

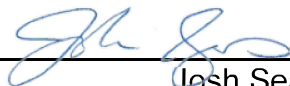
**PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
RE-EVALUATION**

**ARDOT JOB 110812
FAP HIPFCS-COVD(4)
HWY. 49 MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE REHAB (S)
ROUTE 49, SECTION 11
PHILLIPS COUNTY**

Pursuant to 23 CFR Part 771.117
And the Programmatic Agreement between
the Federal Highway Administration
and the
Arkansas Department of Transportation

July 2026

July 9, 2026
Date of Approval


Josh Seagraves
Division Head – Environmental
Arkansas Department of Transportation

A Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion, as described by the former Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and processing, was approved for the referenced project by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on July 18, 2024. Since that time, the scope of rehabilitation has expanded based on a bridge inspection report, requiring a re-evaluation.

The planned rehabilitation of the Highway 49 bridge structure 02899 over the Mississippi River will include replacement of the east abutment floor beam, stringer ends where necessary, cross beams beneath the bridge deck, numerous stiffeners, pin and hanger assemblies in the Main Truss Spans; plating in web and flanges of floor beams; repairing the west abutment backwall; replacement of existing paint on the structural steel; a hydro-demolition of the deck; and a polymer overlay of the roadway. A project location map is attached.

During construction, one lane will remain open at a time, though periodic short-term closures of both lanes may be necessary. Traffic will be controlled by a traffic signal on each side of the bridge with anticipated waiting times posted by digital message signs to assist motorists. All work will remain within existing right of way.

The project would not involve relocations or impacts to underground storage tanks, wetland, Important Farmlands, noise, public water supplies, floodplains, or cultural resources associated with this project. The 02899 bridge is considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; however, the scope of work will have no adverse effects to the bridge structure. Hazardous waste generated in the form of lead or chromium may be present in the paint debris. All hazardous waste discovered on the project will be removed, temporarily stored, and transported to an approved disposal facility as per Federal Regulation 40 CFR 260. 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 toxics concerns. The Arkansas and Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer's clearances are attached.

An initial Public Involvement (PI) meeting was held on November 6, 2025 and the project was available on the ARDOT website from October 31 through November 21, 2025. On January 16, 2026, a stakeholders meeting was held at Helena Marine Services Incorporated to discuss the potential impacts of the proposed lane closure on the agribusiness community. In an effort to provide updated construction and lane closure timelines, an informational meeting was held on May 28, 2026 and the project was available on the ARDOT website from May 22 through June 12, 2026. Synopses for both the PI and informational meetings are attached.

The attached species list obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the Tricolored at (*Perimyotis subflavus*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) as threatened and endangered species potentially occurring within the project area. Due to the limited scope of the action, lack

of habitat, and distance to known species occurrences, it is our determination that the proposed project will have “no effect” on the aforementioned federally listed species.

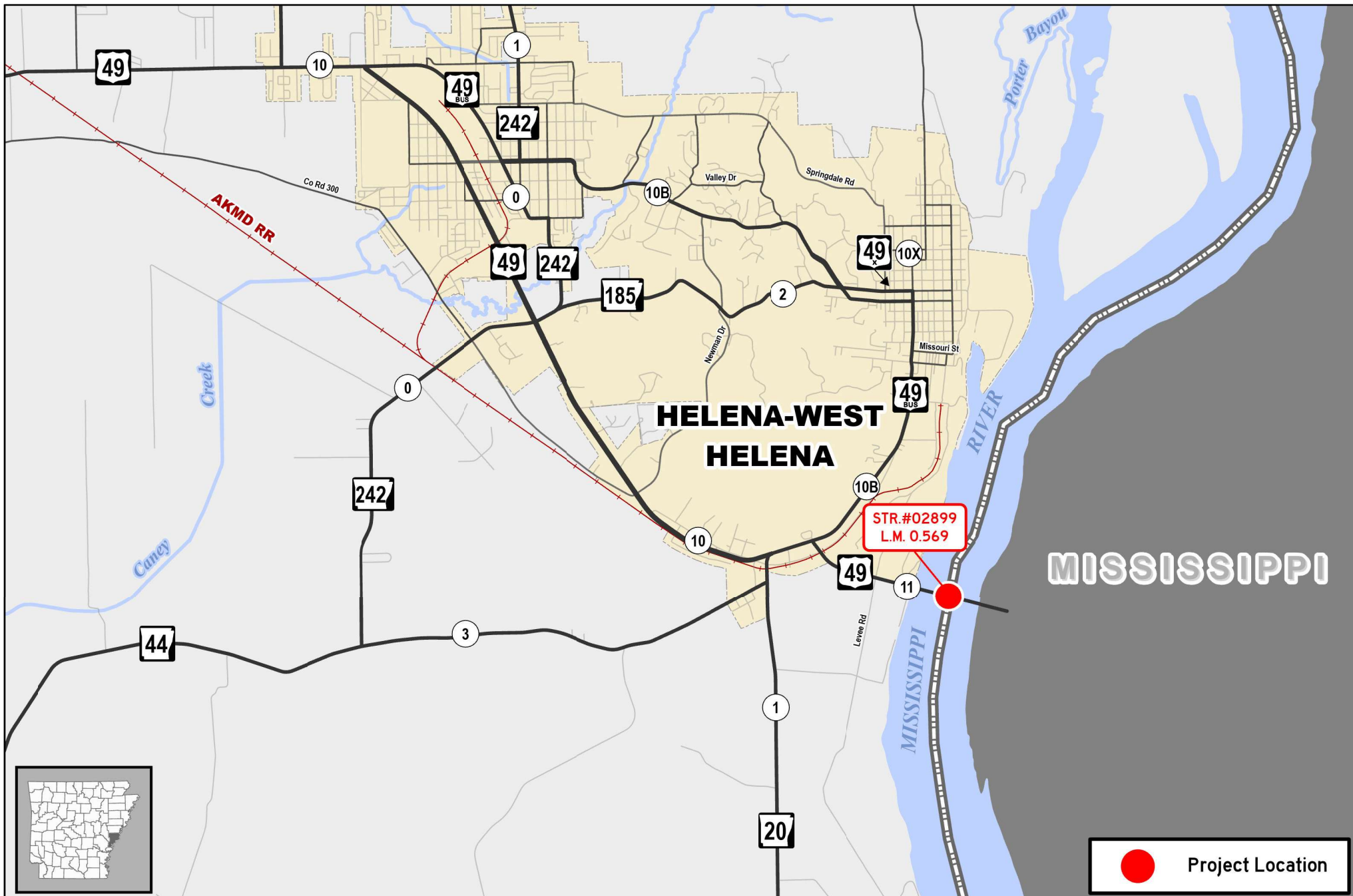
The Monarch Butterfly is a proposed threatened species and as such is not federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends agencies implement conservation measures for proposed species in action areas as these are species that may warrant future protection under the Act.

Due to the work on the Mississippi River levee related repairing the west abutment backwall, the project will require a Section 408 permission from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project will not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, therefore no Section 404 permit will be required.

