

TIER 3 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

**ARDOT JOB 090433
FAP NUMBER STPU-9259(6)
HWY. 264/BELLVIEW ST./SPRING CREEK RD.
INTERS. IMPVTS. (LOWELL) (S)
ROUTE 264, SECTION 2
BENTON COUNTY**

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

By the

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

And the

Arkansas Department of Transportation

September 2023

September 7, 2023
Date of Approval

Randal Looney
Randal Looney
Environmental Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration

The Environmental Division reviewed the referenced project and has determined it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ARDOT/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions. The following information is included for your review and, if acceptable, approval as the environmental documentation for this project.

The purpose of this project is to add a roundabout at the intersection of State Highway 264/Bellview St./Spring Creek Rd. within the City of Lowell, in Benton County, Arkansas. Total length of the project is 0.33 mile. A project location map is attached.

The existing roadway consists of two 11' wide paved travel lanes with 2' wide shoulders. Existing right of way width is 60'.

Proposed improvements include two 12' wide paved travel lanes and with curb and gutter. The proposed average right of way width would be 90'. Approximately 5.1 acres of additional right of way would be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2024	14,000	4	20 mph
2044	21,000		

There are no relocations, environmental justice issues, wetlands, Prime Farmland, or cultural resources associated with this project. A Section 404 permit would not be required for the construction of this project. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. The State Historic Preservation Officer's clearance is attached.

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: Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Ozark Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* spp. *jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Ozark Cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*), Neosho Mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*). See the attached species list.

