

APPENDIX F

COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Notices of Intent

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[Federal Register: March 26, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 59)]
[Notices]
[Page 15925-15926]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr26mr04-146]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Notice To Rescind a Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS): Pulaski County, AK

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Rescind Notice of Intent to prepare a SDEIS.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that the
Notice of Intent published on February 18, 1999 to prepare a
Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for a
proposed highway project in Pulaski County, Arkansas is being
rescinded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randal J. Looney, Environmental
Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Arkansas Division, 700 West
Capitol Avenue, Room 3130, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298, Telephone:
(501) 324-6430.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Arkansas Highway and
Transportation Department, is rescinding the notice of intent to
prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) on
a proposal to construct the North Belt Freeway, a four-lane, divided,
fully controlled access facility located on new alignment in northern
Pulaski County.

In 1994, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and a Record
of Decision (ROD) identified a selected alignment (1A). However, a
portion of this alignment was not compatible with the City of
Sherwood's Master Street Plan, and the project was not included in the
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) developed by Metroplan, the
responsible Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). On February 18,
1999, FHWA published a NOI to prepare a SDEIS as part of the
development process for the construction of this proposed freeway
project.

The proposed project will primarily serve central Arkansas
including Little Rock, North Little Rock, Sherwood, Jacksonville, and
northern Pulaski County, Arkansas. The SDEIS was to have addressed a
new alignment alternative (1B) proposed by the City of Sherwood and
three previously studied alternatives located between the Highway 107/
Brockington Road interchange and the eastern boundary of

[[Page 15926]]

Camp Robinson near Maryland Avenue and Batesville Pike. The three
previously studied alternatives were evaluated in the project's Draft
EIS in 1991 and in the project's Final EIS in 1994.

<http://frwebgate1.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=016791178511+1+0+0&WAISacti...> 11/9/2004

The **SDEIS** was to focus on a limited study area between Batesville Pike and Brockington Road in northern **Pulaski** County, since this is the portion of the proposed corridor where several alternative alignments were still being considered. The remaining portions of the selected and approved North Belt Freeway alignment to the east toward Highway 67 and to the west through Camp Robinson ending at the I-40/I-430 interchange were to be reviewed only to a level necessary to document if any substantial changes have taken place since the completion and approval of the project's FEIS and ROD.

A preliminary study of the project alignments completed in 2003 attempted to establish if the local community and MPO could support the originally selected project alternative. The public involvement process associated with this reevaluation indicated public opposition for the originally selected alignment alternative. The City of Sherwood and Metroplan, citing the project's incompatibility with local and regional plans, refused to endorse the originally selected alignment alternative as the locally preferred route. Therefore, an **SDEIS** will be conducted to evaluate all feasible alternatives, possibly including alignments not evaluated in the project's original DEIS and FEIS. The original NOI for the **SDEIS** is being rescinded because it limited the area of study. A notice of intent to announce an **SDEIS** with an expanded study area for this project will be published subsequent to this NOI.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties regarding this action to rescind the NOI published on February 18, 1999 for the proposed North Belt Freeway. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action should be directed to the FHWA Arkansas Division at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program.

Issued on: March 16, 2004.

Sandra L. Otto,
Division Administrator, FHWA, Little Rock, Arkansas.
[FR Doc. 04-6809 Filed 3-25-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

[Federal Register: April 26, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 80)]
[Notices]
[Page 22590-22591]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (**SDEIS**):
Pulaski County, AR

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to prepare a **SDEIS**.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (**SDEIS**) will be prepared for a proposed highway project in **Pulaski** County, Arkansas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Randal J. Looney, Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Arkansas Division, 700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3130, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201-3298, Telephone: (501) 324-6430.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, will prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (**SDEIS**) on a proposal to construct the North Belt Freeway, a four-lane, divided fully controlled access facility located on new alignment in northern **Pulaski** County, Arkansas. In 1994, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and a Record of Decision (ROD) identified a selected alignment. However, a portion of this alignment was not compatible with the City of Sherwood's Master Street Plan, and the project was not included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) developed by Metroplan, the responsible Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

A preliminary reevaluation of the project alignments completed in 2003 attempted to establish if the local community and MPO could support the originally selected project alternative (1A). The public involvement process associated with this reevaluation indicated public opposition for the originally selected alignment alternative.

The proposed project will primarily serve central Arkansas including Little Rock, North Little Rock, Sherwood, Jacksonville, and northern **Pulaski** County. Due to the length of time since the project's original Draft (EIS) (13 years) and the changes that have occurred within the study corridor, the entire length of the proposed project will be included in the **SDEIS**. The **SDEIS** will function as a reassessment for the proposed freeway project in order to satisfy Federal Highway Administration requirements.

