



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 16, 2018

TO: Master Files

FROM: John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job Number 100835
FAP Number CMF-9227(57)
Route 18, Section 4
Hwy. 18/Caraway Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Jonesboro) (S)
Craighead County
Tier 2 Categorical Exclusion

The Environmental Division has reviewed the referenced project and 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. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

The purpose of the project is to add turn lanes and improve the intersection of Highway 18 and Caraway Road in Jonesboro. The total length of the project is 0.52 mile. The attached figure shows the project location.

Highway 18 and Caraway Road currently have four 11-foot wide paved travel lanes and 12-foot wide dedicated left turn lanes. Both roadways are curb and gutter except on the west side of the south leg of Caraway Road where it is open shoulder. The existing right of way width is 120 feet.

At each leg of the intersection, the project will add a 12-foot wide dedicated left turn lane to the existing left turn lane and provide a 11-foot wide dedicated right turn lane. The width of the reconfigured travel lanes will remain at 11 feet. The project will require approximately 0.36 acre of additional right of way and 0.04 acre of temporary construction easement. The new right of way width will be approximately 130 feet.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2018	21,000	1	40 mph
2038	25,000	1	40 mph

There are no relocations, environmental justice issues, floodplains, hazardous materials, underground storage tanks, prime farmlands, or cultural resources associated with this project. Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is attached. No streams or wetlands will be impacted during the construction of this project, and a Section 404 permit will not be required.

Based on the ARDOT's *Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement*, a noise analysis is not required for this project. Constructing turn lanes will not expose noise sensitive land uses to a new or existing highway noise source.

A species list from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies the following federally-listed species as potentially occurring within or near the project area: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*); Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*); Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma cylindrica*); Scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*); and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). The proposed project will not impact habitat for any species and a 'no effect' determination was made. The USFWS species list is attached.

Attachments:

Project Location Map
SHPO Clearance
USFWS Species List
Environmental Study Checklist
Design Sheet

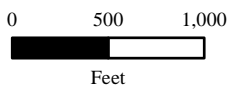
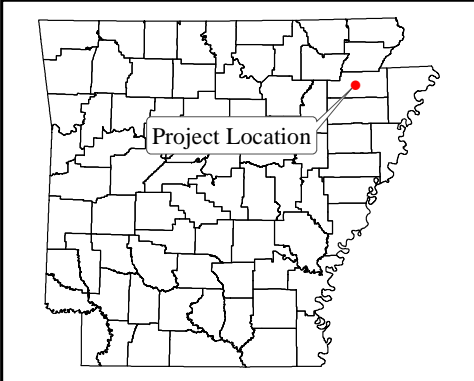
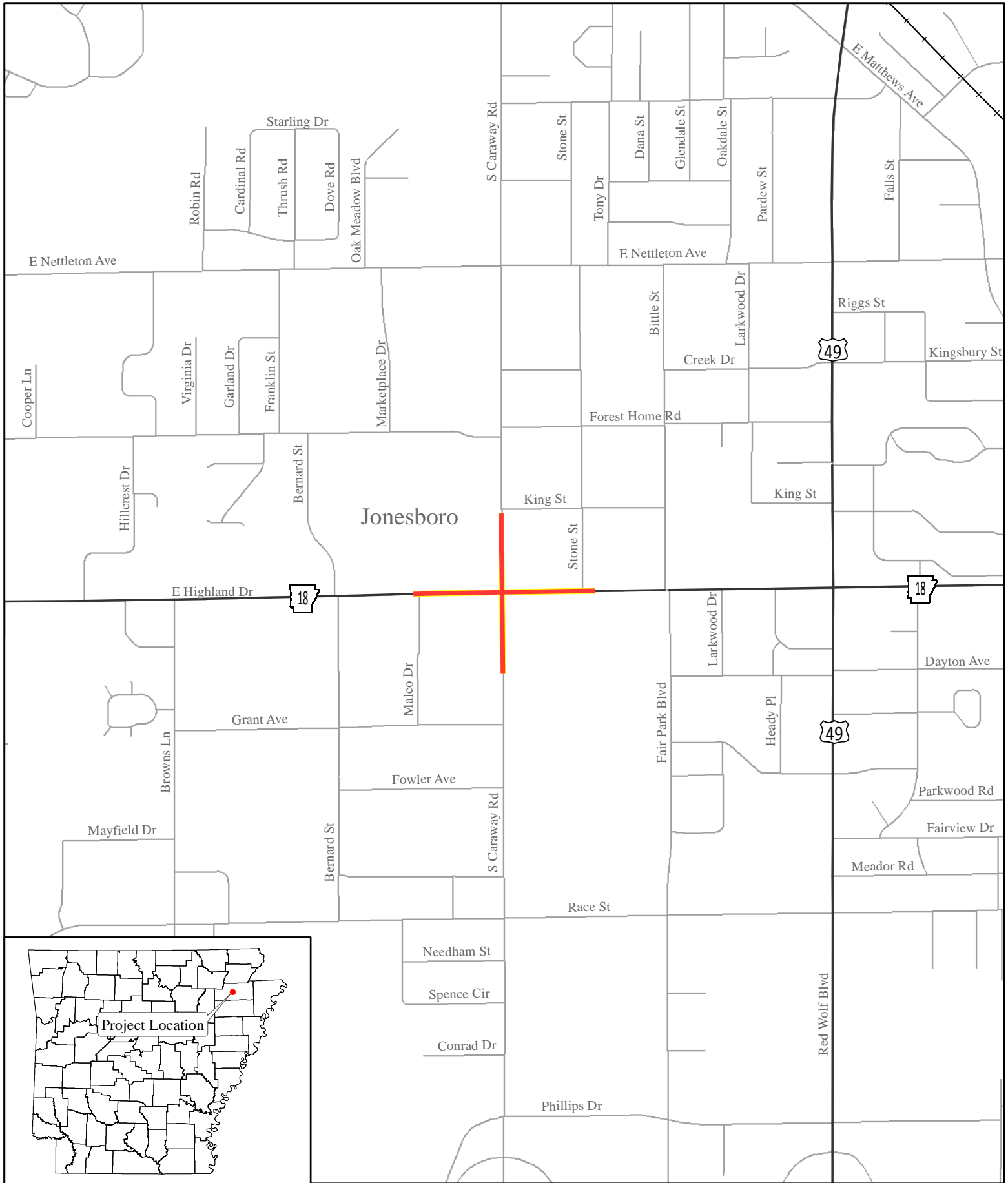
Approved:



Kevin Thornton
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning

JF:MP:fc

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



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Hopkins
March 1, 2018

Job 100835
Hwy. 18/Caraway Rd.
Inters. Impvts. (Jonesboro)
Craighead County





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

March 6, 2018

*Loop 610
FHWA*

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AHPP

MAR 09 2018

MAR 07 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

Ms. Stacy Hurst
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1100 North Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Re: Job Number 100835
Hwy. 18/Caraway Rd. Inters.
Impvts. (Jonesboro) (S)
Craighead County
Route: 18 Section: 4

Dear Ms. Hurst:

Please find enclosed a Project Identification Form (PIF) for the above referenced project. This project proposes to add lanes to the State Highway 18/Caraway Rd. intersection at Jonesboro in Craighead County. If you have any questions or require additional information about the project, please contact William McAlexander of my staff at 501-569-2078.

Sincerely,

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosure:
PIF

JF:DW:WM:ym

Date 3/7/2018
No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to light.

Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
110 South Amity Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032-8975
Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480
<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es>

In Reply Refer To:

March 01, 2018

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-0647

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00898

Project Name: 100835 - Hwy. 18/Caraway Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Jonesboro) (S)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). **This letter only provides an official species list and technical assistance; if you determine that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected in any way by the proposed project, even if the effect is wholly beneficial, consultation with the Service will be necessary.**

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found on our website.

Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/home.html> for species-specific guidance to avoid and minimize adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species. Our web site also contains additional information on species life history and habitat requirements that may be useful in project planning.

If your project involves in-stream construction activities, oil and natural gas infrastructure, road construction, transmission lines, or communication towers, please review our project specific guidance at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/ProjSpec.html>.

The karst region of Arkansas is a unique region that covers the **northern third of Arkansas** and we have specific guidance to conserve sensitive cave-obligate and bat species. **Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html> to determine if your project occurs in the karst region and to view karst specific-guidance.** Proper implementation and maintenance of best management practices specified in these guidance documents is necessary to avoid adverse effects to federally protected species and often avoids the more lengthy formal consultation process.

If your species list includes any mussels, Northern Long-eared Bat, Indiana Bat, Yellowcheek Darter, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or American Burying Beetle, your project may require a presence/absence and/or habitat survey prior to commencing project activities. Please check the appropriate species-specific guidance on our website to determine if your project requires a survey. We strongly recommend that you contact the appropriate staff species lead biologist (see office directory or species page) prior to conducting presence/absence surveys to ensure the appropriate level of effort and methodology.

Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally-listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit.

Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a habitat conservation plan) is necessary to harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. In either case, there is no mechanism for authorizing incidental take "after-the-fact." For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's Consultation Handbook and Habitat Conservation Plans at www.fws.gov/engangered/esa-library/index.html#consultations.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, **the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days.** This verification can be

completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. **Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.**

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 South Amity Suite 300

Conway, AR 72032-8975

(501) 513-4470

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-0647

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-00898

Project Name: 100835 - Hwy. 18/Caraway Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Jonesboro) (S)

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Interchange Improvements

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/35.82111900375309N90.6771661713523W>



Counties: Craighead, AR

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered

Clams

NAME	STATUS
Fat Pocketbook <i>Potamilus capax</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165	Threatened
Scaleshell Mussel <i>Leptodea leptodon</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881	Endangered

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Pondberry <i>Lindera melissifolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279	Endangered

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

ARDOT Job Number 100835 FAP Number CMF-9227(57)

Job Title Hwy. 18/Caraway Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Jonesboro) (S)

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance attached
Economic	X			
Endangered Species	X			USFWS species list attached
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		0.36 acre new ROW; 0.04 acre TCE
Migratory Birds	X			
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels	X			
Prime Farmland	X			
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			
Relocates	X			
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts	X			
Water Quality	X			
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 March 16, 2018

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 100835 FAP No. _____ County Craighead

Job Name HWY. 18/Caraway Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Jonesboro) (S)

Design Engineer Stephen Sichmeller Environmental Staff _____

Brief Project Description Widening for Dual Left Turns and Dedicated Right Turn Lanes

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: 58' Shoulder Type/Width: C.C.C.&G.

Number of Lanes and Width: 5,11'-12'⁽¹⁾ Existing Right-of-Way: 120'

Sidewalks? Yes Location: LT&RT Width: 5'

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

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 79' Shoulder Type/Width: C.C.C.&G.

Number of Lanes and Width: 7,11'-12'⁽¹⁾ Proposed Right-of-Way: 130'

Sidewalks? Yes Location: LT&RT 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:

2018 ADT: 21,000 2038 ADT: 25,000 % Trucks: 1%
Design Speed: 40 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.522 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Capacity Improvements

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

(1) 11' travel lanes
11' dedicated right turn lanes
12' dual left turn lanes