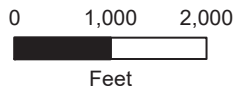
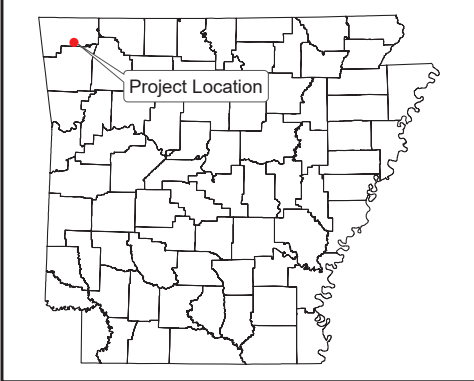
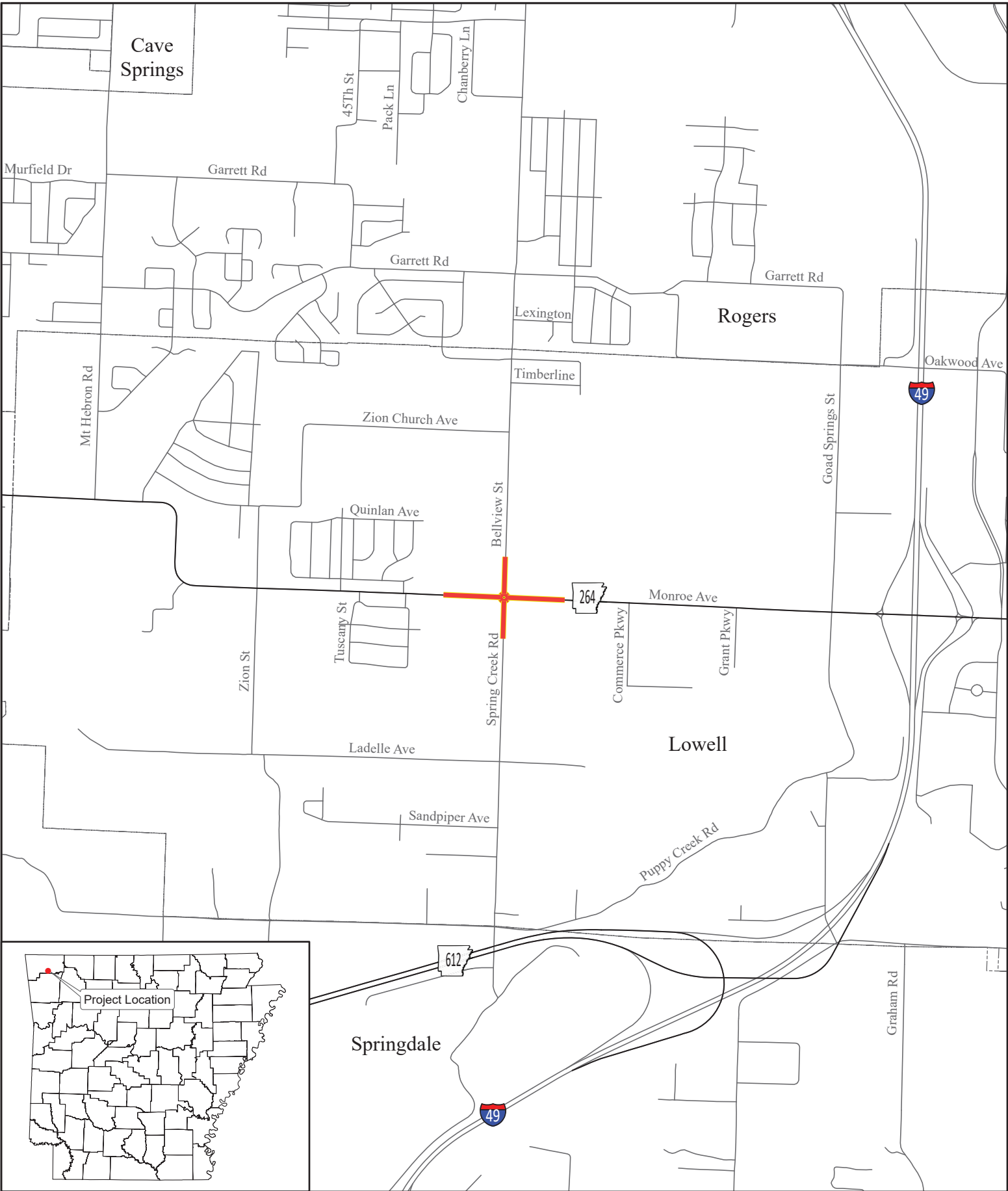
Utilizing the Arkansas Determination Key, it has been determined that this project would have “no effect” on the listed birds and “may affect but is not likely to adversely affect” the Gray and Ozark Big-eared Bats, Missouri bladderpod, Neosho Mucket, and Ozark Cavefish. Utilizing the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects in the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat (PBO), it has been determined that this project would have “no effect” on the Northern Long-eared Bat. The project is within the sensitive Cave Springs Recharge Area, which is not considered in the PBO determination key. An increase in impermeable surface could lead to increased runoff and sedimentation into groundwater. This would be mitigated by the installation of detention ponds and leads us to a determination of “may affect but is not likely to adversely affect” for the Indiana Bat. The USFWS concurred with these determinations on April 19, 2023; see attached letter.

The Tricolored Bat and Alligator Snapping Turtle are proposed for listing as endangered and threatened species, respectively. This project would not jeopardize the continued existence of the Tricolored Bat or the Alligator snapping Turtle. 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.

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 (MSAT) concerns. As such, this project would not result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, basic project location, or any other factor that would cause a meaningful increase in MSAT impacts of the project from that of the no-build alternative.

Noise predictions have been made for this project utilizing the Federal Highway Administration’s TNM (Traffic Noise Model) 2.5 procedures. These predictions indicate that there would be no unacceptable increase in noise levels extending beyond the project right of way limits and that no noise sensitive receptors are affected. In compliance with federal guidelines, local authorities would not require notification.

A public involvement meeting for this project was held on February 16, 2023 in Rogers, Arkansas. The public involvement synopsis is enclosed.



