



October 15, 2018

Mr. Angel Correa
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
700 West Capitol, Room 3130
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298

Re: Job Number 100942
FAP Number STPC-9227(71)
Hwy. 351 RR Overpass (Airport
Rd.) (Jonesboro) (S)
Route 351, Section 1
Craighead County
Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion

Dear Mr. Correa:

The Environmental Division reviewed the referenced project and has determined it falls within the definition of the Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion as defined by the ARDOT/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 City of Jonesboro is proposing to replace an at-grade railroad crossing with an overpass on Highway (Hwy.) 351. The purpose of the project is to improve safety by eliminating vehicular and train traffic conflicts at the crossing. The project includes realigning Lindbergh Drive (Dr.) and Earhart Dr. on Jonesboro Municipal Airport property. A project location map is enclosed.

Existing Hwy. 351 consists of two 11-foot wide paved travel lanes, no shoulders, and an average right of way width of 60 feet. Lindbergh Dr. has two 16-foot wide paved travel lanes and curb and gutter. Earhart Dr. has two 12-foot wide paved travel lanes with no shoulders.

Lindbergh Dr. will be constructed on new alignment and have two 15-foot wide travel lanes with curb and gutter. A 4-foot wide berm will be installed between the curb and the slope on both sides of the roadway. Earhart Dr. will be constructed on new alignment and have two 12-foot wide paved travel lanes with 2-foot wide shoulders. Lindbergh Dr. will provide the entrance to Earhart Dr. Approximately 1.6 acres of existing roadway will be obliterated.

The Hwy. 351 overpass will be constructed on new alignment. The proposed approaches will be comprised of two 14-foot wide paved travel lanes with curb and gutter. A 4-foot wide berm will be installed between the curb and the slope on the left side, and a 4.5-foot wide berm will be installed between the curb and a 12-foot wide concrete shared use path on the right side. The new right of way width will vary from approximately 60 feet to 350 feet. The total length of the Hwy. 351 overpass project is approximately 0.6 mile. Approximately 7.5 acres of additional right of way and 3.2 acres of temporary construction easement will be required for the project.

Design data for this project is as follows:

Design Year	Average Daily Traffic	Percent Trucks	Design Speed
2020	6,600	2	40 mph
2040	8,200	2	40 mph

No impacts to the following resources are associated with this project: endangered species; floodplains; prime farmland; streams; or wetlands. No environmental justice issues, relocations, adverse community impacts, hazardous materials/landfills, or underground storage tank concerns were identified. No cultural resources are associated with this project; State Historic Preservation Officer concurrence is enclosed. The project's location in a wellhead protection area will require a Wellhead Protection Area Special Provision.

The FHWA's Traffic Noise Model 2.5 procedures were used to make noise predictions for this project. These procedures indicate that no noise sensitive receptors are currently impacted, and noise levels beyond the project's proposed right of way limits are below the FHWA noise criteria. Any increases in roadway noise levels will result from traffic volume increases during the planning period (Year 2040) rather than from the project. Since any noise level increases will occur independently of the project, noise impacts were not identified. In compliance with federal guidelines, local authorities will not require notification.

The enclosed United States Fish and Wildlife Service official species list identifies four endangered and one threatened species as potentially occurring within the project boundaries. Based on the lack of habitat and distance to known locations, the proposed project was determined to have "no affect" on all of the listed species, including: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalist*); Fat Pocketbook (*Potamilus capax*); Rabbitsfoot (*Theliderma cylindrica*); Scaleshell (*Leptodea leptodon*); and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). No Section 404 permit will be required because the project will not discharge dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States.

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Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion
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Aside from temporary construction-related impacts, no adverse environmental impacts were identified. The checklist used to verify consideration of all potential environmental impacts is enclosed. A public involvement meeting will not be held for this project.

Please contact the Environmental Division at 569-2281 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

