

# **Appendix B:**

## Agency Coordination and Correspondence





**Environmental Section**  
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
Phone: (225) 242-4502 FAX: (225) 242-4500

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

June 6, 2017

STATE PROJECT NO.: H.001271  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.: H001271  
CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X  
ROUTE: LA 1-X  
NATCHITOCHES PARISH

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SUBJECT: Solicitation of Views

Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated.

As we are in the beginning stages of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, very limited data concerning the proposed project exists. We have, however, attached a map showing the general location of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

We request that you review the attached information and furnish us with your views and comments by **July 7, 2017**. Replies should be addressed to LADOTD; Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28; P.O. Box 94245; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245. Please reference the captioned project in your reply.

Sincerely,

*for* Noel Ardoin  
Environmental Engineer Administrator

Attachments  
NA/rad

Cc: District 08 Administrator  
District 08 Traffic Operations Eng.

PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION  
STATE PROJECT NO: H.001271  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.: H001271  
CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X  
ROUTE: LA 1-X  
NATCHITOCHES PARISH

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) proposes to replace the Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish.

The existing Cane River Bridge at Church Street (Lat 31.760718, Long -93.084624), constructed in 1936, is a two-lane concrete deck girder bridge with two 12' bi-directional travel lanes and four foot wide sidewalks on either side. The bridge is located within the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District. The bridge has been determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Three alternatives and one (1) sub-alternative are being carried forward from the Stage 0/Feasibility Study into this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the bridge on existing or slightly off-set alignment, with a possible new temporary detour bridge at Highland Park Drive (~Lat 31.771629, Long -93.084819). The proposed replacement bridge is expected to remain two-lanes. The type, dimensions, and aesthetics of any permanent replacement bridge or detour bridge will be determined during the EA process. The EA will also include the analysis of up to three (3) NEPA-derived alternatives, as well as the No-Build Alternative.

Project alternatives will be further developed in an effort to avoid or minimize environmental, social and economic impacts, while improving functionality, durability, adequate corrosion protection and ease of inspection and future maintenance. These alternatives will strive to provide a safe and aesthetically pleasant structure for the public while meeting the needs of the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District.

The objective of this project is to provide the planning, public outreach, and engineering and environmental services necessary to document public input and other information necessary for the LADOTD and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to reach an environmental decision for the proposed bridge replacement.

LA 1-X is classified as a Minor Arterial (Urban). The average daily traffic (ADT) for 2016 was 11,300 vehicles per day. Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S. may be impacted. The project will be processed as an EA.



SHARON GAHAGAN  
NATCHITOCHEES HISTORIC DISTRICT  
COMMISSION  
1950 WILLIAMS AVE  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457  
[Sharontg@yahoo.com](mailto:Sharontg@yahoo.com)

HBDA  
JILL LEO  
P.O. BOX 139  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457

NATCHITOCHEES HISTORIC DISTRICT  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
CYNTHIA SUTTON  
919 PARKWAY DR  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457

NATCHITOCHEES HISTORIC  
FOUNDATION  
DAN SEYMOUR  
522A FRONT ST  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457

ED WARD  
BLACK HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
315 NORTH ST  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457

LAURA S. GATES  
CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL PARK  
SVC  
400 RAPIDES DR  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457

CANE RIVER WATERWAY  
COMMISSION  
BETTY FULLER  
244 CEDAR BEND RD  
NATCHEZ, LA 71456

PARISH OF NATCHITOCHEES  
NICK VERRET  
EMAIL SOV TO:  
[NVERRET@NPGOV.ORG](mailto:NVERRET@NPGOV.ORG)

ASSOC. FOR THE PRESERVATION OF  
HISTORIC NATCHITOCHEES  
3533 HWY 119  
MELROSE, LA 71452

CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE  
AREA COMMISSION  
J. PAYNE WILLIAMS  
1296 HWY 484  
NATCHEZ, LA 71456

NATCHITOCHEES CITY PLANNING  
COMMISSION  
CHARLES WHITEHEAD, III  
P.O. BOX 37  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71457

BRAY WILLIAMS  
WILLIAMS FAMILY LAW FIRM, LLC  
P.O. BOX 15  
NATCHITOCHEES, LA 71458-0015

8TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT (MO)  
COMMANDER  
1222 SPRUCE ST  
St. Louis MO 63103-2398

8TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT (NO)  
DISTRICT COMMANDER  
HALE BOGGS FEDERAL BUILDING  
500 POYDRAS ST  
New Orleans LA 70130

CADDO NATION OF OKLAHOMA  
ATTN: MICHAEL D. ATTOCKNIE  
P O BOX 487  
BINGER OK 73009

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
NATCHITOCHE  
780 FRONT ST.  
SUITE 101  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71457

CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA  
SEND SOVS TO JOSHUA CUNNINGHAM  
OF FHWA  
EMAIL: JOSHUA.CUNNINGHAM@DOT.GOV  
DURANT OK 74702

CHOCTAW-APACHE CMTY OF EBARB  
MR TOMMY BOLTON  
P O BOX 1428  
ZWOLLE LA 71486

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COE  
PROJECT LOCATION NEW ORLEANS DIST  
C/O STEPHEN PFEFFER, DOTD LIAISON  
EMAIL SOV TO:  
STEPHEN.D.PFEFFER@USACE.ARMY.MIL  
NEW ORLEANS LA 70160-0267

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COE  
PROJECT LOCATION VICKSBURG DIST  
C/O STEPHEN PFEFFER, DOTD LIAISON  
EMAIL SOV TO:  
STEPHEN.D.PFEFFER@USACE.ARMY.MIL  
NEW ORLEANS LA 70160-0267

FEDERAL PROG REV COORD  
NW REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE  
P O BOX 37005  
SHREVEPORT LA 71133-7005

HON. FRANK A. HOWARD  
LA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
(DISTRICT 24)  
1601 TEXAS HWY  
MANY LA 71449

HON. GERALD LONG  
LOUISIANA STATE SENATE  
(DISTRICT 31)  
P O BOX 151  
WINNFIELD LA 71483

HON. KENNY COX  
LA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
(DISTRICT 23)  
781 HIGHWAY 494  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71457

HON. TERRY BROWN  
LA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
(DISTRICT 22)  
510 MAIN ST.  
COLFAX LA 71417

HON. W. JAY LUNEAU  
LOUISIANA STATE SENATE  
(DISTRICT 29)  
711 WASHINGTON STREET  
ALEXANDRIA LA 71301

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE  
TROOP E  
1710 ODOM ST  
ALEXANDRIA LA 71301

NATCHITOCHE PARISH  
CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR  
P O BOX 751  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71457

NATCHITOCHE PARISH  
FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR  
P O BOX 799  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71457

NATCHITOCHE PARISH  
PLANNING COMM  
P O BOX 799  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71458

NATCHITOCHE PARISH  
POLICE JURY  
P O BOX 799  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71458

NATCHITOCHE PARISH  
SCHOOL BOARD  
P O BOX 16  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71457

NATCHITOCHE PARISH  
SHERIFF  
P O BOX 266  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71457

NATCHITOCHE SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
6949 HWY 1 BY-PASS  
NATCHITOCHE LA 71457

OSAGE NATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
DR. ANDREA A. HUNTER, THPO  
627 GRANDVIEW AVE  
Pawhuska OK 74056

USDA, FOREST SERVICE  
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST  
SUPERVISOR  
2500 SHREVEPORT HWY  
PINEVILLE LA 71360-2009

ALABAMA COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS  
ATTN: BRYANT CELESTINE, THPO  
EMAIL: CELESTINE.BRYANT@ACTRIBE.ORG  
Livingston TX 77351

COALITION TO RESTORE  
COASTAL LOUISIANA  
KIMBERLY REYHER, EXEC. DIR.  
6160 PERKINS RD STE 225  
BATON ROUGE LA 70808

COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA  
DR. LINDA LANGLEY, THPO  
P O BOX 818  
ELTON LA 70532

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
& FORESTRY  
OFFICE OF FORESTRY  
5825 FLORIDA BLVD. SUITE 6000  
Baton Rouge LA 70806

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
& FORESTRY  
OFFICE OF SOIL/WATER CONS  
5825 FLORIDA BLVD., SUITE 7000  
Baton Rouge LA 70806

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE  
RECREATION & TOURISM  
DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
P O BOX 44247  
Baton Rouge LA 70804

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE  
RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF STATE PARKS  
P O BOX 44426  
Baton Rouge LA 70804

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION  
P O BOX 66336  
Baton Rouge LA 70896

DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
EMAIL LETTERS SOV'S TO  
LINDA.HARDY@LA.GOV  
EMAIL: LINDA.HARDY@LA.GOV  
Baton Rouge LA 70802

DEPT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS  
ATTN: CHIEF SANITARIAN DIRECTOR  
P O BOX 629  
Baton Rouge LA 70821-0629

DEPT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES  
LA. NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM  
P O BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE LA 70898

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS  
OPH ENGINEERING SVCS (BIN 10)  
ATTN: YUANDA ZHU  
628 NORTH 4TH STREET  
Baton Rouge LA 70802

DEPT.OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
P O BOX 94185  
Baton Rouge LA 70804

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION  
FACILITY PLANNING & CONTROL  
P O BOX 94095  
BATON ROUGE LA 70804

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION  
STATE LAND OFFICE  
P O BOX 44124  
BATON ROUGE LA 70804

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY  
SOURCE WATER PROTECTION (6WQ-S)  
1445 ROSS AVE  
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMIN, REGION VI  
819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 14A02  
FORT WORTH TX 76102

FEMA REGION VI  
FRC 800 NORTH LOOP 288  
DENTON TX 76209

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
DOTD SECTION 64  
INTRADPARTMENTAL MAIL  
DOTD LA 70802

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL  
OF LOUISIANA, INC.  
DIRECTOR  
991 GRAND CAILLOU RD  
HOUMA LA 70363-5705

JENA BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS  
ALINA SHIVELY, DEPUTY THPO  
EMAIL:  
ASHIVELY@JENACHOCTAW.ORG  
JENA LA 71342

LA. DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION  
P O BOX 94275  
BATON ROUGE LA 70804-9275

LA. DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
P O BOX 2827  
BATON ROUGE LA 70821

LA. GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION  
P O BOX 3713  
BATON ROUGE LA 70821

LOUISIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION  
ATTN: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
P O BOX 5067  
ALEXANDRIA LA 71307

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SEA GRANT LEGAL ADVISORY SVC.  
ATTN: DIRECTOR LOUISIANA SEA GRANT LAW & POLICY  
227B SEA GRANT BUILDING  
Baton Rouge LA 70803

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF  
CHOCTAW INDIANS  
KENNETH CARLETON  
EMAIL: KCARLETON@CHOCTAW.ORG  
Philadelphia MS 39350

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
SOUTHEAST REGION  
ATTN: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST  
100 ALABAMA ST, SW, 1924 BLDG.  
ATLANTA GA 30303

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SVC.  
ATTN: STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
3737 GOVERNMENT ST  
ALEXANDRIA LA 71302

TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBE OF LA.  
EARL J. BARBRY, JR., THPO  
P.O. BOX 1589  
MARKSVILLE LA 71351

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
PLEASE EMAIL!!  
LAFAYETTE@FWS.GOV  
Lafayette LA 70506

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
3535 S SHERWOOD FOREST STE 120  
BATON ROUGE LA 70806

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HON. CEDRIC RICHMOND  
(DISTRICT 2)  
2021 LAKESHORE DR., STE 309  
NEW ORLEANS LA 70122

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HON. CLAY HIGGINS  
(DISTRICT 3)  
P.O. BOX 61747  
LAFAYETTE LA 70596

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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(DISTRICT 6)  
2351 ENERGY DRIVE, STE 1200  
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HON. MIKE JOHNSON  
(DISTRICT 4)  
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Bossier City LA 71171

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HON. RALPH ABRAHAM  
(DISTRICT 5)  
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MONROE LA 71201

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HON. STEVE J. SCALISE  
(DISTRICT 1)  
110 VETERANS BLVD., STE. 500  
METAIRIE LA 70005

UNITED STATES SENATE  
SENATOR BILL CASSIDY M.D.  
5555 HILTON AVENUE, STE 100  
BATON ROUGE LA 70808

UNITED STATES SENATE  
SENATOR JOHN KENNEDY  
P.O. BOX 80418  
Baton Rouge LA 70898

## Bliss Bernard

---

**From:** Noel Ardoin <Noel.Ardoin@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Bridge Construction in Natchitoches, LA

[A comment](#)

---

**From:** David Breazeale [mailto:[breazy4@icloud.com](mailto:breazy4@icloud.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 8:31 AM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin; Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig  
**Cc:** Williams Bray  
**Subject:** Proposed Bridge Construction in Natchitoches, LA

Hello,

The following are my comments regarding construction of a bridge over Cane River Lake:

Several years ago a bridge was constructed over Cane River at the foot of Keyser Ave (aka: Pine Street Bridge) to alleviate traffic congestion in Natchitoches. A temporary bridge was built while the new bridge was expanded to three lanes. When the new bridge was completed, the temporary bridge was removed.

A new bridge needs to be built where the Church St bridge is now since the original is approaching the end of its useful life. Please consider building a new bridge with three lanes at the Church St location in the same way that the Pine St Bridge was constructed.

Thank you,

David Breazeale  
[breazy4@icloud.com](mailto:breazy4@icloud.com)  
318-527-7671

RD

+U. S. Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA Region 6  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209-3698



**FEMA**

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
REGION VI  
MITIGATION DIVISION

**RE: State Project No. H.001271, Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X,  
Natchitoches Parish**

## **NOTICE REVIEW/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION**

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We have no comments to offer.       We offer the following comments:

**WE WOULD REQUEST THAT THE COMMUNITY FLOODPLAIN  
ADMINISTRATORS BE CONTACTED FOR THE REVIEW AND POSSIBLE PERMIT  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT. IF FEDERALLY FUNDED, WE WOULD  
REQUEST PROJECT TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH EO11988 & EO 11990.**

Greg Lemoine  
Natchitoches Parish Floodplain Administrator  
P.O. Box 799  
200 Church Street, Second Floor  
Natchitoches, LA 71458-0799  
gregl@nppj.org  
(318) 352-2714

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REVIEWER:

*Charla Marchuk, CFM*  
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch  
Mitigation Division  
(940) 898- 5561

DATE: June 19, 2017

## Bliss Bernard

---

**From:** Noel Ardoin <Noel.Ardoin@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 3:16 PM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: State Project No: H.001271

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**From:** Marion Johnston [mailto:deaniej@suddenlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 3:14 PM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin  
**Cc:** Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig; bray Williams  
**Subject:** State Project No: H.001271

**Marion M. Johnston**  
**1852 Williams Avenue**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**

June 19, 2017

Ms. Noel Ardoin, Environmental Engineer Administrator,  
LADOTD  
Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

RE: State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin,

We received a copy of correspondence sent to Bray Williams, Esquire, on Monday, June 12, 2017. We are simply at a loss for why the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is still proposing a “temporary bridge” at the Highland Park Road – 1128 Williams Avenue location. Also, why is DOTD’s proposed replacement bridge for the Church Street Bridge only two lanes?

Is DOTD unaware that the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 **against** this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “Temporary” Bridge location. Additionally, the citizens of Natchitoches do not need another two lane bridge downtown but a three lane bridge similar to the Keyser Avenue bridge. Does the DOTD not know that a beautiful new home is being built at 1128 Williams by a retired law enforcement officer who served and protected the public during her entire professional career? The best solution is a temporary bridge built next to the construction of the Church Street replacement bridge. The temporary bridge can then be removed after completion of the Church Street replacement bridge. This is exactly what was done on Keyser Avenue, and that project has been a tremendous success!

We, the citizens of Natchitoches, have no interest in a “temporary” (or permanent) bridge at Highland Park Road – Williams Avenue because it is dangerous for our friends and neighbors on both sides of Cane River. We do

not want a bridge placed into the middle of two existing, well-established residential neighborhoods. That will be dangerous for children and pedestrians alike. There have been several bad accidents in this curve where the bridge would terminate on Williams Avenue. This can be verified with the Natchitoches Police Department. Furthermore, replacing our existing two lane Church Street bridge with another two lane bridge will do nothing to help ease the flow of traffic in Natchitoches. Again, a temporary bridge can be located next to the construction of the Church Street replacement bridge, exactly as was done for the Keyser Avenue bridge replacement project that has been an enormous success for Natchitoches.

Please take our views and comments into careful consideration when reaching an environmental decision for the proposed bridge replacement. We do not want the proposed Highland Park Road – 1128 Williams Avenue “temporary” bridge nor a Church Street replacement bridge of two lanes.

Sincerely yours,

Marion and Donnie Johnston



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

6/19/2017

Operations Division  
Regulatory Branch

Ms. Noel Ardoin  
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Post Office Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

Reference is made to your solicitation of views request for the removal and replacement of a bridge structure, **State Project No. H.001271**, located in Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana (enclosed map). More specifically, the project proposes to remove and replace the Cane River Bridge located on Church Street between Front Street and Williams Avenue.

Information and signatures obtained from recent maps, aerial photography, information provided with your request, and local soil surveys concerning this site are indicative of the occurrence of waters of the United States, including wetlands. Department of the Army (DA) permits are required prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional wetlands or waters. If an approved delineation is needed, please furnish us with the detailed field data concerning vegetation, soils, and hydrology that we require for all jurisdictional decisions. The fact that a field wetland delineation/determination has not been completed does not alleviate your responsibility to obtain the proper DA permits prior to working in jurisdictional wetlands or waters occurring on this property. Additionally, the Cane River is a navigable waterway and subject to Corps' jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. A DA Section 10 permit will be required prior to any work in this waterway.

You are advised that you must obtain a permit from the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District for any work within 1,500 feet of a federal flood control structure such as a levee. You must apply by letter to the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District including full-size construction plans, cross sections, and details of the proposed work. For further information regarding permit requests affecting federal flood control levees and structures within the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District, please contact Mr. Ronald Corkern at (318) 352-2303.

Should there be any questions concerning these matters or questions specific to the regulatory permit process, please contact Mr. Stephen Pfeffer at (504) 862-2099 and reference our Account No. MVN 2017-00748-MS.

Sincerely,

Stephen Pfeffer  
Environmental Resources Specialist

Enclosure

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Hale Federal Building

500 Poydras Street, Room 1313  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3310  
Staff Symbol: dpb  
Phone: (504) 671-2128  
Fax: (504) 671-2133  
D8DPBALL@uscg.mil

16591A  
June 19, 2017

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Attn: Ms. Noel Ardoin  
1201 Capitol Access Road  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

State Project: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

We received your Solicitation of Views dated June 6, 2017, the propose replacement of Church Street Bridge crossing Cane River, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Construction of any proposed bridge, bridge replacement or bridge modification may necessitate the Coast Guard's involvement in the permitting process. However, prior to the Coast Guard's involvement in this project, under 23 CFR §650.805, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has the responsibility under the Surface Transportation Assistance (STA) Act of 1978 to determine whether or not a USCG permit is required for this bridge construction.

Section 144(h) of Title 23 U.S. Code was enacted in 1978 to reduce paperwork and related costs in the execution of the Coast Guard's bridge permit programs. This section has been amended by the Act of April 2, 1987 (Public Law 100-17), to further reduce paperwork and related costs in the permitting of bridges funded by this Act. By reason of this provision, certain bridges --which are constructed, reconstructed, rehabilitated, or replaced with federal assistance imposed under Title 23 U.S. Code -- are no longer subject to the permitting requirements imposed under 33 U.S.C. 401 and 525(b). The bridges that fall into this excluded category are those that cross waterways:

- (1) which are not used and are not susceptible to use in their natural condition or by reasonable improvement as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce; and
- (2) which are nontidal, or if tidal, used by vessels less than 21 feet in length.

Since FHWA has the responsibility for the STA Act, the Coast Guard will accept a determination by the FHWA Administrator that this bridge project receiving federal assistance under Title 23 U.S. Code meets the stated criteria and is exempted for Coast Guard Bridge Administration purposes. This letter does not imply that this project meets the criteria above and does not constitute concurrence as meeting the criteria. Coordination between FHWA and the Coast Guard is required prior to FHWA reaching a determination that the bridge or bridges are eligible under the applicable statutes. It must be noted that the subject Act which amended Title 23 U.S. Code to include 23 U.S.C. 144(h), did not exclude that category of bridges from the application of 14 U.S.C.85.

16591A  
June 19, 2017

The later statute requires the establishment, maintenance, and operation of Coast Guard required lights and signals on fixed structures, including bridges. Approval of lights and other signals required under the provisions of 33 CFR 118 should be obtained, prior to the commencement of construction, from this office. If it is determined that federal funds will not be utilized, additional information may be required to determine whether a Coast Guard permit will be required.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS A. BLAKEMORE  
Chief Bridge Administration Branch  
U.S. Coast Guard  
By direction

Copy: Ms. Traci Johnson, LDOTD  
Mr. Joshua B. Cunningham, FHWA

## Bliss Bernard

---

**From:** Noel Ardoin <Noel.Ardoin@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 7:09 AM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: Temporary Bridge in Natchitoches

**From:** Lisa Abney [mailto:dr.l.abney@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 6:11 PM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin; Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig; Bray Williams; hollingsworth.douglas5@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Temporary Bridge in Natchitoches

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

I am writing to urge you and your colleagues at the DOTD to not proceed with plans to construct a bridge connecting Highland Park Road to 1128 Williams Avenue. The placement of this bridge is disruptive and dangerous to this residential neighborhood and Historic District.

