



August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Stakeholder,

Today the City is pleased to announce that study efforts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have formally begun for the Rail Realignment Project! As has been mentioned in previous updates, AECOM was selected to act as the City's lead consultant in these efforts. AECOM has tremendous experience and expertise in this area. We look forward to working hand-in-hand with AECOM and the Federal Railroad Administration as lead agency in ensuring a successful process.

In tandem with this quarterly update the City's Communication Department will also be circulating a press release further publicizing the initiation of Rail Realignment's NEPA study efforts. In addition, letters will be going out to various agencies and jurisdictional stakeholders. Each of these announcements will be accompanied by a Study Area Map, which can be found attached to this update and the project's website – [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/rail](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/rail).

Suffice it to say that public outreach is very important to us. We value your input. We want to hear your feedback, and the earlier we get that collaboration started, the better. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any other members of the NEPA team with any questions. Contact information is as follows:

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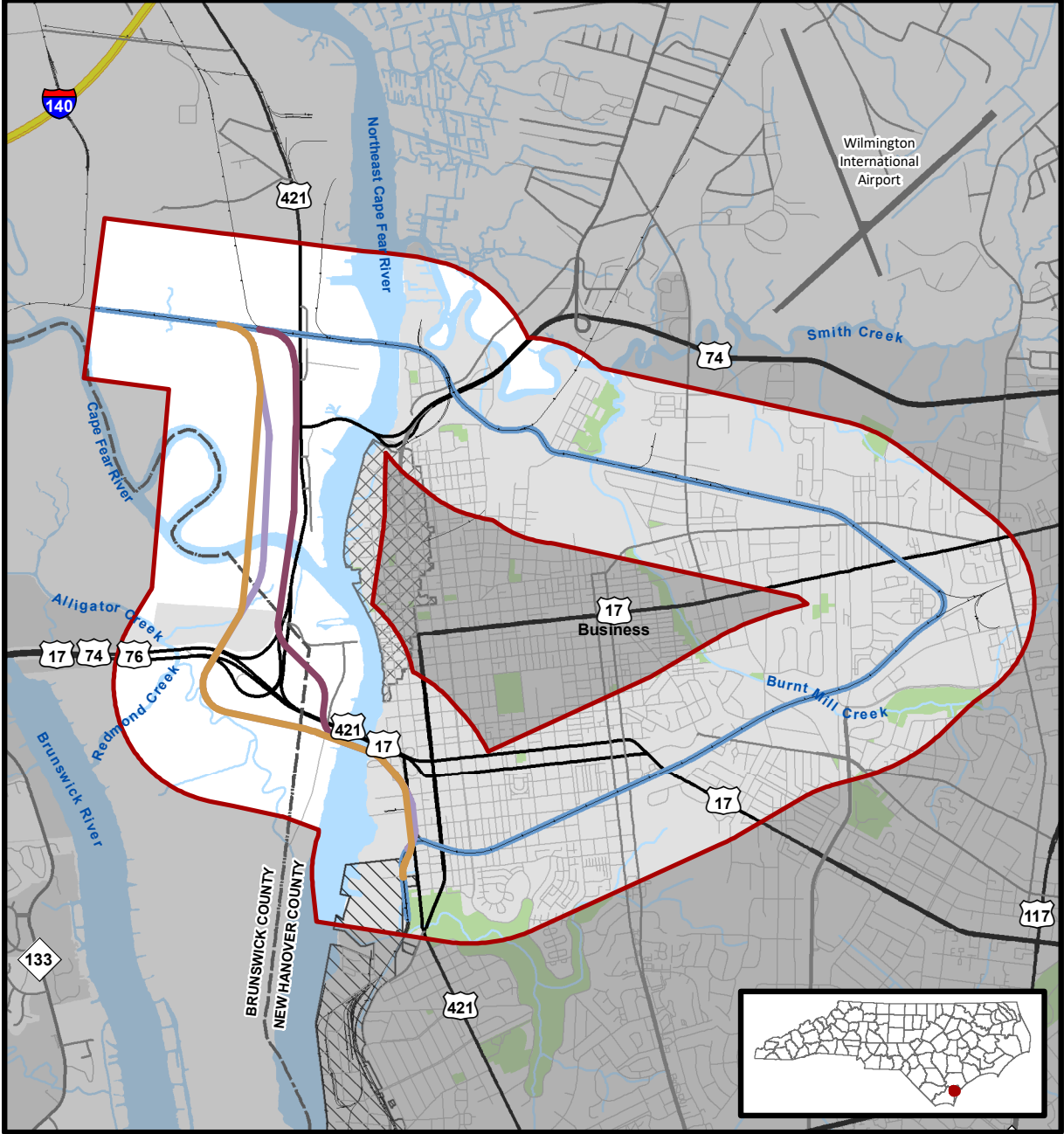
NEPA studies can take on different forms depending on the type of project involved, the lead agency and other factors. For the Rail Realignment Project, the NEPA study is expected to be conducted in three phases. The first phase will be a Screening Assessment, which identifies feasible alternatives for the project that should be considered in the study. For the second phase of the study, a more detailed Alternatives Analysis will be accomplished with the goal of identifying a Preferred Alternative amongst the feasible alternatives. For the third phase, the team will conduct an environmental review and perform preliminary engineering activities pursuant to NEPA guidelines and regulations. In all, the City and AECOM currently expect the NEPA process for Rail Realignment to be conducted over a two year period.


I look forward to receiving your feedback and to providing you with additional updates on the study's progress in the future.


















Sincerely,


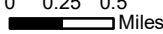
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aubrey Parsley".

Aubrey Parsley, PE  
Director of Rail Realignment  
City of Wilmington  
(cell) 910-200-8382



  
**Wilmington Rail Realignment Project**  
 New Hanover County and Brunswick County, NC

Legend	
	Study Area
	Upgrade Existing
	Corridor A
	Corridor B
	Corridor C
	County Boundary
	Municipal Boundary
	Central Business District
	Port of Wilmington
	Park
	Water
	Railroad
	Interstate
	US Highway
	State Highway
	State Route
	Local Roads

  
 0 0.25 0.5 Miles  


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**Project Study Area**  
 Date: August 2020