In addition to documenting the engineering and environmental aspects of the new alignment alternative, updating the three previously studied alignment alternatives, and considering other feasible alternatives, the **SDEIS** will provide a comparative analysis of all feasible alternatives with the primary goal of the identification of a

<http://frwebgate1.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=016791178511+0+0+0&WAISacti...> 11/9/2004

preferred alternative for the entire freeway project from Highway 67 to the I-40/I-430 interchange. This **SDEIS** evaluation will give consideration to Metroplan's Regional Plans and the City of Sherwood's Land Use Plans and Master Street Plans.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties regarding the proposed North Belt Freeway. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action should be directed to the FHWA Arkansas Division at the address provided above. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

[[Page 22591]]

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: April 20, 2004
Sandra L. Otto,
Division Administrator, FHWA Little Rock, Arkansas.
[FR Doc. 04-9383 Filed 4-23-04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

Coordination Materials

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2004

TO: Marion Butler, Division Head, Environmental Division

FROM: Don Nichols, Environmental Analyst II

SUBJECT: Coordination Meeting, Camp Robinson
AHTD Job Number R60101
Hwy. 67 – I-40 West (North Belt Freeway)
Pulaski County

A coordination meeting was held with Camp Robinson (Camp) representatives on March 23, 2004. The meeting addressed the referenced proposed highway project. Lynn Malbrough and Don Nichols from the AHTD along with Randal Looney from the FHWA attended the meeting. Brigadier General Larry Haltom, Colonel William Holmes and several staff members representing environmental, security, and operations at the Camp were present.

General Haltom indicated the proposed route through the Camp was still a viable option, however additional considerations are warranted due to security concerns. Colonel Holmes will review minimum separation distances required between the freeway and sensitive areas in the Camp and advise us of any adjustments that may need to be made. A security fence that will not allow breaching by vehicles will be required through the Camp since the route will run through their cantonment area.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Payne (with General Haltom's concurrence) asked us to evaluate the feasibility of route to the north of the proposed route. This alternative alignment would be advantageous to the Camp in the following ways:

1. The route would be outside the cantonment area of the Camp resulting in less security and safety concerns for the Camp.
2. The route would provide a western buffer that would limit urban encroachment into the Camp from the Oak Grove community.
3. The area along the route does not have any history of ammunition ranges or landfills. This fact could serve to limit the Camp's potential liabilities.

This new alignment would have the following advantages to the AHTD:

1. It would eliminate several grade separations that would be required for existing alignment. (approximately four fewer grade separations)
2. Lower cost security fencing would be required.

Inter Office Memorandum
AHTD Job Number R60101
Page 2

3. It would better serve the Gibson and Oak Grove communities, however, the interchange with Batesville Pike would be further north away from North Little Rock.

We committed to the Camp that we would generate a traffic forecast for the new proposed route to determine if it warrants further environmental analysis. Kit Carson is currently in the process of generating the alignment for the Planning Division to do a traffic forecast.

DN:dfs

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
AND
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Dan Flowers
Director
Telephone (501) 569-2000



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

February 18, 2005

See attached list.

RE: Job Number R60101
North Belt Freeway
Pulaski County

Dear

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is preparing a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) on the North Belt Freeway, a fully controlled access four-lane divided (interstate type) highway in northern Pulaski County. The proposed highway will be on new location connecting U. S. Hwy. 67 to the Interstate 40/430 Interchange and will serve the surrounding communities of North Little Rock, Sherwood and Jacksonville. The SDEIS will evaluate a study area of approximately 13 miles (21 kilometers) in length, and it will evaluate numerous alignment alternative for the proposed freeway.

Your agency is invited to attend a Scoping Meeting to discuss the project on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. in the Department's Central Office Annex Training Room (110). A map to the training room is enclosed.

A map illustrating the study corridor is enclosed. The SDEIS will reexamine the entire length of the project due to the amount of time that has elapsed since the project's original Draft EIS (13 years) and the land use changes that have occurred within the study corridor. Aerial photographs and other exhibits will be available for your review and comment.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to identify any constraints or significant concerns that should be considered during the assessment of impacts associated with the proposed project. Your assistance in identifying any design or location issues, such as unique environmental features or environmentally sensitive areas, socio-economic issues, and

permits or approvals that need be obtained prior to construction of the project are solicited. Your comments and any supporting documentation you may wish to provide would be helpful to project planners in the timely and accurate identification of impacts.

Information useful for reassessment of the proposed project's purpose and need will also be considered. Incorporation of the latest regional traffic model, impacts of recent transportation improvements, and revised land use and master street plans will assist in the updating of the purpose and need.