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

Commitments made as part of the NEPA process:

- Obtain Section 408 permission from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Job 110812

Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)

Hwy. 49, Sec. 11
Phillips County





Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor
Shea Lewis
Secretary

June 17, 2026

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

Re: Phillips County – General
Section 106 Review – FHWA
Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge
Route 49, Section 11
ARDOT Job Number 110812
AHPP Tracking Number 111933.02

Dear Mr. Seagraves:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the ARDOT project submittal received June 8, 2026 for the above-referenced job in Phillips County. This project submittal consists of a revised Scope of Work (SOW) for a deck rehabilitation project for the Mississippi River Bridge (ARDOT Bridge 02899/PH0466) connecting Helena- West Helena, AR to Lula, MS.

The Mississippi River Bridge is considered Eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The additional work will include replacing the bottom connection plate on the upper (chord) lateral, both sides of U8 as shown on drawing 69573 in the submitted documents and repairing the top connection plate on the upper (chord) lateral, on the left side of U32 as shown on drawing 69574 in the submitted documents. The updated SOW shows all work occurring on the existing roadway and will be confined to areas of previous ground disturbance.

Based on the provided information, the AHPP concurs with a finding of **no adverse effects pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b)**

We appreciate the opportunity to review this undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact George Burson at (501) 324-9270 or at George.Burson@arkansas.gov. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number above in any correspondence.

Sincerely,
George
Burson

Digitally signed by George
Burson
Date: 2026.06.17
15:48:03 -05'00'

for
Scott Kaufman
AHPP Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

July 13, 2026

Mr. Nikki Senn
ARDOT
10324 Interstate 30
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

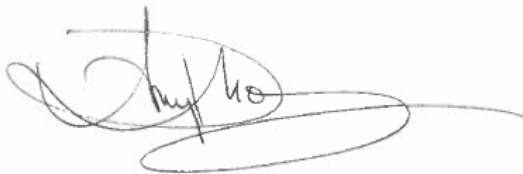
RE: Additional Information for the Proposed Rehabilitation of Hwy 49 MS River Bridge,
(FHWA) MDAH Project Log #07-014-26 (03-085-24), Coahoma County

Dear Ms. Senn:

We have reviewed your request for a cultural resources assessment, received on July 1, 2026, for the above referenced project, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After reviewing the information provided, it is our determination that the proposed work will have No Adverse Effect to historic resources. Therefore, we have no objection with the proposed undertaking.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at section106@mdah.ms.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy D. Morgan
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: Barry White
State Historic Preservation Officer

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

Job 110812

Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation

Phillips County

Thursday, November 6, 2025

An in-person public involvement meeting to discuss the proposed bridge rehabilitation plans of the Highway 49 Mississippi River Bridge was held at the Phillips Community College (Community Room), 1000 Campus Road, in Helena-West Helena, AR from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2025. A public officials' meeting was held prior at the same location from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Project information was made available on ARDOT's website from October 31 – November 21, 2025.

Outreach efforts to reach the public include:

- Placement of display advertisements in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on Sunday, October 26, 2025, and Sunday, November 2, 2025.
- Flyers distributed in the community on October 22, 2025.
- Public official, stakeholder, and community church letters mailed October 17, 2025.
- Invitations mailed to the public.
- Two public service announcements (PSAs) ran daily starting Monday, November 3, through Thursday, November 6, 2025, on Force 3 Radio and KJIW 94.6 FM Radio.
- Mississippi DOT participated in sending out invitations on their side of the state.

The following information was available online and in-person for review and comment:

- Project rehabilitation presentation
- 3D simulation of traffic flow
- Display exhibit detailing bridge rehabilitation activities
- 3D rendering showing lane closure, steel repair, steel truss floor system, and temporary traffic signal
- Typical section during construction
- Comment form

Table 1 describes the results of the public participation at the meeting.

TABLE 1	
Public Participation	Totals
Public officials registered	3
People registered at meeting	57
Staff in Attendance (ARDOT & consultant)	27
Online registration	5
Website views	287
Total Comments Received	35
In-Person comment forms received	25
Online comment forms received	8
Emailed comment forms received	1
Mailed comment forms received	1

TABLE 2	
Questions	Totals
Do you support the project: Yes	33
Do you support the project: No	0
Did not specify:	2
Feels the project will have beneficial impacts:	29
Feels the project will have adverse impacts:	0
Will your business or organization require coordination with the project team during construction?	4
Do you have any suggestions that would help minimize impacts to your business or organization, such as timing of lane closures, announcements, etc?	6

Comments from public officials in support of the project:

- Our economy depends on this bridge to move goods.
- This bridge is overdue for repair! This project will be beneficial because ride experience and safety will be improved! We would love to see a push to expand the bridge to a four-lane bridge (in time). As a representative for the City of Helena, yes, we will need coordination with the project team during construction. Thank you for being here!

Additional comments in support of the project:

- Definitely
- Yes!! We have needed the bridge repaired/refurbished for years. It will help people feel safer. There is a video on YouTube where a content creator is crossing the bridge and talking about being afraid for his life. It was funny but not funny.
- I would hope the engineers would give the information needed concerning the status of the bridge. Any improvements are always beneficial.
- Beneficial, safety is important. Employment opportunities.
- A new bridge is needed to bring business in. The bridge is currently not built for present nor future traffic. A new bridge without pedestrian side and 4 lanes with shoulder. We must prepare for the future.
- After 60 years, it could use a touch-up. Beneficial because better/safer mode of travel. Easy access and departure from Helena.
- Maintenance is essential. Suggest more lights on bridge during fog, rain, etc. Surface needs to be less slippery during dew, rain, snow. The roadbed from Bridge to Hwy. 61 needs improvement.
- Beneficial because the bridge needs repairs, and it needs two more lanes. Highway 49 needs to be repaired 2 miles on Mississippi side. We need four lanes or a new bridge. Two lanes are dangerous.
- I just want to thank you for doing a rehabilitation project instead of a replacement project on this historic bridge.
- I approve and support ARDOT's/MDOT's Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation Highway 49 Project. The aspect that I love about ARDOT's/MDOT's Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation Highway 49 Project is that the bridge on US-49 over the Mississippi River will be rehabilitated which will improve safety and prolong the service life of the bridge.

Additional comments about coordination or reducing impacts:

- It would be helpful to have lane closure notices posted in the paper or on Facebook.
- Do work between midnight & 6 a.m. with notifications.
- Announcement made over radio KJIW – FM 94.5
- Keep public informed, keep closures in low traffic times.
- Concern that during harvest season for farmers crossing with combines.
- During the construction phase, have additional patrol and/or motorist assistance for stranded or stalled motorists. Provide extra patrol during construction on both sides.
- Plan very carefully. Make sure to have plenty of narrow lane signs posted. Be extremely aware of traffic control. There was a major accident the last time this was done. Bridge lighting, early warning signs for delays, closures and place emergency call boxes along the span.
- Suggest the timing of lane closures. Complete major work during night hours or early in the morning. Provide communication regarding which company receives the bid via email.
- Keep traffic flowing.
- Just making people aware of closures!
- Avoid total lane closures. Avoid lane closures during rush hours, before 08:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m.

