

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Dan Flowers  
Director  
Phone (501) 569-2000 Fax (501) 569-2400



P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261  
WWW.ARKANSASHIGHWAYS.COM

May 19, 2009

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

Re: AHTD Job Number 040486  
FAP Number STP-9142(23)  
College Ave. – Stone Bridge Rd.  
(Hwy. 16) (Fayetteville)  
Washington County  
Tier Three 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 widen Highway 16 in Fayetteville from College Avenue to Stone Bridge Road. The length of the project is approximately 2.4 miles (3.9 kilometers). A project location map is enclosed.

The majority of the existing roadway has two 11-foot (3.3-meter) paved travel lanes with eight-foot (2.4-meter) shoulders. A small portion of the existing roadway already has four 11-foot (3.3-meter) paved travel lanes, and will not be reconstructed. The existing right of way varies between 80-100 feet (24-30 meters).

Proposed improvements include two 11-foot (3.3-meter) paved inside travel lanes, two 15-foot (4.6-meter) outside travel lanes, a 12-foot (3.7-meter) left turn lane as needed, 5-foot (1.5-meter) sidewalks, and curb and gutter design. The 15-foot (4.6 meter) wide outside travel lanes will allow the addition of a bicycle lane in the future. The average right of way width will vary between 100-130 feet (30-40 meters). Approximately 5.2 acres (2.1 hectares) of new right of way will be needed to complete the project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2009	12,500	13	40 mph (60 kmph)
2029	17,500	13	40 mph (60 kmph)

There are no archeological/historic sites, endangered species, prime farmlands, or Environmental Justice issues associated with this project. A clearance letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer is enclosed. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. A Noise Analysis and Public Involvement Synopsis is also enclosed.

No wetlands will be impacted by the construction of the proposed project. The project will impact four unnamed tributaries to Town Branch and an unnamed tributary to West Fork White River. The existing structures at these crossings will be retained and extended, with the exception of a 2-foot (0.6-meter) reinforced concrete pipe at Station 572+00, that will be replaced with a triple 3-foot (0.9-meter) reinforced concrete arch structure. Construction of the proposed project will impact less than 0.5 acre (0.2 hectare) of waters of the United States and should be allowed under the terms of a Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14 for Linear Transportation Crossings as defined in Federal Register 67(10):2020-2095.

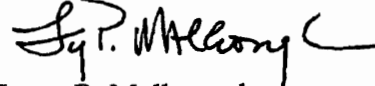
There is one residential relocation associated with the project. Public Law 91-646, The Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1970, as amended, will apply.

AHTD Job Number 040486  
Tier Two Categorical Exclusion  
Page 3 of 3

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

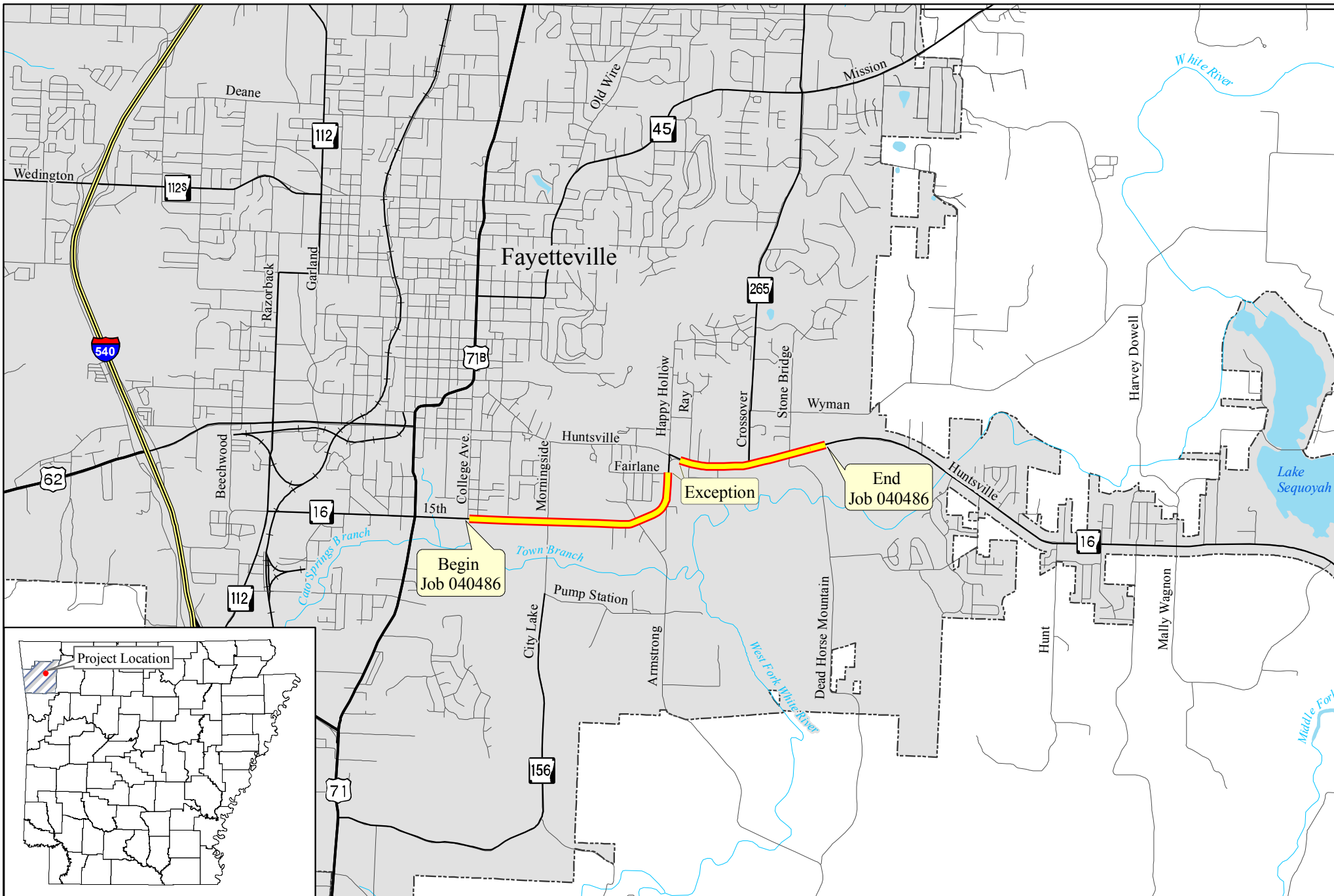
**APPROVED**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Date: 6/12/09

