



United Keetoowah Band Of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

P.O. Box 746 • Tahlequah, OK 74465
2450 S. Muskogee • Tahlequah, OK 74464
Phone: (918) 431-9998 • Fax: (918) 431-1873
www.ukb-nsn.gov

July 15, 2008

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Sequoyah District

Albert Shade
Tahlequah District

Shane Belcher
Environmental Coordinator
Federal highway Administration
1835 Assembly St., Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Shane:

Thank you for your information sent July 11, 2008 regarding Proposed Interstate 73 (I-73) Marloboro and Dillon Counties, South Carolina.

Everything appears in order and on track, and at this point of the project, have no further comments to add.

Best Regards,

Lisa C. LaRue-Stopp
Interim Director, Language, History and Culture
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Chief George Wickliffe



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: July 25, 2007

In Reply Refer
To:
HDA-SC

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
The Catawba Indian Nation
1536 Tom Steven Road
PO Box 750
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the **Northern Corridor** of the Proposed Interstate 73 (I-73), Marlboro and Dillon Counties, South Carolina; Richmond and Scotland Counties, North Carolina.

Dr. Haire:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is providing you with a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed I-73 project for your review and comment. Once the public availability notice for the DEIS is published in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a 45 day comment period will be established. We anticipated that it will be published by Monday, July 30, 2007. An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at www.I73inSC.com. The site contains an electronic copy of the DEIS, maps and status reports for the proposed project. For your reference we have also attached all previous correspondence sent to the Catawba Indian Nation regarding this project and any responses we have received.

Comments on the DEIS and requests for copies of the Technical Memoranda should be sent to:

Mr. J. Shane Belcher
Environmental Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration
1835 Assembly St., Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Please do not hesitate to contact our office at _____ or by e-mail at _____
if you have any questions concerning the project.

Sincerely yours,


(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: July 25, 2007

In Reply Refer
To:
HDA-SC

Ms. Rebecca Hawkins
Tribal Administrator
Shawnee Tribe
21 N. 8 Tribes Trail
Miami, OK 74354

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the **Northern Corridor** of the Proposed Interstate 73 (I-73), Marlboro and Dillon Counties, South Carolina; Richmond and Scotland Counties, North Carolina.

Ms. Hawkins:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is providing you with a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed I-73 project for your review and comment. Once the public availability notice for the DEIS is published in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a 45 day comment period will be established. We anticipated that it will be published by Monday, July 30, 2007. An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at www.I73inSC.com. The site contains an electronic copy of the DEIS, maps and status reports for the proposed project. For your reference we have also attached all previous correspondence sent to the Shawnee Tribe regarding this project and any responses we have received.

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Mr. J. Shane Belcher
Environmental Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration
1835 Assembly St., Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Please do not hesitate to contact our office at _____ or by e-mail at _____
if you have any questions concerning the project.

Sincerely yours,


(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: July 25, 2007

In Reply Refer
To:
HDA-SC

Chief Leo R. Henry
The Tuscarora Nation
2006 Mt. Hope Road
Lewiston, NY 14092

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the **Northern Corridor** of the Proposed Interstate 73 (I-73), Marlboro and Dillon Counties, South Carolina; Richmond and Scotland Counties, North Carolina.

Dear Chief Henry:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is providing you with a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed I-73 project for your review and comment. Once the public availability notice for the DEIS is published in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a 45 day comment period will be established. We anticipated that it will be published by Monday, July 30, 2007. An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at www.I73inSC.com. The site contains an electronic copy of the DEIS, maps and status reports for the proposed project. For your reference we have also attached all previous correspondence sent to the Tuscarora Nation regarding this project and any responses we have received.

Comments on the DEIS and requests for copies of the Technical Memoranda should be sent to:

Mr. J. Shane Belcher
Environmental Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration
1835 Assembly St., Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Please do not hesitate to contact our office at _____ or by e-mail at _____
if you have any questions concerning the project.

Sincerely yours,


(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: July 25, 2007

In Reply Refer
To:
HDA-SC

Ms. Lisa Stopp
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
2450 South Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the **Northern Corridor** of the Proposed Interstate 73 (I-73), Marlboro and Dillon Counties, South Carolina; Richmond and Scotland Counties, North Carolina.