Additional miscellaneous comments:

- Project will make travel safer and smoother. It would cause less anxiety. I figure strategic planning has been and will be ongoing.
- Increased traffic will help the local economy. Make it a 4-lane bridge (sooner the better)
- Rehab and expand. Double the bridge's capacity.
- To improve the Region's economy what thought was given to expanding to 4-lanes? We have "Great" engineering possibilities throughout the nation.
- We need the repairs.
- Schedule meetings with updates periodically – Hire residents in Phillips County and surrounding area.
- Everything I've been told sounds good. I'm glad you are going to fix our current bridge. Thank you!

- Also, fix or repair US 49 just north of the bridge.
- Beneficial for moving traffic and visitors. Suggest to open up the weigh station to check on overweight trucks that tear up roads. It's about time (for this project).
- A 4-lane would be nice.
- I believe that our City Government is in the process of working on moving water lines because of this project. I am excited about this project. I'm hoping for increased traffic when it's completed. Thank You!
- Also, Mississippi needs to do repairs, from Hwy. 49 to Hwy. 61. That section of highway is so rough to travel. I have worked in Mississippi for 41 years and travel it daily.
- What I would like to know is if you and MDOT are going to continue doing the same shoddy work that you have demonstrated so far. Your map is inaccurate. Highway repair on AR side of bridge has a large bump you made. MS side road repairs are so poor that I have driven on smoother gravel roads. If properly done with access roads to bridge repaired also. Actually repair the road.

Environmental or historic comments:

- Nearby gravel bars that contain important fossils. Helena Crossing is the site of Indian mounds. Car and Train ferry landings.
- There could be anything on the adjacent property.
- There is a sanctuary of birds, reptiles, and fish along the Mississippi River.

Please Attachments:

Public Meeting Notice
Blank Comment Form
Typical Section
Display Exhibits (2)

MS:RR



BRIDGE REHABILITATION

Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (Hwy. 49) | Job 110812



JOIN ARDOT FOR AN IN-PERSON

PUBLIC MEETING



**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 6, 2025**



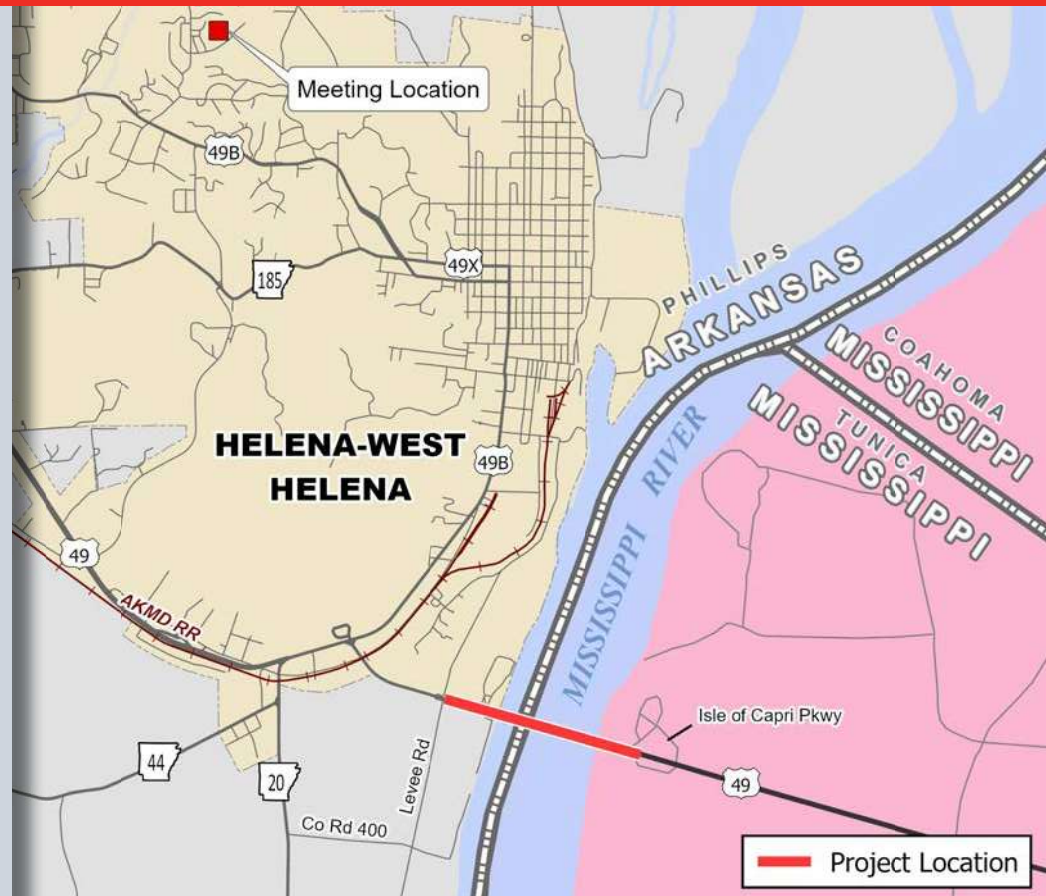
4:30PM - 6:30PM
DROP-IN ANYTIME



**PHILLIPS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
**HENDRIX FINE ARTS CENTER
(COMMUNITY ROOM)**
1000 CAMPUS ROAD
HELENA - WEST HELENA, AR

ARDOT and MDOT will conduct an in-person public involvement meeting to discuss the proposed rehabilitation plans of the Highway 49 Mississippi River bridge.

Website availability begins **October 31, 2025**
and ends at 4:30 p.m. on **November 21, 2025**.
www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings or scan QR code



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)
COMMENT FORM

JOB 110812
Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (Hwy. 49)
PHILLIPS COUNTY

LOCATION:
PHILLIPS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HENDRIX FINE ARTS CENTER
(COMMUNITY ROOM)
1000 CAMPUS ROAD
HELENA – WEST HELENA, AR
4:30PM – 6:30PM
NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Make your comments on this form and mail it by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, **November 21, 2025**, 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 rehabilitation of the Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge in Phillips County, AR and Tunica County, MS.? 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? _____

☐☐

Will your business or organization require coordination with the project team during construction? Please explain. _____

(Continue on Back)

Yes No

☐ ☐ Do you have any suggestions that would help minimize impacts to your business or organization, such as timing of lane closures, announcements, etc? _____

☐ ☐ Do you know of any historical sites, family cemeteries, archaeological sites, or environmental constraints, such as endangered species, hazardous waste sites, existing or former landfills, or parks and public lands in the vicinity of 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: _____

Business Name: _____

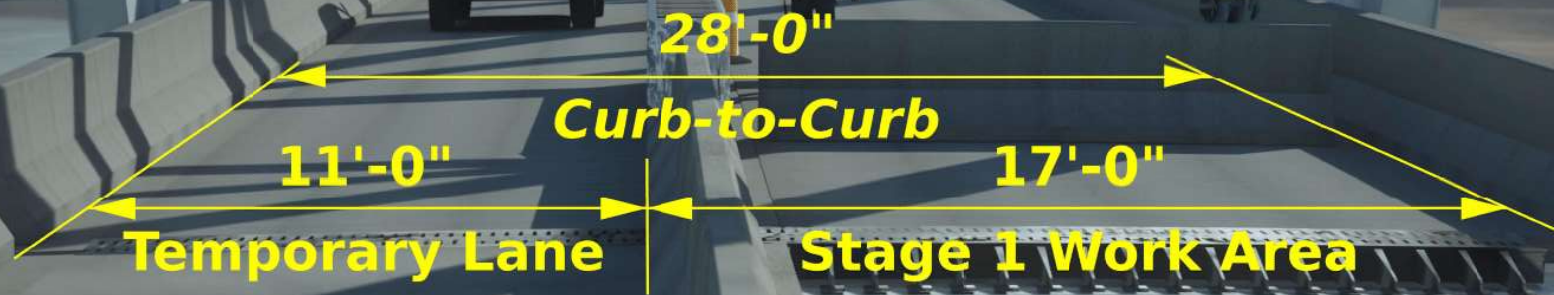
Please make additional comments here. _____

