



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2000

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 21, 2022

TO: Master Files

FROM:  John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division 

SUBJECT: Job 061613
FAP NHPP-0043(37)
I-40 Strs. & Apprs. (Hwys. 13 & 31) (S)
Route 31, Section 3
Route 13, Section 10
Lonoke County
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 replace two overpass bridge structures over I-40 in Lonoke County. The bridge on Highway 31 (Str. 030228) and the bridge on Highway 13 (Str. 03655) both have a deck condition rating of "Poor". The total project length is 0.73 mile. A project location map is attached.

The existing Highway 31 roadway consists of two 12' wide paved travel lanes with 4' wide paved shoulders. Proposed improvements include two 12' wide paved travel lanes, one 12' wide center turn lane, and concrete curb and gutters. In addition, a 5' wide concrete sidewalk separated by a 3' wide grass berm will be constructed along the west side of the roadway transitioning to a 6.5' concrete sidewalk across the bridge. A 10' wide concrete shared use path (SUP) separated by a 6' grass berm will be constructed along the east side of the roadway transitioning to a 12' wide concrete SUP across the bridge. The SUP will be separated by a parapet wall for pedestrian protection.

The existing Highway 13 roadway consists of two 10' wide paved travel lanes with 4' wide paved shoulders. Proposed improvements include two 14' paved travel lanes with concrete curb and gutters.

Both bridge replacements will be constructed on new location adjacent to the existing bridges and designed for future widening of I-40. Approximately 0.28 acre of additional right of way will be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Avg. Daily Traffic Hwy. 31	Avg. Daily Traffic Hwy. 13	Percent Trucks	Design Speed Hwy. 31	Design Speed Hwy. 13
2022	9,000	6,300	2	40 mph	45 mph
2042	11,000	8,000	2	40 mph	45 mph

The project will not involve relocations, underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, floodplains, farmland, 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's clearance is attached.

Based on the ARDOT noise policy, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The bridge replacements do not involve adding capacity or exposing noise sensitive land uses to traffic noise sources. In compliance with federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

The official species list obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation identified the following species as potentially occurring within the project boundaries: Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The official species list is attached. It has been determined that this project will have "no effect" on the listed species due to the lack of habitat and distance to known species occurrences.

The monarch butterfly is a candidate species and as such is not federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, the USFWS 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 Section 404 permit will not be required.

A Phase I Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) meeting was held from Thursday, December 9, 2021 to Friday December 24, 2021. A synopsis of the meeting and comments received are attached.

