



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2022

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job Number 012410
FAP Number NHPP-0076(269)
Central AR – West Memphis ITS Impvts. (S)
Various Routes
Various Counties
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion

The purpose of the project is to implement an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for the Interstate 40 and Highway 70 corridors between North Little Rock and West Memphis, Arkansas and along Interstates 30 and 440 and Highway 440 in Central Arkansas. These ITS enhancements will consist of dynamic message signs and traffic cameras. A project location map is attached.

The project will not involve relocations, wetlands, floodplains, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, any environmental justice issues, or cultural resources. 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 State Historic Preservation Officer clearance is attached.

The official species lists obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project area: Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Ivory-Billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*), Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus*

capax), Pink Mucket (*Lampsilis abrupta*), Rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica*), Scaleshell Mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). This project will have “no effect” on the aforementioned species due to the limited scope of the action, lack of suitable habitat, and distance to known species locations.

The monarch butterfly is a candidate species and as such is not federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends agencies implement conservation measures for candidate species in action areas as these are species, by definition, that may warrant future protection under the Act. ARDOT will plant native wildflowers after construction as a conservation measure.

This project will not have a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Section 404 permit will not be required.

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.

JF:JG:sw

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Cultural Resources Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist

c: Maintenance
Program Management
Right of Way
Roadway Design
Districts 1 & 6
FHWA

Central AR – West Memphis ITS Impvts. Ph. 1 (S)
I-30, I-40, I-55, I-430, I-440, I-630, Hwy. 67 & Hwy. 440
Various Counties





ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

September 21, 2022

TO: Environmental Job File

FROM: Richard Jenkins, Cultural Resources 

SUBJECT: Cultural Resources Clearance
Job 012410
Central AR – West Memphis ITS Impvts. Ph. 1 (S)
Routes I-30, I-40, I-440
Various Counties

The project proposes improvements to the intelligent transportation system (ITS) elements including dynamic message signs and traffic cameras at various locations on Interstate I-440, I-30, and I-40. No new right-of-way (ROW) will be acquired.

A records check at the Arkansas Archeological Survey shows no sites in or near the proposed project. Structure SF0098 (Hwy. 70 Shotgun Shack) is located south of I-40 near Log Mile 254.75 and is shown as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's structure database. The structure is not adjacent to the existing interstate ROW and is not in the project area. No other historic structures are shown within or adjacent to the project areas.

The highway infrastructure and known construction practices were examined to assess previous ground disturbance. This type of undertaking is repetitive in nature and has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. All work will be within the existing ROW, and the limited scope of the project occurs within previously disturbed areas of the existing interstate corridor. Therefore, this project requires no Section 106 review under Appendix C, Activities 24 and 28, of the 2021 Programmatic Agreement.

ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

ARDOT Job 012410 FAP NHPP-0076(269)

Job Title Central AR - West Memphis ITS Impvts

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Cultural Resources	X			CR clearance attached
Economic	X			No impacts anticipated
Endangered Species	X			"No effect" determination
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			No impacts anticipated
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use	X			No impacts anticipated
Migratory Birds	X			No impacts anticipated
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No impacts anticipated
Noise Levels	X			No impacts anticipated
Prime Farmland	X			No impacts anticipated
Protected Waters	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Recreation Lands	X			No impacts anticipated
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			No impacts anticipated
Relocates	X			No impacts anticipated
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No impacts anticipated
Social	X			No impacts anticipated
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No impacts anticipated
Visual	X			No impacts anticipated
Streams	X			No impacts anticipated
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? N

Short-term Activity Authorization Required? N

Section 404 Permit Required? N Type N/A

Remarks: _____

Signature of Evaluator  Date September 27, 2022