



# INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

November 23, 2021

**TO:** Master Files

**FROM:**  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

**SUBJECT:** Job 020780  
FAP STPR-0021(52)  
Hwy. 138 – Watson (S)  
Route 1, Section 1  
Desha County  
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

The purpose of the safety project is to add 2' asphalt shoulders along Highway 1 for 6.8 miles from the Community of Kelso (Highway 138) to Watson, Arkansas in Desha County. No additional right of way will be needed for the project. A project location map is attached.

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. A Section 404 permit will not be required for this project. The Cultural Resources clearance is attached.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2022	550	13	55 mph
2042	600	13	55 mph

The official species list obtained through US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies the following species as having the potential to occur in the project area: Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

Due to the limited scope of the project and lack of suitable habitat, it has been determined that the project will have "no effect" on the federally listed bird species and the pondberry. The monarch butterfly is a candidate species and as such is not federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, The USFWS recommends agencies implement conservation measures for candidate species in action areas as these are species, by definition, that may warrant future protection under the Act. ARDOT will plant native wildflowers after construction as a conservation measure.

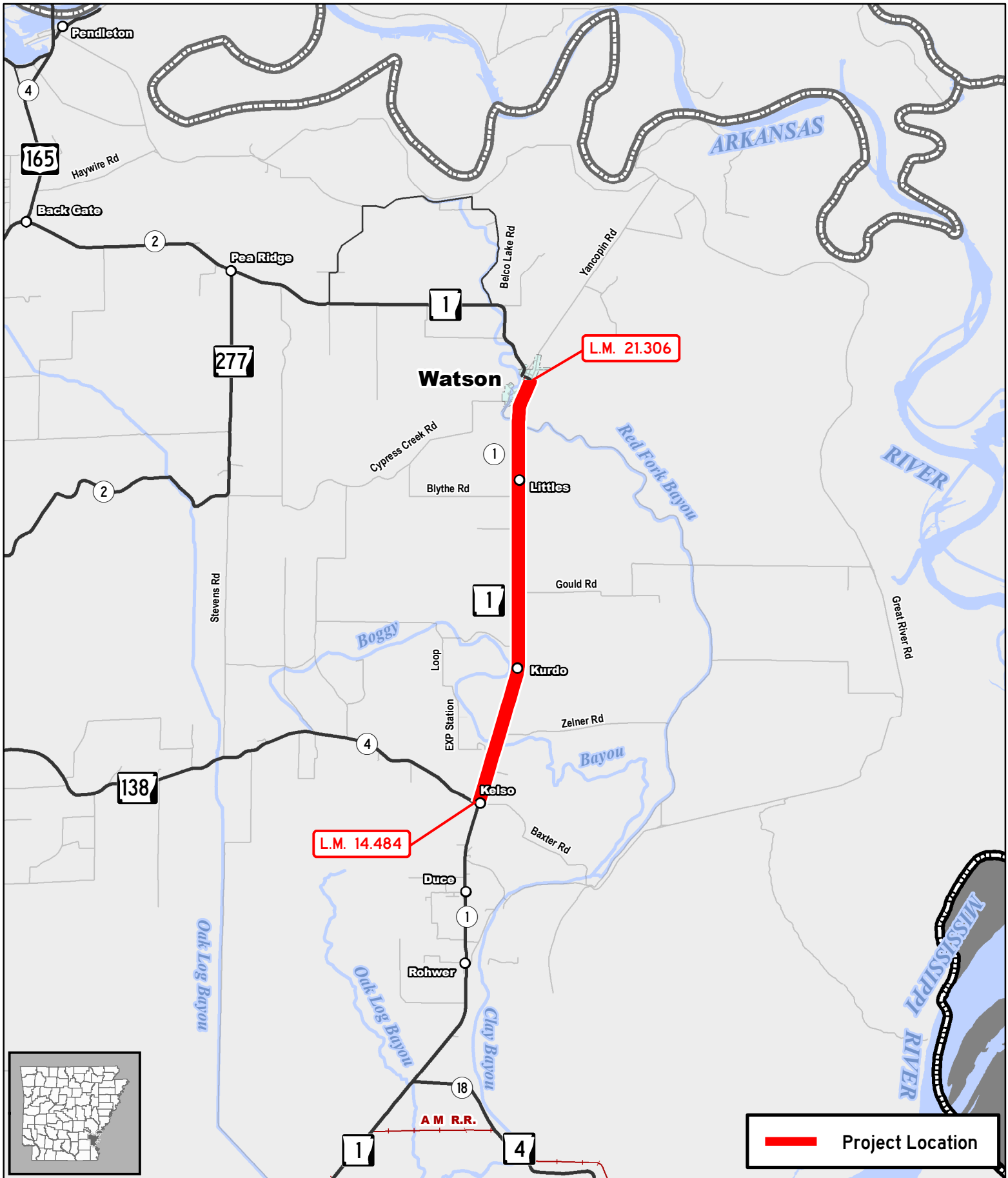
After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

