

Badin Lake Road (FDR 597) Final Design



Newsletter No. 2
August 2011

Background & Purpose

The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Uwharrie National Forest, is in the process of finalizing the design for the rehabilitation of Badin Lake Road (FDR 597). The project includes a 3.5 mile portion of the road from McLeans Creek Road (FDR544) north to Shamrock Road (SR 1179).

Change in Design at Reeves Spring Branch

In the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impacts (signed 6/9/2009), Alternative 3 with Modification (Preferred Alternative) was selected for implementation. The Modifications included shifting the alignment at a wetland area, Reeves Spring Branch crossing, Holts Cabin Picnic Area, and at the intersection of SR 1179. As the design of the project was finalized it was determined that the construction of a bridge at Reeves

Spring Branch was no longer preferred. In order to reduce impacts, the alignment would not be shifted to construct a new crossing of Reeves Spring Branch. The alignment will now follow the existing road, and a box culvert will be constructed across Reeves Spring Branch. A temporary bridge will be constructed to maintain the traffic while the removal of the vented ford and the construction of the box culvert is completed.

Construction Schedule

Due to limited funding, the project will be constructed in two phases. The first phase of construction will be the replacement of the vented ford over Reeves Spring Branch. Construction is anticipated to start on the first phase in January 2012. The second phase of construction will be upgrading the road by providing wider lanes and paving the roadway. Construction is anticipated to start on the second phase in January 2013.

Planning Process

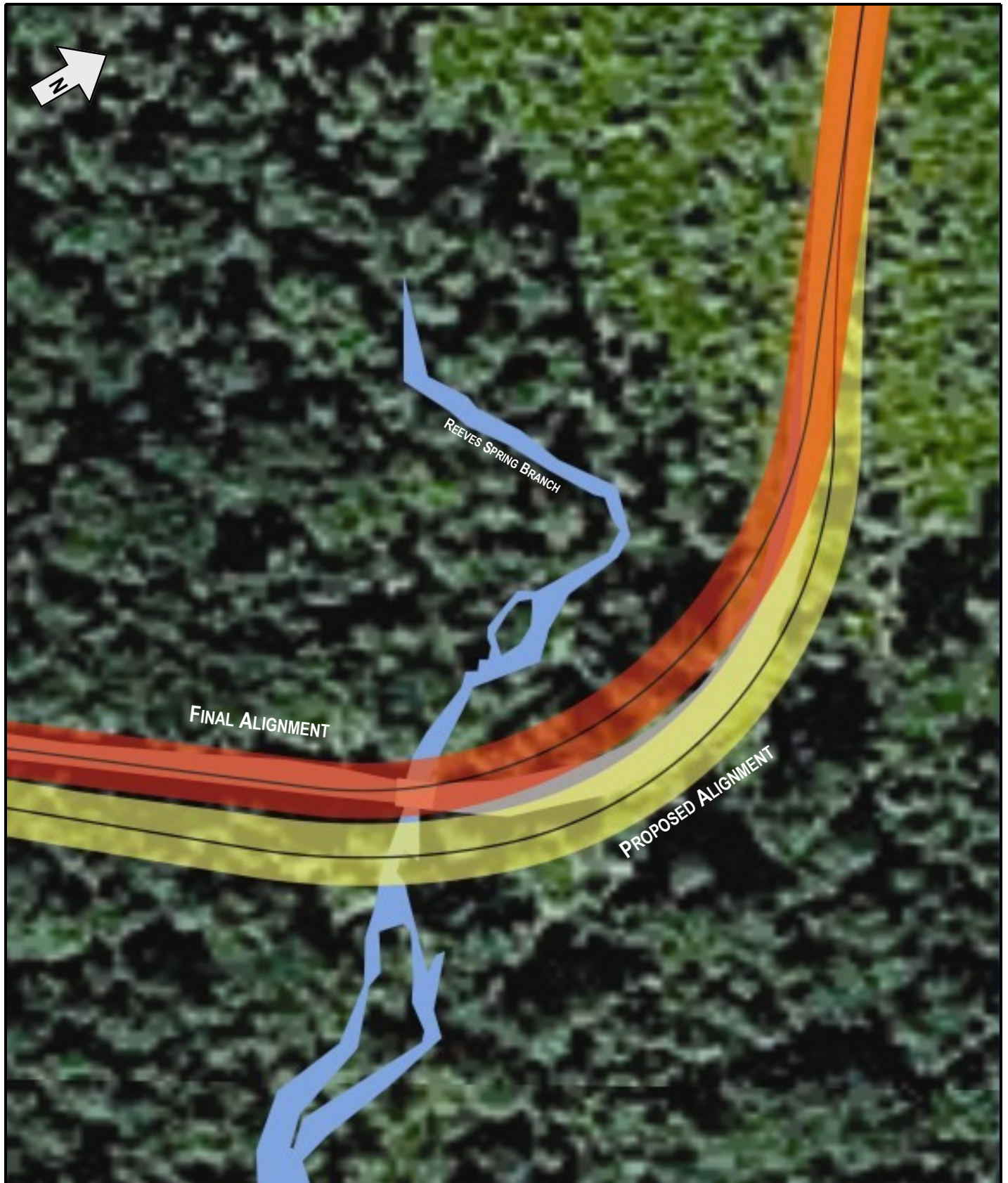
NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) is a procedural law that provides a process for agencies to make an analytical study of the impacts of alternatives. It also requires agencies to involve interested and affected members of the public. The planning process provides a framework for striking a balance between the use and preservation of natural and cultural resources. The NEPA process includes the following steps:

NEPA Process

- 1. Initial Data Gathering and Issue Identification (Spring 2006) - Develop baseline resource data; hold public meetings if sufficient interest is shown*
- 2. Alternatives Development (Summer 2006) - Develop a range of reasonable alternatives based on agency objectives, public interests*
- 3. Impact Analysis (Summer 2007) - Analyze the human/environmental consequences; recommend the preferred alternative*
- 4. Environmental Assessment (January 2009) - Prepare, review, and release document for public comment; present results at public meetings*
- 5. Decision Document (Spring 2009) - Prepare, review, and release document to the public*
- 6. Final Design (Winter 2009—Present) - Develop the final construction and right of way plans*

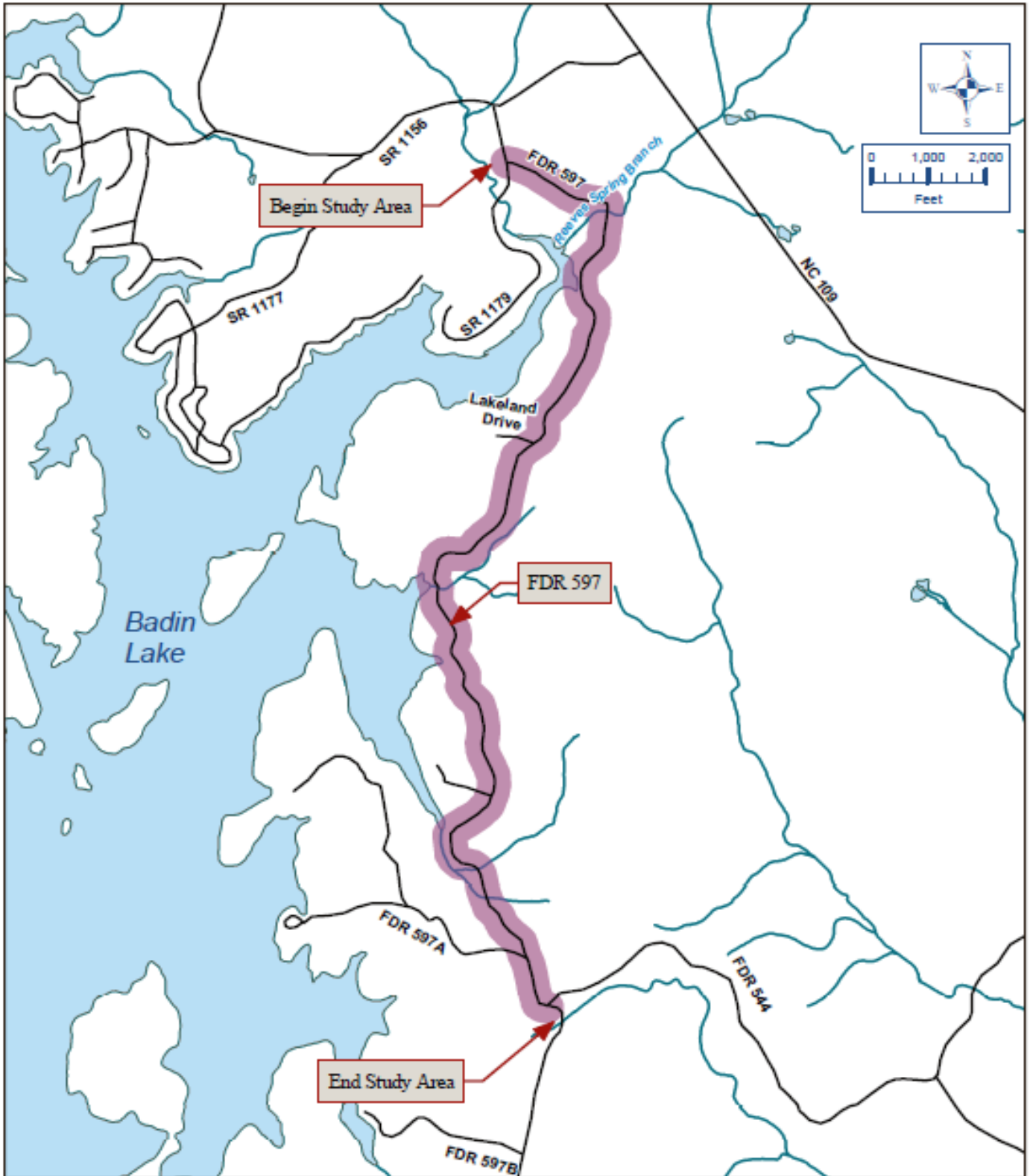


Badin Lake Road



The final alignment was preferred to lessen the environmental impacts of the project.

Badin Lake Road



The project area within Uwharrie National Forest, and the full current alignment of FDR 597.

To Submit Comments

Comments on this project can be directed to:

Mail:

Ms. Lisa Landers
Federal Highway Administration
Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
21400 Ridgetop Circle
Sterling, VA 20166

Email:

Lisa.Landers@dot.gov

