

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Scott E. Bennett  
Director  
Telephone (501) 569-2000  
Voice/TTY 711



P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261  
Telefax (501) 569-2400  
www.arkansashighways.com

January 24, 2017

Mr. Angel Correa  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
700 West Capitol, Room 3130  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: Job Number BB0903  
FAP Number BIM-B49-0(212)  
Bridge Number 5977 A&B  
Hwy. 71B Intchng.  
Benton County  
Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion

Dear Mr. Correa:

The Environmental Division has reviewed the referenced project and it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the AHTD/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions. The following information is included for your review and, if acceptable, approval as the environmental documentation for this project.

The purpose of this project is to reconfigure the existing I-49/Hwy.71B Standard Diamond Interchange to a Single Point Urban Interchange in order to provide additional capacity. Total length of the project is 1.4 miles on I-49 and 0.6 mile on Highway 71B. A project location map is enclosed.

The main travel lanes on I-49 will be the widened from four 12-foot wide travel lanes to six 12-foot wide travel lanes. Highway 71B will be widened from five 11-foot wide

travel lanes to six 12-foot wide travel lanes with curb and gutter. Approximately 1.6 acres of additional right of way will be acquired. Additional proposed improvements include the following:

- 1) Adding additional lanes to the ramps at the I-49/Hwy. 71B interchange.
- 2) Replacing the I-49 bridges (#5977 A&B) over Highway 71B with one bridge to accommodate the new 6-lane section.
- 3) Installing a new traffic signal at Highway 71B and SE Moberly Lane.
- 4) Modifying the existing signal at the Highway 71B and North 46<sup>th</sup> Street intersection and the interchange ramp intersections.
- 5) Adding lanes to North 46<sup>th</sup> Street and SE Moberly Lane.
- 6) Replacing the sidewalks along Highway 71B.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Route	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2016	I-49	73,620	13	70 mph
	Hwy. 71B	39,000	3	35/45mph
2036	I-49	122,800	13	70 mph
	Hwy. 71B	55,000	3	35/45 mph

There are no environmental justice issues, prime farmland, floodplains or endangered species associated with this project. Two businesses may be relocated as a result of this project. Public Law 91-646, Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1970, as amended, will apply. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. No Section 404 permit will be required.

The project is covered under the 1999 Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer. All work will be conducted within existing right of way and previously disturbed areas and does not have the potential to disturb cultural resources. A Section 106 clearance is enclosed.

The proposed project may result in noise impacts to sensitive noise receptors. A noise impact and barrier analysis will be completed according to AHTD's "Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement" once information for this project and associated projects on Interstate I-49 is available. If noise abatement recommendations for this project and associated projects are found to meet the reasonable and feasible criteria, the noise abatement measures will be implemented.

A public involvement meeting for this project was held on October 25, 2016 in Rogers Arkansas. A public involvement synopsis is enclosed.

An Interchange Justification Report was approved for this design on January 26, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at 569-2281.

