NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

I-40 & US 74A Status Update

Brian Burch, P.E.
Deputy Program Manager (HNTB)

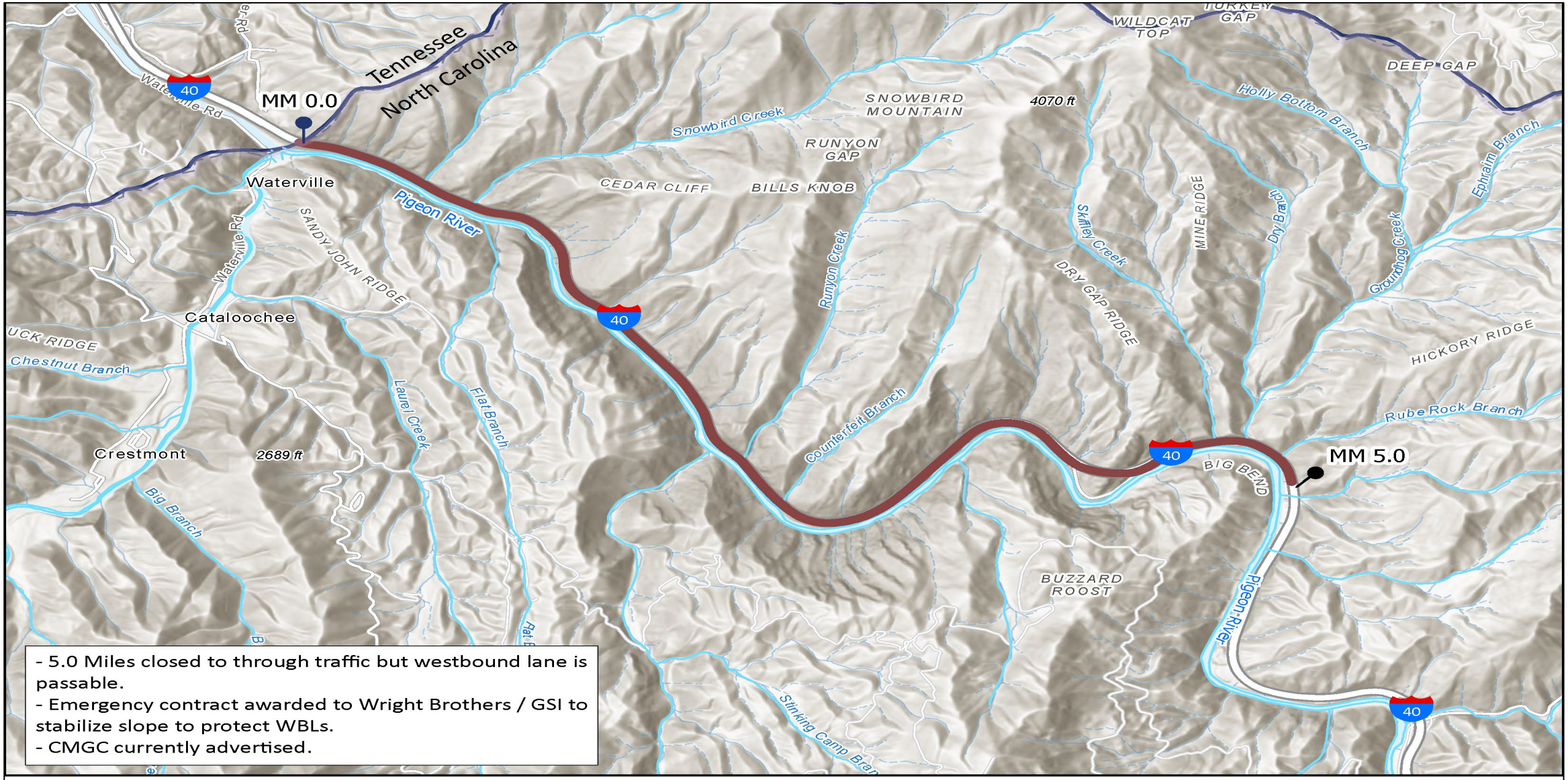
1/09/2025

Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina

Hurricane Helene I-40 Pigeon River Gorge CMGC Emergency Repair

Department Level Goals

- Establish temporary 2-way traffic in WB Lanes
- Meet target of completing permanent repairs within 2 years
- Position Department for maximum reimbursement by FHWA
- Work closely with external stakeholders to align priorities
- Communicate frequently the status of rebuild efforts to the public and local governments