For additional information, please visit our website at

www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings



Job: 110812
Hwy 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)
Phillips County
Route 49 Section 11



Typical Section
(Looking East)

**Helena-West
Helena, AR**

Job: 110812
Hwy 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)
Phillips County
Route 49 Section 11



**Replace Backwall,
West Abutment**

**Replace all Navigational
Lighting**

**Replace Concrete
Bridge Deck in
Main Truss Spans**

**Replace all Aerial
Obstruction Lighting**

**Repair Steel
Floor Beams**

**Repair Steel
Floor Beams**

**Repair Steel
Floor Beams**

**Blast Clean and Paint
all Structural Steel**

**Polymer Overlay on Approach Spans
(West and East)**

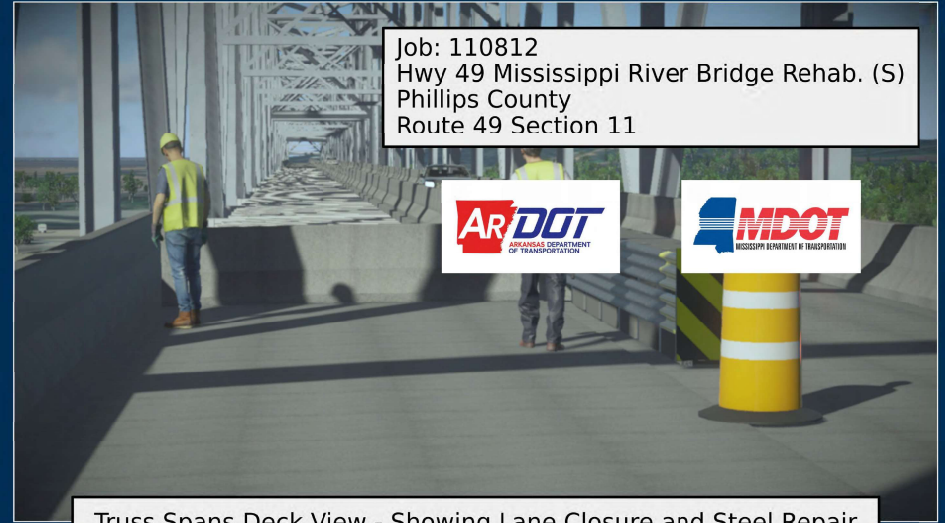
**Mississippi River
Flow**

**Elevation View
(Looking Northwest)**

Lula, MS



Isometric View - Showing Lane Closure and Steel Repair



Job: 110812
 Hwy 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)
 Phillips County
 Route 49 Section 11



Truss Spans Deck View - Showing Lane Closure and Steel Repair



Underside View - Showing Steel Truss Floor System and River Pier



Bridge Approach - Showing Lane Closure and Temporary Traffic Signal

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING SYNOPSIS

Job 110812

Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (Hwy. 49)

Phillips County

Thursday, May 28, 2026

ARDOT and MDOT conducted an in-person meeting to gather feedback from the community regarding the proposed rehabilitation plans of the Highway 49 Mississippi River bridge. The meeting location was at Phillips Community College, Hendrix Fine Arts Center (Community Room), 1000 Campus Road, Helena-West Helena, AR from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2026. The project information was made available on ARDOT's website beginning May 22, 2026 and comments were accepted through Friday, June 12, 2026.

Outreach efforts included:

- Display advertisement was placed in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* on May 17, 2026 and May 24, 2026.
- Emails and letters sent to public officials and stakeholders on May 14, 2026.
- Flyers mailed to the public on May 4, 2026.
- Two PSAs ran daily starting on Monday, May 25, 2026 through Thursday, May 28, 2026 on, KJIW 94.5 FM and Force 3 Radio 94.5 FM

The following information was available online and in-person for review and comment:

- Project overview presentation
- 3D simulation of traffic flow
- Display exhibit detailing bridge rehabilitation activities
- 3D rendering showing lane closure, steel repair, steel truss floor system, and temporary traffic signal
- Typical section depicting lane closure
- Feedback form

Table 1 describes the results of the public participation at the meeting.

TABLE 1	
Public Participation	Totals
People registered at meeting	49
Staff in Attendance (ARDOT & MDOT)	22
Online registration	15
Website views	508
Total Comments Received	26
In-Person comment forms received	18
Online comment forms received	5
Emailed comment forms received	1
Mailed comment forms received	2

Question 1 - Are you concerned about any of the following impacts from an estimated three-year, one-lane bridge closure?

Concerns	Totals
Delays in commute to work or school	18
Impacts on school bus or extracurricular pick-up/drop-off times	4
Difficulty accessing medical or emergency services (e.g. EMS, hospital)	14
Delayed deliveries or services to local businesses or ag producers	10
Agricultural travel, including moving equipment or supplies	12
Trouble attending community events	6
Other	
Lighting	2
Delays in getting across	1
Appointments across the bridge Southaven Mississippi	1

Additional comments regarding question 1:

- These concerns are the most important to me as countless people rely on services outside of Helena-West Helena and that might become an issue at some point.
- I marked the ones I did based on my history in Helena – a lot of residents commute to Memphis for work, with the issues the hospital a lot of people (especially pregnant moms) travel to Clarksville for medical care, and there are a few events such as the blue fest that happens on both sides of the bridge each October.
- Will traffic crossing be regulated in terms of weight or number of vehicles or by automated signaling?
- As a CDL instructor we go across the bridge to scale house & turn around. This will be a learning experience for students.
- Difficulties and delays with delivering contracted bushels of grain.
- A lot of people travel across the bridge for doctor appointments and medical help. Will the flow of traffic be greatly impacted?
- I teach in Clarksdale, MS (live in Helena) and my children go to school in Clarksdale. I am concerned about flow of traffic at peak hours/rush hour. I'm also concerned about increased accidents that could shut down access.
- I will be waiting.
- Our sawmill in Clarksdale processes wood & logs on the Mississippi side of the river and crosses the Helena bridge regularly as well, we ship finished products 4-5 truckloads/week to Mississippi. This is a year-round process, weather-permitting.
- The busy time for work is 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on evenings.
- Please light up the bridge.
- No concerns. Progress takes time and sacrifices.
- I drive daily to work and back home across the Helena Bridge. I work in agriculture and 40% of my business comes from Mississippi to Helena via the Helena Bridge. It would be nice if work didn't begin until after 8 am daily to give everyone to get across the bridge who needs to go to work. This is going to be a terrible inconvenience and also cost my company as well as myself a lot of money.

