



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

July 31, 2020

TO: Master Files

FROM: John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job Number 061457
FAP Number RPD-0043(29)
Hwy. 319 RR Sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)
Route 367, Section 14
Lonoke County
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion Re-evaluation

A Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion was completed for the referenced project on June 1, 2017. Since that time, design modifications have resulted in changes to the original scope. The project now consists of intersection improvements to Hwy. 367/Hwy. 319/Griffin Rd. by widening Hwy. 367 to include left turn lanes and a northbound right turn lane. This will be accomplished by notch and widen with curb and gutter. A new traffic signal will be installed with a railroad preemption interconnect system to communicate with the upgrades to the Union Pacific Railroad crossing system on Hwy. 319. A section of Hickory Street will be removed and permanently barricaded. The project is located within the city limits of Ward, Arkansas. A project location map is attached.

Total length of the project is 0.18 mile. Approximately 0.6 acres of new right of way will be needed for the project. The Environmental Division has reviewed these changes, and no additional environmental impacts were identified. A Section 404 Permit will not be required for construction of this project.

The official species list obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation website lists the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) as protected species potentially affected by the proposed project. Based on the lack of habitat, scope of the project, and distance to known species, it is our determination that the proposed project will have "no effect" on all listed species.

Job Number 061457
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion Re-evaluation
Page 2 of 2

Information about the project was made available from June 28, 2020 to July 14, 2020 on the Department's website. The Virtual Public Involvement Synopsis is attached.

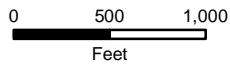
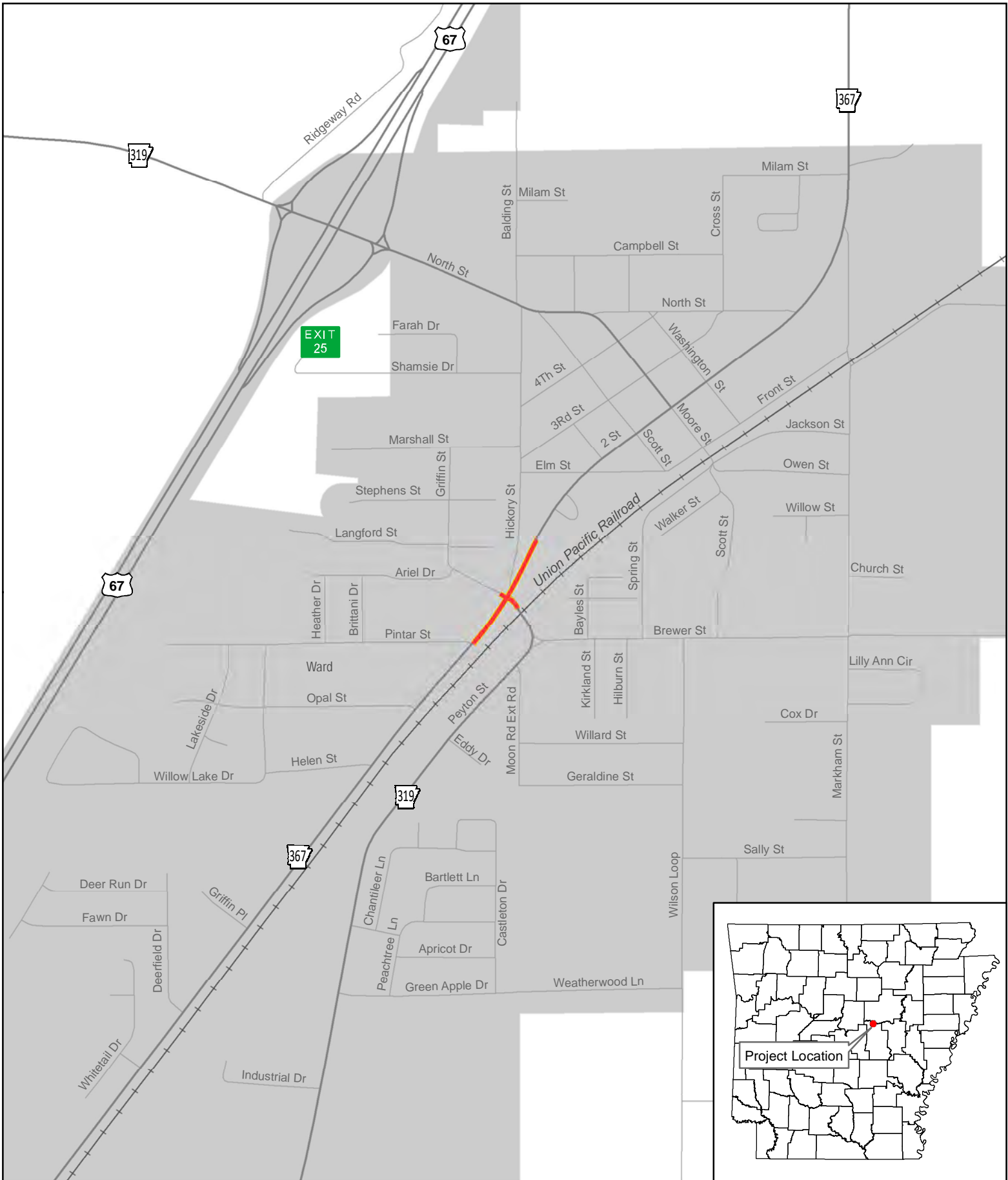
This project will remain a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions.

