

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Scott E. Bennett
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February 19, 2015

Ms. Sandra L. Otto
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
700 West Capitol, Room 3130
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: AHTD Job Number FA4511
FAP Number STPR-0045(27)
Searcy Co. Line – North West (Phase II)
(Reconst.) (S)
Marion County
Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion

Dear Ms. Otto:

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 reconstruct a section of County Road 6 and replace minor drainage structures. The total length of the project is 2.23 miles. A project location map is enclosed.

The existing gravel roadway is 20-foot wide with no shoulders and no recorded right of way. Proposed improvements will consist of two 10-foot wide paved travel lanes with 4-foot wide shoulders. The new average right of way width will be 130 feet. Approximately 17 acres of additional right of way will be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2015	75	10	30 mph
2035	105	10	30 mph

There are no relocations, environmental justice issues, floodplains or prime farmland associated with this project. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is enclosed.

The Federally designated endangered Indiana bat and Gray bat are known to occur within 4.8 miles northeast of the project area in Elm Cave in Marion County. Correspondence with the US Fish and wildlife Service (USFWS) (see enclosed letter) has indicated the potential for a proposed endangered species, Northern Long-eared bat to be found in the project area as well. In an effort to avoid potential impacts to endangered species, the USFWS has requested that the clearing of trees be limited to the winter hibernation period of mid-October through mid-March. If clearing and grubbing activities take place outside of this period, bat surveys should be done first to ensure that are not present in the area.

This job will involve the removal of one cross drain and the construction of 13 pipe culverts on non-jurisdictional drainage features. No 404 permit will be required.

Based upon the AHTD's *Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement*, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The project meets the criteria for a Type III project established in the 23 CFR 772. Therefore, the project requires no analysis for traffic noise impacts. Type III projects do not involve added capacity, construction of new through lanes or auxiliary lanes, changes in the horizontal or vertical alignment of the roadway or exposure of noise sensitive land uses to a new or existing highway noise source. AHTD acknowledges that a noise analysis is required if changes to the proposed project result in reclassification to a Type I project.

