




INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 10, 2024

TO: Master Files

FROM: Josh Seagraves, Division Head – Environmental 

SUBJECT: Job 090723
FAP IM-49-1(23)
Hwy. 71 – Hwy. 72 (Sel. Secs.) (Benton Co.) (S)
Route 49, Section 29
Benton County
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

The subject project is a pavement preservation job that proposes diamond grinding of 8.7 miles of Interstate 49 in Benton County. All work would be completed on select sections and within existing right of way. A project location map is attached.

The project would not involve relocations, endangered species, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxics concerns. The cultural resources clearance is attached.

The official species lists obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project area: Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Ozark Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Ozark Cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*), Neosho Mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*), Benton County Cave Crayfish (*Cambarus aculabrum*), Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*), and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The official species list is attached. This project would have "no effect" on the aforementioned species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently a proposed threatened species; the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species, and the Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species; however, the proposed project would not jeopardize the continued existence of any of these species.

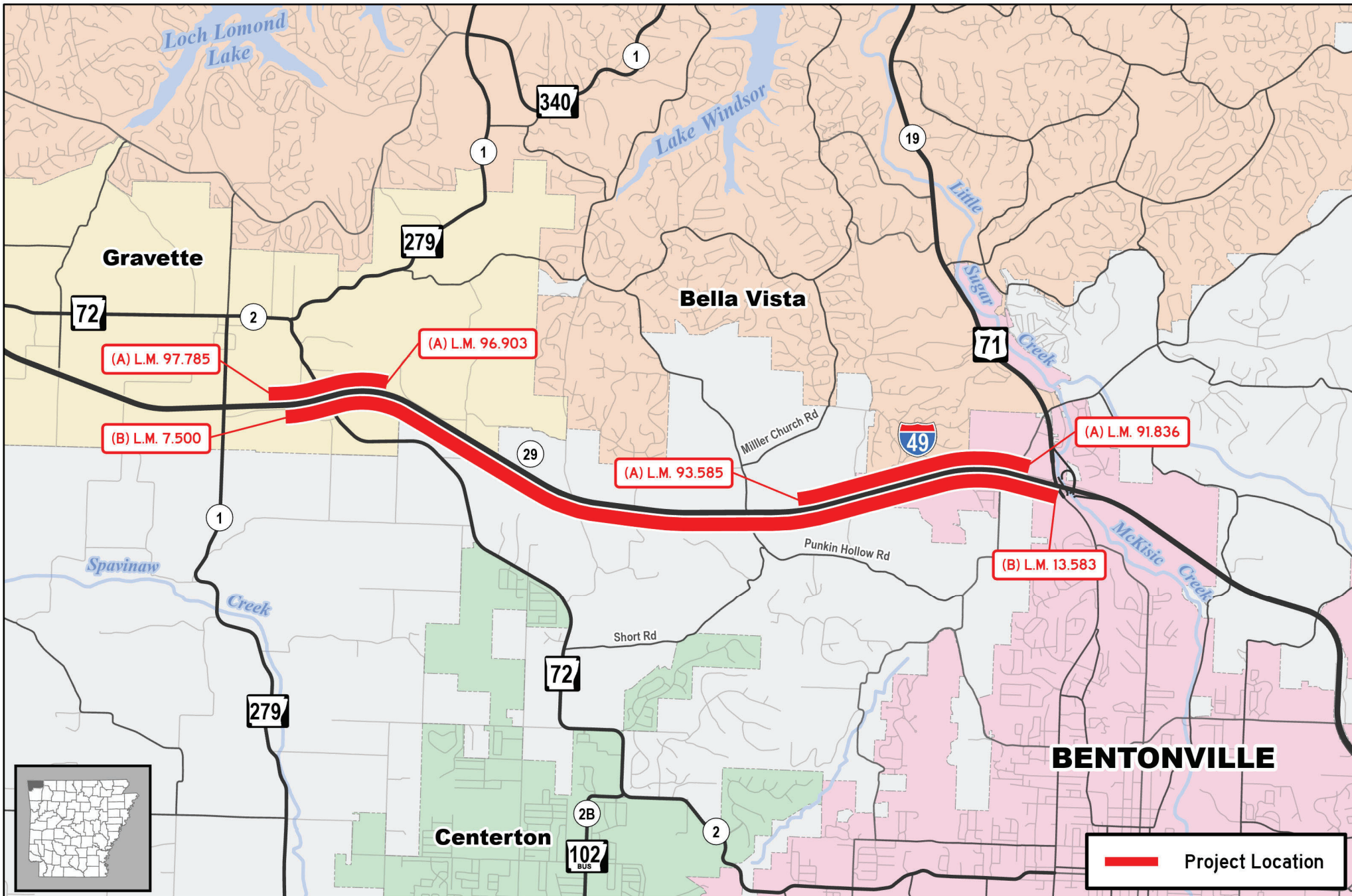
This project would not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

Attachments

c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
District 9
FHWA

JS:DH:sw



Job 090723

Hwy. 71 – Hwy. 72 (Sel. Secs.) (Benton Co.) (S)

I-49, Sec. 29
Benton County

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 1, 2024

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Shelby Linck, Cultural Resources *SL*

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance Addendum
Job 090723
Hwy. 71 – Hwy. 72 (Sel. Secs.) (Benton Co.) (S)
Route I-49, Section 29
Benton County

This is a pavement preservation job that proposes an additional 2.598 miles of diamond grinding with rumble strips for a total of 8.71 miles. Work will be completed on sections of Interstate 49 between Highway 71 and Highway 72 in Benton County.

This project is subject to the 2021 Programmatic Agreement and falls under Activities C and F in Appendix B. The project is exempt from Section 106 review.

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

ARDOT Job 090723 FAP IM-49-1(23)

Job Title Hwy. 71 – Hwy. 72 (Sel. Secs.) (Benton Co.) (S)

| Environmental Resource | None | Minimal | Major | Comments |
|--------------------------------|------|---------|-------|--|
| Air Quality | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Cultural Resources | X | | | See attached clearance |
| Economic | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Endangered Species | X | | | No Effect determination |
| Environmental Justice/Title VI | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Fish and Wildlife | X | | | None in project area |
| Floodplains | | X | | Project lies partially in SFHA Zone AE |
| Forest Service Property | X | | | None in project area |
| Hazardous Materials/Landfills | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Land Use | X | | | No new ROW or TCE |
| Migratory Birds | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Navigation/Coast Guard | X | | | None in project area |
| Noise Levels | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Prime Farmland | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Protected Waters | X | | | None in project area |
| Public Recreation Lands | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Public Water Supply/WHPA | X | | | No impacts |
| Relocatees | X | | | No relocations |
| Section 4(f)/6(f) | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Social | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Underground Storage Tanks | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Visual | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Streams | X | | | No impacts |
| Water Quality | X | | | No impacts |
| Wetlands | X | | | None in project area |
| Wildlife Refuges | X | | | None in project area |

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No
 Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator *David E. Perry* Date 04/02/2024