



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
105 SOUTH TURNER BOULEVARD
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36114

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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2021-00421-JSC

April 29, 2021

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL ASSOCIATED WITH THE
PROPOSED WIDENING OF U.S. HIGHWAY 11 (US-11) IN
TUSCALOOSA AND BIBB COUNTIES, ALABAMA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT)
Attention: Mr. Adam Anderson
1409 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110
Email: rhoadess@dot.state.al.us

LOCATION: The proposed project is in wetlands and other waters along a proposed 6.8-mile widening of US-11 from Daimler Benz Boulevard, Tuscaloosa County to State Road 5 (SR-5), Bibb County, Alabama. More specifically, the proposed project is in portions of Sections 33, 34, 35, 26, 25, Township 21 South, Range 7 West, and Sections 19, 20, 17, 16, Township 21 South, Range 6 West. The proposed project commences at Latitude 33.173077° North, Longitude 87.268229° West and terminates at Latitude 33.216243° North, Longitude 87.165211° West. The proposed project corridor is found on the Coaling and Woodstock, Alabama Quadrangles, United States Geological Survey Topographic Maps, and is located within the Cahaba (HUC 03150202) and Upper Black Warrior (HUC 03160112) watersheds.

PURPOSE: The basic project purpose is the improvement of an existing transportation facility. The overall project purpose is the widening of US-11 to a 5-lane facility, through the town of Vance, from Daimler Benz Boulevard to east of Bama Rock Garden Road, then transitioning to a 4-lane facility with a 14-ft raised median from east of Bama Rock Garden Rd. to SR-5. The level of service (LOS) for existing traffic volumes on US-11 was calculated based on a service flow chart developed using ALDOT standard roadway capacities and Highway Capacity

Manual thresholds for LOS. Level of service calculations quantify the effective operating ability of a roadway given the traffic stream and geometry. Level of service is defined by a ranking scale of A through F, with LOS A representing the best operations and LOS F representing the worst. Based on the existing cross section and functional classification of US-11 (two-lane undivided arterial), the existing (2017) daily LOS of the roadway range from 5,600 average annual daily traffic (AADT) to 9,200 AADT, resulting in a LOS ranging from C to D. An increase in traffic of between 11% and 20% is anticipated along US-11. With this growth, the 2040 traffic volumes will range from 10,300 AADT to 16,300 AADT, resulting in LOS ranges of D to E. The proposed project (4-lane facility, with a 14-ft raised median with some sections along the route requiring 5 lanes) will result in improved LOS ranges of A to B.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is requesting authorization for the discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S. (WOUS) associated with the widening of US-11. The proposed project would permanently impact 1,135 linear feet of perennial streams, 1,318 linear feet of intermittent streams, and 6.91 acres of wetlands. Proposed regulated activities include the discharge of fill material and mechanized land clearing activities in WOUS.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: According to the applicant, constraints related to project logistics, location of existing infrastructure, presence of major topographic features, project to watershed orientation, and presence of rail line caused total avoidance of impacts to WOUS to be impracticable. However, the applicant indicates that impacts to streams and wetlands were avoided or minimized to the greatest extent practicable during the design and layout process. The applicant also noted that strict erosion control measures will be employed throughout the entire project, i.e., Best Management Practices (BMP). The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization statement at this time.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable impacts to streams through the purchase of stream mitigation credits from an USACE approved mitigation bank. The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetlands through the withdrawal wetlands credits from an USACE approved ALDOT wetland mitigation bank. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's proposed mitigation plan at this time.

LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY ROLE: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is considered the lead federal agency for the coordination and conduct of environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pursuant to NEPA, FHWA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed road construction project. The EA addressed alternatives that considered various alignments of the proposed project. The FHWA approved Findings of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) was signed in May 2019. After initial approval, the

EA/FONSI has been re-evaluated on two separate occasions in October 2019 and February 2021. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering adopting FHWA's EA; however, a separate decision document would be prepared prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested DA permit. Comments received would be used by the USACE in the preparation of any supplemental EA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement, if required, pursuant to NEPA prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the DA permit. The USACE would participate as a cooperating agency in the development of any additional NEPA documentation.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW/CUMULATIVE EFFECTS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can be based. The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic

properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an EA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the NEPA.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, ALDOT acting on behalf of the FHWA has reviewed the effects of the proposed undertaking on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The FHWA project study area has been surveyed for historic and archaeological resources. The cultural resources assessment identified eight historic structures in the project area. However, only one is eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Based on the project boundaries, this historic resource will not be impacted by the proposed project. In a letter dated June 25, 2019, the ALDOT determined and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred that the proposed project will not affect any historic structures potentially eligible for the NHRP.

The Phase I Archaeological Study prepared for the project also identified two sites as being potentially eligible for NRHP listing. The archaeological sites were identified as Sites 1Tu1150, and 1Tu1151. Based on the project boundaries, Site 1Tu1150 will not be impacted by the proposed project. However, Site 1Tu1151, which is within the proposed project limits, was recommended as potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. A Phase II Management Summary was completed on August 29, 2019, for archaeological resource site 1Tu1151. As a result, ALDOT determined this site is not National Register-eligible. The ALDOT Phase II management summary concurrence letter was signed by the SHPO on September 13, 2019.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), ALDOT on behalf of the FHWA has reviewed the proposed undertaking's potential to affect threatened or endangered species. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) agreed that no federally listed species/critical habitat are known to occur in the project area in letter stamped on August 15, 2018.

COMMENT PERIOD: Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2021-00421-JSC and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Birmingham Field Office, Attention: Mr. James Cherry, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Office of Field Services, Attention: Mr. Richard Hulcher, Post

Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at James.S.Cherry@usace.army.mil and to ADEM at fieldmail@adem.alabama.gov. Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at James.S.Cherry@usace.army.mil or telephone number (334) 462-2611. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