**APPROVED**  
  
Environmental Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Date: 2/6/2017

Sincerely,

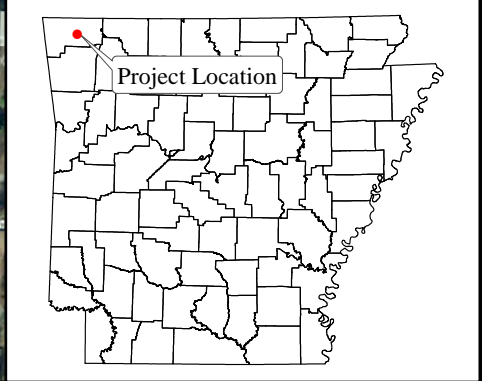
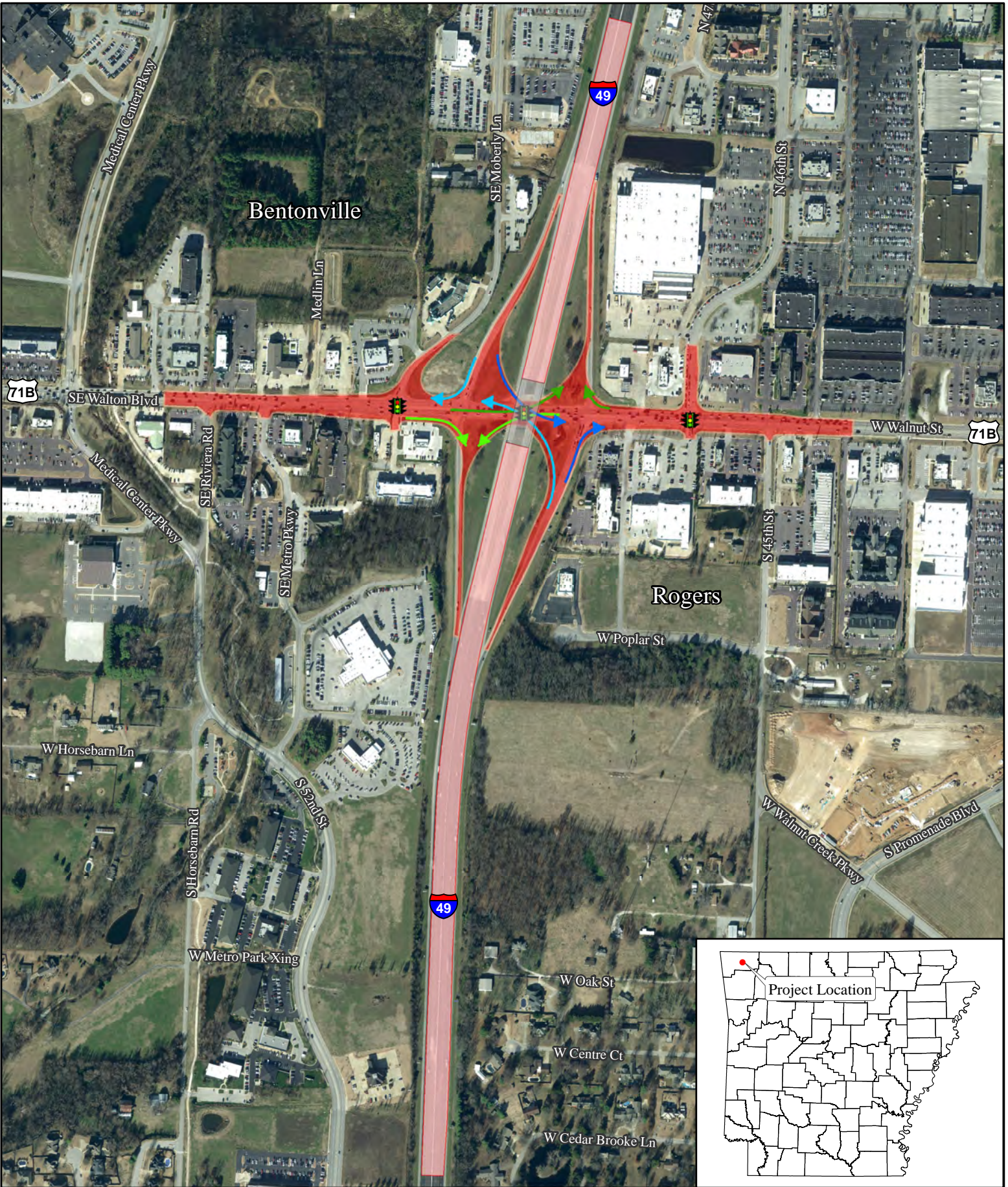


