

# ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Scott E. Bennett  
Director  
Telephone (501) 569-2000  
Voice/TTY 711



P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261  
Telefax (501) 569-2400  
www.arkansashighways.com

May 3, 2017

Mr. Angel Correa  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
700 West Capitol, Room 3130  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: Job Number 020595  
FAP Number HSIP-0009(33)  
Hwy. 35 Realignment (Safety Impvts.)  
Chicot County  
Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion

Dear Mr. Correa:

The Environmental Division has reviewed the referenced project and it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the AHTD/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 improve the Highways 65/35 intersection and realign two curves on Highway 35 in Chicot County. The total project length is 0.72 mile. A project location map is enclosed.

Existing Highway 65 at this intersection consists of four 12-foot wide paved travel lanes, a 12-foot wide left turn lane, with 8-foot wide outside shoulders and 6-foot wide inside shoulders. The existing right of way width is 280 feet.

Existing Highway 35 west of the intersection consists of two 12-foot wide paved travel lanes with 2'- 8' wide shoulders. Highway 35 east of the intersection consists of two

11-foot wide paved travel lanes with 0'- 8' foot wide shoulders. The existing right of way width varies between 50' - 346'.

Proposed improvements to Highway 35 include two 12'-16' wide travel lanes with 4'-8' wide shoulders. The proposed right of way averages between 98'-120'. Approximately 8.9 acres of additional right of way will be required for this project. No changes to the cross section of Highway 65 are proposed.

Design data for this project (Highway 35) is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2017	1,400	10	30 mph
2037	1,500	10	30 mph

There are no relocatees, environmental justice issues, or endangered species associated with this project. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is enclosed. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. Approximately 6.6 acres of Prime Farmland will be converted to highway right of way and Form NRCS-CPA-106 is enclosed. No Section 404 permit will be required.

Noise predictions have been made for this project utilizing the Federal Highway Administration's TNM 2.5 (Traffic Noise Model) procedures. These procedures indicate that noise levels are below the FHWA noise criteria beyond the project's proposed right of way limits and no sensitive receptors are currently impacted. Any increases in roadway noise levels will not be the result of the proposed project, but instead a result of traffic volume increases during the planning period (Year 2037). Therefore, any noise level increases will occur independently of this proposed project, and no project related noise impacts are anticipated. In compliance with Federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

Chicot County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. All of the floodplain encroachments within this highway construction project will be designed to comply with the county's local flood damage prevention ordinance. The project lies within Zone AE, 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 significant floodplain encroachment or a significant risk to property or life.

A public involvement meeting for this project was held on January 18, 2017 in Dermott, Arkansas. A public involvement synopsis is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at 569-2281.

