

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
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December 24, 2012

AHTD IDENTIFIES PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR NORTHERN CONNECTOR IN SEARCY

LITTLE ROCK (12-21) – The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) has identified the Northern Alignment as the preferred location for the future connection of Highway 36 to Highway 67 in White County.

The Northern Alignment begins at the intersection of Highway 36 West and Honey Hill Road (the northern end of the future Highway 13 Extension), and proceeds north for 1.5 miles before turning east and joining Covington Road near the Searcy city limits. It continues on new location across North Main Street, then connects with North Bypass Road. The route would follow the general alignment of North Bypass Road and C.W. Road, crossing the Little Red River and ending at Highway 67. The total length of the project is 8.2 miles. (See attached map.)

“We appreciate the public’s patience as we’ve worked to identify the preferred alignment for this project,” said AHTD Director Scott Bennett. “We had hoped to have this step completed prior to Thanksgiving, but as sometimes happens, things took longer than expected.”

The improvements are estimated to cost between \$30 million and \$35 million. Along with regular federal and state funds, \$6 million in additional funding has been pledged through a partnering agreement with White County and the city of Searcy.

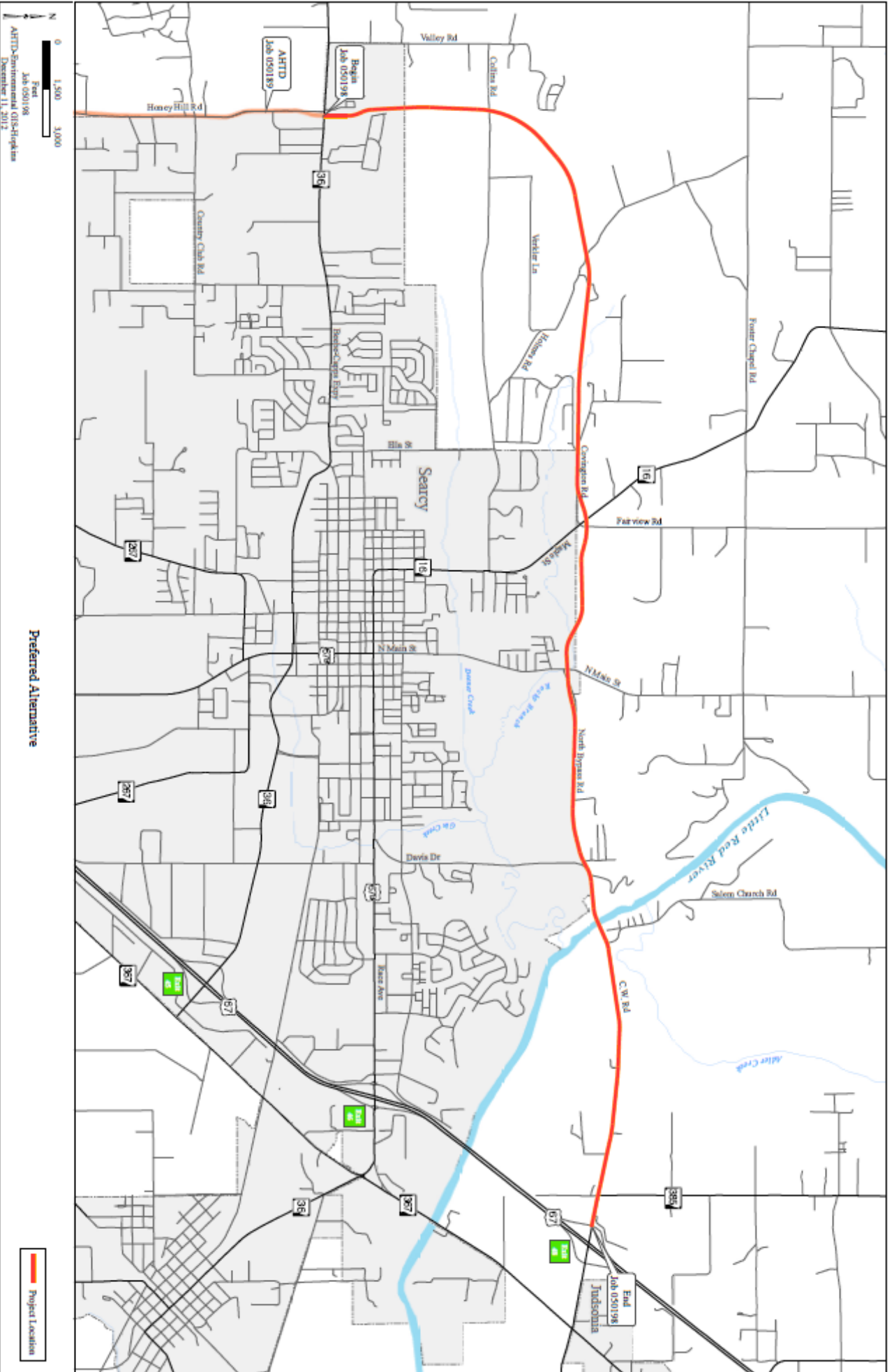
Highway Commissioner John Burkhalter of Little Rock talked about the partnership with the locals. “The local partnership aspect of this project is extremely important,” Burkhalter stated. “Without that local commitment, it would have been very difficult to see this project completed in a reasonable timeframe. As Director Bennett noted, we certainly appreciate everyone’s patience as we worked through the very

thorough and detailed federal environmental process. We look forward to coming back to the citizens in 2013 with much more detailed design plans for the highway.”

After further design and survey work is completed, a Design Public Hearing will be held in mid-2013 to share details on the design and proposed right of way limits, and to receive additional public comment on the proposal.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment and the project location map are available for viewing in the Public Meeting Notice Section of the Department’s website at ArkansasHighways.com.

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Preferred Alternative

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 Feet
 Job 050198
 AHTD-Sentinel and GIS/Mapplan
 December 11, 2012

Project Location