John Fleming Division  
Head Environmental  
Division

Enclosures

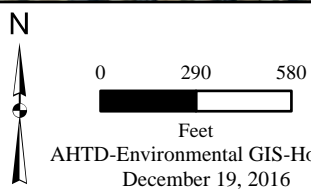
JF:JB:fc

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 9  
Master File



Job BB0903  
 Hwy. 71B Intchg. Impvts.  
 (I-49)  
 Benton County

- To Walton Blvd
- To Walnut St
- To I-49 South
- To I-49 North
- Hwy. 71B Project Area
- Hwy. 71B Overpass
- I-49 Project Area



**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**29 July, 2016**

**TO:** Environmental Job Files

**FROM:** William McAlexander, Environmental Scientist I 

**SUBJECT:** Archeological Clearance  
AHTD Job No. BB0903  
Hwy. 71B Intchg. Impvts. (S)  
Benton County

The above referenced project involves redesigning the interchange at Interstate 540 and Highway 71B within the city of Rogers in Benton County. The project will consist of adding additional ramps within the existing Interstate footprint. The project is designed to improve roadway conditions along this portion of the route.

An examination of the Arkansas Archeological Survey's (AAS) records was conducted for previously recorded archeological sites. No recorded sites are located within the proposed project area. A records check at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register revealed none for the area. The Bentonville South topographical map was examined for cemeteries, potentially historic structures, and landforms conducive to hold archeological sites. The 1839 General Land Office plat showed no improvements or cultural features in the immediate vicinity of the project area. The 1936 Benton County road map showed no structures within the project area.

The project will be constructed within the existing Interstate footprint and does not have the potential to affect any undisturbed land surfaces or potential cultural resources. This project is subject to the 1999 MOA and falls under the exempted work category "Reconstruction". This project is not considered an undertaking and requires no further work or Section 106 review.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

**Job Number BB0903**  
**Hwy. 71B Intchng. Impvts. (I-49)**  
**Benton County**  
**Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

An open forum Public Involvement meeting for the proposed project was held at the Oakley Chapel United Methodist Church (Library), 203 S. Promenade Blvd. in Rogers, Arkansas from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October, 25 2016. Special efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meetings included the following:

- Display advertisement placed in the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette* on Sunday, October 16, 2016 and Sunday, October 23, 2016
- Public Service Announcement to *EZ Spanish Media – La Zeta 97.5 FM* that aired on Saturday, October, 22, 2016 through Tuesday, October 25, 2016.
- Outreach with letters to Public Officials and Minority Ministers.
- Distribution of flyers in the project area

The following information was available for inspection and comment:

- Displays including an aerial photograph at a scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet.
- Preliminary plans at a scale of 1 inch equals 50 feet.

Handouts for the public included a comment sheet and a small-scale map illustrating the project location, which was identical to the aerial photograph display. Copies of the handouts are attached.

Table 1 describes the results of the public participation at the meeting.

<b>TABLE 1</b>	
<b>Public Participation</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Attendance at meeting (including AHTD staff)	53
Comments forms received	17

*AHTD staff reviewed all comments received and evaluated their contents. The summary of comments listed below reflects the personal perception or opinion of the person or organization making the statement. The sequencing of the comments is random and is not intended to reflect importance or numerical values. Some of the comments were combined and/or paraphrased to simplify the synopsis process.*

An analysis of the responses received as a result of the public survey is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2	
Survey Results	Totals
Supports improvements to Highway 71B interchange	16
Does not support improvements to Highway 71B interchange	1
Knowledge of historical, archeological or cemetery sites	0
Knowledge of area environmental constraints	1
Home or property offers limitations to the project	2
Suggestions to better serve the needs of the community	8
Beneficial impacts due to the proposed project	11
Adverse impacts due to the proposed project	2

The following is a listing of comments concerning issues associated with this project:

- One individual was concerned about the removal of the access to his business.
- One individual wanted a wider entrance at Home Depot and four lanes instead of three.
- One individual wanted the job expedited with construction going on 24 hours a day, six days a week.
- One individual wanted the bridges to be widened on Highway 71B and Highway 102.
- One individual thought eight lanes was excessive.
- One individual wanted the drainage changed so it does not runoff into her pond.