Sincerely,

**APPROVED**  
*John Fleming*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Date: 5-16-2017

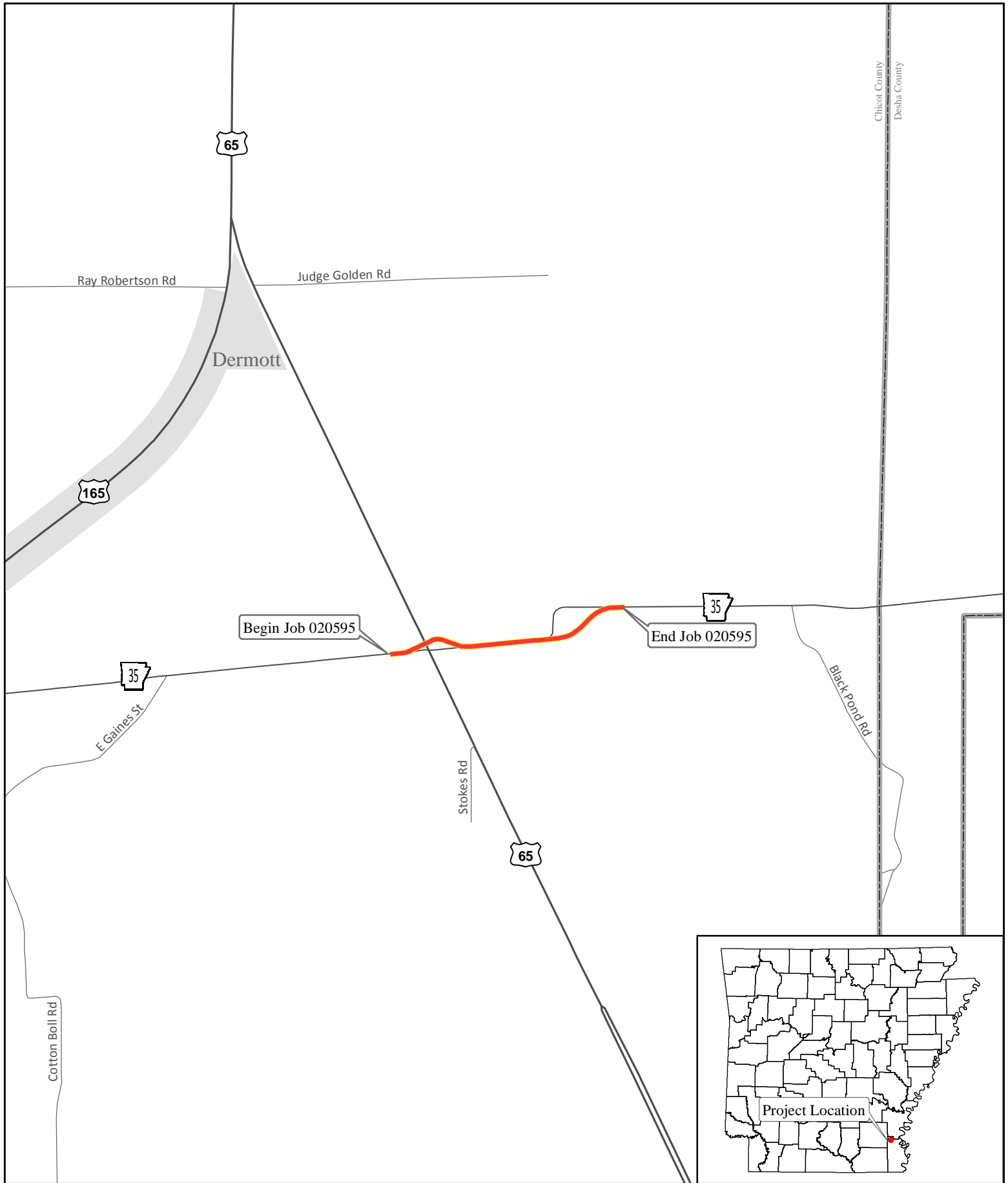
*John Fleming*

John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosures

JF:JB:fc

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 2  
Master File



65

Ray Robertson Rd

Judge Golden Rd

Dermott

165

Begin Job 020595

35

End Job 020595

35

E Gaines St

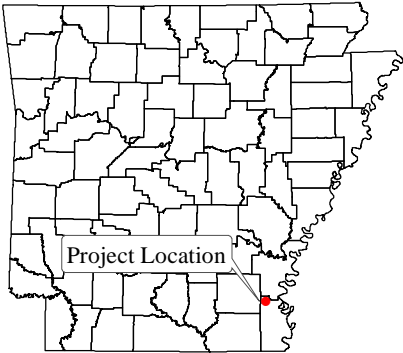
Black Pond Rd

Stokes Rd

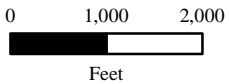
65

Cotton Boll Rd

Chicot County  
Desha County



N



AHTD-Environmental GIS-Hopkins  
April 18, 2017

Job 020595  
Hwy. 35 Realignment  
(Safety Improvements)  
Chicot County

Project Location



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
Governor

Stacy Hurst  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

March 21, 2017

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

RECEIVED  
AHTD  
MAR 23 2017  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

RE: Chicot County – General  
Section 106 Review – FHWA  
Report Titled: *A Cultural Resources Survey of AHTD Job Number  
020595, HWY. 35 Realignment (Safety Impvts.) (S)Chicot County*  
AHTD Job Number: 020595  
AHPP Tracking Number: 96000.01

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has reviewed the above-referenced Phase I cultural resources report.

