# 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

May 31, 2017

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

> Re: Job Number BB0411 FAP Number IM-NHPP-540-1(80)64 Hwy. 16/112 Spur Intchng. Impvts. (S) Washington 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 add capacity to the I-49/Hwys. 16/112 Spur Interchange (Exit 64). Total length of the project is 1.15 miles on I-49 and 0.59 mile on Highways 16/112 Spur. A project location map is enclosed.

The main travel lanes on I-49 will not be altered by these improvements. A deceleration lane will be added for the southbound off-ramp and an auxiliary lane will be added between the northbound on-ramp and the exit ramp for Exit 65, approximately one mile north. Existing Highways 16/112 Spur consist of four 11-foot wide travel lanes with a 12-foot center left turn lane. Widening of Highways 16/112 Spur will result five to eight 11-foot travel lanes with curb and gutter with a center concrete median in some areas and a green median in other areas. The median provides access management and allows for left turns to only be made at the signalized intersections of Salem Road, Steamboat Drive,

AHTD Job Number BB0411 Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion Page 2 of 4

Ramp 3/Shiloh Drive/Ramp 4, and Ramp 1/Futrall Drive. Approximately 6.96 acres of additional right of way will be required for this project. An additional 0.87 acres of temporary construction easement is also needed for driveway improvements outside the right of way. Additional improvements include the following:

- 1) Addition of a dual-lane loop ramp (Ramp 5) to accommodate eastbound to northbound movements from Hwy. 16 onto I-49.
- 2) Addition of right- and left-turn lanes on the southbound off-ramp of I-49 (Ramp 3).
- 3) Merging of northbound off-ramp (Ramp 1) with Futrall Drive and the southbound on-ramp (Ramp 4) of I-49 with existing frontage roads to reduce the number of signalized intersections along Hwys. 16/112 Spur.
- 4) The replacement and widening of the Hwys. 16/112 Spur Bridge (Bridge Number 05628) over I-49 will consist of expanding to eight 11-foot travel lanes, a 5-foot concrete center median, and a 14-foot shared use path with a 5-foot concrete buffer on the north side of the bridge.

Design Year	Route	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2016	I-49	70,200	12	70 mph
2016	Hwys. 16/112 Spur	36,800	2	40 mph
2040	I-49	94,600	12	70 mph
2040	Hwys. 16/112 Spur	59,200	2	40 mph

Design data for this project is as follows:

There are no environmental justice issues, prime farmland, wetlands, relocatees, or wellhead protection areas associated with this project. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. The Section 106 clearance is enclosed.

An unnamed intermittent tributary that flows through the existing interchange will be impacted due to the reconfiguration of the interchange and realignments of Shiloh Road and Futrall Drive. Stream impacts include the extension of a reinforced concrete box culvert near Station 166+01 to a point west of the relocated Shiloh Drive and the addition of double 66" reinforced concrete pipe culverts for increased hydraulic capacity. The extension of a quintuple reinforced concrete box culvert at Station 196+00 will cause relocation of 1,473 linear feet (646 feet west and 827 feet east of I-49) of the intermittent

AHTD Job Number BB0411 Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion Page 3 of 4

stream channel. The relocated channel will include a double 8' x 6' x 66' reinforced concrete box culvert constructed near the intersection of Jewel Road and Shiloh Road, a double 8' x 6' x 115' reinforced concrete box culvert under Ramp 5 and a triple 7' x 5' x 256' reinforced concrete box culvert under Ramp 1 and Futrall Drive. Construction should be allowed under the terms of a Section 404 Standard Individual Permit. Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States will be provided at an approved mitigation bank.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) IPaC database determined that five threatened and four endangered species could be located within the project boundaries. The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhimus townsendii ingens*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Ozark cavefish (*Troglichthys rosae*), Neosho mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*), rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*), and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*) were identified as listed species that may occur within the project area. Based on the lack of available/suitable habitat, disturbed environment, and distance to any known species location it has been determined that the project will have no effect on the non-bat species and not likely to adversely affect the bat species. Concurrence from the USFWS was received on May 16, 2017, and is enclosed.

The City of Fayetteville participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. All of the floodplain encroachments within this highway construction project will be designed to comply with Fayetteville's local flood damage prevention ordinance. The project will impact two Special Flood Hazard Area crossings. These crossings are the South Fork Hamestring Creek and Hamestring Creek. Both the South Fork of Hamestring Creek and Hamestring Creek are in a Zone AE studied stream with a floodway. These Special Flood Hazard Areas are shown on FIRM Map Number 05143C0205F revised May 16, 2008. See the enclosed flood insurance rate map. 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 significant floodplain encroachment or a significant risk to property or life.

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.

Public involvement meetings for this project were held on March 20, 2014 and March 9, 2017 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Both public involvement synopses are enclosed.

AHTD Job Number BB0411 Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion Page 4 of 4

An Interchange Justification Report was approved for this design on July 14, 2015.

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

APPROVED Environmental Specialist Federal Highway Administration 6/1/2017 Date:

Sincerely, John Fleming

John Fleming Division Head Environmental Division

Enclosures

JF:TT:fc

c: Program Management Right of Way Roadway Design Bridge Division District 4 Master File



AHTD Environmental GIS - Strawn May 8, 2017

Washington County

Photography: Washington County 2014

# ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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



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

98221

FHWA

May 3, 2017



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

MAY 04 2017

RE: AHTD Job No. BB0411 Hwy. 16/112 Spur Intchng. Impvts. (I-49) (S) Washington County

Dear Ms. Hurst:

Enclosed for your review is a Project Identification Form regarding the above referenced project. Please provide your effect finding as soon as possible. If you have any questions, contact Richard Jenkins of my staff at 569-2357.