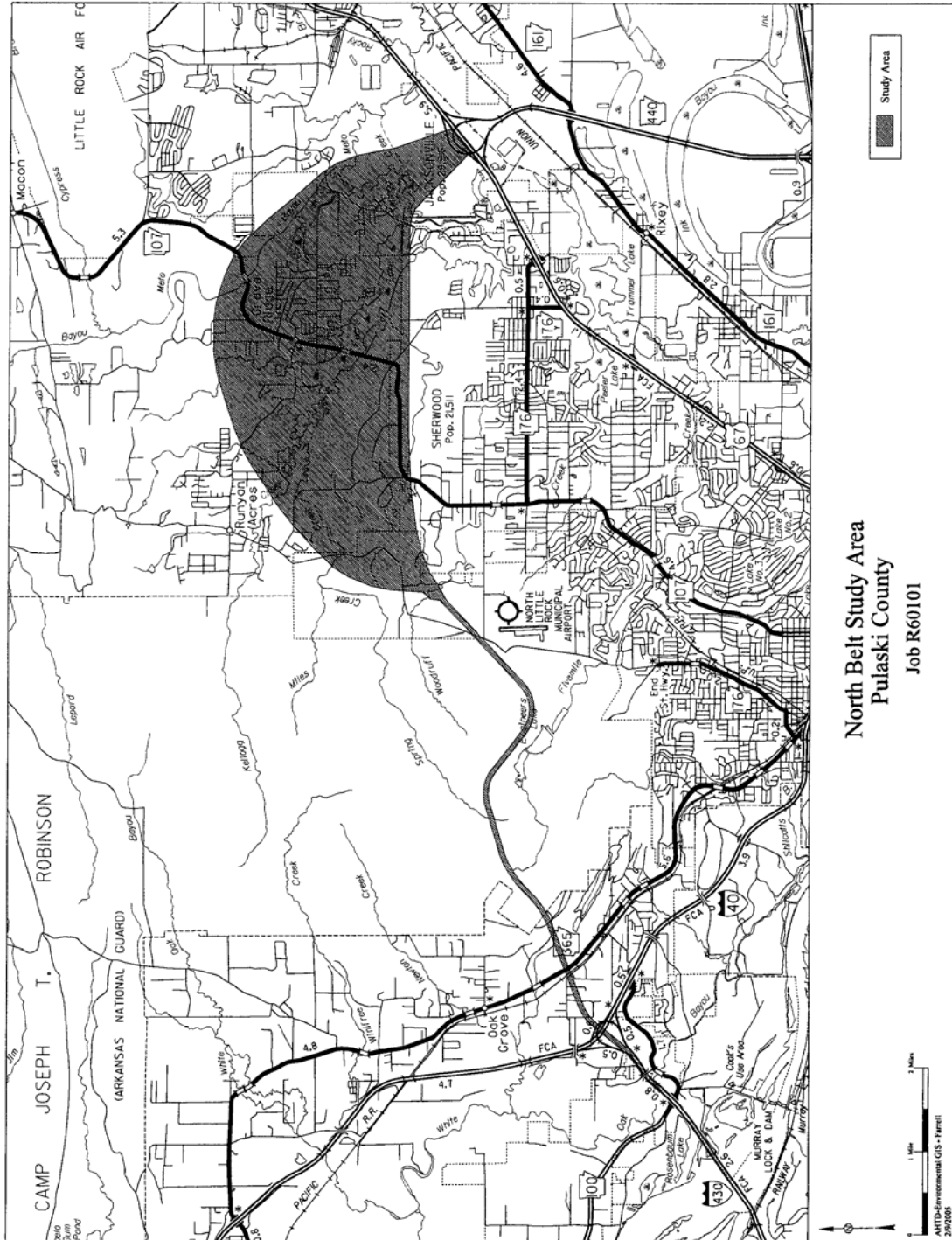
If additional information is needed, please contact Don Nichols of this office at (501) 569-2281 or e-mail at don.nichols@arkansashighways.com.

Sincerely,

Marion Butler
Division Head
Environmental Division

MB:DN

Enclosures



Mr. Scott Henderson
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Dr
Little Rock, AR 72205

Mr. Richard Davies
Department of Parks & Tourism
One Capitol Mall 4A-900
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Randy Young, P.E.
Arkansas Soil & Water Conservation Commission
101 E Capitol Ste 350
Little Rock, AR 72201

Ms. Cathy Matthews
State Historic Preservation Program
323 Center St
1500 Tower Bldg
Little Rock, AR 72201

Ms. Karen Smith
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
323 Center St
1500 Tower Bldg
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Allan Mueller
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1500 Museum Rd
Suite 105
Conway, AR 72032

Mr. Richard Greene
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Ave
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

Colonel Benjamin Butler
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District
PO Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203

Mr. Alice Andrews
The Ozark Society
5524 Southwood
Little Rock, AR 72205

Mr. Ken Smith
Audubon Arkansas
201 E. Markham
Suite 450
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Terry Horton
Arkansas Wildlife Federation
9700 N Rodney Parham Rd
I-2
Little Rock, AR 72227-6212

Mr. Scott Simon
Arkansas Nature Conservancy
601 N. University Ave
Little Rock, AR 72205

Ms. Hooks Glen
Sierra Club
1308 W. 2nd St
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Marcus Devine
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
8001 National Dr
Little Rock, AR 72209

Dr. Fay Boozman
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 W Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205

General Larry Haltom
Arkansas National Guard
Camp Robinson
No. Little Rock, AR 72119-9600

The Honorable Bill Harmon
City of Sherwood
P.O. Box 6256
Sherwood, AR 72120

The Honorable Patrick Hayes
City of North Little Rock
P.O. Box 5757
No. Little Rock, AR 72119

The Honorable Tommy Swaim
City of Jacksonville
P.O. Box 126
Jacksonville, AR 72078

The Honorable Floyd Villines
Pulaski County
Administration Building, 4th Floor
201 S. Broadway St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Jim McKenzie
Metroplan
501 W. Markham St
Suite B
Little Rock, AR 72201

North Belt Freeway SDEIS Scoping Meeting

AHTD Central Office Annex Training Room

3/23/05

AHTD Contacts

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Lynn Malbrough
Section Head – Public Involvement
Environmental Division
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Lynn.Malbrough@arkansashighways.com

Steve Mitchell
Senior Transportation Planner
Planning and Research Division
501-569-2065
Steve.Mitchell@arkansashighways.com

FHWA Contact

Randal Looney
Environmental Specialist
Federal Highway Administration
Arkansas Division
700 West Capitol Ave., Room 3130
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501-324-6430
Randal.Looney@fhwa.dot.gov

