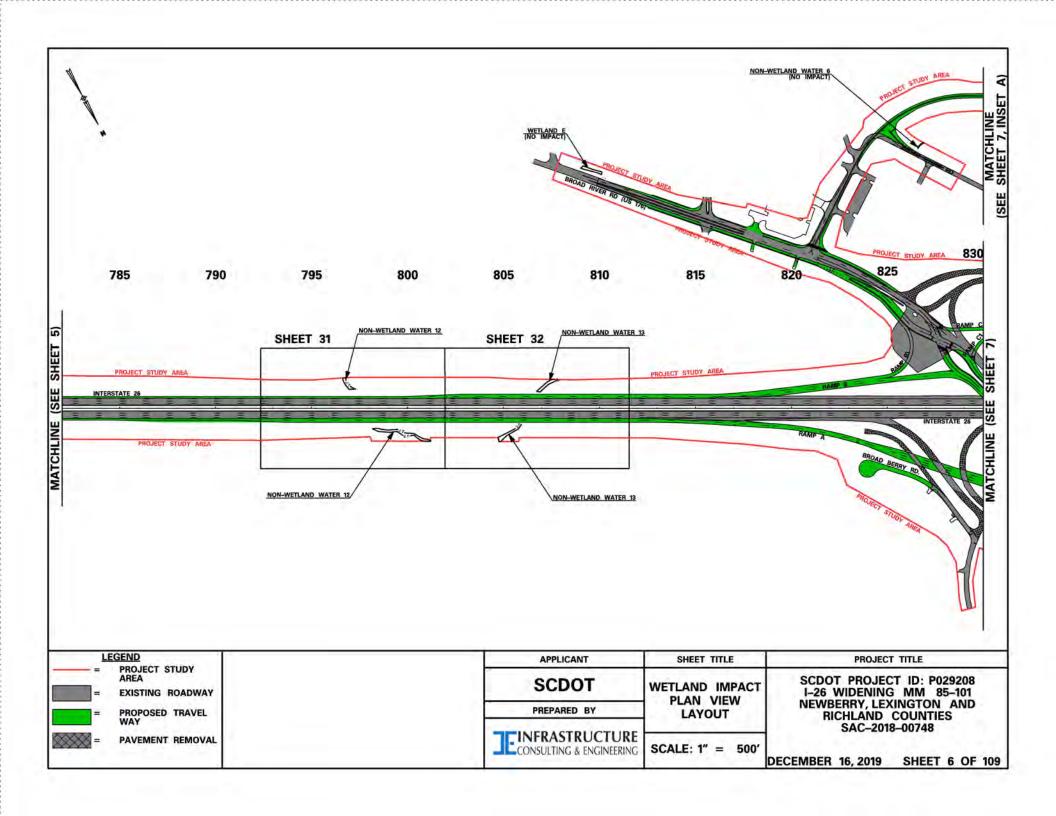
income and a second	PROJECT IMPACT TOTALS	APPLICANT	SHEET TITLE	PROJECT TITLE
Approximate Location of Roadway is Begin Latitude 34,232002	STREAM (LF): RIP-RAP TOTAL = 1619 PIPE TOTAL = 1862	SCDOT	WETLAND IMPACT	
Longitude81.441305	FILL TOTAL = 1507 TOTAL (LF) IMPACT = 4988	PREPARED BY	PLAN VIEW	NEWBERRY, LEXINGTON AND RICHLAND COUNTIES
End	WETLAND (ACRE): FILL TOTAL = 0.957	TINFRASTRUCTURE		SAC-2018-00748
Longitude81,175945	CLEARING TOTAL = 0.100 TOTAL (AC) IMPACT: = 1.057	CONSULTING & ENGINEERING	SCALE: 1" = 100'	DECEMBER 16, 2019 SHEET 1 OF 109