Date:

Sincerely,

John Fleming

John Fleming Division Head Environmental Division

Enclosure PIF

JF:DW:RJ:ym

AHTD

MAY 1 1 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION MAY 0 4 2017

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should now information come to light.

Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office

MAY 0 4 2017



# 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



May 15, 2017

In Reply Refer To: Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-0775 Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-01042 Project Name: Hwy. 16/112 Spur Intchng. Impvts.

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.

<u>Please visit our website at http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/home.html for</u> <u>species-specific guidance to avoid and minimize adverse effects to federally endangered,</u> <u>threatened, proposed, and candidate species.</u> 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** <u>http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html</u> 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/endangered/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:	04ER1000-2017-SLI-0775
Event Code:	04ER1000-2017-E-01042
Project Name:	Hwy. 16/112 Spur Intchng. Impvts.
Project Type:	TRANSPORTATION
Project Description:	Reconstructing interchange, moving ramps and service roads

#### Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/place/36.077320325158695N94.20079317272709W



Counties:

Washington, AR

# **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 9 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your 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. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

# Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329</u>	Endangered
Indiana Bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</u>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</u>	Threatened
Ozark Big-eared Bat ( <i>Corynorhinus</i> (= <i>Plecotus</i> ) townsendii ingens) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7245</u>	Endangered
Birds	

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus)	Threatened
Population: except Great Lakes watershed	
There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated	
critical habitat.	
Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</u>	

# **Fishes**

#### NAME

STATUS

Threatened

Ozark Cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6490</u>

# Clams

NAME	STATUS
Neosho Mucket ( <i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i> ) There is a <b>final</b> <u>critical habitat</u> designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3788</u>	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot (Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica) There is a final critical habitat designated for this species. Your location is outside the designated critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165</u>	Threatened
Flowering Plants	
NAME	STATUS
Missouri Bladderpod (Physaria filiformis)	Threatened

Missouri Bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361</u>

# **Critical habitats**

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

Bill,

The Service does not have any information indicating that there are any federally listed species in the affected area of this action due to the habitat type, disturbed environment, and distance to any known species locations. Therefore, the Service concurs with AHTD's assessment and determination.

Thanks,

Lindsey Lewis Biologist

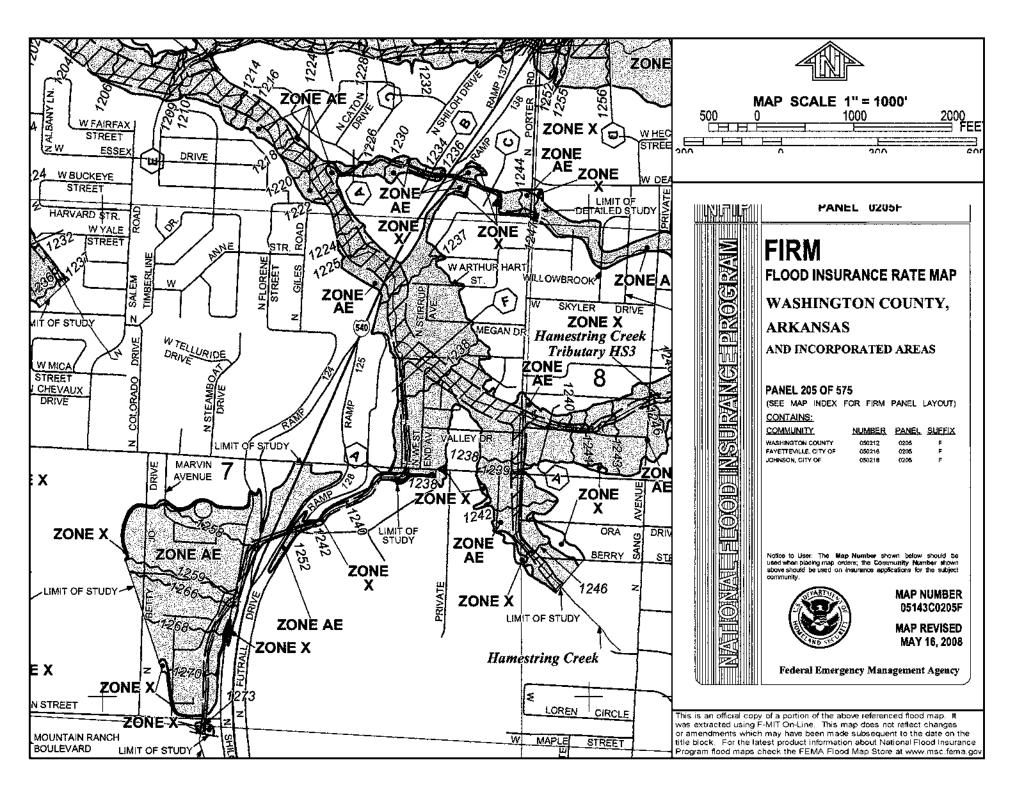
US Fish & Wildlife Service Arkansas Field Office 110 South Amity Rd., Suite 300 Conway, Arkansas 72032

(501) 513-4489 - voice (501) 513-4480 - fax <u>Lindsey\_Lewis@fws.gov</u> <u>http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/</u>

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOLA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Mon, May 15, 2017 at 12:51 PM, Bailey, William <<u>William.Bailey@ahtd.ar.gov</u>> wrote:

Lindsey....please take a look at the attached map and let us know if you concur with our determination. The project is located in Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas. The project proposes to reconstruct the existing interchange (moving, adding ramps and realigning service roads). Due to the urban location and the lack of habitat, we have determined that the project is "not likely to adversely affect" threatened/endangered bat species.



## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING SYNOPSIS Job Number BB0410 Highway 62 and I-540 Interchange Improvements & Job Number BB0411 Highway 16/112 Spur and I-540 Interchange Improvements Washington County March 20, 2014

A public involvement meeting for the proposed projects was held at Asbell Elementary School in Fayetteville, AR from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2014. A Public Officials Meeting was also held on the same day from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) residential engineer (RE) office in Fayetteville, AR. Public Involvement efforts to notify the general public and minority communities of the meetings included the following.

- Display advertisement placed in the NWA Media on Sunday, March 9, 2014.
- Public Service Announcement (PSA) to EZ Spanish Media which aired on Monday, March 17, 2014.
- Distribution of English flyers in the project area.

The following information was available for inspection and comment.

- Handouts for the public that included a comment form, a fact sheet, and an 11"X17" map of the job locations.
- One exhibit showing a project area location map.
- Two exhibits for each option (flyover and loop ramp) for the Highway 62 and I-540 (now I-49) interchange.
  - Typical sections for each option (board mounted).
- Two exhibits showing loop ramp for the Highway 16/112 Spur and I-540 (now I-49) interchange.
  - Typical sections (board mounted).

Public Participation	Totals
Attendance at the Public Officials Meeting (including AHTD staff)	21
Attendance at the Public Involvement Meeting (including AHTD staff)	106
Total comment forms received (Job BB0410 and Job BB0411)	52

The following table shows the responses to the comment forms.

BB0410					
Question	Yes	No	No Res	sponse	
Do you experience traffic congestion at the Highway 62 interchange?	34 (65%)	12 (23%)	6 (1	2%)	
Do you bicycle or walk along or across the Highway 62 interchange?	7 (13%)	41 (79%)	4 (8	3%)	
Do you feel there is a need to widen Highway 62 east and/or west of the interchange?	17 (33%)	21 (40%)	14 (2	27%)	
Question	Beneficial	Adverse	No Res	sponse	
Do you think the proposed improvements to the Highway 62 interchange will have beneficial/adverse impacts to your property and/or community?	23 (44%)	8 (15%)	31 (41%)		
Question	Flyover	Loop	No Preference	Neither Option	
Which alternative do you prefer at the Highway 62 interchange?	18 (35%)	14 (27%)	18 (34%) 2 (4%		
BB0411					
Question	Yes	No	No Response		
Do you experience traffic congestion at the Highway 16/112 Spur interchange?	46 (88%)	4 (8%)	2 (4%)		
Do you bicycle or walk along or across the Highway 16/112 Spur interchange?	8 (15%)	41 (79%)	3 (6%)		
Do you feel there is a need to widen Highway 16/112 Spur east and/or west of the interchange?	24 (46%)	13 (25%)	15 (29%)		
Question	Beneficial	Adverse	No Rea	sponse	
Do you think the proposed improvements to the Highway 16/112 Spur interchange will have beneficial/adverse impacts to your property and/or community?	31 (60%)	5 (10%)	16 (30%)		

#### **Congestion Issues**

There was a variety of opinion regarding congestion issues at the Highway 62 interchange. Those claiming that they experience congestion (65%) typically suggested that it was rather significant. However, several attendees (23%) stated that there is really no problem at this interchange. The variability in opinion may be due in part by the variability in the time of day that the attendees are traveling the interchange, the route choice, and the meeting location.

Most of the attendees (88%) stated that they experience congestion on Highway 16/112 Spur during peak traffic times. Several complaints were aimed at the traffic

signals. The comments indicated that the signals were spaced too closely together and were not well-coordinated. Others mentioned that the University of Arkansas ball games exacerbated the congestion issues.

#### **Access Issues**

The City of Fayetteville, five nearby business owners/leaders, and six attendees expressed their concerns regarding the raised median at both interchange locations. They believe that the limited access will hurt business revenues and prevent emergency vehicles from getting to their destination. They like the idea of limiting left turns but still want a well-balanced network with enough access to avoid perceived diminished business activity.

One business owner with property located near the University Square Shopping Center just north of Highway 62 and west of Shiloh Drive claims that 20 businesses (including theirs) would be adversely impacted by the flyover and raised median. One attendee, who claims to be the owner of most of Westwood Plaza (south of Highway 180, east of Futrall Drive), stated that westbound travelers on Highway 62 would be unable to access their businesses. Although more attendees prefer the flyover option on Highway 62, the impacted businesses as well as the City believe that the loop ramp is a better solution since it would not block business visibility from I-49. They prefer the Loop Ramp alternative with breaks in the median to allow better access to their facilities. They also prefer that the Shiloh Drive and Highway 62 intersection allow for U-turns to go from eastbound to westbound.

On Highway 16/112 Spur, four business owners (including the same business owner mentioned above) expressed concern regarding the raised median. The business leaders suggested the installation of a median break and traffic signal at Tahoe Place to provide more access. They also suggested connecting Steamboat Drive to Shiloh Drive in order to improve connectivity. All impacted businesses on both interchanges approve of the additional lanes.

#### **Pedestrian and Bike Issues**

Fayetteville citizens made it very clear that safety is the most important aspect they want to be considered, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. Three attendees stated that a raised median would be a safety benefit because it restricts left turns. Of the 35 people who made additional comments, 19 (54%) of them requested that pedestrians and cyclists be separated from the vehicular traffic. Four attendees stated that they would bike or walk if the conditions were more appealing. Nearly all of the citizens who currently bike or walk through these interchanges stated that they are not safe.