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Hopkins
August 9, 2022

Job 090433
Hwy. 264/Bellview St./Spring Creek Rd.
Inters. Impvts. (Lowell)
Benton County





Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor
Shea Lewis
Interim Secretary

September 06, 2023

Mr. John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division
Arkansas Department of Transportation
10324 Interstate 30
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

RE: Benton County: Lowell
Section 106 Review: FHWA
Proposed Undertaking: Hwy. 264/Bellview St./Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts.
Route 264, Section 2
ArDOT Job Number: 090433
AHPP Tracking Number: 100766.02


Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has reviewed the Project Identification Form (PIF) for the above-referenced undertaking in Sections 3, 4, 9, and 19, Township 18 North, Range 30 West in Benton County. This is the second addendum to the project, which involves improvements at the Hwy. 264, Bellview St., and Spring Creek Rd. intersection (AHPP Tracking Number 100776 and 100776.01). This new addendum includes the addition of five detention ponds, which will consist of 4.7 acres of proposed right-of-way (ROW) and 0.01 acres of Temporary Construction Easements (TCS). An additional 0.3 acres of proposed ROW was added to the survey area. A total of eight shovel tests were excavated in the additional survey area, all of which were negative for cultural materials. A pedestrian survey was also conducted and did not reveal any new archeological sites.

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 and that no further work is needed. In the event of a post-review discovery of historic properties within the area of potential effects, please contact the AHPP and other consulting parties in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b)(3).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this PIF. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, please call Jessica Cogburn of my staff at 501-324-9357 or email jessica.cogburn@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,
Jessica H.
Cogburn

 Digitally signed by Jessica H.
Cogburn
Date: 2023.09.06 09:38:26
-05'00'

for
Scott Kaufman
State Historic Preservation Officer and Director, AHPP

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arkansas Ecological Service Field Office
110 South Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, Arkansas 72032



April 19, 2023

Mr. John Fleming
c/o Joe Ledvina
Arkansas Department of Transportation
10324 Interstate 30
Little Rock, Arkansas 72209

Consultation Code: 2023-0067724

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your request, assessment, and determinations for Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Job 090433 Hwy. 264/Bellville St./Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (S), Benton County, Arkansas. We received your request on April 18, 2023.

ARDOT made the following assessment and determination:

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is proposing to improve the intersection of Highway 264 and Spring Creek Road, on the west side of Lowell in Benton County, Arkansas. The improvements will include widening the approaches and installing a roundabout. A curb and gutter system will be installed to minimize the widening so as to avoid impacts to existing underground utilities. Following the city of Lowell's guidelines, detention ponds will be installed to manage runoff from the curb and gutter system. No trees will be removed for this project. This is a re-initiation of Consultation 04ER1000-2019-R-0760 due to changes in the list of species likely to occur in the project area.

A species list for this project was generated using the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) system. The following federally listed species are included: Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Ozark Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*), Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis spp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Ozark Cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*), Neosho Mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plesippus*), and Missouri Bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*).

The Arkansas Determination key provided "no effect" determinations for the listed birds and "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determinations for Gray, Ozark Big-eared, and Northern Long-eared Bats, the Missouri Bladderpod, Neosho Mucket, and Ozark Cavefish.

The FHWA PBO key provided a "no effect" determination for the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat. All offsite locations will require coordination with USFWS. See the attached NE consistency letter. The project is within the sensitive Cave Springs Recharge Area, which is not considered in the FHWA PBO determination key. An increase in impermeable surface could lead to increased runoff and sedimentation into groundwater. This will be ameliorated by the installation of detention ponds. This leads us to a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" for the Indiana Bat.

This project is not expected to jeopardize the continued existence of the Alligator Snapping Turtle or the Tricolored Bat.

We seek your concurrence with these determinations.

As stated in the Consistency Letter, "The Service concurs with the "no effect" and "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination(s) for the listed species identified. No further consultation for this project is required for these species. The verification letter confirms you may rely on effect determinations provided in the Arkansas Determination Key for project review and guidance for federally listed species to satisfy agency consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.; ESA)."

"The Service has received your concurrence verification letter and request to verify that the Proposed Action may rely on the concurrence provided in the revised February 5, 2018, FHWA, FRA, FTA Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects within the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat (PBO) to satisfy requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.). Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). If the Proposed Action is not modified, no consultation is required for these two species. If the Proposed Action is modified, or new information reveals that it may affect the Indiana Bat and/or Northern Long-eared Bat in a manner or to an extent not considered in the PBO, further review to conclude the requirements of ESA Section 7(a)(2) may be required."

Furthermore, due to the location of the area being affected occurring adjacent to urban/agricultural sites, little to no suitable habitat within the footprint of the action, ongoing constant noise and disturbance, the distance to known species locations, and the implementation of best management practices, the Service concurs with your determination of "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" for Indiana Bat.