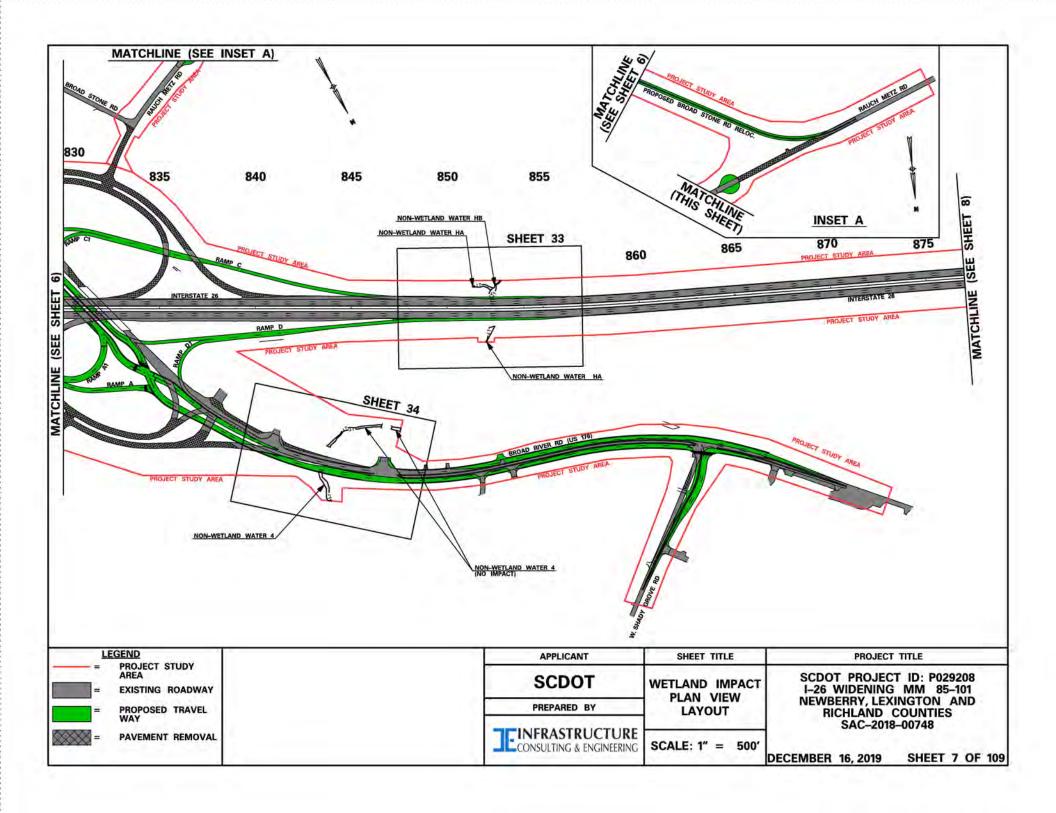


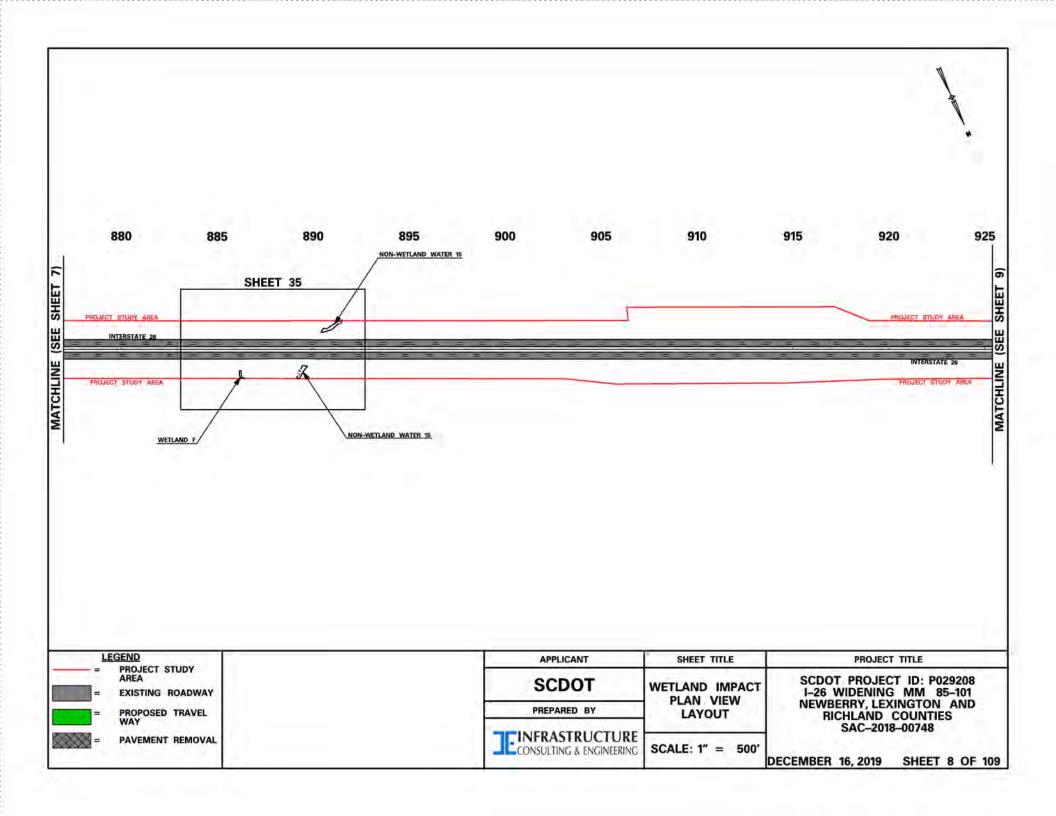


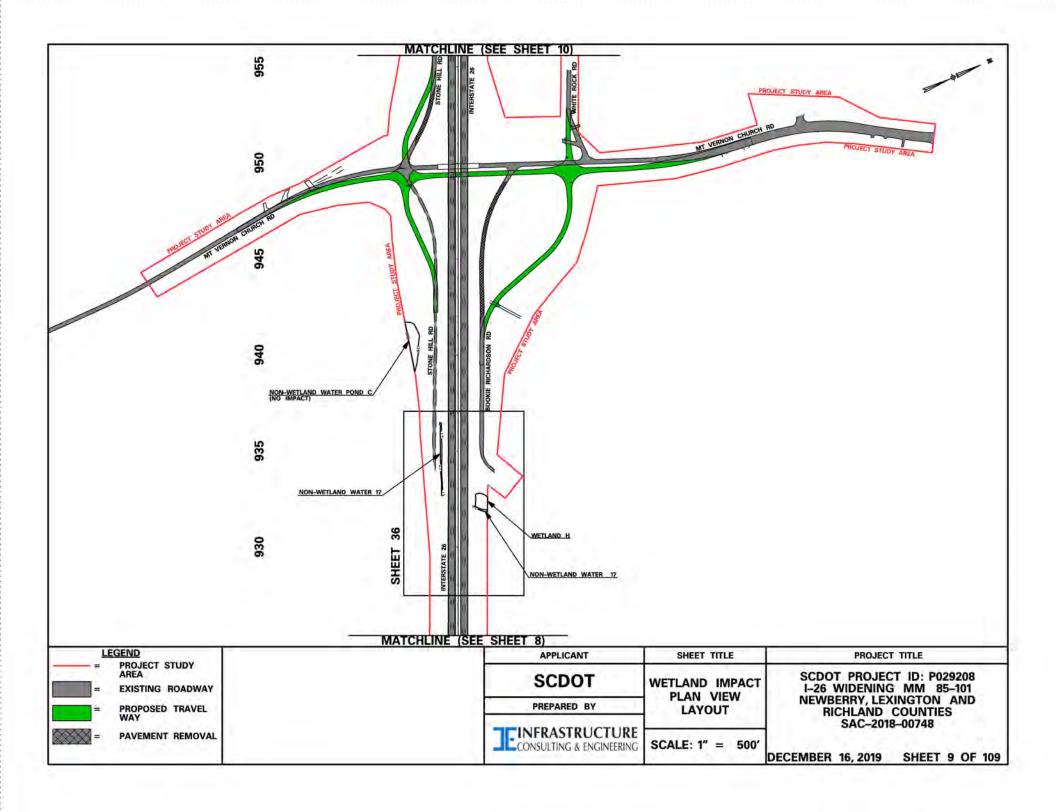


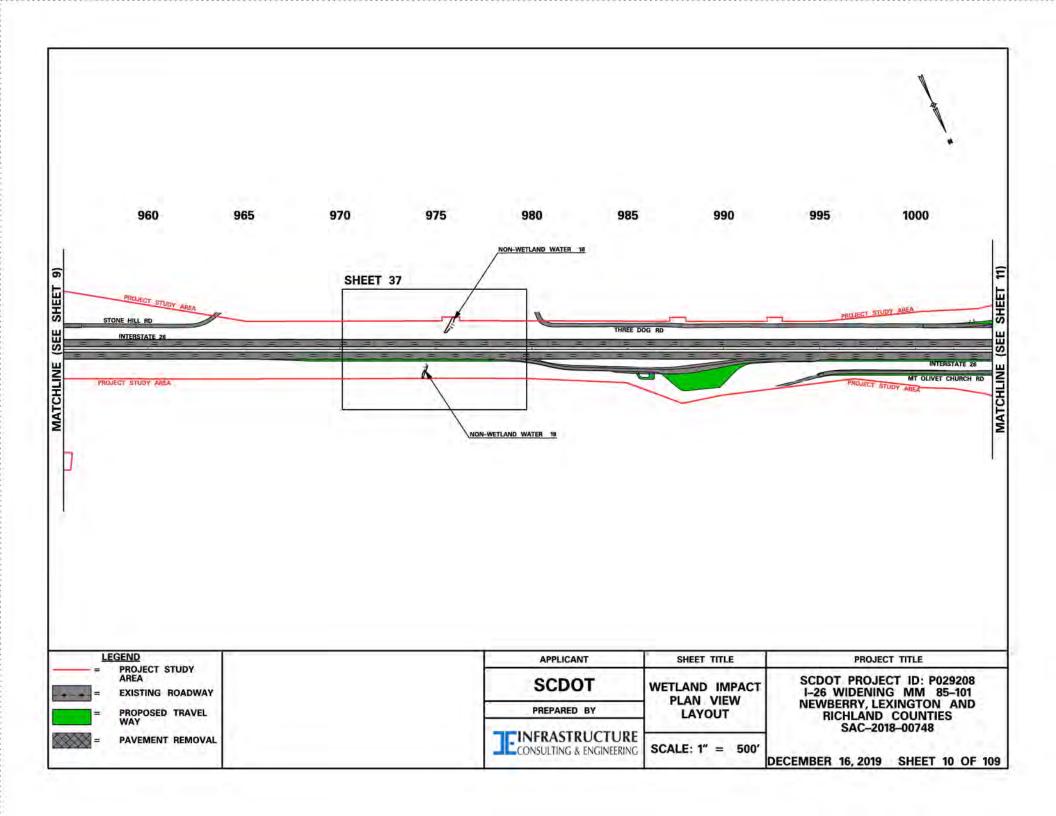