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

APPROVED

Environmental Specialist
Federal Highway Administration
Date: 3/17/2015

Sincerely,

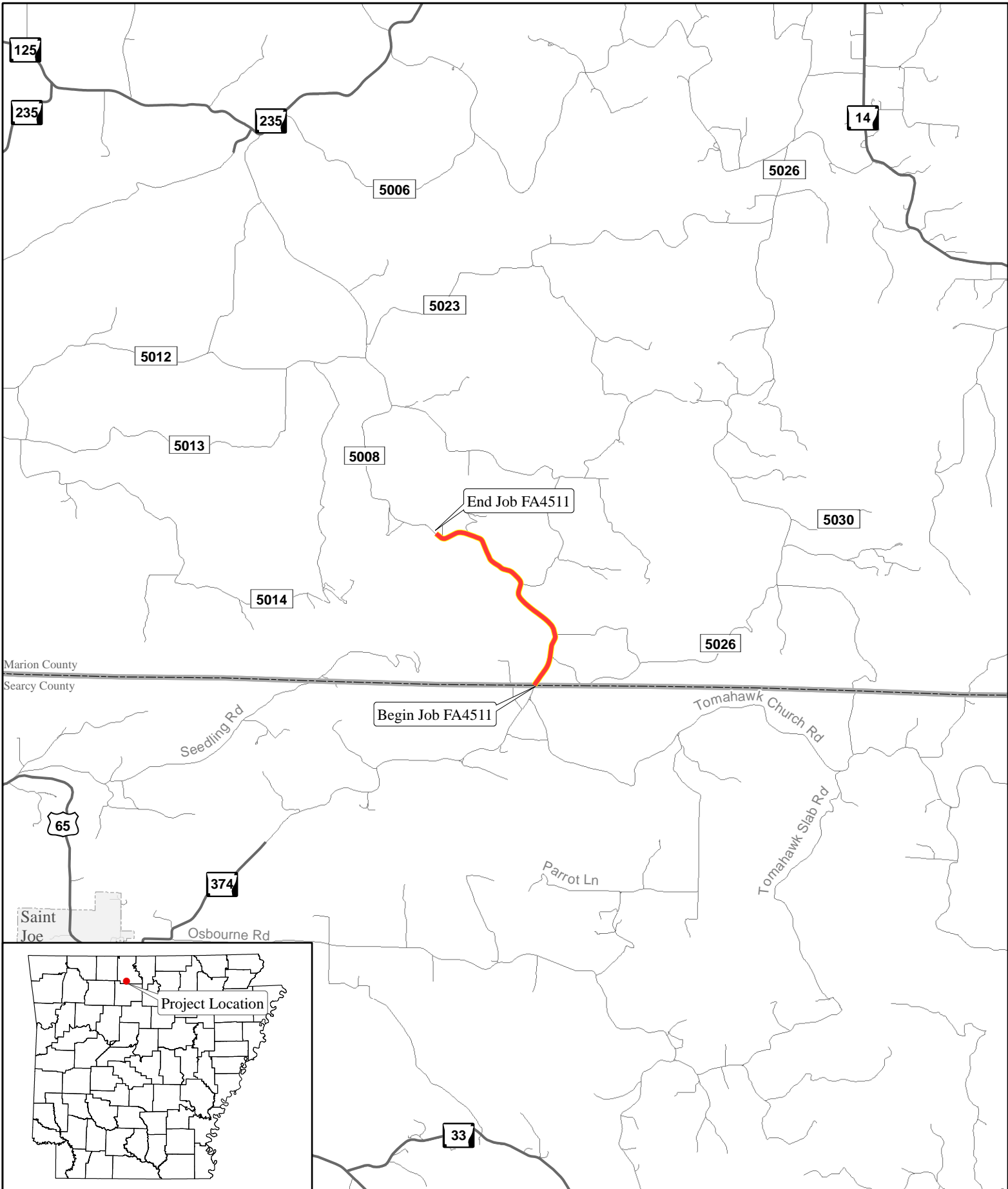


John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division


Enclosures

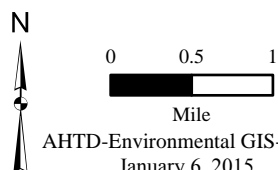
JF:JB:fc

c: Program Management
Right of Way
State Aid
District 9
Master File



Job FA4511
 Searcy Co. Line-Northwest
 Phase 2 (Reconst.)
 Marion County

 Project Location



JAN 22 2015

92PGL
FHW
NE

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

CULTURAL RESOURCE
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM

AHTD Job Number FA4511 AHTD District Nine

Job Name Searcy Co. Line-Northwest Phase II (Recont.) (S) County Marion

Associated Highway/Road County Rd. 6 Funding: Federal State

USGS Quad Maumee 7.5"

- Job Type:
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement on New Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Borrow Pit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge Replacement | <input type="checkbox"/> Haul Road |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road Widening | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storage Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other- <u>Paving</u> |

AHPP
JAN 16 2015

Job Description: The project consists of replacing and constructing drainage structures and reconstructing 2.23 miles of County Rd. 6 in Marion County. No additional right-of-way (ROW) will be required. No new archeological sites were identified within the ROW of the project. No further work is recommended.

- Records Checked:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AAS Site Files | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AHPP Site Files |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GLO Surveys | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early USGS Quad Maps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AHTD 1936 County Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

- Survey Methods:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shovel Tests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits | <input type="checkbox"/> Machine Excavation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

- Ground Conditions:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivated | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleared and Grubbed |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woods | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pasture | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Presence of Cultural Resources Yes No

If yes, see Supplemental Site Information.

If no, this project will not affect cultural resources, no further work is recommended.

AHTD Archeologist: Jason Eads Date: December 11, 2014

SHPO: _____ Date: _____

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to light.
Frances McSwain
Frances McSwain, Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
110 S. Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, Arkansas 72032
Tel.: 501/513-4470 Fax: 501/513-4480

December 12, 2014

Mr. John Fleming
Division Head, Environmental Division
c/o Mr. Josh Seagraves
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

Dear Mr. Flemming:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your letter dated November 21, 2014, regarding the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) plans to replace and construct drainage structures and reconstruct County Road 6 in Marion County. The total project length is 2.23 miles. A project location map is enclosed.