Please keep in mind that you must report any departures from the plans submitted; results of any surveys conducted; or any dead, injured, or sick listed bats that are found to this office. If this project is not completed within one year of this letter, you must update your determination and resubmit the required information.

The Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species, and as such, is not federally protected under the ESA. However, the Service 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 Service concurs with your non-jeopardy determination.

ARDOT has determined that this action will not jeopardize the continued existence of Alligator Snapping Turtle and Tricolored Bat. The Service concurs with your non-jeopardy determinations.

The Service has no additional comments or concerns regarding the consultation and agrees and concurs with the determinations, justifications provided, and concurrences made through the Arkansas Determination Key, Indiana and Northern Long-eared Bat PBO, and the supplemental determination of NLAA for actions affecting Indiana Bat within the Cave Springs Cave Recharge Area.

For further assistance or if you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Lewis at (501) 513-4489 or lindsey_lewis@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melvin L. Tobin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melvin L. Tobin
Field Supervisor

cc: Project File
Read File

Filename: <https://doimsp->

[my.sharepoint.com/personal/lindsey_lewis_fws_gov/Documents/Documents/PROJECTS/FY2023/ARDOT/ARDOT Job 090433 - HWY 264-Spring Creek Rd/20230419_Ltr_Concurrence_ARDOT Job 090433_LCL.pdf.docx](https://doimsp-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lindsey_lewis_fws_gov/Documents/Documents/PROJECTS/FY2023/ARDOT/ARDOT%20Job%20090433%20-%20HWY%20264-Spring%20Creek%20Rd/20230419_Ltr_Concurrence_ARDOT%20Job%20090433_LCL.pdf.docx)



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
110 South Amity Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032-8975
Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480

In Reply Refer To:

April 12, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0067724

Project Name: 090433 Hwy. 264/Bellville St./Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (S)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 South Amity Suite 300

Conway, AR 72032-8975

(501) 513-4470

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0067724
Project Name: 090433 Hwy. 264/Bellville St./Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (S)
Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: Interchange improvements including a roundabout
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@36.254595288126765,-94.17291627899635,14z>



Counties: Benton County, Arkansas

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 13 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329	Endangered
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Endangered
Ozark Big-eared Bat <i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7245	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477	Threatened
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Alligator Snapping Turtle <i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4658	Proposed Threatened

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Ozark Cavefish <i>Amblyopsis rosae</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6490	Threatened

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
Neosho Mucket <i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3788	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Missouri Bladderpod <i>Physaria filiformis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5361	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: Joseph Ledvina

Address: 10324 I-30

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72209

Email: joseph.ledvina@ardot.gov

Phone: 5015692025

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Federal Highway Administration

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

Job Number 090433

Hwy. 264/Bellview St./Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Lowell) (Hwy. 264)

Benton County

February 16, 2023

An “In-person” Public Involvement (PI) Meeting for the proposed project to improve the intersection of Highway 263, Bellview Street, and Spring Creek Road in the City of Lowell was held on Thursday, February 26, 2023 at First Baptist Rogers. Information about the project was available on the ARDOT website from February 16 through March 3, 2023. Efforts to involve the public, including minority groups, in the meeting included:

- Display advertisement placed in the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette* on February 8, 2023 and February 12, 2023.
- Public Service Advertisement was placed in the LA ZETA 95.7 FM to run February 13 through February 16, 2023.
- Letters were mailed to Public Officials on February 8, 2023.
- Letters were mailed to Minority Leaders on February 8, 2023.
- Flyers mailed to citizens.

The following information and links were available on the website:

- Public meeting notice
- Introductory video presentation
- Project location map
- Design plans
- Online comment form
- Interactive project map
- Frequently asked questions with answers

Copies of the public meeting notice, blank comment form, and public meeting exhibit are attached.

Table 1 summarizes PI meeting participation.