History of North Belt Freeway (NBF) Study

- 1941 – NBF included in long-range plans of Pulaski County
- 1977 – Sherwood includes NBF on Master Street Plan
- 1984 – NBF DEIS designates Alts. 1A and 1D as preferred routes
- 1991 – DEIS for Hwy. 67/167 to I-40 West section
- 1994 – ROD issued with Alt. 1A as preferred
- 1997 – FEIS expires
- 2003 – Preliminary Reevaluation Conducted
- 2004 – Decision to Prepare SDEIS
- 2004 – SDEIS Notice of Intent published

SDEIS Procedure and Timeline

- ◆ Reevaluate entire route
- ◆ Consider all feasible alternatives
- ◆ Update constraints in project area
- ◆ Update information for Purpose and Need
- ◆ Consider local planning efforts including regional, land use, and master street plans

- 4/2004 – NOI in Federal Register
- 3/2005 – Agency Scoping Meeting
- 9/2005 – Public Involvement Meeting
- 5/2006 – Complete SDEIS
- 8/2006 – Public Hearing on SDEIS
- 2/2007 – Complete Final EIS
- 4/2007 – Obtain ROD

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**DATE:** March 24, 2005

TO: Master Files

FROM: Don Nichols, Environmental Analyst III, Environmental Division

SUBJECT: SDEIS Scoping Meeting
AHTD Job Number 60110
North Belt Freeway Study
Pulaski County

A scoping meeting was held at the AHTD Central Office Annex on March 23, 2005. A list of those attending is attached. The meeting addressed the subject proposed highway project.

A brief history of the project was presented along with information about SDEIS procedure and proposed timeline. Displays of the project area to be included in the study were available for viewing. Comments related to the project were solicited and responses received are listed below.

Issues Identified

- ◇ Possible alignments in northern portion of study area should be examined
- ◇ Interchange at Oneida road needs consideration
- ◇ New and proposed subdivision developments need to be considered
- ◇ Stream crossing impacts on water quality will be important
- ◇ Purpose and Need should be restructured to allow for segments of independent utility to be evaluated separately
- ◇ Tolling of the facility and impacts it would have on interchange locations needs to be evaluated
- ◇ Sherwood Master Street Plan should be a consideration
- ◇ Noise impacts on dwellings will be important
- ◇ Existing Floodplain studies should be used
- ◇ Community Impact evaluation will be important
- ◇ Air quality impacts should be evaluated for containment and non-containment status scenarios for the project area

Attachment

DN



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

"The City of Choice"

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

Hon. Tommy Swaim

1 MUNICIPAL DRIVE
P.O. BOX 126
JACKSONVILLE, AR 72078-0126

501-982-3146 / Fax: 985-0168

RECEIVED

FEB 25 2005

CHIEF ENGINEER'S
OFFICE

February 24, 2005.

Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department
Mr. Robert Walters
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Dear Mr. Walters:

In response to our recent conversation regarding the 440/Oneida interchange in Jacksonville, I am making a formal request for this to be added to the present Environmental Impact Study.

Another issue of importance is the construction of a full interchange at the weight station with access roads to Redmond Road. This would allow future connections to be made to Dupree Park, Cloverdale Road and West Main Street. I request an environmental impact study be completed on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Tommy Swaim, Mayor
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS

TS:mp

RECEIVED
AH T.D.

MAR 03 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

RECEIVED
FEB 28 2005
Asst. Chief Engr.-Planning

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

March 16, 2005

The Honorable Tommy Swaim
Mayor of Jacksonville
P.O. Box 126
Jacksonville, AR 72078

Dear Mayor Swaim:

Reference is made to your recent correspondence regarding a possible interchange at Oneida Drive with the North Belt Freeway and a full interchange south of Redmond Road on Highway 67.

As you are aware, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is currently developing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the North Belt Freeway project between Highway 67 and the I-40/I-430 interchange. Per your request, the Department will consider the need for and feasibility of an interchange at Oneida Drive as part of the project's evaluation process.

In regard to your request for assistance with a proposed Highway 67 interchange south of Redmond Road near the existing weight station, the Department is currently assisting and will continue to assist a local developer's consultant. This assistance relates to the coordination of the break in access request to the Federal Highway Administration, which is necessary in developing an interchange at this location.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding these matters, please advise.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert L. Walters'.

Robert L. Walters
Chief Engineer

c: Director
Assistant to the Director
Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning
Environmental
Planning and Research
District 6
Metroplan

RLW:LM.mo:lt:bpm
Bennett:Chief Swaim 3-05.doc

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
AND
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Dan Flowers
Director
Telephone (501) 569-2000



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

October 28, 2005

See attached list.

SUBJECT: Notice of Public Officials Meeting
AHTD Job Number R60101
North Belt Freeway (Hwy. 67 – I-40)
Pulaski County

Dear

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration will hold a Public Officials Meeting to discuss possible alternative alignments for the North Belt Freeway. The meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m., November 9 in the Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene, 9860 Brockington Road in Sherwood. You are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting and offer your views concerning the project.