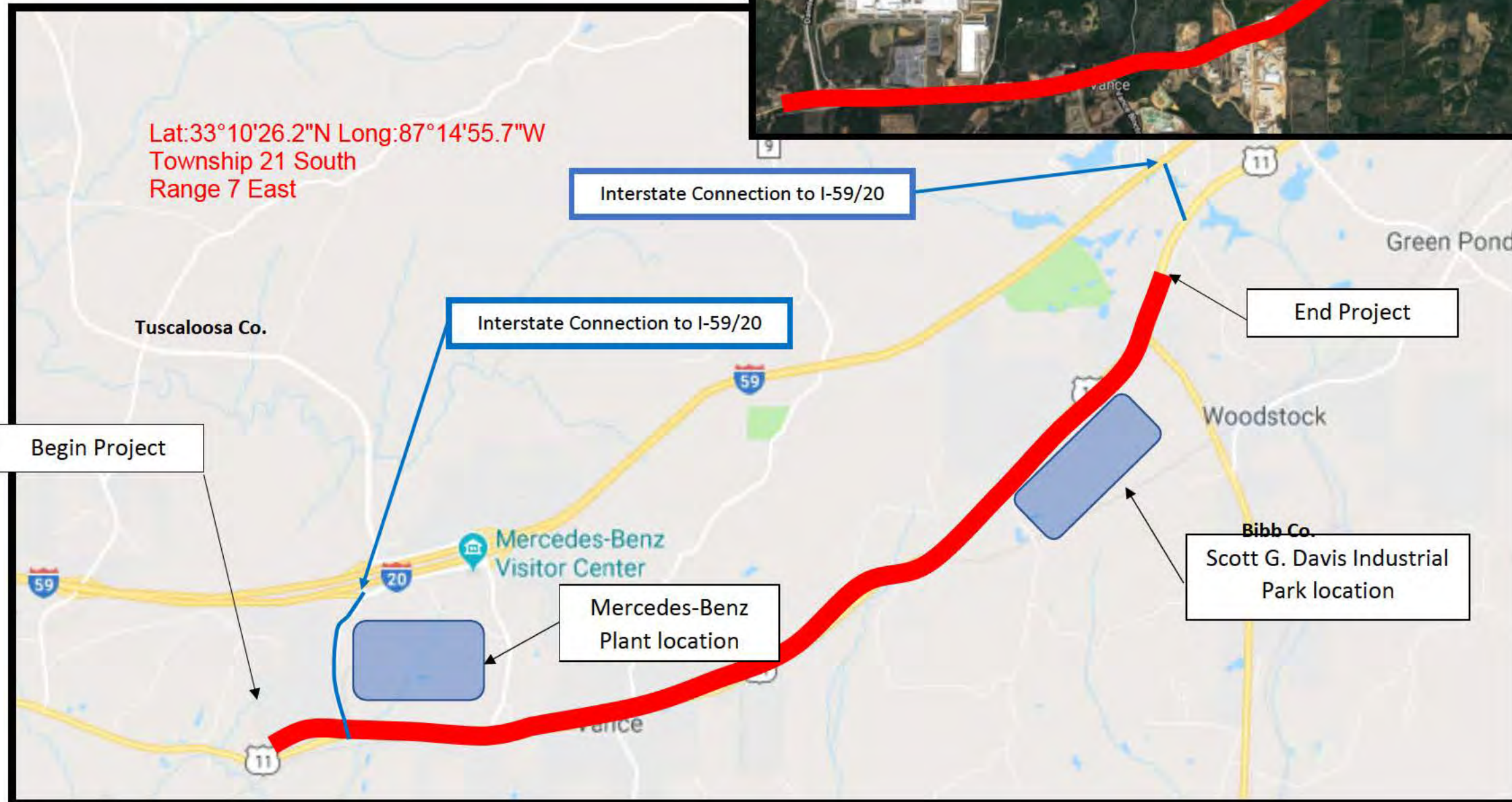
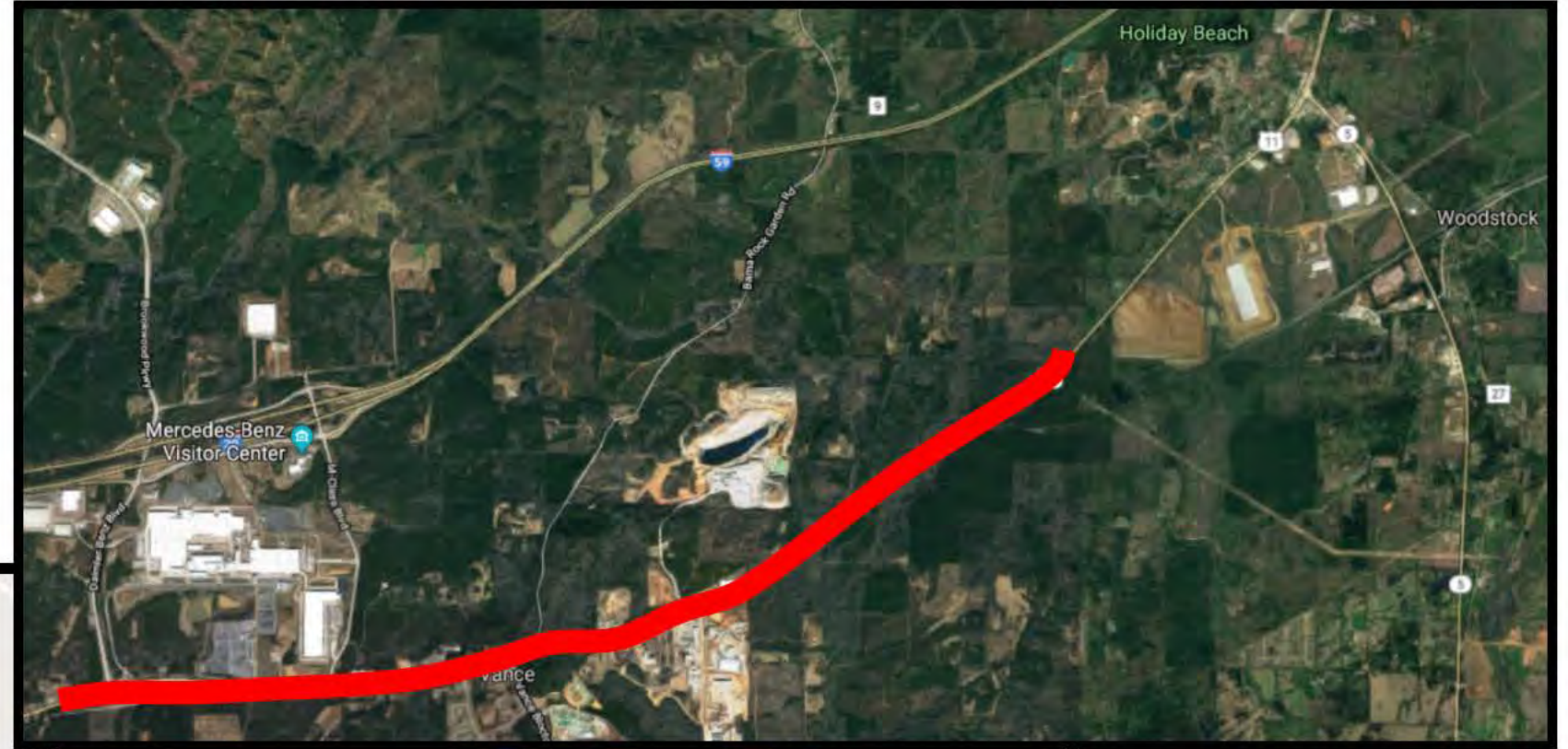
Enclosures