JF:TT:am

Attachments:

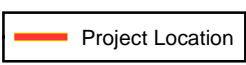
- Project Location Map
- SHPO Clearance
- Virtual PI Synopsis
- Environmental Checklist

c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
District 6
FHWA



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Strawn
July 31, 2020

Job 061457
Hwy. 319 RR Sig. Upgrade
& Traffic Sig. (Ward) (Hwys. 319 & 367)
Lonoke County





ARKANSAS HERITAGE



February 25, 2020

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

Re: Lonoke County – Lonoke
Section 106 Review – FHWA
Hwy. 319 RR Sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)
Route 367, Section 14
ARDOT Job Number 061457
AHPP Tracking Number 105445

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Project Identification Form (PIF) for the above-referenced job in Lonoke County. As described, the proposed undertaking entails replacing a railroad crossing traffic signal on Highway 319 and improving the intersection of Highways 319 and 367 at Griffin Street in Lonoke. The proposed area of potential effects (APE) for the undertaking is .6 acres.

The investigation recorded a single architectural resource within the APE. Property 1 is a wood-framed service station built prior to 1963. The AHPP concurs that Property 1 is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Based on the provided information and the results of the field investigation, the AHPP concurs with the finding of **no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)**. In the event of a post-review discovery of historic properties within the area of potential effects, please contact the AHPP and other consulting parties in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b)(3).

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Cherokee Nation (Ms. Elizabeth Toombs), the Chickasaw Nation (Ms. Karen Brunso), the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Ms. Madison Currie), the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (Ms. Alina J. Shively), the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda), 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 and thorough PIF. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mills of my staff at (501) 324-9784 or eric.mills@arkansas.gov. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number above in any correspondence.

Sincerely,



Scott Kaufman
Director, AHPP

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

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

Job Number 061457

Hwy. 319 RR Sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)

Lonoke County

June 22, 2020 to July 14, 2020

A Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) was held for the proposed project for intersection improvements at Highways 367 and 319 in Ward, Arkansas. Efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meeting included the following:

- Display advertisement placed in *The Leader* on Saturday, June 20, 2020 and Saturday, June 27, 2020
- Power 92.3 FM announcements from Friday, June 26, 2020 through Wednesday, July 1, 2020
- Letters mailed to Public Officials
- Flyers mailed to residents

The website was available to the public from June 29, 2020 to July 14, 2020 allowing access to information about the project. The website provided the following information.

- Short video presentation about the project
- Public meeting notice
- Project location map
- Project design plans
- Link to submit comments online
- Interactive project map
- Frequently asked questions with answers

Copies of the public meeting notice, project location map, and comment form are attached.

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

TABLE 1	
Public Participation	Totals
Comments received online	2
Total comments received	2

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

Table 2	
Survey Results	Totals
Feels there is a need for the proposed project.	2
Does not feel there is a need for the proposed project	0
Beneficial impacts due to the proposed project	2
Adverse impacts due to the proposed project	0
Suggestions to make this proposed project better	1
Knowledge of cultural resources in the project area	0
Knowledge of environmental constraints in the project area	0
Property limitations to the project	0

No comments or suggestions concerning issues associated with the project were received online.

