



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 15, 2023

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 030595
FAP ER-0029(37)
Hwy. 195 Flood Damage Repairs (Hempstead Co.) (S)
Route 195, Sections 5
Hempstead County
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

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.

The purpose of this project is to replace bridge M3964 (Site 1) and bridge M3928 (Site 2) along Highway 195 in Hempstead County with box culverts. The bridges were damaged from flooding during severe storms associated with Hurricane Barry in 2019. The project will require 3.4 acres of proposed right of way, of which 2.4 acres is Important Farmland. A project location map and NRCS-CPA-106 form is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, noise impacts, 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. The State Historic Preservation Officer clearance is attached.

The official species list obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) and Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) as species potentially occurring within the project area. Due to the lack of habitat and distance to known

species occurrences, it has been determined that the proposed project will have “no effect” on these species. The official species list and USFWS concurrence dated May 9, 2023 is attached.

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.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently a proposed threatened species, and the Tricolored Bat is a proposed endangered species; however, the proposed project will not jeopardize the continued existence of either species.

Total permanent impacts to waters of the United States for construction of the new box culverts will be approximately 0.15 acre. Construction should be allowed under the terms of a Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Crossings as defined in Federal Register 86 (245): 73522-73583. Stream impacts at each crossing are less than 0.1 acre; therefore, a pre-construction notification will not be required.

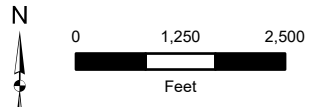
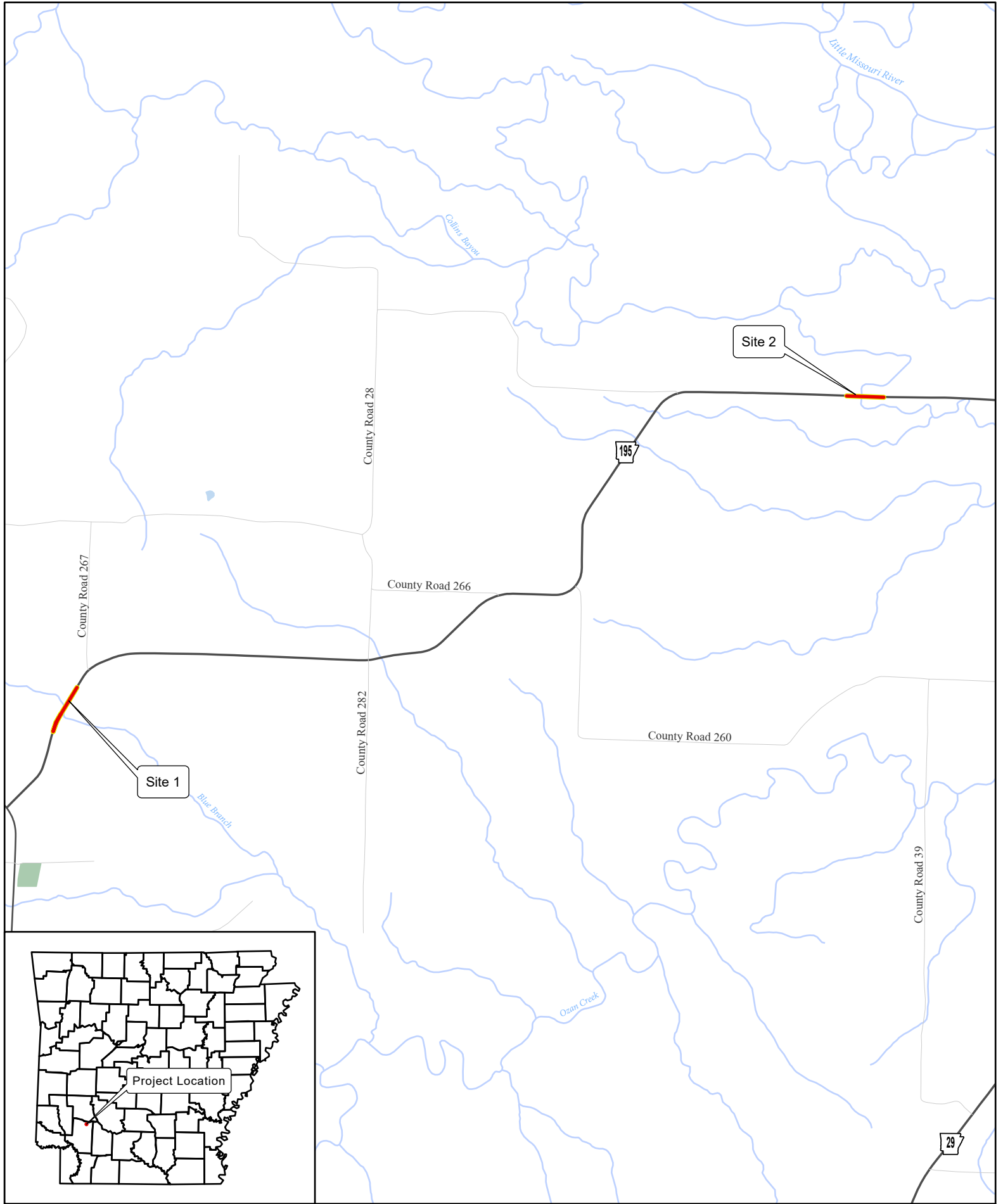
Hempstead County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. The project lies within Zone A, Special Flood Hazard Area. The final project design will be reviewed to confirm that the design is adequate and that the potential risk to life and property are minimized. Adjacent properties should not be impacted nor have a greater flood risk than existed before construction of the project. None of the encroachments will constitute a substantial floodplain encroachment or a risk to property or life.

