



Bob Riley
Governor

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36110



Joe McInnes
Transportation Director

January 23, 2009

Mr. Mark D. Barklett, P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
500 Eastern Boulevard, Suite 200
Montgomery, AL 36117

**SUBJECT: EA/FONSI Reevaluation
For Project STPAA-0388(9)
Add Lanes to SR-53 From Rideout Road to Jeff Road
Madison County**

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

The subject project is approx. 4 miles long and is the middle construction segment of the overall project ST-045-053-001, SR-53 from Huntsville to I-65 in Ardmore. The first construction segment of the overall project is STPAA-0388(10), Add Lanes on SR-53 from Mastin Lake to Rideout Rd, and construction of this segment has been completed. The construction segment being reevaluated at this time is STPAA-0388(09), Add Lanes to SR-53 From Rideout Road to Jeff Road, (see attached map and layout) and ROW for this segment was authorized on 3/11/2004. The third construction segment for the overall project is STPAA-0388(08), Add Lanes from Jeff Road to Harvest Road, which will be reevaluated at a later date. The work to be done to the referenced project includes the construction of a medium and a new southbound roadway (two additional lanes) that will be built west of existing SR-53 from Rideout Road to Jeff Road.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) was approved by the Federal Highway Association (FHWA) for the overall project on June 21, 1999. This FONSI was based on an Environmental Assessment (EA) that was approved by FHWA on December 23, 1998. The first construction segment STPAA-0388(10) was approved by FHWA on June 19, 2003. An EA/FONSI Reevaluation for the referenced project, STPAA-0388(09), was signed by FHWA on August 1, 2003.

The 2003 EA/FONSI has been examined for content, accuracy, overall scope of work and identification of impacts. The statements and conclusions contained in the documents remain valid, and there are no changes in the project's design or location that will cause any significant social, economic, or environmental effects.

An updated United States Fish and Wildlife Service concurrence on endangered species is attached.

A noise/air analyst conducted a follow up review and determined that no new structures were present that warranted further study (see attachment).

An ALDOT archaeologist and architectural historian reviewed the referenced project and updated the SHPO concurrence (see attachment).

An ALDOT Hazardous Materials Coordinator conducted a follow up investigation and no additional sites were identified (see attachment).

Given the lack of change to the proposed project, we respectfully request FHWA concurrence of this reevaluation and a determination that all previous approvals remain valid. If you have any questions, please contact James Blanding, ETS project manager at (334) 242-6150.

Sincerely,

Williams F. Adams, P.E.
State Design Engineer

By: 
Alfredo Acoff, Coordinator
Environmental Technical Section

AA/jwb

Attachments

C: Mr. Johnny Harris
Mr. Ronnie Baldwin
Design File
ETS File

FHWA Approval: 1/30/09
By: Lynn M. Weisler

Log TA/BP
2007-TA-0055

WJR
LH



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36110



Bob Riley
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Joe McInnes
Transportation Director

October 27, 2006

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Daphne ES Field Office
Attention: Mr. William J. Pearson
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

11-07-2006

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages > 1

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| To <i>Alfredo Acoff</i> | From <i>Sjm</i> |
| Dept. Agency <i>ALDOT</i> | Phone # <i>251-441-5184</i> |
| Fax # <i>334-269-0826</i> | Fax # <i>251-441-6222</i> |

NSN 7540-01-317-7368 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

RE: Endangered/Threatened Species Update
Project STPAA-0388 (009)
Additional Lanes to SR-53
Madison County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Pearson:

The proposed project will add lanes to SR-53 from north of Rideout Road to Jeff Road in Madison County, Alabama. Please see project location map.

Your office previously cleared this project for any endangered and/or threatened species that may occur within the area of effect on September 23, 2002 (Ref. #02-1672). Please see attached correspondence dated September 16, 2002.

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, we respectfully request an updated concurrence, again, from your office at your earliest convenience. We greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

William F. Adams, P.E.
Design Bureau Chief

By:

Alfredo Acoff
Alfredo Acoff, Coordinator
Environmental Technical Section



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B - Daphne, Alabama 36526
Phone: 251-441-5181 Fax: 251-441-6222

AA/lh
Attachments

cc: Mr. Colyn Moatts, ETS (w/atchs)
Ms. Lynn Heisler, ETS (w/atchs)

No federally listed species/critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. SITE MAY CONTAIN WETLANDS. Contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a jurisdictional wetlands determination. We recommend the use of best management practices specific to your project. (See <http://www.fws.gov/daphne/section7/bmp.html>.)

William J. Pearson
William J. Pearson, Field Supervisor

11/7/06
Date

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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Design Bureau

1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36110
P. O. Box 303050, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3050
Phone: 334-242-6178 FAX: 334-269-0826



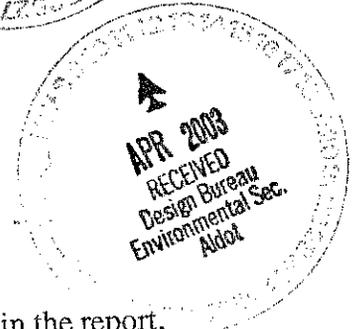
Bob Riley
Governor

Joe McInnes
Transportation Director

March 12, 2003

Ms. Elizabeth Brown, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Re: Cultural Resource Survey Report, Reevaluation
ALDOT Project: #MOAO-0074 (9) only/AHC #98-0455
Road Widening and Additional Improvements on SR 53
The Segment from Rideout to Jeff Roads
Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama



Dear Ms. Brown:

Please find enclosed two copies of the above referenced report. As detailed in the report, submitted by the Office of Archaeological Research (OAR), University of Alabama, supplemental Phase I archaeological survey work was completed for two separate portions of the proposed right of way along SR 53 to facilitate the current reevaluation of this highway widening project. Survey Area #1 is the additional reconnaissance and shovel testing along Douglas Road to test for possible for a possible extension of the nearby archaeological site, 1Ma672. No cultural resources were recovered. Survey #2, at the Burwell Cave site, several archaeologists entered the cave and visually inspected the walls, ceiling and floor of the accessible areas. Again, no prehistoric material or features were noted.