STPAA-0007 ()

Add Lanes on SR-7 (US-11) from Daimler Benz Blvd. to the Intersection with SR-5

Location Map 2

Tuscaloosa/Bibb County



LEGEND

ROW/PROPERTY LINE	—	STREAM IMPACTS (FILLING)	—
REQUIRED EOP	—	STREAM IMPACTS (PIPING)	—
EXISTING DRAINAGE	—	STREAM IMPACTS (RIPRAP)	—
DELINEATED STREAMS	—	WETLAND IMPACTS (FILLING)	—
DELINEATED WETLANDS	—	WETLAND IMPACTS (CLEARING)	—

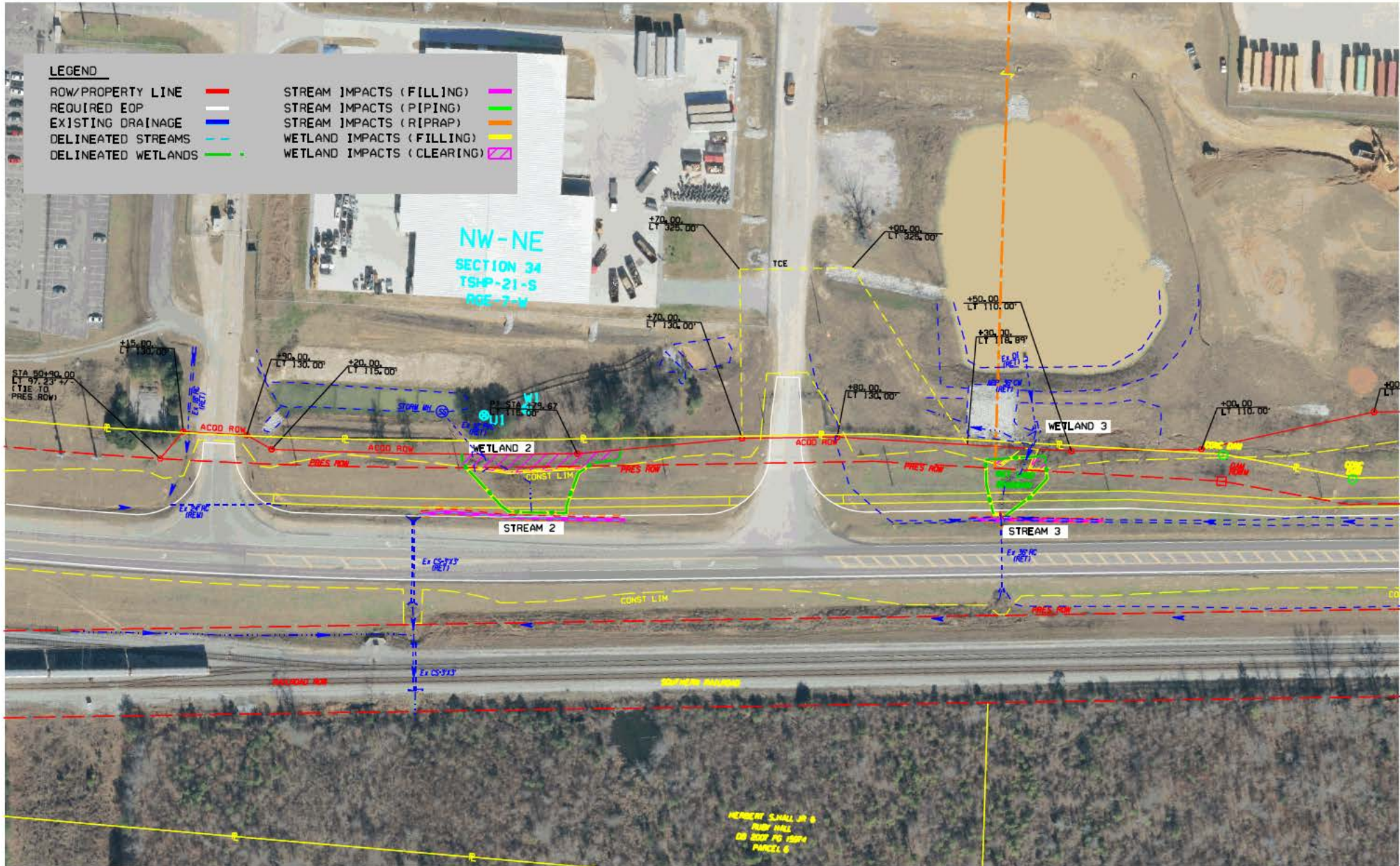


ALDOT ACSTPAAF-0007(549)
 Add lanes on SR-7 (US-11) from Daimler Benz Boulevard to the intersection of SR-5
 along the Norfolk Southern Railroad
 Tuscaloosa and Bibb Counties

SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-1



ALDOT ACSTPAAF-0007(549)
 Add lanes on SR-7 (US-11) from Daimler Benz Boulevard to the intersection of SR-5
 along the Norfolk Southern Railroad
 Tuscaloosa and Bibb Counties

SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-2



ALDOT ACSTPAAF-0007(549)
 Add lanes on SR-7 (US-11) from Deimler Benz Boulevard to the intersection of SR-5
 along the Norfolk Southern Railroad
 Tuscaloosa and Bibb Counties