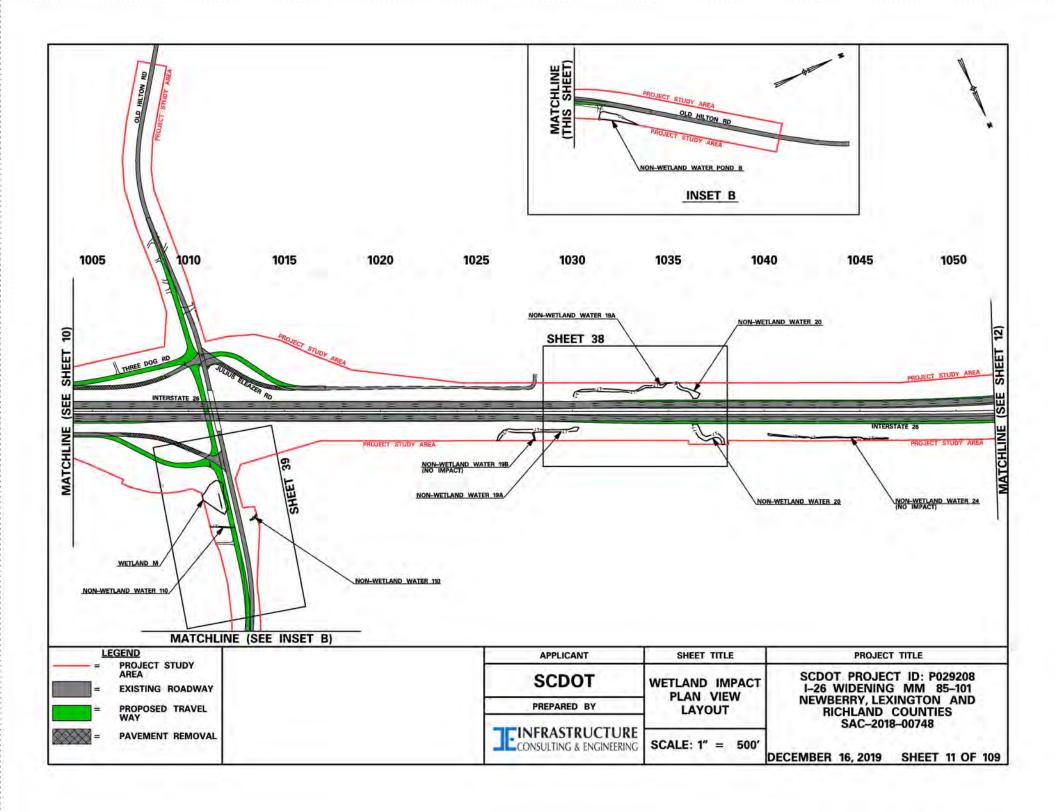


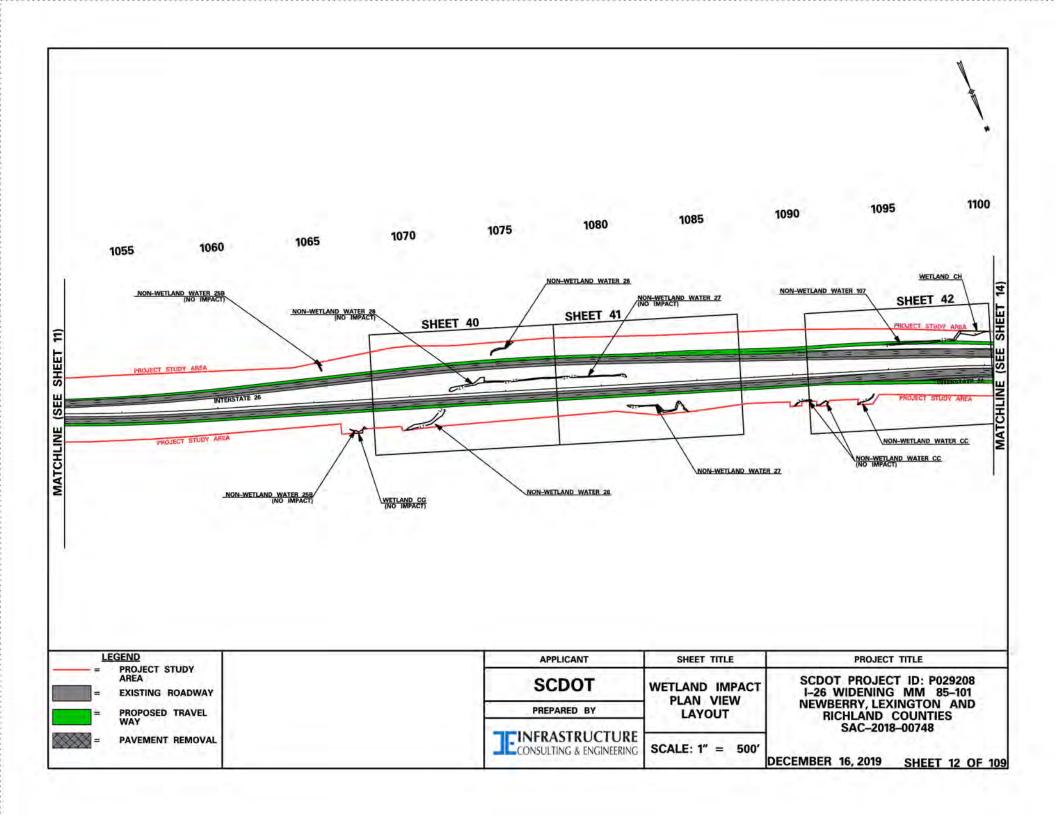


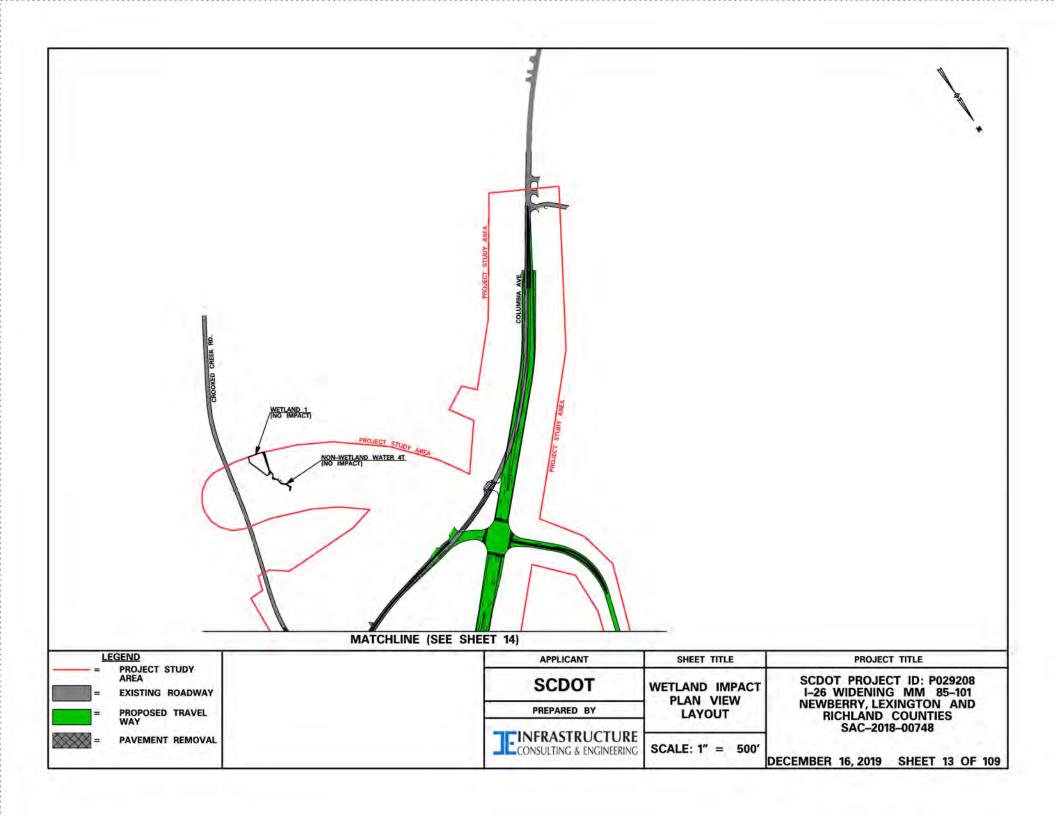


