

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS – STATE OF ARKANSAS

Application Number: SWL 2014-00257-3 Date: June 9, 2020 Comments Due: July 6, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the <u>Public Involvement</u> section for details on submitting comments.

Note: The original public notice for this project was published on July 5, 2018 (https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Portals/50/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/SWL%202014-00257-1%20PN.pdf); however, the Section 404 review was not completed since the Federal Highway Administration and Arkansas Department of Transportation determined that design changes (project modifications) were forthcoming as a result of budget constraints and contract negotiations, and a re-evaluation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) would be required. Also, the project would be constructed in two phases beginning with Phase I, the 1.6-mile center segment and including the Interstate 30 bridge.

<u>Point of Contact</u>. If additional information is desired, please contact the regulator, Johnny McLean, telephone number: (501) 340-1382, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: Johnny.L.McLean@usace.army.mil

<u>Project Information</u>. Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. Code 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), and Section 408 (33 U.S. Code Section 408) notice is hereby given that

Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) PO Box 2261 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

has requested authorization for work, including the placement of dredged and fill material, in waters of the United States associated with replacing the Interstate 30 Bridge and approaches crossing the Arkansas River in Little Rock and North Little Rock as well as improving a portion of Interstate 30 (I-30) from Interstate 530 (I-530) and Interstate 440 (I-440) to Interstate 40 (I-40). The project would also improve a portion of I-40 from Highway 365 (MacArthur Drive) to US Highway 67/167 including associated interchanges. This project is commonly called the 30 Crossing Project. The proposed project is located in sections 2, 11 and 14, T. 1 N., R. 12 W., in sections 22, 25, 26, 27 and 35, T. 2 N., R. 12 W., and in section 30, T. 2 N., R. 11 W., Pulaski County, Arkansas.

The Arkansas River is part of the 445-mile McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS), which begins where the White River meets the Mississippi River near Dumas, Arkansas and extends to the Port of Catoosa near Tulsa, Oklahoma. The I-30 Bridge is located at MKARNS Navigation Mile 118.5. Demolition of the existing bridge and construction of the new I-30 Bridge over the Arkansas River would require authorization from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in accordance with Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S. Code 403).

The basic purpose of the ArDOT project is to increase the safety of vehicular traffic on I-30 and I-40 by correcting geometric deficiencies, modernizing infrastructure and maintaining a state of good repair, improving navigational safety on the MKARNS, correcting the I-30 Arkansas River Bridge deficiencies, and reducing traffic congestion by improving mobility on I-30 and I-40. The overall purpose of the project is to provide for increased travel speed and reduced travel time to downtown North Little Rock and Little Rock as traffic demand in this region increases in the future. The I-30 Arkansas River Bridge would be replaced with a new structure, correcting the functional and structural deficiencies and navigation safety issues. The project is not water dependent.

The total length of the project is approximately 7.3 miles. ArDOT attempted to minimize the impacts of the project by constructing the majority of the project on existing alignment and within their current right-of-way. ArDOT has agreed to mitigate for the unavoidable impacts to wetlands, streams and floodplains. This project is the largest and one of several projects in the program known as the Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP). The CAP was approved by the voters and is an accelerated state highway construction and improvement program. A major component of the CAP is to implement a project (30 Crossing) to improve the I-30 corridor in downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock.

The project is located in a highly-urbanized area that is experiencing slow but steady population growth. According to Metroplan, the six-county metropolitan area around Little Rock has grown by 5.5 % since the 2010 census, which is faster than the U.S. overall growth of 4.5 %. Saline County remains the fastest-growing county in the four-county Central Arkansas region (Saline, Faulkner, Lonoke, and Pulaski Counties) while Faulkner County is the second fastest-growing county. Pulaski County is the slowest-growing county in Central Arkansas. According to *Imagine Central Arkansas, the 2040 Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan,* Central Arkansas is expected to grow from 671,400 people to almost one million people by 2040, with most of this growth expected in the counties surrounding Pulaski County.

The I-30 corridor generally consists of three main lanes in each direction with parallel one-way discontinuous frontage roads on each side of the interstate within the right-of-way along the outer edge. In the northern portion of the project area, the I-40 corridor consists of three to four main lanes in each direction with parallel one-way frontage roads on each side of the interstate between the I-30/I-40 interchange and North Hills Boulevard. Within the project area, both I-30 and I-40 are classified as interstates, which are the highest classification of principal arterials. Within the 7.3mile corridor, there are four Interstate system interchanges: I-30 with I-530 and I-440, I-30 with I-630, I-30 with I-40 and I-40 with Highway 67/167. There are seven service interchanges providing access to the local streets and multiple locations where I-30 crosses local streets without providing access. The Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) crosses the project area at two locations. In regard to structural deficiencies, I-30 and I-40 were originally constructed with concrete pavement in the 1960's. In the 1980's, I-30 was overlaid with asphalt and I-40 was overlaid with concrete; therefore, it has been over 30 years since the pavement condition was improved. Portions of the project area will likely require some level of pavement rehabilitation within the expected timeframe of this project to meet adequate structural performance. Functional deficiencies that were identified as contributing to safety issues along the corridor include (1) short acceleration ramps that do not allow vehicles to reach highway speed before entering the interstate, (2) interchanges that are too close together, which causes congestion as vehicles try to enter and leave the interstate at the same time within a short distance, (3) sharp curves, which cause vehicles to slow and create congestion

and (4) shoulders that are too narrow to permit a disabled vehicle to safely pull off the roadway or allow emergency vehicles to reach a crash site.

