





## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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May 5, 2020

**TO:** Master Files

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

**SUBJECT:** Job Number 012372  
FAP Number ACNHPP-40-1(266)  
Alma – Hwy. 164 (S)  
Route I-40, Sections 11, 12, & 21  
Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson Counties  
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

After appropriate environmental review, it has been determined that the subject job is a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as described by the ARDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

The purpose of this project is to mill and overlay main lanes, shoulders, and ramps for approximately 29.5 miles of Interstate 40 in Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson Counties. The project includes hydro-demolition of 12 mainline bridges and polymer overlay of 2 mainline bridges. All work should take place within the existing roadway. A project location map is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, prime farmlands, wetlands, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. The Cultural Resources clearance is attached. This project has been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and has not been linked with any special mobile source air toxic concerns.

The official species list obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation website lists the gray bat (*Myotis*

*grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*), Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), rattlesnake-master borer moth (*Papaipema eryngii*), Geocarpon (*Geocarpon minimum*), and Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*) as protected species potentially occurring in the proposed project area. Based on the lack of habitat, scope of the project, its location within the right of way of Interstate 40, the distance to known species occurrences, and the winter clearing only restriction Special Provision placed in the job contract, it has been determined that the proposed project will have “no effect” on all listed species.

No Section 404 Permit will be required for construction of this project.

JF:KR:fc

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Cultural Resources Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist

c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
Districts 4 & 8  
FHWA





## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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April 30, 2020

**TO:** Job File

**FROM:** Shelby Linck, Cultural Resources Section, Environmental Division

SL

**SUBJECT:** Cultural Resources Clearance  
Job Number 012372  
Alma – Hwy. 164 (S)  
Route I-40, Sections 11, 12, & 21  
Crawford, Franklin & Johnson Counties

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) proposes to conduct mill and fill 4" deep (including lanes and shoulders), hydrodemolition of 12 bridges and polymer overlay of two bridges on 29.57 miles of Interstate-40 in Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson Counties. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired. All work will occur within the existing roadway.

A records check of the Arkansas Archeological Survey's (ARAS) database showed five archeological sites (3CW0045, 3CW0051, 3CW0052, 3FR0012, and 3FR0013) on or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. These are pre-historic sites surveyed in the 1960s for the construction of I-40. The sites either had a no further work recommendation or were destroyed by I-40. Based on records check of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's (AHPP) database for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, no previously recorded historic structures are located on or adjacent to the proposed project area. Three cemeteries (Whitson Cemetery/FR0199, Shiloh Cemetery, and Wagner Cemetery) are located near the project area.

In addition to checking ARAS and AHPP records, nineteenth through twentieth century maps were examined. The 1838, 1839, 1840, and 1844 General Land Office plat maps of Townships 10 North, Ranges 25, 26, 27, 29, and 30 West show two fields and two unnamed paths that intersect I-40. The 1936 Crawford, Franklin, and Johnson County maps shows development including scatterings of small communities and structures that would have been near or intersected the project area. None of these

Cultural Resources Clearance

Job Number 012372

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structures, if still extant, will be affected by the rehabilitation along the course of Interstate-40. In addition, the Trail of Tears (ToT) runs parallel to the north of the project area and intersects the I-40 exit ramps at Highway 215. The ToT will also not be affected by the rehabilitation. Bridges X0053–X0057, A5109–A5111, B5109–B5111, X0066–X0068, A5113, B5113, A5114, B5114, A5116, B5116, A5131, B5131, X0184, A5132, and B5182 are 45 years of age or older and are within the project area. They were not evaluated for eligibility to the NRHP due to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Section 106 exemption regarding effects to the Interstate Highway System (filed on the Federal Register as 69 FR 77979-77981 and authority of 16 U.S.C. 470v; 36 CFR 800.14(c) on March 7, 2005).

The proposed project will occur in already disturbed areas inside the current ROW. This project, as designed, does not have the potential to affect any undisturbed land surfaces or potential cultural resources. Therefore, this project is subject to the 1999 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and falls under the exempted work category "Restoration and Rehabilitation." Per the MOA, this project is not considered an "undertaking" and requires no further Section 106 review.

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

ARDOT Job Number 012372 FAP Number ACNHPP-40-1(266)  
Job Title Alma - Hwy. 164 (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			Cultural Resources clearance attached
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" determination; winter clearing only SP included
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No protected populations in project area
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts expected
Floodplains	X			Flood zone A, AE and Regulatory Floodway AE SFHAs in project area
Forest Service Property	X			None in the project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No sites in project area
Land Use	X			Will not be impacted by project
Migratory Birds	X			Migratory Bird SP included
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			None in the project area
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland	X			None in project area
Protected Waters	X			WPC SP included
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			None in the project area
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			4f resources not present
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No USTs in project area
Visual	X			No changes to visual environment
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in the project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in the project area

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

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Pollution Control: Mulberry River-ERW and NSW; Hydro-demolition SP also required

Signature of Evaluator Kathryn Rose Date 4/30/2020