Additionally, Public Involvement Sessions will be held for the subject project on the evenings of November 14 and 15. Please see the enclosed notice for additional details. This "open house" meeting is for interested citizens to view displays, ask questions, and offer comments about this proposed project. Any publicity you might give these Public Involvement Sessions will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mike Webb
Section Head- Public Involvement
Environmental Division

Mr. Scott Henderson
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Dr
Little Rock, AR 72205

Mr. Richard Davies
Department of Parks & Tourism
One Capitol Mall 4A-900
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Randy Young, P.E.
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
101 E Capitol Ste 350
Little Rock, AR 72201

Ms. Cathy Matthews
State Historic Preservation Program
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1500 Tower Bldg
Little Rock, AR 72201

Ms. Karen Smith
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
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Mr. Allan Mueller
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Conway, AR 72032

Mr. Richard Greene
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Dallas, TX 75202

Colonel Benjamin Butler
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District
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Mr. Marcus Devine
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Dr. Paul Halverson
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 W Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205

General Larry Haltom
Arkansas National Guard
Camp Robinson
No. Little Rock, AR 72119-9600

The Honorable Bill Harmon
City of Sherwood
P.O. Box 6256
Sherwood, AR 72120

The Honorable Patrick Hayes
City of North Little Rock
P.O. Box 5757
No. Little Rock, AR 72119

The Honorable Tommy Swaim
City of Jacksonville
P.O. Box 126
Jacksonville, AR 72078

The Honorable Floyd Villines
Pulaski County
Administration Building, 4th Floor
201 S. Broadway St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Jim McKenzie
Metroplan
501 W. Markham St
Suite B
Little Rock, AR 72201

North Belt Freeway SDEIS Public Officials Meeting

11/9/05

Agenda

- ◇ Introductions
- ◇ Project Status
- ◇ Public Meetings
- ◇ Next Step(s)
- ◇ Questions/Comments
- ◇ Display Review

AHTD Contacts

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FHWA Contact

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Randal.Looney@fhwa.dot.gov

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**DATE:** January 13, 2006

TO: Master Files

FROM: Don Nichols, Environmental Analyst III, Environmental Division

SUBJECT: SDEIS Public Officials Meeting
AHTD Job Number 60110
North Belt Freeway Study
Pulaski County

A public officials meeting was held at the Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene on November 9, 2005. A list of those attending is attached. The meeting addressed the alternative alignments that had been developed for the subject project.

Background information on development of the alternative alignments was discussed. These alignments will be presented at public involvement sessions scheduled for November 14 & 15. The displays to be used at the public involvement sessions were available for questions and comments. Comments related to the alternative alignments were solicited. Several general questions were raised related to alignment placement and interchanges. However, no substantive comments were received at the meeting, nor subsequent to the meeting, from any of the public officials.

Attachment

DN

Nichols, Don

From: Nichols, Don T.
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2006 12:58 PM
To: Jim McKenzie (E-mail); Judge Villanes (E-mail); Mayor Harmon (E-mail); Mayor Swaim (E-mail); Mayor Hayes (E-mail); General Haltom (E-mail); Richard Magee (E-mail); Looney, Randal; 'Larry.J.Harrison@swl02.usace.army.mil'
Cc: Malbrough, Lynn P.; Harris, John L.; Mitchell, Steve R.
Subject: North Belt Update Meeting 1/12/06

There will be a public officials/agency meeting to present an update on the North Belt Freeway Project on Thursday, January 12 at 2:00 PM in the Metroplan conference room. We hope you or a representative from your organization will be able to attend. If you have any questions, please call me at 569-2611. Thanks.

Don Nichols
Environmental Analyst
Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department

10/10/2006

North Belt Freeway SDEIS Public Officials Meeting

AHTD Job # R60101

1/12/06

Agenda

- ◇ Introductions
- ◇ Modifications of Alternative Alignments
- ◇ Next Step(s)
- ◇ Questions/Comments
- ◇ Display Review

AHTD Contacts

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Steve Mitchell
Senior Transportation Planner
Planning and Research Division
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Steve.Mitchell@arkansashighways.com

FHWA Contact

Randal Looney
Environmental Specialist
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700 West Capitol Ave., Room 3130
Little Rock, AR 72201-3298
501-324-6430
Randal.Looney@fhwa.dot.gov

Modifications of Alternative Alignments

North Belt Freeway (AHTD Job # R60101)

SDEIS Public Officials Meeting

1/12/06

Background

The alternative alignments presented at the Public Officials Meeting on 11/9/05 were displayed at Public Involvement Meetings on 11/14/05 and 11/15/05. Preliminary environmental constraints were mapped in the project area and traffic model runs were conducted. Analyses of public comments and preliminary constraints have resulted in recommended modifications to the original alternative alignments. Results of the analyses and associated modifications are presented below.

Northern Alignments

Results:

Lower level of support from the public

Segment 12 favored over Segment 11 by margin greater than 2 to 1

Segment 12 has extensive residential relocations (30)

Segment 11 has multiple business relocations (3-4) at Hwy. 107 interchange

Segment 7 crosses mining area that is potentially eligible for the National Register and could contain underground shafts and hazardous materials

Modifications:

Eliminate segments 11 and 7

Shift segment 12 to reduce relocations

Central Alignments

Results:

Moderate amount of support from the public

Segment 8 crosses mining area that is potentially eligible for the National Register and could contain underground shafts and hazardous materials

Modifications:

Eliminate segment 8

Shift segment 10 to the north to create larger contiguous block of land

Southern Alignment

Results:

Highest level of support from the public

Modification:

Proposal for interchange at Kellogg Rd. was changed to a grade separation to be consistent with the other alignments as they cross Kellogg Rd.