I-40 Pigeon River Gorge- 5.0 Miles
FHWA site

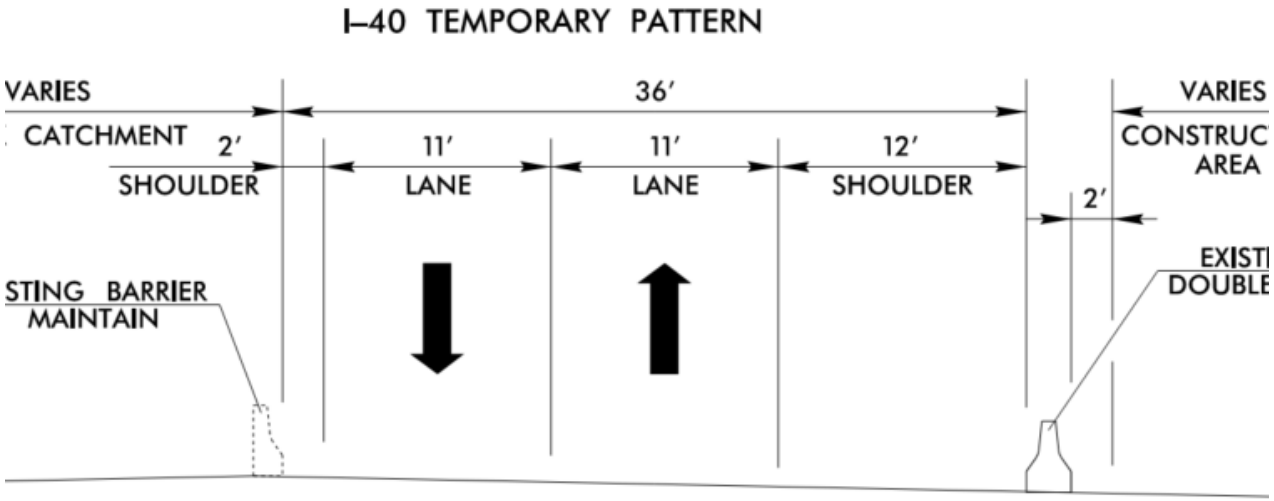
From TN State Line (MM 0.0, 35°46'32.8"N 83°05'52.5"W) to Tom Hall Branch (East of Double Tunnel, MM 5.0, 35°45'09.9"N 83°01'57.9"W)

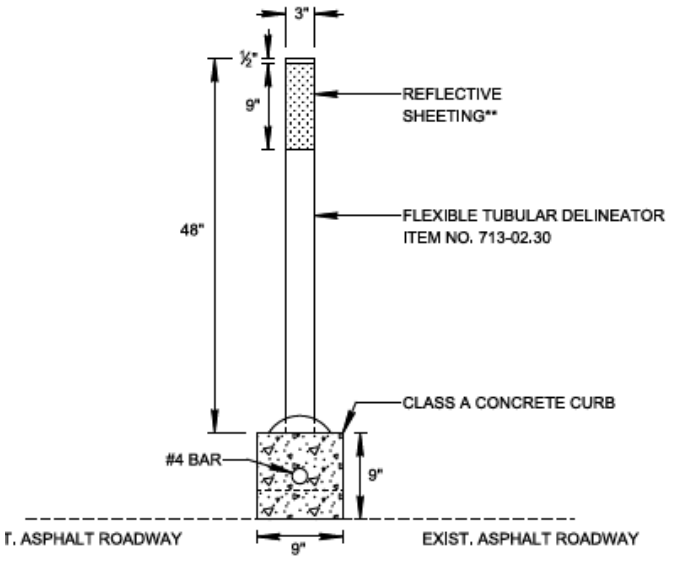
Sources: Google Maps, ESRI ArcGIS Basemaps. 2024.

