



## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

October 1, 2018

**TO:** Master Files

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

**SUBJECT:** Job Number 020656  
FAP Number NHPP-0021(48)  
Hwy. 65 Access Change (Pickens) (S)  
Route 65, Section 17  
Desha 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 Memorandum of Agreement on Categorical Exclusion Documentation and Processing. A public hearing will not be offered for this project.

The proposed project would involve intersection improvements on Highway 65 at Lonnie Lane and Walnut Lake Drive in Desha County. Access to Lonnie Lane west of the highway from both northbound and southbound Highway 65 would be removed. Walnut Lake Drive west of Highway 65 would have minor realignment and have a left turn lane and crossover constructed to provide access to and from northbound Highway 65. Residents on Lonnie Lane west of Highway 65 will still be able to access Highway 65 via Desha County Road 19, approximately 0.4 mile west of Highway 65. A project location map is attached which illustrates these improvements. The project would require 0.8 acre permanent construction easement for realignment of Walnut Lake Drive. All this acreage is prime farmland. Form NRCS-CPA-106 and cultural resources clearance are attached. No Section 404 permit is required.

The official species list obtained for the project identified two endangered and two threatened species as potentially occurring within the project boundaries: the endangered Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*), the threatened Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the threatened Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and the endangered pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*). Based on the lack of habitat and

distance to known locations for the species, the proposed project will have “no effect” on any listed species.

Based upon the ARDOT’s *Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement*, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The realignment of the roadway does not involve added capacity or expose noise sensitive land uses to a new or existing highway noise source. Although the reconfiguration of the intersection will change the horizontal alignment, the distance to the nearest sensitive receptor is not reduced by half.

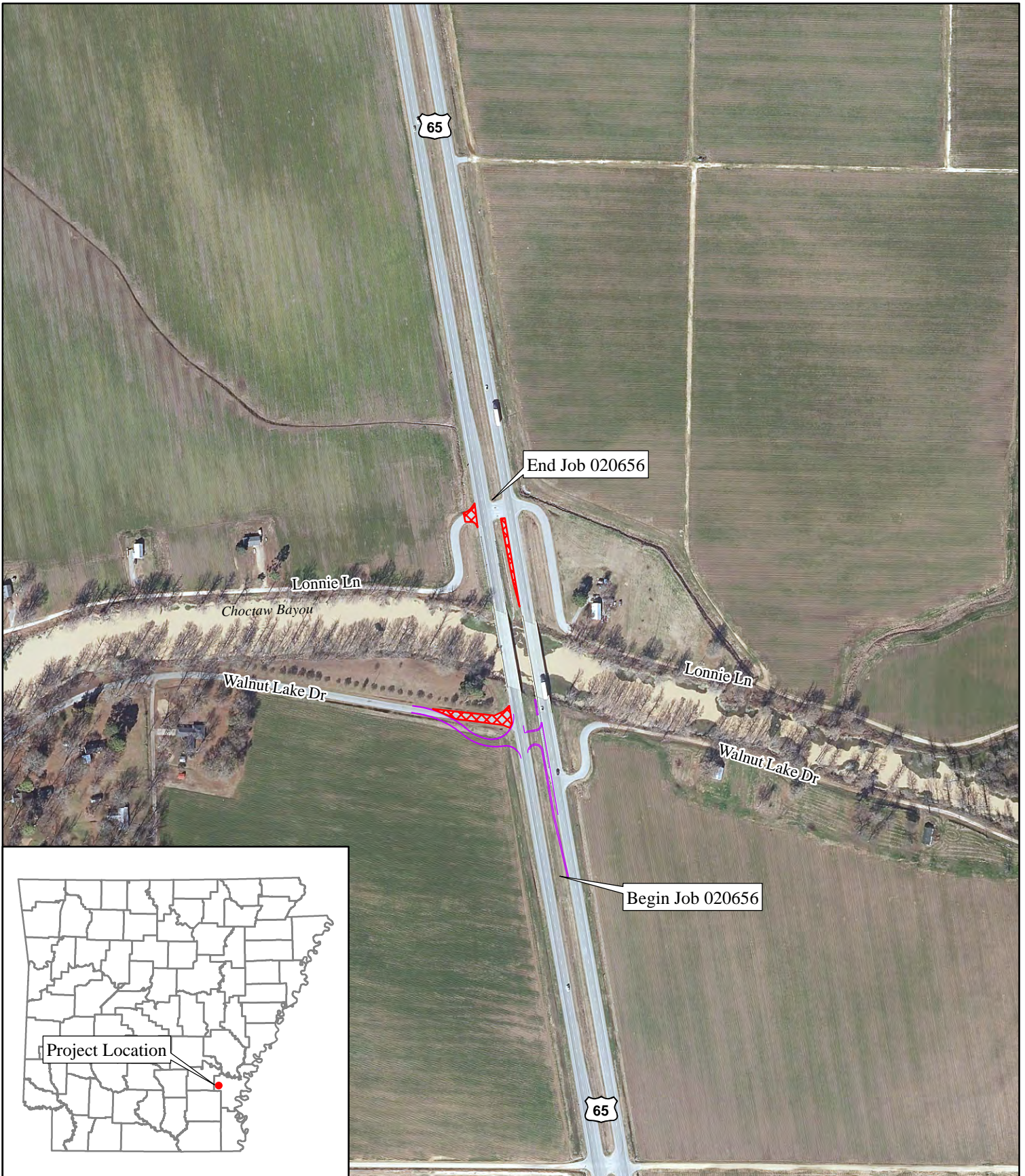
Desha County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. This project lies within the Zone A, Special Flood Hazard Area. The final project design will be reviewed to confirm that the design is adequate and that the potential risk to life and property are minimized. Adjacent properties should not be impacted nor have a greater flood risk than existed before construction of the project. None of the encroachments will constitute a significant floodplain encroachment or significant risk to property or life.