Attachments:

Public handouts, including blank comment form  
Small-scale display copies

RJ *CS*  
DN *DN*

JB:

**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)**

**CITIZEN COMMENT FORM**

**AHTD JOB NUMBER BB0903  
INTERSTATE 49  
Hwy. 71B Interchange Improvement  
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:  
OAKLEY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (LIBRARY)  
203 S. PROMENADE BLVD.  
ROGERS, AR  
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016**

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.  
Email: [environmentalpimeetings@ahtd.ar.gov](mailto:environmentalpimeetings@ahtd.ar.gov).

Yes    No  
     Do you feel there is a need for the proposed I-49 interchange improvements at Highway 71B in Rogers? Comment (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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    Do you know of any historical sites, family cemeteries, or archaeological sites in the project area? Please note and discuss with staff. \_\_\_\_\_

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    Do you know of any environmental constraints, such as endangered species, hazardous waste sites, existing or former landfills, or parks and public lands in the vicinity of the project? Please note and discuss with AHTD staff. \_\_\_\_\_

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    Does your home or property offer any limitations to the project, such as septic systems, that the Department needs to consider in its design? \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continue on Back)



Yes No

Do you have a suggestion that would make this proposed project better serve the needs of the community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impact  
( Beneficial or  Adverse) on your property and/or community  
(economic, social, or environmental etc.)? Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It is often necessary for the AHTD to contact property owners along potential routes. If you are a property owner along or adjacent to the route under consideration, please provide information below. Thank you.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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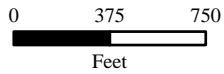
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make additional comments here. \_\_\_\_\_

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Oakley Chapel  
 United Methodist Church  
 Public Involvement Meeting Location  
 203 S. Promenade Blvd



AHTD-Environmental GIS-Hopkins  
 Map Date - October 13, 2016  
 Meeting Date - October 25, 2016  
 Public Meeting Handout



Job BB0903  
 Hwy. 71B Intchg. Impvts.  
 (I-49)  
 Benton County

Preliminary  
 Subject to Revision

	Hwy. 71B Project Area
	Hwy. 71B Overpass
	I-49 Project Area

Notes:

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## AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number BB0903 FAP Number BIM-B49-0(212)

Job Title Hwy. 71B Interchng. Impvts.

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species	X			
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife	X			
Floodplains	X			
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds	X			
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels				
Prime Farmland	X			
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA				
Relocatees		X		Two businesses
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts	X			
Water Quality		X		Temporary during construction
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator  Date 1/24/17

## ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number BB0903 FAP No. NHPP-540-1(78)85 County Benton

Job Name Hwy. 71B Intchng. Impvts. (S) Hwy. 71B

Design Engineer Crafton Tull Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description Modify current diamond interchange to a single point urban interchange.

**A. Existing Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 56' Shoulder Type/Width: C&G

Number of Lanes and Width: 5-11' Proposed Right-of-Way: 112'

Sidewalks? Yes Location: 71B Width: 5'

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

**B. Proposed Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 68'-110' Shoulder Type/Width: C&G

Number of Lanes and Width: 6-12' Proposed Right-of-Way: 120' - 140'

Sidewalks? Yes Location: 71B Width: 5'

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

**C. Construction Information:**

If detour: Where: N/A Length: N/A

**D. Design Traffic Data:**

2016 ADT: 39,000 2036 ADT: 55,000 % Trucks: 3  
 Design Speed: 35/45 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.612 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Improve traffic flow and safety

G. Total Relocates: 0 Residences: 0 Businesses: 1

H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)? No

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date

## ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number BB0903 FAP No. NHPP-540-1(78)85 County Benton

Job Name Hwy. 71B Intchng. Impvts. (S) I-49

Design Engineer Crafton Tull Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description Modify current diamond interchange to a single point urban interchange.

