

**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**May 31, 2017**

**TO:** Master Files

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

**SUBJECT:** AHTD Job Number C03004  
Gassville School St. Widening  
Baxter County  
Environmental Documentation for State Funded Projects

The purpose of this project is to widen School Street in Gassville, Arkansas, from Houser Avenue to Highway 62. An attached sketch map illustrates the project location.

Existing School Street consists of two 9-foot wide paved travel lanes with no shoulders and no sidewalks. Existing right of way width is 38 feet.

The 0.49-mile project will widen School Street with two 11-foot wide paved lanes, curb and gutter shoulders, and a 6-foot concrete sidewalk on the eastern side of the street. The proposed right of way width is 40 feet. Approximately 0.12 acre of additional right of way will be required for this project.

After appropriate environmental review it has been determined that, the subject job will not affect any relocatees, environmental justice issues, prime farmland, wetlands, or floodplains. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. No Section 404 Permit will be required for construction of this project. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is attached.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) IPaC database determined that three endangered and one threatened species could be located within the project boundaries: northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), and the Ozark big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii ingens*). Based on the lack of habitat, disturbed urban environment, and the distance to any known species, it has been determined that the project is not likely to

adversely affect these species. Concurrence from the USFWS was received on May 24, 2017.

Based upon the AHTD's *Policy on Highway Traffic Noise Abatement*, a noise analysis is not required for this project. The project meets the criteria for a Type III project established in 23 CFR 772. Therefore, the project requires no analysis for highway traffic noise impacts. Type III projects do not involve added capacity, construction of new through lanes or auxiliary lanes, changes in the horizontal or vertical alignment of the roadway or exposure of noise sensitive land uses to a new or existing highway noise source.

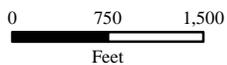
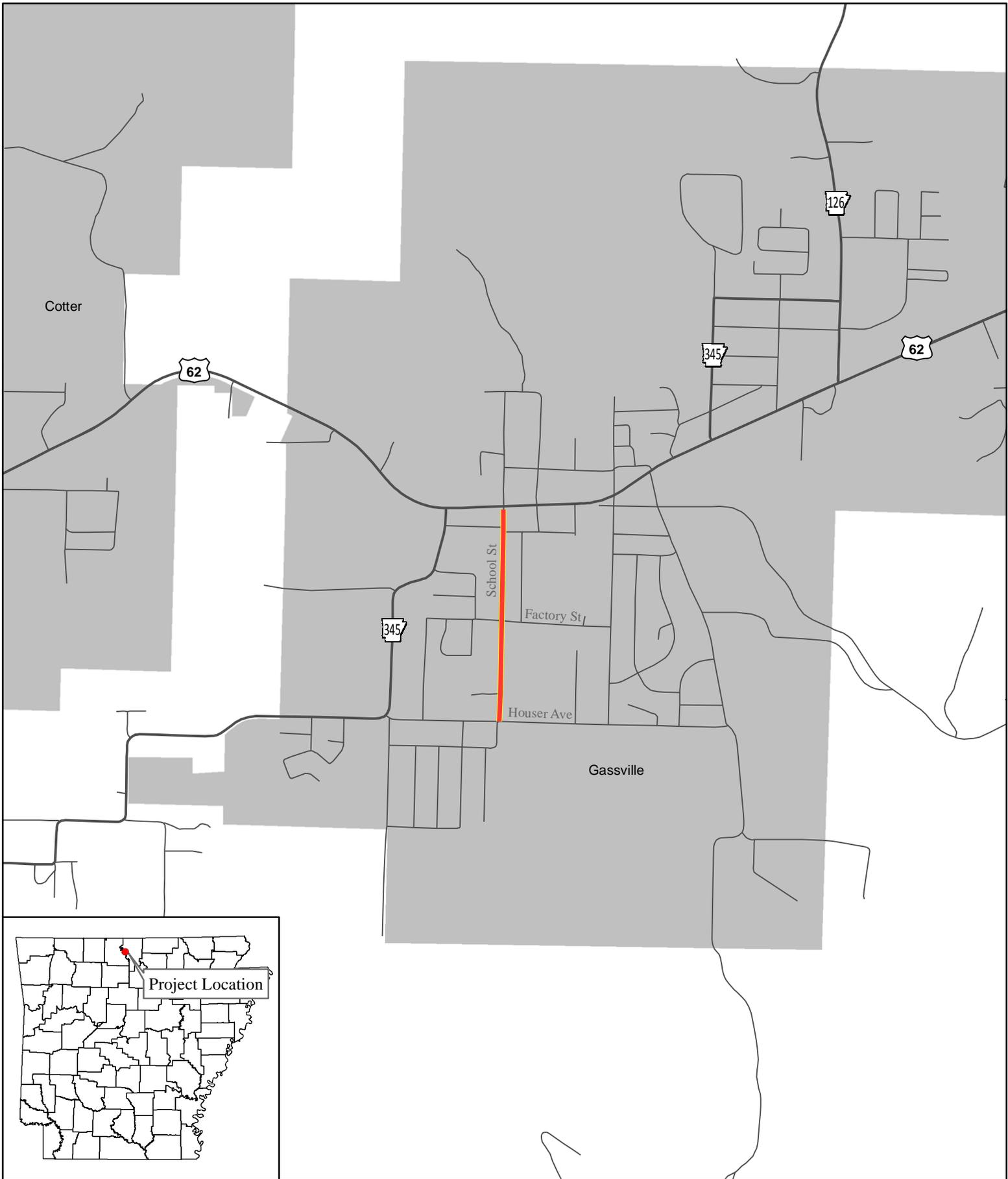
JF:TT:fc

