



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

July 12, 2019

TO: Master Files

FROM: *for* John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division *JF*

SUBJECT: Job Number 100837
I-555/Hwy. 49 Intchn. Impvts. (Red Wolf Blvd.) (Jonesboro) (S)
FAP Number NHPP-9227
Route 555, Section 3 and Route 49, Section 3
Craighead County
Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion

The Environmental Division reviewed the referenced project and has determined it falls within the definition of a Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 771.117, and the ARDOT/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions.

The purpose of this project is to improve the I-555/Hwy. 49 Interchange by adding two single-lane, 15' wide loop ramps with 4' wide inside shoulders and 6' wide outside shoulders. The existing right of way width varies from 330' to 1,540'. The proposed right of way will be 5' to 10' wider and 0.30 acre of new right of way will be acquired. The total project length is approximately 0.93 mile. A project location map is attached.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed (mph)
2020	4,700	7	55
2040	6,100	7	55

The project will not involve relocations, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, floodplains, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is attached.

According to the ARDOT noise policy, a noise analysis is not required for this project because it will not physically alter the existing interchange to the degree that the distance between the ramps and the closest noise receptor will be reduced by half. Additionally, ramp construction will not be completing a partial interchange.

The official species list obtained through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website identified Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma cylindrica*), Scaleshell Mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) as potentially occurring at or near the project location. The scope of work will have "no effect" on any species or critical habitat for any of the identified species.

No streams or wetlands will be impacted as a result of this project. No Section 404 permit will be required.

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 (MSAT) concerns.

The synopsis for the public involvement meeting held for this project on April 4, 2019 is attached.

Attachments:

Project Location Map
Cultural Resources Clearance
Environmental Study Checklist
Design Sheet

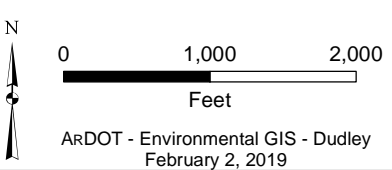
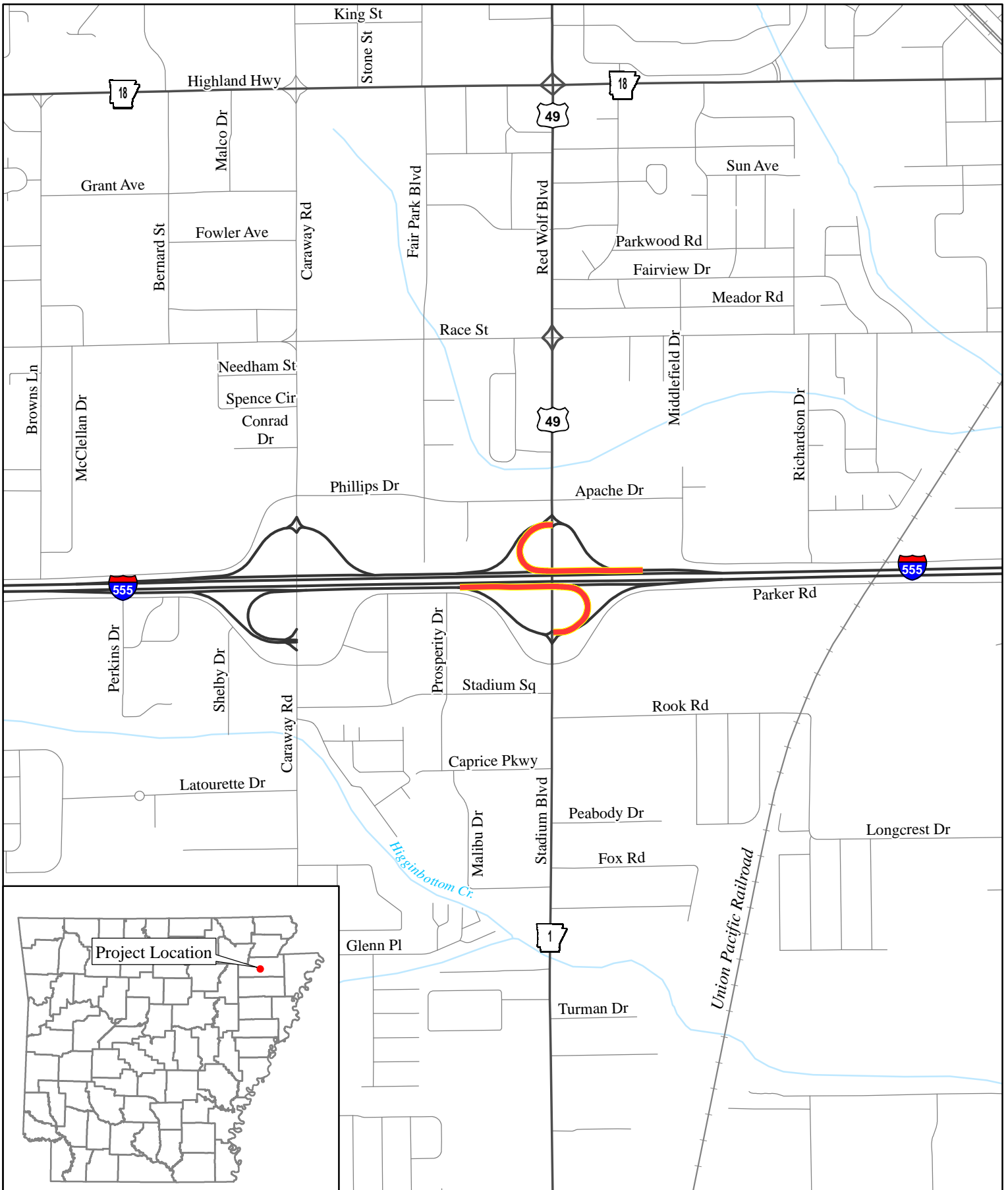
Approved:



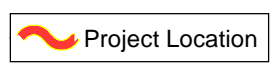
Kevin Thornton
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning

JF:MP:am

c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
District 10
FHWA



Job 100837
 I-555/Hwy.49 Intchg. Impvts.
 (Red Wolf Blvd.)
 (Jonesboro)
 Craighead County





THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

July 11, 2019

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

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Craighead County — General
Section 106 Review — FHWA
Response Letter: I-555/Hwy. 49 Interchange Improvements
(Red Wolf Blvd.) (Jonesboro) (S)
Route 555, Section 3
Route 49, Section 3
ARDOT Job Number: 100837
AHPP Tracking Number: 104166

Dear Mr. Fleming:


The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Project Identification Form for the above-referenced job. The undertaking entails construction of interchange improvements and two loop ramps at the interchange of Interstate 555 and Arkansas Highway 49 in Jonesboro, Craighead County. The project will require an additional .3 acres of right-of-way (ROW) along the existing westbound exit ramp. All other work will be within the existing ROW.

Based on the provided information and the negative results of the cultural resources survey, 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 Osage Nation (Dr. Andrea Hunter), the Quapaw Nation (Mr. Everett Bandy), and the Shawnee Tribe (Ms. Tonya Tipton). 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, please call Eric Mills of my staff at 501-324-9784 or email eric.mills@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,


Scott Kaufman
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randall Looney, Federal Highway Administration
Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey



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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

Job Number 100837

I-555/Hwy. 49 Intchn. Impvts (Red Wolf Blvd.) (Jonesboro)

Craighead County

Thursday, April 4, 2019

An open forum Public Involvement meeting for the proposed interchange improvement project was held at the Temple Baptist Church (Gym), 2834 Race Street, Jonesboro, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2019. Efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meeting included:

- Display advertisement placed in *The Sun* on Sunday, March 24 and Sunday, March 31, 2019.
- Outreach letters mailed to the public and public officials.
- Flyers distributed in the project area.

The following information was available at the meeting for public review and comment:

- Displays of an aerial-based project location map (scale: 1 inch = 125 feet).
- Small-scale project location map (scale: 1 inch = 400 feet).
- Preliminary project design plans (scale: 1 inch = 100 feet).

Public handouts included a Comment Form and a small-scale project location map. Copies of these handouts are attached to this synopsis.

Table 1 summarizes public participation at the meeting.