TABLE 1	
Public Participation	Totals
Attendance at meeting (including ARDOT staff)	72
Number of website viewers (English/Spanish)	469/22
Total comments forms received	44

ARDOT staff reviewed all comments received and evaluated their contents. The summary of comments listed below reflects the personal perception or opinion of the

person or organization making the statement. The sequencing of the comments is random and is not intended to reflect importance or numerical values. Some of the comments were combined and/or paraphrased to simplify the synopsis process.

An analysis of the responses received as a result of the public survey is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2	
Survey Results	Totals
Feel proposed project is needed / not needed	40 / 4
Feel proposed project will have beneficial impacts	23
Feel proposed project will have adverse impacts	16
Had suggestions to better serve the needs of the community	34
Property limitations requiring design considerations	0
Identified cultural and/or environmental constraints	4

Of the 44 responses, the following concerns were noted:

- The intersection being particularly dangerous already was mentioned eight times, while an additional four commenters thought it would be made more dangerous by the addition of a roundabout.
- Seven commenters thought that the roundabout could not handle the already heavy flow of traffic with specific mentions of the roundabout creating further delays.
- There were seven mentions of the planned growth in the immediate vicinity and if the roundabout could handle the increase in traffic.
- Rush hour (both morning and evening) traffic was noted by five commenters stating that congestion was already bad for those times, fearing a roundabout would cause further issues.
- Property impact concerns were mentioned twice.
- Flooding concerns, the major gas line nearby, and cave fish were each mentioned once.

Additional subjects and suggestions were noted as follows:

- Seventeen commenters acknowledged that the intersection needs some sort of improvement.
- A stoplight, as opposed to a roundabout, was requested by twenty-two commenters.
- Three were specifically in support of the proposed roundabout.

- The addition of lanes, either travel or dedicated turning lanes, as well as general widening was suggested sixteen times.
- There were several suggestions that included lowering speed, creating an overpass, or adding sidewalks to the plans.
- One commenter thought the roundabout would make the intersection safer for travelers.

General comments on the proposed project follow:

- A roundabout is not the answer. This intersection is dangerous and people drive too fast. A stoplight and widening the road would be better.
- There are high pressure natural gas facilities on the southeast corner of that intersection.
- Thank you for getting feedback from the citizens on this! Again, that intersection is long overdue for a traffic control mechanism, but a roundabout there seems practically insane unless the speed limit is significantly reduced on [Hwy] 264. That spot needs traffic lights, period.
- We need this, the current intersection is very dangerous! Perhaps consider adding a second lane each way.
- A roundabout is asking for accidents to happen.
- My only concern is the volume of traffic for a roundabout that does not have traffic signals.
- People hate these things.
- Put in TURN LANES and TRAFFIC LIGHT.
- Grateful this hazardous intersection [is] being addressed and improvements can't come too soon!
- I've seen temporary lights in some locations and really think it is needed here until something permanent (lights or roundabout) can be completed.
- There is a need for improvement, but not sure this is the fix. Stoplight is probably cheaper and better fix, but intersection needs lanes for turning.
- I like the roundabout, but question the impact of vehicles approaching that intersection at 55 mph.
- Stoplight only.

Attachments:

PI meeting notice

Blank comment form

PI Exhibit

DN:DH:fc



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING NOTICE

Hwy. 264/Bellview St. /Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Lowell) (Hwy. 264)
(Benton County) Job 090433

You're Invited!

Visit anytime during the scheduled hours.

What: The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) will conduct a Public Involvement meeting to discuss the proposed improvements at the intersection of Hwy. 264, Bellview Street and Spring Creek Road in Lowell, AR (Benton County).

When: Thursday, February 16, 2023
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Where: First Baptist Rogers
(Multipurpose Room)
3364 West Pleasant Grove Road
Rogers, AR 72758

Link to Project Information:
www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings

Comment form availability begins **February 16, 2023**
and ends at 4:30p.m. on **March 3, 2023.**

For further assistance, contact Karla Sims:
Phone: (501) 569-2000 or e-mail: karla.sims@ardot.gov

Special Accommodations:

Anyone needing project information or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is encouraged to write to Ruby Jordan-Johnson, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261, call (501)569-2379, fax (501)569-2009 or email environmentalmeetings@ardot.gov. Hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Arkansas Relay System at (Voice/TTY 711). Requests should be made at least four days prior to the public meeting.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Therefore, the Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion (not applicable as a protected group under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Title VI Program), disability, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), or low-income status in the admission, access to and treatment in the Department's programs and activities, as well as the Department's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the Department's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Joanna P. McFadden EEO/DBE Officer (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), P. O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 569-2298, (Voice/TTY 711), or the following email address: joanna.mcfadden@ardot.gov

Free language assistance for Limited English Proficient individuals is available upon request.. This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audio tape and in Braille.