Ms. Stopp:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is providing you with a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed I-73 project for your review and comment. Once the public availability notice for the DEIS is published in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a 45 day comment period will be established. We anticipated that it will be published by Monday, July 30, 2007. An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at www.I73inSC.com. The site contains an electronic copy of the DEIS, maps and status reports for the proposed project. For your reference we have also attached all previous correspondence sent to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees regarding this project and any responses we have received.

Comments on the DEIS and requests for copies of the Technical Memoranda should be sent to:

Mr. J. Shane Belcher
Environmental Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration
1835 Assembly St., Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Please do not hesitate to contact our office at _____ or by e-mail at _____ if you have any questions concerning the project.

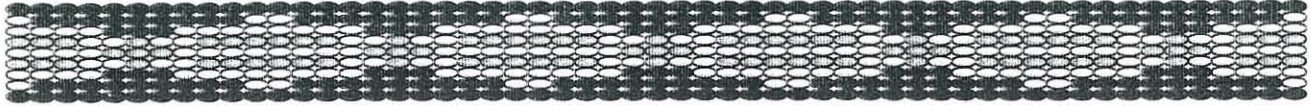
Sincerely yours,


(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P. O. Box 750
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731



5 October 2006

Attention: Shane Belcher
Federal Highway Administration
1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: THPO #	Reference #	Project description / location
2006-133-21	HAD-SC	Project Update: Reasonable Alternatives for the Proposed Northern Leg of I-73 in SC

Dear Shane,

Thank you for the update on the alternatives for the proposed northern leg of the Interstate-73 project in South Carolina. The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. However, we will require shovel testing before there is any ground disturbance.

If you have questions, please contact Sandra Reinhardt at _____ or e-mail

Sincerely,

Sandra Reinhardt for
Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at 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 Catawba Indian Nation, The Shawnee Tribe, The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees and The Choctaw 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



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: October 7, 2005

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Ms. Lisa LaRue-Stopp
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees
2450 South Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

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

Dear Ms. LaRue-Stopp:

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. In September and November of 2004 correspondence was sent to the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees inquiring any interest the Tribe may have in the proposed project. Mr. Stephen Mouse responded via e-mail on November 10, 2004 that the Tribe would be interested in the project. The Eastern Band of Cherokees have responded that the project lies outside of their ancestral lands in South Carolina and are not interested in the project. 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.

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 Tribe would have difficulty making the trip we wanted to make sure we provided you with the information that would be handed out at the meeting and 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 you 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.

An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at 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 Catawba Indian Nation, The Shawnee Tribe, The Tuscarora Nation and The Choctaw 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



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. 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



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: September 20, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
The Catawba Indian Nation
1536 Tom Steven Road
PO Box 750
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Subject:: Project Update: Reasonable Alternatives for the Proposed **Northern Leg** of Interstate 73 (I-73) in South Carolina.

Dear Dr. Haire:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina we are committed to keeping the Catawba Indian Nation informed during the major steps of project development for the project. In our last correspondence dated October 7, 2005 we requested knowledge you may have regarding any Native American archaeological sites or burials within the project area. We understand this may be sensitive information and you may be hesitant to provide specifics on any known site but would like to know up front if there are certain areas we need to avoid when developing potential alternatives for I-73. We do thank you for your November 14, 2005 response to our scoping letter.

Just as a refresher for you on the project. 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 some point on I-95 in South Carolina. Both sections will be developed under separate Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). A Draft EIS has been completed for the southern leg of I-73 and a preferred alternative was recommended. Your comments dated August 18, 2006 were received on the Draft EIS and will be incorporated into the Final EIS. Once a detailed cultural report on the preferred alternative for the southern leg is complete it will be forwarded to your office. I have included a project location map for both projects for your reference.

