1. **Purpose and Need Statement**: It is understood that the objective of this project is improving I-95 from MM 0 to MM 18 and that the likely form that improvement will take is widening. The Purpose and Need Statement for the project's environmental document will need to reflect the "why" of that objective. Will the road be widened to improve capacity? If so, why is a capacity upgrade necessary? Will the road be widened to increase the safety of the facility? If so, why is there a need for increased safety on the facility? Etc.

Note that any use of "safety" in Purpose and Need must be accompanied by data showing both a need via accident statistics and a projected benefit that is statistically based.

2. **Noise:** A noise study will be required for the project if capacity is expanded either through the addition of a travel lane or restriping. Noise receivers are infrequent through the project corridor with the exception of the Hardeeville area. In this area there is some probability that the noise analysis could lead to the construction of noise abatement barriers for residential areas in Hardeeville on either side of I-95.

3. **Wetlands/Other Waters**: The concentration of wetlands along the I95 corridor was assessed by reviewing several GIS data layers, and a wetland delineation that was performed for a previously permitted project. Based on review of this information, the I95 corridor in Jasper County contains a high concentration of wetlands. The majority of the wetlands within the project study area are forested wetlands that are part of larger swamp systems. Some of the wetlands in the project area are located within the floodplain of the Savannah River and have hydrologic connectivity to portions of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. There are also other non-wetland waters located within the corridor including several seasonal and perennial tributaries. In order to quantify the amount of waters of the US within the corridor, a jurisdictional determination package will need to be prepared and verified by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

4. **Flood Plains/Drainage:** Floodplains are regulated by Federal Emergency Management Agency. Any activities affecting floodplains within the project corridor will have to follow FEMA Flood Insurance Program regulations.

5. **Permits:** Due to the high concentration of wetlands and the anticipated wetland impacts, the project will need an individual Section 404 permit from the USACE.

6. **Watershed/Mitigation Bank Availability**: The project is located in the Southern Coastal Plain and Mid Atlantic Coastal Plain level 3 EPA ecoregions. The watersheds where the project is located include the Savannah basin (HUC 03060109) and the Salkehatchie basin (HUC 03050208). There is one approved mitigation bank with available credits that provides service to the project area; however, the number of credits at this bank is limited. It is likely that a permittee-responsible mitigation plan will have to be developed for this project.

7. **Cultural Resources:** Cultural resource investigations will be required for the proposed project. Any areas of new right-of-way will require archaeological survey when feasible (not inundated, not developed, etc.). Some aboveground resources within view-shed of project may need to be

documented. Based on GIS and aerial mapping images it is not anticipated that the proposed project will have significant cultural resources impacts.

8. **Threatened/Endangered Species:** There are several threatened and endangered species listed for Jasper County. A biological assessment of the project corridor will have to be performed to assess the potential effects of the project on any listed species or their habitat. Based on the review of the biological assessments performed for previous SCDOT projects along the I-95 corridor, it is likely that no species will be affected by the project due to lack of suitable habitat within the corridor. Should the assessment conclude that there is an effect on any listed species or its habitat, SCDOT will follow federal Section 7 consultation procedures during the development of the project.

9. **Parks/Potential Section 4(f) Public Properties**: The southwestern portion of the project, from Purrysburg Road overpass west to Savannah River, is within the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Any improvements outside of existing right-of-way may trigger Section 4(f) process, although if impacts are minor it is possible that a de minimis 4(f) finding could be made and the lengthy 4(f) process could be avoided.

10. **Underground Storage Tanks**: Available GIS data does not show USTs within the I-95 right-of-way, but any improvements at interchanges and/or outside of existing right-of-way have the potential to affect USTs. A Phase I environmental survey for USTs and Hazardous Materials is recommended for the length of the project corridor.

11. **Hazardous Waste:** Available GIS data does not show any Hazardous Material concerns within the I-95 right-of-way. A Phase I environmental survey for USTs and Hazardous Materials is recommended for the length of the project corridor.

12. **Low-income/Minority Communities:** If remaining within existing right-of-way, the proposed project is not expected to disproportionately affect minority or low-income communities. The exception to this is the possibility of adverse noise impacts in the Hardeeville area. See item #2 "Noise" for more information.

13. **Air Quality:** The proposed project is not expected to have a significant impact on air quality. Jasper County is currently in attainment for air quality standards and therefore no mitigation relative to air quality is expected to be associated with the proposed project.

14. **Farmlands**: The proposed project is not anticipated to have an impact upon farmlands.

15. **Public Involvement:** Assuming that the proposed project will require an Environmental Assessment document, the public involvement effort will involve both a Public Information Meeting and a Public Hearing. A project website will also need to be developed.

FEASIBILITY REPORT -Environmental Screening Form

TRANSMITTAL TO FEASIBILITY REPORT MANAGER

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date: Nov 15, 2019 Project: I-95 Widening from Georgia state line to Mile Marker 18

Project ID: PIN # Region: RPG 1 County: Jasper

Project Type:

- ☐ New Alignment Facility
- ☒ Widening of Existing Facility
- ☐ Bridge Replacement
- ☐ Intersection Improvement

Right of Way:

Is a new Right of Way required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Purpose and Need:

The purpose of this project is to improve capacity and mobility on I-95 from MM 0 to approximately MM 18 due to a projected increase in traffic demand and volume of freight.