The I-30 Arkansas River Bridge was constructed in 1958 and was determined to be structurally deficient by ArDOT in September 2017. ArDOT also determined that portions of the bridge are fracture critical. The existing I-30 Arkansas River Bridge has a vertical clearance of 65.6 feet and horizontal clearance of 174.5 feet for commercial barge traffic. When the bridge was constructed, one pier was constructed in what would eventually become the commercial navigation channel. This pier obstructs the channel and affects river navigation by dividing the channel into two navigational spans (left descending and right descending), with substandard (174.5 feet and 169.5 feet) horizontal navigational clearance in both spans. The five other bridge structures in downtown Little Rock have at least a 300-foot-wide open (no obstructions) span across the navigational channel. Also, the navigational opening for the I-30 Arkansas River Bridge does not line up with the adjacent Clinton and Junction Bridges. The reduced horizontal clearance due to the pier obstruction and poor alignment makes the I-30 Arkansas River Bridge difficult for barges to navigate safely and restricts their operational speed. Barge collision data provided by the USCG indicates that five barge strikes have occurred at the site since 2001. Barges striking the bridge could cause the structurally deficient, fracture critical bridge to collapse. The USCG has requested that the proposed new bridge provide a minimum vertical clearance of 63 feet and horizontal clearance of 320 feet.

As part of the environmental assessment (EA) process, several alternatives were initially considered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and ArDOT. Action alternatives that did not meet the stated purpose and need were eliminated. In addition to the No-Action Alternative, four action alternatives were carried forward and evaluated in the EA. The four action alternatives are Alternative 1A: 8-Lane General Purpose with single point urban interchange (SPUI) at Highway 10, Alternative 1B: 8-Lane General Purpose with split diamond interchange (SDI) at Highway 10, Alternative 2A: 6-Lane with collector/distributor (C/D) and SPUI at Highway 10 and Alternative 2B: 6-Lane with C/D and SDI at Highway 10. The No-Action Alternative represents the case in which the proposed project is not constructed but could include future projects identified through the long-range planning process for maintaining a state of good repair as funding becomes available. The No-Action Alternative would not make any immediate improvements to the existing roadway or any bridges throughout the I-30 corridor. The No-Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need for the project but it must be considered for comparison purposes in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

ArDOT initiated this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Study in June 2015, and the EA was completed and approved by the FHWA in June 2018. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Selected Alternative was approved on February 26, 2019.

The construction method for this project would be Design-Build (DB). In DB, the Design-Builder is permitted to incorporate innovation into final design as long as the project purpose and need, environmental commitments and contractual obligations are met. This allows for innovation and cost efficiency. Following the issuance of the EA and FONSI, ArDOT and the design-builder selected for the project entered into a period of negotiation in an effort to determine what could be built within the project's budgeted amount of \$631.7 million. This period of negotiation was necessary because bids received for the project as described in the EA ranged from \$965 Million to

\$1.1 Billion. In December 2019, ArDOT and the design-builder agreed upon a revised design for the project that could be built within the available budget. The DB team also proposed certain modifications to the design of the Selected Alternative that would lower the ultimate cost of the project. The Re-evaluation for the EA was approved by the FHWA on June 1, 2020. The Re-Evaluation is available for public inspection by visiting the 30 Crossing website (https://connectingarkansasprogram.com/corridors/9/i-30-pulaski-county/) and the ArDOT website (http://ardot.gov/). Copies of the EA and the FONSI documents are also available for online viewing. To request a paper copy of the Re-Evaluation, email Info@30Crossing.com; call the Connecting Arkansas Program phone number at 501-255-1519, or write to 30 Crossing, Attn: Jon Hetzel, 4701 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118.

Alternative 2B (6-Lane with C/D and SDI at Highway 10) has been identified as the Selected Alternative for the following reasons related to the project goals: (1) It improves local vehicle access to and from downtown Little Rock/North Little Rock by more directly connecting the frontage road system to the C/D lanes crossing the Arkansas River; (2) it optimizes opportunities for economic development by providing a continuous frontage road system between I-630 and East 4th Street and connection to the River Market and Clinton Center areas via President Clinton Avenue, 2nd Street and 3rd Street and allowing additional green space for public use in downtown Little Rock; (3) it enhances east-west connectivity, including bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, by removing the elevated ramps between President Clinton Avenue and 3rd Street and by replacing the elevated Highway 10 Spur with an improved at-grade 2nd Street; (4) it was identified by the local metropolitan planning organization (MPO) as the locally preferred alternative and has received the most public and business support.