The City of Fayetteville has also expressed the importance of bicycle and pedestrian access across I-49. They believe separating cyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic by providing a shared-use path is the best option for both interchanges.

# Summary of the City of Fayetteville's Comments

The following comments were made by the City of Fayetteville.

#### Job BB0410

- Prefers the Loop Ramp Option because of potential access and visibility impacts to adjacent businesses and properties with the Flyover Option.
- If the Flyover Option is chosen, then the following comments should be considered.
  - Increase grade of the flyover ramp to reduce its length on Highway 62.
  - Provide adequate access to Wal-Mart to avoid congestion at the Finger Road/One-Mile Road intersection. If a median break at the Wal-Mart driveway cannot be done, consider improvements to the Finger Road/One-Mile Road intersection.
  - Add cross connections between businesses to avoid U-turns and indirection.
  - Prefer multi-use trail on the south side of Highway 62 instead of bike lanes. The City did not specify a width. However, the City prefers a setback from the back of curb of 10 feet where possible, and a parapet wall "if there is not adequate greenspace."
  - Include accommodations for existing and future north-south trails in the project area.
- If Loop Ramp Option is chosen, then the following comments should be considered.
  - Consider reducing radius or acquire additional ROW to avoid shifting I-49 lanes.
  - Same comments as the Flyover Option, except the City prefers the trail on the north side of Highway 62.
  - Include accommodations for existing and future north-south trails in the project area.
- Include accommodations for existing and future north-south trails in the project area.

## Job BB0411

- Consider a median break and signal at Tahoe Place/Marvin Avenue, including accommodations for pedestrians. Marvin Avenue is offset approximately 100 feet west of Tahoe Place.
- Consider the conversion of Shiloh Drive to a two-way street from Highway 16 to Persimmon Street (currently one-way), a distance of approximately 700 feet.
- Prefer a multi-use trail on the north side of Highway 16 instead of bike lanes. The City prefers a multi-use trail width of 16 feet on the I-49 bridge with a parapet wall and 12 feet everywhere else. The City prefers a setback from the back of curb of 10 feet, if possible.
- Consideration of reduced curb radii where appropriate at street intersections to "provide a more walkable environment."
- Include accommodations for existing and future north-south trails in the project area.

# HIGHWAY 62 AND HIGHWAY 16/112S I-540 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS AHTD JOBS BB0410 AND BB0411 WASHINGTON COUNTY

#### **Need for Improvements**

Traffic congestion occurs at the Highway 62/MLK Blvd. (Exit 62) and Highway 16/112S/Wedington Dr. (Exit 64) interchanges during peak travel times. Traffic congestion is expected to worsen as the area continues to grow.

#### **Purpose of Proposed Improvements**

The purpose of the proposed improvements is to address current and future traffic needs at the Highway 62 and Highway 16/112S interchanges along I-540 for all modes of transportation. Two alternatives have been developed for the Highway 62 interchange, while one alternative for the Highway 16/112S interchange was developed. The 2006 <u>I-540</u> <u>Improvement Study</u> was used as a planning guide when developing the alternatives.

#### **Purpose of this Meeting**

The purpose of this meeting is to obtain public input for the proposed improvement alternatives, particularly regarding the two alternatives shown for the Highway 62 interchange. We also would like to hear about any congestion or safety concerns at the two interchange areas, including access to nearby driveways and side streets, traffic backups, and bicycle and pedestrian accessibility.

#### Next Step

Comments will be considered when refining the alternatives. AHTD will work with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to obtain approval. If approval is given for a change of access to the Interstate, then project development will continue and another public meeting may take place to give further opportunity for public comment.

Job No. BB0411 Highway 16/112 Spur Interchange Improvements (S) FAP No. IM-540-1 (80)64 Highway 16/112 Spur (W. Wedington Drive)

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# **CITIZEN COMMENT FORM**

AHTD JOB BB0410 – HIGHWAY 62 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS (I-540)
&
AHTD JOB BB0411 – HIGHWAY 16/112 SPUR INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS (I-540)
LOCATION:

## ASBELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1500 N. SANG AVE. FAYETTEVILLE, AR 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2014

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.

How many days in a typical week do you drive through the Highway 62 (MLK Blvd.) (Exit 62) interchange?

	0	<b>[</b> ]1	<u></u> 2	□3	4	<u></u> 5	6	<b>7</b>	
How many da interchange?	ays in a	typical	week do	you drive	through	the Highw	ay 16/112S	6 (Wedington	Dr.) (Exit 64)
-	0	<b>1</b>	<u></u> 2	□3	<b>4</b>	<u></u> 5	6	<b>7</b>	

Do you experience traffic congestion or stop-and-go traffic at the Highway 62 (MLK Blvd.) interchange? If so, please describe when and where.

Do you experience traffic congestion or stop-and-go traffic at the Highway 16/112S (Wedington Dr.) interchange? If so, please describe when and where.

Do you bicycle or walk along or across Highway 62 (MLK Blvd.) near the interchange? If so, please describe where and if you have any concerns.

Do you bicycle or walk along or across Highway 16/112S (Wedington Dr.) near the interchange? If so, please describe where and if you have any concerns.

Which alternative do	you prefer at the Highv	av 62 (MLK Blvd.	) interchange?	Please explain.

