




## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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May 27, 2021

**TO:** Master Files

**FROM:** John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

**SUBJECT:** Job 110717  
FAP NHPP-0068 (47)  
N.E. St. Francis Co. Strs. & Apprs. (S)  
Route 50, Section 1  
Route 75, Section 0  
Route 357, Section 1  
St. Francis 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 one bridge on Highway 75 over an unnamed tributary (Site 1), one bridge on Highway 50 over Blackfish Bayou (Site 2), and one bridge on Highway 357 over Ditch Number 20 (Site 3). Total length of the project less than 1.0 mile and is located in St. Francis County. A project location map is attached.

The existing roadway consists of two 10-foot wide paved travel lanes with 4-foot wide grass shoulders. Existing right of way width for Site 1 and 3 is 80'. Site 2 has no existing right of way.

Proposed improvements include two 11-foot wide paved travel lanes with 4-foot (2-foot Paved) wide shoulders. Bridge 3912 will be replaced by an R.C. Box Culvert, and Bridges M3331 and 03832 will be replaced by a new bridge structure.

The new proposed right of way width will be up to 130'. Up to 36.7 acres of additional right of way may be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2023	150	20	55 mph
2043	180	20	55 mph

The project will not involve relocations, endangered species, prime farmlands, wellhead protection areas/public water supplies, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any 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 Information for Planning and Consultation website identified the Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) as protected species potentially occurring in the proposed project area. Based on the lack of habitat, scope of the project, and distance to known species occurrences, it has been determined that the proposed project will have "no effect" on all listed species.

St. Francis 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.

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

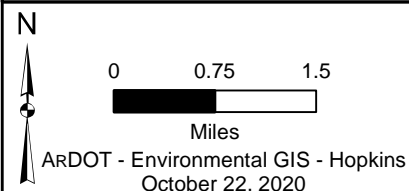
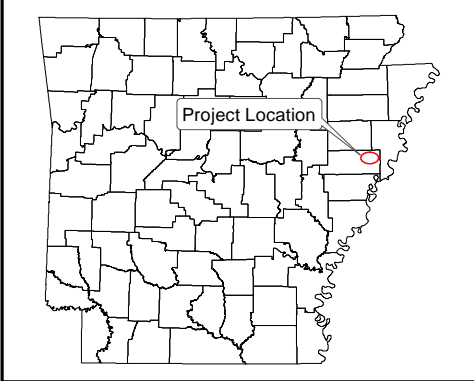
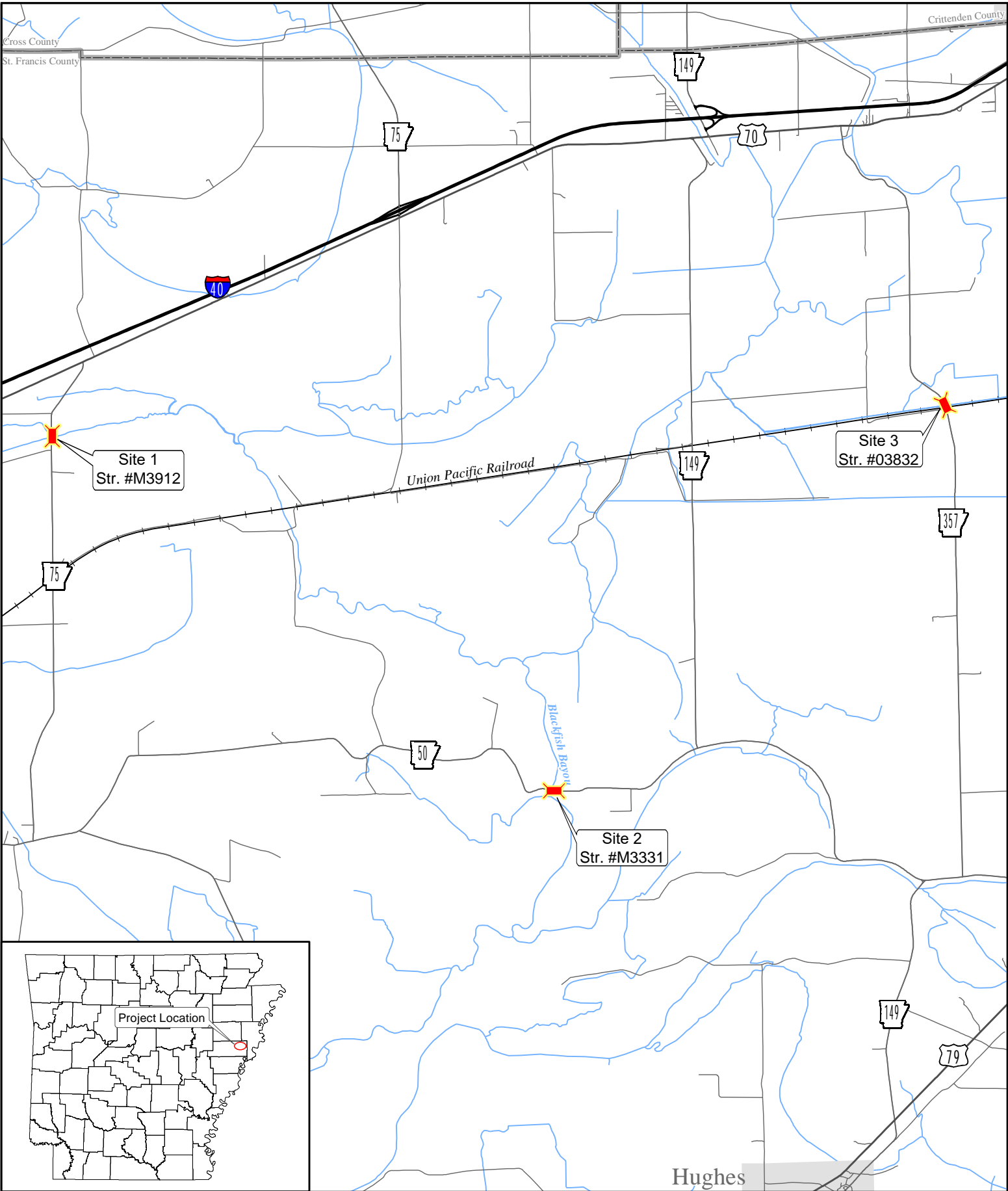
Stream impacts are estimated to be less than 0.1 acre per crossing. Construction should be covered under the terms of a Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Projects as defined in the Federal Register 82 (4): 1860 – 2008. A preconstruction notification will not be required.

