



1835 Assembly Street  
Suite 1270  
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: October 7, 2005

In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-SC

Mr. Olin Williams  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box Drawer 1210  
Durant, Oklahoma 74702

Subject:: Project Scoping: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Northern Portion of Interstate 73 (I-73) in South Carolina.

Dear Mr. Williams:

The proposed I-73 project in South Carolina is currently being developed as two separate projects, a southern project and a northern project. The southern project will begin at I-95 and end near the Myrtle Beach/Conway, South Carolina area. The northern project will begin in the Hamlet/Rockingham, North Carolina area and end at I-95 in South Carolina. Both sections will be developed under separate EISs. Information on the project was sent to the Choctaw Nation in September and November 2004. The Choctaw Nation responded that it would like to receive future mailings on the the project but has no ancestral ties to South Carolina based on a later received e-mail dated February 15, 2005 from Mr. Olin Williams. The southern project has progressed and potential corridors have been developed for that section. A preferred corridor has not yet been identified and the Draft EIS has not been issued. No cultural reports have been prepared for the project so far.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) plans to begin preparation of an EIS on the northern project and will hold an initial scoping meeting. Knowing that the Choctaw Nation would have difficulty making the trip and keeping with the tribe's request specific to this project we wanted to make sure we provided you with the information that would be handed out at the meeting in order to give the Tribe the opportunity to provide us with feedback on the project. Avoidance of any known archaeological or cultural site is of utmost importance in the development of this project. Any information the Choctaw Nation may have concerning any Native American cultural properties in the project study area would be very helpful in the early development of this project. A cultural report will be prepared for the project and will be forwarded to your office for review and comment unless we receive correspondence from the Choctaw Nation that there is no further interest and future mailings are not required.

An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at [www.I73inSC.com](http://www.I73inSC.com). The site contains maps and status reports for the proposed project.

The other Native American Tribes that have shown an interest in this project are the Shawnee Tribe, The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees, The Tuscarora Nation and The Catawba Indian Nation.

Please do not hesitate to forward any comments or questions you may have to this office to Mr. Shane Belcher at \_\_\_\_\_ or by e-mail at \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Lee  
Division Administrator

#### Attachments

Cc: Mr. Wayne Hall, SCDOT  
Mr. Mitchell Metts, SCDOT  
Mr. Skip Johnson, The LPA Group

File: 47.205B