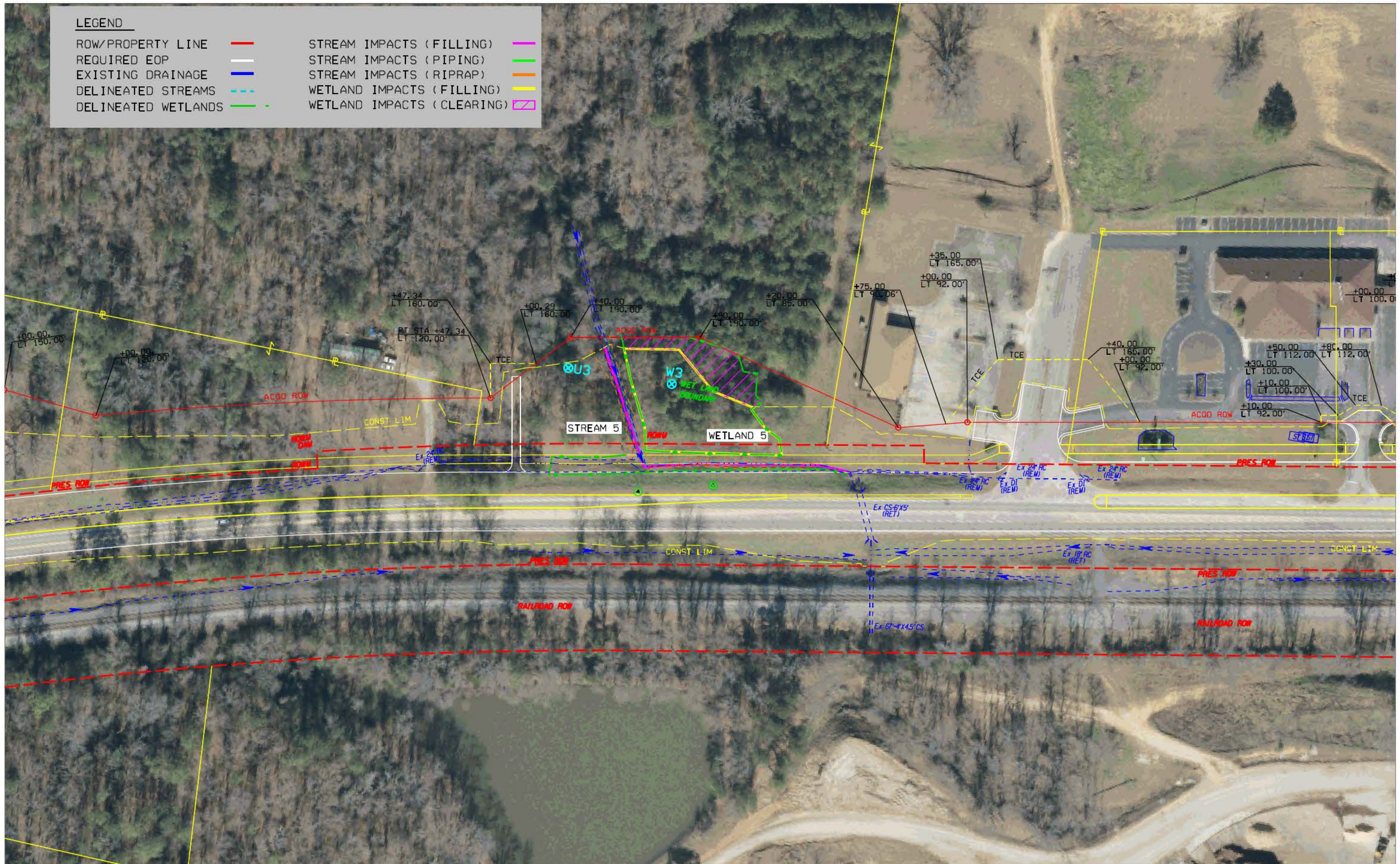
SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

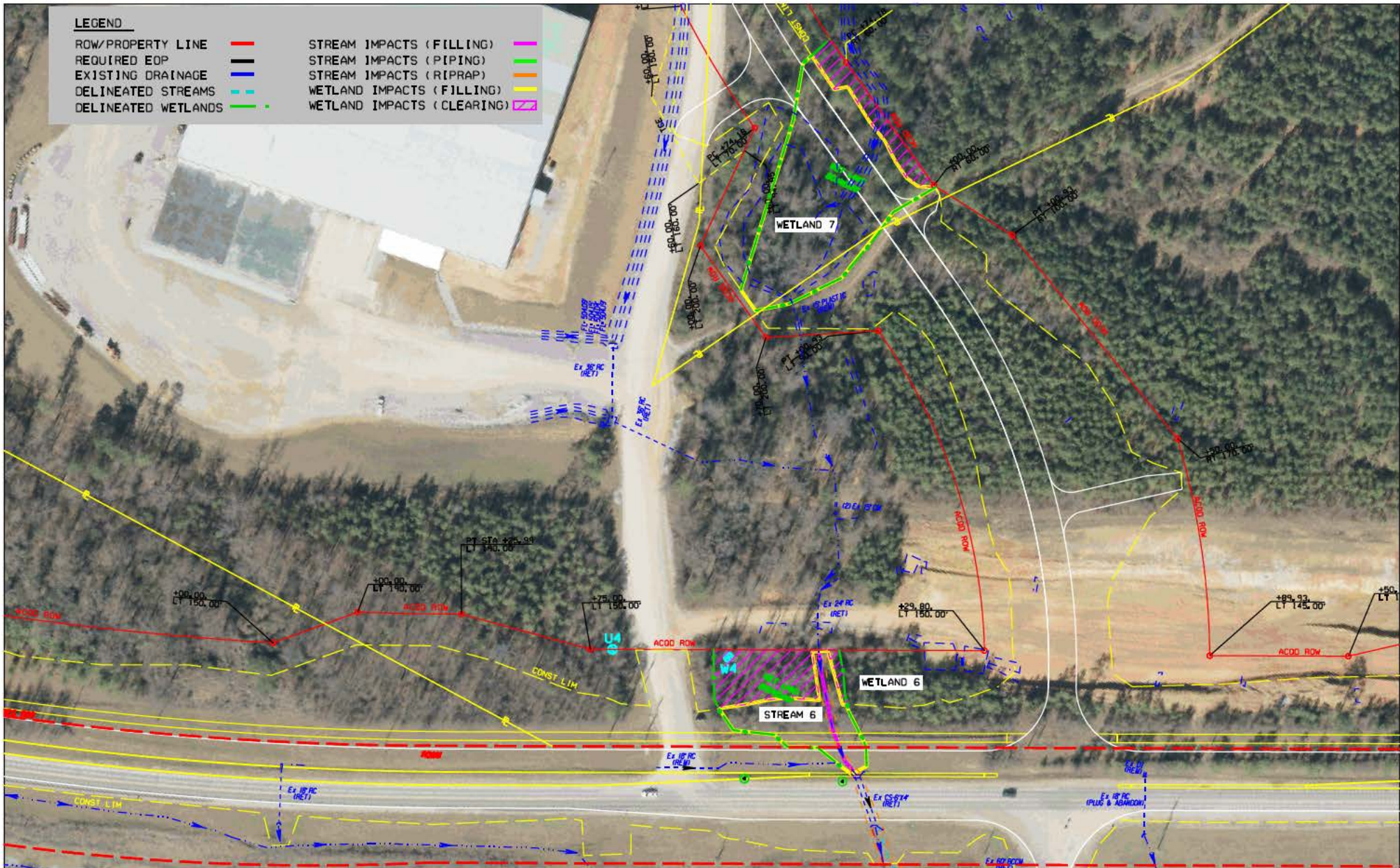
1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-3

