July 31, 2020

TO: Master Files

FROM: John Fleming, Division Head, Environmental Division

SUBJECT: Job Number 061457
FAP Number RPD-0043(29)
Hwy. 319 RR Sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)
Route 367, Section 14
Lonoke County
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion Re-evaluation

A Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion was completed for the referenced project on June 1, 2017. Since that time, design modifications have resulted in changes to the original scope. The project now consists of intersection improvements to Hwy. 367/Hwy. 319/Griffin Rd. by widening Hwy. 367 to include left turn lanes and a northbound right turn lane. This will be accomplished by notch and widen with curb and gutter. A new traffic signal will be installed with a railroad preemption interconnect system to communicate with the upgrades to the Union Pacific Railroad crossing system on Hwy. 319. A section of Hickory Street will be removed and permanently barricaded. The project is located within the city limits of Ward, Arkansas. A project location map is attached.

Total length of the project is 0.18 mile. Approximately 0.6 acres of new right of way will be needed for the project. The Environmental Division has reviewed these changes, and no additional environmental impacts were identified. A Section 404 Permit will not be required for construction of this project.

The official species list obtained through the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Information for Planning and Consultation website lists the Eastern Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis), Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus), and Red Knot (Calidris canutus rufa) as protected species potentially affected by the proposed project. Based on the lack of habitat, scope of the project, and distance to known species, it is our determination that the proposed project will have “no effect” on all listed species.
Job Number 061457
Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion Re-evaluation
Page 2 of 2

Information about the project was made available from June 28, 2020 to July 14, 2020 on the Department’s website. The Virtual Public Involvement Synopsis is attached.

This project will remain a Tier 1 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ArDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions.

JF:TT:am

Attachments:
   Project Location Map
   SHPO Clearance
   Virtual PI Synopsis
   Environmental Checklist

c: Program Management
   Right of Way
   Roadway Design
   District 6
   FHWA
February 25, 2020

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

Re: Lonoke County – Lonoke
Section 106 Review – FHWA
Hwy. 319 RR Sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)
Route 367, Section 14
ARDOT Job Number 061457
AHPP Tracking Number 105445

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) reviewed the Project Identification Form (PIF) for the above-referenced job in Lonoke County. As described, the proposed undertaking entails replacing a railroad crossing traffic signal on Highway 319 and improving the intersection of Highways 319 and 367 at Griffin Street in Lonoke. The proposed area of potential effects (APE) for the undertaking is .6 acres.

The investigation recorded a single architectural resource within the APE. Property 1 is a wood-framed service station built prior to 1963. The AHPP concurs that Property 1 is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Based on the provided information and the results of the field investigation, the AHPP concurs with the finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). In the event of a post-review discovery of historic properties within the area of potential effects, please contact the AHPP and other consulting parties in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13(b)(3).

Tribes that have expressed an interest in the area include the Cherokee Nation (Ms. Elizabeth Toombs), the Chickasaw Nation (Ms. Karen Brunso), the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (Ms. Madison Currie), the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (Ms. Alina J. Shively), the Muscogee (Creek) Nation (Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda), the Osage Nation (Dr. Andrea Hunter), the Quapaw Nation (Mr. Everett Bandy), and the Shawnee Tribe (Ms. Tonya Tipton). We recommend consultation in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2).
Thank you for the opportunity to review this undertaking and thorough PIF. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Mills of my staff at (501) 324-9784 or eric.mills@arkansas.gov. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number above in any correspondence.

Sincerely,

Scott Kaufman
Director, AHPP

cc: Mr. Randall Looney, Federal Highway Administration
    Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey
A Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) was held for the proposed project for intersection improvements at Highways 367 and 319 in Ward, Arkansas. Efforts to involve minorities and the public in the meeting included the following:

- Display advertisement placed in *The Leader* on Saturday, June 20, 2020 and Saturday, June 27, 2020
- Power 92.3 FM announcements from Friday, June 26, 2020 through Wednesday, July 1, 2020
- Letters mailed to Public Officials
- Flyers mailed to residents

The website was available to the public from June 29, 2020 to July 14, 2020 allowing access to information about the project. The website provided the following information.

- Short video presentation about the project
- Public meeting notice
- Project location map
- Project design plans
- Link to submit comments online
- Interactive project map
- Frequently asked questions with answers

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

Table 1 describes the results of the public participation at the VPI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Participation</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comments received online</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comments received</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An analysis of the responses received as a result of the comments received is shown in Table 2.
Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Results</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feels there is a need for the proposed project</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not feel there is a need for the proposed project</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficial impacts due to the proposed project</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverse impacts due to the proposed project</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestions to make this proposed project better</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of cultural resources in the project area</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of environmental constraints in the project area</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property limitations to the project</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No comments or suggestions concerning issues associated with the project were received online.

TT: am
ONLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

WHAT:    Hwy. 319 RR Signal Upgrade & Hwy. 367 Traffic Signals in the City of Ward in Lonoke County.

WHEN:    Monday, June 29 to Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to conduct a public involvement meeting in the traditional sense. We are offering an online opportunity for the public to review project information for the above stated proposed project. The pre-recorded presentation video will be available for viewing and commenting (no in-person meeting).

Purpose

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) will conduct an online public involvement meeting to discuss plans to upgrade RR Signals on Hwy. 319 and traffic signal upgrades on Hwy 367. Project staff will give a brief presentation explaining the proposed project. The public is invited to listen, view meeting materials and provide written comments. The site will be maintained and comments received until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Link To Virtual Meeting: (click here)

In order to access the online public meeting, click on the link above. It will take you to the online public meeting website. This website 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.

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

ArDOT Job No. 061457
Job 061457
Highway 319 Railroad Signal Upgrade & Traffic Signal (Ward) (Highways 319 & 367)
Lonoke County
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ARDOT)

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

ARDOT JOB NUMBER 061457
Hwy. 319 RR sig. Upgrade & Traffic Sig. (Ward) (S)
Hwys. 319 & 367
LONOKE COUNTY

LOCATION:
ONLINE VIRTUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING
JUNE 29, 2020 THRU JULY 14, 2020

Make your comments on this form and mail it by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 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 Hwy. 319 RR Signal Upgrade & Traffic Signal Upgrade on Hwy 367 in the City of Ward 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. _____________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Yes  No

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

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Yes  No

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)
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 www.ardot.gov
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Resource</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Minimal</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Comments-required for each item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No impacts anticipated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Will not be impacted by project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endangered Species</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No effect determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice/Title VI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No protected populations in project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and Wildlife</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No impacts anticipated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None occur in project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service Property</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials/Landfills</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No sites in project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Will not be impacted by project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Birds</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation/Coast Guard</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Levels</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No increases due to project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Farmland</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected Waters</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Recreation Lands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Water Supply/WHPA</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocatees</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No relocations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4(f)/6(f)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4(f) resources not present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No impacts to the social environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Storage Tanks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No UST’s in project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No changes to visual environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streams</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No impacts anticipated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Refuges</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None in the project area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required?  No  
Short-term Activity Authorization Required?  No  
Section 404 Permit Required?  No  Type N/A  
Remarks:  

Signature of Evaluator  Date  July 31, 2020