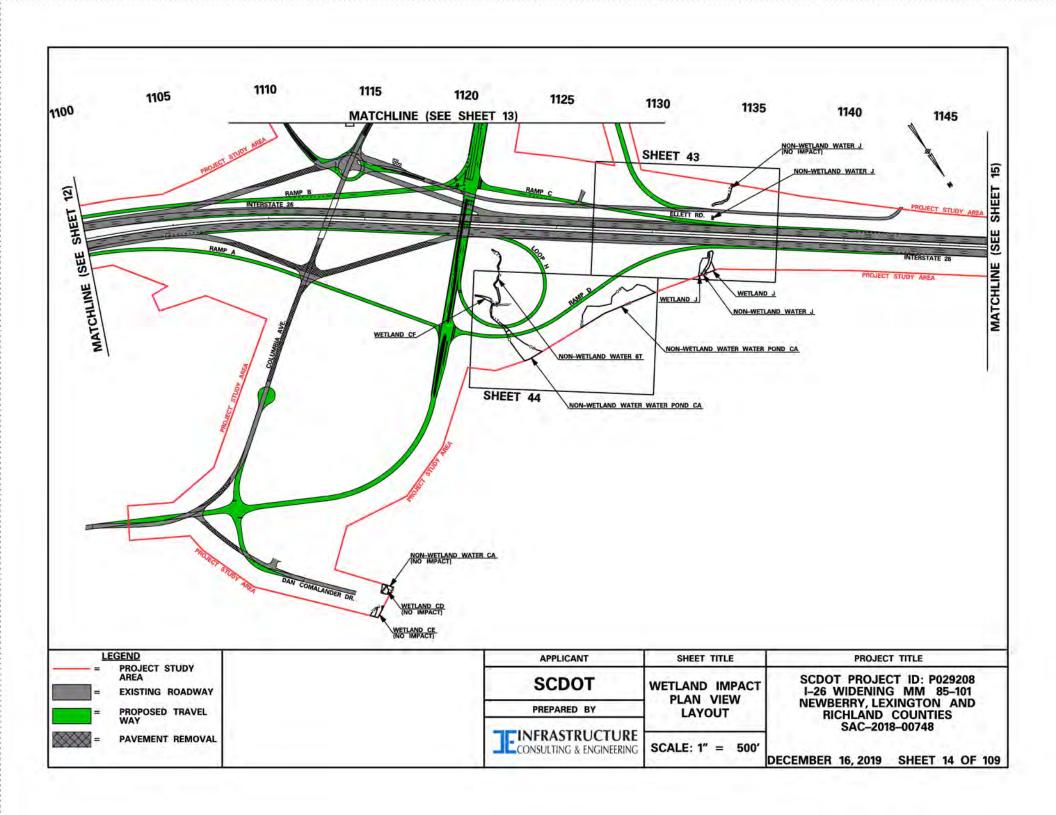


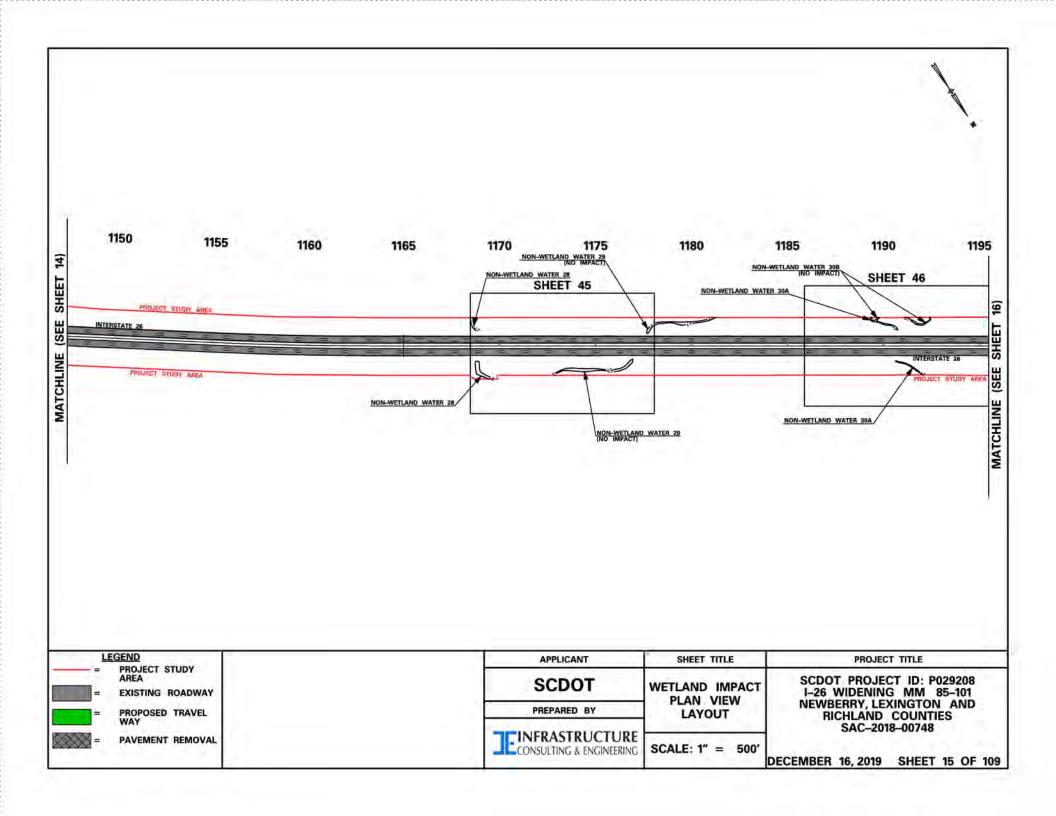


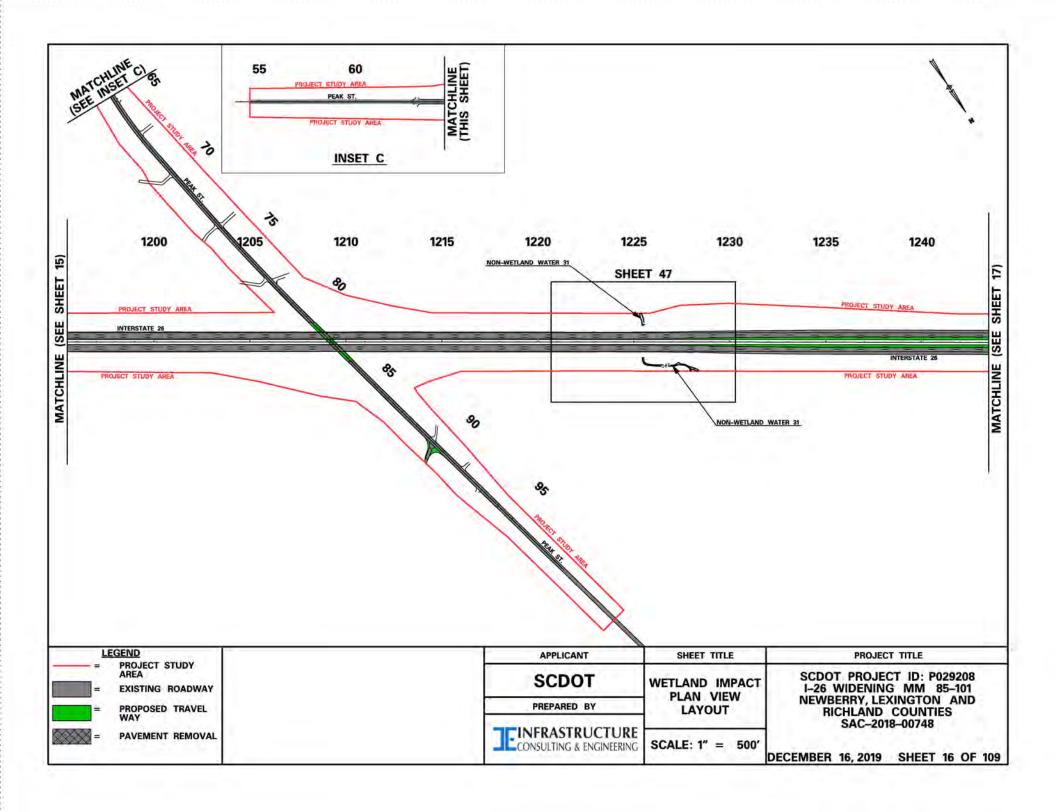


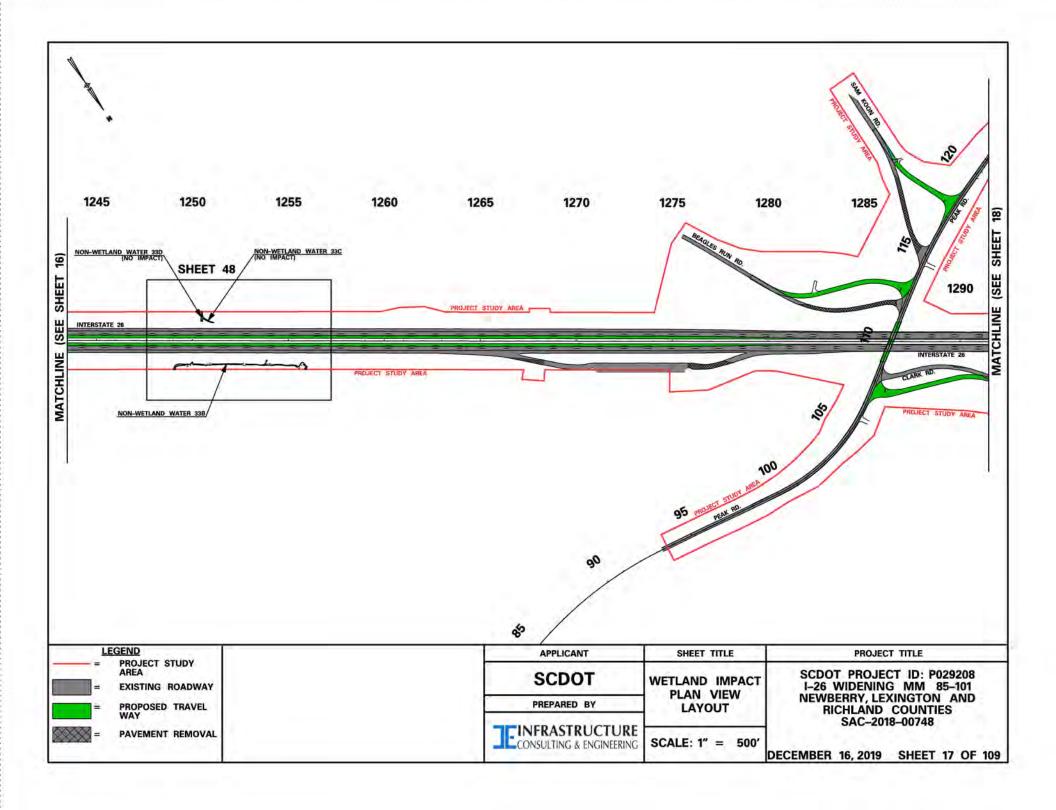