More than 100 of my neighbors and I attended recent City Council meetings where the Council voted to not approve the bridge plans. Those of us who attended the meeting made our voices heard about the ways in which this potential bridge will adversely impact our property values.

I live at 913 Williams Avenue. The traffic passing my home daily is substantial already. Having an additional bridge will only increase the traffic and cause additional delays and difficulties in navigating an already busy street.

In light of the many, many terrible roads we have in our Parish and region, I would encourage and ask you to redirect these funds to repairing existing roads. I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter.

Regards,  
Lisa Abney and Douglas Hollingsworth

## Bliss Bernard

---

**From:** Jonathan Lachney <Jonathan.Lachney@LA.GOV>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:28 AM  
**To:** Robin Daigle; Elnur Musa  
**Subject:** FW: State Project No: H.001271

FYI...

---

**From:** Rick Nowlin - Natchitoches Parish President [mailto:rnowlin@npgov.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:17 AM  
**To:** Dale Craig <Dale.Craig@LA.GOV>; 'Nick Verret' <nverret@npgov.org>  
**Cc:** Jeffrey Connella <Jeffrey.Connella@LA.GOV>; Jonathan Lachney <Jonathan.Lachney@LA.GOV>  
**Subject:** RE: State Project No: H.001271

Dale:

Thank you for sharing this letter with us.

While we appreciate the comments from the Johnston's in regard to the bridge matter, we should point out that they may not represent all citizens of Natchitoches, particularly those who are inconvenienced by traffic delays during certain periods of the day, or are concerned about a larger project footprint in the historic district. It may be that their objection would be shared by many more citizens. At this point, we do not know for sure.

We believe that all alternatives should be considered and evaluated. The \$3.5 million riverfront project is scheduled for completion this October. We should consider the impact of an enlarged construction zone created by a detour bridge adjacent to the new bridge as part of the overall evaluation.

If we may be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thanks, again,  
Rick

---

**From:** Dale Craig [mailto:Dale.Craig@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** 'Nick Verret'; 'Rick Nowlin - Natchitoches Parish President'  
**Cc:** Jeffrey Connella; Jonathan Lachney  
**Subject:** FW: State Project No: H.001271

FYI

---

**From:** Marion Johnston [mailto:deaniej@suddenlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 3:14 PM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin  
**Cc:** Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig; bray Williams  
**Subject:** State Project No: H.001271

**Marion M. Johnston  
1852 Williams Avenue  
Natchitoches, LA 71457**

June 19, 2017

Ms. Noel Ardoin, Environmental Engineer Administrator,  
LADOTD  
Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

RE: State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin,

We received a copy of correspondence sent to Bray Williams, Esquire, on Monday, June 12, 2017. We are simply at a loss for why the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is still proposing a “temporary bridge” at the Highland Park Road – 1128 Williams Avenue location. Also, why is DOTD’s proposed replacement bridge for the Church Street Bridge only two lanes?

Is DOTD unaware that the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 **against** this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “Temporary” Bridge location. Additionally, the citizens of Natchitoches do not need another two lane bridge downtown but a three lane bridge similar to the Keyser Avenue bridge. Does the DOTD not know that a beautiful new home is being built at 1128 Williams by a retired law enforcement officer who served and protected the public during her entire professional career? The best solution is a temporary bridge built next to the construction of the Church Street replacement bridge. The temporary bridge can then be removed after completion of the Church Street replacement bridge. This is exactly what was done on Keyser Avenue, and that project has been a tremendous success!

We, the citizens of Natchitoches, have no interest in a “temporary” (or permanent) bridge at Highland Park Road – Williams Avenue because it is dangerous for our friends and neighbors on both sides of Cane River. We do not want a bridge placed into the middle of two existing, well-established residential neighborhoods. That will be dangerous for children and pedestrians alike. There have been several bad accidents in this curve where the bridge would terminate on Williams Avenue. This can be verified with the Natchitoches Police Department. Furthermore, replacing our existing two lane Church Street bridge with another two lane bridge will do nothing to help ease the flow of traffic in Natchitoches. Again, a temporary bridge can be located next to the construction of the Church Street replacement bridge, exactly as was done for the Keyser Avenue bridge replacement project that has been an enormous success for Natchitoches.

Please take our views and comments into careful consideration when reaching an environmental decision for the proposed bridge replacement. We do not want the proposed Highland Park Road – 1128 Williams Avenue “temporary” bridge nor a Church Street replacement bridge of two lanes.

Sincerely yours,

Marion and Donnie Johnston



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

June 22, 2017

Ms. Noel A. Ardoin  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
LADOTD  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

We have received your June 6, 2017, letter requesting our evaluation of the potential environmental impacts which might result from the following project:

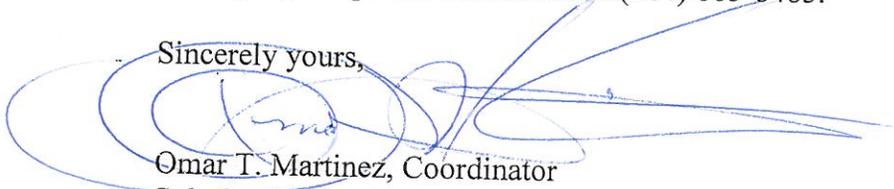
**Proposes to Replace the Cane River Bridge on  
Church Street (Lat: 31.760718, Long: -93.084624)  
Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between  
Front Street and Williams Avenue  
SP No: H.001271, FAP No: H001271  
City of Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, LA**

Based on the information provided, we have concluded that the project does not lie within the boundaries of a designated sole source aquifer and is thus not eligible for review under the SSA program.

If you did not include the parish, project description, project location, area map, plat or the federal funding agency, please do so in future SSA correspondence.

If you have any questions on this letter or the SSA program please contact me at (214) 665-8485.

Sincerely yours,



Omar T. Martinez, Coordinator  
Sole Source Aquifer Program  
Ground Water/UIC Section

cc: Jesse Means, LDEQ



June 22, 2017

Ms. Noel Ardoin  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

RE: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

I have reviewed the above referenced project for potential requirements of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) and potential impact to Natural Resource Conservation Service projects in the immediate vicinity.

Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

The project map and narrative submitted with your request indicates that the proposed construction area is in an urban area and therefore is exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549. Furthermore, we do not predict impacts to NRCS work in the vicinity.

For specific information about the soils found in the project area, please visit our Web Soil Survey at the following location: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Please direct all future correspondence to me at the address shown below.

Respectfully,

Acting For:  
Kevin D. Norton  
State Conservationist

Attachment



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
State Office  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302  
Voice: (318) 473-7751 Fax: (844) 325-6947

*Helping People Help the Land*

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request <b>6/6/17</b>	4. Sheet 1 of _____
1. Name of Project <b>Cane River Bridge - Church Street</b>		5. Federal Agency Involved <b>FHWA</b>	
2. Type of Project <b>Bridge Replacement- State Prj. No. H.001271</b>		6. County and State <b>Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana</b>	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS <b>6/13/17</b>	2. Person Completing Form <b>M.Mouton</b>
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size	
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: _____ % _____	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: _____ % _____	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>6/22/17</b>	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment</b>			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor				

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>				

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15				
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10				
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20				
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20				
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10				
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25				
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5				
8. On-Farm Investments	20				
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25				
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10				
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	0	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#); [Dax Douet](#)  
**Subject:** Cane River Bridge SOV responses received 6.28.17  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 2:54:39 PM

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Please see the SOV response below received on 6.28.17.

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

-----Original Message-----

From: Meagan McNeely [<mailto:mmcneely@npsheriff.net>]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 12:28 PM  
To: Noel Ardoin; Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig  
Subject: Highland Park "Temporary" Bridge

I want to express my opposition against the "temporary" bridge in Highland Park- Williams Avenue. I have lived in Natchitoches my entire life and have always known this particular area as a family area full of beautiful trees and a quite neighborhood. My husband and I recently bought a home on Bird Avenue because of the area being family oriented and quite, where kids can ride their bikes, walk home from school or to a friend's home and not be fearful of oncoming traffic or outsiders walking. This bridge will destroy all of that. It will destroy our neighborhood's way of life. Many of my neighbors have been in this neighborhood since it was first created and several others including ourselves have moved in recently for the same reasons they have worked to stay there and keep the neighborhood the way it is. This bridge is a terrible idea. There are historical homes and landscapes that will be forever lost also. Is this all things that Natchitoches is known for? Why destroy it? These small neighborhood streets can not take the amount of traffic this bridge will cause to overflow onto us. Our street has enough traffic during school time as it is. Our children will not be able to live the life we have worked hard to give them. Our children's' life will be at danger with this amount of traffic. Along with vehicle traffic will be foot traffic from people who have no business being in our neighborhood. The entire town has been having trouble with theft at all hours of the day and night which has now spread to our neighborhood. To add more foot traffic from outsiders will be unbearable. There has been a huge worry and uproar in Natchitoches full of people AGAINST this bridge and a meeting where this proposal was VOTED OUT/AGAINST. Why is our voice not being heard? This should not even still be in the makes after the vote. My husband and I including ALL of our neighbors are AGAINST this bridge. Others have already spoken out and fought against this proposal.. They have voted the proposal out and we hope this is heard and again thrown out.

--

Meagan McNeely  
[mmcneely@npsheriff.net](mailto:mmcneely@npsheriff.net)

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#); [Dax Douet](#)  
**Subject:** Benjamin\_Forkner\_6.29.17  
**Date:** Thursday, June 29, 2017 9:07:21 AM

---

Please see the SOV response below, received 6.29.17.

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

---

**From:** Noel Ardoin  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2017 7:37 AM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: the construction of a permanent bridge at the Highland Park Road - 1128 Williams Avenue location in Natchitoches, LA

---

**From:** Benjamin Forkner [<mailto:forknerb@nsula.edu>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2017 7:28 AM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin; Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig  
**Subject:** the construction of a permanent bridge at the Highland Park Road - 1128 Williams Avenue location in Natchitoches, LA

Dear LADOTD members,

I am writing this e-mail to express my apprehension concerning the construction of a permanent bridge at the Highland Park Road - 1128 Williams Avenue location in Natchitoches, LA. I live on Williams Ave. and my wife and two daughters moved to Natchitoches just over two years ago. This additional bridge, whether permanent or temporary, is completely unnecessary in Natchitoches. I have never experienced any traffic issues in Natchitoches even at high traffic hours (7-8am, 3-5pm). This bridge would destroy the scenic beauty of the Cane River Lake, considerably disturb the wild life and would certainly not be pleasing to tourists who come here to admire the Christmas festival and this magnificent stretch of lake front view.

Aside from being an eyesore, this bridge would serve no commercial purpose since Williams Avenue is a residential neighborhood, a two-lane street leading to the heart of the Historical District. Additional traffic in our neighborhood would only exacerbate an already dangerous avenue for children, bikers and pets. Understand that this bridge would destroy a peaceful

neighborhood, drive people away from this old Natchitoches community and greatly devalue the cost of homes.

I am surprised to see the DOT is pushing this project despite the fact that the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 **against** this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “Temporary” Bridge location.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Forkner



**BILLY NUNGESSER**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF STATE PARKS

**RENNIE S. BURAS, II**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**ROBERT J. BARHAM**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

June 29, 2017

LA DOTD  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, La 70804

Re: State Project No. H.001271

Dear Noel Ardoin:

The Office of State Parks has reviewed your proposed project for replacing the Cane River Bridge on Church Street in Natchitoches Parish.

We have no parks, sites or other recreational areas located near this project and have no objections or concerns.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Britt Evans".

Britt Evans  
Natural Resources Manager

BE: be



## TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Date: June 29, 2017

File: 1617-2847LA-6

RE: LaDOTD Project #: H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

LADOTD, Environmental Section  
Noel Ardoin  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

Dear Mr. Ardoin,

The Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office has received notification and accompanying information for the proposed project LaDOTD Project #: H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. There are no known Osage resources within the project area. This office looks forward to reviewing the final report.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below. Thank you for consulting with the Osage Nation on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Munkres". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

James Munkres  
Archaeologist



JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

THOMAS F. HARRIS  
SECRETARY

RICHARD P. IEYOUB  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

June 30, 2017

TO: Ms. Noel Ardoin  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
DOTD  
P. O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

RE: Solicitation of Views  
State Project No. H.001271  
LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

In response to your letter dated June 6, 2017, concerning the referenced matter, please be advised that the Office of Conservation collects and maintains many types of information regarding oil and gas exploration, production, distribution, and other data relative to the petroleum industry as well as related and non-related injection well information, surface mining and ground water information and other natural resource related data. Most information concerning oil, gas and injection wells for any given area of the state, including the subject area of your letter can be obtained through records search via the SONRIS data access application available at:

<http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov>

A review of our computer records for the referenced project area indicates that there are no oil, gas or injection wells located in the vicinity of the project area. The DNR water well database indicates that there are no registered water wells in the vicinity of the project area. However, unregistered water wells may be located in the area.

The Office of Conservation maintains records of all activities within its jurisdiction in paper, microfilm or electronic format. These records may be accessed during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, except on State holidays or emergencies that require the Office to be closed. Please call 225-342-5540 for specific contact information or for directions to the Office of Conservation, located in the LaSalle Building, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For pipelines and other underground hazards, please contact Louisiana One Call at 1-800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations. Should you need to direct your inquiry to any of our Divisions, you may use the following contact information:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Engineering	Jeff Wells	225-342-5638	jeff.wells@la.gov
Pipeline	Steven Giambrone	225-342-2989	steven.giambrone@la.gov
Injection & Mining	Brad Bourgoyne	225-342-4286	brad.bourgoyne@la.gov
Geological	Mike Kline	225-342-3335	mike.kline@la.gov
Environmental	Gary Snellgrove	225-342-7222	gary.snellgrove@la.gov

If you have difficulty in accessing the data via the referenced website because of computer related issues, you may obtain assistance from our technical support section by selecting Help on the SONRIS tool bar and submitting an email describing your problems and including a telephone number where you may be reached.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Ieyoub

*or* Commissioner of Conservation

RPI:MSK:msk



Mr & Mrs Frank Aviles Jr  
1320 Williams Ave.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457-5242



2017 JUN 30 PM 4:05

Mr Murphy Ledoux  
District 08 Administrator  
3003 Mac Arthur Dr.  
Alexandria LA  
71301

71303#3105 C013



6/28/17

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The purpose of our letter is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, on December 12, 2016 the Natchitoches City Council voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams Ave. “temporary” bridge location.

Second, the proposed location is dangerous. On the Highland Park side, the bridge would be at the top of a hill where traffic going north or south cannot see the oncoming traffic from the other side of the hill. Pedestrians using the bridge to cross Cane River would be in danger because of the hill, poor lighting and lack of sidewalks. The same is true on the Williams Ave. side, except the bridge will be in the middle of a blind curve. No sidewalks exist, the speed limit is 40 mph and coupled with poor lighting, creates a dangerous, deadly situation for pedestrians. Drivers would be in danger as well exiting the bridge in the middle of a blind curve.

Third, DOTD’s proposal of a two lane replacement bridge is not what the City of Natchitoches needs nor is it what the citizens have been told by various officials. What we need is a three lane bridge like the one built at Keyser Avenue – Pine Street. A temporary bridge was built next to the new three lane bridge that was under construction and it was removed after construction was complete. The Keyser Avenue – Pine Street bridge was and is a huge success. A two lane replacement bridge solves none of our traffic issues.

Finally, as residents of Williams Ave., in the area of the proposed “temporary” bridge, we are concerned for our safety, as we walk this road for exercise daily and our children run, bike and drive this road as well. The increased traffic, along with the 40 mph speed limit, that is often ignored, would turn our residential neighborhood into a dangerous thoroughfare.

Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know the importance of replacing the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,



Anne & Francisco Aviles, jr.

1320 Williams Ave.

Natchitoches, LA 71457-5242

Received 6/30/17  
4:05 p.m.

Cc: District 08 Administrator ✓  
District 08 Traffic Operations Eng.



JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

JACK MONTOUCKET  
SECRETARY

**Date** June 30, 2017

**Name** Noel Ardoin

**Company** LA DOTD

**Street Address** P.O. Box 94245

**City, State, Zip** Baton Rouge, La 70804

**Project** State Project No. H.001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

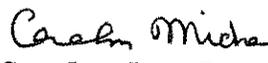
**Project ID**

**Invoice Number** 17063003

Personnel of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project. After careful review of our database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, or scenic streams are known to occur at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

  
s/ Carey Lynn Perry, Program Manager  
Natural Heritage Program



JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

JACK MONTOUCKET  
SECRETARY

## INVOICE

**RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**Date** June 30, 2017  
**Invoice Number** 17063003  
**Project** State Project No. H.001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish  
**Name** Noel Ardoin  
**Company** LA DOTD  
**Street Address** P.O. Box 94245  
**City, State, Zip** Baton Rouge, La 70804  
**Number of Quads Reviewed** 1  
**Total Due** \$0.00

Payment should be made to "Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries" within 30 days of the date of this invoice. Please include the invoice number on your check and return a copy of this invoice with your remittance to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Attn: Jennifer Riddle  
P.O. Box 80399  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0399

Should you have any questions regarding this invoice, for review of the Louisiana Natural Heritage database for information on known sensitive elements at a charge of \$30.00 per quad reviewed, please contact LNHP at (225) 765-2357.

Sara Cade  
1614 McClelland Drive  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

SHREVEPORT LA 710

29 JUN 2017 PM 3 L



2017 JUN 30 PM 4: 05

LADOTD  
District 08 Administrator  
300 MacArthur Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301

71303-310500



LADOTD  
District 08 Administrator  
300 MacArthur Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301

RE: State project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Mr. Murphy Ledoux:

The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams avenue “temporary” bridge location.

Second, the proposed location is dangerous. On the Highland Park side, the bridge would be at the top of a hill where traffic going north or south cannot see the oncoming traffic from the other side of the hill. Pedestrians using the bridge to cross Cane River would be in danger because of the hill, poor lighting and lack of sidewalks. The same is true on the Williams Avenue side, except the bridge will be in the middle of a blind curve. No sidewalks exist, the speed limit is 40 mph and coupled with poor lighting, creating a deadly situation for pedestrians. Drivers would be in danger as well exiting the bridge in the middle of a blind curve.

Third, DOTD’s proposal of a two lane replacement bridge is not what the City of Natchitoches needs nor is what the citizens have been told by various officials. What we need is a three lane bridge like the one built at Keyser Avenue – Pine Street. A temporary bridge was built next to the new three lane bridge that was under construction and it was removed after construction was complete. The Keyser Avenue – Pine Street Bridge was and is a huge success. A two lane replacement bridge solves none of our traffic issues.

Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge is. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will only create more by being dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,



Sara Cade  
1614 McClelland Dr.  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Received 6/30/17  
4:05 p.m.

**Dan B. Carr**  
**934 Loren Avenue**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**

JULY 1, 2017

RE: State Project No: H001271  
Federal Aid Project No: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardion

In response to the request for comment on the above captioned project, the following opinions about said project are submitted for consideration..

First, the best location for a bridge over Cane River would be to extend the Natchitoches Bypass and place a bridge over the North dam of Cane River that ties into Williams Avenue at the dam site. This would be a natural addition of the proposed bypass, provide access to North Natchitoches, and would or could be permanent.

Second, the next best solution would be a "TEMPORARY BRIDGE" crossing from Highland Park Drive entering Williams Avenue at or about 1228 Williams Avenue. This bridge, if built, must be temporary. If used this would give residents in Northwest Natchitoches continued access of emergency care as no medical facilities are located in the west Natchitoches area as well as providing easy access to East Natchitoches.

Third, the LEAST DESIRABLE location is a temporary bridge next to the Church Street Bridge. Given the expected increase in traffic and delays caused by construction, this is the least desirable alternative. Then, despite opinions to the contrary, such a location for the 'temporary' bridge will not alleviate traffic congestion nor result in a satisfactory flow of traffic. Despite other references to the 'success of the Keyser Street Bridge', that was not a success in the literal sense.

Fourth, the 'new' bridge at Church Street should have a left-turn lane on the east side, regardless of the alignment of the bridge with St. Claire Street. The West side can remain as is as long as the left turn prohibition continues as is.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to respond with the above suggestion and/or comments.

Sincerely,



Dan B. Carr

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “temporary” bridge location.

Second, the proposed location is dangerous. On the Highland Park side, the bridge would be at the top of a hill where traffic going north or south cannot see the oncoming traffic from the other side of the hill. Pedestrians using the bridge to cross Cane River would be in danger because of the hill, poor lighting and lack of sidewalks. The same is true on the Williams Avenue side, except the bridge will be in the middle of a blind curve. No sidewalks exist, the speed limit at this site is 40 mph and coupled with poor lighting, creates a deadly situation for pedestrians. Drivers would be in danger as well exiting the bridge in the middle of a blind curve.