**A. Existing Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 48' Shoulder Type/Width: Bit./10'

Number of Lanes and Width: 4-12' Proposed Right-of-Way: 220'

Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

**B. Proposed Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 72' Shoulder Type/Width: Bit./10'

Number of Lanes and Width: 6-12' Proposed Right-of-Way: 220'

Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

**C. Construction Information:**

If detour: Where: N/A Length: N/A

**D. Design Traffic Data:**

2016 ADT: 73,620 2036 ADT: 122,800 % Trucks: 13  
 Design Speed: 70 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 1.043 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Improve traffic flow and safety

G. Total Relocates: 0 Residences: 0 Businesses: 0

H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)? No

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date

**BRIDGE INFORMATION – FINAL**

Job Number: BB0903 FAP Number: NHPP-540-1(78)85 County: Benton  
 Job Name: Hwy. 71B Intchng. Impvts.(S)  
 Design Engineer: Crafton Tull Environmental Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Description of Existing Bridge:**

1. Bridge Number A&B5977 over Hwy. 71B
2. Location: Rte.: I-49 Section: 29 Log Mile: 84.33
3. Length: 185.2 ft Br. Rdwy. Width: 40 ft Deck Width (Out-to-Out): 42.83 ft
4. Type Construction: Continuous Composite W-Beam
5. Deficiencies: Unsealed moderate size longitudinal cracks in deck.
6. HBRRP Eligibility: Qualif. Code: NQ Sufficiency Rating: 97.0
7. Are any Condition Component Ratings at 3 or less? No

**B. Proposed Improvements:**

1. Length: 239.21 ft Br. Rdwy. Width: 126 ft Deck Width (Out-to-Out): 131.17 ft
2. Travel Lanes: 6 – 12' Lanes
3. Shoulder Width: 4-10' Shoulders + 16' Median
4. Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A ft

**C. Construction Information:**

1. Location in relation to existing bridge: Same Horizontal Alignment
2. Superstructure Type: Simple Composite Plate Girder Span
3. Span Lengths: 237'
4. Substructure Type: End Bent on Steel H-Piles
5. Ordinary High Water Elev. (OHW): N/A No. of Bents inside OHW Contours: N/A
6. Concrete Vol. below OHW: N/A yd<sup>3</sup> Vol. Bent Excavation: N/A yd<sup>3</sup> Vol. Backfill N/A yd<sup>3</sup>
7. Is Channel Excavation below OHW Required? N/A Surface Area: N/A ft<sup>2</sup> Volume: N/A yd<sup>3</sup>
8. Is Fill below OHW Req'd.? N/A Surface Area: N/A ft<sup>2</sup> Volume: N/A yd<sup>3</sup>
9. Is Riprap below OHW Required? N/A Volume: N/A yd<sup>3</sup>

**D. Work Road Information:**

1. Is Work Road(s) required? No Location: N/A Top Width: N/A ft
2. Is Fill below OHW required? N/A Surface Area: N/A ft<sup>2</sup> Volume N/A yd<sup>3</sup>
3. Are Pipes required to meet Backwater Criteria? N/A Waterway Opening: N/A ft<sup>2</sup>

**E. Detour Information:**

1. Is a detour bridge required? No Location in relation to Existing Br.: N/A
2. Length: N/A ft Br. Rdwy. Width: N/A ft Deck Elevation: N/A
3. Volume of Fill below OHW: N/A yd<sup>3</sup> Surface Area: N/A ft<sup>2</sup>

**F. Coordination with Outside Agencies** (e.g., FHWA, City, County, C of E, USCG):

Has Bridge Division coordinated with any outside agencies? \_\_\_\_\_

Agency	Person Contacted	Date



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ArDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Scott E. Bennett, P.E., Director