The October 7, 2005 correspondence sent to you contained a blank location map for the northern leg in which we asked for any areas that needed to be avoided prior to developing reasonable alternatives. We are now at the point where reasonable alternatives have been developed to be carried forward in the Draft EIS for the northern

leg. A map with those proposed alternatives is attached for your comments. The alternatives will continue to be refined to avoid as many impacts as possible as new information comes in. Once a Draft EIS is completed we will forward the document to your office for review. Also, once a detailed cultural report is completed we will forward it to your office for review and comment.

Avoidance of any known archaeological or cultural site is of utmost importance in the development of this project. Any information the Catawba Indian Nation may have concerning any Native American archaeological sites or burials in the project study area would be very helpful in the early development of this project.

An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at www.I73inSC.com. The site contains maps and status reports for the proposed project. The other Native American Indian Tribes that have shown an interest in this project are the Shawnee Tribe, The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees and The Tuscarora Nation. The Choctaw Nation has asked to be removed as a consulting party.

Please do not hesitate to forward any comments or questions you may have to Mr. Shane Belcher at _____ or by e-mail at _____. Also, if you wish to meet to discuss consultation on this project please don't hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely yours,

(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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

File: 47.205B



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: September 20, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Ms. Rebecca Hawkins
Tribal Administrator
Shawnee Tribe
21 North 8 Tribes Trail
Miami, OK 74354

Subject:: Project Update: Reasonable Alternatives for the Proposed **Northern Leg** of Interstate 73 (I-73) in South Carolina.

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina we are committed to keeping the Shawnee Tribe informed during the major steps of project development for the project. In our last correspondence dated October 7, 2005 we requested knowledge you may have regarding any Native American archaeological sites or burials within the project area. We understand this may be sensitive information and you may be hesitant to provide specifics on any known site but would like to know up front if there are certain areas we need to avoid when developing potential alternatives for I-73.

Just as a refresher for you on the project. 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 some point on I-95 in South Carolina. Both sections will be developed under separate Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). A Draft EIS has been completed for the southern leg of I-73 and a preferred alternative was recommended. The Draft EIS was delivered to your office on June 9, 2006 via Fed Ex. No comments from the Shawnee Tribe were received. Once a detailed cultural report on the preferred alternative for the southern leg is complete it will be forwarded to your office. I have included a project location map for both projects for your reference.

The October 7, 2005 correspondence sent to you contained a blank location map for the northern leg in which we asked for any areas that needed to be avoided prior to developing reasonable alternatives. We are now at the point where reasonable alternatives have been developed to be carried forward in the Draft EIS for the northern leg. A map with those potential alternatives is attached for your review and comment. The alternatives will continue to be refined to avoid as many impacts as possible as new

information comes in. Once a Draft EIS is completed we will forward the document to your office for review. Also, once a detailed cultural report is completed we will forward it to your office for review and comment.

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

Sincerely yours,

(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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

File: 47.205B



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: September 20, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Chief Leo Henry
Tuscarora Nation
2006 Mt. Hope Road
Lewiston, NY 14092

Subject:: Project Update: Reasonable Alternatives for the Proposed **Northern Leg** of Interstate 73 (I-73) in South Carolina.

Dear Chief Henry:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina we are committed to keeping the Tuscarora Nation informed during the major steps of project development for the project. In our last correspondence dated October 7, 2005 we requested knowledge you may have regarding any Native American archaeological sites or burials within the project area. We understand this may be sensitive information and you may be hesitant to provide specifics on any known site but would like to know up front if there are certain areas we need to avoid when developing potential alternatives for I-73.

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An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at www.I73inSC.com. The site contains maps and status reports for the proposed project. The other Native American Indian Tribes that have shown an interest in this project are the Catawba Indian Nation, The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees and The Shawnee Tribe. The Choctaw Nation has asked to be removed as a consulting party. If there is a Tribal Historic Preservation Office or other contact for the Tuscarora Nation that this information should be sent to please let us know as soon as possible.

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

Sincerely yours,

(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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

File: 47.205B



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: September 20, 2006

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Ms. Lisa LaRue-Stopp
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees
2450 South Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Subject:: Project Update: Reasonable Alternatives for the Proposed **Northern Leg**
of Interstate 73 (I-73) in South Carolina.