Third, DOTD's proposal of a two lane replacement bridge is not what the City of Natchitoches needs nor is what the citizens have been told by various officials. What we need is a three lane bridge like the one built at Keyser Avenue – Pine Street. A temporary bridge was built next to the new three lane bridge that was under construction and it was removed after construction was complete. The Keyser Avenue – Pine Street bridge was and is a huge success. A two lane replacement bridge solves none of our traffic issues.

Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,

*Robbie Robinson*  
942 Williams Ave.

I ADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
PO Box 94245  
Baton Rouge LA 70804-9245

Re: State Proj No.: HOO1271  
Federal Aid Project No. HOO1271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route 1-X  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

Thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition to your June 6, 2017 correspondence.

1. The proposed location of the temporary bridge will bring increased traffic directly in front of my home, which is quite likely the oldest structure in Louisiana. It is composed of bousillage, which is sensitive to vibration. Bringing increased traffic flow, with its attendant increased vibrations (especially truck traffic), by my house is likely to endanger the integrity of this Registered Historic structure.
2. Increasing through-traffic in a residential area is itself likely to increase danger to children and pedestrians, lower home values and impose adversely on the ambiance of the neighborhood.
3. A two lane bridge, temporary or permanent, will not relieve the traffic congestion already present on the existing two lane bridge. The bridge should be of at least 3 lanes. This was done with the replacement of the two lane bridge on Keyser Avenue, replaced by a 3 lane bridge. This did indeed increase traffic flow across that bridge.
4. The permanent replacement bridge should be sited at a diagonal to debouch from Church Street directly into the intersection of St Claire and Williams Avenue, correcting the existing traffic hazard.

Thank you for taking these concerns into account as you deliberate replacement of the current Church Street bridge, a concept which I support. Unfortunately, the proposal identified above is inadequate, threatens an existing historical structure, and increases through traffic in a residential area.

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Wells  
607 Williams Ave  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Mr & Mrs Christopher Ingram  
1122 E. 5th St.  
Natchitoches, LA  
71457-5206

SHREVEPORT LA 710

01 JUL 2017 PM 1 L



2017 JUL -3 AM 11:16

Mr. Murphy Ledoux  
District Administrator  
3003 MacArthur Dr.  
Alexandria, LA 71301

71303-310500



LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Mr. Ledoux,

The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “temporary” bridge location.

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Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,

1122 E. 5th Street  
Natchitoches, LA 71457-5206

  
Chris Ingram, MD

Received 7/13/17  
11:16 a.m.

- Please do NOT destroy  
our peaceful clean neighborhood  
with "ultimate" permanent bridge.

6/30/17

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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Sincerely yours,

*June 7 Clay Mayeaux*  
*1980 Williams Ave.*  
*Natchitoches LA 71457*

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

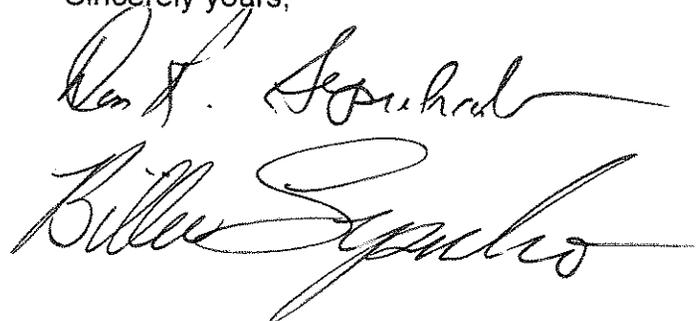
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Sincerely yours,



Two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is "Dan L. Spivey" and the bottom signature is "Bill Spivey".

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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Sincerely yours,

*Eddie K. Ahrens Jr*

*Please listen to the Natchitoches residents!*

**Eddie Ahrens**  
143 Orchard Run  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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Sincerely yours,

*Eleanor G. Tobin*  
422 Williams Ave

*South Carolina built a high-rise bridge across the Cooper River at Charleston, next to the old bridge. When completed they tore the old bridge down & moved it west. Natchitoches can't do the same with a bridge a city block long?*

LADOTD

7/3/17

Environmental Engineer Administrator

Section 28

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

I am writing concerning state project no.:H001271 (FPC project # 50-mk9-15-01). I have been made aware of the possibility of a bridge location rerouting large amounts of traffic, including 18 wheelers through residential neighborhoods east and west of Cane River Lake and away from the Church street bridge location where Natchitoches has many businesses and restaurants. There are currently four bridges. Three in the city and another further south that allow the 494 traffic to cross the river at Point Place. There is also a levee/ crossing at the end of LA 1224, however, it turns into a dead end gravel road.

I have attended City council meetings where residents have packed in to voice their concerns and offer constructive suggestions and assistance to the City council members and those in charge of planning and development. Residents have expressed economic, social and environmental concerns about locating a temporary or permanent bridge near Highland Park. They are also very concerned about the safety of this location. The Highland Park neighborhoods would have an increase in the already high noise pollution that they have. The picturesque line of oak trees down LA 1224/Williams Avenue is something that our town is known for. Residents that have spoken against this bridge location worry about the large trucks damaging the branches. People were concerned with the lack of sidewalks on the west and east side of the river and the damage the oaks would sustain if there were even somehow enough room for sidewalks to be added. Many residents felt they would no longer be able to safely jog and walk pets in the neighborhoods with the amount and type of increased traffic at the proposed Highland Park location, negatively affecting our sense of community. Adding a bridge at Highland Park forces large trucks south on LA1224 through residential areas since there is no feasible outlet going north on LA1224 for trucks to get to the businesses that are on LA494. Pollution where we reside from the increased traffic, especially large trucks is a concern. Safety concerns were discussed as there are already a high number of accidents near the area of the proposed bridge, including an accident the night before the city council voted unanimously against funding for a bridge at this location. Residents expressed choosing locations for their homes because what they sought was what these neighborhoods currently possess. Businesses on Front Street/downtown would surely suffer if the bridge that connects them to one of the largest residential areas is relocated. The city has no parking garage. When we have community events, festivals or fireworks, visitors and friends often park in St Clair subdivision or neighboring areas and walk across the bridge to events. St Clair residents and resident east of the river are able to walk from their homes easily to attend community events.

At the December meeting, our Mayor Posey commented that this was the biggest crowd that he had ever seen at a city council meeting. The community spoke. At the end of the meeting, Eddie Harrington of district 1 voted against, Dale Nielsen of district 2 voted against, Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow of district 3 voted against, Councilman Lawrence Batiste of district 4 voted against, Councilman-at-large Don Mims Jr voted against funding for a bridge at Highland Park. Everyone voted against. I am concerned that either the wish of the community is being ignored by DOTD or that it is somehow not being communicated to DOTD.

As did the community, I too believe the change from current location to Highland Park would hinder public safety, hurt economic development of the downtown area and diminish transportation efficiency. I do not understand moving all of the traffic through residential areas where children play. LA 1224 is not suited for large truck traffic; it does not have the ability to widen, strength as evidenced by the current road conditions, height needed without

destroying our neighborhood, or culvert functionability as evidence by our requests and need for culvert repair and by the flooding during large rains. After the meetings and after listening to other townspeople, if a temporary bridge is needed, I too favor a temporary bridge being built downtown near the Church Street Bridge with the possibility of making the new Church Street bridge either 2 or 3 lanes. The Keyser Street Bridge is about 5 blocks from the Church Street Bridge, is 3 lanes and functions very well allowing for traffic to flow during peak travel times. When it was constructed, a temporary bridge was built next to the Keyser Street Bridge. It was removed when the bridge was completed. Our downtown business and residential areas need another successful bridge project.

Thank you for taking our concerns and views into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Babineaux Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jamie Babineaux Williams

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

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Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JFK' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

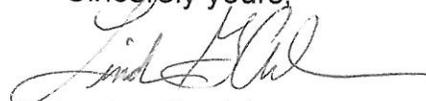
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Sincerely yours,



Linda G. Ashe

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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Sincerely yours,

Mike and Jessica McGrath  
936 Nettie St.  
Natchitoches, LA  
71457

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245



Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
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Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

2 years ago my husband and I moved to Natch. and bought a house on Williams ave. close to the proposed site of the bridge. we spent close to 400,000 dollars on improvements. if you had one second we had known what was to happen here in this established neighborhood we NEVER would have

Sincerely yours,  
Rebecca & Mark Osborn

Consider buying our new home here —  
And of course you can imagine the trouble  
we would have if we ever decided to sell under  
the present circumstances plus the large  
amount of money we could possibly lose —

We hope the effects of this bridge  
project, the social & economic, etc — the negative  
impact it will cause to this great old  
neighborhood will move you to rethink your  
plans —

Betsy Osborn

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “temporary” bridge location.

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Sincerely yours,

*Richard D. Galloway*  
927 Netter St.  
Natchitoches, La. 71457

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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Sincerely yours,



971 Williams Ave

**Sarah Luster**  
**1120 - 1124 Williams Avenue**  
**Natchitoches, LA 71457**

July 3, 2017

Ms. Noel Ardoin [Noel.Ardoin@la.gov](mailto:Noel.Ardoin@la.gov)  
LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 710804-9245

RE: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

I **oppose the above referenced project** as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence. On December 12, 2016, the City Council voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park - Williams Avenue "temporary" bridge location. My views are stated below.

- A.** The project to replace the Church Street Bridge connecting Williams Avenue to Church Street should repeat the successful Keyser Avenue/Pine Street Bridge with a **temporary bridge erected beside the existing Church Street Bridge** during construction and **not at another site**.
- (1) The population and economic base has not grown to justify **more costs** [beyond the replacement of the Church Street Bridge and ... La 1 South-South Drive bridge next in line?] **for additional bridges and their maintenance** for the state of Louisiana nor to the parish and city of Natchitoches. It makes fiscal sense to keep all of the construction equipment in one place - i.e. on city owned property beside the bridge while reconstructing the Church Street bridge - so the Church Street bridge can be finished timely. The project would be more expedient and, thus, in totality, less disruptive to the downtown area. With the large number of failing bridges and roads in the city and state that need repair, it would be prudent not to spend unnecessary funds for the purchase of an additional "temporary/permanent" bridge at another location for this project.
- (2) The **downtown** businesses and landmark historic district need the traffic for **commerce and tourism** and not a detour from the city center. Vehicular and pedestrian access across the temporary bridge will be important to keep businesses open.
- (3) The construction process will affect public transportation, but with police directional guidance, the **process will be efficient** as evidenced by the former Pine Street/Keyser Avenue Bridge project whereby a bridge lane was always open for access. Wait times are not excessive compared to larger communities; and peak commuting hours are known by the constituents.
- (4) **Emergency access** is available via the third lane (turn lane) on the Pine Street/Keyser Avenue Bridge - which was not available when the Pine Street/Keyser Street Bridge was under construction. So, the city is in better shape for the proposed Church Street Bridge replacement with a temporary bridge side-by-side project.

**B.** As a concerned resident and property owner of three properties all located on Williams Avenue in Natchitoches, LA, I am **opposed to 1128 Williams Avenue temporary/permanent site** for the named "Highland Park Bridge" for the following reasons:

(1) **Excess traffic** on Williams Avenue - The 2016 ADT of 11,300 vehicles per day on LA 1-X is too many vehicles for the narrow two lane residential "river road" of Williams Avenue. No road shoulder exists. There is poor street lighting. The speed of commuters is a concern - in excess of the posted speed limit of 40 mph. The sharp road curve at this location has been the site of vehicle accidents. Residential vehicle entry onto Williams Avenue from driveways and parking issues are real concerns. The proposed bridge location at 1128 Williams Avenue does not connect to a thru road on the east. **All streets** between Williams Avenue and East Fifth would be subject to more traffic. The Highland Park neighborhood is concerned about excess traffic in the residential area between LA 6 East/Washington Street and Texas St.

(2) **Safety of walkers, joggers, bikers and children** who frequent the street of Williams Avenue -Williams Avenue is chosen often for community walks/runs for charity and exercise. Residents enjoy the long stretch of road for exercise. There are no sidewalks. Opening the avenue to more traffic would make the road unfriendly to the daily use of the road for exercise. Highland Park has baseball fields and kid friendly space in the residential neighborhood at risk.

(3) **Compromising the cultural neighborhood by environmental intrusion** on quiet neighborhood on Cane River Lake and across from lake - A bridge, and its subsequent traffic, would disturb the peace and natural beauty on the recreational lake. There are undisturbed segments on Cane River Lake north of downtown that provide a habitat for fish, fowl and game. The river depth is greater by 1128 Williams Avenue than at the Church Street bridge location. An environmental concern would be the effect on the air and water quality and noise for residents in proximity to the bridge. Recent new homeowners and home renovations along Williams Avenue would lose property value and the quality of life they anticipated when investing in the neighborhood.

(4) **Harm to historic landscape of oak alley and streetscape** along Williams Avenue - A Preservation plan of the oak alley would be beneficial as it contributes to the significance of this neighborhood in the cityscape of Natchitoches. The oak alley is a tourist attraction that is photographed often. This beautiful tree lined section of the road was portrayed in the movie "Steel Magnolias." Historic oaks and pecan trees also occupy parts of the Williams Avenue streetscape across from 1128 Williams Avenue and are in jeopardy with changes to widen the area to make room for a bridge, sidewalks, signage and lighting.

The National Landmark Historic District covers part of the Williams Avenue streetscape from the Keyser Avenue Bridge to the 900 block of Williams Avenue. The segment of Williams Avenue north of this designation leads to plantation homes. Within this segment, there are homes that vary from large Victorian to modest bungalow, cottage and frame houses to ranch styles along Williams Avenue that are solidly built and well over 50 years old. This neighborhood could qualify for historic status and a rejuvenation occur. Let's protect and not change the quality of this Natchitoches neighborhood.

I hope you will consider how your decision affects our city's residents and irreparably changes existing neighborhoods on both sides of Cane River Lake. Please do not impose this unwanted bridge to Williams Avenue at this location.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Luster

cc: Mr. Murphy Ledoux, District 08 Administrator [Murphy.Ledoux@la.gov](mailto:Murphy.Ledoux@la.gov)  
Mr. Dale Craig, District 08 Traffic Operations Engineer [Dale.Craig@la.gov](mailto:Dale.Craig@la.gov)

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

PLEASE MAKE THE  
CHURCH STREET BRIDGE  
3 LANES !!  
..

Sincerely yours  
  
Susan Gunther

Please, please do not 1314 Williams Ave.  
ruin our beautiful town w/ a temporary bridge at  
Highland Park location!!

July 5, 2017

VIA FACSIMILE: (225) 242-4500  
CERTIFIED MAIL: 7016 2070 0000 2923 8616

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

Dear Ms. Ardoin

My name is Bray Williams and my wife Jamie and I are raising our three children (10, 7 and 3 years old) at 1054 Williams Avenue, Natchitoches, Louisiana. Our home is approximately five houses south of the proposed Highland Park "temporary" bridge location. My home was built in 1935 by my grandparents, Judge Richard B. Williams and Mrs. Ora G. Williams. My wife and I chose to purchase this home because of its location and family connection.

The iconic opening scene of the film Steel Magnolias shows Daryl Hannah walking down the center of Williams Avenue through an alley of live oak trees. These beautiful trees were planted by my great-grandmother. The trees have grown over the past 100+ years to being quite close to the road surface of Williams Avenue. This oak alley is one of the most lovely views in all of Natchitoches and in the State of Louisiana. I see locals and tourists alike parking along the side of the road and stopping to take photographs several times a year.

The speed limit on Williams Avenue north of St. Maurice road is 40 mph. It is part of the State of Louisiana's highway system and, despite our protestations, the City of Natchitoches is unable to lower the speed limit. On Williams Avenue north of St. Maurice Lane there are no traffic control devices that slow, much less stop, the flow of traffic. There are no sidewalks on Williams Avenue north of St. Maurice Lane. Street lighting at night and early morning makes it challenging to see joggers, bike riders, and residents who are walking along the side of the road. In order to put in sidewalks in this area, it would require cutting down numerous live oak trees in the oak alley. The loss of these trees would be unacceptable to everyone.

Ms. Ardoin  
Page 2  
July 5, 2017

The proposed "temporary" bridge location is not a safe location for residents on both sides of Cane River. On the west side, the bridge would be at the crest of a hill and traffic flowing either north or south on Washington Street cannot see what's on the other side. Pedestrians will certainly use this Highland Park bridge and be a great risk crossing Washington Street from cars who will not be able to see them until it is too late.

On the east side of Cane River, the bridge would empty out onto a blind curve where traffic flowing north and south along Williams Avenue cannot see around the curve. Numerous wrecks have occurred in this curve from inattentive drivers who are exceeding the speed limit of 40mph and lose control in the curve.

The proposed "temporary" bridge location has never been "temporary". Attached to this letter are several emails, obtained through a previous public request request, between the City of Natchitoches and DOTD that clearly show neither party considered anything but a "permanent" bridge be placed at the Highland Park-Williams Avenue location. Please see the email dated November 6, 2014 between Nick Verret, Director of Public Works, and Ray Mumphrey, P.E. with DOTD, wherein Mr. Verret (responding to Mr. Mumphrey's email from earlier the same day) specifically states that the City of Natchitoches is seeking "construction of additional bridge at Highland Park Drive, to serve as a detour while Church St. Bridge is replaced and to remain in place as a permanent structure." In subsequent emails on November 7, 2014 between Mr. Mumphrey and Mr. Verret, it is clear that only a "permanent" bridge is being contemplated.

However, DOTD's June 7, 2017 correspondence describes this bridge as a "possible new temporary detour bridge at Highland Park Driver..." Please accept this as a public record request for any and all communications or other documentation in the possession of DOTD that reflects the temporary versus permanent nature of the proposed Highland Park Bridge.

The huge increase in road traffic is a major objection by the residents of the established neighborhoods that will be impacted by this decision to place either a "temporary" or "permanent" bridge at the Highland Park Road location. Mr. Verret's November 7, 2014 11:13 a.m. email in paragraph number 3 quotes an average daily traffic count "for a new bridge at Highland Park Drive [to] be in excess of 7,000...." So a permanent bridge would direct traffic into existing established neighborhoods with public elementary and middle schools and St. Mary's Catholic School (preK-12) and be in excess of 7,000 cars and heavy trucks a day. If the Highland Park Bridge were merely "temporary" DOTD's letter of June 7, 2017 raises that figure to 11,300 vehicles a day.

Ms. Ardoin  
Page 3  
July 5, 2017

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A retired law enforcement officer has recently relocated to Natchitoches. She purchased the old home at 1128 Williams Avenue, the location where the Highland Park Bridge would attach to Williams Avenue. She spent her summers in Natchitoches as a youth visiting her grandmother and wanted to move here once she retired from public service. She is a lovely person and is building her dream home at 1128 Williams Avenue that will enhance our neighborhood. Is DOTD going to seize this dream home from her just to put in a bridge that the residents firmly oppose?

As I am sure DOTD is now aware, on December 12, 2016 the City Council for the City of Natchitoches unanimously voted against this proposed "temporary" bridge location. It should be clear by now that the residents and the City itself are against this proposed Highland Park Bridge.

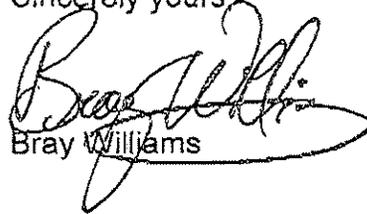
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Ms. Ardoin  
Page 4  
July 5, 2017

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Sincerely yours



Bray Williams

July 5, 2017

VIA FACSIMILE: (225) 242-4500  
CERTIFIED MAIL: 7016 2070 0000 2923 8616

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

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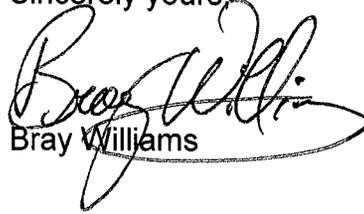
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Sincerely yours



Bray Williams

**Jan Grenfell**

---

**From:** Ray Mumphrey  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 12:37 PM  
**To:** 'Nick Verret'  
**Cc:** Kian Yap; Murphy Ledoux; Jonathan Lachney; Keith Sayer; Paul Fossier; Noel Ardoin; lposey@natchitochesla.gov; Rick Nowlin - Natchitoches Parish President; Dale Craig; Casey Whitcher; Jan Grenfell  
**Subject:** RE: Cane River Bridge at Church Street

Addressing your questions:

1. It would mainly be mitigation for the Corp permit for the detour location.
2. OK
3. You can get back with me on the classification, this is information that will be required when we make a preliminary inquiry to FHWA for the concept.
4. We would not need the City-State Agreement signed until after the environmental is settled and we are moving forward with design. When you feel that the stake holders are agreeable to the project and that some form of a solution can eventually be agree upon, we would be ready to move forward with the environmental process.
5. Just a reminder.
6. Funding is available to move forward with Stage 1 as soon as we feel the stake holders are ready. Since one of the alternative is to leave the detour in place, additional time will be required for the environmental clearance and the document will be either an EA or EIS. If we decide against the permanent bridge, the environmental process may be shorter because there is less impacts.

