



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 17, 2022

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 090580
Arkansas Welcome Center (I-49) (S)
Benton County
Environmental Documentation for State Funded Projects

The purpose of this project is to construct a new Arkansas Welcome Center near Bella Vista in Benton County. The center will be located at the I-49/Highway 72 interchange. Approximately 18.0 acres of property has been acquired for this project. A project location map is attached.

There are no relocations, environmental justice concerns, underground storage tanks/hazardous wastes, prime farmland, floodplains, wetlands, or cultural resource impacts associated with this project. State Historic Preservation Officer clearance is attached. The project is exempt from Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and a noise analysis because there is no federal nexus. This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any mobile toxics air concerns. The project will not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

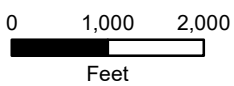
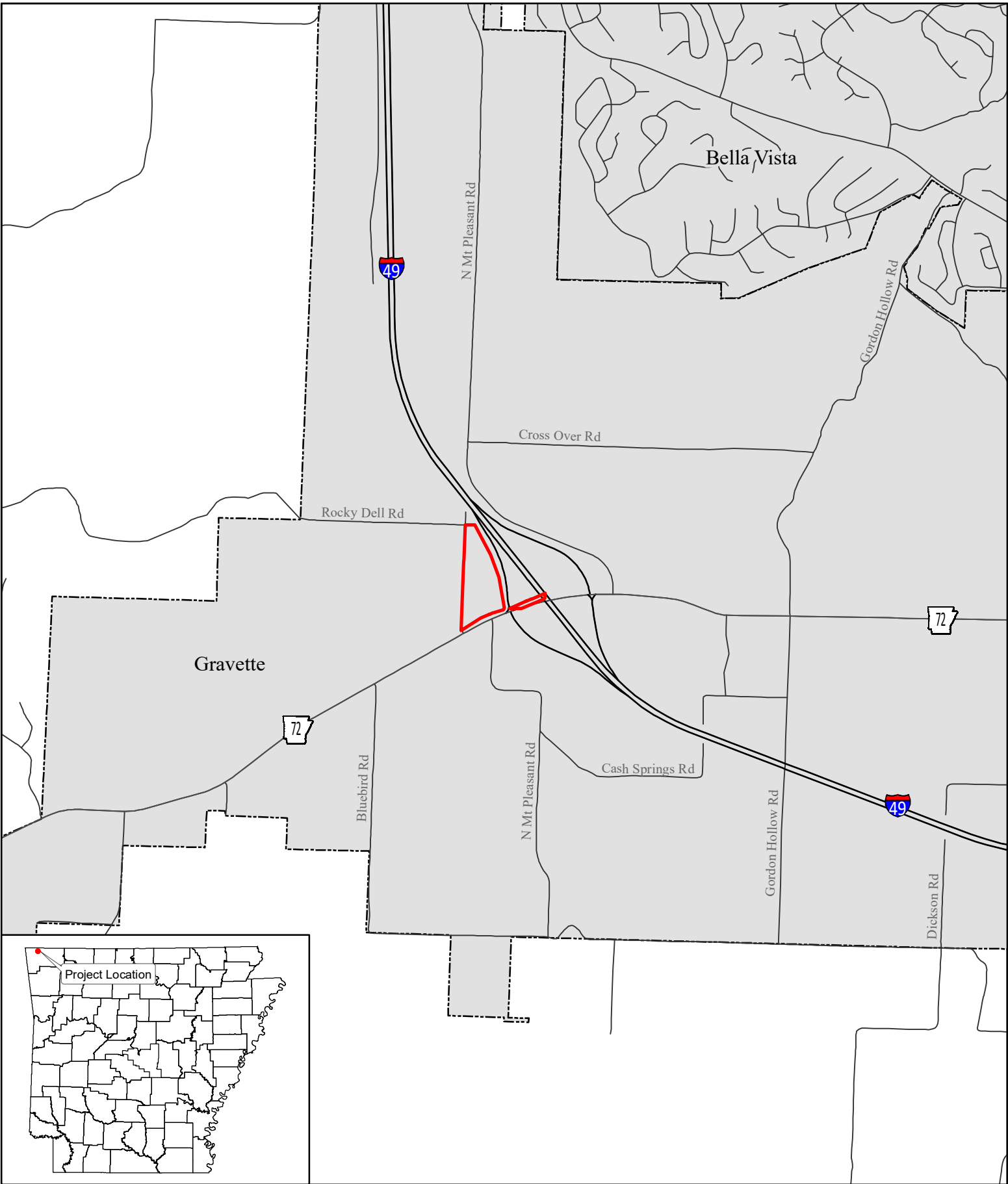
JF:MP:sw

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Cultural Resources Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist

Job 090580
Environmental Documentation
Page 2 of 2

c: Facilities Management
Program Management
Right of Way
State Aid
District 9



Job 090580
Arkansas Welcome Center
(I-49)
Benton County





Asa Hutchinson
Governor
Stacy Hurst
Secretary

February 28, 2022

Mr. John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division
Arkansas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

RE: Benton County: General
Section 106 Review: FHWA
Proposed Undertaking: Arkansas Welcome Center (Bella Vista) (S)
Route I-49, Section 29
ARDOT Job Number: 090580
AHPP Tracking Number: 107557.02

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the project identification form for the above referenced undertaking in Benton County, Arkansas Sections 3 and 10, Township 20 North, Range 32 West. The proposed undertaking entails the construction a new Arkansas Welcome Center at the intersection of I-49 and Highway 72. The proposed project area will cover 17.1 acres.

A cultural resources survey relocated site 3BE0745. A total of 186 shovel tests were excavated for the entire project. Out of the 63 shovel tests excavated within the boundaries of site 3BE0745, only four were positive with a total of 11 artifacts. Due to the lack of diagnostic material and the lack of intact deposits and research potential, the AHPP concurs that site 3BE0745 is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Based on the provided information, the AHPP concurs with the finding of **no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)** for the proposed undertaking and that no further archeological work is needed.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Cherokee Nation, the Osage Nation, the Shawnee Tribe, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, call Kathryn Bryles at 501-324-9784 or email kathryn.bryles@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

for
Scott Kaufman
Director, AHPP

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey

**ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST
FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

ARDOT Job 090580 FAP _____

Job Title Arkansas Welcome Center (I-49) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No MSAT; no impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			N/A
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			EJ populations not identified in area
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minor impacts during construction
Floodplains	X			None in project area
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			None identified in project area
Land Use		X		Approx. 18.0 acres of new ROW acquired
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in project area
Noise Levels	X			N/A
Prime Farmland	X			None; project within city limits
Protected Waters	X			WPC: karst vulnerability area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocatees	X			No relocations necessary
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			N/A
Social	X			No adverse impacts
Underground Storage Tanks	X			None identified in project area
Visual	X			No adverse impacts
Streams	X			None in project area
Water Quality		X		Minor decrease during construction
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? N
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? N
 Section 404 Permit Required? N Type _____

Remarks: .

Signature of Evaluator Mary Pearson Date 2/07/22