





INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 20, 2023

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 012384
FAP HSIP-0076(264)
Statewide Y-Inters. Safety Impvts. (S)
Various Routes, Various Sections
Various Counties
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

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.

The purpose of this project is to install countermeasures at 10 Y-intersections around the state. These locations have been identified to benefit from the installation of countermeasures to improve safety. This work will include signing and striping upgrades, milled-in transverse rumble/mumble strips, and channelizing islands. A project location map is attached.

Approximately 0.24 acre of additional right of way will be required for this project. Of this acreage, approximately 0.03 acre of important farmland will be impacted, specifically prime farmland. A project location map and Form NRCS-CPA-106 is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, noise impacts, wetlands, or cultural resources. A Phase I Virtual Public Involvement meeting will be held for this project at a later date. 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 toxic concerns. The State Historic Preservation Officer clearance is attached.

The official species list obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the 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*), Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), Ozark Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*), Yellowcheek Darter (*Etheostoma moorei*), Arkansas Fatmucket (*Lampsilis powellii*), Curtis Pearlymussel (*Epioblasma curtisii*), Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), Ouachita Rock Pocketbook (*Arcidens wheeleri*), Pink Mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma cylindrica*), Scaleshell Mussel (*Potamilus leptodon*), Snuffbox Mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*), Speckled Pocketbook (*Lampsilis streckeri*), Spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), Winged Mapleleaf (*Quadrula fragosa*), American Burying Beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), Hell Creek Cave Crayfish (*Cambarus zophonastes*), harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*), Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) as species potentially occurring within the project area. Due to the lack of habitat and distance to known species occurrences, it is our determination that the proposed project will have “no effect” on the aforementioned federally listed species and their critical habitat. The official USFWS species list is attached.

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.

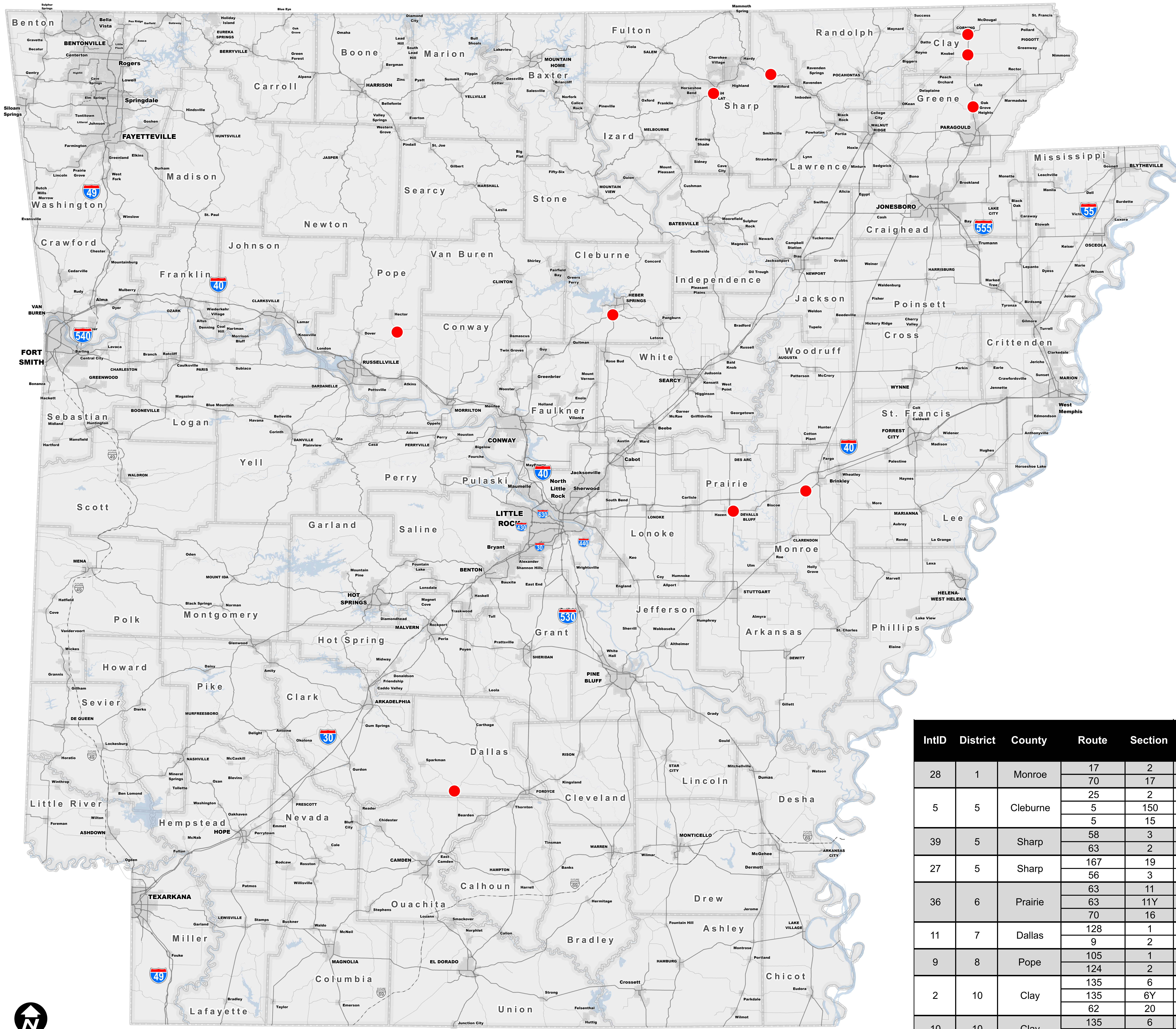
Sites in Clay and Dallas Counties lie within Zone A Special Flood Hazard Areas. The final project design will be reviewed to confirm that the design is adequate and that the potential risk to life and property are minimized. Adjacent properties should not be impacted nor have a greater flood risk than existed before construction of the project. None of the encroachments will constitute a substantial floodplain encroachment or risk to property or life.