**Preliminary Timeline**

EA or EIS	2 years
Survey	1 year
Preliminary Plans and Borings	1 year
Final Plans and permits	1.5 years

5.5 years

The earliest letting would be around fiscal year FY 20-21. This schedule assumes there will not be any significant issues with the Historic District. Even though the bridge is not historic, just being near the Historic District has an impact on the surrounding Historic Buildings and the environmental clearance process.

We look forward to working with everyone on this project and understand the importance of this structure to the transportation system in Natchitoches.

---

**From:** Nick Verret [mailto:nverret@npgov.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 11:13 AM  
**To:** Ray Mumphrey  
**Cc:** Kian Yap; Murphy Ledoux; Jonathan Lachney; Keith Sayer; Paul Fossier; Noel Ardoin; lposey@natchitochesla.gov; Rick Nowlin - Natchitoches Parish President; Dale Craig; Casey Whitcher  
**Subject:** Re: Cane River Bridge at Church Street

Thanks, Ray, for your comments.

Relative to the access from Williams Avenue onto St. Clair, we realize that it would certainly be beneficial to sever this connection entirely or to at least prohibit the left turn movement onto St. Clair, and the District prefers to do so, but this

may be a point of contention by the community. Dale/Casey, would you please explain if/how the traffic modeling accounts for this movement?

To respond to your questions,

1. The City's Capital Outlay request includes the funding that will be necessary for acquisition of the right-of-way, but I'm not sure what mitigation may be required -- can you please elaborate on this? And, yes, we are aware that no action can be taken until the environmental clearance is obtained.
2. The City will accept the new structure at Highland Park Drive into its system.
3. I believe the estimated ADT for a new bridge at Highland Park Drive was in excess of 7,000 so I think its functional classification would be urban collector? [I don't have the design standards in front of me]. I assume you are asking in order to know what design criteria have to be met?
4. Relative to the City contribution, I assume the City-State agreement can be signed after the Capital Outlay funding is approved in next spring's Legislative session. Would this time frame allow for the environmental clearance phase to begin earlier, or will the agreement need to be signed prior to the beginning of Stage 1?
5. Yes, we realize that all alternatives, including the No Build alternative, will have to be considered in Stage 1.

We appreciate your offer of assistance for the exhibits that will be needed. We will definitely contact you for this!

Can you answer one other key question -- Assuming we can obtain local consensus on the project by the end of this calendar year, is the funding currently available for this project? And what is your earliest estimate of a letting FY?

Thanks again for all your help, Ray!

----- Original Message -----

From: Ray Mumphy

To: Nick Verret

Cc: Kian Yap ; Murphy Ledoux ; Jonathan Lachney ; Keith Sayer ; Paul Fossier ; Noel Ardoin

Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 10:39 AM

Subject: RE: Cane River Bridge at Church Street

Nick

A reasonable cost to include a turn lane should be eligible for funding under the project. The left turn from northbound Williams Avenue could be accommodated by the turn lane, but the left turn from Williams Avenue onto St. Clair seems to be a bigger problem. When vehicles turn from Church Street onto Southbound Williams Avenue, there is only storage for about two left turn vehicles before all traffic stops. If we do not align Church Street with St. Clair, you may want to consider channelizing the intersection and not allowing left turns to St. Clair from Williams Avenue.

We have a couple of follow up questions and comments:

1. If a new permanent bridge is placed at Highland Park Drive, will the City/Parish be willing to acquire the right of way and participate in any required mitigation? We caution you not to take any right of way action until the project environmental clearance is completed and agreements are in place.
2. Will the City/Parish be willing to accept the structure and roadway at Highland Park Drive as part of their system? The state would not be able to accept any additional mileage on the state system.
3. What roadway classification will the new structure and roadway be considered?
4. The City/Parish contribution and agreements will have to be in place prior to advertisement of the project.
5. Other alternatives will still have to be considered in the environmental document, but this option may have merits.

Let us know what we can do to help. Once we resolve some of the options, we can assist in making exhibits for the meeting.

From: Nick Verret [mailto:nverret@npgov.org]  
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 12:40 PM  
To: Ray Mumphrey  
Cc: Kian Yap; Murphy Ledoux; Jonathan Lachney; Keith Sayer; lposev@natchitochesla.gov; Rick Nowlin - Natchitoches Parish President  
Subject: Re: Cane River Bridge at Church Street

Ray,

The local task force has reached concurrence on the following aspects of the project:

1. Conceptual Alternate 3, construction of additional bridge at Highland Park Drive, to serve as a detour while Church St. Bridge is replaced and to remain in place as a permanent structure. The City has applied for State Capital Outlay funding to cover the additional \$5.5 million cost for this conceptual alternate.
2. Construction of a new 3-lane Church Street Bridge.

In addition, the District 08 Traffic Operations Section has performed traffic modeling that seems to indicate that the new bridge will not have to be skewed, if a left-turn lane can be constructed on northbound Williams Avenue at the east end of the bridge. Because of the constraints at this end of the project [historic property located in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Williams Avenue and St. Clair], it appears that the turn lane will need to be constructed by widening to the west of Williams Avenue, which preliminarily appears to pose no problems other than the relocation of electrical facilities by the City. Can you please confirm that the cost of the turn lane can be included in the bridge replacement project?

There are some concomitant effects on the traffic flow on Church Street at the Second Street intersection, further west of the project limits, that still need to be studied further before we will know definitively that a skewed bridge is not needed.

All things considered, however, I believe we are close to being able to conduct a preliminary public meeting to inform the public of the efforts of the task force and to gauge their acceptance of our recommendations, following which we hopefully will have a feasible project to pursue.

----- Original Message -----

From: Ray Mumphrey  
To: Nick Verret (nverret@npgov.org)  
Cc: Kian Yap  
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 11:04 AM  
Subject: Cane River Bridge at Church Street

Nick

Have you made any progress working with the consulting parties in the area to replace the bridge at Church Street?  
We have completed some of the survey work trying to locate the original and existing structure components.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY  
MIKE STRAIN DVM  
COMMISSIONER



July 5, 2017

**Agricultural &  
Environmental  
Sciences**  
Suite 3000  
(225) 925-3770  
Fax: 925-3760

LA DOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

**Agro-Consumer  
Services**  
Suite 5000  
(225) 922-1341  
Fax: 923-4877

**Animal Health  
& Food Safety**  
Suite 4000  
(225) 925-3962  
Fax: 925-4103

RE: State Project NO. : H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. : H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
LA 1-X  
Parish: Natchitoches

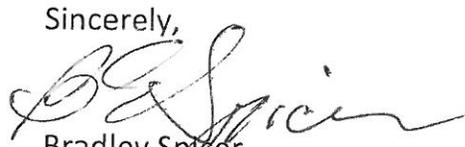
**Forestry**  
Suite 6000  
(225) 925-4500  
Fax: 922-1356

**Management  
& Finance**  
Suite 1000  
(225) 922-1255  
Fax: 925-6012

Dear Environmental Engineer Administrator,

I have no comment at this time regarding the above referenced project.

**Soil & Water  
Conservation**  
Suite 7000  
(225) 922-1269  
Fax: 922-2577

Sincerely,  
  
Bradley Spicer  
Assistant Commissioner

BES: LA

**From:** [Noel Ardoin](#)  
**To:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Natchitoches Proposed Bridge Replacement - Negative Impact on Community  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 05, 2017 11:22:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Lori LeBlanc [mailto:leblancl@nsula.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 05, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin  
**Cc:** Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig  
**Subject:** Natchitoches Proposed Bridge Replacement - Negative Impact on Community  
**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Ardoin—

Concerning the proposed Highland Park Road—1128 Williams Avenue—“temporary’ bridge”:  
*to protect our long established neighborhoods and the safety of the children and families who live, play, and work there, the citizens of Natchitoches vehemently oppose this proposal on several important points:*

1. Our city council voted 5-0 against the proposed “temporary” bridge at Highland and Williams on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Please be aware of this vote against this project that reflects the wishes of our entire community.
2. The proposed location is dangerous to pedestrians because of poor lighting, a natural hill that obscures oncoming traffic on the west side, and a sharp curve on the east side that obscures traffic where drivers continually exceed the 40 mph speed limit.
  - a. Personally, I’ve seen several car accidents on this curve on the east side, one which totaled a car and demolished an above ground gas gauge that caused evacuations in the neighborhood due to a gas leak. This dangerous area would be even more at risk if this proposal is approved.
  - b. Additionally, William Avenue is already dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists—children included—as drivers will exceed even 60mph on the straightaway on William that proceeds the curve that goes into the proposed bridge area heading north. Increasing traffic here, would certainly cause accidents and endanger human life.

- c. On school and work-week mornings, I've called the city of Natchitoches police on innumerable occasions to ask for patrols to make drivers slow down. Even backing out of driveways is impossible on some mornings because of the speed and busy regularity of drivers. This is especially difficult for our retired community, many who live on Williams Avenue.
  - d. I've also seen road rage incidents targeting the elderly community on Williams, as they tend to drive slower encouraging (inappropriately) other drivers to pass even on the double-yellow lines, which further endangers residents leaving and returning to driveways in this residential area.
  - e. My daughter was almost t-boned by a driver passing on the double-yellow lines as she slowed to enter our driveway.
3. A two-lane bridge will not solve the problem, as this town needs another three lane bridge, like the one on Pine Street in Natchitoches, which successfully manages the traffic flow.

Please do take these comments into consideration, as your decision will greatly impact the health and safety of this area of town. Myself, my children, and my neighbors already experience great risk living in this area due to the items mentioned above, and if your decision includes the bridge at Highland and Williams then you will be increasing our peril. Please do not place the bridge at this proposed location.

Sincerely,  
Lori LeBlanc  
1040 Williams Avenue



**Lori L. LeBlanc**  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Director of Special Projects for Student Affairs  
[leblanc1@nsula.edu](mailto:leblanc1@nsula.edu)  
**Northwestern State University**  
**Student Development**  
Office: 318-357-5570 / Fax: 318-357-6502  
308 Friedman Student Union  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
[www.nsula.edu](http://www.nsula.edu)



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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the proposed bridge at 1128 Williams Avenue in Natchitoches, LA. My husband and I just recently bought a house at 1112 Williams Avenue. One of the main reasons that we bought a house in this area is because it is a nice quiet neighborhood, with not much traffic, that we can raise our one year old daughter in. If a bridge is put in just a few houses down, that will increase the traffic drastically. Our one year old will be playing in our yard, so a bridge would make this neighborhood unsafe.

Since we have moved in, our black pug has pushed the gate open and got out one time. Our dog had wandered down to the house that is right past where this proposed bridge would be built. If the bridge would have been there, our dog could have either wandered much farther or more likely have been run over by all of the traffic.

Currently a retired law enforcement officer is building their house at 1128 Williams Avenue. They have already poured the foundation for their house. This address is also located in a curb, which has been home to a good many wrecks. Adding a bridge to this curb could result in an increase in traffic accidents.

If a bridge is put in at 1128 Williams Avenue, that would lead to cars taking this bridge to avoid Front Street/downtown area. If a bridge is put in here, local businesses will lose a lot of money because people will not have to drive by the stores and restaurants on Front Street.

On December 12, 2016 the Natchitoches City Council voted 5-0 against the bridge being put in at 1128 Williams Avenue. There are a few other locations where a temporary bridge could put in that would not harm a close nit family/pet friendly community and hurt local commerce. You could put a temporary bridge next to the current Church Street bridge. Another option would be to build a bridge from Touline to the east side of the riverbank off of Williams Avenue. This would add another bridge, not take away from businesses, and keep families safe.

Please consider an alternative location for your temporary bridge.

Sincerely,

Edward and Hayley Norwood



**Environmental Section**  
 PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
 Phone: (225) 242-4502 FAX: (225) 242-4500

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

June 6, 2017

STATE PROJECT NO.: H.001271  
 FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.: H001271  
 CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X  
 ROUTE: LA 1-X  
 NATCHITOCHE PARISH



SUBJECT: Solicitation of Views

Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated.

As we are in the beginning stages of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, very limited data concerning the proposed project exists. We have, however, attached a map showing the general location of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

We request that you review the attached information and furnish us with your views and comments by **July 7, 2017**. Replies should be addressed to LADOTD; Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28; P.O. Box 94245; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245. Please reference the captioned project in your reply.

Sincerely,

*for* Noel Ardoin  
 Environmental Engineer Administrator

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed,  
 Will have no effect on those resources  
 is not likely to adversely affect those resources.  
 This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

Attachments  
 NA/rad

Cc: District 08 Administrator  
 District 08 Traffic Operations Eng.

Acting Supervisor  
 Louisiana Field Office  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Date: 06 Jul 17

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**Cc:** [Dax Douet](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bridge in Natchitoches  
**Date:** Friday, July 07, 2017 7:16:11 AM

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Please see SOV response below.

Thanks,

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

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**From:** Noel Ardoin  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 6:58 AM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: Bridge in Natchitoches

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**From:** Kathryn Rhodes [<mailto:rhodes.kathryn@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 06, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin  
**Cc:** Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig  
**Subject:** Bridge in Natchitoches

Ms. Ardoin,

I am communicating to let DOTD know that the proposed Highland Park-Williams Ave bridge is dangerous. It is not a good idea.

I am a property owner in Adams Park, Specifically Edna Avenue. This area is quiet and residential. I am not in favor of a temporary bridge or any bridge across Cane River in this vicinity. If a temporary bridge is needed it should be placed downtown in the business district.

I find it a dangerous idea to take traffic off Hwy 6 and send it through two residential neighborhoods just to cross Cane River. Makes no sense. I fear harm to pedestrians and drivers alike.

I realize the Church Street bridge needs replacement. However, this proposal for a temporary bridge at Highland Park and Williams Ave is not a safe way to route traffic while the new construction takes place. Thank you for your full consideration of this matter.

Please acknowledge this communication.

Sincerely Yours,

Kathryn Rhodes

To: Ms. Noel Ardain

July 6, 2017

Linda Evans Crafton, owner of  
1517 Williams Ave and part owner of  
Ada Evans estate 1509 Williams Ave  
is against proposed Highland Park -  
Williams Ave "Temporary Bridge  
location"

Thank you,

Linda Evans Crafton

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

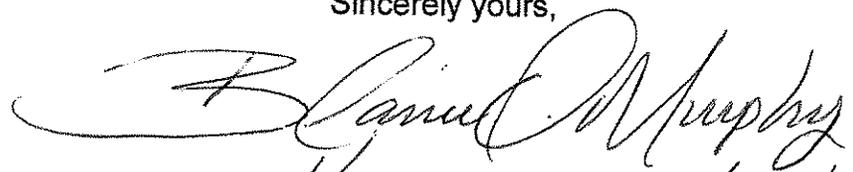
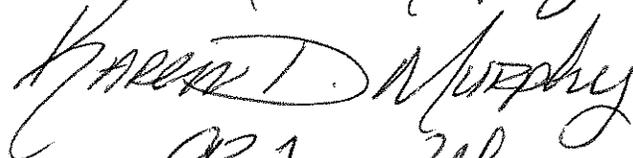
The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue "temporary" bridge location.

Second, the proposed location is dangerous. On the Highland Park side, the bridge would be at the top of a hill where traffic going north or south cannot see the oncoming traffic from the other side of the hill. Pedestrians using the bridge to cross Cane River would be in danger because of the hill, poor lighting and lack of sidewalks. The same is true on the Williams Avenue side, except the bridge will be in the middle of a blind curve. No sidewalks exist, the speed limit at this site is 40 mph and coupled with poor lighting, creates a deadly situation for pedestrians. Drivers would be in danger as well exiting the bridge in the middle of a blind curve.

Third, DOTD's proposal of a two lane replacement bridge is not what the City of Natchitoches needs nor is what the citizens have been told by various officials. What we need is a three lane bridge like the one built at Keyser Avenue – Pine Street. A temporary bridge was built next to the new three lane bridge that was under construction and it was removed after construction was complete. The Keyser Avenue – Pine Street bridge was and is a huge success. A two lane replacement bridge solves none of our traffic issues.

Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,

  
  
931 Williams Ave.  
Natchitoches, LA 71455-17

Brandi Bradford  
1206 Williams Avenue  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

July 7, 2017

LA DOT  
Environmental Engineering Administrator  
Section 28  
PO Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

RE: Proposed Cane River Bridge/Church Street Bridge Temporary Replacement Bridge Location, State Project #H-001271, Fed Aid Project #H-001271

Dear Ms. Ardoin, Mr. Ledoux, Mr. Craig, and Natchitoches Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am the homeowner at 1206 Williams Avenue, and probably the person who would be most affected by the proposed temporary or permanent bridge during renovation of the Church Street Bridge if you use the alternative at the Highland Park location. The only other person who would be more affected is the homeowner at the site in question, Ms. Diane Dodd, who is currently constructing a beautiful new home on the site that was previously thought available and unoccupied at 1128 Williams Avenue. The proposed preferred alternative at Highland Park Drive across the Cane River to Williams Avenue would be constructed next door to my home on Williams Avenue, and would likely require purchase of my property, the new home under construction at Ms. Dodd's residence, as well as the property on the other side of Ms. Dodd's home, in order to complete the required turn lanes and access to the bridge on the Williams Avenue side of the river.

I had to leave Natchitoches for several years to follow my career, and have worked for five years to be able to return to my beautiful cottage on the Cane, which I was finally able to accomplish in December. I've moved home, and have done extensive renovations on my home to allow me to live here for the long term, very likely into retirement, and enjoy the quiet, small town experience that living on the Cane River allows all of us. Building this bridge next door to my home would destroy both my quality of life, as well as the quality of life for all the residents of the neighborhoods that traffic will exponentially increase in if this proposed bridge location is approved. We all understand the need for repairs to the existing Church Street Bridge, but do not want the safety or quality of life in all areas on the east side/Williams side of Cane River affected for the long term.

I've spoken extensively with the neighbors on our side of the Cane River, who are concerned about the following issues, and hope they will be addressed in the planning process for what we know are necessary repairs to the Church Street Bridge:

1. Lack of public participation and adequate input into the proposed alternatives. We understand that there was a committee put together by the Mayor who proposed the original alternatives. However, to my knowledge, none of the residents on the east side of the River/Williams Avenue who would actually be directly affected were included on this panel/committee. **We would like**

**for LA DOT to offer extensive public participation meetings over several month period (and not during December when most residents are out of town, as the last City Council meeting on the subject was held) in order to gain perspective and ideas on alternatives prior to finalizing the alternatives that will be included in any NEPA assessment for this project.** Notification for these public forums should be posted in several media, including the newspaper, Natchitoches Parish Journal, and with lighted street signs along the proposed route alternatives (including the east side of river along Williams Avenue), similar to how you gathered public input for the Hwy 6 turnaround project a few weeks ago.

2. The residents of our neighborhood have several alternate route sites to propose that should be included in any NEPA evaluation for a temporary bridge site in a thorough assessment, that would help people accessing businesses, allow traffic to bypass the Historic District, and allow access from Highway 6/Washington Street around our neighborhood to the businesses on Keyser and the Walmart area.
  - a. **Crossing immediately adjacent to the existing Church Street Bridge, again, from city park property on both sides of the river.** This is a very logical and most easily implemented site option, as it would terminate at the existing St. Claire Avenue, and make that an actual 4 way stop/light, instead of the existing 3 light/1 stop sign bizarre intersection that is the root of almost an accident each weekend. This alternative could actually solve a lot of problems at that existing intersection, and be a permanent new bridge location very easily.
  - b. Crossing at terminus of Toulain Street, across Cane on to city park property with 3 way light on Williams. This seems also very logical, as the City owns the property on both sides of the river at this location, and no private homes would be affected.
  - c. Crossing farm field farther north along the Cane River from the west to east sides, and tying the link down Parish Road 507, crossing through farm field instead of residences. This would still have a very negative impact on the east side residents, but should be included in any discussion of the options/alternatives for a bridge that will very likely be permanent, per the signed request for funding from Mayor Posey for federal aid in October, 2016, stating that this would be a permanent bridge and development/economic corridor between east and west Natchitoches. There is an existing route across Cane River Lake, which I have explored myself, located at the end of Williams Avenue at Hargis Road. That area is still mostly farm/agricultural land, and would impact far fewer residents in our quiet neighborhood. Hargis Road already connects to Hwy 6. This route could be connected with roadway improvements and traffic flow planning down Parish Road 507 or the Levee Road with proper planning, and connect directly to Keyser. If the City needs to look at an alternate route across the Lake, this is the easiest and least impactful option to the residents and would have least impact on the beautiful Cane River Lake.