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

Phone: 501.569.2000 | Voice/TTY 711 | Fax: 501.569.2400

May 9, 2018

Mr. Peter Jilek  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
700 West Capitol, Room 3130  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: Job Number BB0903  
FAP Number BIM-B49-0(212)  
Hwy. 71B Intchng. Impvts.  
Route 12, Section 2  
Benton County  
Tier 3 Reassessment

Dear Mr. Jilek:


A Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion was completed for the referenced project on February 6, 2017. Since that time the project was revised to include improvements at the intersection of Highway 12 and 71B in Bentonville. The project includes modifying the signal and adding dual right turn lanes on Highway 12. These changes will occur within the existing right of way. An enclosed figure illustrates the reassessment area.

No additional impacts were identified from these design revisions. The Section 106 clearance is enclosed. This project will remain a Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ARDOT/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at 569-2281.

Sincerely,

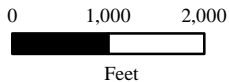
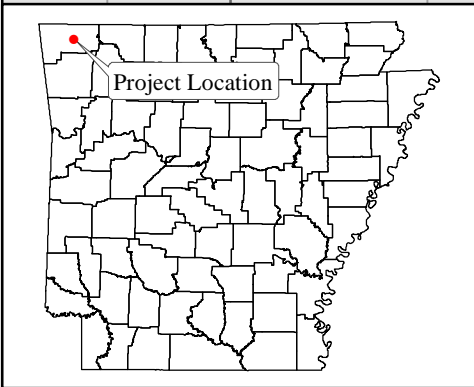
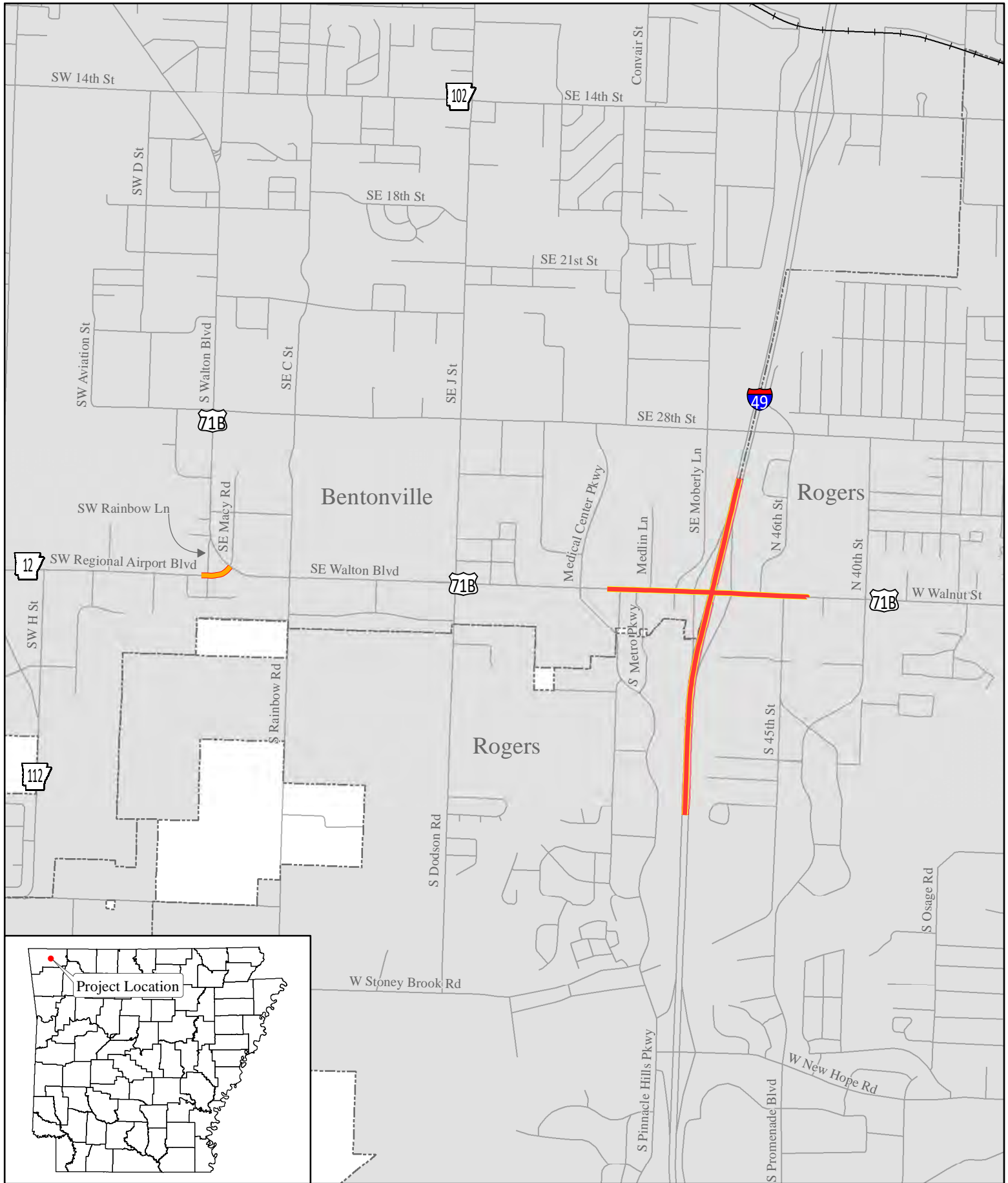
**APPROVED**  
  