The project as approved in the EA/FONSI will be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 and 2 will reflect the changes in the design from the Selected Alternative as approved in the EA/FONSI. In Phase 1, no improvements are proposed south of the I-30/I-630 interchange, and limited improvements are proposed north of the I-30/East Broadway Street interchange. The Phase I revised design focuses on work on an expanse of approximately 1.6 miles of the 7.3-mile project between the I-30/I-630 interchange and the I-30/East Broadway Street interchange, including the Arkansas River Bridge. North of the I-30/East Broadway Street interchange, there will be some limited improvements, primarily consisting of restriping of existing lanes and modifications within the I-30/I-40 interchange. ArDOT intends to increase funding for the project by adding an additional \$350 million from "Issue 1" if passed in November 2020. This work would constitute Phase 2 and complete funding for construction. Phase 2 would consist of improvements to the remaining 5.7 miles of the project as described in the EA/FONSI, including reconstruction of I-30 from the East Broadway interchange to the I-30/I-40 interchange, and widening and reconstruction of I-40.

As a result of recent design changes, the total acres of wetlands that would be adversely affected by Alternative 2B was reduced from 9.7 acres to 2.9 acres. This reduction was primarily due to design changes at the I-30/I-40/U.S. Highway 67-167 interchange. Approximately 0.47 acres of wetlands would be permanently impacted by the project and approximately 2.41 acres would be temporarily impacted. The 2.9 acres is comprised of 2.25 acres forested and 0.63 acres of emergent wetlands. The impacted wetlands would generally be considered medium-to-high value due to their ability to store flood water, filter sediments and nutrients, and provide habitat for animals in the Arkansas

River ecosystem. The 2002 Charleston Method was used to calculate the compensatory mitigation credits needed for the unavoidable wetland impacts. ArDOT proposes to utilize 30.55 credits from their Hartman Bottoms Mitigation Bank.

As a result of recent design changes, impacts to streams were reduced from approximately 1,371 linear feet to approximately 948 linear feet. Most of the impacted streams previously were altered through channelization, excavation and straightening for highway construction and storm water conveyance. These streams would be considered low-to-medium value. Fourche Creek and the Arkansas River are medium-to-high value streams/rivers. The permanent impacts for the Arkansas River would exceed 300 linear feet and would require mitigation for the adverse impacts. The 2011 Little Rock District Stream Method was used to calculate the compensatory mitigation credits needed for the unavoidable stream impacts. ArDOT proposes to utilize 1,019.7 credits from their Bayou Meto Mitigation Bank.

Temporary impacts to the Arkansas River would total approximately five acres. ArDOT proposes to conventionally (heavy equipment) remove all railing, concrete bridge deck, non-stability critical floorbeams and stringers. This material would not be allowed to enter the river. The remaining steel floorbeams and girders would be temporarily dropped into the river. All steel material dropped into the left descending navigation span would be removed within a maximum 24-hour MKARNS closure period to minimize impacts to commercial navigation. All other steel material would be removed as soon as possible. The existing reinforced concrete piers (Piers 20 and 21) adjacent to the existing left descending channel would be demolished down to the mudline (elevation 200.0 feet) and removed within a 24-hour MKARNS closure period. Pier 18 would be removed to elevation two feet below the mudline or natural ground line. The remaining reinforced concrete piers (Piers 19, 22, 23 and 24) outside the navigation channel would be demolished down to elevation 211.0 feet and removed from the water as soon as possible. The normal pool elevation for Pool 6 is 231.0 feet so the remaining piers outside the navigation channel would be approximately 20 feet below the water surface. ArDOT proposes to use explosives for the demolition of the existing piers, steel floorbeams and stringers. Pre-demolition and post-demolition hydrographic surveys would be performed and ArDOT would remove all detectable debris from the river. The steel would be removed and recycled, and the concrete would be hauled to an approved upland disposal site. Prior to any activities in the river, all river traffic would be confined to using the left descending navigation span. Only the existing left descending navigation span would be required to remain open during demolition of the existing bridge and construction of the new bridge, except for short closures. The right descending navigation span would be obstructed once construction of the new piers begins.

Once the initial phases of the new bridge construction are completed, all eastbound and westbound highway traffic would be removed from the existing bridge to the new bridge. This would occur prior to any bridge demolition activities. The existing pier protection cells would be removed only after all traffic has been permanently removed from the existing bridge. The pier protection cells will be disassembled and removed in five steps. Vehicular traffic flow across the new bridge would be maintained during peak (morning and evening) times; only temporary disruptions are anticipated. Phase I would begin in 2020 and be completed near the end of 2024.