The AHTD letter stated the following:

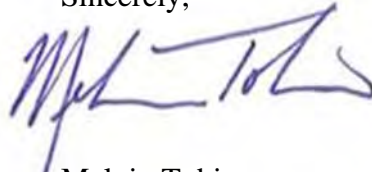
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) records indicate a known location of the Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*) and Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) 4.8 miles northeast of the project location in Elm Cave in Marion County. Gray Bats are mostly cave dwelling species year round. In the summer, Gray Bats primarily forage in forests along streams and rivers but will forage in upland areas too. Gray Bats prefer a densely forested corridor from the cave entrance to the forage site, which are typically only 1 mile, rarely over 2 miles, apart. Indiana Bats hibernate in caves during winter months and roost in floodplain, riparian and upland forests with trees that have exfoliating bark in summer. Although upland forests will be cleared and grubbed during road construction, it will be limited to only what is necessary to complete the project. Furthermore, upland forests within the project area lack the specific exfoliating bark required for roosting habitat; it is likely that Indiana Bats if present would only utilize the area for foraging. Based on these observations, we have determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect listed species. We request your concurrence in our determination.

The Service concurs with AHTD's assessment and determination as it relates to potential effects from stormwater discharges and to listed species, Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*) and Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) 4.8 miles northeast of the project location in Elm Cave in Marion County. However, our records indicate that there are two federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species with potential to be found in the affected area of the project in other locations. There is the potential for the Indiana Bat and the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis*

septentrionalis), which is now proposed endangered, to be affected by this action outside of their cave habitat. They are cave hibernating bats, but both species spend summer on the landscape in snags and hollow trees. Therefore, construction or clearing of trees on this action should take place during the winter hibernation period (Mid-October through mid-March) or outside of this period. Surveys should be done first to insure that they do not inhabit the area to avoid take of a listed species.

We thank you for your cooperation in helping to protect endangered species. For further assistance or if you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Lewis at (501) 513-4489 or Lindsey_Lewis@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Melvin Tobin
Deputy Project Leader

<C:\Users\lilewis\Documents\PROJECTS\FY2015\AHTD\AHTD Job FA4511\>

cc:

Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration
Cindy Osborne, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Jennifer Sheehan, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
John Turner, Arkansas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
Mark Hathcote, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Wanda Boyd, United States Environmental Protection Agency

AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number FA4511 FAP Number STPR-0045(27)

Job Title Searcy Co. Line-Northwest (Phase II) (Recont.) (S) Co. Rd. 6

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species		X		Clearing SP required; USFWS letter enclosed
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife		X		Minor loss of habitat
Floodplains	X			
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			
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 during construction
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No

Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None

Remarks: Cave Discovery and Special Clearing Special Provisions required

Signature of Evaluator  Date 2/19/15

Date Submitted 10/23/14

Date Returned _____

STATE AID DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number FA4511 FNumber STPR-0045(27) County MARION

Job Name SEARCY CO. LINE – NORTH WEST (PHASE 11) (RECONST.) (S)

Design Engineer CHARLES CRAWFORD Environmental Staff _____

Brief Project Description Replace drainage structures and construct on existing location

A. Existing Conditions:

1. Roadway Width: Metric _____ English 20'

2. Shoulder Width: Metric _____ English N/A

3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric _____ English 2-10'

4. Existing Right-of-Way: Metric _____ English N/A

B. Proposed Improvements:

1. Roadway Width: Metric _____ English 28'

2. Shoulder Width: Metric _____ English 4' Each Side

3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric _____ English 2-10'

4. Average Right-of-Way: Metric _____ English var.70' Lt./60' Rt.

If bridge(s) will be replaced by culverts give dimensions: _____

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: N/A Length: *English* _____

D. Design Data:

2015 ADT: 75 2035 ADT: 105 Trucks: 10 %

Design Speed: 30 m.p.h

E. Approximate total length of project: _____ kilometer(s) 2.230 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

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

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

County Officials NO

State Agency NO

Federal Agency NO