TT: am



ONLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

WHAT: Hwy. 319 RR Signal Upgrade & Hwy. 367 Traffic Signals in the City of Ward in Lonoke County.

WHEN: Monday, June 29 to Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to conduct a public involvement meeting in the traditional sense. We are offering an online opportunity for the public to review project information for the above stated proposed project. The pre-recorded presentation video will be available for viewing and commenting (no in-person meeting).

Purpose

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) will conduct an online public involvement meeting to discuss plans to upgrade RR Signals on Hwy. 319 and traffic signal upgrades on Hwy 367. **Project staff will give a brief presentation explaining the proposed project. The public is invited to listen, view meeting materials and provide written comments. The site will be maintained and comments received until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2020.**

[Link To Virtual Meeting: \(click here\)](#)

In order to access the online public meeting, click on the link above. It will take you to the online public meeting website. This website will provide project materials and handouts that would have been shown at the in-person meetings. A separate link will provide a Spanish version of the presentation. There will also be an option to send online comment forms to ARDOT's staff, or you can print the form and mail it to, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261. If you do not have internet access, please contact Karla Sims at 501-569-2000 to ask questions about the proposed project and how to access project information at karla.sims@ardot.gov.

This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.

ARDOT Job No. 061457

Virtual Web Link:

Click Here: www.ardot.gov

June 29 to July 14, 2020

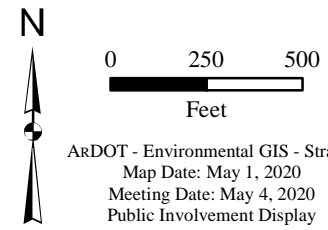
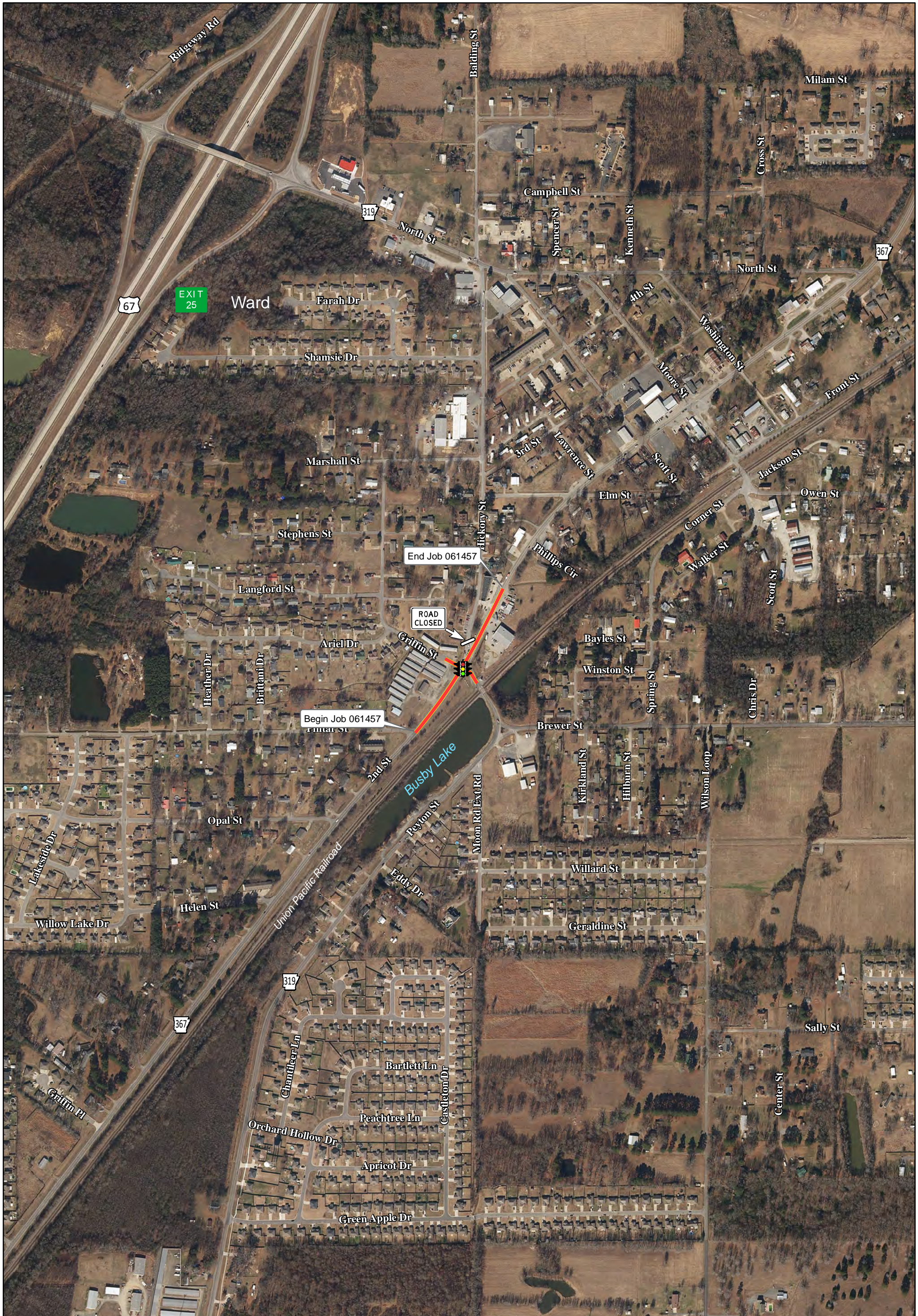
To log into the online public meeting, go to the following web link during the dates indicated above.