I purchased my home at 1206 Williams about 7 years ago. I fell in love with the neighborhood the moment I drove down the tree lined "Steel Magnolias" street and saw it. Walking through the historic 1928 cottage, and down the gently sloping tree-lined yard to Cane River Lake, I knew I was home. I, like many residents of Natchitoches, am in love with the charm of this town, the closeness of the people, and the lifestyle that historic Natchitoches provides. The area along Williams Avenue that would be directly negatively affected by the proposed bridge provide unique attributes along the Cane that are available almost no other place along the lake. The few blocks in immediate proximity to the proposed bridge location provide large lots full of mature trees, historic homes, gentle slopes in yards to

access the lake that allow full use and access to the lake (which are very unusual and why there are no comparable homes to be found nearby, as most homes on Cane River Lake in town sit on steep lots with difficult lake access). My home has been valued by several realtors at between \$215,000 - \$225,000 because it is such a unique house, in great condition, with a large fully usable mature treed lot with access to the lake. This was before recent upgrades, and is likely worth more now. It also sits in a quiet residential area of diverse families, is a historic home outside the historic district, allows walking access to the downtown Historic District activities, and is a place where you can walk your dog, ride a bike, or just read a book listening to the breeze through the large pecans, oaks, and magnolias on a given afternoon.

I bought this home with the long term plan to retire in Natchitoches, to both be near friends and to enjoy the quiet lifestyle my current neighborhood provides. I envision being surrounded by nieces, nephews, friends and family relaxing in my beautiful yard, playing in Cane River Lake.

The proposed bridge would have the following negative impacts on both my home and the surrounding neighborhood:

1. It would require cutting down many of the mature shade trees that line my backyard, and would ruin the secluded views that would be overpowered by the bridge hanging over my home.
2. Impose a noisy vehicle access route and increase in traffic that would be dangerous for those walking or riding bikes in the surrounding neighborhood.
3. Increase trash thrown on our properties from the bridge (and therefore maintenance costs for the City). May also increase the incidences of homeless people using the bridge as cover and the need for police presence to patrol the neighborhood.
4. **Increase vehicle accidents and likely cause fatalities due to the location in a huge curve that already has a history of at least 2 accidents where a vehicle hit the utility pole in my front yard and damaged my house in just the last 5 years. No one has noted the existing accident rate that exists at the proposed Highland Park location, and that should be assessed fully since it is located in a large curve where increased traffic and speeds will likely increase accidents.**
5. It would, in short, shatter my reason and many of my neighbors' reasons for wanting to live in this beautiful, quiet neighborhood, and ruin my property value and those of my neighbors who value the existing ambiance of our neighborhood.
6. The current bridge proposal, in the curve of the street previously mentioned, would in all likelihood require purchase of not only the house next door to mine that you are discussing currently, but several of those directly adjacent to it. The traffic safety hazards are so bad in that curve already, you would need to widen the street there to provide a turn lane, and install light signals to protect neighborhood children from oncoming traffic coming off the bridge. Costs to the City will be much larger than just the cost of purchasing the property at 1128 Williams Avenue that is being proposed right now.

There are several safety issues associated with this proposed bridge, and issues that already exist due to the proposed location in a large curve, with speed limits that are already too high and being broken by passers-through on a regular basis. If the City would like to improve safety in this area, we have several proposals to implement before any bridge should be considered that would only increase the existing safety problems in our area. They include:

1. Need for sidewalk on at least one side of the street all the way from the intersection of Williams and Lakeshore Drive, to connect to the sidewalk at Church Street Bridge. The lack of safe walkways limits access to Historic District businesses and safe routes for children to ride/walk to school and around neighborhood.
2. Reduce the speed limits and install speed bumps along Williams Avenue, especially before and after the curve at 1206 Williams, to prevent the accidents that are already happening there regularly.

In short, there is no need to build a new bridge at a completely new location and ruin many lives and properties in an existing residential area, when there is an alternative if access to Keyser Avenue if development/access to the Walmart area is that important.

We do understand the need to repair Church Street Bridge to provide safe access for citizens across the Lake. I, and many of my neighbors, much prefer to be inconvenienced for a year or two by a little longer commute while those repairs are being made and use the existing Keyser/Pine St. Bridge instead, rather than having to live with a new bridge over our homes and impacting our lives so negatively forever. Thank you for considering these issues as you develop the proposed alternatives during the Church Street Bridge repair project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brandi Bradford, [rangerbrandi@yahoo.com](mailto:rangerbrandi@yahoo.com), 512-971-9518

### **My home on the Cane River**





**Alternate/Preferred Permanent Bridge Location at Church Street (new location with 4 way stop at St. Claire)**



**Alternate Temporary Bridge location at Touline St/City Park entrances on both sides of Cane River**





**From:** [Noel Ardoin](#)  
**To:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Video supplement to comments on H-001271, church street bridge project  
**Date:** Friday, July 07, 2017 2:48:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Video.MOV](#)  
[ATT00001.txt](#)

---

-----Original Message-----

From: Brandi [<mailto:rangerbrandi@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 07, 2017 2:41 PM

To: Noel Ardoin; Diane Dodd; Bray Williams; Lori LeBlanc; Dale Craig; Sara Puryear-Dunn; Murphy Ledoux; Erin Buchanan

Cc: npjnatla@gmail.com

Subject: Video supplement to comments on H-001271, church street bridge project

Hi Ms. Ardoin,

Plz find the attached video that is a supplement to my comment letter sent earlier today. Please let me know that you received both this video and my letter, and they've been included in the public record for this proposed project and NEPA assessment.

Thank you very much for considering my comments as part of the process.

Brandi Bradford  
1206 Williams Avenue  
Natchitoches  
512-971-9518

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “temporary” bridge location.

Second, the proposed location is dangerous. On the Highland Park side, the bridge would be at the top of a hill where traffic going north or south cannot see the oncoming traffic from the other side of the hill. Pedestrians using the bridge to cross Cane River would be in danger because of the hill, poor lighting and lack of sidewalks. The same is true on the Williams Avenue side, except the bridge will be in the middle of a blind curve. No sidewalks exist, the speed limit at this site is 40 mph and coupled with poor lighting, creates a deadly situation for pedestrians. Drivers would be in danger as well exiting the bridge in the middle of a blind curve.

Third, DOTD’s proposal of a two lane replacement bridge is not what the City of Natchitoches needs nor is what the citizens have been told by various officials. What we need is a three lane bridge like the one built at Keyser Avenue – Pine Street. A temporary bridge was built next to the new three lane bridge that was under construction and it was removed after construction was complete. The Keyser Avenue – Pine Street bridge was and is a huge success. A two lane replacement bridge solves none of our traffic issues.

Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,

*Carol Kirkland*

*Our common sense tells us that it is not a good plan to majorly disrupt two neighborhoods for a supposed temporary solution. Also, we don't understand why in your information there is no mention of the city council meetings we had addressing this. Where is the communication between city and DOTD?*

*JIM KIRKLAND*

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**Cc:** [Dax Douet](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition letter for Highland Road Bridge  
**Date:** Friday, July 07, 2017 8:29:40 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Bliss,  
Please see the SOV response below.

Thanks,

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

---

**From:** Erin Buchanan  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 8:22 AM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin; Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition letter for Highland Road Bridge

Please find the below comments pertaining to the Church Street Bridge project in Natchitoches Parish for your records.

Thank you,

Erin Buchanan  
Public Information Officer  
LA Department of Transportation & Development  
Bossier City, LA  
Office: (318) 549-8402  
Cell: (318) 347-2076  
[erin.buchanan@la.gov](mailto:erin.buchanan@la.gov)

DOTD\_logo



**From:** Damien Torres [<mailto:damien.torres035@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 7:36 AM

**To:** \_DOTD-CustomerService

**Subject:** Opposition letter for Highland Road Bridge

Hello,

This letter is in opposition of the 'Highland Road Bridge Project' in Natchitoches LA. Ms. Bradford who lives on the property next door to the proposed site, has been a dear friend to Father Downs and myself for a long while. We and many others often enjoy the peace, quiet and tranquility of her home and especially her backyard. Building a bridge, either temporary or permanent, near that area would greatly disrupt such a relaxing atmosphere, the calmness of that entire neighborhood and disruption to our historical downtown. This would also cause safety and vendor risk during any and all of our many festivals which could cause a problem with the flow of money to our communities.

I am however in favor of such a bridge expanding from Toulaine, south of the current Church Street bridge. That area has always brought much headache to anyone trying to cross at any hour of the day.

I greatly appreciate your time and strongly ask for your reconsideration. Thank you.

D.C. Torres

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**Cc:** [Dax Douet](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Highland Park Road- 1128 Williams Ave "Temp Bridge Project"  
**Date:** Friday, July 07, 2017 1:06:27 PM

---

Please see the SOV response below.

Thanks,

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

---

**From:** Noel Ardoin  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: Highland Park Road- 1128 Williams Ave "Temp Bridge Project"

**From:** Diane Dodd [<mailto:ddodd123@verizon.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin  
**Cc:** Dale Craig; [murphy.lexdoux@la.gov](mailto:murphy.lexdoux@la.gov)  
**Subject:** Highland Park Road- 1128 Williams Ave "Temp Bridge Project"

Hello,

My name is Diane Dodd. My family is the owner of the location that is being considered for the location of a "temporary bridge" while the Church Street Bridge is going through renovation: [1128 Williams Ave, Natchitoches, LA 71457](#).

In January, 2015, this property was for sell and the Mayor of Natchitoches was considering purchasing the property for \$219,000.00 from the then owners; the Sibley family. The Natchitoches City Council then requested the affected residents to voice their concerns regarding this matter. In a standing room only meeting, not only did the residents voice their desires not to support the purchase of [1128 Williams Ave](#) by the city, but also voiced their concerns about a "temporary bridge" being put in the middle of a residential neighborhood. The City Council voted against the purchase of [1128 Williams Ave](#).

December 12, 2016, another item made its way back on the City Council agenda. This item was the "Highland Park Road - [1128 Williams Ave](#) project." However, at this time, I had already purchased the home from the Sibley family the previous month. We were already in the process of demolishing the existing home to begin the construction of the dream home we had planned for in retirement for many years, so you can imagine my surprise when I found out about this new agenda item. Even with only a days notice, I, and many other residents who likewise only had a days notice, attended the meeting with the thought that our last minute notice was the city's way of getting the item voted on without the residents input.

Natchitoches City Council voted [5-0 AGAINST the Highland Park Road-1128 Williams Ave](#) location.

Based on the above vote, and the council stating that the item was 'dead in the water', we continued with our construction plans. However, June of 2017, I received a phone call from my neighbor stating the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development was still considering the Highland Park Road-1128 Williams Ave location as the site for the temporary bridge. Once again through word of mouth. Why is it that if this is MY property I do not have the courtesy of hearing first hand what is on the table for it?

I believe a bridge placed at 1128 Williams would not only plummet the value of the beautiful homes along Williams Ave removing the historical feel of the area, but also become a major safety hazard for anyone walking near the street being that there are no sidewalks for the pedestrians to safely travel along. The property is on a major curve which also presents major safety concerns, and developing this bridge would cause many of our neighbors to have their properties affected to insure that the area was not a safety hazard.

Why can't D.O.T. consider the temporary bridge to be placed next to the "Church Street" bridge just like they did for the "Keyser Bridge"? I was also made aware of the fact D.O.T. has no plans to place 2 lanes with a turning lane, just like the Keyser Bridge project. Why go through all this just to place the same amount of lanes on the new bridge? This will do nothing to alleviate the traffic crossing over the bridge. My wish, and suggestion is for DOT to do exactly what they did with the Keyser Ave bridge renovation.

Lastly, I spent nearly 30 years on the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and always dreamt of retiring in Natchitoches. I owned a piece of property on the cane river out of town for nearly 25 years with the intent of building and retiring on it. However, when this amazing property became available, I sold it to live out our dream IN TOWN and nearer to the community. My entire family is from Natchitoches and we have deep Creole roots in Natchitoches Parish. We were living our dream until Mayor Posey met with me after I had already purchased the home and applied for a demolition permit. When he initially asked for a meeting with me after applying for my demolition permit, I genuinely thought he was welcoming me to the town.

But no, he was turning my dream into a nightmare. He mentioned the "temporary bridge" and this was the first time I had even heard the news. Not even the Sibley family made me aware of this news prior to them selling me their property.

I want you all to know this: Even if I hadn't purchased the property at [1128 Williams Ave](#), I would stand in solidarity with the residents against any "temporary bridge" being placed at this location. I would stress for the location to be adjacent to the Church Street bridge likened to how the Keyser Ave Bridge renovation was performed.

Thank you for your time,

Diane Dodd  
Owner of [1128 Willams Ave](#)  
[318-332-4235](#)  
Temp address:  
[513 Watson Dr](#)  
[Natchitoches, La. 71457](#)

July 3, 2017

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
Section 28  
PO Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

In re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

To Whom it May Concern:

I am District 1 City Councilman for the City of Natchitoches. I have received your letter entitled "Solicitation of Views" dated June 6, 2017 from one of my constituents. I have a few concerns regarding the "Preliminary Project Description."

First, the description states that "the proposed replacement bridge is expected to remain two-lanes." Our understanding is that it will be two lanes with a turning lane as well (three lanes), similar to the bridge that was replaced on Keyser Ave. here in Natchitoches.

Second, the description also states there is a possibility for a "new temporary bridge at Highland Park Drive." Please find attached the City Council minutes from December 12, 2016. In the minutes you will find the discussion regarding Resolution 104, which was unanimously voted down. In the discussion you will find it states "Mayor Posey feels the outcome will be building a temporary bridge next to Church Street Bridge while it is being repaired." This is what was done several years ago when the Keyser Bridge was being expanded.

As stated above, I received your letter from a constituent who just happened to contact your office regarding the status of the bridge. It is my understanding that this letter seeking public comment was not posted in any of the media outlets in Natchitoches. In the future please reach out to said outlets when asking for public comments so that you may receive them. Thank you.

Yours very truly,

C. Edward Harrington

RD



*Personal Injury, Bankruptcy, Social Security Disability, Tax Negotiation*

C. Rodney Harrington  
Attorney at Law

C. Edward "Eddie" Harrington  
Attorney at Law

July 3, 2017

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
Section 28  
PO Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

In re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

To Whom it May Concern:

I am District 1 City Councilman for the City of Natchitoches. I have received your letter entitled "Solicitation of Views" dated June 6, 2017 from one of my constituents. I have a few concerns regarding the "Preliminary Project Description."

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Second, the description also states there is a possibility for a "new temporary bridge at Highland Park Drive." Please find attached the City Council minutes from December 12, 2016. In the minutes you will find the discussion regarding Resolution 104, which was unanimously voted down. In the discussion you will find it states "Mayor Posey feels the outcome will be building a temporary bridge next to Church Street Bridge while it is being repaired." This is what was done several years ago when the Keyser Bridge was being expanded.

As stated above, I received your letter from a constituent who just happened to contact your office regarding the status of the bridge. It is my understanding that this letter seeking public comment was not posted in any of the media outlets in Natchitoches. In the future please reach out to said outlets when asking for public comments so that you may receive them. Thank you.

Yours very truly,

C. Edward Harrington

459 Jefferson Street  
P. O. Box 1278  
Natchitoches, LA 71458-1278  
Phone: 318-352-5900  
Fax: 318-352-6400

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, STATE OF LOUISIANA,  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Natchitoches met in legal and regular session at the Natchitoches Arts Center, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Lee Posey  
Councilman At Large Don Mims, Jr.  
Councilman Eddie Harrington  
Councilman Dale Nielsen  
Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow  
Councilman Lawrence Batiste

Guests: None

Absent: None

Mayor Lee Posey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Michael Braxton was asked to lead the invocation and Councilman Eddie Harrington was asked to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Posey then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the November 28, 2016 meeting. Mr. Mims moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Ms. Morrow the roll call vote was as follows:

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Batiste, Nielsen, Mims, Harrington, Morrow</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>None</b>

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Harrington and Seconded by Mr. Nielsen as follows, to -wit:

**RESOLUTION NO. 104 OF 2016**

**A RESOLUTION COMMITTING FUNDING FOR THE HIGHLAND PARK ROAD  
BRIDGE PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Natchitoches desires to implement The Highland Park Road Bridge Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana through the Division of Administration may provide Capital Outlay funding for this project in an amount up to \$5,060,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Natchitoches has budgeted funds both in the General Fund and in the Special Tax Dedication Fund that will be utilized for the 25% local matching funds if this Capital Outlay project is moved forward for funding; and

**WHEREAS**, The Highland Park Road Bridge Project is in the best interest of the City of Natchitoches; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Natchitoches will undertake any and all efforts necessary to implement this project if funding is obtained.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the City has budgeted the required funds for the project and that the Honorable Lee Posey, Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute any and all documents required to complete this valuable project.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

**AYES:**           None  
**NAYS:**          Batiste, Nielsen, Mims, Harrington, Morrow  
**ABSENT:**       None  
**ABSTAIN:**      None

**THEREUPON**, Mayor Lee Posey declared the Resolution **failed** by a vote of 0 Ayes to 5 Nays on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

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**LEE POSEY, MAYOR**

After a vote of 5 to 0 in opposition of the resolution, Mayor Posey then stated based on the vote tonight and the resolution presented, there will not be funding for a permanent bridge at the Highland Park location or any other location unless funding is applied for in the future. This completely shuts down the application/funding for a permanent bridge. Mayor Posey stated a LA DOTD does have a design team for the bridge project and the next step will be to host community public hearings the public will want to be a part of. Due to funding, Mayor Posey feels the outcome will be building a temporary bridge next to the Church Street Bridge while it is being repaired. There is no definite time frame on this project at this time. Since this did not pass, it is important we get support behind the East Natchitoches Bypass Project being presented tonight to alleviate the traffic and congestion on downtown Natchitoches.

Brandi Bradford (1206 Williams Avenue) has recently moved back to Natchitoches and was not able to attend the meeting earlier this year. She just wanted to express her concerns regarding a permanent bridge being placed near her location. She stated she filmed 45 seconds of traffic and in that time 5 cars went by which produced plenty of sound pollution. She stated the noise pollution in addition to safety for children, families, for dogs, and the whole neighborhood will be impacted for a permanent bridge. In her opinion, the public tax dollars for this location should be use to construct a sidewalk.

Bray Williams thanked the Council for their vote and the residents who came out to the meeting tonight. He felt the language of the resolution read was that the resolution was already passed. Mayor Posey informed him since the resolution did not pass, funding will not be pursued for this project through Capital Outlay. The resolution is part of the procedure for the application process and will not go any further for this project since it did not pass.

Randy LaCaze explained the application process for Capital Outlay projects and why we have arrived at this resolution tonight. If we had received funding for this project, it did not mean that a permanent bridge would be put at this location. Due to the resolution not passing, the application process has been stopped.

Dianne Dodd, who purchased the property in question for the location of a permanent bridge, stated she recently purchased the property because of the quiet neighborhood and had plans to retire to Natchitoches. She has family here and her intention is to tear down the existing property and build her dream home. She has since found out about the property being considered as a location for a permanent bridge and is concerned even after tonight's vote this location could be considered again in the future.

Attorney Corkern addressed her concern and said a definite answer cannot be given simply based on the fact you do not know what the next administration will want to accomplish. Most members on the Council are already into their term and may not be here in the next five years.

Sam Nelken (309 Whitfield Avenue) stated he appreciated the vote and is still a little confused. Nine months ago we addressed this project with much opposition and he we are again discussing it. Mr. Nelken stated he is looking for leadership to not bring this issue up again.

Austin Temple (1836 Williams Avenue) stated a few things have bothered him which is the timing of the resolution, no representation from the DOTD to explain the situation, and the reasoning for needing another permanent bridge. He would like to see a public hearing with DOTD and state elected officials represented to get a clear idea of what should be presented.

7-4-17

Re: State Project No.: H.001271

Federal Aid Project No.: H001271

Cane River Bridge Church St. Route LA 1-X

Route: LA 1-X

Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced project described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. The Natchitoches City Council has voted against the Highland Park-Williams Avenue "temporary" bridge location.

I would suggest that a temporary bridge be built next to the current Church St. bridge. This would be similar to the Keyser Ave - Pine St. bridge years ago.

I would also recommend that this project (H.001271) include the new Church Street bridge be a three-lane bridge. The same as the Keyser Avenue bridge. Natchitoches' growth warrants growth in our bridges too.

Thank you for your consideration as you design this critical project.

Sincerely yours.

Eddie Foster  
Reinette Foster

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**Cc:** [Dax Douet](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Solicitation of Views - Natchitoches Bridge Situation  
**Date:** Friday, July 07, 2017 3:11:45 PM

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Bliss,  
Please see the SOV response below.

Thanks,

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

---

**From:** Noel Ardoin  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 3:09 PM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Subject:** FW: Solicitation of Views - Natchitoches Bridge Situation

**From:** Stephen Neal [<mailto:branfinnhuaneill@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** Noel Ardoin; Murphy Ledoux; Dale Craig  
**Subject:** Solicitation of Views - Natchitoches Bridge Situation

Hello,

I have lived in the city of Natchitoches for the past twenty-five years. So when I heard about the proposed bridge at Highland Park Drive to North Williams Avenue, I was truly appalled. Not only would it nearly completely take traffic away from the historic downtown area of the city, which is one of the primary draws to the city, and considering that tourism is one of Natchitoches primary income sources, I find the idea mindnumbing. Furthermore, it would practically spell the death of many of the businesses along the riverfront area. Additionally it would be linking a nice, family-oriented neighborhood to one of the most crime-ridden parts of town. Not only that, but the particular spot that is being proposed is at a curve that has been the site of multiple car accidents already.