LEGEND

- ROW/PROPERTY LINE —
- REQUIRED EOP —
- EXISTING DRAINAGE —
- DELINEATED STREAMS - - -
- DELINEATED WETLANDS - - -
- STREAM IMPACTS (FILLING) —
- STREAM IMPACTS (PIPING) —
- STREAM IMPACTS (RIPRAP) —
- WETLAND IMPACTS (FILLING) —
- WETLAND IMPACTS (CLEARING) ▨



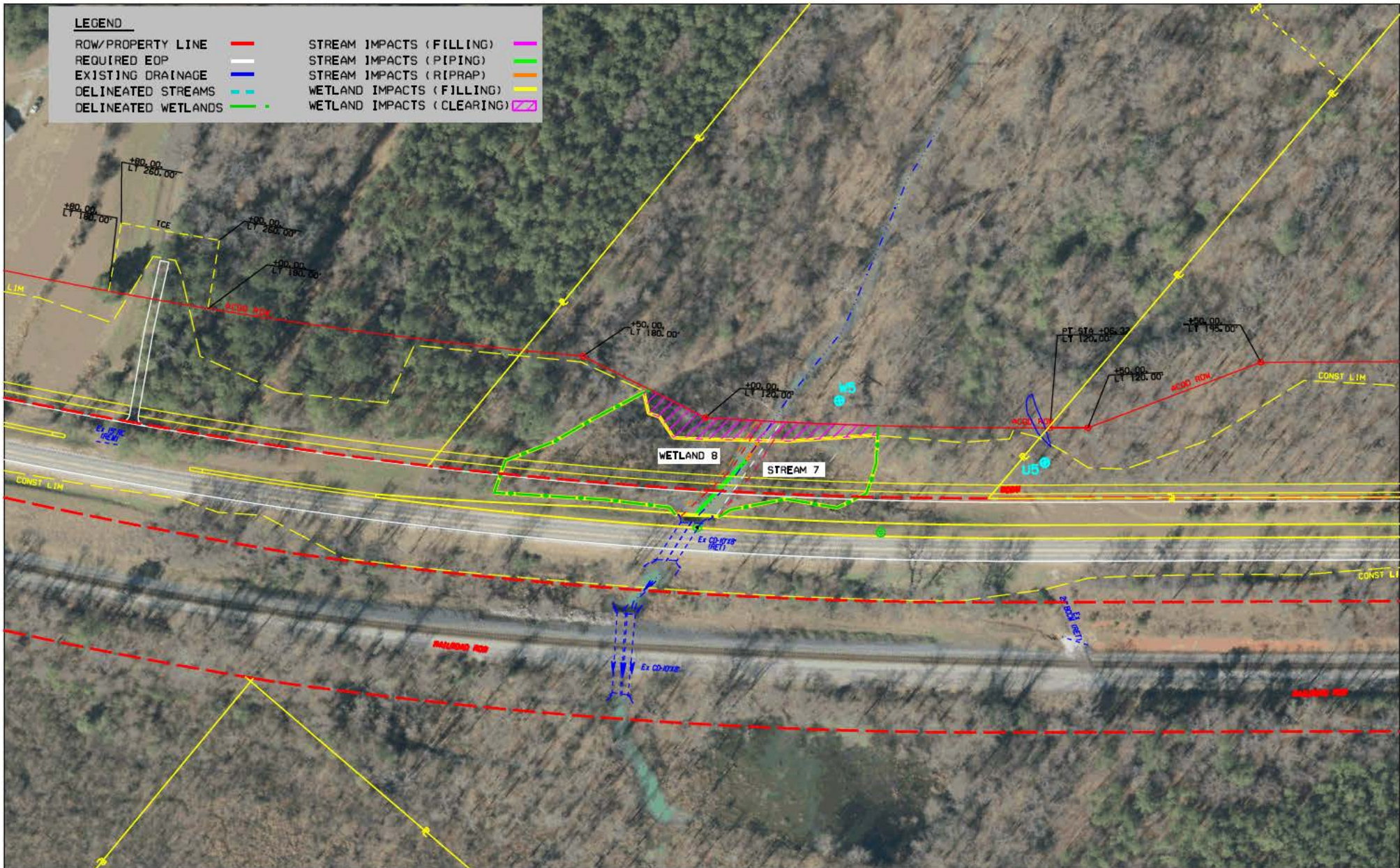


ALDOT ACSTPAAF-0007(549)
 Add lanes on SR-7 (US-11) from Daimler Benz Boulevard to the intersection of SR-45
 along the Norfolk Southern Railroad
 Tuscaloosa and Bibb Counties

SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-5

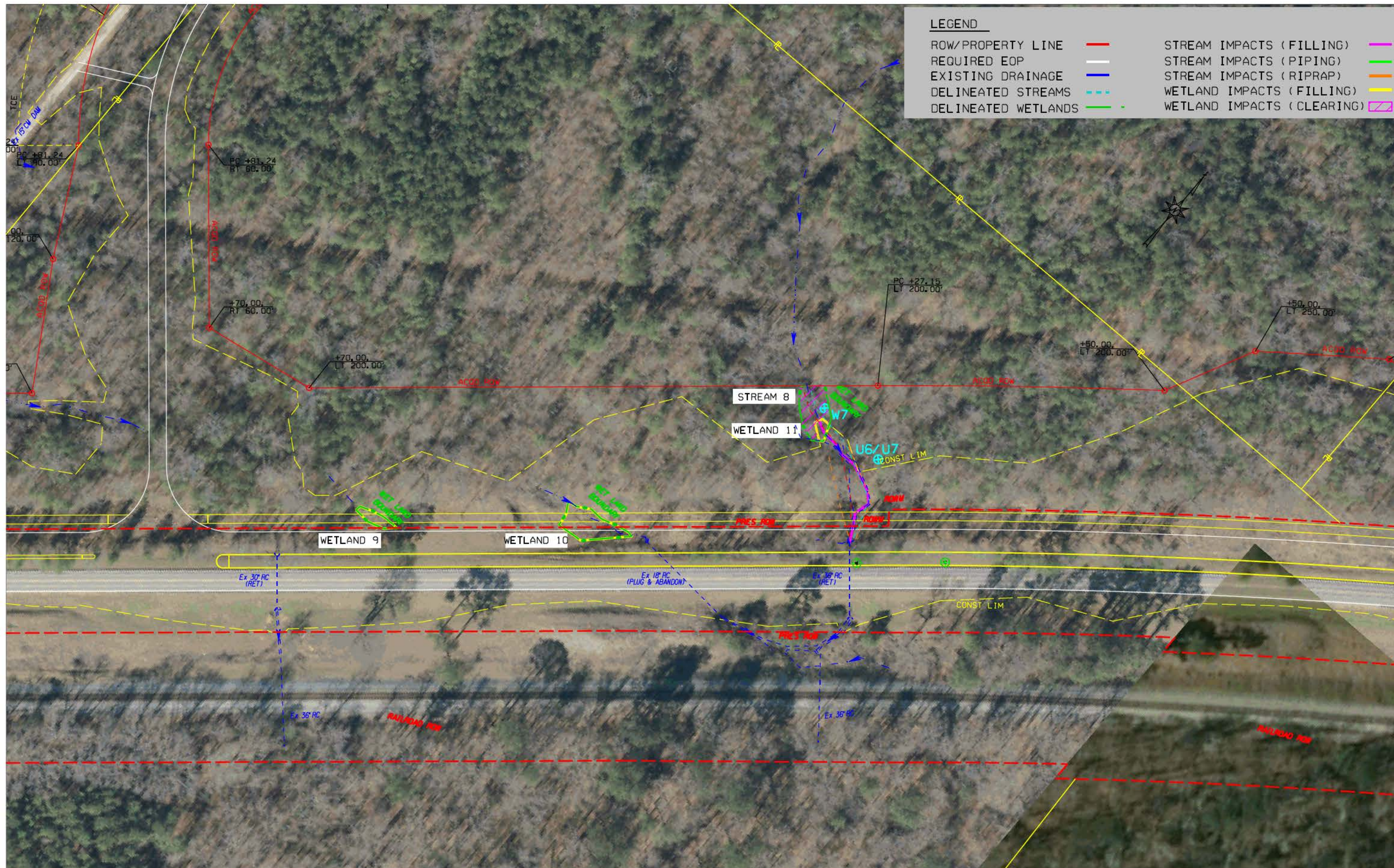


ALDOT ACSTPAAF-0007(549)
 Add lanes on SR-7 (US-11) from Daimler Benz Boulevard to the intersection of SR-5
 along the Norfolk Southern Railroad
 Tuscaloosa and Bibb Counties

SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-6



LEGEND			
ROW/PROPERTY LINE	—	STREAM IMPACTS (FILLING)	—
REQUIRED EOP	—	STREAM IMPACTS (PIPING)	—
EXISTING DRAINAGE	—	STREAM IMPACTS (RIPRAP)	—
DELINEATED STREAMS	—	WETLAND IMPACTS (FILLING)	—
DELINEATED WETLANDS	—	WETLAND IMPACTS (CLEARING)	—

ALDOT ACSTPAAF-0007(549)
 Add lanes on SR-7 (US-11) from Daimler Benz Boulevard to the intersection of SR-5
 along the Norfolk Southern Railroad

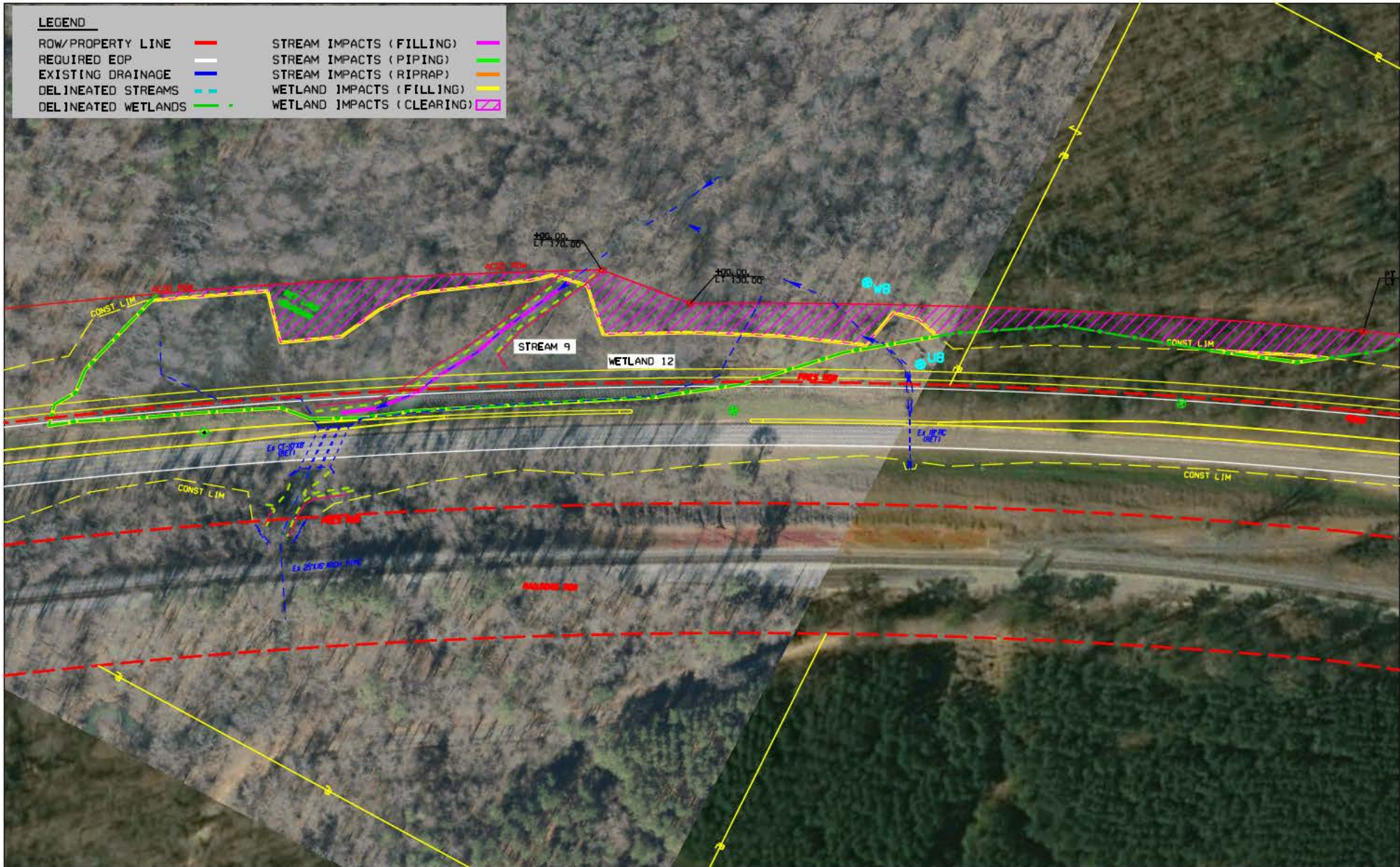
SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-7