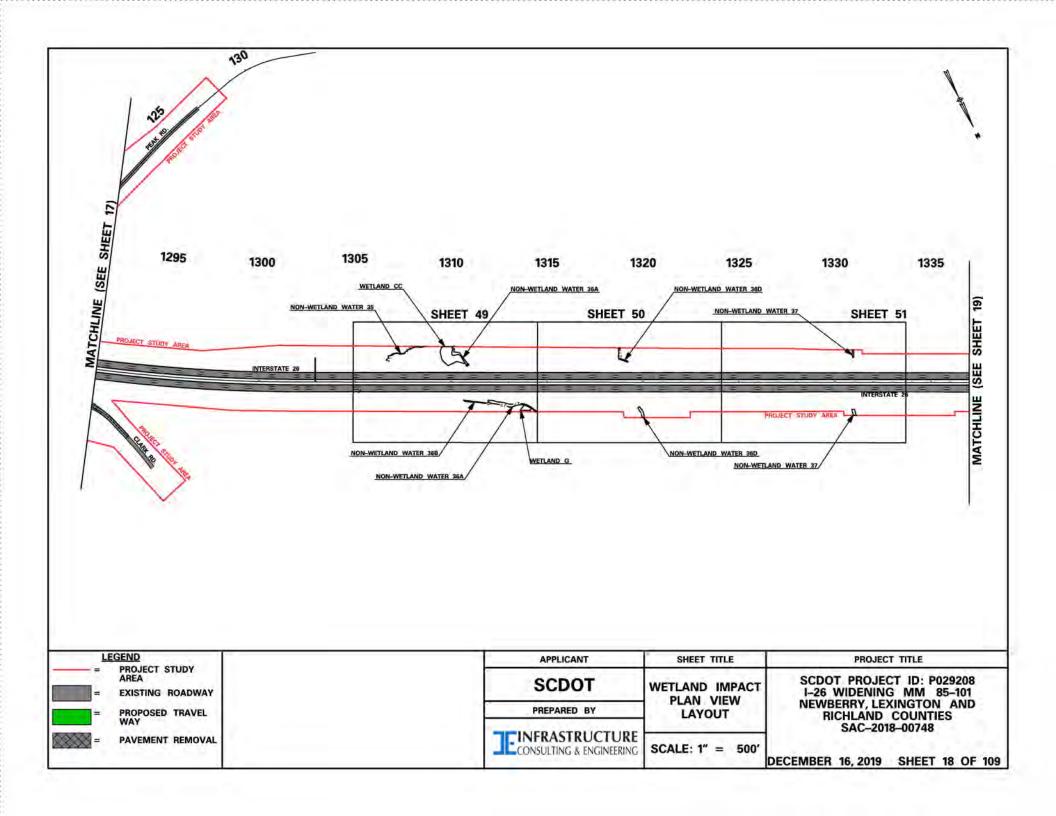


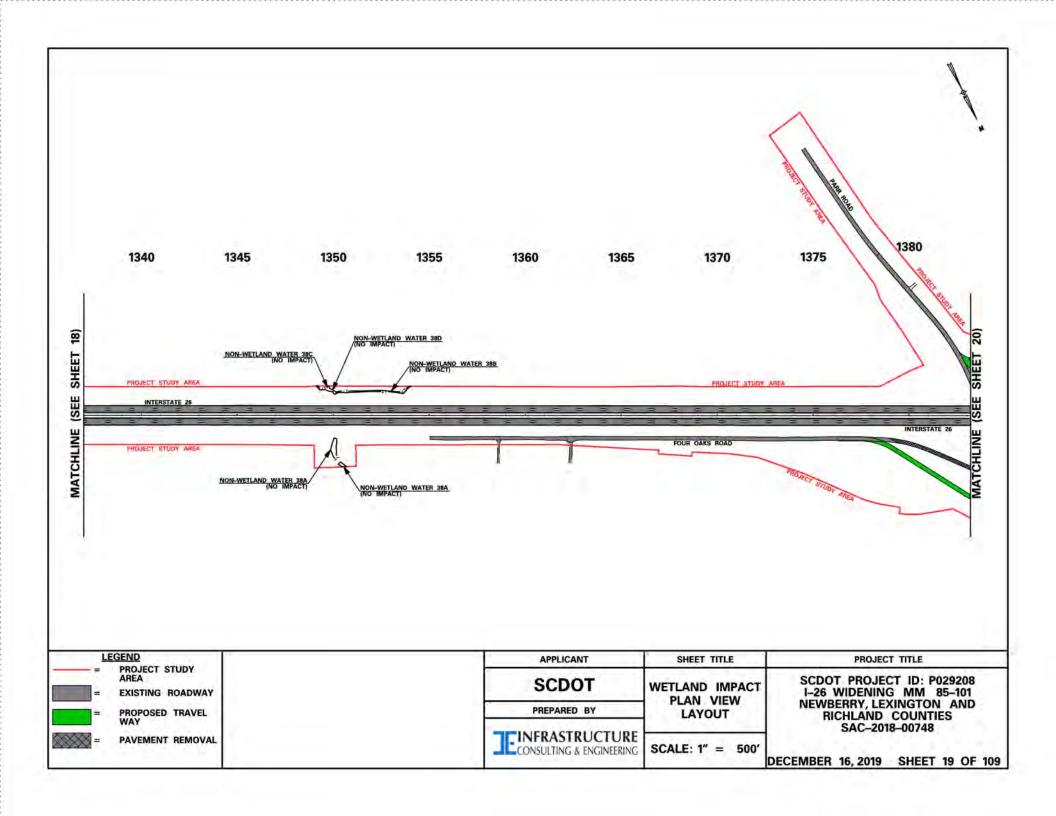


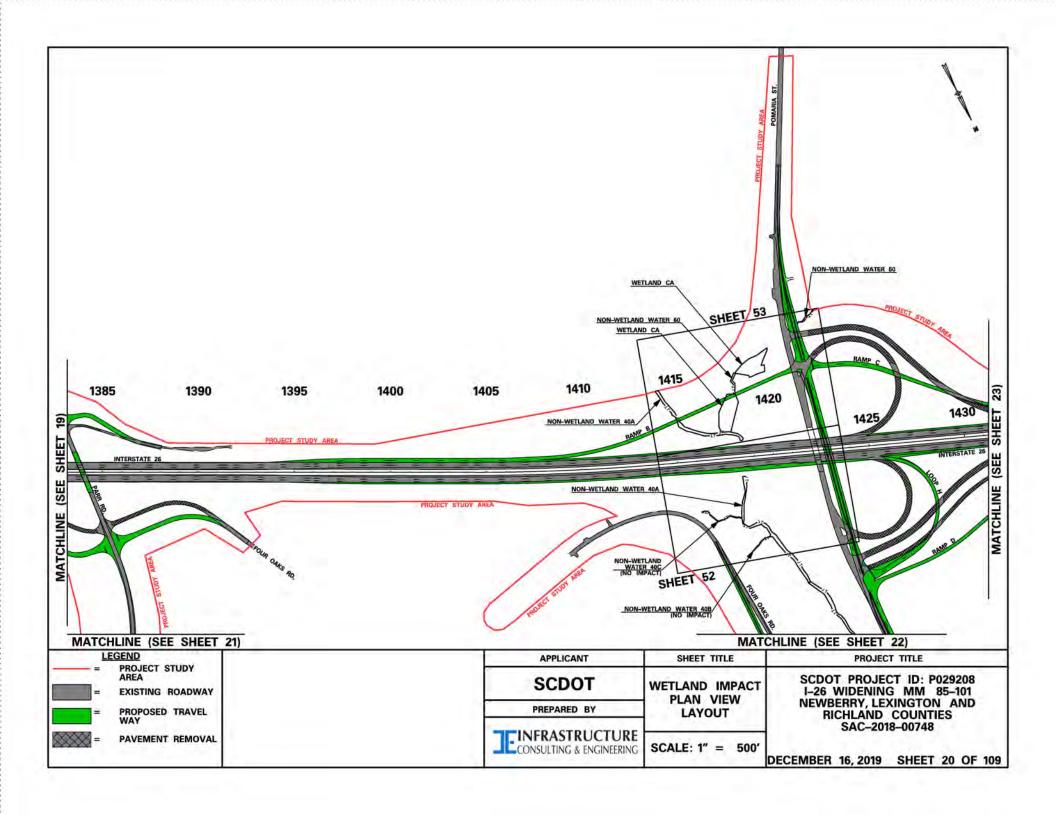


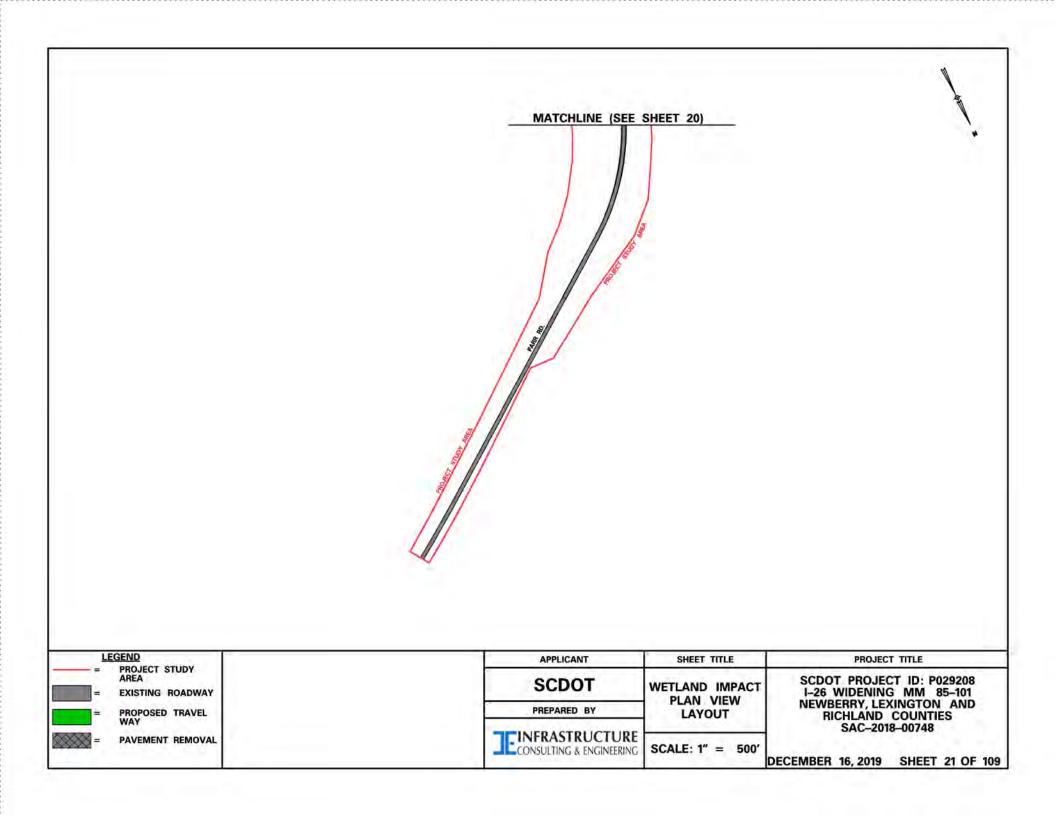