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**DATE:** January 13, 2006

TO: Master Files

FROM: Don Nichols, Environmental Analyst III, Environmental Division

SUBJECT: SDEIS Public Officials Meeting
AHTD Job Number 60110
North Belt Freeway Study
Pulaski County

A public officials meeting was held at Metroplan on January 12, 2006. A list of those attending is attached. The meeting addressed the modifications that were made to the alternative alignments for the subject project.

Background information on development of the alternative alignments was discussed. These alignments will be presented at public involvement sessions scheduled for November 14 & 15. The displays to be used at the public involvement sessions were available for questions and comments. Comments related to the alternative alignments were solicited. Several general questions were raised related to alignment placement and interchanges. However, no substantive comments were received at the meeting, nor subsequent to the meeting, from any of the public officials.

Attachment

DN

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
AND
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Dan Flowers
Director
Telephone (501) 569-2000



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

March 22, 2006

See attached list

Re: AHTD Job Number R60101
Hwy. 67 – I-40 West
Pulaski County

Dear

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is preparing a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed North Belt Freeway, a fully controlled access, four-lane divided (interstate type) highway in northern Pulaski County. The proposed highway will be on new location connecting U. S. Hwy. 67 to the Interstate 40/430 Interchange and will serve the adjacent communities of North Little Rock, Sherwood, Jacksonville, and northern Pulaski County. Alternative alignments ranging from 12.6 to 14.5 miles in length have been developed for this project. A map illustrating the alternative alignments is enclosed.

Please identify any parks or recreational lands that could be affected by the proposed alternative alignments. Your comments and any supporting documentation you may wish to provide would be helpful to project planners in the timely and accurate identification of impacts.

If additional information is needed, please contact Don Nichols of this office at (501) 569-2281.

Sincerely,

Lynn P. Malbrough
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosure

LPM:DN:

Mr. Bob Rhoads, Director
City of North Little Rock
Parks and Recreation Department
120 N. Main St
P.O. Box 936
North Little Rock, AR 72215-0936

Mr. George Biggs, Director
City of Jacksonville
Parks and Recreation Department
#5 Municipal Dr.
Jacksonville, AR 72078

Ms. Anita Chouinard
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism
Outdoor Recreation Grants (6th Floor)
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Ms. Ashley Pope, Director
Pulaski County
Planning and Development
501 W. Markham, Suite A
Little Rock, AR 72201

Mr. Sonny Janssen, Director
City of Sherwood
Parks and Recreation Department
2199 East Kiel Ave.
Sherwood, Arkansas 72120



AHTD
Nichols
File Report

**DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS & TOURISM**
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 501-682-7777
FAX: 501-682-1364
History Commission
501-682-6900 (V/T)
Keep Arkansas
Beautiful Division
501-682-3507
Personnel Section
501-682-7742 (V/T)
State Parks Division
501-682-1191 (V/T)
Tourism Division
501-682-7777 (V/T)
INTERNET
arkansas.com
ArkansasStateParks.com

**Mike Huckabee
GOVERNOR**

Richard W. Davies
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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RECREATION
& TRAVEL
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KEEP ARKANSAS
BEAUTIFUL

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OPPORTUNITY/
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/
AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT
EMPLOYER**

Arkansas

THE NATURAL STATE

April 27, 2006

Mr. Lynn P. Malbrough
Division Head, Environmental Division
Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Dept.
Post Office Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

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APR 28 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

RE: AHTD Job No. R60101
Hwy 67 – I-40 West
Pulaski County
ORGP 6-117

Dear Mr. Malbrough:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment regarding the proposed construction of a four-lane divided highway in northern Pulaski County connecting U.S. Hwy 67 to Interstate 40/430 Interchange. In your letter of March 23, 2006 you requested the identity of park or recreational lands that could be affected by the project. In response, I am sending you database print outs of the parks in the project area. For your convenience, I have highlighted the grant number, park name and location, and funding source of each park.

Funding from either the Land & Water Conservation Fund or the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Grant and Trust Fund has been awarded to North Little Rock (ten grants), Jacksonville (ten grants), and Sherwood (four grants) for park land acquisition and/or development. The parks listed (see attached list) have 6(f)(3) boundaries requiring that they remain as public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

The three proposed project routes identified on the map you enclosed do not appear to come near any parks protected by a 6(f)(3) boundary. Please contact me immediately if alternate highway routes are selected that come near these parks.

If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please feel free to contact me at 501-682-6946.

Sincerely,

Anita Chouinard, Environmental Planner
Outdoor Recreation Grants Program

Enclosures

Handwritten:
NICHOLS
R60101



Parks and Recreation Department

2700 Willow Street
Voice (501) 791-8538
April 6, 2006

North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114
parksandrec@northlittlerock.ar.gov Fax (501) 791-8528

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APR 10 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

Mr. Lynn P. Malbrough, Division Head
Environmental Division
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
Post Office Box 2261
Little Rock AR 72203-2261

Re: AHTD Job Number R60101, Hwy. 67-I-40 West, Pulaski County

Dear Mr. Malbrough:

In reference to your letter of March 23, 2006 concerning the North Belt Loop and its environment impact on North Little Rock parks, the following information is provided.