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| ROW/PROPERTY LINE | — | STREAM IMPACTS (FILLING) | — |
| REQUIRED EOP | — | STREAM IMPACTS (PIPING) | — |
| EXISTING DRAINAGE | — | STREAM IMPACTS (RIPRAP) | — |
| DELINEATED STREAMS | — | WETLAND IMPACTS (FILLING) | — |
| DELINEATED WETLANDS | — | WETLAND IMPACTS (CLEARING) | — |



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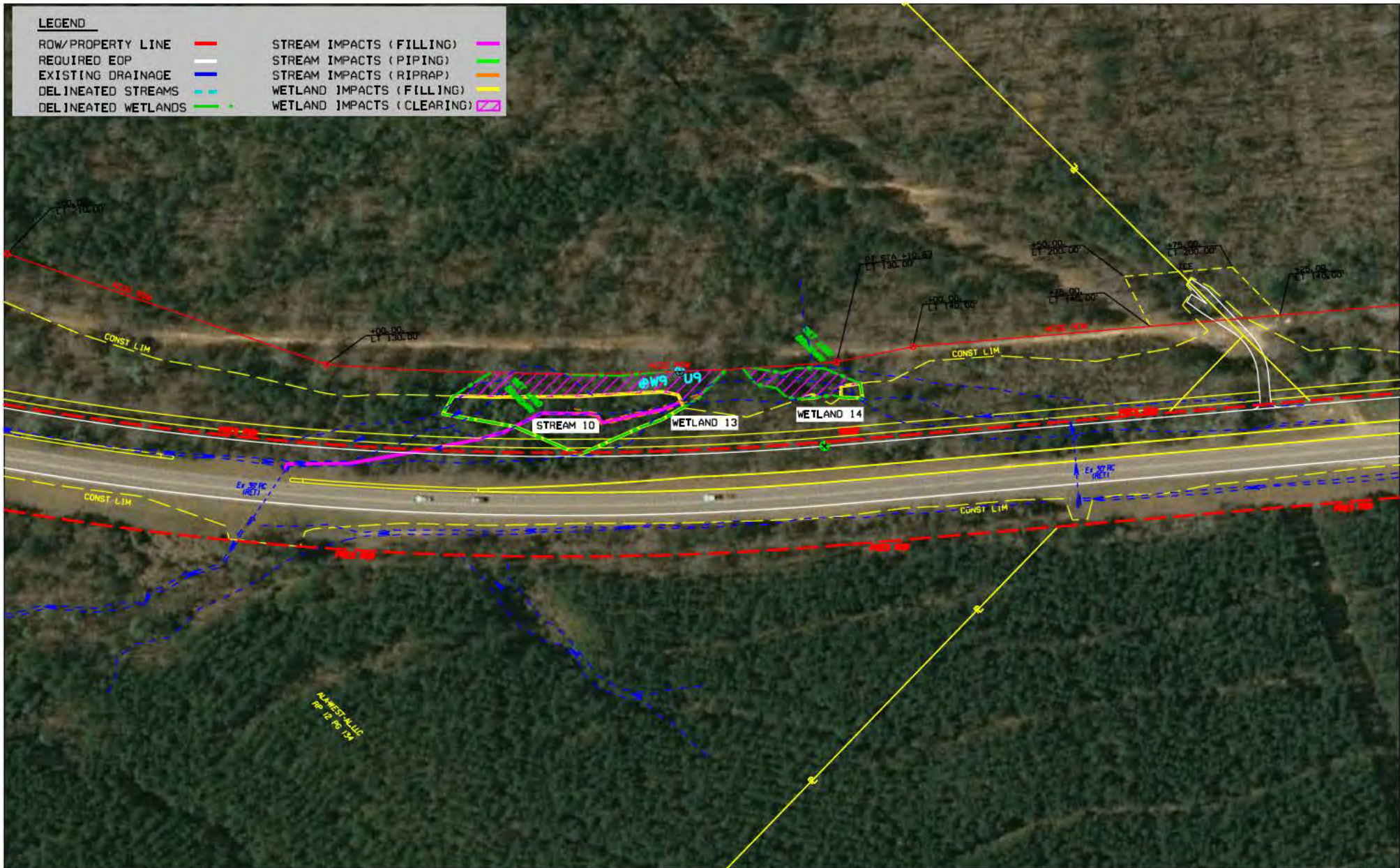
SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-8

LEGEND

ROW/PROPERTY LINE	—	STREAM IMPACTS (FILLING)	—
REQUIRED EOP	—	STREAM IMPACTS (PIPING)	—
EXISTING DRAINAGE	—	STREAM IMPACTS (RIPRAP)	—
DELINEATED STREAMS	—	WETLAND IMPACTS (FILLING)	—
DELINEATED WETLANDS	—	WETLAND IMPACTS (CLEARING)	—



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 along the Norfolk Southern Railroad
 Tuscaloosa and Bibb Counties

SR-7/US-11 Wetland/Stream Delineation

1 INCH = 100 FEET

FIGURE 2-9

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| ROW/PROPERTY LINE | — | STREAM IMPACTS (FILLING) | — |
| REQUIRED EOP | — | STREAM IMPACTS (PIPING) | — |
| EXISTING DRAINAGE | — | STREAM IMPACTS (RIPRAP) | — |
| DELINEATED STREAMS | — | WETLAND IMPACTS (FILLING) | — |
| DELINEATED WETLANDS | — | WETLAND IMPACTS (CLEARING) | — |