The north end of the historic district would be a much more ideal location, even though Mayor Posey has said it would be to the detriment of the historic district. I do not see how a bridge in

site of the existing bridge, where no home owners would be affected and that would allow the same traffic flow as the existing bridge would be "so detrimental".

As a resident of Natchitoches, I have felt intentionally lied to by the city government, for what I can tell, for no other reason than to circumnavigate public awareness and consent, for the mayor's office own personal agenda. The fact of the matter is that it has been presented to the public pretty much as the only option and even been said that a location has yet been decided on. I ask you how can a proposal that states a location be set forth if there is no decided location? It has been discussed at meetings when the public members were specifically told that it was not on the agenda so they didn't need to attend.

I feel that I have been violated and disregarded, as have many of my fellow residents. With the state of the current economy, I think placing a bridge at such a location, as to harm the city's economy suchly, is completely reckless and destructive.

I thank you for you time and consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,  
Kevin L. Neal  
A Concerned Natchitoches City Resident

Sara Puryear-Dunn  
1450 Williams Avenue  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

July 7, 2017

LA DOT  
Environmental Engineering Administrator  
Section 28  
PO Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

RE: Proposed Cane River Bridge/Church Street Bridge Temporary Replacement Bridge  
Location, State Project #H-001271, Fed Aid Project #H-001271

Dear Ms. Ardoin, Mr. Ledoux, and Mr. Craig,

I live less than half a mile north of the proposed bridge site at 1128 Williams Ave. Every time this issue has come up at the local level there has been a massive outcry against it. The City Council voted unanimously against it last time it was on the agenda, as a result of the turnout and comments by the citizens at the meeting. NO one wants a bridge at that site.

Building a bridge anywhere on North Williams would negatively impact a community that is full of families with small children. Every day there are pedestrians all along Williams. There are people on bikes with their children and families walking their dogs.

There are already too many people who speed down North Williams - as it is the speed limit should be lowered, at least to 35 miles an hour. Any additional traffic in our area would be dangerous. A bridge on North Williams, or at the Cane River North dam is a bad idea. It will bring even more traffic down a residential curvy two lane road.

My family uses the Church Street Bridge every single day. My husband and I cross it every day for work, and for church on Sundays. I was here when the Pine Street Bridge was redone – I have no illusions about the problems closing one of the bridges will bring. I am willing to put up with the inconvenience of no access or limited access to the Church Street Bridge for enough time to repair or expand it. Spending the state's time and money to put up a bridge that you assure us will be strictly temporary is wildly irresponsible at this point. That money and manpower could be better spent elsewhere on any number of the decaying bits of infrastructure within our Parish.

Furthermore, the spot you have selected is already dangerous. There have been two accidents there in recent memory. Adding more traffic to a blind curve will only increase the danger.

When the Church Street Bridge is rebuilt, as it must be eventually, I implore you to make it a proper intersection with St. Clair Avenue, or close the end of St. Clair off completely. It would make much more sense, and would stop the daily games of chicken that go there between motorists.

If a temporary bridge must be constructed, perhaps it could go in at Touline Street, so that tourists could see it. The city owns the property on both sides of the river, so nothing would need to be purchased. It would also ensure that it is actually temporary (something our state seems to have a problem with on occasion).

Another good spot might be down Fish Hatchery Road across to LA 494. There are sections of river where you can throw a baseball across and there is absolutely nothing on either side. It would also be a good excuse to resurface Fish Hatchery Road which is in a dreadful state of disrepair.

I wish there could be a four lane bridge at the south end of business LA 1 (near the intersection of Fish Hatchery Road), that is always a problem around five o'clock each afternoon.

However, I don't believe that a city of our size needs a permanent fourth bridge. What we need is better traffic flow and quality of life for the citizens who live here – not the tourists who swell our numbers six weekends out of the year.

I am very concerned about the lack of communication from the city government regarding these plans. I was contacted by a fellow Williams Avenue resident about this proposal, not the city. Please listen to the desires and needs of the citizens of the city of Natchitoches. We really do care a great deal about our town.

I look forward to hearing more of the DOTD proposals for this project. Hopefully the city will see fit to communicate them to the citizens of Natchitoches. I do not envy your position in all of this – working with the politics of a small town is never easy.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our State.

Sara Puryear-Dunn

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**Cc:** [Dax Douet](#)  
**Subject:** FW: H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church St Route LA 1-X  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 2:39:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Below is the SOV response from Choctaw Nation of OK requesting a cultural resources survey of entire project area.

Thanks,

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

---

**From:** Cunningham, Joshua (FHWA) [<mailto:joshua.cunningham@dot.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 2:01 PM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Cc:** Armstrong, Austin (FHWA)  
**Subject:** FW: H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church St Route LA 1-X

Robin,

See below the request from the Choctaw Nation.

Josh

---

**From:** Lindsey Bilyeu [<mailto:lbilyeu@choctawnation.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** Cunningham, Joshua (FHWA) <[joshua.cunningham@dot.gov](mailto:joshua.cunningham@dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church St Route LA 1-X

Mr. Cunningham,

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma thanks the FHWA, Louisiana Division, for the correspondence regarding the above referenced project. Natchitoches Parish lies in our area of historic interest. This project lies in between two Trail of Tears Removal Routes. Therefore, the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department requests that a cultural resources survey be performed for the entire project area, including the area of the temporary bridge.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you,

Lindsey D. Bilyeu, M.S.  
Senior Compliance Review Officer  
Historic Preservation Department  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702  
580-924-8280 ext. 2631



---

**From:** Cunningham, Joshua (FHWA) [<mailto:joshua.cunningham@dot.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** Lindsey Bilyeu <[lbilyeu@choctawnation.com](mailto:lbilyeu@choctawnation.com)>  
**Cc:** Robin Daigle <[Robin.Daigle@LA.GOV](mailto:Robin.Daigle@LA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church St Route LA 1-X

---

**Halito!**

\*\*\*WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.\*\*\*

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Lindsey,

On behalf of the District Department of Transportation please find attached the Solicitation of Views for the captioned project. If you have any questions or comments please reach out to me in Lynn's absence. Thank you!

Josh

**Joshua Cunningham**  
Project Delivery Team Leader  
Federal Highway Administration  
Louisiana Division Office  
5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
[Joshua.Cunningham@dot.gov](mailto:Joshua.Cunningham@dot.gov)  
Phone: 225-757-7615  
Fax: 225-757-7601

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**From:** Robin Daigle [<mailto:Robin.Daigle@LA.GOV>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 07, 2017 10:06 AM

**To:** 'celestine.bryant@actribe.org' <[celestine.bryant@actribe.org](mailto:celestine.bryant@actribe.org)>; 'Stephen.D.Pfeffer@usace.army.mil' <[Stephen.D.Pfeffer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Stephen.D.Pfeffer@usace.army.mil)>; 'sharontg@yahoo.com' <[sharontg@yahoo.com](mailto:sharontg@yahoo.com)>; 'nverret@npgov.org' <[nverret@npgov.org](mailto:nverret@npgov.org)>; Cunningham, Joshua (FHWA) <[joshua.cunningham@dot.gov](mailto:joshua.cunningham@dot.gov)>; 'lafayette@fws.gov' <[lafayette@fws.gov](mailto:lafayette@fws.gov)>; 'ashively@jenachoctaw.org' <[ashively@jenachoctaw.org](mailto:ashively@jenachoctaw.org)>; Linda (Brown) Hardy <[Linda.Hardy@la.gov](mailto:Linda.Hardy@la.gov)>; 'kcarleton@choctaw.org' <[kcarleton@choctaw.org](mailto:kcarleton@choctaw.org)>

**Subject:** H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church St Route LA 1-X

Good Morning,

Please see the attached Solicitation of Views (SOV) for the captioned project. We look forward to hearing back from you before July 7, 2017.

Thank You,

Robin Daigle  
Environmental Impact Specialist III  
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development  
(225) 242-4508 Office  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

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This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If you have received this message in error, you are hereby notified that we do not consent to any reading, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy the transmitted information. Please note that any view or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Choctaw Nation.

MD  
John Bel Edwards  
GOVERNOR



Rebekah E. Gee MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

July 14, 2017

LA DOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245

**Re: Solicitation of Views; State Project Number H.001271; F.A.P. No.: H001271**  
**Name: Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X**  
**Route: LA 1-X**  
**Parish: Natchitoches**

This office is in receipt of a Solicitation of Views regarding the above referenced project(s).

Based upon the information received from your office we have no objection to the referenced project(s) at this time. The applicant shall be aware of and comply with any and all applicable Louisiana State Sanitary Code regulations (LAC 51, as applicable). Furthermore, should additional project data become available to this office that in any way amend the information upon which this office's response has been based, we reserve the right of additional comments on the referenced project(s).

In the event of any future discovery of evidence of non-compliance with the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 (Public Health-Sanitary Code) and the Title 48 (Public Health-General) regulations or any applicable public health laws or statutes which may have escaped our awareness during the course of this cursory review, please be advised that this office's preliminary determination on this Solicitation of View of the project(s) shall not be construed as absolving the applicant of responsibility, if any, with respect to compliance with the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 (Public Health-Sanitary Code) and the Title 48 (Public Health-General) regulations or any other applicable public health laws or statutes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yuanda Zhu".

Yuanda Zhu, P.G., Ph.D.  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health Engineering Services  
Telephone: (225) 342-7432  
Electronic mail: [yuanda.zhu@la.gov](mailto:yuanda.zhu@la.gov)

LADOTD  
Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28  
P.O Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Re: State Project No.: H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No.: H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Route: LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The purpose of this communication is to let DOTD know that the above referenced proposed project as described in your June 6, 2017 correspondence is opposed on several grounds. First, the Natchitoches City Council on December 12, 2016 voted 5-0 against this proposed Highland Park – Williams Avenue “temporary” bridge location.

Second, the proposed location is dangerous. On the Highland Park side, the bridge would be at the top of a hill where traffic going north or south cannot see the oncoming traffic from the other side of the hill. Pedestrians using the bridge to cross Cane River would be in danger because of the hill, poor lighting and lack of sidewalks. The same is true on the Williams Avenue side, except the bridge will be in the middle of a blind curve. No sidewalks exist, the speed limit at this site is 40 mph and coupled with poor lighting, creates a deadly situation for pedestrians. Drivers would be in danger as well exiting the bridge in the middle of a blind curve.

Third, DOTD’s proposal of a two lane replacement bridge is not what the City of Natchitoches needs nor is what the citizens have been told by various officials. What we need is a three lane bridge like the one built at Keyser Avenue – Pine Street. A temporary bridge was built next to the new three lane bridge that was under construction and it was removed after construction was complete. The Keyser Avenue – Pine Street bridge was and is a huge success. A two lane replacement bridge solves none of our traffic issues.

Please take these positions into account in your assessment. We know how important the replacement of the existing Church Street Bridge. However, what is being proposed will not solve the problems that exist and will be dangerous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Sincerely yours,

*Larry + Altonette Conday*



**Environmental Section**  
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
Phone: (225) 242-4502 FAX: (225) 242-4500

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

June 6, 2017

STATE PROJECT NO.: H.001271  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.: H001271  
CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X  
ROUTE: LA 1-X  
NATCHITOCHES PARISH

RECEIVED

JUN 09 2017

ARCHAEOLOGY

SUBJECT: Solicitation of Views

Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated.

As we are in the beginning stages of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, very limited data concerning the proposed project exists. We have, however, attached a map showing the general location of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

We request that you review the attached information and furnish us with your views and comments by **July 7, 2017**. Replies should be addressed to LADOTD; Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28; P.O. Box 94245; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245. Please reference the captioned project in your reply.

Sincerely,

*for* Noel Ardoin  
Environmental Engineer Administrator

The SHPO has received your SOV. At this time, our office cannot offer an opinion concerning effect determinations. However, we are not aware of potential concerns at this time. This opinion could change once we receive additional information concerning this project.

Attachments  
NA/rad

Cc: District 08 Administrator  
District 08 Traffic Operations Eng.

Kristin P. Sanders  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date



Office of Public Works  
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
ph: 225-379-3005 | fx: 225-379-3002

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

July 25, 2017

STATE PROJECT NO: H.001271  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO: H001271  
NAME: CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X  
ROUTE: LA 1-X  
PARISH: NATCHITOCHES

Noel Ardoin  
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Subject: Solicitation of Views**

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

Enclosed is a copy of Natchitoches Parish's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) indicating the proposed project.

During the improvements and construction, there must be allowance for the adequate flow of water and assurance that there will be no back up of water. There must be no instance of the creation of flooding where there was no flooding prior to construction. At this time, consideration must be given to the responsibility for cleaning debris and keeping the surrounding area clear so as not to interfere with its function.

In order to assure compliance with City of Natchitoches' requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and ensure that appropriate permits are obtained, please contact the floodplain administrator for the City. The contact person for the City of Natchitoches is Juanita Fowler. The address is P.O. Box 37, Natchitoches, LA 71458 and telephone number is (318) 357-3837.

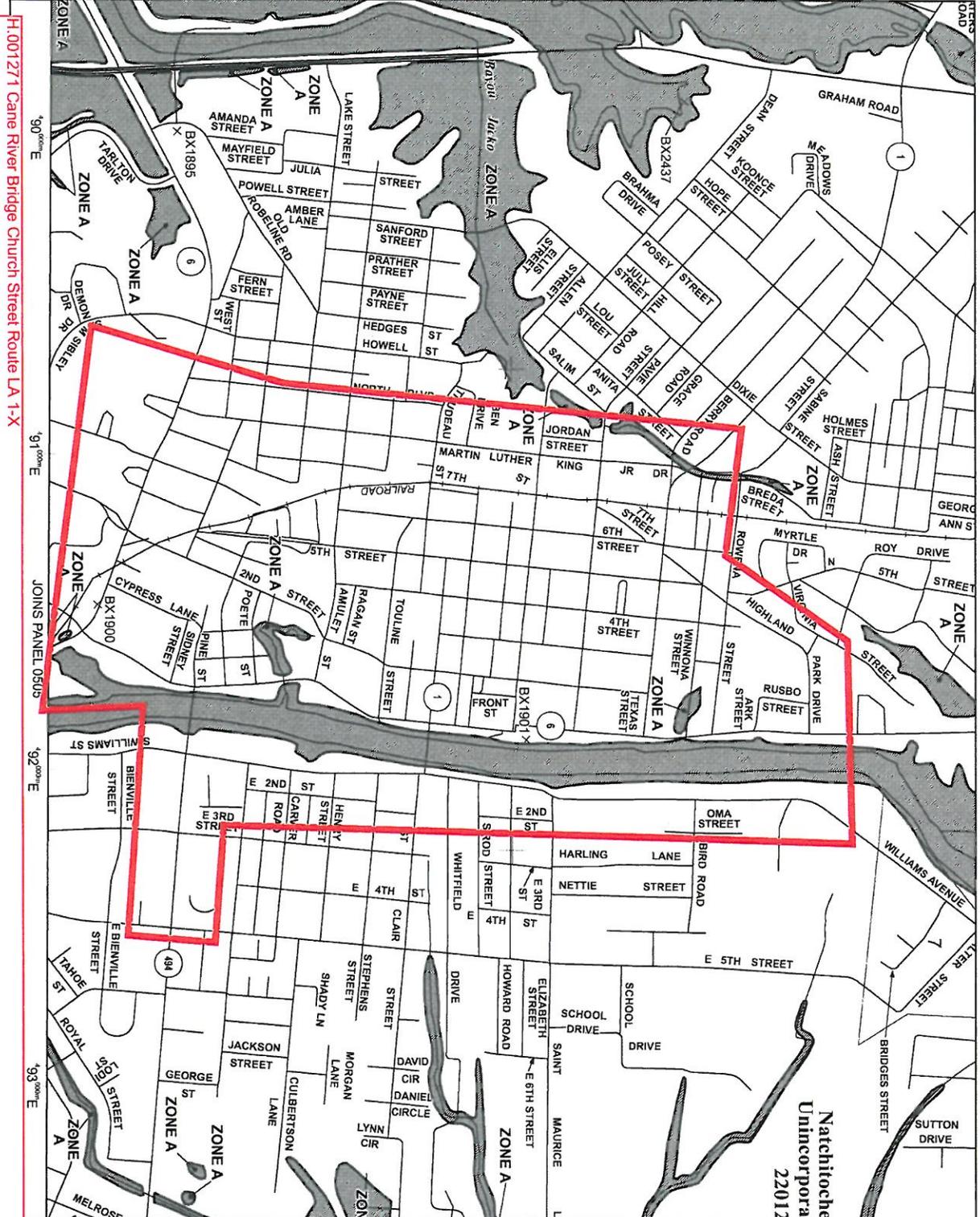
We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you need additional information, please contact our office, (225) 379-3005.

Sincerely,

Jennifer D. Rachal, CFM  
Floodplain Management Program Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: Juanita Fowler



H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA-1-X

90° 00' E 91° 00' E 92° 00' E 93° 00' E

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was obtained using F-011. Changes to the map do not reflect changes of information which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information, please refer to the National Flood Insurance Program website at [www.flood.gov](http://www.flood.gov).

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

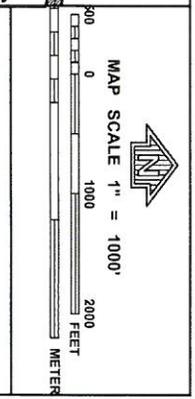
**FIRM**  
 FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
 NATCHITOCHE'S PARISH,  
 LOUISIANA  
 AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 390 OF 885  
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LOCATION)

**CONTRACT NUMBER:** 22089-00390D  
**DATE:** JULY 6, 2015

**MAP NUMBER:** 22089-00390D  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** JULY 6, 2015

Federal Emergency Management Agency





U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Louisiana Division Office**

July 27, 2017

5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
225.757.7600  
225.757.7601 (fax)

**In Reply Refer To:**  
HDA-LA

Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.

Secretary

Louisiana Department of Transportation  
and Development  
Baton Rouge, LA

Subject: FAP: H001271, S.P. H.001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
**Natchitoches Parish**

Attention: Ms. Noel Ardoin, DOTD Environmental Section

Dear Dr. Wilson:

We have determined under provisions of Section 144(c) of Title 23 U.S. Code that a USCG permit is not needed for the subject project since the waterway is not used and is not susceptible to use in its natural condition or by reasonable improvements as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce and is non-tidal, or if tidal is used only by recreational boating, fishing, and other small vessels less than 21 feet in length. This determination is based upon information contained in the enclosed DOTD letter dated June 19, 2017. By copy of this letter we are requesting that the USCG concur in our determination under provision of Title 23 U.S.C. Section 144(c).

Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. John Rogers at 225-757-7605.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Cunningham  
Project Delivery Team Leader

cc: Ms. Traci Johnson, LDOTD  
Mr. Douglas Blackmore  
Chief Bridge Administration Branch, U.S. Coast Guard



16591C  
July 31, 2017

## MEMORANDUM

From: Douglas A. Blakemore *DBlakemore*  
CGD EIGHT (dpb)

To: Joshua B. Cunningham, Program Operations Manager  
Federal Highway Administration

Subj: Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Concurrence

- 1) We have received your letter dated July 27, 2017, the proposed replacement of the Church Street Bridge crossing Cane River, in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. We concur with your findings (F.A.P. # H001271, SP# H.001271).
- 2) Federal Highway Administration has the responsibility for the STAA and based on the information provided by Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD), the Coast Guard accepts your determination that this bridge project meets the criteria for the STAA and is exempt from permitting for Coast Guard Bridge Administration purposes.
- 3) However, this bridge is not exempt from the Coast Guard required lights and other signals, as the subject Act which amended Title 23 U.S. Code, to include 23 U.S.C. 144(c), did not exclude this category of bridges from the application of 14 U.S.C. 85. The later statute requires the establishment, maintenance, and operation of Coast Guard required lights and signals on fixed structures, including bridges. The owner, in this case, the LDOTD must request the lighting exemptions and provide the reason, the only exemption being Title 33 CFR 118.40(b). The statement of the reason for this exemption must fulfill the requirements of this section. Specifically, if it is determined that no significant nighttime navigation occurs at this bridge site, a statement to this effect is required before a decision can be made. Once we receive the required information from the bridge owner, we will evaluate the specified conditions and respond accordingly.
- 4) If we can be of further assistance, please contact this office.

#

Copy: LDOTD, Ms. Noel Ardoin

**From:** [Robin Daigle](#)  
**To:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DEQ SOV 170616/0735 Cane River Bridge Church St.  
**Date:** Thursday, August 10, 2017 1:38:43 PM

---

Bliss,  
Please see below the DEQ SOV response.

Thanks,  
Robin

---

**From:** Linda (Brown) Hardy  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2017 11:22 AM  
**To:** Robin Daigle  
**Cc:** Yasoob Zia  
**Subject:** DEQ SOV 170616/0735 Cane River Bridge Church St.