Temporary Traffic Pattern

Ongoing Efforts by Wright Brothers Construction









Current CMGC Contract

Design Firm – RK&K

CM/GC – Ames Construction

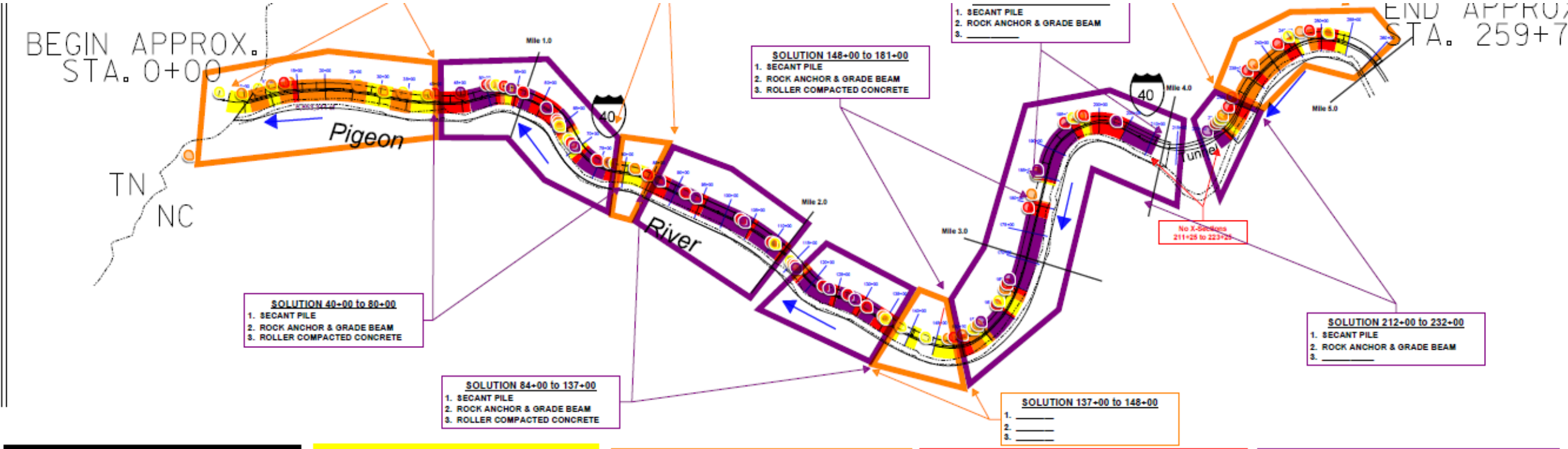
ICE – HNTB

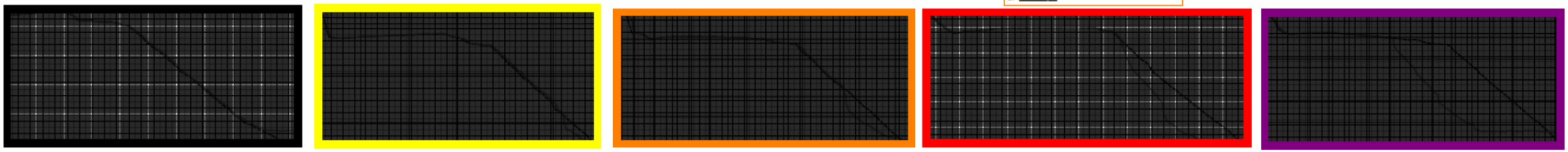
Estimated Cost - >$750M

Estimated Start Date:
February 6, 2025

Estimated Completion Date:
October 2026







NO FAILURE | MINOR FAILURE | MODERATE FAILURE | SIGNIFICANT FAILURE | EXTREME FAILURE




I-40 Pigeon River
MILE 3.6

Conceptual Solutions

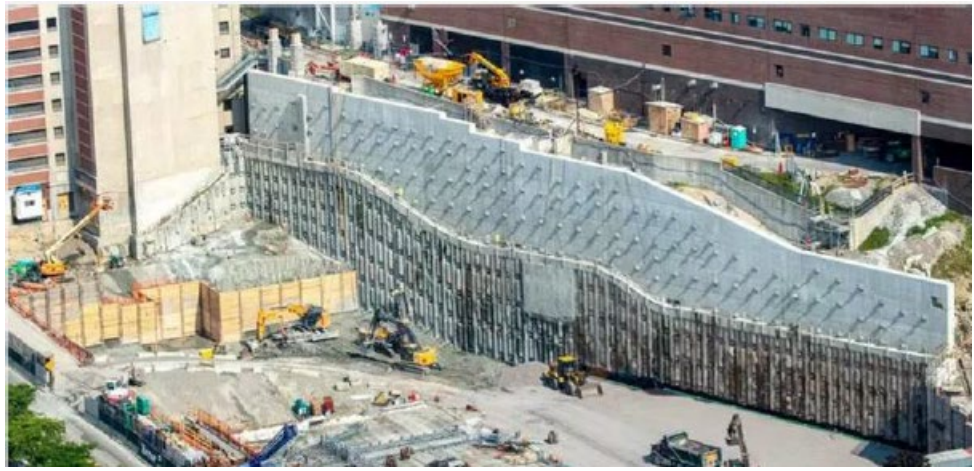
Proposed Solutions

- Conceptual Solutions
  - Roller Compacted Concrete
  - Tangent/Secant Wall
  - Soldier Pile Wall
  - TECCO Mesh/Rip-Rap Buttress
- Resiliency
  - Scour-Proof Embankment & Backfill
  - Protect Wall Weak Points
  - Construct Facility Able to Withstand Next Major Storm Event









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US 74A Chimney Rock PDB

Brian Burch, P.E.
Deputy Program Manager (HNTB)