Within the scope of where it is located, it does not impact any park land in North Little Rock.

If additional information is needed, please contact me at 791-8538.

Sincerely,

Bob Rhoads, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

Public Involvement Materials**PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE**

**North Belt Freeway
(Hwy. 67-I-40 West)
(Job R60101)**

Meetings will be held each day from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 14, 2005

**Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene
9860 Brockington Road in Sherwood**

and

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

**Cato Elementary
9906 Jacksonville Cato Road in Sherwood**

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) will conduct public involvement sessions to discuss the preparation of a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the North Belt Freeway Project. Previously evaluated alignments in the Sherwood and North Little Rock city limits along with new alignments in the vicinity of Jacksonville, Gravel Ridge, and Runyan Acres are under consideration.

The informal sessions will be held Monday, November 14th at the Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene, 9860 Brockington Road in Sherwood and Tuesday, November 15th at Cato Elementary, 9906 Jacksonville Cato Road in Sherwood.

This will be an "open house" type meeting where the public is invited to visit anytime during the scheduled hours to view exhibits, ask questions, and offer comments.

WELCOME!

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
Public Meetings - Job Number R60101
North Belt Freeway (Hwy. 67 – I-40 West)
November 14 & 15, 2005

This guide will explain how to participate in today's open house. Please take time to read through this explanation and comment sheet before beginning your visit. Staff will be available from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. to explain the displays and answer any questions you may have concerning the project.

THE PURPOSE

Two informal "open house" Public Meetings are being held in the project area to inform the community on the current status of the project, review the alternative alignments and gather public comments, concerns, and suggestions.

A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared for the North Belt Freeway project. This project would connect the I-40/I-430 interchange with the Hwy. 67/Hwy. 440 interchange in order to improve local and regional traffic service. This will be accomplished by constructing a four-lane, divided, fully controlled access, interstate type facility on new location. Alternative alignments ranging from 12.6 to 14.5 miles in length have been developed for this project.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Aerial photographs and other exhibits showing the alternative alignments in greater detail are available for public inspection and comment. Individuals, community groups, and organizations are encouraged to submit written comments by November 30th. E-mail may be sent to northbelt@arkansashighways.com. Please use the attached form to record your comments regarding the proposed improvements and leave it today with AHTD personnel or mail it to:

Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department
Environmental Division
P. O. Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION.

November 14 & 15, 2005
Public Meetings - Job Number R60101
North Belt Freeway (Hwy. 67 – I-40 West)

PROJECT HISTORY

1994 - An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed and a Record of Decision was obtained for a selected alignment.

1997 - The EIS expired and required reevaluation after Metroplan did not include the North Belt Freeway in the Transportation Improvement Plan.

2003 - A reevaluation was completed and the originally selected alignment was upheld as the Department's preferred route.

2004 - A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) was initiated after it was determined that the Department's previously preferred alignment was opposed by Metroplan, the City of Sherwood and the public.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- The proposal includes providing a four-lane, divided, fully controlled access (interstate type) facility constructed on new alignment. It would include two twelve-foot travel lanes in each direction separated by a variable width median.
- An average right-of-way width of 300 feet is typical for this type facility.
- Access will be fully controlled with interchanges at selected locations.
- Frontage roads would be provided only where it is more economical for the Department to construct the road than to purchase the property.
- Alternative alignments have been developed for the project and are being presented today for comment. The alternative alignments will be evaluated and refined through analysis of comments from public meetings, environmental and social screening, and consideration of regional and local transportation plans.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

November 14 & 15, 2005

Public Meetings - Job Number R60101
North Belt Freeway (Hwy. 67 – I-40 West)

Name (Optional) _____

Mailing Address (Optional) _____

Please select Yes or No for the options below.

Yes No

Do you support construction of a new highway to improve traffic service through northern Pulaski County connecting the I-40/I-430 interchange with the Hwy. 67/Hwy. 440 interchange?

Do you support construction of a four-lane, divided, fully controlled access, interstate type facility (such as proposed for North Belt Freeway), as the appropriate type facility for local and regional traffic needs?

If you prefer any **one** of the alternative alignments more than the others, please specify which one by writing in the series of segment numbers that make up the alignment.

1- _____

Please indicate the area you are discussing by including Segment Number(s)

Describe any favorable or unfavorable concerns you have for any of the segments or alternative alignments. Examples of possible concerns could be related to economics, community division, air and/or noise pollution, relocation of residences and businesses, loss and/or separation of farmland, traffic problems, ease of access, increased residential or industrial development, safety, environmental justice (disproportionately high and negative environmental effects on minority or low-income populations), loss of wetlands and/or wildlife habitat or others.

Do you know of any archaeological or historical sites within the proposed alternative alignments? Do you know of any factors - such as caves, endangered species, hazardous waste sites, or parks and public lands, - that may limit the project location? Please note below and discuss with AHTD staff. _____

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING SYNOPSIS

Job Number R60101
North Belt Freeway (Hwy. 67 – I-40 West)
Pulaski County
November 14 & 15, 2005 Public Involvement Meetings

An open forum public involvement meeting for the proposed North Belt Freeway (Hwy. 67 – I-40 West) was held at the Brockington Church of the Nazarene in Sherwood on November 14, 2005 and at Cato Elementary on November 15, 2005. News releases and flyers were utilized to inform the public of the meetings.