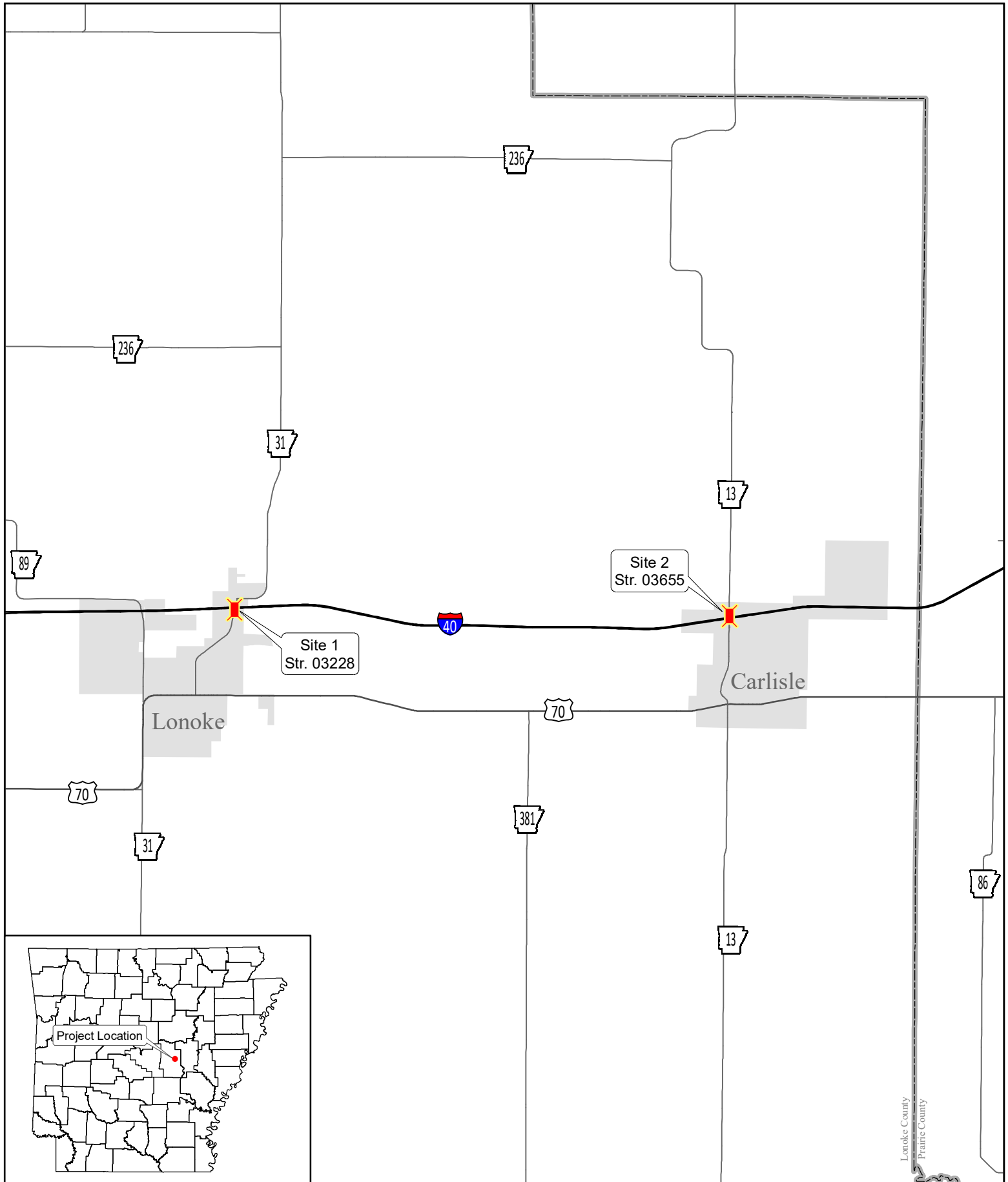
JF:JG:fc

Attachments:


- Project Location Map
- SHPO Clearance
- VPI Synopsis
- Design Request
- Environmental Study Checklist

c: Program Management

- Right of Way
- Roadway Design
- District 6
- FHWA



Job 061613
I-40 Strs. & Apprs.
(Hwys. 13 & 31)
Lonoke County

 Project Location



Asa Hutchinson
Governor
Stacy Hurst
Secretary

November 2, 2021

Mr. John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division
Arkansas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2261
Little Rock, AR 72203-2261

RE: Lonoke County: General
Section 106 Review: FHwA
Proposed Undertaking: I-40 Strs. & Apprs. (Hwys. 13 & 31) (S)
Route 13, Section 10
Route 31, Section 3
ARDOT Job Number: 061613
AHPP Tracking Number: 107081.01

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the project identification form for the above referenced undertaking in Lonoke County, Arkansas in Section 17, Township 2 North, Range 8 West and Section 15, Township 2 North, Range 7 West. The proposed undertaking entails the replacement of two bridges (ARDOT Bridge Numbers 03228 and 03655) on Highways 13 and 31 over Interstate 40. Minor amounts of right-of-way will be needed for Bridge 03228, consisting of 0.28 acres and no additional right-of-way is needed for Bridge 03655. A total of three shovel tests were excavated in the area of potential effect (APE), all of which were negative for cultural material.


An architectural resources review was conducted of the bridges, which are considered to be not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Based on the provided information, the AHPP concurs with the finding of **no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)** for the proposed undertaking and that no further archeological work is needed. We also concur that bridges 03228 and 03655 are not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Cherokee Nation, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, and the Shawnee Tribe. We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).

Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, call Jessica Cogburn at 501-324-9357 or email jessica.cogburn@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,
Jessica H.
Cogburn

 Digitally signed by Jessica
H. Cogburn
Date: 2021.11.02 12:22:13
-05'00'

for
Scott Kaufman
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration
Dr. Melissa Zabecki, Arkansas Archeological Survey

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SYNOPSIS

Job 061613

I-40 Strs. & Apprs. (Hwys. 13 & 31) (S)

Lonoke County

Thursday, December 9, 2021 through Friday, December 24, 2021

A Phase I Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) meeting for the replacement of overpass bridge structures over I-40 along Highways 13 and 31 in Lonoke County was hosted on the ARDOT website between December 9, 2021 and December 24, 2021. Efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meeting included:

- Display advertisement placed in the *Grand Prairie Herald* on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 and Wednesday, December 22, 2021. A display advertisement was also placed in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* on Sunday, December 19, 2021.
- A Public Service Announcement ran in Cumulus Media-KOKY 102.1 FM and EZ Spanish Media-LaZeta 106.3 FM from Monday, December 6, 2021 through Thursday, December 9, 2021.
- Letters were mailed to Public Officials on November 24, 2021.
- Minority Minister Letters were mailed on November 24, 2021.
- Flyers mailed to citizens.

