

TIER 3 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

**ARDOT JOB 101035
FAP NHPP-9227(86)
HWY. 91 – HWY. 49 (JONESBORO) (S)
ROUTE 63, SECTION 6
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY**

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

By the

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

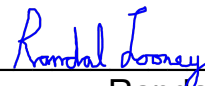
And the

Arkansas Department of Transportation

May 2021

May 10, 2021

Date of Approval



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 Programmatic 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 the project is to rehabilitate seven bridges (five bridges by hydrodemolition and two bridges with a polymer overlay) in conjunction with a full depth asphalt replacement on Highway 63 from Highway 91 to Highway 49 within the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. The project length is 4.7 miles. A project location map is attached.

The existing roadway consists of four 12' wide paved travel lanes with 10' wide concrete shoulders. Existing right of way width is 335'. Roadway dimensions will not change and no additional right of way will be required for reconstruction of the highway.

Design data for this project is as follows:

| Design Year | Average Daily Traffic | Percent Trucks | Design Speed |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2021 | 24,000 | 11 | 55 mph |
| 2041 | 30,000 | 11 | 55 mph |

The project will not involve relocations, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. Cultural Resources Clearance is attached.

The official species list obtained through US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website identifies the following federally-listed threatened species as having the potential to occur in the project area: the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), fat pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*); and the threatened Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis* ssp. *jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). The USFWS species list is attached.

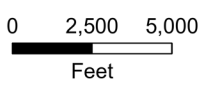
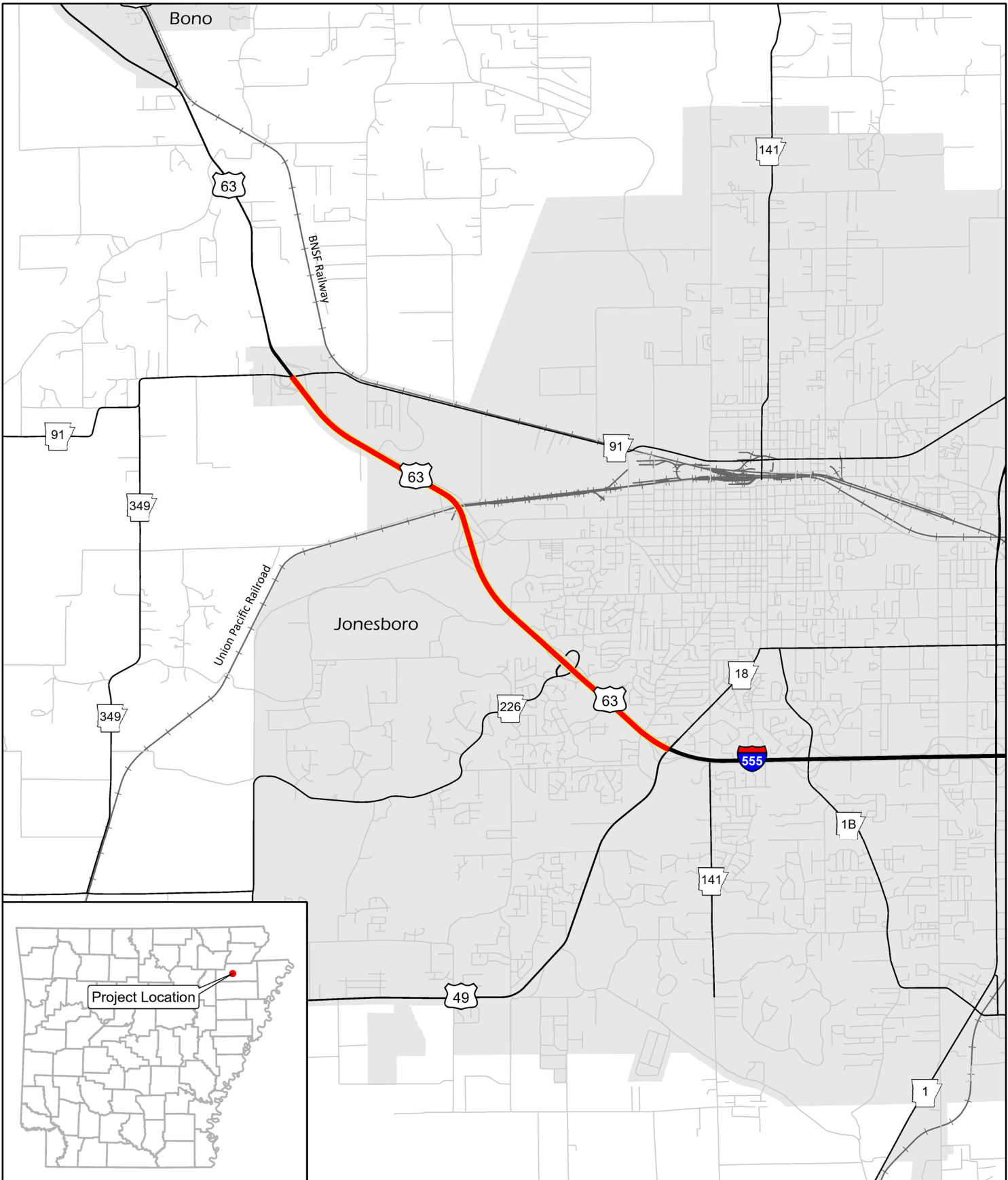
Due to the limited impact of the project activities outside of the existing roadway, the lack of suitable habitat in the project area, and the distance to known populations, it has been determined that the project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the fat pocketbook and pondberry and will have "no effect" on the listed bird species. A bridge assessment found no evidence of bats using the five

bridges that will receive hydrodemolition treatment. Under the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects in the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat, it has been determined that the proposed project will have “no effect” on the Indiana bat. The USFWS concurred on April 22, 2021.

