

Appendix X – Categorical Exclusion

From: [Mahoney, Robert \(FHWA\)](#)
To: [Robert Lott](#)
Cc: [Stinson, Mark \(FHWA\)](#); [Suarez, Daniel \(FHWA\)](#); [Heisler, Lynn \(FHWA\)](#); [Tramonte, Betsey \(FHWA\)](#)
Subject: FW: H.013025 - LA 182 (University Avenue) - Request for Segmented Environmental Evaluation
Date: Friday, November 15, 2019 9:28:00 AM
Attachments: [H.013025 LA 182\(University Ave.\) - Request for Segmented Environmental Evaluation.docx.pdf](#)

Bobby, we concur that the portion of the Corridor Study D, E, and F can be processed as a Categorical Exclusion with the proposed scope of work identified.

We agree that the D, E, and F portion has independent utility.

Please avoid the use of the word “segment” in future documentation. Need to avoid any confusion concerning the Segmentation concepts.

Also, if Safety is going to be part of the purpose and need statement, a safety analysis will need to be included in the NEPA documentation.

Please call if need to discuss.

Thanks, BobM.

From: Robert Lott <Robert.Lott@LA.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 1:36 PM
To: Mahoney, Robert (FHWA) <Robert.Mahoney@dot.gov>
Subject: FW: H.013025 - LA 182 (University Avenue) - Request for Segmented Environmental Evaluation

Bob,

The Lafayette MPO completed a corridor study along LA 182 (University Avenue), see attachment for an overall map. The study included roundabouts, access management, and pedestrian facilities. Currently, the MPO anticipates funding for Segments D, E, and F, and would like to bring just those segments forward into the Environmental stage. The email below and the attachment detail the reasoning for separating the environmental and DOTD concurs with their recommendations and anticipates clearance of Segments D, E, and F as a categorical exclusion. Please review and let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations.

Thanks,
Bobby Lott
LADOTD – Environmental Section
225.242.4504

From: Melanie Bordelon [<mailto:mbordelon@planacadiana.org>]
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Ryan Richard (DOTD) <Ryan.Richard@LA.GOV>
Cc: Robert Lott <Robert.Lott@LA.GOV>; Dawn Sholmire <Dawn.Sholmire@LA.GOV>; Noel Ardoin <Noel.Ardoin@LA.GOV>; 'Mayor-President Joel Robideaux' <jrobideaux@lafayettela.gov>; Danielle

Breaux <dbreaux@LafayetteLA.gov>; cgilbert@LafayetteLA.gov; Neil LeBouef <nlebouef@lafayettela.gov>; Frederick J. Trahan <fjtrahan@LafayetteLA.gov>; Mark Dubroc (mdubroc@lafayettela.gov) <mdubroc@lafayettela.gov>; Monique Boulet <mboulet@planacadiana.org>; Ashley Moran <amoran@planacadiana.org>; Chris Cole <ccole@planacadiana.org>; Hong Zhang <Hong.Zhang@LA.GOV>

Subject: H.013025 - LA 182 (University Avenue) - Request for Segmented Environmental Evaluation

Ryan,

As a result of our meeting with LA DOTD, LCG and APC staff on September 25th I am forwarding a letter formally requesting that project H.013025, LA 182 (University Avenue) be considered as two separate segments for the environmental section of project development. Each segment performs a distinctly different function and can be constructed as projects of independent utility.

We would like to request that the environmental analysis for the southern segment of the corridor be considered as a separate project from the northern segment of the project. This request is based on the following:

- The southern segment of LA 182 (University Ave.) is a project of independent utility. The proposed improvements can be constructed even if the northern segment is delayed for several years or never completed.
- Full funding for the design and construction of the southern segment has been appropriated through several funding sources including STP>200K (MPO), Capital Outlay and LCG funds and could be pursued now as a separate project.
- The majority of the proposed improvements are anticipated to be within the existing right-of-way or require minimal right of way takings and no significant impacts. We may, in fact, argue the point that this project could be categorically excluded allowing the State and its partners to pursue the design and construction of this much needed project.
- The proposed improvements will address significant safety concerns by constructing a raised median, providing sidewalks and intersection improvements.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. We look forward to working with you on this important project for our region.

Thank you,

Melanie Bordelon, Transportation Director

Acadiana Planning Commission/Acadiana MPO

Louisiana Planning District 4



101 Jefferson St. Lafayette, LA 70501

PO Box 3705 Lafayette, LA 70502

P: 337.806.9365

mbordelon@planacadiana.org

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Environmental Section
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245
ph: 225-242-4501 | fx: 225-242-4500

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary

October 30, 2019

State Project No. H.013025.2
F.A.P. No. H013025
LA 182: Jeanne Street to Gilman Road
Lafayette Parish

Mr. Wes Bollinger
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Subject: Request for CE Classification

Dear Mr. Bollinger:

The Department of Transportation and Development is requesting that the captioned project be processed as a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the reasons stated below.

According to FHWA regulations found in 23 CFR 771, a CE is an action which meets the definition contained in 40 CFR 1508.4, and, based on past experience with similar actions, do not involve significant environmental impacts. A CE may not:

- induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area;
- require the relocation of significant numbers of people;
- have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resource;
- involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts;
- have significant impacts on travel patterns; or
- have individually or cumulatively any significant environmental impacts. (23 CFR 771.117(a))

If a CE has the potential to involve *unusual circumstances*, then environmental studies are completed to determine if a CE classification is accurate. Circumstances that may be unusual are significant environmental impacts, controversy on environmental grounds, impact to Section 4(f) properties, impact to Section 106 resources, or inconsistency with Federal laws, etc.