August 10, 2017

Noel Ardoin  
Environmental Engineering Administrator  
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA LRO  
1500 Main St  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
[robin.daigle@la.gov](mailto:robin.daigle@la.gov)

RE: 170616/0735           Cane River Bridge Church St.  
      H.001271             DOTD Funding  
                              Natchitoches Parish

Dear Ms. Ardoin:

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the Department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

- Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the

additional wastewater.

- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit is required. An application or Notice of Intent will be required if the sludge management practice includes preparing biosolids for land application or preparing sewage sludge to be hauled to a landfill. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 9371.
- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.
- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

**Currently, Natchitoches Parish is classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has no general conformity determination obligations.**

Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3954 or by email at [linda.hardy@la.gov](mailto:linda.hardy@la.gov).

Sincerely,

*Linda M. Hardy*

*Environmental Manager*

Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality

Office of the Secretary

P.O. Box 4301

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

Phone: (225) 219-3954

Fax: (225) 219-3971

Email: [linda.hardy@la.gov](mailto:linda.hardy@la.gov)

## Agency Scoping Meeting Materials



C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C.  
135 Regency Square • Lafayette La. 70508  
Phone: (337) 237-2200

September 21, 2017

**Re: Agency Scoping Meeting  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Project No. H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Environmental Assessment  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana**

With regard to the above referenced project, C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC is currently under contract with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street Route LA 1-X located in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, continuous interagency input and coordination is essential to the progression of the Environmental Document and future stages of the project. As such, your organization has been identified to participate in this project. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

**Thursday, October 12, 2017  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Natchitoches Arts Center  
716 Second Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457**

The purpose of this project scoping meeting is to make presentations concerning the project need, scope, and study approaches, identify issues in the Solicitation of Views (SOV) responses, plan for stakeholder outreach, and discuss the project schedule. This meeting is also intended to focus on agency discussions regarding environmental issues of concern, particularly regarding areas of jurisdiction, procedural issues, study approaches, etc. Attached for your reference is a map showing the general location and study area of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

Please RSVP by October 9<sup>th</sup> to [bliss@fenstermaker.com](mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com) or call Bliss Bernard at 225-344-6701. If you cannot attend in person, a conference call number will be made available. If you or your representative is unable to attend, please send me an email referencing the project information stated above, along with any comments you may have regarding the project. If you should have any comments that you wish to communicate via telephone, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Dax Douet, P.E.  
Project Manager  
337-237-2200  
[Dax@fenstermaker.com](mailto:Dax@fenstermaker.com)

**PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

STATE PROJECT NO: H.001271

FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.: H001271

CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X

ROUTE: LA 1-X

NATCHITOCHES PARISH

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) proposes to replace the Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish.

The existing Cane River Bridge at Church Street (Lat 31.760718, Long -93.084624), constructed in 1936, is a two-lane concrete deck girder bridge with two 12' bi-directional travel lanes and four foot wide sidewalks on either side. The bridge is located within the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District. The bridge has been determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Three alternatives and one (1) sub-alternative are being carried forward from the Stage 0/Feasibility Study into this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the bridge on existing or slightly off-set alignment, with a possible new temporary detour bridge at Highland Park Drive (~Lat 31.771629, Long -93.084819) or Touline Street (~Lat 31.759374, Long -93.086194). The type, dimensions, and aesthetics of any permanent replacement bridge or temporary detour bridge will be determined during the EA process. The EA will also include the analysis of up to three (3) NEPA-derived alternatives, as well as the No-Build Alternative.

Project alternatives will be further developed in an effort to avoid or minimize environmental, social and economic impacts, while improving functionality, durability, adequate corrosion protection and ease of inspection and future maintenance. These alternatives will strive to provide a safe and aesthetically pleasant structure for the public while meeting the needs of the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District.

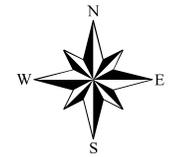
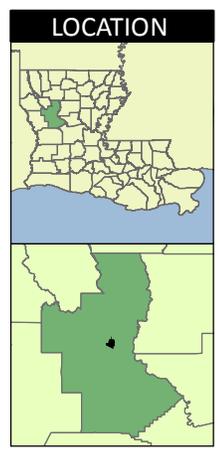
The objective of this project is to provide the planning, public outreach, and engineering and environmental services necessary to document public input and other information necessary for the LADOTD and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to reach an environmental decision for the proposed bridge replacement. LA 1-X is classified as a Minor Arterial (Urban). The average daily traffic (ADT) for 2016 was 11,300 vehicles per day. Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S. may be impacted. The project will be processed as an EA.

# Project Study Area

State Project No.  
H.001271

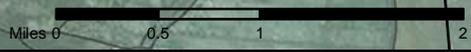
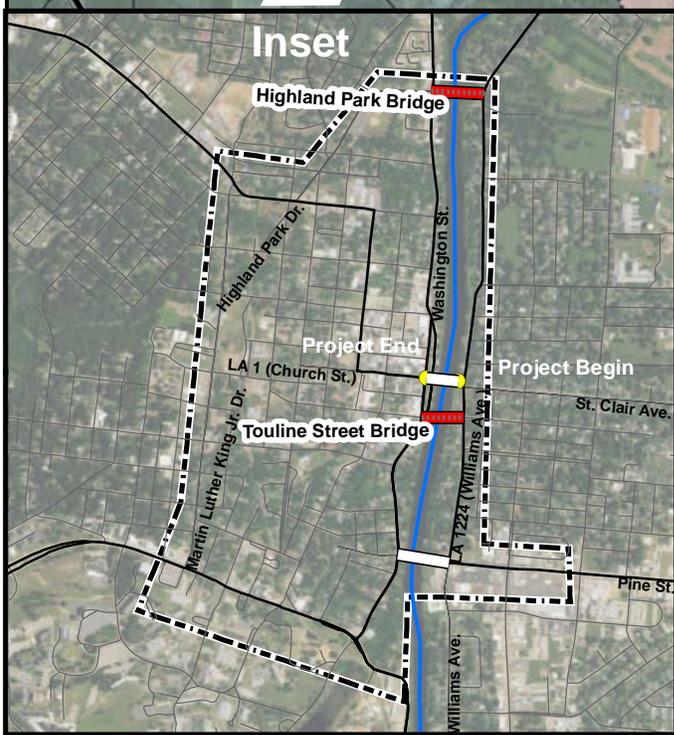
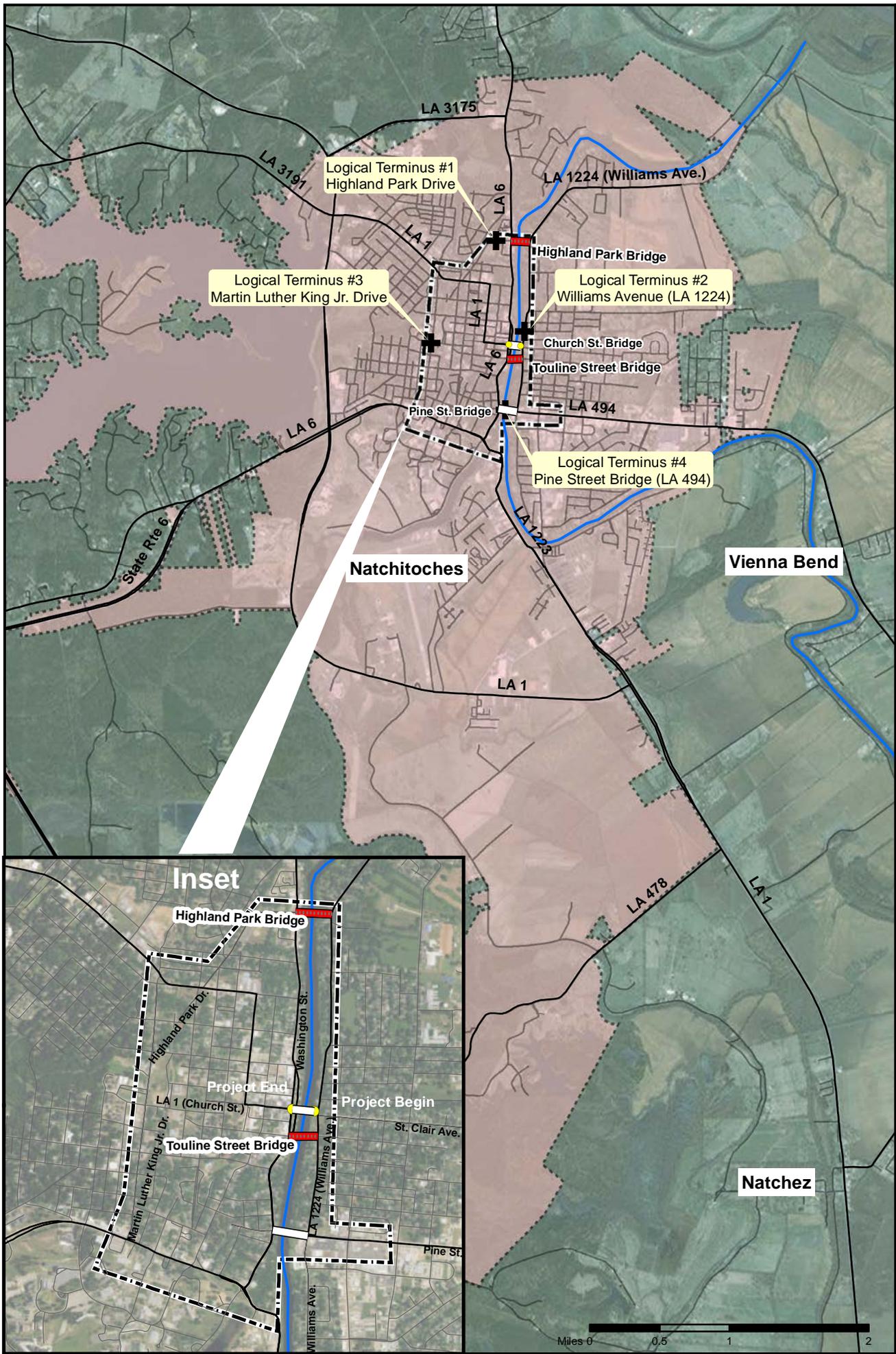
Cane River Bridge  
Church Street  
Route LA 1-X

Natchitoches Parish, LA



## LEGEND

- Project Limits
- Existing Bridges
- Proposed Temporary Bridge
- Logical Termini
- Cane River
- Roads
- Project Study Area
- City of Natchitoches



Planning Purposes Only. The sources of data and graphical elements identified on this map have been derived from local, state, and/or federal public records, and consultants under contract with C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates, Inc. The data use is intended for planning purposes only. Any other representation beyond planning purposes is inaccurate and is prohibited by C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates, Inc.

Laura Gates  
Cane River Creole National Park SVC  
400 Rapides Drive  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

8th Coast Guard District (MO) Commander  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2398

Gerald Long  
Louisiana State Senate District 31  
PO Box 151  
Winnfield, LA 71483

Chamber of Commerce Natchitoches  
780 Front St Suite 101  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Frank Howard  
Louisiana House of Representatives District 24  
1601 Texas Highway  
Many, LA 71449

Jay Luneau  
Louisiana State Senate District 29  
711 Washington Street  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Natchitoches Parish Floodplain Administrator  
PO Box 799  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Natchitoches Parish Sheriff  
PO Box 266  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Natchitoches Parish School Board  
PO Box 16  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

USDA, Forest Service  
Kisatchie National Forest Supervisor  
2500 Shreveport Highway  
Pineville, LA 71360-2009

Nick Verret  
City of Natchitoches  
700 Second Street  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Terry Brown  
Louisiana House of Representatives District 22  
510 Main Street  
Colfax, LA 71417

Kenny Cox  
Louisiana House of Representatives District 23  
781 Highway 494  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Louisiana State Police Troop E  
1710 Odom Street  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Natchitoches Parish Police Jury  
PO Box 799  
Natchitoches, LA 71458

Natchitoches Parish Planning Commission  
PO Box 799  
Natchitoches, LA 71458

Natchitoches Soil and Water Conservation District of LA  
6949 Highway 1 Bypass  
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism  
Office of State Parks  
PO Box 44426  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Department of Economic Development, Office of Business  
Development  
PO Box 94185  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Nicole Hobson-Morris  
Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism  
Division of Historic Preservation  
PO Box 44247  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
LA Natural Heritage Program  
PO Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Department of Agriculture & Forestry  
5825 Florida Blvd, Suite 6000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Chip McGimsey  
Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism  
Division of Archaeology  
PO Box 44247  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Department of Health and Hospitals  
Chief Sanitarian Director  
PO Box 629  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629

Division of Administration  
Facility Planning and Control  
PO Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Federal Transit Admin, Region VI  
819 Taylor Street, Room 14A02  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

LA Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Mineral Resources  
PO Box 2827  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Environmental Protection Agency  
Source Water Protection (6WQ-S)  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

LA Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation  
PO Box 94275  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275

Cedric Richmond  
US House of Representatives District 2  
2021 Lakeshore Drive Suite 309  
New Orleans, LA 70122

Department of Public Safety  
Highway Safety Commission  
PO Box 66336  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

Yuanda Zhu  
DHH, OPH Engineering SVCS (BIN 10)  
628 North 4th Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Division of Administration State Land Office  
PO Box 44124  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

LADOTD  
Floodplain Management Program-Section 64  
PO Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Louisiana Forestry Association, Executive Director  
PO Box 5067  
Alexandria, LA 71307

FEMA Region VI  
FRC 800 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209

LA Good Roads Association  
PO Box 3713  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

National Park Service Southeast Region  
Environmental Compliance Specialist  
110 Alabama Street, SW 1924 Bldg.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Natural Resources Conservation SVC  
State Conservationist  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302

LSU Sea Grant Advisory Svc  
Director LA Sea Grant Law & Policy  
227B Sea Grant Building  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Ralph Abraham  
US House of Representatives District 5  
426 Desiard St  
Monroe, LA 71201

US Geological Survey  
3535 S. Sherwood Forest Dr. Suite 120  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Mike Johnson  
US House of Representatives District 4  
PO Box 6075  
Bossier City, LA 71171

John Kennedy  
US Senate  
PO Box 80418  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Garret Graves  
US House of Representatives District 6  
2351 Energy Drive Suite 1200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Bill Cassidy  
US Senate  
5555 Hilton Avenue Suite 100  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Clay Higgins  
US House of Representatives District 3  
PO Box 61747  
Lafayette, LA 70596

Steve Scalise  
US House of Representatives District 1  
110 Veterans Blvd., Suite 500  
Metairie, LA 70005

**From:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**To:** [Dax Douet](#); [Jill-Karen Yakubik](#); [Justin Peltier](#); [Kimberly McDaniel](#); [Michelle Helminger](#); [Rhonda Smith](#); [shawna atkins](#)  
**Subject:** Cane River Bridge-Agency Scoping Meeting  
**Start:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:00:00 AM  
**End:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 12:00:00 PM  
**Location:** Natchitoches Arts Center- 716 Second Street Natchitoches, LA 71457  
**Attachments:** [00\\_ScopingMeetingInvitePacket.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon Team,

We have scheduled the agency scoping meeting for Thursday, October 12th in Natchitoches. Various federal, state, and local governmental agencies are invited to this meeting to discuss the project need, scope, and study approaches, identify issues in the Solicitation of Views (SOV) responses, plan for stakeholder outreach, and discuss the project schedule. This meeting is also intended to focus on agency discussions regarding environmental issues of concern, particularly regarding areas of jurisdiction, procedural issues, study approaches, etc.

I have attached the letter that I will be mailing out tomorrow to these agencies. Once I finalize the meeting materials (agenda, powerpoint, handouts) and they are approved by DOTD, I will distribute those to the group as well.

If you have any questions about the meeting, invite list, etc. feel free to ask. Please let me know if you can make the meeting by accepting this invite.

Thanks,  
Bliss

**From:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**To:** [Betty Fuller](#); [Charles Brossett](#); [Cynthia Sutton](#); [Edd Lee](#); [Eddie Harrington](#); [Juanita Fowler](#); [Lee Posey](#); [Nick Verret](#); [Randy LaCaze](#); [Rick Nowlin](#); [Sandra Dickens](#); [Sharon Gahagan](#)  
**Subject:** H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church Street EA- Agency Scoping Meeting  
**Start:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:00:00 AM  
**End:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 12:00:00 PM  
**Location:** Natchitoches Arts Center- 716 Second Street Natchitoches, LA 71457  
**Attachments:** [2017-09-21\\_CaneRiverEA\\_ScopingMtg\\_Map&Desc.pdf](#)

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Re: Agency Scoping Meeting  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Project No. H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Environmental Assessment  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

Good Morning,

With regard to the above referenced project, C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC is currently under contract with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street Route LA 1-X located in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, continuous interagency input and coordination is essential to the progression of the Environmental Document and future stages of the project. As such, the Natchitoches Bridge Task Force has been identified to participate in this project. This meeting is only open to agencies that have been identified as participating and cooperating stakeholders. This is not a public meeting; however, a public meeting will be conducted in the future stages of the Environmental Assessment. Please accept this email as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

Thursday, October 12, 2017  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Natchitoches Arts Center  
716 Second Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

The purpose of this project scoping meeting is to make presentations concerning the project need, scope, and study approaches, identify issues in the Solicitation of Views (SOV) responses, plan for stakeholder outreach, and discuss the project schedule. This meeting is also intended to focus on agency discussions regarding environmental issues of concern, particularly regarding areas of jurisdiction, procedural issues, study approaches, etc. Attached for your reference is a map showing the general location and study area of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

Please RSVP by October 9th to [bliss@fenstermaker.com](mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com) <<mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com>> or call Bliss Bernard at 225-344-6701. If you cannot attend in person, a conference call number will be made available. If you or your representative is unable to attend, please send me an email referencing the project information stated above, along with any comments you may have regarding the project. If you should have any comments that you wish to communicate via telephone, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,  
Bliss Bernard  
Deputy Project Manager

**From:** [Bliss Bernard](#)  
**To:** [Brian Delatte](#); [Carey Coxe](#); [Elnur Musa](#); [John Rogers](#); [Jonathan Lachney](#); [Linda Hardy](#); [Lynn Heisler](#); [Maria Reid](#); [Mathilda Rilovich](#); [Patrick Toney](#); [Robin Daigle](#); [Stephen Pfeffer](#); [Trey Jesclard](#)  
**Subject:** H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church Street EA-Agency Scoping Meeting  
**Start:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 10:00:00 AM  
**End:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 12:00:00 PM  
**Location:** Natchitoches Arts Center- 716 Second Street Natchitoches, LA 71457  
**Attachments:** [2017-09-21\\_CaneRiverEA\\_ScopingMtg.pdf](#)

---

Re: Agency Scoping Meeting  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Project No. H001271  
Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X  
Environmental Assessment  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

Good Morning,

With regard to the above referenced project, C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC is currently under contract with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street Route LA 1-X located in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, continuous interagency input and coordination is essential to the progression of the Environmental Document and future stages of the project. As such, your organization has been identified to participate in this project. Please accept this email as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

Thursday, October 12, 2017  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Natchitoches Arts Center  
716 Second Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

The purpose of this project scoping meeting is to make presentations concerning the project need, scope, and study approaches, identify issues in the Solicitation of Views (SOV) responses, plan for stakeholder outreach, and discuss the project schedule. This meeting is also intended to focus on agency discussions regarding environmental issues of concern, particularly regarding areas of jurisdiction, procedural issues, study approaches, etc. Attached for your reference is a map showing the general location and study area of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

Please RSVP by October 9th to [bliss@fenstermaker.com](mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com) <<mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com>> or call Bliss Bernard at 225-344-6701. If you cannot attend in person, a conference call number will be made available. If you or your representative is unable to attend, please send me an email referencing the project information stated above, along with any comments you may have regarding the project. If you should have any comments that you wish to communicate via telephone, please feel free to call me.