JF:JG:sw


Attachments:

- Project Location Map
- SHPO Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist
- Design Criteria

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 1  
FHWA



Job 110717  
 N.E. St. Francis Co. Strs. & Apprs.  
 (Hwys. 50, 75, & 357)  
 St. Francis County

 Project Location



**Asa Hutchinson**  
Governor  
**Stacy Hurst**  
Secretary

January 29, 2021

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

Re: St. Francis County – General  
Section 106 Review – FHWA  
N.E. St. Francis Co.  
Strs. & Apprs. (S)  
Route 50, Section 1  
Route 75, Section 0  
Route 357, Section 1  
ARDOT Job Number 110717  
AHPP Tracking Number 103907.01

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Project Identification Form for the above-referenced undertaking in St. Francis County, Arkansas. As described, the undertaking entails the replacement of Bridges M3331, M3912, and 03832. In correspondence dated May 31, 2019, the AHPP concurred that Bridges M3331, M3912, and 03832 are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The total survey area for the investigation is 47.8 acres.

The report describes an unmapped cemetery west for the former Shiloh Church and near the west end of the environmental clearance limit (ECL) for Bridge M3331 in Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 5 East. The polygon in Figure 7 that demarcates the boundary of the cemetery appears to be closer to 30 feet to the ECL rather than the 30 meters described in the report. The AHPP recommends archeological monitoring of any ground disturbing work that may occur proximal to the cemetery at the west end of the ECL south of Highway 50. Based on the known location of the demolished church associated with the cemetery and the location of the ECL, it appears 50 meters may be a sufficient monitoring area on the south side of the highway. If the undertaking will not include ground disturbance in this location, please disregard this recommendation. The AHPP will contact the Arkansas Archeological Survey research station archeologist in Jonesboro to inquire about mapping the cemetery, completion of a site form, and assignment of a site number.