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)
CITIZEN COMMENT FORM**

**ARDOT JOB NUMBER 090433
Hwy. 264/Bellview St. /Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Lowell) (Hwy.264)
BENTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
FIRST BAPTIST ROGERS
(MULTIPURPOSE ROOM)
3364 WEST PLEASANT GROVE ROAD
ROGERS, AR 72758
4:00PM – 7:00PM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023**

Make your comments on this form and mail it by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, March 3, 2023**, to: Arkansas Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR, 72203-2261. Email: environmentalmeetings@ardot.gov.

Yes No

Do you feel there is a need for the proposed improvements at the intersection of Hwy. 264, Bellview Street and Spring Creek Road in Lowell, Benton County? Comment (optional)

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts (Beneficial or Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc.)? Please explain. _____

Do you have a suggestion that would make this proposed project better serve the needs of the community? _____

Does your home or property offer any limitations to the project, such as septic systems, that the Department needs to consider in its design?

(Continue on Back)

Yes No

 Do you know of any historical sites, family cemeteries, or archaeological sites in the project area? Please note and discuss with staff. _____

 Do you know of any environmental constraints, such as endangered species, hazardous waste sites, existing or former landfills, or parks and public lands near the project? Please note and discuss with ARDOT staff. _____

It is often necessary for the ARDOT to contact property owners along potential routes. If you are a property owner along or adjacent to the route under consideration, please provide information below. Thank you.

Name: _____ (Please Print)

Address: _____ Phone: (_____) _____--_____

E-mail: _____

Please make additional comments here. _____

For additional information, please visit our website at [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.](#)



Job 090433
Hwy. 264/Bellview St./Spring Creek Rd.
Inters. Impvts. (Lowell) (Hwy. 264)
Benton County



Preliminary Subject to Revision



Project Location

0 750 1,500 Feet

AR DOT - Environmental GIS - Strawn
Map Date: January 10, 2023
Virtual Public Involvement Exhibit

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

ARDOT Job 090433 FAP STPU-9259(6)

Job Title Hwy. 264/Bellview St./Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Lowell) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			No impacts anticipated
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species		X		No effect; NLAA determinations
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minor impacts during construction
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			None in project area
Land Use		X		Approx 5.1 acres additional ROW
Migratory Birds	X			No migratory birds in project area
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No impacts anticipated
Prime Farmland	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			None occur in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			Wellhead Protection SP included
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No properties in project area
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			None in project area
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in 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 None

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator *Daniel E. Henry* Date 05/15/2023

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 090433 FAP No. _____ County Benton

Job Name Hwy. 264/Bellview St./Spring Creek Rd. Inters. Impvts. (Lowell) (S)

Design Engineer Crafton Tull Environmental Staff ARDOT

Detailed Project Description Construction of Roundabout at intersection of Hwy. 264/Bellview St./
Spring Creek Rd.

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: 26' Shoulder Type/Width: 2' Unpaved

Number of Lanes and Width: 2-11' Existing Right-of-Way: 60'

Sidewalks? No Location: _____ Width: _____

Bike Lanes? No Location: _____ Width: _____

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 24' Shoulder Type/Width: C.C.C.&G.

Number of Lanes and Width: 2-12' Proposed Right-of-Way: 90'

Sidewalks? No Location: _____ Width: _____

Bike Lanes? No Location: _____ Width: _____

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: _____ Length: _____

D. Design Traffic Data:

2024 ADT: 14,000 2044 ADT: 21,000 % Trucks: 4

Design Speed: 20 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.331 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Accidents/ request by City of Lowell

G. Total Relocatees: 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