The following information was available for inspection and comment:

- Seventeen displays including aerial photographs illustrating the alignments, line maps illustrating the alignments, and information boards
- Handouts for the public included a comment sheet and a small-scale map illustrating the alignment locations

Attendance at the public involvement sessions was 489. Approximately 81 comment forms were received during the meeting. One hundred and eighty-seven comment forms were later received through the mail along with 13 comments by e-mail.

The information obtained by the 281 surveys related to support for the project, alternative alignment and interchange preferences, and concerns or issues related to the project and alternative alignments.

SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH BELT FREEWAY

259 respondents supported the construction of a new highway through the area

249 respondents supported the construction of a 4-lane interstate type facility

ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT AND INTERCHANGE PREFERENCES

The question on the survey asking if the respondents preferred one alternative alignment to any of the other alternative alignments received 270 responses.

Results of the alternative alignment are presented below by which segment number crossing Kellogg Road. was chosen. The major difference between the alternative alignments is where they cross Kellogg Road.

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 November 14 & 15, 2005
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<u>Segment # Crossing Kellogg Rd.</u>	<u># of Responses</u>
2	89
3	77
4	46
5	58

Alternative alignments utilizing segments 4 or 5 provided the option of continuing east either to the north or south of Gravel Ridge. Of the 104 respondents choosing segment 4 or 5, 60 of them selected an alignment south of Gravel Ridge. For the alignments north of Gravel Ridge, segment 12 was preferred by 29 respondents and segment 11 was preferred by 14 respondents.

For the crossing of Fears Lake along the southern alignments, segment 13 was preferred by 148 respondents, and segment 14 was preferred by 48 respondents.

The preference for an interchange at Oneida Road was mentioned by 38 respondents, and preference for a grade separation (only) at the same location was mentioned by 3 respondents. The public produced an additional comment form related specifically to the justified need for an interchange at Oneida Road. Twenty-five of these comment forms have been received to date.

COMMENTS, CONCERNS AND ISSUES

Most comments received were individual concerns such as loss of homes and property, depreciation of property value, increase of air and noise pollution, and the possible increase of crime. Increased traffic volume was an issue that would make the neighborhoods unsafe and endanger the lives of children and wildlife. Some comments reflected the history of their homesteads that could not be replaced. Comments were also received from new landowners who just purchased property this year.

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.

The following general comments reflect the **positive** issues associated with the proposed North Belt Freeway:

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November 14 & 15, 2005
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- Project would ease traffic congestion along Hwy. 67 and make it safer.
- It would be essential to future growth of Sherwood and Northern Pulaski County
- Needs to be done quickly; proceed with plans
- Citing improved travel time to Little Rock
- Economic and social enhancement due to increased traffic
- Improved travel time to surrounding communities

The following general comments reflect **issues or concerns** associated with the proposed North Belt Freeway:

- This will split Sherwood and its services
- Will support the project as long as it goes through rural or unpopulated areas
- Project needs to be on the outskirts of Sherwood
- Lead and silver mine area should be protected for its historical value and for instability from mining operations
- This will create traffic
- Hazardous chemicals to go too close to schools and homes
- Air and noise pollution will spoil the Kellogg Valley area
- A six lane highway should be considered

The following comments are related to individual alternative alignments containing the indicated segments:

Alignments Containing Segment 2

Positive

- Only route that would not cause major air pollution in Kellogg Valley
- Shortest route
- Cheapest route
- Ease of access for most people
- Closest to originally selected route
- Least environmentally disruptive

Negative

- Impacts heavily settled area where new construction continues
- Depreciation of property values
- Safety concerns

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- Noise pollution
- Air pollution
- Too close to schools

Alignments Containing Segment 3

Positive

- Straight shot
- Effects least amount of people from standpoints of relocations, air pollution and noise pollution
- Away from schools
- Shortest route with least relocations
- Does not mess with Bayou Meto

Negative

- Disrupts established neighborhoods
- Least impact on houses
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Impacts to neighborhood along Miller Rd.

Alignments Containing Segments 4 and 6

Positive

- Less Disruption
- Less noise and air impacts on communities

Negative

- Need mid-point interchange at Kellogg Rd
- Disrupts established neighborhoods
- Loss of wildlife habitat

Alignments Containing Segments 5 and 8

Positive

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November 14 & 15, 2005
Page 5 of 5

- Keeps route away from homes
- Least amount of relocations

Negative

- Need mid-point interchange at Kellogg Rd
- Disrupts established neighborhoods
- Too costly due to length
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Mines in the area

Alignments Containing Segments 4 or 5 and 7 or 9

Positive

- Would catch Jacksonville and Cabot traffic before it reached Sherwood
- Benefits LRAFB traffic
- Would eliminate traffic through Gravel Ridge going to LRAFB
- This route is what a belt is suppose to be, a route outside of the populated areas
- Would not interfere with Sherwood community activities
- Allows better access from Jacksonville residents

Negative

- Greater wetland impacts
- Negative impact on businesses along Hwy. 107
- Close to Runyan Acres Sewage treatment plant
- Too costly
- Too far from main population
- Impacts well established neighborhoods
- Increase traffic to back gate of LRAFB
- More relocations
- Loss of wildlife habitat