Dear Ms. LaRue-Stopp:

As a consulting party in our project development process for the proposed I-73 project in South Carolina we are committed to keeping the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees informed during the major steps of project development for the project. In our last correspondence dated October 7, 2005 we requested knowledge you may have regarding any Native American archaeological sites or burials within the project area. We understand this may be sensitive information and you may be hesitant to provide specifics on any known site but would like to know up front if there are certain areas we need to avoid when developing potential alternatives for I-73.

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The October 7, 2005 correspondence sent to you contained a blank location map for the northern leg in which we asked for any areas that needed to be avoided prior to developing reasonable alternatives. We are now at the point where reasonable alternatives have been developed to be carried forward in the Draft EIS for the northern leg. A map with those potential alternatives is attached for your review and comment. The alternatives will continue to be refined to avoid as many impacts as possible as new information comes in. Once a Draft EIS is completed we will forward the document to

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

Sincerely yours,

(for) Robert L. Lee
Division Administrator

Attachments

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

File: 47.205B



**United Keetoowah Band
Of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma**
P.O. Box 746 • Tahlequah, OK 7446574464

www.ukb-nsn.gov

Lisa Stopp, Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

COUNCIL

George Wickliffe
Chief

Charlie Locust
Assistant Chief

Liz LittleDave
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Eddie Sacks
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Illinois District

Adalene Smith
Saline District

Barry Dotson
Sequoyah District

Albert Shade
Tahlequah District

August 22, 2006

Jeffrey Belcher
1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Belcher:

Thank you for your letter of September 20, 2006 regarding Reasonable Alternatives for the Proposed Northern Leg of Interstate 73 in South Carolina. The United Keetoowah Band has no objection to this project, or knowledge of any religious or cultural sites. However, if any human remains, artifacts or other items are inadvertently discovered, please cease construction immediately and contact us at

Best Regards,

Lisa C. Stopp
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
918.456.9200

cc: Chief George Wickliffe



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: October 7, 2005

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Dr. Wenonah Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
The Catawba Indian Nation
611 East Main Street
Rock Hill, SC 29730

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

Dear Dr. Haire:

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 Catawba Indian Nation (CIN) on October 13, 2004 and two face-to-face meetings have been held where the project was discussed (September 16, 2004 and February 11, 2005). The CIN indicated during the meetings that the Tribe would have an interest in the project and requested copies of studies that would be completed for the project. The southern project has progressed and potential corridors have been developed for that project. 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 on October 17, 2004. Knowing that the Catawba Indian Nation may have difficulty making the trip we wanted to make sure we provided you with the information that would be handed out at the meeting and 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 Catawba Indian 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.

An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at 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 Choctaw 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



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: October 7, 2005

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Ms. Rebecca Hawkins
Tribal Administrator
Shawnee Tribe
21 North 8 Tribes Trail
Miami, OK 74354

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

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

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. In September and November of 2004 correspondence was sent to the Shawnee Tribe inquiring any interest the Tribe may have in the proposed project. The Shawnee Tribe responded with a letter dated November 24, 2004 that it would be interested in the project. 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.

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 Shawnee Tribe would have difficulty making the trip we wanted to make sure we provided you with the information that would be handed out at the meeting and 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 Shawnee Tribe 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.

An interactive web site has been developed for the proposed project and can be viewed at 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 Catawba Indian Nation, The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees, The Tuscarora Nation and The Choctaw 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



1835 Assembly Street
Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

Date: October 7, 2005

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Chief Leo Henry
Tuscarora Nation
2006 Mt. Hope Road
Lewiston, NY 14092

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

Dear Chief Henry:

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. 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. In September and November of 2004 correspondence was sent to the Tuscarora Nation inquiring any interest your Tribe may have in the proposed project. The Tuscarora Nation responded that the Tribe would be interested in the project. Mr. Rick Hill as we understand is the contact for the Tuscarora Nation on cultural resource issues. We have attempted to contact Mr. Hill on several occasions but have been unsuccessful. If Mr. Hill is not the appropriate contact, please forward us the correct contact name and phone number for correspondence.

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 Tuscarora Nation would have difficulty making the trip we wanted to make sure we provided you with the information that would be handed out at the meeting and 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 you 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.