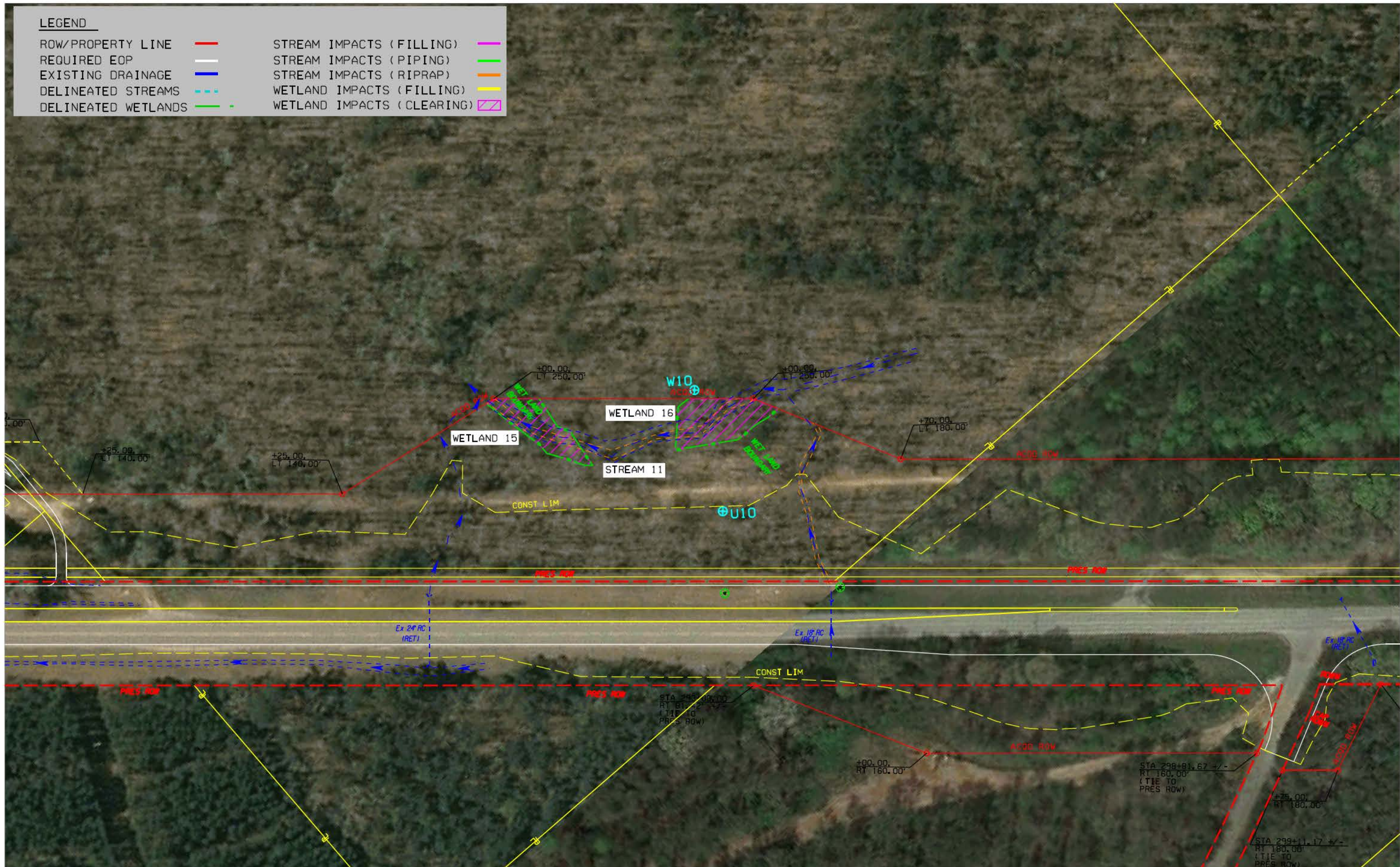


Table 1 Wetland Impacts

County/State	Wetland ID	Cowardin Code	Wetland Description	Total Area (Acres)	Filling (acres)	Clearing (acres)	Latitude	Longitude
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 1	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.01	0	0.01	33.173983	-87.263728
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 2	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.18	0.11	0.07	33.173518	-87.25383
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 3	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.08	0.07	0.01	33.173568	-87.252032
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 4	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.19	0.13	0.06	33.173884	-87.24592
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 5	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.42	0.31	0.11	33.176987	-87.226379
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 6	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.39	0.21	0.18	33.178983	-87.217932
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 7	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.8	0.7	0.1	33.18048	-87.218729
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 8	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.93	0.79	0.14	33.183423	-87.207932
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 9	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.01	0.01	0	33.187399	-87.202134
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 10	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.04	0.04	0	33.187809	-87.201591
Tuscaloosa/AL	Wetland 11	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.04	0.04	0	33.188584	-87.201208
Bibb/AL	Wetland 12	PFO	Palustrine forested	3.11	2.12	0.99	33.190439	-87.197463
Bibb/AL	Wetland 13	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.43	0.26	0.17	33.194649	-87.18825
Bibb/AL	Wetland 14	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.08	0.01	0.07	33.195524	-87.187588
Bibb/AL	Wetland 15	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.09	0	0.09	33.197946	-87.185455
Bibb/AL	Wetland 16	PFO	Palustrine forested	0.11	0	0.11	33.198291	-87.185112
Total				6.91	4.8	2.11		

Table 2 Stream Impacts

County/State	Waterbody #	Waterbody Classification	OHWB Width (ft)	Total Length (ft)	Area (Acres)	Latitude	Longitude
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 1	Perennial	22	91	0.05	33.173711	-87.264653
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 2	Intermittent	3.5	236	0.02	33.173438	-87.253963
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 3	Intermittent	3	154	0.01	33.173506	-87.252044
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 4	Perennial	7	243	0.04	33.173781	-87.246687
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 5	Intermittent	4	398	0.04	33.177005	-87.22601
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 6	Intermittent	9	155	0.0304	33.17899	-87.217634
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 7	Perennial	25	141	0.08	33.183379	-87.207731
Tuscaloosa/AL	Stream 8	Intermittent	10	212	0.05	33.188368	-87.200782
Bibb/AL	Stream 9	Perennial	18	331	0.14	33.190411	-87.197285
Bibb/AL	Stream 10	Intermittent	4.5	163	0.012	33.194974	-87.187941
Bibb/AL	Stream 11	Perennial	7	329	0.06	33.198069	-87.185271
Totals				2,453	0.5324		