The following information and links were available on the ARDOT website:

- Short video presentation about the project
- Public meeting notice
- Project location map
- Project design plans
- Typical section plans
- Online comment form
- Interactive project map
- Frequently asked questions with answers

Copies of the public meeting notice, project location map, and comment form are attached.

Table 1 summarizes the VPI meeting participation.

TABLE 1	
Public Participation	Totals
Online registration of attendance at Phase I VPI	21
Number of website viewers (English/Spanish)	317/15
Online Comments Received	5

ARDOT 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 during the VPI comment is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2	
Survey Results	Totals
Feels there is a need for the proposed bridge structure replacements on Hwy. 13 & 31	2
Does not feel there is a need for the proposed bridge structure replacements on Hwy. 13 & 31	0
Did not indicate if they felt there is a need for the proposed bridge structure replacements on Hwy. 13 & 31	3
Has an additional suggestion to make this proposed project better serve the community	2
Does not have an additional suggestion to make this proposed project better serve the community	3
Property limitations to the project	0
Knowledge of cultural resources in the project area	0
Knowledge of environmental constraints in the project area	0
Beneficial impacts due to the proposed project	4
Adverse impacts due to the proposed project	1

A listing of general comments concerning the proposed project follows:

- There are multiple pedestrians relying on the Highway 31 bridge to get to and from work every day. The Shared Use Path will provide much needed protection for those individuals.
- Suggestion that decorative stamped concrete on the bridge structures would be nice.
- Many farmers are in the area and use this bridge to cross; however, the current bridges are too narrow to cross safely. Please make these bridges wide enough to accommodate 20 ft or larger modern farming equipment.
- Supports the proposed project especially since the bridge structures will be safer and constructed with current design standards.

Job 020717 - Virtual Public Involvement Synopsis
December 9, 2021 – December 24, 2021
Page 3 of 3

Attachments:

Public Meeting Notice
VPI Exhibit
Blank Comment Form

DN:JG:fc



ONLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

WHAT: Online Virtual Public Meeting via a pre-recorded presentation, to gather public input, on the proposed plans to replace bridge structures on Highways 13 and 31 in Lonoke County.

WHEN: Thursday, December 9, 2021 through Friday, December 24, 2021. Comments will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 24, 2021 .

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to conduct a traditional public involvement meeting (no in person meeting).

Purpose

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) will conduct an online public involvement meeting. **The public is invited to listen, view meeting materials and provide written comments. The site will be available for comments until 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 24, 2021.**

Link To Virtual Meeting: <https://www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings>

In order to access the virtual public meeting, visit the link above. Once on the web-site, simply scroll down to view the Public meeting of your interest. This web site will provide project materials and handouts that would have been shown at the in-person meetings. A separate link will provide a Spanish version of the presentation. There will also be an option to send online comment forms to ARDOT's staff, or you can print the form and mail it to, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261. If you do not have internet access, please contact Karla Sims at 501-569-2000 to ask questions about the proposed project and how to access project information at karla.sims@ardot.gov.

Virtual Web Link:

Visit: <https://www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings>

**Thursday, December 9, 2021
through Friday, December 24,
2021**

Special Accommodations: Anyone needing project information or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is encouraged to write to Ruby Jordan-Johnson, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203-2261, call (501)569-2379, fax (501) 569-2009 or email

environmentalpimeetings@ardot.gov.

Hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Arkansas Relay System at (Voice/TTY 711). Requests should be made at least four days prior to the public meeting.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION:

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) complies with all civil rights provisions of federal statutes and related authorities that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, the Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, national origin, religion (not applicable as a protected group under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Title VI Program), disability, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), or low-income status in the admission, access to and treatment in the Department's programs and activities, as well as the Department's hiring or employment practices. Complaints of alleged discrimination and inquiries regarding the Department's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Joanna P. McFadden EEO/DBE Officer (ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator), P. O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 569-2298, (Voice/TTY 711), or the following email address: joanna.mcfadden@ardot.gov

Free language assistance for Limited English Proficient individuals is available upon request.

