



## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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July 29, 2021

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

**SUBJECT:** Job 012397  
FAP HSIP-0076(255)  
I-40 Cable Median Barrier Impvts. (S)  
Route I-40, Various Sections  
Various Counties  
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

The purpose of the project is to install cable median barriers at locations along I-40. A project location map is attached showing and listing the locations where these barriers will be installed.

The project will not involve relocations, endangered species, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. 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 concerns. Cultural resources clearance is attached.

The official species lists obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project area: gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Scaleshell Mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), Geocarpon (*Geocarpon minimum*), and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*). This project will have "no effect" on the

aforementioned federally listed species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

This project will not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

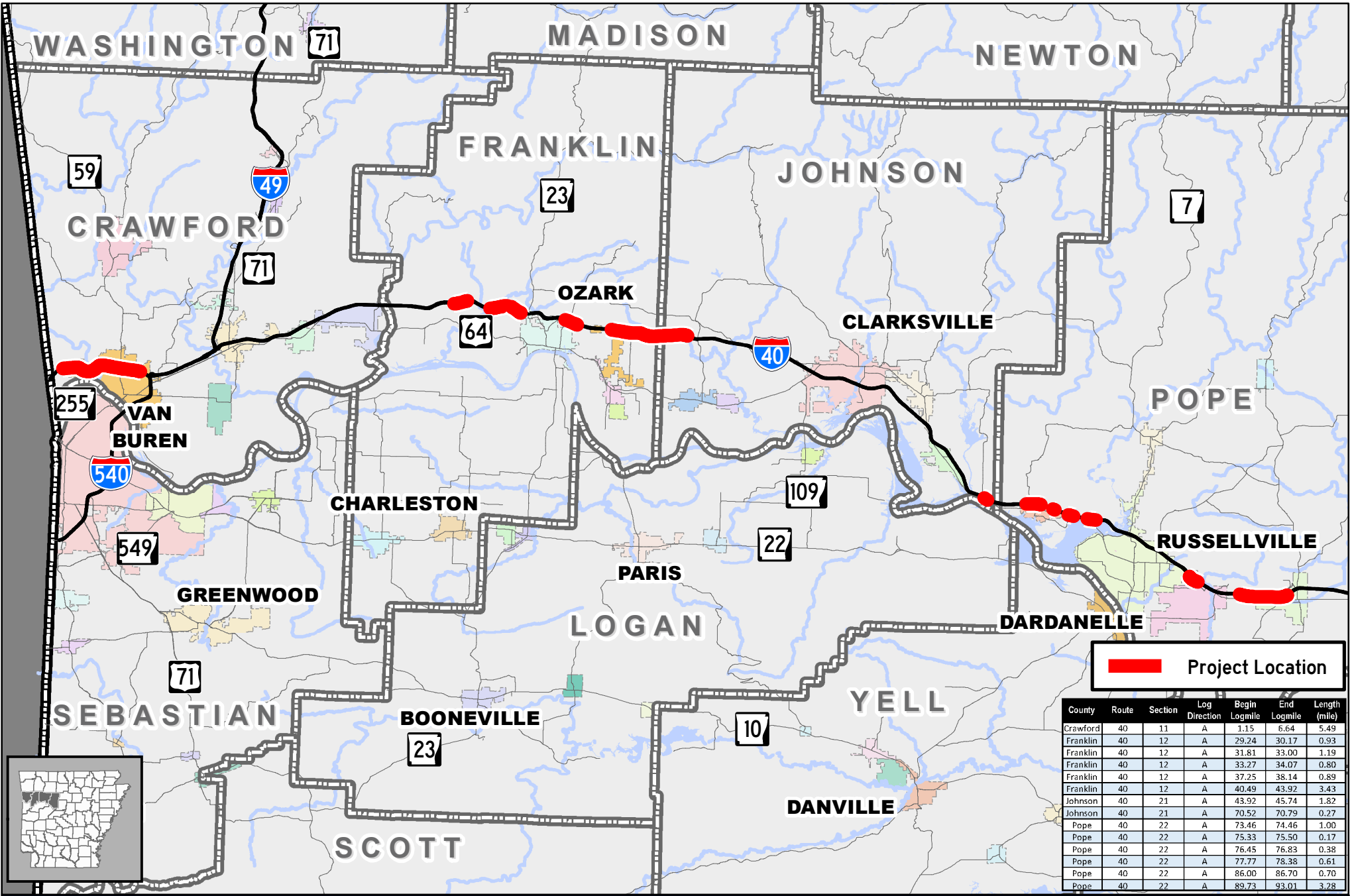
After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