JF:TT:sw

Attachments:

- Project Location Map
- Cultural Resources Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 2  
FHWA



# Job 020780

## Hwy. 138 – Watson (S)

Hwy. 1, Sec. 1  
Desha County





# INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**November 15, 2021**

**TO:** Environmental Job File

**FROM:** Daniel Hildebran, Cultural Resources  
*Daniel Hildebran*

**SUBJECT:** Cultural Resources Clearance  
Job 020780  
Hwy. 138 - Watson (S)  
Route 1, Section 1  
Desha County

This project proposes to pave 2' of the current 4' grass shoulders on 6.83 miles of Highway 1 in Desha County. The project extends from Log Mile 14.484 to 21.306 on Highway 1 and excludes work at Bridges 02840, 02841, and 02842. All work will occur within the existing right-of-way (ROW).

A records check at the Arkansas Archaeological Survey shows two sites (3DE0029 and 3DE0177) near the proposed project but not within the existing ROW. The sites will not be affected by this project. The review of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's (AHPP) structure database shows no historic structures within the project area. No cultural indicators were found on the 1829 General Land Office plat, the 1936 Desha County road map, quadrangle maps, or aerial imagery.

The vertical and horizontal extents, known construction practices, available plans, and contours were examined to assess previous ground disturbance. This type of undertaking has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. All work will be within previously disturbed areas in the existing ROW. This project is subject to the 2021 Programmatic Agreement and falls under Activity 2 in Appendix C. The project is exempted from further work of Section 106 review.

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


ARDOT Job 020780 FAP STPR-0021(52)

Job Title Hwy. 138 – Watson (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			Cultural Resources clearance attached
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			“No effect” determination
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	X			No impacts anticipated
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in project area
Noise Levels	X			No impacts anticipated
Prime Farmland	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Recreation Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocatees	X			No impacts anticipated
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts anticipated
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No impacts anticipated
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			No impacts anticipated
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? N  
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? N  
 Section 404 Permit Required? N Type N/A

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator  Date November 3, 2021

**ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST**

Job Number 020780 FAP No. STPR – 0021 (52) County Desha

Job Name Hwy. 138 – Watson (S)

Design Engineer George Davison *GD* Environmental Staff TT/DH/JL

Detailed Project Description Safety project and shoulder widening.

**A. Existing Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 28' Shoulder Type/Width: 4' Grass

Number of Lanes and Width: 2 Existing Right-of-Way: Existing

Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

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

**B. Proposed Conditions:**

Roadway Width: 24' Shoulder Type/Width: 2' Paved

Number of Lanes and Width: 2-10' Proposed Right-of-Way: Existing

Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

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

**C. Construction Information:**

If detour: Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Design Traffic Data:**

2022 ADT: 550 2042 ADT: 600 % Trucks: 13

Design Speed: 55 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 6.82 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Safety Project.

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