The dikes located on the right descending (south) bank and immediately upstream and downstream from the existing bridge would be graded/excavated, and the area upstream from the bridge would

be dredged to make room for a temporary work platform, work road and work barge. The dikes serve as training structures and protection for the navigation system and ArDOT would restore them to pre-existing conditions when construction is complete. ArDOT also proposes to construct a temporary mooring facility for staging work barges and a temporary bulkhead for a crane platform along the left descending (north) bank of the river. The mooring facility would consist of steel piles located at 5 locations beginning upstream from the I-30 bridge and extending downstream past the Clinton Presidential Park bridge. The bulkhead would consist of a work platform approximately 200 feet in length and 100 feet in width and would be located downstream from the Clinton Presidential Park bridge.

There are three Federally endangered or threatened species that have the potential to occur in the project area. They are the Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*), the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and the Running Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*). There are no recorded locations for any of the three species within the project area and no habitat exists for the Piping Plover or Running Buffalo Clover. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with ArDOT's finding that the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species.

The project was evaluated to determine if any encroachment into special flood hazard areas and the 100-year floodplain, identified through the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps, would occur. ArDOT identified three areas where encroachment would occur: the Arkansas River, Fourche Creek and the Dark Hollow Basin. Recent design changes would not impact the volume of fill (11.2 Acre-feet) placed in Fourche Creek. However, the recent design changes slightly decreased the volume of fill that would be placed in the Dark Hollow floodplain from 17.43 Acre-feet to 15.30 Acre-feet. Compensation storage areas totaling 26.1 Acre-feet and 11.9 Acre-feet would be created within the I-30/I-40 and I-30/I-440/I-530 interchanges, respectively, to compensate for the Dark Hollow and Fourche Creek floodplain areas that have been filled. As part of the DB process for the Arkansas River Bridge, ArDOT would work with the city floodplain administrators to determine if any compensation is needed for fill(s) in the Arkansas River floodplain.

Alternative 2B would change travel patterns in downtown Little Rock due to the elimination of the Highway 10 interchange. This alternative would eliminate approximately 47 on-street parking spaces along East 2nd Street, Ferry Street and East 4th Street and, result in an increase of 15.7 acres of green space and provide an unobstructed open area under I-30 from the Arkansas River to 3rd Street. The project would require the acquisition of approximately 13.0 acres of right-of-way, affect 54 parcels of land and displace 4 businesses and 6 residences. All six residential displacements are located along Cypress Street in North Little Rock. Acquisition and relocation assistance would be provided to displaced persons in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisitions Policies Act of 1970. It is anticipated that noise impacts would potentially occur along the entire corridor, including the areas of minority and/or low income populations, and would affect all users of the facility including environmental justice (EJ) and non-EJ populations. ArDOT identified 224 noise receptors that would experience future (2041) noise levels that are considered to be a noise impact. Noise abatement measures, such as construction of traffic noise barriers (walls), were evaluated for all areas with noise impacts. Fifteen noise barriers were evaluated and three were determined to be feasible and reasonable. The three barriers are: (1) West of I-30 from 21st Street to Union Pacific Railroad in Little Rock, benefiting 84-86 residences, (2)

West of I-30 between 17th Street and 21st Street in Little Rock, benefiting 30-33 residences, and (3) East of I-30 between 13th Street and 19th Street in North Little Rock, benefiting 87-139 residences. Construction activities such as demolition, hauling, grading, paving and bridge construction would result in temporary increases in noise along the project. Local noise ordinances may place restrictions on the contractor, including limiting certain activities to specified hours, in order to reduce construction noise impacts. The access changes in the area of the Curtis Sykes Drive and the Highway 10 interchange would occur in areas of high minority and/or low income populations. Access would not be eliminated, merely shifted in location. The aesthetic changes would primarily be temporary changes during construction and would occur throughout the project. The project would include enhancements to aesthetics including improved lighting and aesthetic design features that would occur throughout the project corridor, including minority and low-income areas. The greatest changes in aesthetics would occur in the Highway 10 interchange area, where the increase in green space would benefit minority and low-income populations. All five residential displacements and one commercial displacement are located in a census block with a minority population greater than 50% of the total population. Avoidance of these displacements is not possible since they lie along the segment of Cypress Street that would be extended over the UPRR from 9th Street to 13th Street. This would allow Cypress Street to become a one-way southbound frontage road and would improve connectivity throughout the surrounding neighborhood. These displacements would not be considered disproportionate to EJ populations, because the EJ communities are located throughout the corridor and the total population of the project area is predominantly minority.

As a result of recent design changes, the river rail streetcar (trolley) operated by Rock Region Metro (RRM), will be adversely impacted. RRM operates two routes throughout the Little Rock and North Little Rock downtown areas seven days a week. The infrastructure for the Streetcar was built within ArDOT ROW from 2004 to 2007. The design changes will require the removal of the infrastructure and shutdown of the system for a variable period of time. In accordance with the ArDOT Utility Accommodation Manual, ArDOT and RRM will enter into an agreement concerning replacement of the infrastructure needed for the trolley system. While the details of the agreement have not been finalized, ArDOT intends to provide financial support to RRM to modify and reconstruct the trolley system as needed to accommodate the I-30 project. In return, the Cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock, and Pulaski County, will assume maintenance responsibility for certain roadways on the state highway system for a period of time on behalf of RRM.