Flyover Ramp Alternative

Loop Ramp Alternative

No preference

Do	you	feel	there	is	a ne	ed to	) widen	Highway	62	(MLK	Blvd.)	east	and/or	west	of	the	I-540	interchan	ge?
Plea	ase e	expla	in																

Do you feel there is a need to widen Highway 16/112S (Wedington Dr.) east and/or west of the I-540 interchange? Please explain.

Do you think the proposed improvements to the Highway 62 (MLK Blvd.) interchange will have any impacts (
Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc.)?
Please explain.

Do you think the proposed improvements to the Highway 16/112S (Wedington Dr.) interchange 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 could improve the Highway 62 (MLK Blvd.) interchange that is not shown? Please explain.

Do you have a suggestion that could improve the Highway 16/112S (Wedington Dr.) interchange that is not shown? Please explain.

Please make additional comments here.

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

# Job Number BB0411 Hwy. 16/112 Spur (Intchng. Impvts.) (I-49) Washington County Thursday, March 9, 2017

An open forum Public Involvement meeting for the proposed project was held at Asbell Elementary School (Cafeteria), 1500 N. Sang Avenue, in Fayetteville, Arkansas from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017. Efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meeting included:

- Display advertisement placed in *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Sunday, February 26, 2017 and Sunday, March 5, 2017.
- Spanish Public Service Announcement placed in EZ Spanish Media La Zeta 95.7 FM.
- Letters mailed to Public Officials.
- Distribution of flyers in the project area.

The following information was available for inspection and comment.

- Displays included two aerial photographs at a scale of 1" = 250', illustrating the project.
- Preliminary design of the proposed project shown at a scale of 1'' = 100'.
- A Right of Way information poster was displayed.
- A lap top computer with the proposed design using Google Earth applications.

Handouts for the public included a comment sheet and a small-scale map illustrating the project. 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 AHTD staff)	123							
Total comments received	48							

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.

Job Number BB0411 Public Involvement Synopsis March 9, 2017 Page 2 of 3

Table 2 provides a summary of responses to Citizen Comment Form questions.

TABLE 2							
Survey Results	Totals						
Supports interchange improvements	48						
Does not support interchange improvements	0						
Knowledge of historical, archeological or cemetery sites	0						
Knowledge of area environmental constraints	1						
Home or property offers limitations to the project	0						
Suggestions to better serve the needs of the community	4						
Beneficial impacts due to the proposed project	24						
Adverse impacts due to the proposed project	8						

Suggestions regarding how the proposed project could better serve the needs of the community and/or additional comments included:

- Three individuals wanted the project to be pedestrian/bike friendly.
- One individual wanted traffic lights to be synchronized in the area.
- One individual wanted a diverging diamond interchange.
- One individual requested that the curbs be taller than 6 inches.
- One individual wanted street plantings or anything with height along the highway.
- One individual wanted a roundabout.
- One individual wants larger drainage culverts that could be used as walkways in dryer weather.
- Three individuals wanted Dorothy Jeanne Street connected to Steamboat Drive.
- One individual wanted N. Shiloh Drive connected to Steamboat Drive.
- One individual wanted a traffic signal at N. Marinoni Drive.
- One individual wanted a traffic signal at Tahoe Place.
- One individual wanted an expedited schedule for completion of the project.
- One individual did not want to limit access to the IHOP and other businesses near I-49 and Wedington Drive.
- One individual wanted better access to West Oaks Animal Hospital.
- One individual was concerned about the impacts to prairie ecosystems in the area.

Job Number BB0411 Public Involvement Synopsis March 9, 2017 Page 3 of 3

• One individual was concerned about traffic conditions getting worse during construction.

Attachments:

Blank Comment Form Small-Scale Project Location Map

RJ ON

TT: fc

# ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD) CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

AHTD JOB NUMBER BB0411 Hwy. 16/112 Spur (Intchng. Impvts.) (I-49) WASHINGTON COUNTY

#### LOCATION: ASBELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CAFETERIA) 1500 N. SANG. AVE. FAYETTEVILLE, AR 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

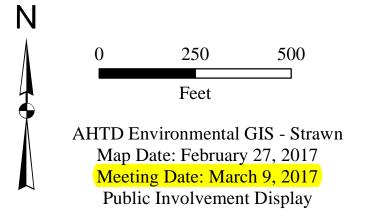
Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2017 to: Arkansas Highway and Transportation Dept., Environmental Div., P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR, 72203-2261. Email: <u>environmentalpimeetings@ahtd.ar.gov</u>.

Yes	No	Do you feel there is a need for the proposed Hwy. 16/112 interchange improvements in Washington 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 AHTD 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?

(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 improvements project will have any impacts ( Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc.)? Please explain.
you are provide	e a pro inform	essary for the AHTD to contact property owners along potential routes. If operty owner along or adjacent to the route under consideration, please hation below. Thank you. (Please Print)
		Phone: ()
		,
E-mail:		
Please	make	additional comments here.
For a	additior	nal information, please visit our website at <u>www.arkansashighways.com</u>



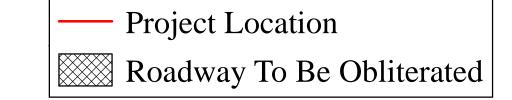




# Job BB0411

Hwy. 16/112 Spur Intchng. Impvts. (I-49) Washington County





Photography: Washington County 2014

# AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number BB0411 FAP Number IM-NHPP-540-1(80)64

Job Title Hwy. 16/112 Spur Intchng. Impvts. (S)