NEPA

What is the required level of NEPA documentation?

NEPA Documentation: EA

Section 106, Historic or Cultural Impacts:

Are there historic properties (i.e., NR-eligible or listed) in the project area? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Will they be impacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Section 4(f):

Are there Section 4(f) properties in the project area? ☒ Yes ☐ No

FEMA:

Will the project impact a regulatory floodway? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is a Risk Assessment Form required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is a Floodplain Checklist required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Noise:

Is a noise analysis required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is noise abatement required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Threatened and Endangered Species:

Is a threatened and endangered species survey needed? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Are there federally listed species present within 1/2 mile of the project area on GIS? ☒ Yes ☐ No

The project will need a survey during the NEPA phase of the project. The species list from USFWS changes often, but there are colonies of wood storks near the project area.

*See Survey Window spreadsheet in env\EMO Go2\NEPA\T&E,EFH and Marine Mammals\T&E|Federal Species.

Essential Fish Habitat:

Are there any tidal wetland impacts in the project area? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Underground Storage Tanks/Hazardous Materials:

Are there any known hazardous materials sites with the potential to impact the project area? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Will a Phase I be required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Will a Phase II be required? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Air Quality:

Is an air quality analysis required? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Farmland:

Is a farmland assessment required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Land Use:

The southwestern portion of the project, from Purrysburg Road overpass west to Savannah River, is within the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Any improvements outside of existing right-of-way may trigger Section 4(f) process, although if impacts are minor it is possible that a de minimis 4(f) finding could be made and the lengthy 4(f) process could be avoided.

Environmental Justice:

Is there potential for EJ issues? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Enter applicable demographic/census info from EJ View or other sources

PERMITTING

Will a permit will be required for impacts? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

(Check all that apply)					
	USACE	☐ GP	☒ IP	☐ NWP	☐ Section 10
	SCDHEC	☒ 401	☐ CAP	☒ CZC	☐ Nav
	USCG	☒ Bridge Permit			

Wetlands and Streams:

Are there jurisdictional features located within the project area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, list and describe streams or wetlands:

There are many jurisdictional streams and wetlands in the project area. The largest and most notable wetland system is part of the floodplain of the Savannah River.

Are there navigable waters within the project area? ☒ Yes ☐ No

What is the stream classification? **(**Print and attach SCDHEC Water Quality Report.)**

Stream Classification: FW

Are there known shellfish beds within 1,000 ft of the project area?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Are there downstream (or upstream in coastal area) sites that are 303(d) listed?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Is the project area within a TMDL?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Is there a Federal Wild and Scenic River within the project area?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Is there a SC Designated Scenic River within the project area?	☐ Yes	☒ No

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Will the project likely require mitigation of unavoidable impacts to the Waters of the U.S.?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Do the project impacts occur within an existing Mitigation Bank Service Area?	☐ Yes	☒ No

*See RIBITS data on Mitigation Bank locations and service areas in env\GIS\RIBITS

ALTERNATIVES

NEPA:

Contingent upon wetland acreage within median areas (versus adjacent to roadway on either side), widening to the inside is assumed to be best options for minimizing environmental impacts from the proposed project.

PERMITTING:

The I95 corridor in Jasper County contains a high concentration of wetlands. The majority of the wetlands within the project study area are forested wetlands that are part of larger swamp systems. Some of the wetlands in the project area are located within the floodplain of the Savannah River and have hydrologic connectivity to portions of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. There are also other non-wetland waters located within the corridor including several seasonal and perennial tributaries. In order to quantify the amount of waters of the US within the corridor, a jurisdictional determination package will need to be prepared and verified by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

COMMENTS

SCDOT NEPA Comments:

Assuming that the proposed project will require an Environmental Assessment document, the public involvement effort will involve both a Public Information Meeting and a Public Hearing. A project website will also need to be developed.

SCDOT Permitting Comments:

The I95 corridor in Jasper County contains a high concentration of wetlands. The majority of the wetlands within the project study area are forested wetlands that are part of larger swamp systems. Some of the wetlands in the project area are located within the floodplain of the Savannah River and have hydrological connectivity to portions of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. There are also other non-wetland waters located within the corridor including several seasonal and perennial tributaries. In order to quantify the amount of waters of the US within the corridor, a jurisdictional determination package will need to be prepared and verified by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Due to the high concentration of wetlands and the anticipated wetland impacts, the project will need an individual Section 404 permit from the USACE. Additionally, the project is actually in the service area of an approved mitigation bank but the bank does not have credits availabel to cover the impacts.

SCDOT General Comments:

SCDOT General staff comments only in this field (initials, date, comment)

Agency Comments:

Agency comments in this field (agency, date, comment)

Reset Form Print Form