There are a total of 136 listed or eligible historic properties within the area of potential effect (APE) for this project. ArDOT, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, determined that the removal of the Locust Street Overpass would be the only adverse effect to historic properties. Additionally, after surveying all existing and new right-of-way, ArDOT determined that no cultural resources would be adversely affected.

There are three parks along the Arkansas River that would be affected by the construction of the I-30 Arkansas River Bridge. The William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park and the Julius Breckling Riverfront Park are administered by the City of Little Rock. The North Shore Riverwalk Park is administered by the City of North Little Rock. The proposed I-30 Arkansas River Bridge would be wider than the existing bridge and would require ArDOT to expand the air space agreement over the parks. As a result of recent design changes, the permanent right-of-way impacts stayed the same for the Clinton Center (0.7 acres), and decreased for Riverfront Park (0.1 acres to 0.0 acres) and Riverwalk Park (1.3 acres to 0.7 acres). The temporary construction easements stayed the same for Riverwalk Park (1.0 acres), and increased for the Clinton Center (1.6 acres to 1.8 acres) and Riverfront Park (0.0 acres to 0.4 acres). FHWA determined that the project will not harm the protected features, assets or activities that make the parks important for recreation under Section 4(f).

There are 18 public and commercial utilities identified within the project corridor. The following types of public and commercial utilities are believed to be present: gas/petroleum, electric, water and sewer, and telecommunications/cable television. Many of these utilities are attached to the I-30 Arkansas River Bridge. Additionally, the UPRR owns and operates major rail utilities within the project corridor. Utilities present on the Arkansas River Bridge and utilizing the fiber optic transfer buildings at the south and north ends of the bridge will be impacted by the bridge replacement and the replacement of the buildings at both bridge ends. The disposition of these utilities is not known at this time. Electric transmission lines at both the I-30/I-530/I-440 interchange and I-30/I-40 interchange may be affected by the project and may require relocation. Several large transverse sewer, water, and gas crossings of I-30 are present. It is unknown at this time whether the preferred alternative would have an impact on these utilities. For the replacement of the Arkansas River Bridge, the following options are being considered for relocation of the impacted utilities: (1) the Design-Build contractor will place new duct bank crossings on the new bridge and be responsible for connections to the existing facilities at the bridge ends, (2) the utility owners would be responsible for working out individual agreements with the Design-Build contractor and/or ArDOT to have their utilities accommodated within an installed duct bank, (3) the utilities would not cross the river on the

I-30 Bridge but would bore under the river, or (4) the utilities would not cross the river on the I-30 Bridge but would use the Junction or Clinton Bridges. Ramp profile adjustments are being evaluated to avoid conflicts with the electric transmission lines. Vertical utility adjustments may also be needed due to changes in the roadway grades.

The location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets 1 through 35.

<u>Section 408 Review</u>. Under 33 United States Code Section 408, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) must review any proposals by private, public, tribal, or other federal entities, to make alterations to, or temporarily or permanently occupy or use, any USACE federally authorized Civil Works project. Proposed alterations must not be injurious to the public interest or affect the usefulness of the USACE project. There are three USACE projects that would be impacted by the 30 Crossing Project. They are the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, the North Little Rock Levee/Floodwall and the Fourche Bayou Basin flood control project. This notice serves as the public notice to solicit comments for these impacts. Please submit all written comments to the point of contact (Johnny McLean) as listed on page no. 1 of this notice. If you have specific questions or need additional information regarding the Section 408 review, please contact Ms. Julia Smethurst, Section 408 Coordinator, telephone number: (501) 324-5602, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: Julia.A.Smethurst@usace.army.mil

<u>Water Quality Certification</u>. By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the comment period and a public

hearing, if held, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made. Evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>. ArDOT staff archeologists have reviewed topographic maps, the National Register of Historic Places, and other data on reported sites in the area. The FHWA is the lead agency for coordination with all associated Native American Nations and tribal governments. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; Native American Nations and tribal governments and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

<u>Endangered Species</u>. As stated above, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with ArDOT's finding that the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies to provide any new or additional information on threatened or endangered species.

<u>Floodplain</u>. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate floodplain officials in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 60 (Floodplain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management.

<u>Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines</u>. The evaluation of activities to be authorized under this permit, which involves the discharge of dredged or fill material will include application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. These guidelines are contained in 40 Code of Federal CFR 230.

<u>Public Involvement</u>. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC (Johnny McLean) written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **July 6, 2020**. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located, and includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosures

Approximate Coordinates of Project Center Latitude: **34.750098** Longitude: -**92.262672** UTM Zone: **15N** North: **3845577** East: **567487**



Figure 1: Project Location Map

Source: Project Team, April 2017.