- Working for a grain company with infrastructure on the AR side of the bridge. During a harvest time frame of 8/1-11/30 nearly 40% of our business is from the Mississippi side. With miscommunication and rumors throughout the farming community it has already cost us business. With farmers openly admitting "Well I sold over here because I didn't want to deal with bridge construction traffic"
- Appointments across the river, Southaven, MS especially. Sometimes there is a need for Southaven or Memphis hospital. Moving equipment will slow down traffic. Will have to leave early for doctor appointments because you will not know about traffic.
- We farm in Arkansas and Mississippi, closing the bridge to ONE lane will greatly and adversely impact the ability to farm without moving equipment across the bridge. Only tractors can cross a one lane bridge after modifications. No harvest-equipment can cross.

Question 2 - Is there anything ARDOT and MDOT could do for planting or harvest season to help reduce or minimize these impacts (for example, scheduling adjustments, traffic management, agriculture equipment accommodations, or communication?)

- Ferry for farm equipment travel.
- For me, and my line of business, anything that can be done to prevent delays during harvest (Aug. – Nov.) scheduling adjustments.
- I think that it is vital to have both automated and/or individual flaggers direct traffic during this time. Most farmers will be concerned with the March to May and August to late October farming seasons. This meeting on May 28th has been very helpful.
- Business time is in the morning about 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 5 p.m. people are coming home from work. Harvest season is the business time 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Yes, plan these necessary repairs around harvest season. Equipment cannot get across an 11' lane bridge.
- All the above. We have a farm in Lula, MS. and in Marvell AR, in which we are back and forth year-round with several pieces of equipment, tractors, cotton pickers and combines, that are wider than 11', we would really like to dismantle that day so we can make these moves.
- Scheduling – I am sure you can work it out.
- No concerns (3)

- No work during harvest season (late August through October)
- I understand the need for a good, solid bridge, but I believe building a new bridge would be the best long-term solution. Repairing the old bridge will only last so long because it will still be an OLD Bridge. Spending a little more to build a new bridge makes so much more sense. I'm shocked, actually, that it is being repaired rather than replaced. Traffic could use the old bridge until the new one is ready, and nobody would be inconvenienced. Once we lose a customer for 3 years because they don't want to fool with waiting in long lines at the bridge, and they will have to wait in long lines, they will get comfortable with their new delivery elevator, and we may never get that business back. We are not the only granary in Helena. It will affect all of us in the same way. It will be a mess no matter how it is handled, but rather than spending 3 years repairing a bridge that needs replaced, why not spend that same time or less even building a new bridge?
- Would need to be 2 lanes open and no delays from 8/1-11/30. This is only for grain trucks. Not even considering the farm equipment. Tractors, planters, combines, cotton pickers, etc.
- Seasonal construction adjustment-suspend construction activities during peak planting and harvesting season. Avoid lane closure during spring planting, fall harvest. Dedicated agricultural movement periods. Detour optimization; ensure routes can physically accommodate combines, grain trucks and wide implements
- Maybe asking for large equipment to take another route, time of day when there is less traffic
- Open both lanes at times

Question 3 - What is the best way to provide important project information, such as planned short term closures?

Method	Totals
Dynamic message boards near the bridge	17
Radio station	9
Social media	15
Newspaper	5
Through a representative	5
Other	5

- Facebook (4) – City of HWH & Helena Harbor
- Begin an automated text system for people to sign up for
- Provide live video feed of bridge.
- Newspaper - Helena World
- Contact Phillips County Farm Bureau
- Billboards along the highway leading to the bridge. WHRK FM Memphis, TN, WDIA AM Memphis, TN, KIPR FM Little Rock, AR, KCLT FM West Helena, Helena World, Memphis Commercial Appeal, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, KATV TV Little Rock, WREG TV Memphis
- The Delta News, WATN ABC 24, WREG CBS 3. Delta Democrat Times newspaper and WDSV 91.9 FM for Mississippi, The Helena World and KFFA 1360 AM for Arkansas
- All of the above. Over-communication is better than under-communication
- Farmers should have people notify them in advance regarding changes or information
- Radio may help; social media is probably the best. Any way to send text message link like Entergy or CodeRED. Newspaper only once a week
- Email to provide important project information

Question 4 - Is there anything else we should be aware of regarding the required one-lane closure of the Highway 49 bridge?

- The quicker the project can be done the better – 3 years is a long time to be detoured/slowed down from using the bridge – it's one of our biggest resources here. Maybe consider phasing it out, if possible, but understanding that you may not be able to because of funding constraints.
- Casino shift changes Monday before 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., 10 p.m. – Midnight and 5 a.m. – 7 a.m. with the Arkansas residents who work there. Timing the traffic light if no personnel will be there.
- This bridge has needed repairs for a long time; I will show students about scheduling and time management.
- Agriculture, which is the biggest industry in this area, will be important in a bad way.
- Making sure the red lights are obeyed and people are stopping.

- Keep explaining this work is being done to keep the bridge safe and open for future years. It will be good to remind local citizens that this is not a 4-lane bridge project.
- No Concerns.
- Need lights on the bridge! Adding permanent concrete barriers is dangerous at night/morning hours.
- Please utilize sensor video tech/AI tools to automate flow of traffic, especially during peak hours some clog up due to increased activity & this should not happen with today's technology.
- Moving wide-load equipment would be impossible with one lane.
- The bridge needs better lighting and making 2 lanes each way would be more efficient for oversized vehicles.
- If serious consideration was made for the bridge to be expanded to four lanes, there would be less limited lane closures. More study needs to be done before this project begins. There's funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand the Helena Bridge to a more modern four (4) Lane bridge between Mississippi & Arkansas just like in Greenville, MS & in Memphis TN. It is a disservice to the community & the future growth of that area of the Arkansas/Mississippi Delta to limit the Helena Bridge to a two-lane stretch across the Mississippi River. All highways leading to US 49 crossing the Mississippi River on both the Mississippi & Arkansas sides are four lanes leading up to the TWO-LANE HELENA BRIDGE. The four US Senators, two US Congressmen, and two Governors from both Mississippi & Arkansas need to work and collaborate with each other, with the US Department of Transportation and the two state highway Departments to come up with funding and a new plan for development of a FOUR lane US Highway 49 between Helena & US Highway 61 in Mississippi that includes a FOUR lane Helena Bridge
- I approve and support ARDOT's/MDOT's Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation Highway 49 Project. The aspect that I love about ARDOT's/MDOT's Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation Highway 49 Project is that the bridge on US-49 over the Mississippi River will be rehabilitated which will improve safety and prolong the service life of the bridge
- What is the anticipated rehab cost? What is the anticipated cost to put up a new bridge instead? Will there be an email chain or what is the best way to receive any and all updates?