Based on the information presented in this report, we concur that site 3CH0211 is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and requires no further work.

As no eligible or unevaluated cultural resources were recorded within the area of potential effect (APE), we concur that the proposed undertaking will have no effect to historic properties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this request. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, please call Tim Dodson of my staff at 501-324-9784.

Sincerely,

Marian Boyd  
Interim Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randall Looney, Federal Highway Administration  
Mr. Everett Bandy, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma  
Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Mr. Kenneth H. Carleton, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Mr. Marshall Pierite, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Inc.  
Dr. Andrea Hunter, Osage Nation  
Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey



ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880  
fax: (501) 324-9184  
tdd: 711

e-mail:

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

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**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b> Job 020595		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 4/27/17	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project Hwy. 35 . Realignment (Safety Impvts.)		5. Federal Agency Involved FHWA	
2. Type of Project Intersection Realignment		6. County and State Chicot AR.	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES NO	4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: %		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor				

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	6.6			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

**PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)**

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15		
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	20		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5		
8. On-Farm Investments	20	0		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0		
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>50</b>		

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	100		
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	50		
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>150</b>		

1. Corridor Selected: New Location Adjacent to existing	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 6.6 acres of Prime Farmland	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: *Am Ba* DATE 5/3/17

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

**Job Number 020595**

**Hwy. 35 Inters. Realignment (Safety Impvts.)**

**Chicot County**

**Thursday, January 31, 2017**

An open forum Public Involvement meeting for the proposed project was held at the Dermott School District Administration Building (Professional Development Room) from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31, 2017. Special efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meetings included the following:

- Display advertisement placed in the *Chicot County Spector* on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 and Wednesday, January 25, 2017.
- Display advertisement placed in the *McGhee-Dermott Times-News*, on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 and Wednesday, January 25, 2017.
- Public Service Announcement placed in *Cumulus Media-Power 92.3 FM*.
- Letters mailed to Public Officials.
- Distribution of flyers in the project area.

The following information was available for inspection and comment:

- Displays including an aerial photograph at a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet.
- Preliminary plans at a scale of 1 inch equals 50 feet.

Handouts for the public included a comment sheet and a small-scale map illustrating the project location, which was identical to the aerial photograph display. Copies of the handouts are attached.

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

<b>TABLE 1</b>	
<b>Public Participation</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Attendance at meeting (including AHTD staff)	46
Comments forms received	19

*AHTD 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.

<b>TABLE 2</b>	
<b>Survey Results</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Supports Highway 35 Intersection Realignment	17
Does not support Highway 35 Intersection Realignment	2
Supports Alternative 2	1
Supports Alternative 3	17
Supports No Build Alternative	1
Knowledge of historical, archeological or cemetery sites	1
Knowledge of area environmental constraints	0
Home or property offers limitations to the project	0
Suggestions to better serve the needs of the community	8
Beneficial impacts due to the proposed project	14
Adverse impacts due to the proposed project	1
No response to beneficial/adverse impacts	4

The following is a listing of comments concerning issues associated with this project:

- One individual was concerned about truck parking at the Amish Store.
- Five individuals wanted some type of traffic light at Highway 35 and Highway 65.
- Two individuals commented it would provide better access to the Yellow Bend Port.
- One individual wanted the speed reduced to 55 mph on Highway 65.
- One individual says two businesses were lost at Yellow Bend Port due to curves.
- One individual indicated it would disrupt irrigation systems and wells.
- One individual indicated that Highway 35 needs shoulders.
- One individual indicates that Alternative 2 would not be safe for children living in the houses in the curves.
- One individual indicated a historical sign is located on the north side of the road on Alternative 2.