Project No. SWL 2014-00257-3 Arkansas Dept. of Transportation 30 Crossing - I-30 Corridor Little Rock/North Little Rock June 2020 Sheet 1 of 35



Source: Project Team, June 2017.

Sheet 2 of 35

30 Crossing Phase 1 Construction







Scrub Shrub

CA0602_North_Terminal_Modifications 2020-3-30.dgn CAF: 0.9999761086

Pulaski County, Arkansas





Sheet 6 of 35







Sheet 8 of 35

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PROVISION JOB NUMBER CA0602

SECTION 404 INDIVIDUAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Specification 110 of the Standard Specifications, 2014 Edition, is hereby amended as follows:

DESCRIPTION: The following is added to **Specification 110**:

This project is permitted under a Section 404 Individual Permit issued by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Environmental Division has determined that this project will not adversely affect public water supply intakes, shellfish production areas, or endangered species. Any excavation, temporary fill, permanent fill, or clearing and grubbing which deviates from the original plans and contract or any construction or construction related activity not specified on the plans (including, but not limited to, borrow areas, haul roads, access roads, waste areas, etc.) shall be coordinated with the Environmental Division through the Construction Division to assure that the Section 404 Individual Permit remains valid.

Type of Activity	Location	Amount
Excavation	Fourche Creek I-530N-I440E Ramp (excavation for new	100 yd3
	foundation elements)	(below 231 ft msl)
Temporary Fill	Fourche Creek I-530N-I440E Ramp (Work Road 1 and	520 yd3
	new foundation elements)	(below 231 ft msl)
Temporary Bridge	Fourche Creek I-530N-I440E Ramp (pile supported	0 yd3
	bridge)	(below 231 ft msl)
Temporary Fill	Fourche Creek Floodplain (Work Road 1a)	3725 yd3
		(above 231 ft msl)
Temporary Fill	Fourche Creek Floodplain (Work Road 1b)	7200 yd3
		(above 231 ft msl)
Temporary Fill	Fourche Creek Floodplain (Temporary Ramp I440W)	12800 yd3
		(above 231 ft msl)
Permanent Fill	Fourche Creek Floodplain (I530N compacted	7100 yd3
	embankment)	(above 231 ft msl)
Excavation	Arkansas River I-30 Stations 236+00 – 250+00 (removal	14,500 yd3
	of existing structure and pier protection to mudline and	(below 235.5 ft msl)
	excavation for new foundation elements)	
Permanent Fill	Arkansas River I-30 Stations 236+00 – 250+00	5,800 yd3
	(construction of dumped riprap and bridge foundations)	(below 235.5 ft msl)
Temporary Fill	Arkansas River I-30 Stations 236+00 – 240+00 (Work	160,280 yd3
	Road 2)	(below 235.5 ft msl)
Work Platforms	Arkansas River I-30 Stations 236+00 – 240+00 (pile	0 yd3
	supported platforms)	(Below 235.5 ft msl)

The following items and quantities have been permitted for this project.

Sheet 9 of 35

SUMMARY OF FILL QUANTITIES

	Estimated	Reported	
Location/Type	Volumes	Volumes	
Fourche Creek			
Excavation for foundations	84	100	Excavation for new foundation elements
Fill for foundation	84		
Work Road 1	434	520	Temp fill for work road and & foundation
Work Road 1a		3725	
Temporary Ramp Fill	12789	12800	
Permanent Fill	7071	7100	
Work Road 1b	7155	7200	
Arkansas River Bridge			
Removal of old Bridge			
Foundations	1699		Removal of Existing Foundations
Pier Protection	11556		Removal of Existing Pier Protection
New Construction			
Excavation for foundations	1187	14500	Updated quantity for Final Design
Fill for foundation	2217		Updated quantity for Final Design
Fill for dumped riprap	3513	5800	Updated quantity for Final Design
Work Road 2	160273	160280	Updated quantity for Final Design

30 Crossing Wetland Impacts

Wetland	Location	Туре	lmpact Type	Temporary Impacts	Permanent Impacts
12	I-30 Arkansas River	Riverine	Clear	0.66	
13	I-30 Arkansas River	Riverine	Clear	0.20	
14	I-30: 114+55 to 119+10	Emergent	Fill	0.17	0.05
15	I-440 NB EXIT RAMP 713+50 to 718+00	Emergent	Fill	0.40	
16	I-440 NB EXIT RAMP 708+10 to 713+40	Forested	Fill	0.45	0.21
17	I-530 NB: 600+00 to 613+40	Emergent	Fill		.01
17	Temp Bridge	Forested	Fill	0.41	
17	I-440 Temp. Exit ramp	Forested	Fill	0.12	
18	I-530 NB: 596+40 to 598+50	Forested	Fill		0.01
19	I-530 NB: 592+30 to 596+45	Forested	Fill		0.19
Total			Temporary	2.41	
Total			Permanent		0.47