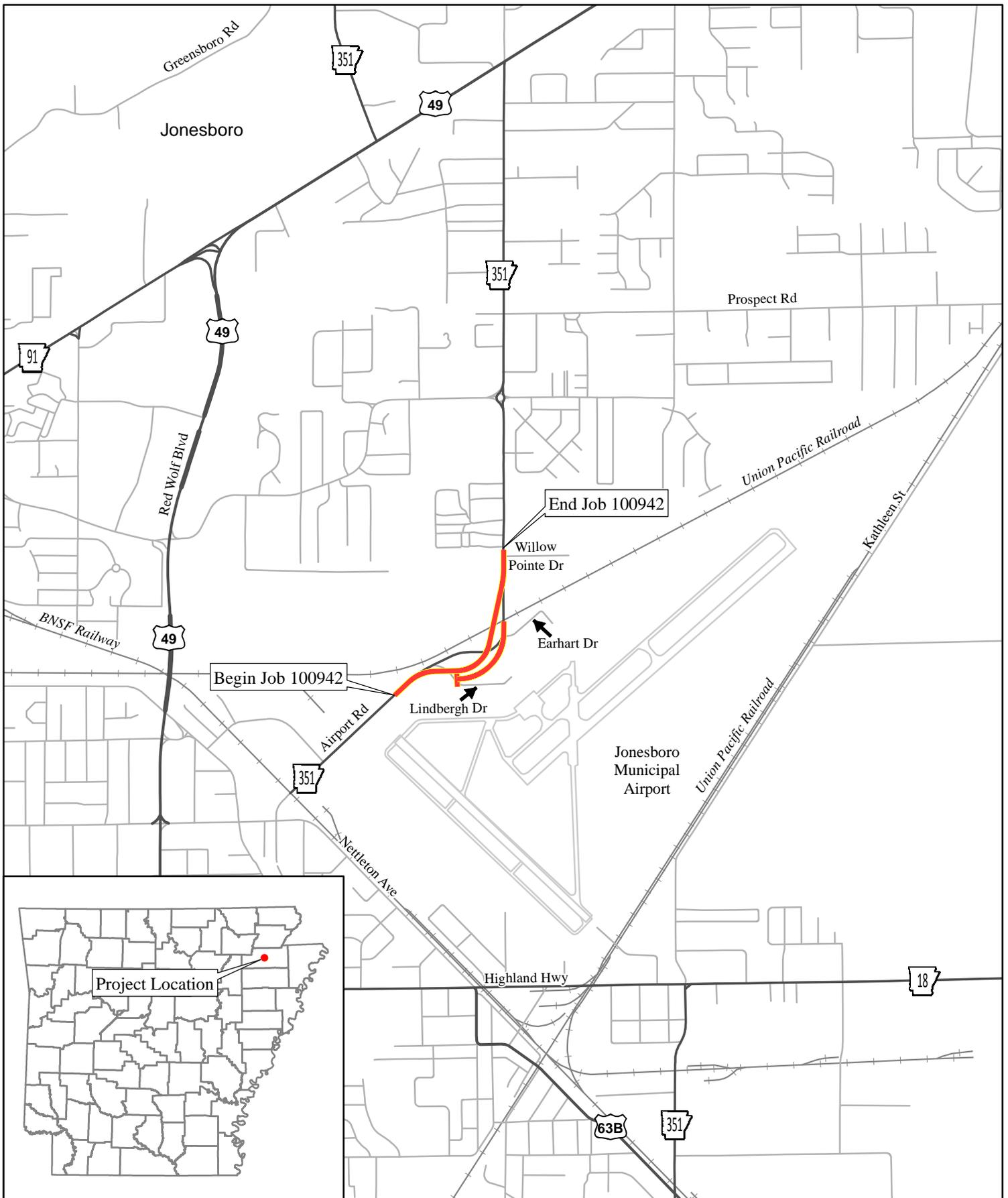


John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

Enclosures

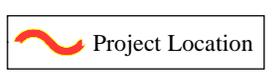
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Right of Way
Roadway Design
District 10
Master File



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 ARDOT - Environmental GIS - Dudley
 August 15, 20018

Job 100942
 Hwy. 351 RR Overpass
 (Airport Rd.) (Jonesboro)
 Craighead County





ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261
Phone: 501.569.2000 | Voice/TTY 711 | Fax: 501.569.2400

10/19/19
FHWA

August 16, 2018

AHPP

AUG 17 2018

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

RECEIVED
ARDOT
AUG 21 2018
ENVIRONMENTAL
DIVISION

RE: Job Number 100942
Hwy. 351 RR Overpass (Airport
Rd.) (Jonesboro) (S)
Route 351, Section 1
Craighead County

Dear Ms. Hurst:

Please find enclosed a Project Identification Form (PIF) for the above referenced project. This project proposes to construct a railroad overpass on State Highway 351 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. If you have any questions or require additional information about the project, please contact William McAlexander of my staff at 501-569-2078.

