



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2000

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

July 22, 2021

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 061736
FAP RTP-1302(344)
Central Office Walking Trail Impvts. (RTP) (S)
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion for Recreational Trails Program

The Environmental Division reviewed the referenced project and determined it falls within the definition of a Categorical Exclusion under 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 771.117. The project is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate approximately 852' of asphalt trail and 410' of concrete sidewalk trail, and construct approximately 1,346' of new walking trail around the central office campus of ARDOT in Little Rock. A project location map is attached.

This project is consistent with the goals of the *2019-2023 Arkansas Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, the *1986 Arkansas Statewide Trails Plan*, and the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990*.

There are no hazardous materials, wetlands, underground storage tanks, relocations or public water supplies associated with this project. No Section 404 permit will be required. The *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century of 1998* exempted the Recreational Trails Program from Section 4(f) requirements (23 U.S.C. 206(h)(2)). The Cultural Resources clearance is attached.

The official species list obtained through US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation website identifies the following federally listed species as having the potential to occur in the project area: the threatened Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), the threatened Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the threatened Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and the endangered running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*).

It has been determined that the project will have "no effect" on all three listed bird species, due to the lack of marsh, lake or river shoreline, and sand/mud flat habitat in the project area. It has been determined that the project will have "no effect" on running buffalo clover, due to a lack of known occurrences near the project area.

Landscaping with non-native plants species will not be funded with federal funds on this project. Planting invasive species is prohibited.

JF:KR:sw

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Cultural Resources Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist

c: Program Management
District 6
FHWA

Little Rock

ARDOT
Central Office
Complex

EXIT
130

30

338

Frontage Rd

Baseline Rd

EXIT
130

30

Davmar Dr

Richsmith Ln

Sibley Hole Rd

Herrick Ln

Winston Dr

Carroll Dr

Langston Ct

Mabelvale Plaza Blvd

Mabelvale Plaza Ln

Mabelvale Dr

Mabelvale Cir

Mabelvale Pike

Warehouse Rd

Yorkton Dr

Tedburn Cir

Merrivale Dr



0 250 500
US Feet

ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Strawn
July 6, 2021

Job 061736
Central Office Walking
Trail Impvts. (RTP)
Pulaski County

Project Location
Overlay
New Sidewalk



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 3, 2021

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Shelby Linck, Cultural Resources *SL*

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job Number 061736
Central Office Walking Trail Impvts. (RTP) (S)
Pulaski County

The project proposes for the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) to utilize federal funds to repair, replace, or enhance the walking trails on the Central Office Headquarters campus that includes a 6,000 L.F. trail in Pulaski County. The existing trail is located within a vegetative area and is paved with asphalt.

A records check at the Arkansas Archeological Survey shows no sites in or near the proposed project. No historic structures were shown on the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's structure database that are eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places in or near the project. Multiple cultural features are seen on the 1857 GLO in Township 1 North, Range 13 West, Sections 34 and 35 including two fields (one labeled "G. McPhe?ison" and one labeled "Sam White"), one house, one rectangular featured labeled "?ob", and an unnamed road that winds throughout the features. The 1891 Alexander, AR Intermediate-minute map shows a road in the vicinity of the project area. The 1936 Pulaski County Highway Map revealed development within the area including roads and structures alongside the road. The 1941 Alexander, AR 15-minute map shows Mabelvale Pike that may be similar alignment to the road on the 1891 map as well as Baseline, and four structures north of Baseline, an unimproved road through the present location of the ARDOT campus.

The known construction practices, contours, existing site conditions, and aerial imagery 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 ARDOT's campus, and the current scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, this project is exempt from additional Section 106 review under Appendix C, Activity 26, of the 2021 Programmatic Agreement.

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

ARDOT Job 061736 FAP RTP-1302(344)

Job Title Central Office Walking Trail Impvts. (RTP) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			Cultural Resources Clearance attached
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" determinations
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			None in the project area
Forest Service Property	X			None in the project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			None in the project area
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			None in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None in project area
Relocates	X			No relocations
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			None in project area
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

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

Remarks:
Ensure no damage to root systems of large trees

Signature of Evaluator Kathryn Rose Date 7/7/2021