February 19, 2015

Ms. Sandra L. Otto  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
700 West Capitol, Room 3130  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: AHTD Job Number FA4511  
FAP Number STPR-0045(27)  
Searcy Co. Line – North West (Phase II)  
(Reconst.) (S)  
Marion County  
Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion

Dear Ms. Otto:

The Environmental Division has reviewed the referenced project and it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the AHTD/FHWA Memorandum of Agreement on the processing of Categorical Exclusions. The following information is included for your review and, if acceptable, approval as the environmental documentation for this project.

The purpose of this project is to reconstruct a section of County Road 6 and replace minor drainage structures. The total length of the project is 2.23 miles. A project location map is enclosed.

The existing gravel roadway is 20-feet wide with no shoulders and no recorded right of way. Proposed improvements will consist of two 10-foot wide paved travel lanes with 4-foot wide shoulders. The new average right of way width will be 130 feet. Approximately 17 acres of additional right of way will be required for this project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Year</th>
<th>Average Daily Traffic</th>
<th>Percent Trucks</th>
<th>Design Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30 mph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are no relocations, environmental justice issues, floodplains or prime farmland associated with this project. Field inspections found no evidence of existing underground storage tanks or hazardous waste deposits. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated; concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer is enclosed.

The Federally designated endangered Indiana bat and Gray bat are known to occur within 4.8 miles northeast of the project area in Elm Cave in Marion County. Correspondence with the US Fish and wildlife Service (USFWS) (see enclosed letter) has indicated the potential for a proposed endangered species, Northern Long-eared bat to be found in the project area as well. In an effort to avoid potential impacts to endangered species, the USFWS has requested that the clearing of trees be limited to the winter hibernation period of mid-October through mid-March. If clearing and grubbing activities take place outside of this period, bat surveys should be done first to ensure that are not present in the area.

This job will involve the removal of one cross drain and the construction of 13 pipe culverts on non-jurisdictional drainage features. No 404 permit will be required.

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 the 23 CFR 772. Therefore, the project requires no analysis for 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. AHTD acknowledges that a noise analysis is required if changes to the proposed project result in reclassification to a Type I project.

If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Division at 569-2281.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosures

JF:JB:fe

c: Program Management
   Right of Way
   State Aid
   District 9
   Master File
CULTURAL RESOURCE
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM

AHTD Job Number FA4511 AHTD District Nine

Job Name Searcy Co. Line-Northwest Phase II (Recont.) (S) County Marion

Associated Highway/Road County Rd. 6 Funding: □ Federal □ State

USGS Quad Maumee 7.5”

Job Type: □ Improvement on New Location □ Borrow Pit
□ Bridge Replacement □ Haul Road
□ Road Widening □ Waste Site
□ Storage Site □ Other-Paving

Job Description: The project consists of replacing and constructing drainage structures and reconstructing 2.23 miles of County Rd. 6 in Marion County. No additional right-of-way (ROW) will be required. No new archeological sites were identified within the ROW of the project. No further work is recommended.

Records Checked: □ AAS Site Files □ Early USGS Quad Maps
□ GLO Surveys □ Other
□ AHTD 1936 County Maps

Survey Methods: □ Visual Inspection □ Shovel Tests
□ Test Pits □ Machine Excavation
□ Other

Ground Conditions: □ Cultivated □ Cleared and Grubbed
□ Woods □ Lawn
□ Pasture □ Other

Presence of Cultural Resources □ Yes □ No

If yes, see Supplemental Site Information.

If no, this project will not affect cultural resources, no further work is recommended.

AHTD Archeologist: Jason Eads Date: December 11, 2014

SHPO: Date:
Mr. John Fleming  
Division Head, Environmental Division  
c/o Mr. Josh Seagraves  
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department  
P.O. Box 2261  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed your letter dated November 21, 2014, regarding the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) plans to replace and construct drainage structures and reconstruct County Road 6 in Marion County. The total project length is 2.23 miles. A project location map is enclosed.