- In addition to the bridge needing repair the road leading to the bridge on the Mississippi side requires repair as well
- Talked to someone about timing of light. It needs to be not too long or people will run it. Probably most traffic between 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on US 49 on the Mississippi side is terrible. Would help if Mississippi could at least fix the 2 bridges right past the Mississippi River bridge
- Crippling already struggling AG businesses

Additional Feedback:

- Please reconsider and make the Helena Bridge four lanes to bring transportation to Helena, Arkansas into the 21st century

Attachments:

Public Meeting Notice
Blank Feedback Form
Display Exhibits (5)

MS:RR



BRIDGE REHABILITATION

Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (Hwy. 49) | Job 110812



JOIN US FOR AN IN-PERSON

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING



**THURSDAY,
MAY 28, 2026**



4:30PM - 6:30PM

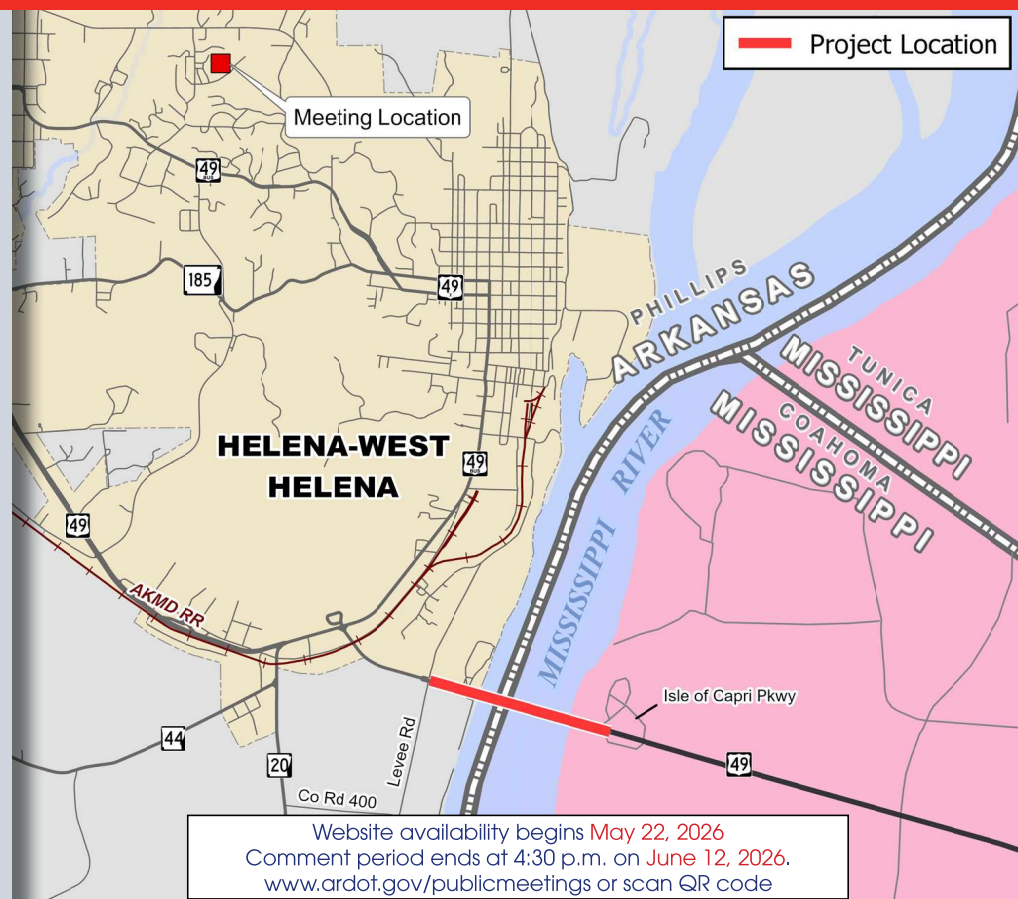
OPEN HOUSE FORMAT
DROP-IN ANYTIME



**PHILLIPS COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
HENDRIX FINE ARTS CENTER
(COMMUNITY ROOM)**
1000 CAMPUS ROAD
HELENA - WEST HELENA, AR

ARDOT and MDOT will conduct an in-person public meeting to gather feedback from the community regarding the proposed rehabilitation plans of the Highway 49 Mississippi River bridge.

We want your input!



Website availability begins **May 22, 2026**
Comment period ends at 4:30 p.m. on **June 12, 2026**.
www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings or scan QR code

Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Feedback Form

Job 110812
Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (Hwy. 49)
Phillips County

Location:
Phillips Community College, Hendrix Fine Arts Center (Community Room)
1000 Campus Road, Helena-West Helena, AR
4:30pm – 6:30pm, Thursday, May 28, 2026

Provide your feedback on this form and mail it by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, **June 12, 2026**, to: Arkansas Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR, 72203-2261. Email: public.comments@ardot.gov.

- 1) Are you concerned about any of the following impacts from an estimated three-year, one-lane bridge closure?

(Please Print)

- ☐ Delays in commute to work or school
- ☐ Impacts on school bus or extracurricular pickup/drop-off times
- ☐ Difficulty accessing medical or emergency services (e.g., EMS, hospital)
- ☐ Delayed deliveries or services to local businesses or ag producers
- ☐ Agricultural travel, including moving equipment or supplies
- ☐ Trouble attending community events
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe:

- 2) Is there anything ARDOT and MDOT could do for planting or harvest season to help reduce or minimize these impacts (for example, scheduling adjustments, traffic management, agricultural equipment accommodations, or communication)?

3) What is the best way to provide important project information, such as planned short term closures?

☐ Dynamic message boards near the bridge

☐ Radio station: _____

☐ Social media: _____

☐ Newspaper: _____

☐ Through a representative: _____

☐ Other: _____

4) Is there anything else we should be aware of regarding the *required* one-lane closure of the Highway 49 bridge?

Name: _____ **Business Name:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** (____) – _____ – _____

Email: _____

Preferred way to contact you if needed:

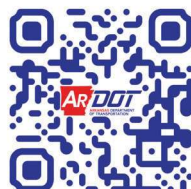
☐ Phone

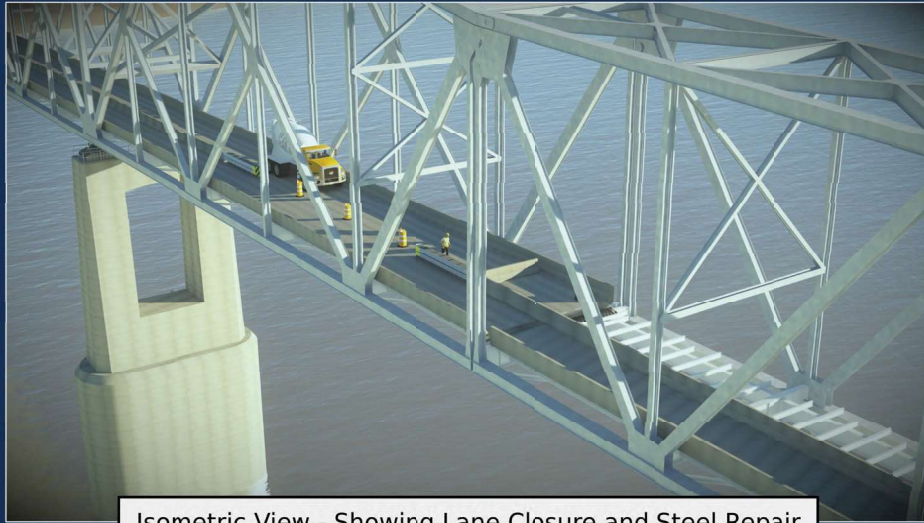
☐ Email

☐ Mail

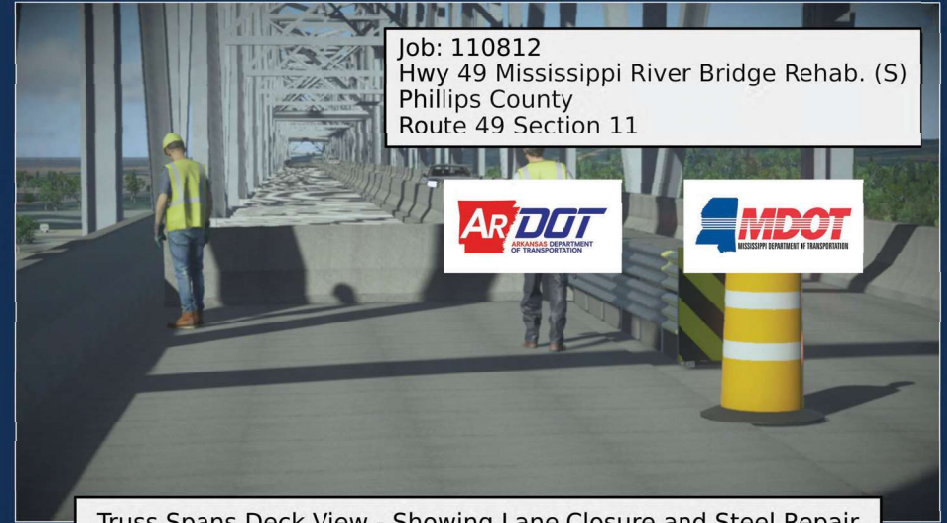
☐ Other: _____

For additional information, please visit our website at
www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings





Isometric View - Showing Lane Closure and Steel Repair



Job: 110812
Hwy 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)
Phillips County
Route 49 Section 11



Truss Spans Deck View - Showing Lane Closure and Steel Repair

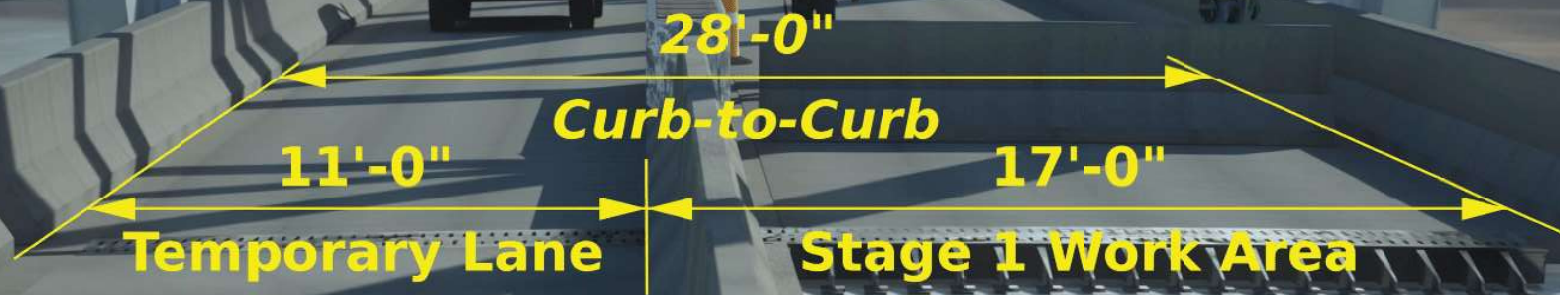


Underside View - Showing Steel Truss Floor System and River Pier



Bridge Approach - Showing Lane Closure and Temporary Traffic Signal

Job: 110812
Hwy 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)
Phillips County
Route 49 Section 11



Typical Section
(Looking East)

**Helena-West
Helena, AR**

Job: 110812
Hwy 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)
Phillips County
Route 49 Section 11



**Replace Backwall,
West Abutment**

**Replace all Navigational
Lighting**

**Replace Concrete
Bridge Deck in
Main Truss Spans**

**Replace all Aerial
Obstruction Lighting**

**Blast Clean and Paint
all Structural Steel**

**Repair Steel
Floor Beams**

**Repair Steel
Floor Beams**

**Repair Steel
Floor Beams**

**Polymer Overlay on Approach Spans
(West and East)**

**Mississippi River
Flow**

**Elevation View
(Looking Northwest)**

Lula, MS

Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab. (S)

Phillips County, AR & Coahoma County, MS

Job 110812

Why Are We Having This Meeting?

The purpose of this public meeting is to update the public on the status of the Highway 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehabilitation and **gather feedback from the community**. Your feedback helps us better serve the community during this project

The format for this meeting is an **open house**, which means there is no formal presentation. You are encouraged to watch the prerecorded presentation, view the materials, ask questions, and provide feedback. Your feedback is very important and could help shape the nature of future improvements.

The public can give feedback using the **feedback form** and provide it to project personnel by **Friday, June 12, 2026**, by any of the following methods:



Feedback Form



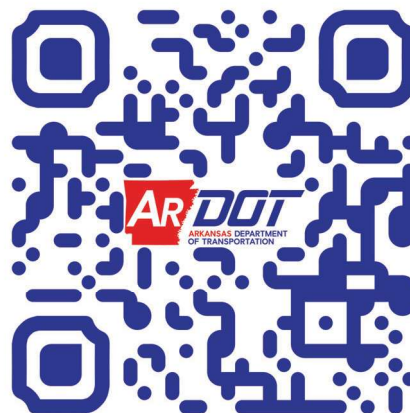
Attn: ARDOT Environmental Division
P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261



public.comments@ardot.gov



If you have any questions, you
can call us at 501-569-2281



Scan the QR Code or visit
www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings
Simply search or scroll to the meeting of interest

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK



Your input helps us better understand
what matters most and shape decisions
that **better serve your community.**



SHARE
what's important
to you



HELP SHAPE
plans and priorities
for **your** community



MAKE AN IMPACT
your voice leads to
better outcomes



*Your voice.
Your community.*
Stronger together.



THANK YOU FOR
TAKING THE TIME
TO SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS!



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213-7856
Phone: (601) 965-4900



In Reply Refer To:

07/06/2026 16:11:07 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0111705

Project Name: 110812 Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Deck Rehab.

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 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 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:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.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 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/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

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/library/collections/threats-birds>.

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/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

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. Please email consultation requests to MSFOSection7Consultation@fws.gov.

Note: IPaC has provided all available attachments because this project is in multiple field office jurisdictions.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

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:

Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office

6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213-7856
(601) 965-4900

This project's location is within the jurisdiction of multiple offices. However, only one species list document will be provided for all offices. The species and critical habitats in this document reflect the aggregation of those that fall in each of the affiliated office's jurisdiction. Other offices affiliated with the project:

Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 South Amity Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032-8975
(501) 513-4470

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0111705

Project Name: 110812 Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Deck Rehab.

Project Type: Government / Municipal (Non-Military) Construction

Project Description: Bridge deck hydro-demolition, painting, and structural repairs.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.49403635,-90.57497975000001,14z>



Counties: Arkansas and Mississippi

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 10 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.