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	Х			SHPO approval attached
Economic	Х			
Endangered Species	Х			Concurrence received 5/16/2017
Energy Resources	Х			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	Х			
Fish and Wildlife		X		Temporary
Floodplains		X		Floodplain permit required.
Forest Service Property	Х			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	Х			
Land Use Impacts		Х		
Migratory Birds		X		Bird SP included
Navigation/Coast Guard	Х			
Noise Levels	Х			
Prime Farmland	Х			
Protected Waters	Х			
Public Recreation Lands	Х			
Public Water Supply/WHPA	Х			
Relocatees	Х			
Section 4(f)/6(f)	Х			
Social	Х			
Underground Storage Tanks	Х			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts		X		During construction, 1,473' relocatio
Water Quality		X		Temporary during construction
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	Х			

# **ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST**

Job Number BB0411 FA	P No. IM-	NHPP-540-1(80)	<u>54</u> C	ounty W	ashington
Job Name Hwy. 16/112 Spur Inte	hng. Impvts	. (S)			
Design Engineer Burns & McDo	nnell	Environmen	tal Staff	TT/RJ/I	BB
Brief Project Description <u>I-49 Inter-</u>	erchange im	provements & wi	dening of	Hwy. 16/	112 Spur
A. Existing Conditions:					
Roadway Width: 58 ft.	-	Shoulder Type	e/Width:	C & G	_
Number of Lanes and Width:	4, 11 ft. 1, 12 ft.	Existing Right-	of-Way:	95 ft.	_
Sidewalks? Yes	Location:	Both	Width:	5 ft.	_
Bike Lanes? <u>No</u>	Location:	NA	Width:	NA	_
B. Proposed Conditions:					
Roadway Width: _75–108 ft.	_	Shoulder Type	e/Width:	NA	_
Number of Lanes and Width:	5-8, 11 ft.	Proposed Right-	of-Way:	115 ft.	_
Sidewalks? Yes	Location:	Both	Width:	5 ft.	_
Bike Lanes? <u>No</u>	Location:	NA	Width:	NA	_
C. Construction Information: If detour: Where: <u>NA</u>		Length: <u>N</u>	A		
D. Design Traffic Data: <u>2016</u> ADT: <u>36,800</u> Design Speed: <u>40</u>	 m.p.h.	0 ADT: <u>59,2</u>	00	% Trucks:	
E. Approximate total length of proj	ect: 0.598	mile(s)			
F. Justification for proposed impro-	vements:	Capacity improve	ments		
G. Total Relocatees: 0	Residences	.: 0	Busin	esses: 0	
H. Have you coordinated with any o	outside agen	cies (e.g., FHWA	, City, Co	ounty, etc.)	? YES

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date			
City of Fayetteville	Chris Brown	01-05-17			

## BRIDGE INFORMATION – PRELIMINARY OR FINAL (Choose One)

Job Number: BB0411 FAP Number: IM-NHPP-540-1(80)64 County: Washington Job Name: Hwy. 16/112 Spur Intchng. Impyts. (S) Design Engineer: Burns & McDonnell Environmental Staff: Tucker/Jenkins/Bailey

#### A. Description of Existing Bridge:

- 1. Bridge Number 05628 over I-49
- Log Mile: 13.350 2. Location: Rte.: Hwy. 16/112 Spur Section:
- Br. Rdwy. Width: 50 ft Deck Width (Out-to-Out): 58 3. Length: 262 ft ft
- 4. Type Construction: Steel continuous girder space with concrete-cast-in-place deck
- 5. Deficiencies: None
- 6. HBRRP Eligibility: Qualif. Code: NQ Sufficiency Rating: 95.0
- 7. Are any Condition Component Ratings at 3 or less? \_No\_\_\_\_

# **B.** Proposed Improvements:

- 1. Length: 243 ft Br. Rdwy. Width: 100 ft Deck Width (Out-to-Out): 122.17 ft 2. Travel Lanes: 8 @ 11 ft. each (11'-11'-11'-raised median-11'-11'-11'-11')
- 3. Shoulder Width: <u>Raised curbs on WB direction and inside EB direction</u>, 4 ft. on outside EB
- 4. Sidewalks? Yes Location: Outside WB direction Width: 14 ft. with 5 ft. paved buffer ft

# **C.** Construction Information:

- 1. Location in relation to existing bridge: Centerline shifted 5 feet south
- 2. Superstructure Type: Continuous composite plate girder
- 3. Span Lengths: 111 ft. / 132 ft.
- 4. Substructure Type: Pile bent abutments and columns on spread footing for intermediate bent
- 5. Ordinary High Water Elev. (OHW): <u>NA</u> No. of Bents inside OHW Contours: <u>NA</u>
- 6. Concrete Vol. below OHW: <u>NA</u> yd<sup>3</sup> Vol. Bent Excavation: <u>NA</u> yd<sup>3</sup> Vol. Backfill <u>NA</u> yd<sup>3</sup>
- 7. Is Channel Excavation below OHW Required? NA Surface Area: NA  $ft^2$  Volume: NA  $yd^3$
- Surface Area: NA  $ft^2$ 8. Is Fill below OHW Req'd.? <u>NA</u> Volume: NA  $vd^3$
- 9. Is Riprap below OHW Required? NA  $vd^3$ Volume: NA

# **D.** Work Road Information:

- Top Width: \_ NA 1. Is Work Road(s) required? <u>NA</u> Location: <u>NA</u> ft
- Surface Area: NA ft<sup>2</sup> Volume NA 2. Is Fill below OHW required? NA  $vd^3$  $\mathrm{ft}^2$
- 3. Are Pipes required to meet Backwater Criteria? <u>NA</u> Waterway Opening: NA