30 Crossing Stream Impacts

Stream	Location	Name	Туре	lmpact Type	Linear Feet
10	I-30 Arkansas River Bridge	Arkansas River	Perennial	Rip rap	309
Total					309

30 Crossing Stream Crossings

Stream	Location	Name	Туре	Impact Type	Linear Feet
2	I-40 EB: 427+05 to 430+60	Unnamed	Ephemeral	Culvert Extension	5
3	I-40 EB: 415+35 to 415+55	Unnamed	Perennial	Culvert Extension	20
5	I-40 to I-30 WB RAMP: 212+20 to 213+85	Fairman Ditch	Perennial	Culvert Extensions	220
7	I-40 EB: 152+50 to 153+25	Unnamed	Intermittent	Culvert Extension	270
14	I-530 NB: 595+75	Unnamed	Ephemeral	Culvert Extension	11
15	No Alignment	Fourche Creek	Perennial	Temporary Bridge	98
Total					948

Required Mitigation Credits Worksheet

Factor	Wetland 12	Wetland 13	Wetland 14	Wetland 15	Wetland 16	Wetland 17	Wetland 17	Wetland 18	Wetland 19
Wetland Type	Riverine	Riverine	Emergent	Emergent	Forested	Forested	Emergent	Forested	Forested
Lost Type	Туре В	Туре В	Туре В	Туре В	Type A	Туре В	Туре В	Type A	Type A
Lost Type	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
Priority	Secondary	Secondary							
Category	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Existing	Fully functional	Slightly Impaired	Slightly Impaired						
Condition	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
Duration	1 to 3	1 to 3	1 to 3	Over 10	Over 10				
Duration	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Dominant	Clear	Clear	Fill	Fill	Clear	Fill	Fill	Fill	Fill
Impact	1.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Cumulative Impact	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Sum of r Factors (R _x)	8.5	8.5	10.5	12.0	11.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	12.0
Impacted Area (AA _x)	0.66	0.20	0.22	0.40	0.66	0.53	0.01	0.01	0.19
RxAA=	5.61	1.70	2.31	4.80	7.26	6.36	0.11	0.12	2.28

Total Required Credits = Σ(RxAA) =

30.55

		FACIORSFOR					L		
Stream		Ephemeral			Intermitter	nt	Perennia	I-OHWM	l width
Туре		0.1		0.4			<15'	15'-30'	>30'
Impacted							0.6	0.8	
Priority		Tertiary	Secondary			I	Primary		
Area		0.1			0.4			0.8	
Existing	Fu	nctionally Impaire	d	Mod	lerately Fun	ctional	Fully	Function	nal
Condition		0.1			0.8			1.6	
Duration		Temporary	Recurrent			Permanent			
		0.05			0.1			0.3	
Activity	Clearing	Utility	Below	Armor	Detention	Morpho-	Impound	l- Pipe	Fill
		Crossing/Bridge	Grade			logic	ment	>100	,
	0.05	Footing	Culvert			Change	(dam)		
		0.15	0.3	0.5	0.75	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.5
Cumulative	<100'	100'-200'	201-	501-	>1000 linear feet (LF)				
Linear		0.05	500'	1000'	0.1 reach	500 LF of i	mpact (ex	ample: so	caling
Impact	0		0.1	0.2	factor	for 5,280 I	LF of impa	acts = 1.1)

ADVERSE IMPACT FACTORS FOR RIVERINE SYSTEMS WORKSHEET

Factor	STREAM #10 Ark River	Dominant Impact Type 2	Dominant Impact Type 3	Dominant Impact Type 4	Dominant Impact Type 5
Stream Type Impacted	Perennial >30'	blank	blank	blank	blank
Priority Area	Primary	blank	blank	blank	blank
Existing Condition	Moderately Func	blank	blank	blank	blank
Duration	Permanent	blank	blank	blank	blank
Activity	Armor	blank	blank	blank	blank
Cumulative Linear Impact	201-500'	blank 0	blank 0	blank 0	blank 0
Sum of Factors	M = 3.3	0	0	0	0
Linear Feet of Stream Impacted in Reach	LF= 309	0	0		0
M X LF	1,019.70	0	0	0	0

Total Mitigation Credits Required = (M X LF) = 1,019.7



WORK ROAD PLAN VIEW

TYP. WORK ROAD CROSS-SECTION

NOTES:

1. THE TEMPORARY FILL TO CONSTRUCT THE WORK ROAD(S) SHOWN IS NECESSARY TO CONSTRUCT PORTIONS OF THE NEW BRIDGE OVER THE ARKANSAS RIVER.

- 2. THE ELVATION OF THE WORK ROAD(S) SHALL NOT EXCEED THE ELEVATION SHOWN ON THE ABOVE PLAN AND CROSS SECTION.
- 3. ANY DEVIATIONS FROM THIS PLAN WILL REQUIRE COORDINATION WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO THE SECTION 404 PERMIT. 4. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE WORK ROAD(S) DURING THE CONTRACT PERIOD.