Environmental Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Date: 5/9/2018

  
for John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosures

JF:JB:fc

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 9  
Master File



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Hopkins  
May 7, 2018

Job BB0903  
Hwy. 71B Intching. Impvts.  
(I-49)  
Benton County

- Project Location
- Reassessment Location





## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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May 9, 2018

**TO:** Environmental Job File

**FROM:** William McAlexander, Advanced Cultural Resources Specialist

**SUBJECT:** Archeological Clearance  
Job Number BB0903  
Hwy. 71B Intchg. Impvts. (S)  
Route 49, Section 29 and  
Job Number 090251  
Hwy. 71B- Shell Rd. (Hwy. 12)  
(Bentonville) (S)  
Route 12, Section 2  
Benton County

The above referenced project involves redesigning the interchange at Interstate 540 and Highway 71B within the city of Rogers and Rainbow Curve safety improvements within the city of Bentonville in Benton County. The project will consist of adding additional ramps within the existing Interstate footprint. The project is designed to improve roadway conditions along this portion of the route. The 090251 portion had been previously cleared by a Project Identification Form (PIF) and is now combined with BB0903. The job will consist of installation of a signal system and construction/reconstruction of wheelchair access ramps at Rainbow Curve on Highway 71B.

An examination of the Arkansas Archeological Survey's (AAS) records was conducted for previously recorded archeological sites. No recorded sites are located within the proposed project areas. A records check at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register revealed none for the areas. The Bentonville South topographical map was examined for cemeteries, potentially historic structures, and landforms conducive to hold archeological sites. The 1839 General Land

Office plat showed no improvements or cultural features in the immediate vicinity of the project areas. The 1936 Benton County road map showed no structures within the project areas.

Project BB0903 and does not have the potential to affect any undisturbed land surfaces or potential cultural resources. Project 090251 will be constructed within the existing Rainbow Curve footprint. This project is subject to the 1999 MOA and falls under the exempted work category "Reconstruction". This project is not considered an undertaking and requires no further work or Section 106 review.

## AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM


AHTD Job Number BB0903 FAP Number BIM-B49-0(212)

Job Title Hwy. 71B Interchnq. Impvts.

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species	X			
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife	X			
Floodplains	X			
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds	X			
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels				
Prime Farmland	X			
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA				
Relocatees		X		Two businesses
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts	X			
Water Quality		X		Temporary during construction
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

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

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator  Date May 9, 2018