# **E. Detour Information:**

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

# 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				



#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS POST OFFICE BOX 867 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-0867 www.swl.usace.army.mil/

May 9, 2018

**Regulatory Division** 

#### NATIONWIDE PERMIT NO. SWL 2018-00202

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

Dear Mr. Fleming:

Please refer to your recent request concerning Department of the Army permit requirements pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. You requested authorization for the placement of dredged and fill material in waters of the United States associated with modifying and enlarging an existing interchange at Interstate 49-State Highway 16/112 Spur in Fayetteville. The purpose of the project is to add capacity and improve the flow of traffic. A deceleration lane will be added for the southbound off-ramp and an auxiliary lane will be added between the northbound on-ramp and the exit ramp for Exit 65. The State Highway 16/112 Spur will be widened from four lanes to five to eight travel lanes. The expansion of the interchange on the east side will require the relocation of approximately 1,473 linear feet of an unnamed intermitttent stream that flows into Hamstring Creek. Federally threatened or endangered species that might occur in the area include the Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis), Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens), Northern Long-eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis), Ozark Big-eared Bat (Corvnorhimus townsendii ingens), Piping Plover (Chardrius melodus), Ozark Cavefish (Troglichthys rosae), Neosho Mucket (Lampsilis rafinesqueana), Rabbitsfoot Mussel (Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica), and Missouri Bladderpod (Physaria filiformis). Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in findings of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the four bat species, and a no effect for the non-bat species. There are no wetlands or cultural resources impacts. The Federal Highway Administration approved the project as a categorical exclusion. The project is located along Interstate 49 on the west side of Fayetteville, in section 7, T. 16 N., R. 30 W., Washington County, Arkansas. A vicinity map, project location map and stream impact worksheet are enclosed.

The proposed activities are authorized by Department of the Army Nationwide Permit (NWP) **No. 23** (copy enclosed), provided that the following **Special Conditions** and General Conditions therein are met. For your convenience, we have highlighted the General Conditions of the NWP that are the most pertinent to your project. You should become familiar with the conditions and maintain a copy of the permit at the worksite for ready reference. If changes are

proposed in the design or location of the project, you should submit revised plans to this office for approval before construction of the change begins.

#### **Special Conditions:**

- 1. The ArDOT agrees to mitigate for the adverse impacts to 1,473 linear feet of stream at an approved mitigation bank prior to construction of the project.
- 2. The ArDOT will provide proof of the mitigation credits purchased to the Little Rock District Transportation Program Manager.

Please pay particular attention to General Condition No. 12 which stipulates that appropriate erosion and siltation controls be used during construction and all exposed soil be permanently stabilized. Erosion control measures must be implemented before, during and after construction.

Also, in order to fully comply with the conditions of the NWP, you must submit the enclosed compliance certification within 30 days of completion of the project. This is required pursuant to General Condition No. 30 of the permit.

For your information, we have enclosed a copy of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Section 401 Water Quality Certification conditions, which are conditions of your permit. If you have any questions concerning compliance with the conditions of the 401 certification, you should contact Ms. Lazendra Hairston at the ADEQ, Water Division, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118, telephone (501) 682-0645.

The NWP determination will be valid until March 18, 2022. If NWP No. 23 is modified, suspended, or revoked during this period, your project may not be authorized unless you have begun or are under contract to begin the project. If work has started or the work is under contract, you would then have twelve (12) months to complete the work.

Your cooperation in the Regulatory Program is appreciated. If you have any additional questions about this permit or any of its provisions, please contact Mr. Johnny McLean at (501)

324-5295 and refer to Permit No. SWL 2018-00202, Interstate 49-State Highway 16/112 Spur, Interchange Modifications (ArDOT Project No. BB0411).