Sincerely,

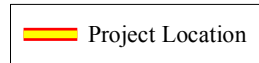
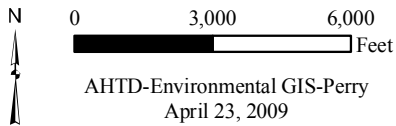
  
Lynn P. Malbrough  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosures  
LPM:DN:trb

c: Programs and Contracts  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District Four



**Job 040486**  
**College Ave. - Stone Bridge Rd.**  
**(Fayetteville) (Hwy. 16)**  
**Washington County**



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

69193  
FHWA  
NAE

Dan Flowers  
Director  
Telephone (501) 569-2000



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

April 14, 2009

Mr. George McCluskey  
Section 106 Review Officer  
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

**AHPP**  
APR 15 2009

RECEIVED  
AHTD  
MAY 11 2009  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

Re: AHTD Job Number 040486  
College Ave.-Stone Bridge Rd.  
(Fayetteville ) (S)  
Washington County

Dear Mr. McCluskey:

A Cultural Resource Survey for the referenced project is enclosed. Please review for concurrence with the findings of my staff. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Chris Branam of my staff at 501-569-2594.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lynn P. Malbrough'.

Lynn P. Malbrough  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosure

LPM:JM:CB

Date 5/7/09  
This undertaking will have no  
adverse effect on historic properties.  
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Frances McSwain'.  
Frances McSwain, Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer

## **Noise Assessment**

### **Job 040486**

A noise assessment has been conducted for this project utilizing the Federal Highway Administration's Traffic Noise Model (TNM 2.5) procedures, existing and proposed roadway information, existing traffic data and the traffic projections for the design year of 2029. This assessment is based on the design year Leq Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) level of 67dBA, which has been established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as the impact level for noise receptors associated with highway projects. This level or any exceedance of this level is considered a noise impact.

This project includes an urban roadway cross-section consisting of two 11-foot (3.3-meter) and two 15-foot (4.6-meter) paved travel lanes with a curb and gutter design. A 12-foot (3.6-meter) center turn lane will be constructed at selected locations.

The results of the noise assessment reveal that any noise receptor located within 141 feet (43 meters) of the proposed centerline along the proposed project location, will experience noise levels that exceed the NAC and will be considered impacted by highway traffic noise.

Seventy-one sensitive receptors located along the proposed project location are predicted to experience noise impacts resulting from noise levels that approach or exceed 67dBA during the design year. The term "approach" is considered to be one dBA less than the NAC. Sixty-two receptors are currently impacted by traffic noise through the project area, sixteen of which reside in apartments located near East Fairlane Street. An increase of only 3 dBA above current noise levels is predicted for the design year of 2029, as compared to the modeled levels for the existing design year of 2009.

Any noise abatement efforts using barrier walls or berms are not warranted for this project. This is due to the need to provide direct access to properties along Highway 16. In order to provide direct access, breaks in the barrier walls or berms would be required. These necessary highway access breaks would render any noise barrier ineffective and cost prohibitive.

To avoid noise levels in excess of design levels, any future receptors should be located a minimum of 150 feet (46 meters) from the proposed centerline of Highway 16 along the proposed project location. This distance should be used as a general guide and not as a specific rule, since the noise will vary depending upon the roadway grades and other noise contributions.

Any excessive project noise due to construction operations should be of short duration and have a minimum adverse effect on land uses or activities associated with this project area.

