



May 21, 2024

Mr. Brian Wolfe, PE
Maryland Transportation Authority
8019 Corporate Drive, Suite F
Baltimore, MD 21236

Attn: Ms. Julie McCarthy

Project: I-95 Express Toll Lanes Northbound Extension Section 200 Phase I and II, Carsin's Run Stream Mitigation Site, Harford County, 18-NT-0086/201860368, 19-NT-0150/201960846
MDTA Contract No.: AE-2794-000-001/6

Re: Year 3 Monitoring Report

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

On behalf of the Water and Science Administration, Wetlands and Waterway Protection Program, we have reviewed the *Carsin's Run Stream Monitoring – Year 3 Stream and Wetland Monitoring Report* (Monitoring Report) received on January 15, 2024, for the above-referenced project. The project proposed restoration of 188 feet of the Mainstem of Carsin's Run (Mainstem), 804 linear feet of the Tributary to Carsin's Run (Tributary), and 1,994 square feet of adjacent wetland creation. The Monitoring Report indicates target Year 3 stream performance standards are being met for the Mainstem; however, performance standards for the Tributary are not being met for flow characterization, vertical stability, or bed materials, and adaptive management was recommended. Results of wetland performance standards were also mixed.

Based on concerns raised within the report, agency site visits were conducted on March 19 and April 11, 2024. The site visits confirmed that the Mainstem and Wetland 6 (created) are functioning as designed and should continue to be monitored, and Wetland WL007 (existing) is no longer being drained and appears to be restored. The visits also confirmed that while the Tributary has been stabilized and has stopped erosion at the upstream wetland (WL007), the stability improvements alone were not enough to satisfy ecological uplift required for stream mitigation credit. It is unlikely that the Tributary and portions of the created wetlands will develop the required uplift or meet performance standards during the monitoring period. Mitigation credit for the Tributary and the majority of the created wetlands will need to be achieved at a different mitigation site.

Currently, only the Mainstem, Wetland WL007 and Wetland 6 are functioning as designed and should continue to be monitored as mitigation for the above-referenced project. Wetland WL007 was impacted during construction, appears to be redeveloping as wetland, and should continue to be monitored. The credits originally proposed for the Tributary and proposed created wetlands will need to be obtained at another mitigation site. *Table 1* below outlines the original proposed mitigation credits and how many credits will need to be replaced elsewhere.

Table 1. Original Versus Remaining Credit Potential at Carsin's Run

Mitigation Area	Original Proposed Mitigation Credits	Revised Proposed Mitigation Credits	Mitigation Credit Deficit
Mainstem Carsin's Run (LF)	188	188	0
Tributary to Carsin's Run (LF)	804	0	804
Wetland Creation (SF)	1,994	100	1,894

The Phase II approval letter for the I-95 Section 200 Phase II Project (19-NT-0150/201960368) will also need to be updated to reflect *Table 1* above. Carsin's Run was originally proposed to create 1,994 square feet of wetlands to replace wetland impacts under 19-NT-0150/201960368. Only 100 square feet of wetland credit will potentially meet performance standards, leaving 1,894 square feet to be replaced at another mitigation site. Carsin's Run was also intended as stream mitigation for 19-NT-0150/201960368 for a total of 992 linear feet of stream restoration, of which only 188 linear feet of mitigation is likely to meet performance standards, and 804 linear feet of impact will need to be replaced at another mitigation site.

Please provide a proposal for where the wetland and stream credits for 19-NT-0150/201960368 will be replaced and how the proposed locations will replace both acreage and function of impacted resources. During the site visit, the Eccleston and HT-3012 mitigation sites were mentioned as possible locations, which are already part of the original mitigation package for Phase I and Phase II of the I-95 ETL Northbound Extension Projects.

Continued monitoring of the Mainstem, Wetlands WL007, and Wetland 6 to verify the mitigation is meeting performance standards is required to satisfy mitigation monitoring requirements per Special Condition No. 18 and General Condition No. 19 of Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit No. 18-NT-0086/201860368 and General Condition No. 19 of Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Permit No. 19-NT-0150/201960368. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Emily Dolbin at (667) 219-3279, or Emily.Dolbin@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Kelly P. Neff
Mitigation and Technical Assistance Section, Chief

cc: Matt Hynson, US Army Corps of Engineers
Amanda Sigillito, Nontidal Wetlands Division Chief
William Seiger, Waterway Construction
Emily Dolbin, Nontidal Wetlands Reviewer
MDE Compliance Program