[English Version](#)

[Spanish Version](#)

Special Accommodations: Anyone needing project information or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is encouraged to write to Ruby Jordan-Johnson, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261, call (501)569-2379, fax (501) 569-2009 or email environmentalpimeetings@ardot.gov. Hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Arkansas Relay System at (Voice/TTY 711). Requests should be made at least four days prior to the public meeting.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: The Arkansas Department of Transportation complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion (not applicable as a protected group under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Title VI Program), disability, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), or low-income status in the admission, access to and treatment in the Department's programs and activities, as well as the Department's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the Department's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Joanna P. McFadden Section Head - EEO/DBE (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), P. O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501)569- 2298, (Voice/TTY 711), or the following email address: joanna.mcfadden@ardot.gov. Free language assistance for Limited English Proficient individuals is available upon request.

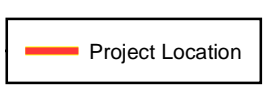


ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Strawn
 Map Date: May 1, 2020
 Meeting Date: May 4, 2020
 Public Involvement Display



Job 061457
 Highway 319 Railroad Signal
 Upgrade & Traffic Signal
 (Ward) (Highways 319 & 367)
 Lonoke County

**PRELIMINARY
 SUBJECT TO REVISION**



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

**ARDOT JOB NUMBER 061457
Hwy. 319 RR sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)
Hwys. 319 & 367
LONOKE COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
ONLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING
JUNE 29, 2020 THRU JULY 14, 2020**

Make your comments on this form and mail it by 4:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 14, 2020** to: Arkansas Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR, 72203-2261. Email: environmentalpimeetings@ardot.gov.

Yes No

Do you feel there is a need for the proposed Hwy. 319 RR Signal Upgrade & Traffic Signal Upgrade on Hwy 367 in the City of Ward in Lonoke County? Comment (optional) _____

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

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

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

(Continue on Back)

Yes No

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. _____

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: _____

Do you have suggestions that would make this proposed project better serve the needs of the community? Please make additional comments here. _____

For additional information, please visit our website at www.ardot.gov



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


ARDOT Job Number 061457 FAP Number RPD-0043(29)

Job Title Hwy. 319 RR Sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			None in project area
Economic	X			Will not be impacted by project
Endangered Species	X			No effect determination
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No protected populations in project area
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			None occur in project area
Forest Service Property	X			None in the project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in project area
Land Use	X			Will not be impacted by project
Migratory Birds	X			None in the project area
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in the project area
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland	X			None in project area
Protected Waters	X			None in the project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in the project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None in the project area
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			4(f) resources not present
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No UST's in project area
Visual	X			No changes to visual environment
Streams	X			None in the project area
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? No
 Section 404 Permit Required? No Type N/A

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator  Date July 31, 2020