JF:JG:sw

Attachments:

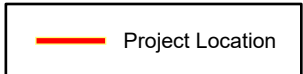
- Project Location Map
- SHPO Clearance
- Form NRCS-CPA-106
- Environmental Study Checklist
- Design Request Form

c: Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
District 3
FHWA



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Filares
April 27, 2023

Job 030595 Hwy. 195 Flood Damage Repairs Hempstead County





Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor
Shea Lewis
Interim Secretary

June 12, 2023

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

RE: Hempstead County: General
Section 106 Review: FHwA
Proposed Undertaking: Hwy. 195 Flood Damage Repairs (Hempstead Co.) (S)
Route 195, Section 5
ARDOT Number: 030595
AHPP Tracking Number: 111065.01

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the submitted project identification form (PIF) for the above referenced undertaking in Sections 27 and 32, Township 9 South, Range 24 West in Hempstead County, Arkansas. The proposed project entails repairing flood damages at two locations on Highway 195 by installing box culverts on the existing highway centerline.

There are no previously recorded archeological sites or historic properties located within the area of potential effect (APE). A total of eight shovel tests were excavated within the APE, all of which were negative for cultural materials.


Based on the provided information, the AHPP concurs with the finding of **no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)** for the proposed undertaking.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Caddo Nation, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe. We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, call George Burson at 501-324-9270 or email George.Burson@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

George
Burson

 Digitally signed by George
Burson
Date: 2023.06.12
15:29:10 -05'00'

for

Scott Kaufman
AHPP Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey
Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency) Job 030595	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request	4. Sheet 1 of _____
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1. Name of Project	5. Federal Agency Involved
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2. Type of Project	6. County and State
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PART II (To be completed by NRCS)	1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
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3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size
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5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: _____ %	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: _____ %
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8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS
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PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
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	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
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A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
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B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
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C. Total Acres In Corridor				
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PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
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A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
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B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
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C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
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D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				
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PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)				
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PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points			
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1. Area in Nonurban Use	15			
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2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10			
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3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20			
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4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20			
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5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10			
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6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25			
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7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5			
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8. On-Farm Investments	20			
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9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25			
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10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10			
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TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160			
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PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)				
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Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100			
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Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160			
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TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260			
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1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part:	DATE
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Joshua Graham

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

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

ARDOT Job 030595 FAP ER-0029(37)

Job Title Hwy. 195 Flood Damage Repairs (Hempstead Co.) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance included
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species		X		No effect determination.
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minimal during construction
Floodplains	X			Within Zone A, no impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use		X		Will require 3.4 acres of new ROW
Migratory Birds		X		Bird SP required
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland		X		Impacts 2.4 acres of Important Farmland
Protected Waters	X			None in the project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in the project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None in the project area
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No 4f/6f resources present
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No USTs in project area
Visual	X			No changes to visual environment
Streams		X		Nationwide Permit 14 required
Water Quality		X		Temporary impacts during construction
Wetlands	X			No impacts anticipated
Wildlife Refuges	X			No impacts anticipated

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Yes
 Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type Nationwide Permit 14

Remarks: Pre-construction notification not required.

Signature of Evaluator  Date 5/16/2023

Date Sent: May 12, 2023

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 030595 FAP No. ER-0029(37) County Hempstead

Job Name Hwy. 195 Flood Damage Repairs (Hempstead Co.) (S)

Design Engineer George Davison *GD* Environmental Staff _____

Detailed Project Description This job has two sites. At each site the existing bridge will be replaced with an R.C. Box Culvert. Traffic will be maintained in one lane, running traffic head to head using a temporary signal.

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width:	<u>Site 1 – 30'</u> <u>Site 2 – 28'</u>	Shoulder Type/Width:	<u>Site 1 – 4' Gravel</u> <u>Site 2 – 3' Paved</u>
Number of Lanes and Width:	<u>2-11'</u>	Existing Right-of-Way:	<u>Site 1 – None</u> <u>Site 2 – 80'</u>
Sidewalks?	<u>No</u>	Location:	<u>N/A</u>
		Width:	<u>N/A</u>
Bike Lanes?	<u>No</u>	Location:	<u>N/A</u>
		Width:	<u>N/A</u>

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width:	<u>30'</u>	Shoulder Type/Width:	<u>Site 1 – 4' (2' Paved)</u> <u>Site 2 – 4' Paved</u>
Number of Lanes and Width:	<u>2-11'</u>	Proposed Right-of-Way:	<u>190'</u>
Sidewalks?	<u>No</u>	Location:	<u>N/A</u>
		Width:	<u>N/A</u>
Bike Lanes?	<u>No</u>	Location:	<u>N/A</u>
		Width:	<u>N/A</u>

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: On Site Length: 200'

D. Design Traffic Data:

2023 ADT: 380 2043 ADT: 420 % Trucks: 8
Avg. Running Speed: 50 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.046 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Emergency Repair due to flood damage.

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