Job Number 020595 Public Involvement Synopsis

January 31, 2017

Page 3 of 3

Attachments:

Public handouts, including blank comment form

Small-scale display copies

RJ

DN *DN*

JB :

**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (AHTD)  
CITIZEN COMMENT FORM**

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 020595  
Hwy. 35 Realignment (Safety Impvts.)  
CHICOT COUNTY**

**LOCATION:  
DERMOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BUILDING)  
525 EAST SPEEDWAY  
DERMOTT, AR  
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017**

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it by 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017** to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261. Email: [environmentalmeetings@ahtd.ar.gov](mailto:environmentalmeetings@ahtd.ar.gov).

Yes  No

Do you feel there is a need for the proposed Hwy. 35 realignment safety improvements at (Halley Junction) in Chicot County? Comment (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which Alternative Alignment would you consider to be your preferred alternative for the proposed realigning of Highway 35?

- Alternative 2
- Alternative 3
- NO BUILD Alternative

Why is that your preference? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 in the vicinity of the project? Please note and discuss with AHTD staff. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No

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

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

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

It is often necessary for the AHTD 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.

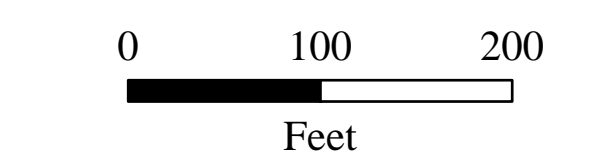
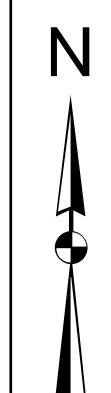
Name : \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make additional comments here. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





AHTD-Environmental GIS-Hopkins  
 Map Date - January 25, 2017  
 Meeting Date - January 31, 2017  
 Public Involvement Meeting Display



**DRAFT**

Job 020595  
 Hwy. 35 Realignment  
 (Safety Improvements)  
 Chicot County

**DRAFT**

Preliminary  
 Subject to Revision

- Alternate 1
- Alternate 2
- Alternate 3
- Obliterated Road Segment



## AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

**AHTD Job Number** 020595      **FAP Number** HSIP-0009(33)  
**Job Title** Hwy. 35 Realignment (Safety Impvts.)

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species	X			
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife	X			
Floodplains		X		Floodplain permit required
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds	X			
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels	X			
Prime Farmland		X		6.6 acres of Prime Farmland
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			
Relocatees	X			
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts	X			
Water Quality		X		Temporary
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required?      No  
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required?            No  
 Section 404 Permit Required?                                NO      Type \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Evaluator       Date 5/3/17

Date Submitted: 4-17-17

Date Returned: \_\_\_\_\_

## ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 020595 FAP No. HSIP-0009(33) County Chicot

Job Name Hwy. 35 Realignment (Safety Impvts.) (S)

Design Engineer Stephen Sichmeller Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description Realignment of Hwy. 35

A. Existing Conditions:

1. Roadway Width: English: 22' - 24'

2. Shoulder Width: English: 0' - 8'

3. Number of Lanes and Width: English: 2 - 11' and 2 - 12'

4. Existing Right-of-Way: English: 50' - 120'

B. Proposed Conditions:

1. Roadway Width: English: 24' - 28'

2. Shoulder Width: English: 4' - 8'

3. Number of Lanes and Width: English: 2 - 12', 14', 2 - 16', 14' and 2 - 12'

4. Average Right-of-Way: English: 98' - 346'

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Design Data:

County 2017 ADT: 1,400 2037 ADT: 1,500 Trucks: 10%

Design Speed: 30 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.720 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Safety Improvements

G. Total Relocates: 0 Residences: 0 Businesses: 0

H. Have you coordinated with any of the following: (provide name and date)

City and/or County Officials: \_\_\_\_\_

State Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_