Applicability to Captioned Project

Initially, the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) completed a corridor study along LA 182 from LA 723 (Renaud Dr.) to south of US 90 (Cameron Street). Attached to this request are the Stage 0 Scope and Budget checklist, the Stage 0 Environmental checklist, and various maps and cross sections for the project. The corridor was divided into two segments, the northern segment (Areas A-C) and the southern segment (Areas

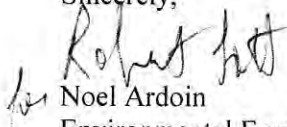
D-F). The northern segment of the corridor focused on commercial development through roundabouts, improving traffic flow, and increasing capacity. The southern segment focused on commercial and residential development by proposing a raised median, construction of sidewalks, and some intersection improvements. The APC has submitted a request to LADOTD (also attached) to process the southern segment independently from the northern segment. Full funding for the design and construction of just the southern segment has been appropriated and APC requests to move forward with just that portion of the project. It is anticipated that the northern segment of the corridor study, Areas A-C, will be processed in the future as funds become available.

This southern segment fits the definition of a CE for the reasons stated below.

- The captioned project does not require significant amounts of right-of-way, we anticipate a minor amount will be required to accommodate the pedestrian improvements and the raised median.
- The project will not need a bridge permit from the U.S. Coast Guard as there are no navigable waterways that will be affected. A wetland finding will be completed to document any impacts to wetlands and the need for any U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits.
- We do not anticipate any impacts to Section 106 resources under the National Historic Preservation Act.
- We do not anticipate any impacts to Section 4(f) resources.
- We do not anticipate any impacts to threatened or endangered species or to critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.
- We do not anticipate any major traffic disruptions.
- We do not anticipate adverse impacts to a floodplain or to any Scenic Rivers.

This project will require an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Department is requesting that FHWA classify the above captioned project as a CE.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Robert Lott at (225) 242-4504. Thank you for your favorable consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Noel Ardoin
Environmental Engineer Administrator

NA/rll
Attachments

Cc: Ryan Richard, LADOTD Urban Systems Program Manager
Dawn Sholmire, LADOTD Urban Transportation Planning Engineer

Neil T. Lebouef

From: Melanie Bordelon <mbordelon@planacadiana.org>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 5:24 PM
To: Ryan Richard (DOTD)
Cc: Robert Lott; Dawn Sholmire; Noel.Ardoin@la.gov; Joel Robideaux; Danielle Breaux; Cathie Gilbert; Neil T. Lebouef; Frederick J. Trahan; Mark Dubroc; Monique Boulet; Ashley Moran; Chris Cole; Hong Zhang (Hong.Zhang@LA.GOV)
Subject: H.013025 - LA 182 (University Avenue) - Request for Segmented Environmental Evaluation
Attachments: Stubbed Attachments.htm

This message's contents have been archived by the Barracuda Message Archiver.

[H.013025 LA 182\(University Ave.\) - Request for Segmented Environmental Evaluation.docx.pdf](#) (1.0M)

Ryan,

As a result of our meeting with LA DOTD, LCG and APC staff on September 25th I am forwarding a letter formally requesting that project H.013025, LA 182 (University Avenue) be considered as two separate segments for the environmental section of project development. Each segment performs a distinctly different function and can be constructed as projects of independent utility.

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Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. We look forward to working with you on this important project for our region.

Thank you,

Melanie Bordelon, Transportation Director
Acadiana Planning Commission/Acadiana MPO
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October 7, 2019

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Mr. Ryan Richard, P.E.
Urban System Program Manager (<200K)
Road Design Section
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
P.O. Box 94245
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

RE: H.013025 LA 182(University Ave.)
Request for Segmented Environmental Evaluation

Dear Mr. Richard,

In early 2019 Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG), in coordination with the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) completed a corridor study for LA 182 (University Avenue) from south of LA 723 (Renaud Dr.) to south of US 90 (Cameron Street). We have attached an exhibit showing the limits of the study for informational purposes. The study evaluated existing conditions and developed and evaluated several design alternatives for the corridor. It is noted that the corridor can be divided into two distinct segments, each performing a distinctly different function.

The northern segment (Areas A - C), from south of LA 723 (Renaud Dr.) to south of Willow Street consists of major commercial development, in general has a wider existing right of way and includes an interchange with I-10 as well as a major intersection at Willow Street. The proposed alternative includes roundabouts at the intersection with Willow Street as well as at the I-10 interchange ramp termini. The primary purpose and function of the proposed improvements is focused on improving traffic flow and capacity measures.

The southern segment (Areas D - E) of the project extends from south of Willow Street to south of the intersection with US 90 (Cameron Street). This segment consists of a mixture of commercial and residential development. Proposed work along the southern segment includes the addition of a raised median, construction of sidewalks and some intersection improvements within existing right of way when possible. The intersection of LA 182 (University Ave.) and US 90 (Cameron St.) will be widened to accommodate traffic and pedestrians. The primary purpose and focus on this section is safety and is distinct and separate from the northern section.

The southern segment of the project is also an area with the most safety concerns. Since 2010 there have been 10 fatal/severe injury crashes. The four fatalities include one head-on, two pedestrians and one bicycle crash. Analysis of all of crashes along this segment demonstrates that the segment has twice the statewide average crash rate for its functional classification. Demographics of the area indicate that many people who live along the corridor do not have vehicles and must use alternative modes of transportation. Cyclist and pedestrian counts performed on the segment show significant numbers of vulnerable roadway users utilizing the roadway. This is not at all the case in the northern section of the study.

We would like to request that the environmental analysis for the southern segment of the corridor be considered as a separate project from the northern segment of the project. This request is based on the following:

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Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Melanie Bordelon, Transportation Director
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Overall Corridor Key Map