The AHTD letter stated the following:

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) records indicate a known location of the Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens) and Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis) 4.8 miles northeast of the project location in Elm Cave in Marion County. Gray Bats are mostly cave dwelling species year round. In the summer, Gray Bats primarily forage in forests along streams and rivers but will forage in upland areas too. Gray Bats prefer a densely forested corridor from the cave entrance to the forage site, which are typically only 1 mile, rarely over 2 miles, apart. Indiana Bats hibernate in caves during winter months and roost in floodplain, riparian and upland forests with trees that have exfoliating bark in summer. Although upland forests will be cleared and grubbed during road construction, it will be limited to only what is necessary to complete the project. Furthermore, upland forests within the project area lack the specific exfoliating bark required for roosting habitat; it is likely that Indiana Bats if present would only utilize the area for foraging. Based on these observations, we have determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect listed species. We request your concurrence in our determination.

The Service concurs with AHTD's assessment and determination as it relates to potential effects from stormwater discharges and to listed species, Gray Bat (Myotis grisescens) and Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis) 4.8 miles northeast of the project location in Elm Cave in Marion County. However, our records indicate that there are two federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species with potential to be found in the affected area of the project in other locations. There is the potential for the Indiana Bat and the Northern Long-eared Bat (Myotis
septentrionalis), which is now proposed endangered, to be affected by this action outside of their cave habitat. They are cave hibernating bats, but both species spend summer on the landscape in snags and hollow trees. Therefore, construction or clearing of trees on this action should take place during the winter hibernation period (Mid-October through mid-March) or outside of this period. Surveys should be done first to insure that they do not inhabit the area to avoid take of a listed species.

We thank you for your cooperation in helping to protect endangered species. For further assistance or if you have any questions, please contact Lindsey Lewis at (501) 513-4489 or Lindsey_Lewis@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Melvin Tobin
Deputy Project Leader

cc:
Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration
Cindy Osborne, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Jennifer Sheehan, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
John Turner, Arkansas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
Mark Hathcote, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Wanda Boyd, United States Environmental Protection Agency
### AHTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSESSMENT FORM

**AHTD Job Number**: FA4511  
**FAP Number**: STPR-0045(27)

**Job Title**: Searcy Co. Line-Northwest (Phase II) (Recont.) (S) Co. Rd. 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Impacts</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Impacts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endangered Species</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Clearing SP required; USFWS letter enclosed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Resources</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice/Title VI</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and Wildlife</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minor loss of habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service Property</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials/Landfills</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use Impacts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Birds</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation/Coast Guard</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Levels</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Farmland</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected Waters</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Recreation Lands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Water Supply/WHPA</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocatees</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4(f)/6(f)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Storage Tanks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Impacts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream Impacts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Temporary during construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Refuges</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required?**  
- **No**

**Short-term Activity Authorization Required?**  
- **No**

**Section 404 Permit Required?**  
- **No**  
  - **Type**: None

**Remarks**: Cave Discovery and Special Clearing Special Provisions required

**Signature of Evaluator**: [Signature]  
**Date**: 2/19/15

5/17/2011
STATE AID DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number_ FA4511_ FNumber_ STPR-0045(27)____County MARION____
Job Name SEARCY CO. LINE – NORTH WEST (PHASE 11 ) (RECONST.) (S)

Design Engineer_ CHARLES CRAWFORD_ Environmental Staff__________________
Brief Project Description Replace drainage structures and construct on existing location

A. Existing Conditions:
   1. Roadway Width: Metric _______ English __20’__
   2. Shoulder Width: Metric _______ English __N/A__
   3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric _______ English __2-10’__
   4. Existing Right-of-Way: Metric _______ English __N/A__

B. Proposed Improvements:
   1. Roadway Width: Metric _______ English __28’__
   2. Shoulder Width: Metric _______ English __4’ Each Side__
   3. Number of Lanes and Width: Metric _______ English __2-10’__
   4. Average Right-of-Way: Metric _______ English __var.70’ Lt./60’ Rt._

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

C. Construction Information:
   If detour:Where: __N/A__ Length: __English__

D. Design Data:
   2015 ADT: __75__ 2035 ADT: __105__ Trucks: __10__ %
   Design Speed: 30 __m.p.h

E. Approximate total length of project: _______ kilometer(s) __2.230__ mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: __ROAD RECONSTRUCTION__

G. Total Relocatees: __0__ Residences: ____________ Businesses: ____________

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

   County Officials__ NO ________________________________
   State Agency__ NO ________________________________
   Federal Agency__ NO ________________________________