This notice is available from the ADA/504/Title VI Coordinator in large print, on audiotape and in Braille.

Job 061613
Interstate 40 Structures & Approaches
(Highways 13 & 31)
Lonoke County

AR DOT
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
Project Location
Preliminary
Subject to Revision



N
0 150 300 Feet
ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Hopkins
Map Date - November 18, 2021
Virtual Public Involvement Exhibit

**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)
CITIZEN COMMENT FORM**

**ARDOT JOB 061613
I-40 STRS. & APPRS. (HWYS. 13 & 31)
LONOKE COUNTY**

**LOCATION:
ONLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021 THROUGH FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021**

Make your comments on this form and mail it by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, December 24, 2021** to: Arkansas Department of Transportation, Environmental Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR, 72203-2261. Email: environmentalpimeetings@ardot.gov.

Yes

☐

No

☐

Do you feel there is a need for the proposed replacement of two overpass bridge structures on Highway 13 in Carlisle, AR and Highway 31 in Lonoke, AR in Lonoke County? Comment (optional)

Do you feel that the proposed project will have any impacts

(☐ Beneficial or ☐ Adverse) on your property and/or community (economic, environmental, social, etc.)? Please explain. _____

☐☐

Do you have a suggestion that would make this proposed project better serve the needs of the community? _____

☐☐

Does your home or property offer any limitations to the project, such as septic systems, that the Department needs to consider in its design?

(Continue on Back)

Yes No

☐☐

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

☐☐

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 ARDOT staff. _____

It is often necessary for the ARDOT to contact property owners along potential routes. If you are a property owner along or adjacent to the route under consideration, please provide information below. Thank you.

Name: _____ (Please Print)

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____ -- _____

E-mail: _____

Do you have suggestions that would make this proposed project better serve the needs of the community? Please make additional comments here. _____

For additional information, please visit our website at

<https://www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings>



ARDOT ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

ARDOT Job 061613 FAP NHPP-0043(37)

Job Title I-40 Str. & Apprs. (Hwys. 13 & 31) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments-required for each item
Air Quality	X			No air quality/MSAT impacts
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance included
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			A "no effect" was determined
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No impacts anticipated
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			None impacted by project
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No impacts anticipated
Land Use		X		0.28 acre additional ROW
Migratory Birds	X			None in the project area
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			No increases due to project
Prime Farmland	X			None impacted by the project
Protected Waters	X			None in the project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			Site 2 within Carlisle Water Wellhead Protection Area
Relocates	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No 4f/6f resources 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			None in the project area
Water Quality	X			None in the project area
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 N/A

Remarks:

Coordination required with ADH and Carlisle Waterworks.

Wellhead Protection SP for offsite areas.

Signature of Evaluator  Date 1/14/2022

Date Sent: April 28, 2021

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 061613 FAP No. _____ County Lonoke

Job Name I-40 Strs. & Apprs. (Hwys. 13 & 31) (S)

Design Engineer Austin Hales Environmental Staff _____

Detailed Project Description Replacement of two overpass bridge structures. The new bridges will be constructed on new location, adjacent to the existing structures.

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: (1)32' (2)28' Shoulder Type/Width: 4' Paved

Number of Lanes and Width: (1)2@12'
(2)2@10' Existing Right-of-Way: Variable

Sidewalks? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: (1)38' (2)30' Shoulder Type/Width: C.C.C.&G.

Number of Lanes and Width: (1)3@12'
(2)2@14' Proposed Right-of-Way: Variable

Sidewalks? (1)Yes
(2)No Location: (1)LT. & RT.
(2)N/A Width: (1)5' LT., 10' RT.
(2)N/A

Bike Lanes? No Location: N/A Width: N/A

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: N/A Length: N/A

D. Design Traffic Data:

2022 ADT: (1)9,000 2042 ADT: (1)11,000 % Trucks: (1)2
(2)6,300 (2)8,000 (2)2

Design Speed: (1)40 (2)45 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: (1)0.33 (2)0.46 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Bridge Replacement

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

H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)? Yes

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date
City of Lonoke (Mayor)	Trae Reed	02/16/2021

⁽¹⁾Site 1 – Hwy. 31

⁽²⁾Site 2 – Hwy. 13