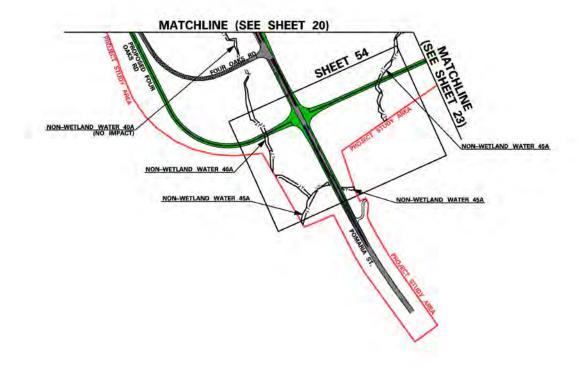












LEGEND PROJECT CTUDY	APPLICANT	SHEET TITLE	PROJECT TITLE
= PROJECT STUDY AREA = EXISTING ROADWAY	SCDOT	WETLAND IMPACT SCDOT PROJECT ID: P029208	
= PROPOSED TRAVEL	PREPARED BY	PLAN VIEW LAYOUT	NEWBERRY, LEXINGTON AND RICHLAND COUNTIES
= PAVEMENT REMOVAL	IEINFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTING & ENGINEERING	SCALE: 1" = 500'	SAC-2018-00748
			DECEMBER 16, 2019 SHEET 22 OF 109