Based on the ARDOT noise policy, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The project does not involve adding capacity or exposing noise sensitive land uses to traffic noise sources. In compliance with federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

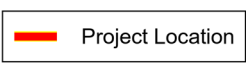
This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxic (MSAT) concerns. As such, this project will not result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, basic project location, or any other factor that would cause a meaningful increase in MSAT impacts of the project from that of the no-build alternative.

No other adverse environmental impacts were identified. The checklist used to verify consideration of potential environmental impacts is attached.



ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Dudley
April 27, 2021

Job 101035
Hwy. 91 - Hwy. 49
(Jonesboro) (Hwy. 63)
Craighead County






INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 8, 2021

TO: Job File

FROM: Richard Jenkins, Cultural Resources Section 

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 101035
Hwy. 91 – Hwy. 49 (Jonesboro) (S)
Route 63, Section 6
Craighead County

The project proposes to replace roadway material (including lanes and shoulders), hydrodemolition of five bridges, and polymer overlay of two bridges on 4.68 miles on Highway 63 in Craighead County. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired. All work will occur within the existing roadway.

A records check of the Arkansas Archeological Survey's database showed five archeological sites (3CG0155, 3CG0246, 3CG0258, 3CG1261, and 3CG1071) within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. Three of these are pre-historic sites surveyed in the 1960s and were destroyed by the construction of Hwy. 63. Two of the sites (3CG1261 and 3CG1071) are cemeteries located near the project area. Based on records check of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's database for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, no previously recorded historic structures are located within or adjacent to the proposed project area.

Nineteenth through twentieth century maps were examined. The 1828 General Land Office plat map of Township 14 North, Range 3 East show no cultural development in the project area. The 1936 Craighead County map shows development including scatterings of small communities and structures that would have been near or intersected the project area. None of these structures, if still extant, will be affected by the rehabilitation along the course

of Hwy. 63. Bridges A5204, A5205, A5206, 06581, and 07028 are not 50 years of age and are therefore not considered historic. B5204, B5205, and B5206 are 50 years of age; however, they were not evaluated for eligibility to the NRHP due to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's *Program Comment on Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges* (77 FR 68790).

The existing topography, aerial imagery, previous infrastructure and construction practices 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 the existing ROW, and the scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas. Therefore, this project is exempt from additional Section 106 review under Appendix C, Activity 2 and Activities 15 and 17, of the 2021 Programmatic Agreement.

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

ARDOT Job 101035 FAP NHPP-9227(86)

Job Title Hwy. 91 – Hwy. 49 (Jonesboro)(S)

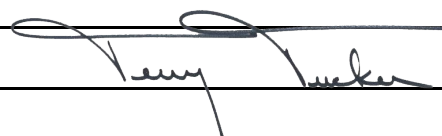
| Environmental Resource | None | Minimal | Major | Comments-required for each item |
|--------------------------------|------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Air Quality | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Cultural Resources | X | | | Cultural Resources clearance attached |
| Economic | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Endangered Species | | X | | "No effect," "NLAA" determinations |
| Environmental Justice/Title VI | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Fish and Wildlife | | X | | Minimal during construction |
| Floodplains | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Forest Service Property | X | | | None in the project area |
| Hazardous Materials/Landfills | X | | | Hydrodemolition SP required |
| Land Use | X | | | No additional ROW needed |
| Migratory Birds | X | | | Migratory Bird SP included |
| Navigation/Coast Guard | X | | | None in project area |
| Noise Levels | X | | | No impacts anticipated |
| Prime Farmland | X | | | No farmland impacted |
| Protected Waters | X | | | WPC SP included; Big Creek |
| Public Recreation Lands | X | | | None in the project area |
| Public Water Supply/WHPA | X | | | WHP SP included |
| Relocatees | X | | | No relocations |
| Section 4(f)/6(f) | X | | | No 4(f)/6(f) resources impacted |
| Social | X | | | No social impacts |
| Underground Storage Tanks | X | | | No UST's in the project area |
| Visual | X | | | No visual impacts |
| Streams | | X | | Minimal during construction |
| Water Quality | | X | | Temporary decline during construction |
| Wetlands | X | | | None in project area |
| Wildlife Refuges | X | | | None in project area |

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? N

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? Y

Section 404 Permit Required? N Type N/A

Remarks: Less than 1 mile to Big Creek impaired for silt turbidity.

Signature of Evaluator  Date April 27, 2021

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job 101035 FAP NHPP-9227(86) County Craighead

Job Name Hwy. 91 – Hwy. 49 (Jonesboro)(S)

Design Engineer Matthew Rowe Environmental Staff Internal ARDOT

Detailed Project Description Roadway material will be replaced with new typical section of asphalt surface course. Maintenance of traffic plan includes plan to move traffic to allow for construction of opposite direction of travel via median and ramp crossovers.

A. Existing Conditions: 10'+6'+10'

Roadway Width: 38'+44' = 82' Shoulder Type/Width: 10' = 36' Concrete

Number of Lanes and Width: 12'x4 Lanes Existing Right-of-Way: Average 335'

Sidewalks? No Location: --- Width: ----

Bike Lanes? No Location: --- Width: ----

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 82' Shoulder Type/Width: 10/6/10/10. Asphalt

Number of Lanes and Width: 12'x4 Proposed Right-of-Way: Average 335'

Sidewalks? No Location: ---- Width: ----

Bike Lanes? No Location: ---- Width: ----

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: No. (Crossovers) Length: ----

D. Design Traffic Data:

2021 ADT: 24,000 2041 ADT: 30,000 % Trucks: 11
Design Speed: 55 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 4.676 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: ArDOT review of pavement condition

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 |
|-----------------|------------------|------|
| | | |