



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 19, 2021

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 080580
FAP NHPP-40-2(82)
Hwy. 331 – Atkins (S)
Route I-40, Section 22
Pope County
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject jobs are a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. Public hearings will not be offered for these projects.

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate 10.1 miles of Interstate 40 from Highway 331 to the city of Atkins. Road work will include a 4" mill and overlay of the roadway including the shoulders and ramps. Bridge work will include polymer overlay of three bridges and hydro-demolition of two bridges. In addition, work will include special clearing of the trees and vegetation within the right of way. All work will take place within existing right of way. 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. The projects have been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and have not been linked with any special mobile source air toxic concerns.

The official species list was obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website and lists the following

species as possibly occurring within the project area: gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*).

It has been determined that the project will have “no effect” on the Missouri bladderpod, Eastern Black Rail, Piping Plover, and Red Knot due to lack of habitat and distance to known populations. Utilizing the Arkansas Determination Key, it has been determined that the project “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” the gray bat.

Utilizing the FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects within the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat (PBO) determination key, it has been determined that the project will have a “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” on the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. The USFWS concurred with these determinations on July 1, 2021.

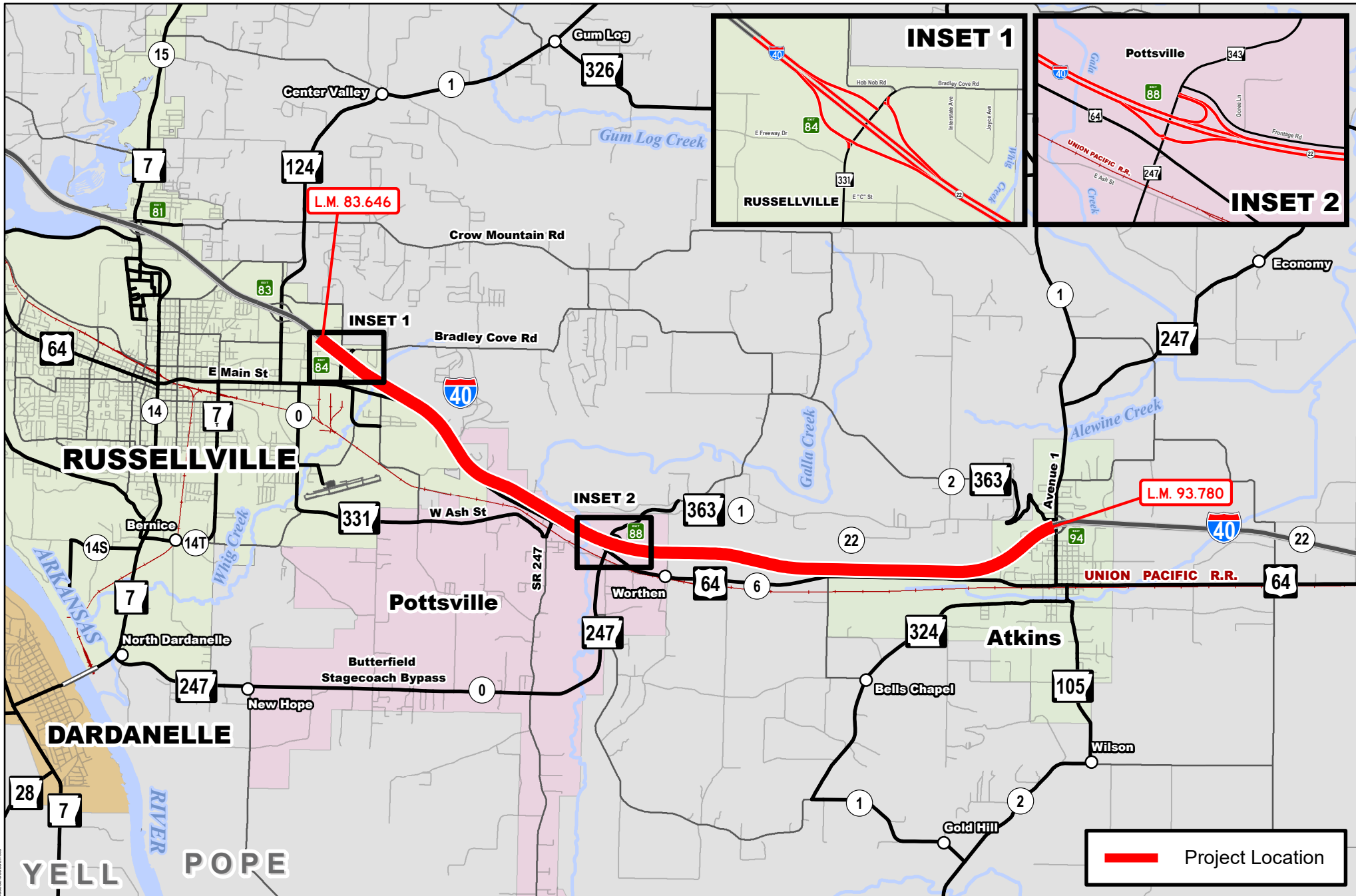
The project will not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

JF:JG:sw

Attachments:

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

- c: Program Management
 - Right of Way
 - Roadway Design
 - District 8
 - FHWA



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PM: PS: cide014: 10/28/2020



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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 3, 2021

TO: Job File

FROM: Jason Kennedy, Cultural Resources Section


SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 080580
Hwy. 331 - Atkins (S)
Route I-40, Section 22
Pope County

This job proposes 10.134 miles of 4" mill and overlay including shoulders and ramps on Interstate 40. The project extends from Log Mile 83.646 on the east side of Russellville to Log Mile 93.780 at the Highway 105 intersection in Atkins in Pope County.

This project is subject to the 2021 Programmatic Agreement and falls under Activity C in Appendix B. The project is exempted from further work or Section 106 review.

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

ARDOT Job 080580 FAP NHPP-40-2(82)

Job Title Hwy. 331 – Atkins (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			CR clearance memo attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species		X		A “no effect” and “NLAA” determination was made
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minor impacts during special clearing
Floodplains	X			None impacted by project
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in project area
Land Use	X			Will not be impacted by project
Migratory Birds		X		Minor impacts during special clearing
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland	X			None impacted by project
Protected Waters	X			None in the project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocates	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			4f/6f resources not 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			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 8/17/2021