Sincerely,

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

JF:DW:WM:fc

Enclosure:
PIF

Date 8/17/2018
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 Officer



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:

September 12, 2018

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-1541

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-02462

Project Name: Hwy. 351 RR Overpass (Airport Rd.) (Jonesboro) (S)

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/engangered/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

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 04ER1000-2018-SLI-1541

Event Code: 04ER1000-2018-E-02462

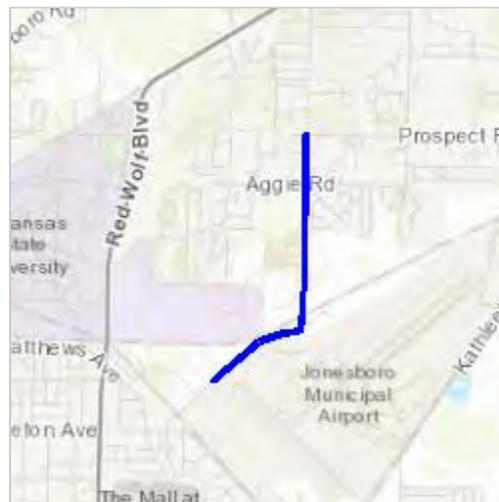
Project Name: Hwy. 351 RR Overpass (Airport Rd.) (Jonesboro) (S)

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Railroad overpass and approach work on Highway 351

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/35.840950806030065N90.65020854752194W>



Counties: Craighead, AR

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this 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.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered

Clams

NAME	STATUS
Fat Pocketbook <i>Potamilus capax</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2780	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot <i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5165	Threatened
Scaleshell Mussel <i>Leptodea leptodon</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5881	Endangered

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Pondberry <i>Lindera melissifolia</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1279	Endangered

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

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

ARDOT Job Number 100942 FAP Number STPC-9227(71)
Job Title Hwy. 351 RR Overpass (Airport Rd.) (Jonesboro) (S)

Environmental Resource	None	Minimal	Major	Comments
Air Quality	X			No impacts; project located in AQ attainment area
Cultural Resources	X			None in project area; SHPO concurrence
Economic	X			No adverse impacts
Endangered Species	X			'No effect' on all listed species
Environmental Justice/Title VI	X			No EJ populations in project area
Fish and Wildlife	X			No impacts expected
Floodplains	X			Project not located within mapped floodplain
Forest Service Property	X			Not in project area
Hazardous Materials/Landfills	X			None in project area
Land Use		X		7.5 acre new ROW; 3.2 acre TCE; impacts are not adverse and are compatible with land use/zoning plans
Migratory Birds	X			No structures with nests in project area
Navigation/Coast Guard	X			No navigable waterways involved
Noise Levels	X			Noise modeling results predicted no impacts
Prime Farmland	X			Not applicable; project within city limits
Protected Waters	X			None in project area
Public Recreation Lands	X			Not in project area
Public Water Supply/WHPA		X		Project in WHPA; Wellhead Protection SP required
Relocatees	X			No relocations
Section 4(f)/6(f)	X			Resources not present
Social	X			No adverse impacts
Underground Storage Tanks	X			No USTs in project area
Visual	X			Adverse visual quality impacts not anticipated
Streams	X			None in project area
Water Quality	X			BMPs to control runoff during construction
Wetlands	X			None in the project area
Wildlife Refuges	X			Not in project area

Section 401 Water Quality Certification Required? N
 Short-term Activity Authorization Required? N
 Section 404 Permit Required? N Type NA

Remarks:

Signature of Evaluator Mary L. Pearson Date 9/27/18

ROADWAY DESIGN REQUEST

Job Number 100942 FAP No. STPC-9227(71) County CRAIGHEAD

Job Name HWY. 351 RR OVERPASS (AIRPORT RD.) (JONESBORO) (S)

Design Engineer Scott Thornsberry (MBI) Environmental Staff ARDOT

Brief Project Description Railroad overpass & approach work on Hwy. 351

A. Existing Conditions:

Roadway Width: 24' Shoulder Type/Width: 2'

Number of Lanes and Width: 2-11' Existing Right-of-Way: 60'

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

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

B. Proposed Conditions:

Roadway Width: 30' Shoulder Type/Width: CG/1.5'

Number of Lanes and Width: 2-14 Proposed Right-of-Way: Varies 60'-350'

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

Shared Use Path? yes Location: Rt. Width: 12'

C. Construction Information:

If detour: Where: On Rt. & along Earhart Drive Length: 1900'

D. Design Traffic Data:

2020 ADT: 6,600 2040 ADT: 8,200 % Trucks: 2%
 Design Speed: 40 m.p.h.

E. Approximate total length of project: 0.587 mile(s)

F. Justification for proposed improvements: Safety. Remove at-grade RR crossing

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

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

Agency/Official	Person Contacted	Date
City of Jonesboro	Mark Nichols	On-going