JF:SS:mr

Attachments:

- Location Map
- Cultural Resources Clearance
- Prime Farmland Worksheet
- Environmental Study Checklist
- Roadway Design Sheet

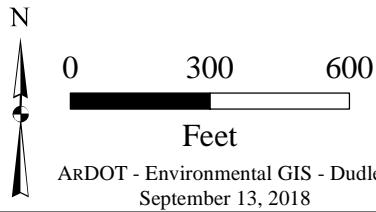
c: Program Management  
Right of Way  
Roadway Design  
District 2  
FHWA



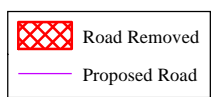
End Job 020656

Begin Job 020656

Project Location



Job 020656  
 Hwy. 65 Access Change  
 (Pickens)  
 Desha Couty





ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Scott E. Bennett, P.E., Director

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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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April 17, 2018

TO: Job File

FROM: Jason Eads, Cultural Resources Section, Environmental Division

SUBJECT: Archeological Clearance  
Job Number 020656  
Hwy. 65 Access Change  
(Pickens) (S)  
Route 65, Section 17  
Desha County

This job proposes to construct a new access lane in the center median, between the north and south bound lanes, of Hwy. 65 east of Pickens on the south side of Walnut Lake, in Desha County. A records check at the Arkansas Archeological Survey showed two sites (3DE0236 and 3DE0238) near the right-of-way (ROW). No cultural indicators were found on the 1841 General Land Office (GLO) map near the project. The 1936 Desha County road map shows a few structures along Hwy. 65 near the project area. No recorded historic structures are shown on the AHPP structure database near the project. The project will require no new ROW. All work will be within the existing ROW and the extremely limited scope of the project does not have the potential to affect any undisturbed land surfaces or potential historic properties. This project is subject to the 1999 MOA and falls under the exempted Work Category "Reconstruction". The project is not considered an undertaking and requires no further work or Section 106 review.

### FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b> Job 020656	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 9/18/18	4. Sheet 1 of
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1. Name of Project Hwy. 65 Access Change (Pikens)	5. Federal Agency Involved FHWA
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2. Type of Project Access Change	6. County and State Desha AR.
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<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>	1. Date Request Received by NRCS	2. Person Completing Form
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3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES NO	4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size
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5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: %	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %
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8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS
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<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment</b>				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Corridor A</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Corridor B</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Corridor C</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Corridor D</th> </tr> </table>	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D		

A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly			
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B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services			
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C. Total Acres In Corridor			
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<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>	
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A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	0.8		
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B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland			
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C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted			
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D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value			
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<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	
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<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>				
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1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15			
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2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
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3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	20			
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4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0			
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5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0			
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6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
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7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5			
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8. On-Farm Investments	20	0			
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9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
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10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0			
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<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>50</b>			
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<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
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Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	100			
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Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	50			
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X _____ (of above 2 lines)	<b>260</b>	150			
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ing	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 0.8 acres of Prime Farmland	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

*John Baber* 9/25/18

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

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

ARDOT Job Number 020656 FAP Number NHPP-0021(48)

Job Title Hwy. 65 Access Change (Pickens) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts anticipated; area in attainment
Cultural Resources	X			All work within existing ROW
Economic	X			Will not be impacted by project
Endangered Species	X			Will not be impacted by project
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No protected populations affected
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts anticipated
Floodplains	X			Will not be impacted by project
Forest Service Property	X			None in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			No known sites in project area
Land Use		X		0.8 acre PCE
Migratory Birds	X			No proposed work on any structures
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways in project area
Noise Levels	X			No noise analysis required
Prime Farmland		X		0.8 acre prime farmland
Protected Waters	X			None in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			None in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			Wellhead Protection SP added to contract
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			No 4(f) resources in project area
Social	X			No impacts to the social environment
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No known USTs affected
Visual	X			No changes to visual environment
Streams	X			No direct impact
Water Quality	X			No impacts anticipated
Wetlands	X			None in project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			None in the area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? No  
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? No  
 Section 404 Permit Required? No Type None

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

Signature of Evaluator Susan Stafford Date September 28, 2018

## ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 020656 FAP No. \_\_\_\_\_ County Desha

Job Name Hwy. 65 Access Change (Pickens) (S)

Design Engineer David Baker Environmental Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description Access change for Pickens

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: 2 @ 38' Shoulder Type/Width: 6' Inside, 8' Outside

Number of Lanes and Width: 4 @ 12' Existing Right-of-Way: Avg. 200'

Sidewalks? No Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Bike Lanes? No Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 2 @ 38' Shoulder Type/Width: 6' Inside, 8' Outside

Number of Lanes and Width: 4 @ 12' Proposed Right-of-Way: N/A

Sidewalks? No Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Bike Lanes? No Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: None Length: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Design Traffic Data:

2019 ADT: 8000 2039 ADT: 9200 % Trucks: 19  
Design Speed: 65 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.23 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Access change for Pickens

G. Total Relocates: None Residences: \_\_\_\_\_ Businesses: \_\_\_\_\_

H. Have you coordinated with any outside agencies (e.g., FHWA, City, County, etc.)? No

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date