JF:TT:sw

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Cultural Resource Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
Districts 4 & 8  
FHWA



 Project Location

County	Route	Section	Log Direction	Begin Logmile	End Logmile	Length (mile)
Crawford	40	11	A	1.15	6.64	5.49
Franklin	40	12	A	29.24	30.17	0.93
Franklin	40	12	A	31.81	33.00	1.19
Franklin	40	12	A	33.27	34.07	0.80
Franklin	40	12	A	37.25	38.14	0.89
Franklin	40	12	A	40.49	43.92	3.43
Johnson	40	21	A	43.92	45.74	1.82
Johnson	40	21	A	70.52	70.79	0.27
Pope	40	22	A	73.46	74.46	1.00
Pope	40	22	A	75.33	75.50	0.17
Pope	40	22	A	76.45	76.83	0.38
Pope	40	22	A	77.77	78.38	0.61
Pope	40	22	A	86.00	86.70	0.70
Pope	40	22	A	89.73	93.01	3.28



**Job 012397**  
**I-40 Cable Median Barrier Impvts. (S)**  
 Interstate 40, Various Sections  
 Various Counties



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION




Miles



## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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July 26, 2021

**TO:** Job File

**FROM:** Jason Kennedy, Cultural Resources Section <sup>JK</sup>

**SUBJECT:** Cultural Resources Clearance  
Job 012397  
I-40 Cable Median Barrier Impvts. (S)  
Route I-40, Sections Various  
Crawford, Franklin, Johnson & Pope Counties

This project proposes to install Cable Median Barriers (CMBs) at 14 locations on Interstate 40 in Crawford, Franklin, Johnson and Pope Counties. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired.

A records check of the Arkansas Archeological Survey's database showed two archeological sites (3CW0241, 3CW0242, 3CW0243 and 3PP1232) on or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. Sites 3CW0241-3CW0243 are pre-historic sites surveyed in 1984. The sites were located north of I-40, and portions of the sites were likely destroyed by the construction of I-40. Site 3PP1232 is recorded as a Missionary Mill based on 1829 General Land Office (GLO) plat map. Based on a records check of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's database for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, no previously recorded historic structures are located on or adjacent to the proposed project area. The Whitson Cemetery is located near the project area outside of existing ROW.

Nineteenth through twentieth century maps were examined. The 1839 GLO plat map of Township 9 North Range 32 West shows two roads that intersect I-40 and the 1829 GLO plat map of Township 8 North Range 21 West shows a Missionary's Mill that is directly adjacent to I-40. The 1936 Crawford, Franklin, Johnson and Pope County maps shows development including scatterings of

small communities and structures that would have been near or intersected the project area. None of these structures, if still extant, will be affected by the construction of the CMBs. In addition, the Trail of Tears (ToT) runs parallel to the north of the project area between Highways 59 and Ruby Road in Fort Smith and between I-40 and Dwight Mission Road in Russellville. The ToT will also not be affected by the rehabilitation. Bridges A3272, B3272, A3273, B3273, X0068, A5132, B3152, A3316, B3316, A6916 and B6916 are 45 years of age or older and are within or adjacent to the project area. They were not evaluated for eligibility to the NRHP due to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Section 106 exemption regarding effects to the Interstate Highway System (filed on the Federal Register as 69 FR 77979-77981 and authority of 16 U.S.C. 470v; 36 CFR 800.14(c) on March 7, 2005).

The existing topography, aerial imagery, previous infrastructure and construction practices were examined to assess previous ground disturbance. All work will be within the existing ROW, and the scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, this project is exempt from additional Section 106 review under Appendix C, Activity 19, of the 2021 Programmatic Agreement.

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


ARDOT Job 012397 FAP HSIP-0076(255)

Job Title I-40 Cable Median Barrier Impvts. (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			CR clearance memo attached
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" determination
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			None in project area
Floodplains	X			No floodplain impacts
Forest Service Property	X			None in the project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in the project area
Land Use	X			Will not be impacted by the project
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in the project area
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to the project
Prime Farmland	X			None impacted by the project
Protected Waters	X			None in the project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in the project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocates	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			4(f)/6(f) resources not present
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No UST's in the project area
Visual	X			No changes to the visual environment
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
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 28, 2021