-
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
Tricolored bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Proposed Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Threatened
Ivory-billed woodpecker <i>Campephilus principalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8230 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Endangered
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 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf	Threatened
rufa red knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864 General project design guidelines: https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf	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

NAME	STATUS
------	--------

General project design guidelines:

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf>

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
------	--------

Pallid sturgeon *Scaphirhynchus albus*

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162>

General project design guidelines:

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf>

CLAMS

NAME	STATUS
------	--------

Fat pocketbook *Potamilus capax*

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780>

General project design guidelines:

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf>

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
------	--------

Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*

Proposed
Threatened

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743>

General project design guidelines:

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf>

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
------	--------

Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia*

Endangered

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279>

General project design guidelines:

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/project/KMOVMUDFWFEH5M33WBEQHDNPOI/documents/generated/7127.pdf>

CRITICAL HABITATS

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

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/ activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

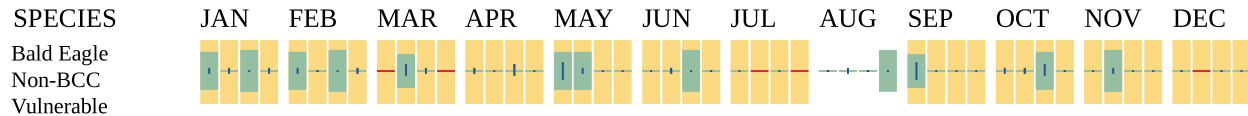
Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

■ probability of presence ■ breeding season | survey effort — no data



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9406	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Kentucky Warbler <i>Geothlypis formosa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9443	Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 20
Least Tern <i>Sternula antillarum antillarum</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11919	Breeds Apr 25 to Sep 5
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Little Blue Heron <i>Egretta caerulea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9477	Breeds Mar 10 to Oct 15
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9561	Breeds elsewhere
Prothonotary Warbler <i>Protonotaria citrea</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9439	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
Red-headed Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9398	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9478	Breeds elsewhere
Semipalmated Sandpiper <i>Calidris pusilla</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9603	Breeds elsewhere
Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9431	Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read ["Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles"](#), specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

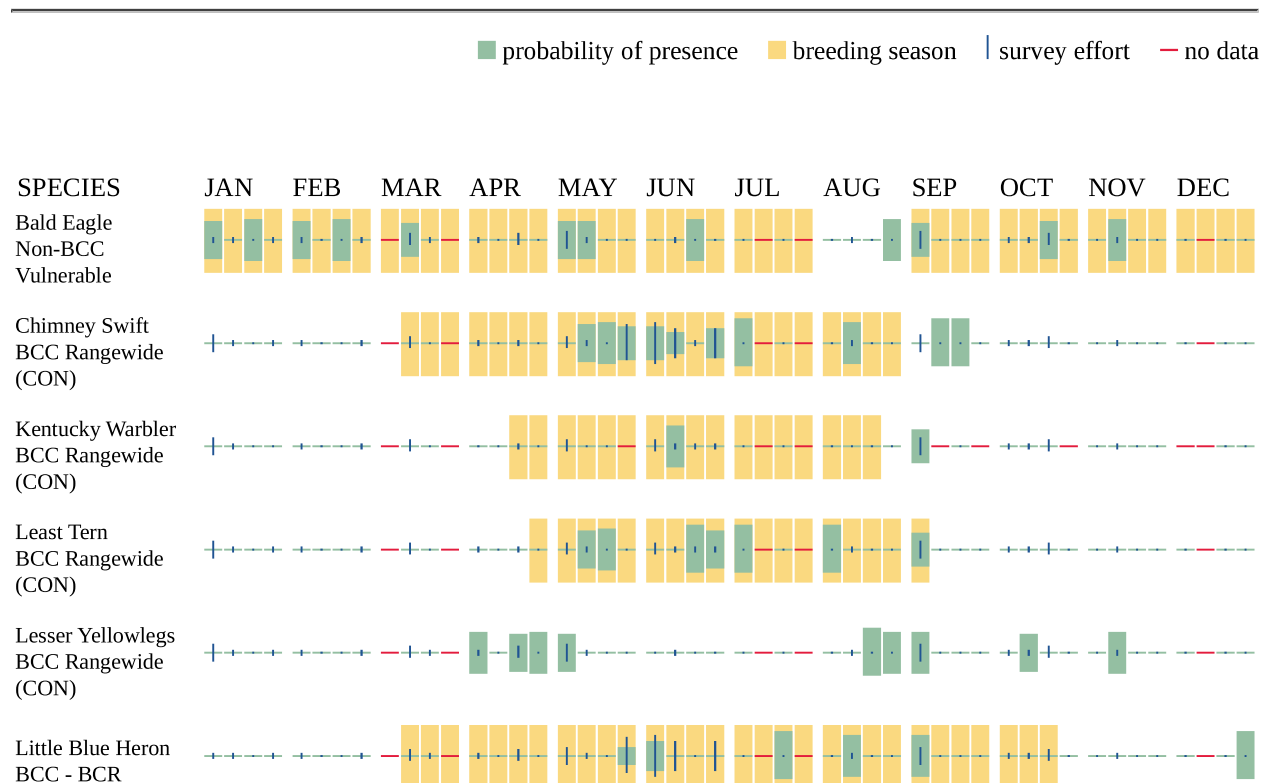
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBF

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1F

- PEM1C

RIVERINE

- R2USC
- R4SBCx
- R2UBH

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PSS1F
- PFO1C

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Arkansas Department of Transportation

Name: clint hutcheson

Address: PO Box 2261

City: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72203

Email: clinton.hutcheson@ardot.gov

Phone: 5017767797

You have indicated that your project falls under or receives funding through the following special project authorities:

- BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL) (OTHER)

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

ARDOT Job 110812 FAP HIPFCS-COVD(4)

Job Title Hwy. 49 Mississippi River Bridge Rehab (S)

Class Determination C(28)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Community/Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearances included
Economic		X		Temporary due to traffic pattern changes and reduced lane width
Federal Lands	X			None within the project area
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Hazardous Materials		X		Possible Lead/Chromium paint removal
Important Farmland	X			None within the project area
Land Use	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Species	X			A "no effect" determination was made
Protected Waters	X			None within the project area
Public Water Supply	X			None within the project area
Relocations	X			No relocations anticipated
Section 4(f)/6(f) properties	X			None within the project area
Solid Waste	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Traffic Noise	X			No impacts anticipated
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None within the project area

Permits: Indicate either a "yes" or "no" if permit is required or not.

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type N/A

Section 408 Approval Required? Yes

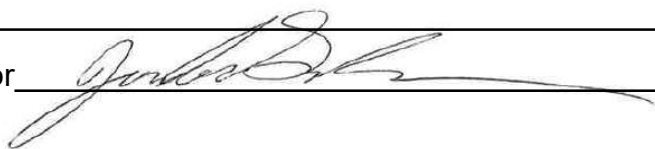
Section 9 USCG Bridge Permit Required? No

Section 10 Navigable Waters Permit Required? No

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Remarks:

Signature of Evaluator  Date 7/8/2026