Based on the provided information, and conditional upon monitoring, if necessary, the AHPP concurs with a finding of **no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).**

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

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mills of my staff at (501) 324-9784 or [eric.mills@arkansas.gov](mailto:eric.mills@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Eric Mills for

Scott Kaufman  
Director, AHPP

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

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

ARDOT Job 110717 FAP NHPP-0068 (47)

Job Title N.E. St. Francis Co. Strs. & Apprs. (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" determinations
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			EJ populations impacts not anticipated
Fish and Wildlife		X		Temporary impacts during construction
Floodplains	X			Zone A, no impacts expected
Forest Service Property	X			None in the project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in project area
Land Use		X		Up to 36.7 acres of new ROW
Migratory Birds		X		Migratory Bird SP included
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland	X			No Prime Farmland impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			Blackfish Bayou – TMDL turbidity; WPC SP
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			No impacts to 4f/6f resources
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 14 Permit required; No PCN
Water Quality		X		Temporary decline during construction
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? Yes

Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type NW 14; No PCN

Remarks: Blackfish Bayou has a TMDL for turbidity; however, a 401 IWQ will not be required. A vegetated buffer SP and WPC SP will be required.

Signature of Evaluator  Date 5/20/2021

**PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA**

DATE: April 30, 2021  
REV.: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB NO: 110717 ROUTE / SECTION: 50 / 1<sup>(2)</sup>,  
75 / 0<sup>(1)</sup>, &  
357 / 1<sup>(3)</sup> LENGTH: 0.74 mi. COUNTY: St. Francis

JOB NAME: N.E. St. Francis Co. Strs & Apprs. (S) MIN ORDER: 2018-080

2023 ADT: 150 2043 ADT: 180 TRUCK: 20% 4-LANE GRID SYSTEM: No

APHN: No INCENTIVE/DISINCENTIVE: No FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION: Major Collector

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

ROADWAY WIDTH: 28' WIDTH OF TRAVELED WAY: 20' SHOULDERS (WIDTH/TYPE): 4' Grass

BIKE/PED ACCOMMODATIONS: None CRASH RATE: 0.00<sup>(1),(2),(3)</sup> STATEWIDE CRASH RATE: 1.05<sup>(1),(2),(3)</sup>

**BRIDGE INFORMATION**

Bridge No.	Log Mile	Length x Width	Structure Type	BCI	Deck/Culvert Rating	Superstructure Rating	Substructure Rating	Posted
M3912 <sup>(1)</sup>	4.57	26.5' x 28.2'	Steel Multi-Beam	43.69	6	6	4	1
M3331 <sup>(2)</sup>	13.54	189.8' x 28.7'	Concrete Channel Beam	83.17	5	5	5	5
03832 <sup>(3)</sup>	5.38	112.0' x 26.0'	Concrete Slab	62.93	7	7	7	2

\* Refer to PDC Bridge Information Codes

**RECOMMENDED CRITERIA**

NO. OF LANES: 2 WIDTH: 11' SHOULDERS (WIDTH/TYPE): 4' (2' Paved)

DIVIDED: No MEDIAN WIDTH: N/A PARKING: No

BRIDGE WIDTHS: 30' DESIGN SPEED - RURAL: 55 MPH URBAN: N/A

DEGREE OF ACCESS CONTROL: None CLEAR ZONE: 14' @ 6:1  
18' @ 4:1

LOCATION OF INTERCHANGES: N/A CHANNELIZED INTERSECTION: As Warranted

TRAFFIC SIGNALS: As Warranted RR X-ING PROTECTION: As Warranted<sup>(3)</sup>

BIKE/PED ACCOMMODATIONS: N/A

PREVIOUS PLANNING STUDY: No

STUDY FINDING: N/A

RECOMMENDED TYPE FUNDS: National Highway Performance Program funds

PRELIM COST ESTIMATE: ROADWAY: \$3,700,000 BRIDGE: \$1,700,000 TOTAL: \$5,400,000

**REMARKS:**

<sup>1</sup>Site 1 - Replace existing bridge with R.C. Box Culvert

<sup>2</sup>Site 2 - Replace existing bridge with a new bridge structure

<sup>3</sup>Site 3 - Replace existing bridge with a new bridge structure

Use AASHTO Green Book (2018)

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

Charles Ellis: Charles R. Ellis

Trinity Smith: Trinity Smith

Date: 5/10/21

Date: 05-03-2021

**APPROVED BY:**

Mike Fugett:   
CE-Design

Date: 05-12-2021

(ATTACH NEW PROJECT MEMO, LOCATION MAP, AND CRASH ANALYSIS)