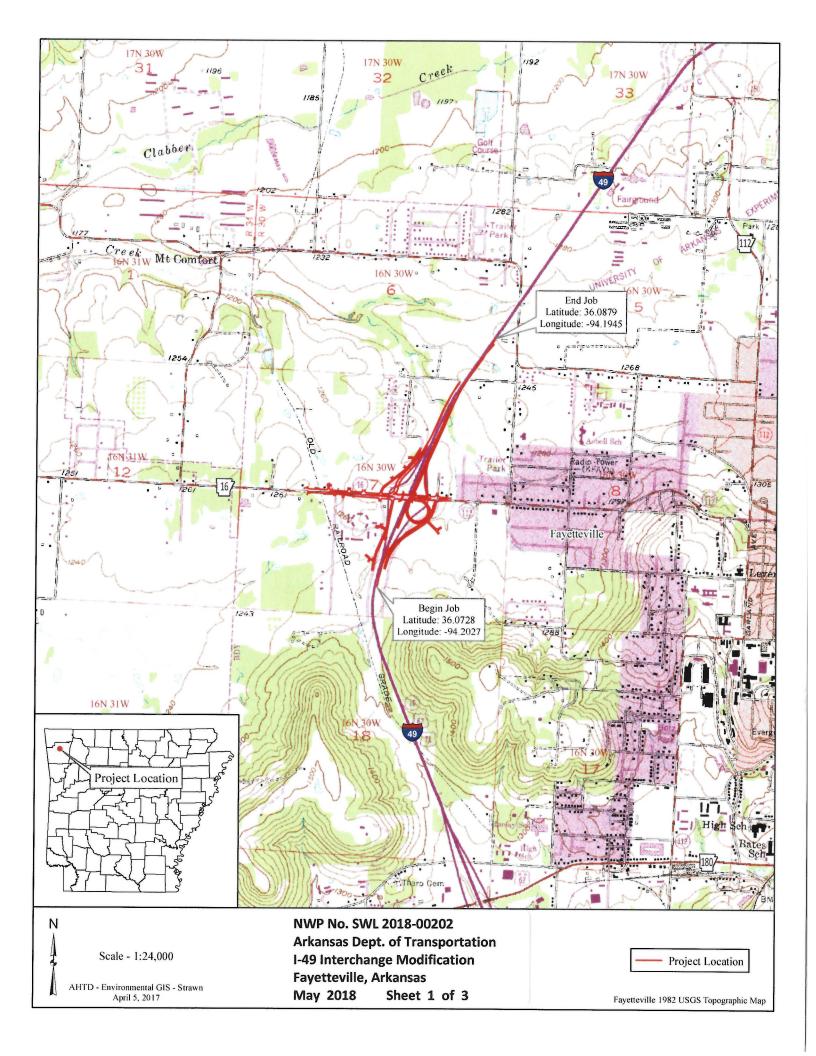
Sincerely,

Sarah Chitwood

Chief, Regulatory Evaluation Branch

Copy Furnished:

Ms. Lazendra Hairston, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, w/cy dwgs Mr. Lindsey Lewis, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, w/cy dwgs Chief, Regulatory Enforcement, w/cy dwgs





Stream			ohemeral				Intern			-	rennial-	OHWM	width
Туре	0.1				0.4			Perennial-OHWM width <15' 15'-30' >30'					
Impacted											0.4	0.6	0.8
Priority	Tertiary						Seco	ndary	1			imary	0.10
Area	0.1					0.4				0.8			
Existing	Fu	Functionally Impaired				Moo	lerately	y Fun	ctional		Fully I	Function	al
Condition	0.1					0	.8			1.6			
Duration	Temporary				Recurrent			Permanent					
	0.05			0.1			0.3						
Activity	Clearing	~	Utility	Belov	. 1	Armor	Deter	ntion	Morpho-		pound-	Pipe	Fill
	0.05		sing/Bridge	Grad					logic		ment	>100'	
	0.05		Footing	Culve	ert	0 7			Change	(	(dam)		
Currenteting	<1002	1	0.15	0.3		0.5	0.7	5	1.5		2.0	2.2	2.5
Cumulative Linear	<100'	l	00'-200'	201-		501-	A 1	1	>1000 lin				
Impact	0		0.05	500 <sup>*</sup> 0.1		1000'	0.1 r	each	500 LF of i	mp	act (exa	mple: sc	aling
Impact	0			0.1		0.2		actor	for 5,280 L		of impac	sts = 1.1	)
Factor					1								
ruetor	Unname												
	Tributar	у											
Stream		·											
Туре	Intermittent blank		b		blank		blank		blank				
Impacted													
Priority	Tertiary		blank		6	اممار		1-1	-1-				
Area			Diank		ומ	lank		blaı	nk		blar	1K	
Existing	Moderately	Func	blank	blank		blank		blank					
Condition	Moderatory		DIGHIK										
Duration	Permanent		blank		bl	lank		blaı	nk		blar	nk	
Activity													
	Fill		blank		bl	lank blank		blank					
Cumulative Linear	blank		blank		bl	lank		blar	nk		blar	ık	
Impact	.30		0		0			0			0		
	M = 4.4		0		0			0			<u> </u>	······	
Factors	4.4		v		0			0			0		
Linear Feet													
of Stream	LF= 1473		0		0						0		
Impacted in													
Reach													
M X LF	6,481.2		0		0			0			0		

#### ADVERSE IMPACT FACTORS FOR RIVERINE SYSTEMS WORKSHEET

Total Mitigation Credits Required = (M X LF) = \_\_\_\_\_6,481.20



#### MAR 16 2017

Colonel Robert G. Dixon District Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 867 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867

RE: Public Notice: Re-issuance of Nationwide Permits

Dear Colonel Dixon:

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has completed its review of the above referenced public notice for re-issuance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits (NWPs) for the State of Arkansas.

ADEQ has determined that there is a reasonable assurance that the activities covered under most these NWPs will be conducted in a manner which, according to the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission's Regulation No.2, will not physically alter a significant segment of the waterbody and will not violate the water quality criteria.

Therefore, pursuant to \$40l(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, the ADEQ hereby <u>issues</u> water quality certification for all NWPs with the exception of NWPs 14, 29, and 43, contingent upon the following conditions:

- An individual water quality certification request must be submitted to ADEQ for Activities which may impact Extraordinary Resource Waters, Ecologically Sensitive Waterbodies, and Natural Scenic Waterways and their tributaries (within 1 mile) as defined in Regulation No. 2, Water Quality Standards.
- 2) The applicant shall contact ADEQ to determine if a Short Term Activity Authorization (STAA) is needed when performing work in the wetted area of any waterbody. More information can be obtained by contacting the Water Division Planning Section of ADEQ at 501-682-0946.
- 3) The applicant shall implement all practicable best management practices (BMPs) to avoid excessive impacts of sedimentation and turbidity to the surface waters.
- 4) The applicant will take all reasonable measures to prevent the spillage or leakage of any chemicals, oil, grease, gasoline, diesel, or other fuels. In the unlikely event such spillage or leakage occurs, the applicant must contact ADEQ immediately.
- 5) The applicant shall limit construction to low flow periods as much as possible to minimize adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life.

5301 NORTHSHORE DRIVE / NORTH LITTLE ROCK / ARKANSAS 72118-5317 / TELEPHONE 501-682-0744 / FAX 501-682-0880 www.adeq. state.ar.us