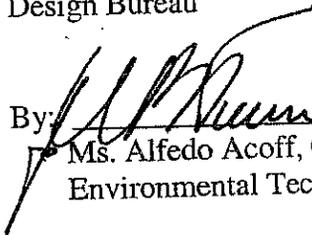
Also included is the documentation by OAR describing the Phase II testing of one archaeological resource, 1Ma672. After excavating 32 shovel tests and 4 1x1 m units, no subsurface features, artifact concentrations or specific diagnostic materials were recovered. Based on the overall lack of cultural or temporal association, it is the offered evaluation that site 1Ma672 is ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

We request your review and concurrence that the proposed highway widening on SR 53 from Rideout Road to Jeff Road, on the northwest edge of Huntsville in Madison County will have no effect on any cultural resource on or eligible for the National Register. As per 36 CFR part 800, we understand that if, after 30 days, our office has not received a

response to this information we will assume your agency has no objections and proceed with the project. We appreciate any and all efforts to assist us in expediting this project. If you have any questions please feel free to call Lee Luis of our staff at 242-6225.

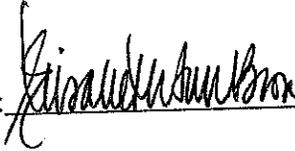
Sincerely,

Don T. Arkle, Chief
Design Bureau

By: 
Ms. Alfredo Acoff, Coordinator
Environmental Technical Section

LAL
attachment

CONCUR:



DATE:

April 10, 2003



STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

June 5, 2008

TEL: 334-242-3184
FAX: 334-240-3477

Ms. Alfredo Acoff
DOT
1409 Coliseum Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36130-3050

Re: AHC 98-0455
STPAA-388(8-10)
Road Widening & Additional Improvements to SR 53
Madison County, AL



Dear ~~Ms. Acoff~~ *Alfredo*:

Upon review of the above referenced project, the Alabama Historical Commission has determined that we previously concurred. We continue to concur with project activities. However, should the scope of work change, further consultation with our office will be necessary.

Should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during project activities, work shall cease and our office shall be consulted immediately. Artifacts are objects made, used or modified by humans. They include but are not excluded to arrowheads, broken pieces of pottery or glass, stone implements, metal fasteners or tools, etc. Archaeological features are stains in the soil that indicated disturbance by human activity. Some examples are post holes, building foundations, trash pits and even human burials. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to insure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's non-renewable resources. Should you have any questions, the point of contact for this matter is Greg Rhinehart at 334-230-2662. Please have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any correspondence.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Design Bureau

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P. O. Box 303050, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3050
Phone: 334-242-6178 FAX: 334-269-0826



Bob Riley
Governor

Joe McInnes
Transportation Director

January, 22 2009.

Memorandum

To: Blanding James
Project Manager

From: Promesse Adam 
Air/Noise Analyst

Subject: Noise Analysis Review for Project STPAA-388(009)
SR-53 from Rideout Rd to Jeff Rd, Madison County

An approved FONSI document for project ST-045-053-001 is being re-evaluated under a new project number STPAA-388(009). The project scope remains the same (widening SR-53 from a two-lane to a four-lane divided roadway). A current field review was conducted on 01-15-09 to determine if any new residential or non-profit strictures are now present that would warrant a new study. There are no new structures present that will require further study. A new noise analysis will not be required for this project.

Blanding, James

From: Cleondis, Angelo
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 8:42 AM
To: Blanding, James; Anderson, Adam S.
Subject: Hazardous Materials Clearance for Project STPAA-388(9) Madison County

Date: August 1, 2008

To: James Blanding, Biologist

From: Angelo Cleondis, Biologist

Subject: Hazardous Materials Clearance
STPAA-388(9)
Additional Lanes on SR-53 from South of Nick Ficheard Road to South of Jeff Road
Madison County

By letter dated July 22, 2003, you were provided with a clearance letter for the above referenced project. The letter indicated that additional right-of-way will be acquired from one site (Raceway#932) located right of station 117+00. This was an active service station and registered and based on current plans no UST's or the pump island will be impacted. Sample results indicated detectable concentrations of TPH, however they were below the ADEM regulatory limit, therefore there were no remediation costs associated with this site. A follow up investigation was conducted in July, 2008 and no additional sites were identified, also a review of federal and state databases did not identify any additional sites that will have an environmental impact on this project. After a review of all available information, there is nothing to indicate that hazardous substance or petroleum products will be a problem. It is possible that hazardous materials may have been improperly handled on these parcels of land; however all available information indicates that problems should not be expected. This completes the reevaluation for this project. Based on this information, the July 22, 2003 clearance letter from the HMC is still valid. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact Angelo Cleondis at (334)242-6154.