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John Bel Edwards, Governor Eric Kalivoda, Secretary

July 20, 2023

STATE PROJECT NO: H.012033

FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO: H012033

NAME: LA 143, LA 594: CROSS BAYOU AND CANEY CR BRS BRIDGE STR. NO.: 05373150206901 & 05373260204021

ROUTE: LA 143, LA 594 PARISH: OUACHITA

Subject: Public Notice of Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 de minimis finding regarding D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge

In compliance with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303), hereinafter referred to as "Section 4(f)," and its implementing regulations codified at 23 CFR Part 774, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) provides public notice of its proposal to make a de minimis impact finding under Section 4(f) regarding the effects of the proposed LA 143 bridge replacement over Cross Bayou (see attached location map), which includes a portion of the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge, and to provide the opportunity for the public review of and comment on this proposed determination. Project information with location and right-of-way maps can be found at:

http://www.dotd.la.gov/Inside_LaDOTD/Divisions/Engineering/Environmental/Pages/default.aspx and navigating to the folder titled "H.012033 LA 143, LA 594: CROSS BAYOU AND CANEY CR BRS."

The existing bridge does not meet current transportation design criteria; therefore, LADOTD is proposing the replacement of the existing 120 foot concrete slab bridge on LA 143 (Recall No. 025050, Structure No. 05373150206901) over Cross Bayou (Latitude 32.605243, Longitude -92.160235) with a new, slightly elevated, 180 foot concrete slab span bridge meeting current design standards. The project scope includes excavation in Cross Bayou, revetment and rip rap, associated drainage, clearing and grubbing, asphalt concrete pavement, base course, and construction of a temporary diversion road on the north side of LA 143.

In order to replace the Cross Bayou bridge on horizontal alignment, the proposed project would require approximately 0.67 acres of temporary construction servitude and 0.89 total acres of right-of-way, of which approximately 0.48 acres falls on the west side of LA 143, within the eastern edge of the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge. The approximately 0.48 acre of the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge would be permanently incorporated into the transportation facility, which would not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes of the wildlife refuge.

The proposed de minimis impact finding is based on coordination with the officials with jurisdiction over the D'Arbonne Wildlife Refuge. The officials with jurisdiction are Federal or designated State agencies that own

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and/or administer the affected portion of the property protected by the Section 4(f). The officials with jurisdiction for the D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who have been notified of FHWA's intent to make a de minimis impact finding. Public comments received in response to this notification will be provided to USFWS for their consideration. If the officials with jurisdiction concur, FHWA will issue a finding of de minimis impact.

Pursuant to 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2), public notice is hereby provided of the proposed de minimis impact finding determination. Comments regarding the proposed Section 4(f) de minimis impact finding may be addressed within 30 days of this publication to LADOTD; Environmental Engineer Administrator; P.O. Box 94245; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245. Please reference the captioned project in your reply. Comments or questions may also be submitted by email to Patrick.vines@la.gov or by telephone at 225-242-4514.

Sincerely,

Noel Ardoin

Environmental Engineer Administrator

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