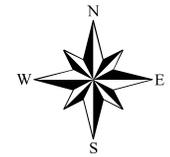
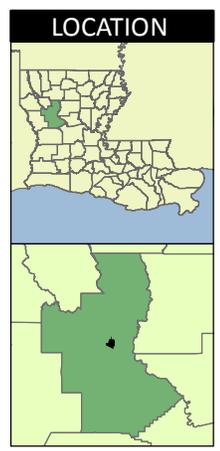
Sincerely,  
Bliss Bernard  
Deputy Project Manager

# Project Study Area

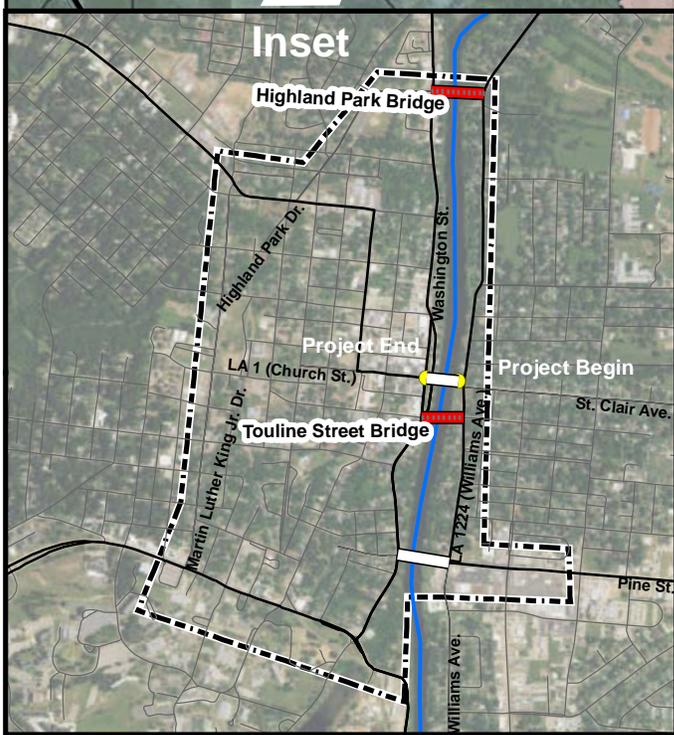
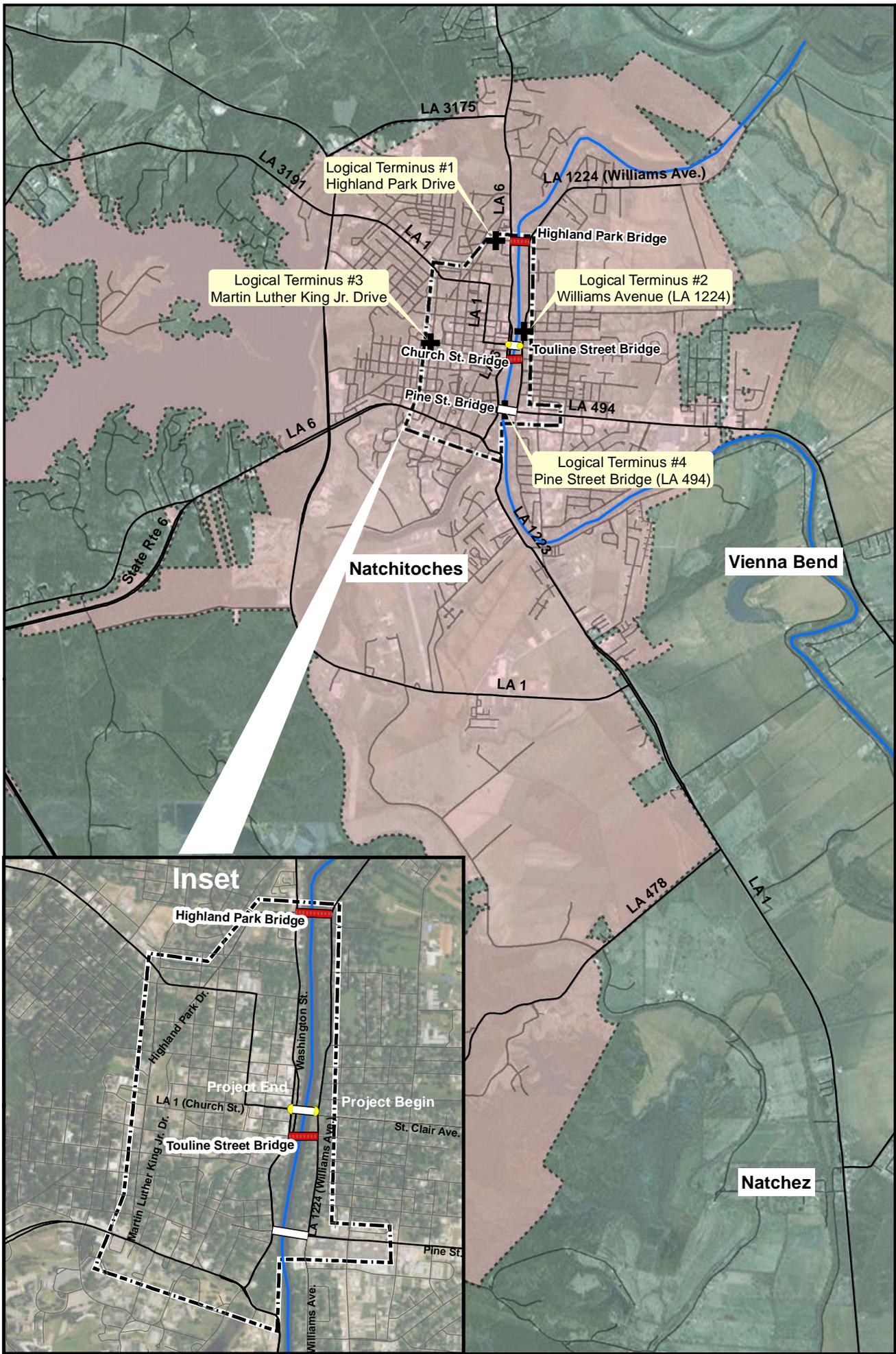
State Project No.  
H.001271

Cane River Bridge  
Church Street  
Route LA 1-X

Natchitoches Parish, LA



- ### LEGEND
- Project Limits
  - Existing Bridges
  - Proposed Temporary Bridge
  - Logical Termini
  - Cane River
  - Roads
  - Project Study Area
  - City of Natchitoches



Planning Purposes Only. The sources of data and graphical elements identified on this map have been derived from local, state, and/or federal public records, and consultants under contract with C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates, Inc. The data use is intended for planning purposes only. Any other representation beyond planning purposes is inaccurate and is prohibited by C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates, Inc.

**PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

STATE PROJECT NO: H.001271

FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO.: H001271

CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X

ROUTE: LA 1-X

NATCHITOCHES PARISH

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) proposes to replace the Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish.

The existing Cane River Bridge at Church Street (Lat 31.760718, Long -93.084624), constructed in 1936, is a two-lane concrete deck girder bridge with two 12' bi-directional travel lanes and four foot wide sidewalks on either side. The bridge is located within the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District. The bridge has been determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Three alternatives and one (1) sub-alternative are being carried forward from the Stage 0/Feasibility Study into this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the bridge on existing or slightly off-set alignment, with a possible new temporary detour bridge at Highland Park Drive (~Lat 31.771629, Long -93.084819) or Touline Street (~Lat 31.759374, Long -93.086194). The type, dimensions, and aesthetics of any permanent replacement bridge or temporary detour bridge will be determined during the EA process. The EA will also include the analysis of up to three (3) NEPA-derived alternatives, as well as the No-Build Alternative.

Project alternatives will be further developed in an effort to avoid or minimize environmental, social and economic impacts, while improving functionality, durability, adequate corrosion protection and ease of inspection and future maintenance. These alternatives will strive to provide a safe and aesthetically pleasant structure for the public while meeting the needs of the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District.

The objective of this project is to provide the planning, public outreach, and engineering and environmental services necessary to document public input and other information necessary for the LADOTD and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to reach an environmental decision for the proposed bridge replacement. LA 1-X is classified as a Minor Arterial (Urban). The average daily traffic (ADT) for 2016 was 11,300 vehicles per day. Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S. may be impacted. The project will be processed as an EA.

Michael Attocknie  
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma  
Post Office Box 487  
Binger, OK 73009

Tommy Bolton  
Choctaw Apache Tribe of Ebarb  
Post Office Box 1428  
Zwolle, LA 71486

Dr. Linda Langley  
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 818  
Elton, LA 70532

Kevin Billiot  
Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc.  
991 Grand Caillou Road  
Houma, LA 70363-5705

Earl Barby, Jr.  
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 1589  
Marksville, LA 71351

Dr. Andrea Hunter  
Osage National Historic Preservation Office  
627 Grandview Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Lynn Heisler  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Lynn.Heisler@dot.gov

Bryant Celestine  
Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas  
[Celestine.Bryant@Actribe.org](mailto:Celestine.Bryant@Actribe.org)

Alina Shively  
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians  
[AShively@JenaChoctaw.org](mailto:AShively@JenaChoctaw.org)

Kenneth Carleton  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
[KCarleton@Choctaw.org](mailto:KCarleton@Choctaw.org)

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Michael Attocknie  
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma  
Post Office Box 487  
Binger, Oklahoma 73009

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Chairman Attocknie:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

**Thursday, October 12, 2017  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Natchitoches Arts Center  
716 Second Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457**

Please RSVP by October 9<sup>th</sup> to [bliss@fenstermaker.com](mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com) or call Bliss Bernard at 225-344-6701. If you cannot attend in person, a conference call number will be made available.

If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Preliminary Project Description

Project map

September 20, 2017

Lynn Heisler  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Lynn.Heisler@dot.gov

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Mrs. Heisler:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

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Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Tommy Bolton  
Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb  
Post Office Box 1428  
Zwolle, LA 71486

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Chairman Bolton:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

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If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Bryant Celestine  
Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas  
Celestine.Bryant@actribe.org

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Chairman Bryant:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

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If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Dr. Linda Langley  
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 818  
Elton, LA 70532

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Dr. Langley:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

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If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Alina Shively  
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians  
AShively@JenaChoctaw.org

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Chairwoman Shively:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

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If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Kenneth Carleton  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
KCarleton@Choctaw.org

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Chairman Carleton:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

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Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

Mr. Kevin Billiot  
Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc.  
991 Grand Caillou Road  
Houma, LA 70363-5705

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Mr. Billiot:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc. for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Natchitoches Arts Center**  
**716 Second Street**  
**Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457**

Please RSVP by October 9<sup>th</sup> to [bliss@fenstermaker.com](mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com) or call Bliss Bernard at 225-344-6701. If you cannot attend in person, a conference call number will be made available.

If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Earl Barby, Jr.  
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 1589  
Marksville, LA 71351

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Chairman Barby:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Tribe for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

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If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Dr. Andrea Hunter  
Osage National Historic Preservation Office  
627 Grandview Avenue  
Pawhuska, OK 74056

SUBJECT: Cane River Bridge Church Street  
Environmental Assessment  
Route LA 1-X  
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana  
State Project No. H.001271  
Federal Aid Project No. H001271

Dear Dr. Hunter:

On behalf of The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is planning the proposed replacement of Cane River Bridge on Church Street, between Front Street and Williams Avenue, in the city of Natchitoches, Louisiana, located in Natchitoches Parish. The enclosed map illustrates the location of the planned project.

FHWA and LADOTD would like to initiate government-to-government consultation with the Osage National Historic Preservation Office for this project. LADOTD has entered into the environmental review phase of this project and plans to prepare an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Among other issues, we would like consultation to address cultural and historic resource issues, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2). Recognizing the government-to-government relationship between FHWA and the Tribe, FHWA will continue to play a key role in this undertaking as the responsible Federal agency.

We would very much appreciate your input on the proposed action. The goal of the consultation is to identify any concerns early in the environmental review process and reach mutually agreeable decisions while taking into account the interests of both the Tribal, State and Federal governments. Please accept this letter as a formal request for you or a designated representative of your agency to attend an Agency Scoping Meeting to be held on:

**Thursday, October 12, 2017  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Natchitoches Arts Center  
716 Second Street  
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457**

Please RSVP by October 9<sup>th</sup> to [bliss@fenstermaker.com](mailto:bliss@fenstermaker.com) or call Bliss Bernard at 225-344-6701. If you cannot attend in person, a conference call number will be made available.

If you have any questions concerning the project, or if you would like to meet at a separate time in order to commence government-to-government consultation on the Cane River Bridge Church Street project, please contact Robin Daigle, LADOTD Environmental Specialist at 225-242-4508 or Dax Douet, Fenstermaker Project Manager at 337-237-2200.

Sincerely,

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Enclosures:

Project map

Preliminary Project Description

November 28, 2018

STATE PROJECT NO. H.001271  
FEDERAL-AID PROJECT NO. H001271  
CANE RIVER BRIDGE CHURCH STREET ROUTE LA 1-X  
STRUCTURE NO: 08350530414631, RECALL NO: 038060  
ROUTE: LA 1-X  
PARISH: NATCHITOCHES

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**SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF VIEWS**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to replace the Cane River Bridge on Church Street in the city of Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana (Figures 1-4). The existing bridge is located within the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District between Front Street and Williams Avenue. The bridge (Lat. 31.760718, Long. -93.084624) was constructed in 1936, and consists of a two-lane concrete deck girder bridge with two 12-foot bi-directional travel lanes and 4-foot-wide sidewalks on both sides. The bridge was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by Mead and Hunt, Inc. (September 2013) on behalf of LADOTD for the LADOTD Historic Bridge Inventory. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this finding on October 15, 2013.

A Solicitation of Views letter was issued on June 6, 2017. Public meetings were held on December 7, 2017 and November 1, 2018 in Natchitoches. Four alternatives are being carried forward into an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the bridge. One alternative consists of closing the bridge and constructing a new permanent bridge. A temporary detour bridge will be provided approximately 500 feet south of the existing bridge for traffic during construction (Lat. 31.759367, Long. -93.086274). The temporary detour bridge would be removed after construction. Another alternative consists of closing the bridge and constructing a new permanent bridge. Traffic would be routed to other state routes during construction. The proposed permanent new bridge, for both alternatives, will either be built on the existing bridge alignment, or built off of existing alignment by skewing the east end of the new bridge to meet at the existing intersection of Williams Avenue and St. Clair Avenue.

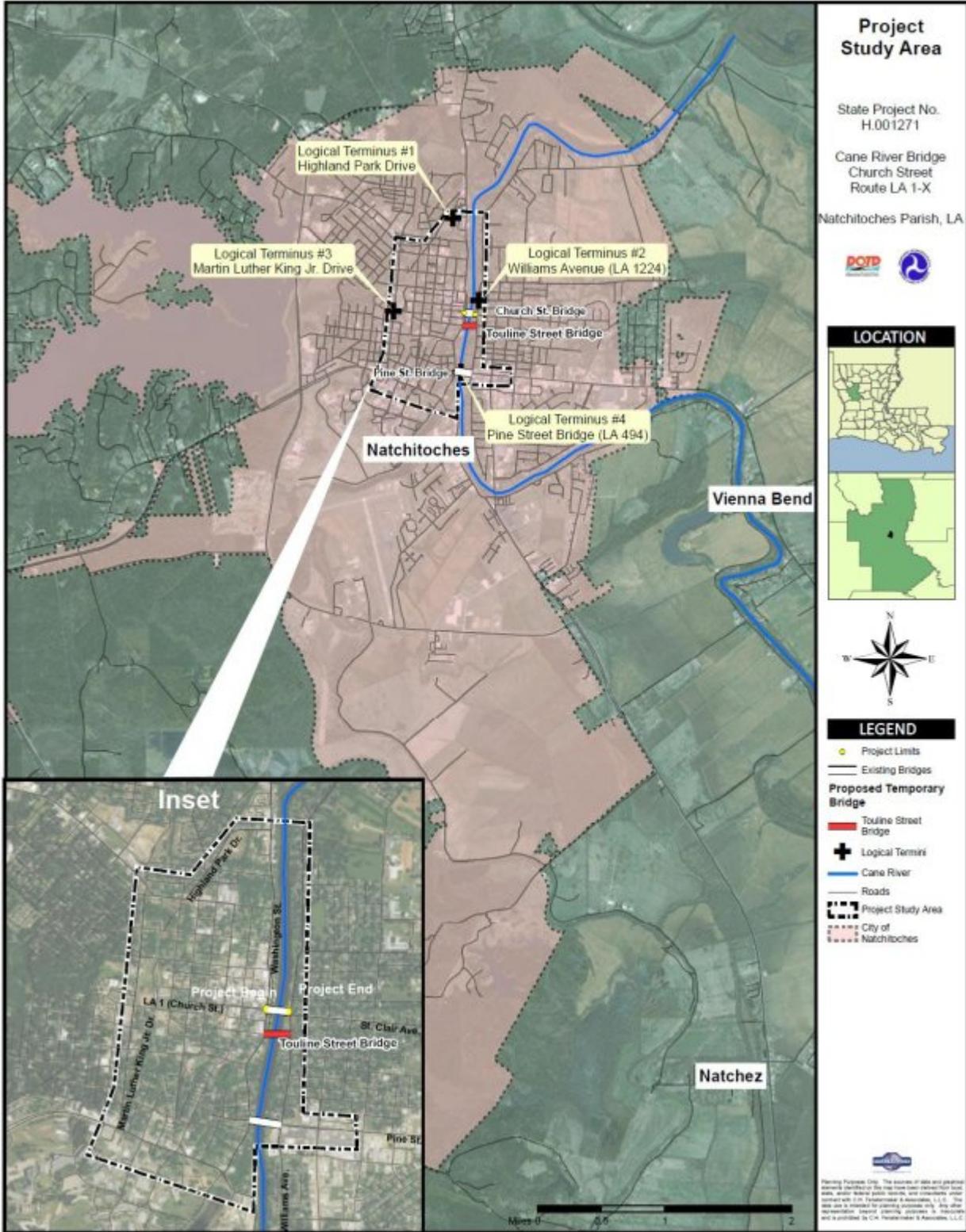


Figure 1. Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X Location Map.



Figure 2. Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X Location Aerial Photo.



**Figure 3. Cane River Bridge Church Street LA 1-X. Facing north.**



**Figure 4. Cane River Bridge Church Street LA 1-X facing northwest.**

## Bliss Bernard

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**From:** Bliss Bernard  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018 2:26 PM  
**To:** 'rcorkern@ccglawfirm.com'  
**Subject:** H.001271 Cane River Bridge Church Street EA- Solicitation of Views  
**Attachments:** H.001271 Cane River Bridge.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated.

Four alternatives are being carried forward into an Environmental Assessment for the proposed replacement of the Cane River Bridge at Church Street in Natchitoches Parish. The Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was identified through consultations with participating parties. I have attached a map showing the general location of the proposed alternatives and a preliminary project description and alternatives.

We request that you review the attached information and furnish us with your views and comments. Replies should be addressed to LADOTD; Environmental Engineer Administrator, Section 28; P.O. Box 94245; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245 or via email response. Please reference the captioned project in your reply.

Thanks,  
Bliss Bernard

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Harrington and Seconded by Ms. Morrow as follows, to –wit:

**RESOLUTION NO. 031 OF 2019**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHEs, LOUISIANA STATING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF THE CHURCH STREET BRIDGE WITH ST. CLAIR AVENUE AND FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A TEMPORARY BRIDGE AT TOULINE STREET TO HANDLE TRAFFIC DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CHURCH STREET BRIDGE, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO COMMUNICATE ITS SUPPORT AND PREFERENCE TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT.**

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a project underway for the replacement of the Church Street Bridge, located in downtown Natchitoches, Louisiana, said project bearing State Project Number H.001271 and Federal Project Number H001271, and being commonly referred to as “Cane River Bridge Church Street Route LA 1-X”; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, as part of the environmental assessment process, the firm C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C.,(sometimes hereinafter “Fenstermaker”) was retained to undertake a study wherein it would evaluate the impact of the various alternatives to complete the bridge replacement; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, Fenstermaker has identified various alternatives for the construction of the new bridge, including alternatives for the alignment of the new bridge, whether a temporary bridge will be constructed and for the location of a temporary bridge, if constructed; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, there are currently three bridges in the City of Natchitoches that provide crossings over Cane River Lake, one of these bridges being the Church Street Bridge; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, one of the functional deficiencies of the Church Street Bridge, as set forth in the power point presentation provided at a public meeting held on December 7, 2017, was queueing of traffic, and City Council is aware of daily traffic issues at all three bridges located in the City of Natchitoches; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the A.D.T. count on the Church Street Bridge and the Keyser Bridge (the bridge to the South of the Church Street Bridge) is 17,000 vehicles each, per day; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, emergency response vehicles currently face delays when attempting to cross Cane River Lake during times of high vehicle traffic; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that it is in the best interest of the city and its citizens to align the Church Street Bridge with St. Clair Avenue; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the City Council is of the opinion that current delays to cross

Cane River Lake will increase greatly in the absence of a temporary bridge to handle traffic over Cane River Lake during construction of the Church Street Bridge; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the City Council is of the opinion that public safety will be negatively impacted in the absence of a temporary bridge over Cane River Lake during construction of the Church Street Bridge as emergency response vehicles will be delayed as they attempt to cross Cane River Lake; and

**WHEREAS FURTHER**, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches is of the opinion that it is in the best interest of the City of Natchitoches and its citizens to construct a temporary bridge at Toulain Street, which said bridge will handle traffic over Cane River Lake during the replacement of the Church Street Bridge; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council in legal session convened that it does hereby find that it is in the best interest of the City of Natchitoches and its citizens to construct the Church Street Bridge so that it aligns with St. Clair Avenue, and construct a temporary bridge at Toulain Street, which said bridge can handle traffic over Cane River Lake during the replacement of the Church Street Bridge.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, Lee Posey, is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the proper authorities with the State of Louisiana and the firm of Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C., in order to present the preference of the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

**AYES:           Batiste, Nielsen, Mims, Harrington, Morrow**  
**NAYS:           None**  
**ABSENT:       None**  
**ABSTAIN:      None**

**THEREUPON**, Mayor Lee Posey declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**LEE POSEY, MAYOR**

**CERTIFICATE**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF NATCHITOCHES**

I, Stacy M. McQueary, Clerk of City Council of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy of same as adopted by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches on the 13th day of May, 2019 given under my official signature and seal of office this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019.

  
**Clerk of Council**