1/09/2025

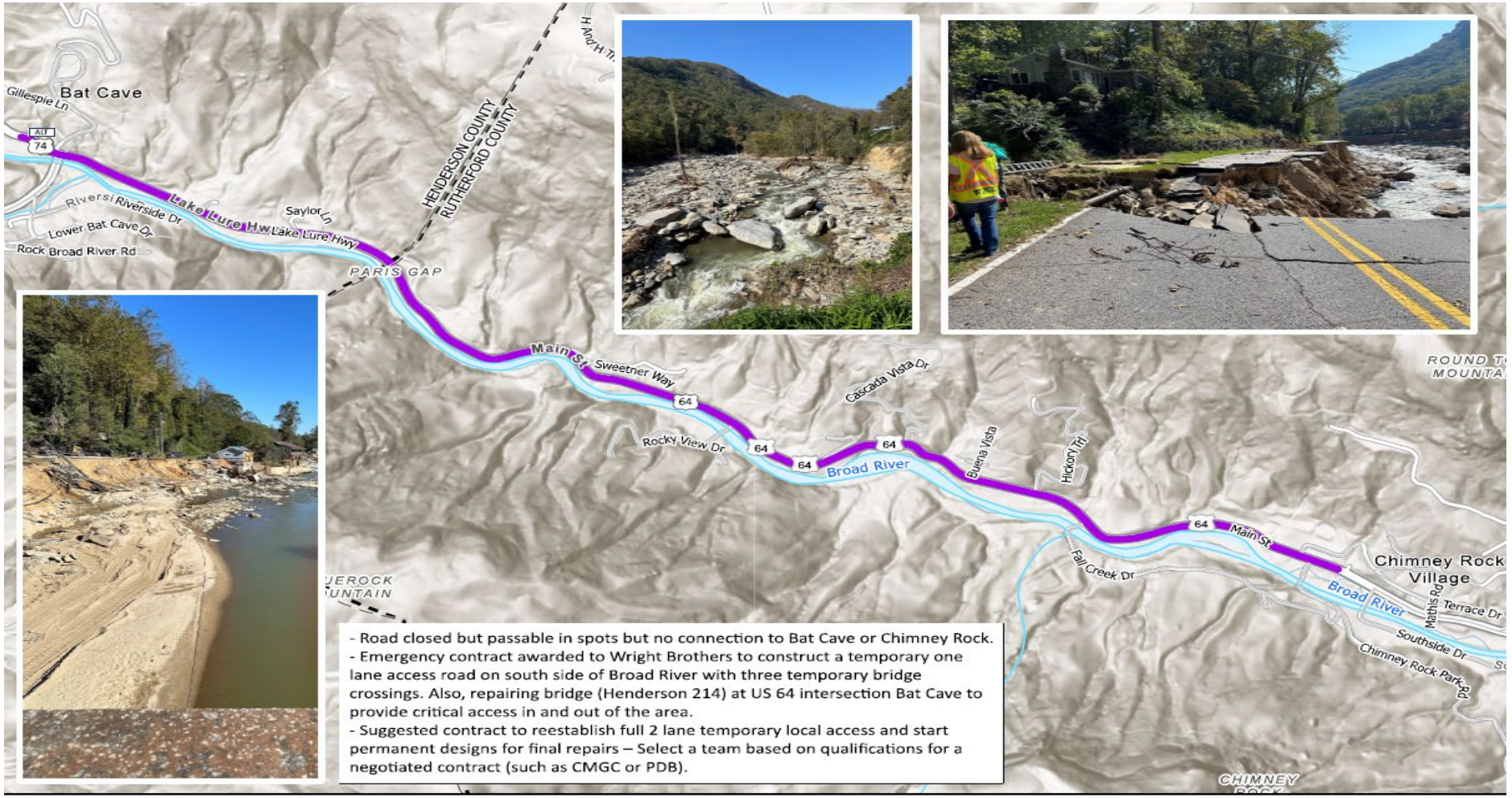
Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina

Department Level Goals

- Restore highway functionality and safety while minimizing public disruptions
- Meet target of completing repairs within 2 years
- Position Department for maximum reimbursement by FHWA
- Work closely with external stakeholders to align priorities
- Communicate frequently the status of rebuild efforts to the public and local governments

Project Location

US 74A Chimney Rock – US 74A / NC 9 / US 64 from Terrace Drive in Chimney Rock to NC 9 in Bat Cave
2.66 miles



Current PDB Contract

PDB Team – Wright Brothers

Designer - STV

ICE – HNTB

Estimated Cost - >$500M

Estimated Start Date:
TBD

Estimated Completion Date:
October 2026



Goal/Challenges



- Reestablish Access for Property Owners
- Pave Access between Chimney Rock and Bat Cave
- Construct Access Out of 2-5 Yr Storm



- Build a Resilient Facility Capable of Withstanding Next Major Storm Event
- Purchase Dedicated ROW (Existing Maintenance ROW)
- Stream Restoration that Complements Road

Goals/Challenges



- Reconstruct Bridge to Chimney Rock State Park
- Reconstruct US 64 Bat Cave Bridge
- Reestablish Water/Sewer from Chimney Rock to Henderson County Line
- Reconstruct to Allow/Enhance Redevelopment



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US 74A Gerton CMGC

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Deputy Program Manager (HNTB)
1/09/2025

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Department Level Goals

- Restore highway functionality and safety while minimizing public disruptions
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Project Location

US 74A Gerton – Buncombe County Line to US 64 Chimney Rock Road – 4.77 miles



Current CMGC Contract

Designer – HDR

CMGC – Wright Brothers

ICE – HNTB

Estimated Cost - >$250M

Estimated Start Date:
March 2025

Estimated Completion Date:
October 2026



Goals/Challenges



- Build a Resilient Facility Capable of Withstanding Next Major Storm Event
- Purchase Dedicated ROW (Existing Maintenance ROW)
- Stream Restoration that Complements Road



Questions?