Start Final Work in Progress 2020/02/07 6 ARK, NHPP-03	0-22(68)	
JOB NO. CAO	602 18	40
Lay	out	

()

TEMPORARY GRADING EXHIBIT FOR U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITTING

Sheet 15 of 35

BRIDGE PLANS

Sheet 16 of 35



DESCRIPTION	DATE	FED. ROAD DIST. NO.	STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
Start FinalWork in Progress	2020/02/07	6	ARK.	NHPP-030-22(68)		
		JOB N	o .	CA0602	18	42
				Layout		

Sheet 17 of 35

TEMPORARY GRADING EXHIBIT FOR U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMITTING

LAYOUT OF BRIDGE A OVER ARKANSAS RIVER ARKANSAS RIVER STR. & APPRS.





DESCRIPTION	DATE	FED. ROAD DIST. NO.	STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
Start FinalWork in Progress	2020/02/07	6	ARK.	NHPP-030-22(68)		
		JOB NO.		CA0602	19	42
				POXBR02		\bigcirc

- () 4'-0" Shoulder
- 2 6'-0" Shoulder
- 3 10'-0" Shoulder
- (4) North Approach Unit = 520'-0"

SHEET 2 OF II LAYOUT OF BRIDGE A OVER ARKANSAS RIVER ARKANSAS RIVER STR. & APPRS. (I-30)(LR/NLR)(F) **PULASKI COUNTY** ROUTE 30 SEC. 23 ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION LITTLE ROCK, ARK. DRAWN BY: _ DATE: _ FILENAME: DCA0602A6_L2001 CHECKED BY: DATE: Sheet 19 of 35 DESIGNED BY: DATE:

BRIDGE NO.









DESCRIPTION	DATE	FED. ROAD DIST. NO.	STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS	
Start FinalWork in Progress	2020/02/07	6	ARK.	NHPP-030-22(68)			
		JOB NO.		CA0602	24	42	
		•		Layout			
			POXBR02				

- () 4'-0" Shoulder 2 6'-0" Shoulder 3 IO'-O" Shoulder
- (4) North Approach Unit = 520'-0"



IGINEER	



·	DESCRIPTION	DATE	FED. ROAD DIST. NO.	STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
$\frac{1}{1}$	Start FinalWork in Progress	2020/02/07	6	ARK.	NHPP-030-22(68)		
ļ			JOB NO.		CA0602	25	42
t			Layout				
					POXBR02		0

() 4'-0" Shoulder (2) 6'-0" Shoulder 3 IO'-O" Shoulder (4) River Unit = 1,365'-0"





DRAWN BY:	 DATE:	FILENAME:	bCA0602B6_L800I	
CHECKED BY:	 _ DATE:			_
DESIGNED BY:	 DATE:	Shoot	24 of 3	5
BRIDGE NO.		Sheet	24 01 3	J









NOTES:

Stage Hydrograph was plotted from data provided from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District. The plot represents historical readings of the Arkansas River gage located at river mile (RM) 118.8 at Little Rock, Arkansas.

The proposed I–30 River Bridge is located at RM II8.5, approximately 1,850 feet downstream from the gage. The river level at RM II8.5 can be approximated as 0.3 foot below the elevation at the RM II8.8 gage during high water.

Gage Zero at RM 118.8 is at Elev. 223.6 (NGVD29) = about 223.4 (NAVD88) Normal Pool at RM 118.5 is at about Elev. 231.0 (NGVD29) = Elev. 230.8 (NAVD88).

Seasonal variations in river levels at the gage are estimated. Hydrograph data is provided for information only and is not guaranteed to represent conditions at the site during construction.



NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



	N0.		SCRIPTION			DATE	FED. ROAD DIST. NO.	STATE	FED.	AID PROJ. NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL Sheets
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DEMO PLAN

Sheet 28 of 35







DATE: 02/27/20

DREDGING PLAN

Sheet 32 of 35



NOTES

- REMOVE UPSTREAM PIER PROTECTION CELLS AFTER ALL TRAFFIC IS SWITCHED TO NEW EASTBOUND BRIDGE. 1.
- 2. MATERIAL REMOVE BELOW 235' = 7,500 CY
- 3. MATERIAL REMOVED ABOVE 235' = 1,800 CY
- AFTER CONSTRUCTION OF WESTBOUND BRIDGE, RESTORE DIKES TO ORIGINAL CONDITIONS. 4.
- 5. LOAD DREDGED & DIKE MATERIAL ON BARGE TO HAUL OFF TO UPLAND DISPOSAL SITE. REPLACE DIKE WITH APPROVED USACE MATERIAL.

ву: KJA

Sheet 33 of 35





Rev.	Date	By	KIEWIT-MASSMAN CONSTRUCTIO				
No.							
					Yard Bulkhead		
Checked					Sheet 35 of 35		
Design Checked	Detail		DATE: 6/2/20	В			