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SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC NOTICE D05PN-05-2025

All interested parties are notified that an application dated March 8, 2024, and revised plan sheets dated June 20, 2025, have been received from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) by the Commander, Coast Guard East District, for approval of the location and plans for replacement of an existing fixed highway bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States. This project was previously announced in D05PN-06-2024 with different navigational clearances. The new proposed clearances and project details are explained below.

<u>WATERWAY AND LOCATION</u>: Dawson Creek, mile 0.1 from Neuse River, at Janeiro, Pamlico County, North Carolina.

<u>CHARACTER OF WORK</u>: The proposed project is to replace the existing Bridge No. 57 on SR 1302, between SR 1305 and SR 1378 (Janiero Road) Bridge with a new fixed span bridge at the same location. The existing bridge will be removed in its entirety. The purpose of the project is to replace the current, structurally deficient bridge with a new structure. The bridge will be closed for the duration of the demolition and construction and an off-site detour will be in place.

<u>NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES</u>: The proposed replacement bridge will have clearances as described in the table below. These clearances are an increase from current clearances over this section of the waterway at or near this mile.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Vertical Clearance:	Vertical Clearance:
10.61 feet above mean high water (MHW) Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel)	11.8 feet above mean high water (MHW) Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel)
35 feet between bridge pilings	65.95 feet between bridge pilings

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) (Existing and Proposed bridges)

During review of the current bridge project, it was noted through mariners' comments and our review process that the NOAA Electronic Navigation Chart (ENC) erroneously cited the vertical clearance of the bridge as 12.8 feet above MHW. Additionally, the Coast Pilot erroneously cited the bridge's vertical clearance as 13 feet above MHW. NCDOT verified the vertical clearance of

the existing bridge as 10.61 feet above MHW. NOAA was notified of this error and the ENC and Coast Pilot were updated.

Due to the number of comments received by mariners regarding the limited vertical clearance of the bridge, NCDOT re-evaluated the proposed vertical clearance of the bridge and determined that an increase to 11.8 feet above MHW is feasible without impacting additional resources such as the Pamlico-County Dawson Creek Beach Access, jurisdictional wetlands or streams, Tar Pamlico Riparian Buffers, or further rights-of-way. Additionally, a further increase in the height of the bridge could result in slope stability concerns and an increase in long-term maintenance efforts and expenses.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) is the lead Federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FHWA is acting on behalf of the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) for all applicable environmental control laws and Executive Orders. The FHWA approved a Categorical Exclusion (CE) on December 23, 2021. It is anticipated that the FHWA will re-evaluate its CE as a result of the new design. The USCG has tentatively determined that the environmental documentation supporting this new design is adequate for USCG bridge permitting purposes and intends to issue a USCG CE. Environmental documents are available for review at the address in the letterhead above, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The bridge is located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood elevation is +9.0 feet from datum and low steel of the bridge in the navigation span is elevation +11.67 feet from datum. Elevations are referenced to NAVD88 datum.

A water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, for this project, was issued by the State of North Carolina via North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality, on August 7, 2023. US Army Corps of Engineers General Permit 50 titled, NCDOT – Bridge Widenings and Interchanges, was issued on September 5, 2023.

The bridge construction site lies inside a designated Coastal Zone Management area. The applicant provided the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management with the project location information and request for certification of consistency. The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management issued a finding on June 28, 2023, stating that some resources may be affected and included required conditions to the permit.

Due to the proposed increase in vertical clearance at MHW these federal and state permitting agencies will have to conduct a review of the changes and consider modification/re-issue of their respective permits.

Comments received in response to this notice concerning environmental control laws and Executive Orders will be forwarded to FHWA as lead Federal Agency.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to provide navigational information, such as the sizes and types of vessels presently owned and operated on the waterway and nature of navigation (including the extent of nighttime navigation) on the waterway. Mariners are requested to comment on the navigational clearances and need for bridge protective systems, clearance gauges, and navigational lighting on the proposed bridge.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed project. Comments will be received for the record at the office of Commander (dpb), Coast Guard East District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 at <u>D5Portsmouth-BridgesPublicNotice@uscg.mil</u> through <u>August 5, 2025</u>.

HAL R. PITTS Bridge Program Manager By direction

Attachments: (1) Location/Vicinity Maps and Plan Sheets









