

**November 5, 2024**

TO: DCHC MPO Technical Committee  
FROM: David Miller, MPO Staff  
Madeline Galliano, MPO Staff  
SUBJECT: Updates to the Draft Wildlife Crossings Plan

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The following are the updates to the draft plan that were made during the 21-day public comment period:

- Added information to Section 2.5: Public Engagement Process.
- Added Appendix M - Wildlife Crossing Public Engagement Survey (Paper Version).
- Added Appendix N - Wildlife Crossing Public Engagement Results.
- Changed language from “eliminate wildlife-vehicle crashes” to “eliminate fatalities and serious injuries as a result of wildlife-vehicle crashes.”
- Speed limit on I-40 westbound for project I-40 Bridge over New Hope Creek (DurhamCo8-9) updated to 65 mph.
- Added language about the US 15-501 bridge over New Hope Creek in Durham County wildlife crossing project completed in 2007 to the Passage Benches subsection within Section 2.3:
  - “However, since riprap can be a challenge for wildlife to pass over, remediation has been done that repositions riprap along embankments and hills to create a wildlife bench - an example of this is the U.S. 15-501 bridge over New Hope Creek in Durham County (Figure 2.3.3.1).”
- Added the following language to the US 15-501 bridge over New Hope Creek in Durham County wildlife crossing project completed in 2007 to Section 2.3.3: Examples of Wildlife Crossing Projects in the DCHC MPO Planning Area:
  - “The lengthening created space on both sides of New Hope Creek to develop wildlife benches, which has improved wildlife connectivity and promotes movement underneath the bridge and along this corridor.”
- Added clarifying language for speed limit for project Rivermont Road over Nancy Rhodes Creek (DurhamCo2):
  - “Since there are no active ordinances for this route, the roadway falls under statutory speed limits, which is 55 mph outside of city limits. However, the road’s gravel surface, curves, and narrow bridge suggests that a maximum safe speed would be closer to 35 mph.”
- Updated project maps for clarity that had low visibility of roads due to GIS layers.
- Added names of species with critical habitat to projects:

- Cole Mill Road over Eno River (DurhamCo1)
  - US 501 (Roxboro Road) over Eno River (DurhamCo3)
  - Old Oxford Road over Eno River (DurhamCo5)
- Updated bridge replacement status for Farrington Road over Little Creek (DurhamCo12):
  - "The NCDOT is currently conducting environmental, planning, and design studies to support the future replacement of this bridge. The current let date is October 2030."
- Added Table 2.6.3, which shows reported and likely crash cost estimates for each county and all projects combined.
- Added the word "occasionally" to the following sentence in Section 2.3.1:
  - "Existing bridges and the passage beneath them can occasionally be retrofitted to promote wildlife travel, which includes the development of passage benches."
- Added "in some cases" to the following sentence in Section 2.3.1:
  - "Second, ledges - or dry shelves - could be considered in some cases as a retrofit on one or both sides of the culvert's interior to allow wildlife to traverse safely, above the water."