Job 040486  
Noise Assessment  
Page 2 of 2

In compliance with Federal guidelines, a copy of this analysis will be transmitted to the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District for possible use in present and future land use planning.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING SYNOPSIS**

**Job Number 040486**

**College Ave.-Stone Bridge Road (Fayetteville) (Hwy. 16)**

**Washington County**

**March 31, 2009**

An open forum Public Involvement Meeting was held for the proposed Highway 16 widening project at the First Assembly of God Church from 4:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. on March 31, 2009. Media news releases and flyers were utilized to inform the public of the meeting. Efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meeting included:

- Display advertisement placed in the Northwest Arkansas Times on Sunday, March 22 and Sunday, March 29, 2009.
- Public Service Announcement to EZ Spanish Media (La Zeta 95.7) that aired on Saturday, March 28 thru March 31, 2009.
- Outreach to Minority Ministers Letters.
- Distribution of flyers (English and Spanish) in the project area.

The following information was available for inspection and comment.

- Two copies of an aerial photograph display at a scale of one inch equals 300 feet, showing the location of the project.
- Two copies of a preliminary design display at a scale of one inch equals 50 feet.
- Projection of the preliminary design for detailed viewing.

Handouts for the public included a comment sheet and a small-scale map that was identical to the location map. Copies of these 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)	103
Comment forms received	35



*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.

TABLE 2	
Survey Results	Totals
Supports the project	32
Does not support the project	3

Comments concerning issues associated with the proposed project were as follows:

- Giving citizens options for modes of transportation (bike lanes) makes us a healthier, economically sustainable and more livable community.
- The current design should incorporate a center turn lane by eliminating the extra lane widths for future bike lanes and providing a sidewalk along only one side of the street.
- The widening should extend past Stone Bridge Road, possibly all the way to Elkins.
- The project is not justified by the traffic levels and will only serve to increase community/environmental disruption.
- Concerns about property loss and devaluation.
- A stoplight should be added at Huntsville and River Meadows instead of the proposed location at Stonebridge and Huntsville Road.

Attachments: Blank comment form  
Map handout

DN:dn

RJ RJ  
BP BP

**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
(AHTD)**

**CITIZEN COMMENT FORM**

**AHTD JOB NUMBER 040486  
COLLEGE AVE- STONE BRIDGE ROAD (FAYETTEVILLE) (HWY. 16)  
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**LOCATION:  
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD (ACTIVITY CENTER)  
550 EAST 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.  
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009**

Make your comments on this form and leave it with AHTD personnel at the meeting or mail it within 15 days to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, Environmental Division, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261.

Yes  No

Do you feel there is a need for the proposed widening of Highway 16 from College Avenue to Stone Bridge Rd? Comment (optional)\_\_\_\_\_

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Do you know of any historical sites, family cemeteries, or archaeological sites in the project area? Please note and discuss with staff. \_\_\_\_\_

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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. \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you feel that the proposed widening of Hwy. 16 will have any impacts ( Beneficial or  Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc.)? Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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(Continued on back)





## AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number 040486 FAP Number STP-9142(223)  
 Job Title College Ave. – Stone Bridge Rd. (Hwy. 16) (Fayetteville)

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts	X			
Cultural Resources	X			
Economic	X			
Endangered Species	X			
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice	X			
Fish and Wildlife	X			
Floodplains	X			
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds	X			
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels		X		See noise analysis
Prime Farmland	X			
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			
Relocatees		X		1 residential relocatee
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts	X			
Water Quality	X			
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? X  
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? X  
 Section 404 Permit Required? Yes Type 14

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

Signature of Evaluator *Don Smith* Date 5-15-09

Date Submitted 4-6-09  
Date Returned \_\_\_\_\_

## ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 040486 FAP Number \_\_\_\_\_ County Washington  
Job Name College Ave.-Stone Bridge Rd. (Fayetteville) (S)  
Design Engineer Trinity Smith Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief Project Description Widen to 4 lanes

### A. Existing Conditions:

1. Roadway Width: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: 22' - 44' C&G  
2. Shoulder Width: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: 8'  
3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: 2-11' and 4-11'  
4. Existing Right-of-Way: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: Var. 80'-100'

### B. Proposed Conditions:

1. Roadway Width: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: 54' C&G - 64' C&G  
2. Shoulder Width: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: 0'  
3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: 2-11' and 2-15'  
and 12' Turn lane as needed  
4. Average Right-of-Way: Metric: \_\_\_\_\_ English: Var. 100'-130'

### C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: none Length: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_

D. Design Data: 2009 ADT: 12500 2029 ADT: 17500 Trucks 13%  
Design Speed: \_\_\_\_\_ km/h 40 C&G m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: \_\_\_\_\_ kilometer(s) 1.7 mile(s) 2.68

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Increase capacity

G. Total Relocates: 1 Residences: 1 Businesses: 0

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

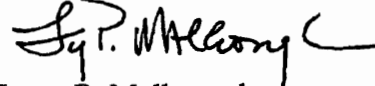
City and or County Officials: City of Fayetteville 3-31-09  
State Agency: No  
Federal Agency: No

AHTD Job Number 040486  
Tier Two Categorical Exclusion  
Page 3 of 3

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

**APPROVED**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Date: 6/12/09

Sincerely,

  
Lynn P. Malbrough  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosures  
LPM:DN:trb

c: Programs and Contracts  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District Four