Attachments:

- Location Map
- SHPO Clearance
- Environmental Study Checklist
- USFWS Coordination
- Design Sheet

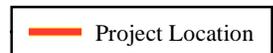
c: Program Management

- Right of Way
- State Aid
- District 9
- Master File



AHTD - Environmental GIS - Strawn  
April 5, 2017

Job C03004  
Gassville School St. Widening  
Baxter County



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

97818.02  
FHWA

Scott E. Bennett, P.E.  
Director  
Telephone (501) 569-2000  
Voice/TTY 711



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

April 27, 2017

AHPP

APR 28 2017

RECEIVED  
AHTD

MAY 05 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

Ms. Stacy Hurst  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: AHTD Job No. C03004  
Gassville School St. Widening (S)  
Baxter County

Dear Ms. Hurst:

Enclosed for your review is a Project Identification Form regarding the above referenced project. Please provide your effect finding as soon as possible. If you have any questions, contact Richard Jenkins of my staff at 569-2357.

Sincerely,

John Fleming  
Division Head  
Environmental Division

Enclosure  
PIF

JF:DW:RJ:ym

Date: 5/4/2017

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to light.

  
Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office  
110 South Amity Suite 300  
Conway, AR 72032-8975  
Phone: (501) 513-4470 Fax: (501) 513-4480  
<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es>

In Reply Refer To:

May 24, 2017

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-0799

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-01078

Project Name: Gassville School St. Widening

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). **This letter only provides an official species list and technical assistance; if you determine that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected in any way by the proposed project, even if the effect is wholly beneficial, consultation with the Service will be necessary.**

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found on our website.

**Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/home.html> for species-specific guidance to avoid and minimize adverse effects to federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species.** Our web site also contains additional information on species life history and habitat requirements that may be useful in project planning.

**If your project involves in-stream construction activities, oil and natural gas infrastructure, road construction, transmission lines, or communication towers, please review our project**

specific guidance at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/ProjSpec.html>.

The karst region of Arkansas is a unique region that covers the **northern third of Arkansas** and we have specific guidance to conserve sensitive cave-obligate and bat species. **Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/IPaC/Karst.html> to determine if your project occurs in the karst region and to view karst specific-guidance.** Proper implementation and maintenance of best management practices specified in these guidance documents is necessary to avoid adverse effects to federally protected species and often avoids the more lengthy formal consultation process.

**If your species list includes any mussels, Northern Long-eared Bat, Indiana Bat, Yellowcheek Darter, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, or American Burying Beetle, your project may require a presence/absence and/or habitat survey prior to commencing project activities.** Please check the appropriate species-specific guidance on our website to determine if your project requires a survey. We strongly recommend that you contact the appropriate staff species lead biologist (see office directory or species page) prior to conducting presence/absence surveys to ensure the appropriate level of effort and methodology.

**Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further.** Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally-listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit.

Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a habitat conservation plan) is necessary to harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. In either case, there is no mechanism for authorizing incidental take "after-the-fact." For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's Consultation Handbook and Habitat Conservation Plans at [www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/index.html#consultations](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/index.html#consultations).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, **the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days.** This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and

implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. **Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.**

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office**

110 South Amity Suite 300

Conway, AR 72032-8975

(501) 513-4470

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## Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2017-SLI-0799

Event Code: 04ER1000-2017-E-01078

Project Name: Gassville School St. Widening

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: widen School St. between Houser Ave. to Main St. (Hwy. 62)

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/36.27955144395134N92.49559164047241W>



Counties: Baxter, AR

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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## Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Gray Bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6329</a>	Endangered
Indiana Bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949</a>	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Threatened
Ozark Big-eared Bat ( <i>Corynorhinus (=Plecotus) townsendii ingens</i> ) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7245">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7245</a>	Endangered

## Critical habitats

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

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**From:** [Lewis, Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [Bailey, William](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Google Earth Placemark  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 9:48:07 AM

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Bill,

The Service does not have any information indicating that there are any federally listed species in the affected area of this action due to the habitat type, disturbed urban environment, and distance to any known species locations. Therefore, the Service concurs with AHTD's assessment and determination.

Thanks,

Lindsey Lewis  
Biologist

US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Arkansas Field Office  
110 South Amity Rd., Suite 300  
Conway, Arkansas 72032

(501) 513-4489 - voice  
(501) 513-4480 - fax  
[Lindsey.Lewis@fws.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Lewis@fws.gov)  
<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/>

NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

On Wed, May 24, 2017 at 7:34 AM, Bailey, William <[William.Bailey@ahtd.ar.gov](mailto:William.Bailey@ahtd.ar.gov)> wrote:

Lindsey....please take a look at the attached google earth kmz file and let us know if you concur with our determination. The project proposes to widen School St. between Houser Ave. and Main St. in Gassville, Baxter County, Arkansas. Due to the urban location and the lack of habitat, we determine that the project is "not likely to adversely affect" threatened/endangered bat species.

## AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

AHTD Job Number           C03004           FAP Number           N/A          

Job Title           Gassville School St. Widening (S)          

Environmental Impacts	None	Minor	Significant	Comments
Air Quality	X			
Construction Impacts		X		Temporary
Cultural Resources	X			SHPO clearance attached
Economic	X			
Endangered Species	X			USFWS concurrence 5/11/2017
Energy Resources	X			
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			
Fish and Wildlife	X			
Floodplains	X			
Forest Service Property	X			
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			
Land Use Impacts	X			
Migratory Birds	X			
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			
Noise Levels	X			
Prime Farmland	X			
Protected Waters	X			
Public Recreation Lands	X			
Public Water Supply/WHPA	X			
Relocatees	X			
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			
Social	X			
Underground Storage Tanks	X			
Visual Impacts	X			
Stream Impacts	X			
Water Quality	X			
Wetlands	X			
Wildlife Refuges	X			

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           *Don Hurri*           Date           May 25, 2017

Date Submitted 5/31/2017

Date Returned \_\_\_\_\_

## STATE AID DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number: C03004 FAP Number: 9971 County: BAXTER

Job Name: GASSVILLE SCHOOL ST. WIDENING

Design Engineer: AL FLEAGLE Environmental Staff TERRY TUCKER

Brief Project Description: WIDENING, CURB & GUTTER, AND SIDEWALKS

### A. Existing Conditions:

1. Roadway Width: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English 18'
2. Shoulder Width: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English N/A
3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English 2 @ 9'
4. Existing Right-of-Way: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English 38'

### B. Proposed Improvements:

1. Roadway Width: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English 22'
2. Shoulder Width: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English N/A
3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English 2 @ 11'
4. Average Right-of-Way: Metric \_\_\_\_\_ English 40'

If bridge(s) will be replaced by culverts give dimensions: N/A

### C. Construction Information:

Detour: (if applicable)

Where: N/A

Approximate total length of detour: \_\_\_\_\_ kilometer(s) \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s)

### D. Design Data:

2016 ADT: 550 2036 ADT: 700 Trucks: 3%

Design Speed: 30 MPH

E. Approximate total length of project: \_\_\_\_\_ kilometer(s) 0.49 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: FUNCTIONALLY OBSOLETE

G. Total Relocates: N/A Residences: N/A Businesses: N/A

### H. Have you coordinated with any of the following: (Provide name and date.)

City Officials: Mayor Jeff Braim

State Agency: Mitchell Archer, AHTD

Federal Agency: N/A