TABLE 1	
Public Participation	Totals
Attendance at meeting (including ARDOT staff)	40
Comment Forms received	7

ARDOT staff evaluated all of the Comment Forms. The summary of comments below reflects the perception or opinion of the person or organization making the comment(s).

Table 2 summarizes responses to Comment Form questions.

TABLE 2	
Survey Results	Totals
Feel proposed improvements are needed	7
Beneficial impacts due to the proposed project	4
Adverse impacts indicated	0

Comments regarding why interchange improvements are needed and/or have beneficial impacts included easing congestion and improving safety. One commenter suggested that loop ramps be provided at the I-555/Caraway Road interchange.

Attachments:

Blank Comment Form

Small-Scale Project Location Map

RJ
DN



MP:cb

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)
CITIZEN COMMENT FORM**

**ARDOT JOB NUMBER 100837
I-555/Hwy. 49 Intchg. Impvts. (Red Wolf Blvd.)
(Jonesboro) (I-555 & Hwy. 49)
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
(GYM)
2834 RACE STREET
JONESBORO, AR
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019**

Make your comments on this form and leave it with ARDOT personnel at the meeting or mail it by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19, 2019 to: Arkansas Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261. Email: environmentalpimeetings@ardot.gov.

Yes No

 Do you feel there is a need for the proposed I-555/Hwy. 49 (Red Wolf Blvd.) interchange improvements in Craighead County? Comment (optional)_____

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

 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 ARDOT staff. _____

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

(Continued 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 improvements project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc.)? Please explain. _____

It is often necessary for the ARDOT 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: (____) _____ -- _____

E-mail: _____

Please make additional comments here. _____



Meeting Location
 Temple Baptist Church (Gym)
 28334 Race St.

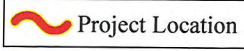
Arkansas Continued Care Hospital
 of Jonesboro

N
 0 250 500
 Feet
 ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Dudley
 Map Date: March 27, 2019
 Meeting Date: April 4, 2019
 Public Involvement Handout



Job 100837
 Interstate-555/Highway 49 Interchange Improvements
 (Red Wolf Blvd.) (Jonesboro)
 Craighead County

Preliminary
 Subject
 To
 Revision



Notes: _____

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

ARDOT Job Number 100837 FAP Number NHPP-9227

Job Title I-555/Hwy. 49 Intchnq. Impvts. (Red Wolf Blvd.) (Jonesboro) (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
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			EJ populations not located in area
Fish and Wildlife	X			Lack of suitable habitat
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		0.30 acre new ROW
Migratory Birds	X			No structures in project area
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways near the project
Noise Levels	X			No noise impacts identified
Prime Farmland	X			None; project is in city limits
Protected Waters	X			None occur in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None identified in project area
Relocatees	X			No relocations necessary
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No 4(f)/6(f) resources in project area
Social	X			No adverse social impacts
Underground Storage Tanks	X			None identified in project area
Visual	X			No adverse impacts on visual quality
Streams	X			No streams in construction limits
Water Quality	X			Erosion control BMPs will be used
Wetlands	X			No wetlands in construction limits
Wildlife Refuges	X			None occur in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type _____

Remarks: .

Signature of Evaluator Mary L. Pearson Date 05/06/19

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 100837 FAP No. _____ County Craighead

Job Name I-555/Hwy. 49 Intchn. Impvts. (Red Wolf Blvd.) (Jonesboro) (S)

Design Engineer David Baker Environmental Staff _____

Brief Project Description Intchn. improvements including the construction of two loop ramps

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: N/A Shoulder Type/Width: N/A

Number of Lanes and Width: N/A Existing Right-of-Way: Avg. 330' – 1540'

Sidewalks? N/A Location: N/A Width: N/A

Bike Lanes? N/A Location: N/A Width: N/A

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 25' Shoulder Type/Width: 4' & 6'

Number of Lanes and Width: 1 -15' Proposed Right-of-Way: Additional 5'-10'

Sidewalks? N/A Location: N/A Width: N/A

Bike Lanes? N/A Location: N/A Width: N/A

C. Construction Information:

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

D. Design Traffic Data:

2020 ADT: 4700 2040 ADT: 6100 % Trucks: 7
Design Speed: 55 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.93 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Interchange improvements

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

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

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date