JF:JG:sw

Attachments:

- Project Location Map
- Form NRCS-CPA-106
- SHPO Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist

c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
Districts 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 10
FHWA



 **Project Locations**

IntID	District	County	Route	Section	Beginning Log Mile	Ending Log Mile
28	1	Monroe	17	2	10.323	10.523
			70	17	7.573	7.773
5	5	Cleburne	25	2	12.968	13.075
			5	150	0.000	0.075
39	5	Sharp	58	3	23.701	23.782
			63	2	9.297	9.394
27	5	Sharp	167	19	21.404	21.610
			56	3	4.391	4.435
36	6	Prairie	63	11	3.522	3.773
			63	11Y	0.000	0.246
			70	16	8.213	8.608
11	7	Dallas	128	1	0.000	0.115
			9	2	0.826	0.921
9	8	Pope	105	1	3.439	3.619
			124	2	0.000	0.160
2	10	Clay	135	6	9.780	10.035
			135	6Y	0.000	0.156
10	10	Clay	62	20	4.049	4.302
			135	6	4.122	4.180
37	10	Greene	90	3	0.000	0.216
			135	5	5.566	5.756
37	10	Greene	34	3	16.481	16.602



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor
Mike Mills
Secretary

April 18, 2023

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

RE: Various Counties: Various
Section 106 Review: FHwA
Proposed Undertaking: Statewide Y-Inters. Impvts. (S)
Various Routes, Various Sections
ARDOT Number: 012384
AHPP Tracking Number: 110956

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the proposed project for the construction of safety countermeasures at ten Y-intersections statewide. The proposed countermeasures entail reconfiguring intersection geometry, installing channelizing islands, and the installation of oversized and gated stop and yield signs with 6-inch enhanced striping.

A total of 0.06 acres of new right-of-way will be added for this project. All shovel tests within this additional right-of-way were negative for cultural materials. All other work for the project will occur within the existing right-of-way, with existing disturbances from utility and highway construction.


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.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Caddo Nation, the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe. 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,

Kathryn
Bryles

 Digitally signed by
Kathryn Bryles
Date: 2023.04.18
08:42:26 -05'00'

for

Scott Kaufman
AHPP Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey
Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) Job 012384	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	4. Sheet 1 of _____
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1. Name of Project	5. Federal Agency Involved
2. Type of Project	6. County and State

PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size	
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: _____ % _____		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: _____ % _____
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor				

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5			
8. On-Farm Investments	20			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160			

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160			
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260			

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: _____ DATE _____

Joshua Graham

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

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

ARDOT Job 012384 FAP HSIP-0076(264)

Job Title Statewide Y-Inter. Safety Impvts. (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" determination made
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			EJ populations impacts not anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			None impacted by project
Floodplains		X		Two sites are within Zone A
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in project area
Land Use		X		0.24 acre new ROW
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland		X		0.03 acre Important Farmland converted; NRCS form attached
Protected Waters	X			None occur in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA		X		WHP SP included
Relocates	X			No relocations anticipated
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts to 4f/6f resources
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No USTs in project area
Visual	X			No changes to the visual environment
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in the project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in the project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Yes

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type N/A

Remarks: A Pre-Construction notification will not be required. Phase I Virtual Public Involvement will be held at a later date.

Signature of Evaluator  Date 4/20/2023