Appendix D: Agency and Tribal Coordination

Letter to EPA

EPA Responses

Letter to MDEQ

Letter to USACE

Letters to USDA-NRCS

USDA-NRCS Responses

Letter to USFWS

USFWS Response

Letter to MDWFP

MDWFP Response

MDAH Response

Chickasaw Nation Response

Choctaw Nation Response

1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

TEL 601.825.3633
FAX 601.825.3650

www.GarverUSA.com

October 3, 2025

William Kenneth Dean
EPA-MDOT Liaison
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Office of the Regional Administrator
National Environmental Policy Act Section
404-562-9378 (Office)
678-628-2079 (Cell)
dean.william-kenneth@epa.gov

Re: US 11 Widening from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59
Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi
MDOT Job No. STBG-9339-00(012) 109496/104100; STBG-9339-00(013) 109496/105100
Request for Information

Dear Mr. Dean:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for a proposed road widening project to address access and traffic mobility needs along US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The proposed widening would begin at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles, ending approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59.

As a part of this study, we will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the development of the project. We are requesting that you review the proposed study area (see attached project area maps) and notify us of any constraints or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project. Your help will ensure the production of a comprehensive environmental document. Formal, written replies should be emailed to WCHarper@GarverUSA.com or mailed to:

Wilson Harper
Garver, LLC
1076 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

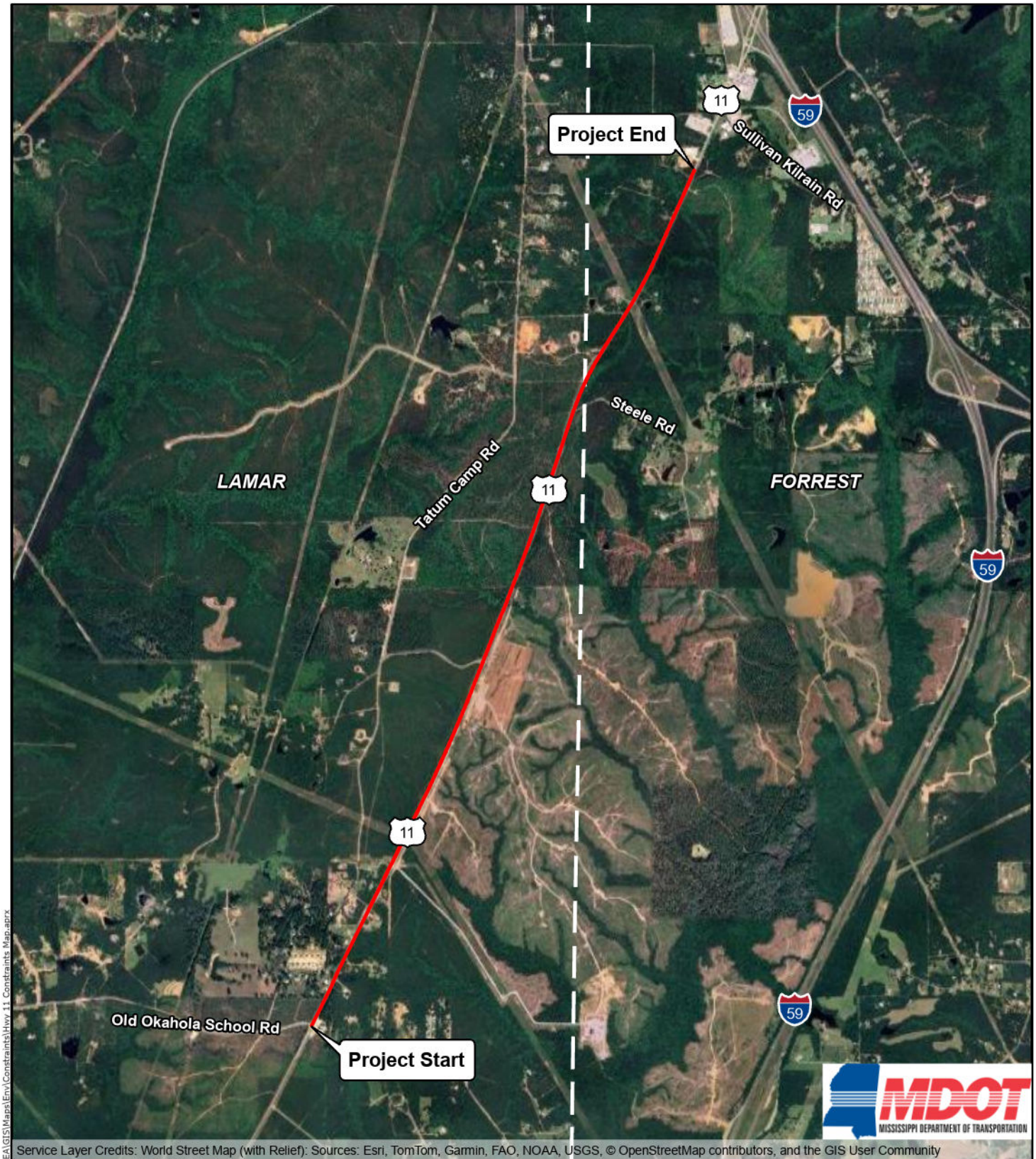
We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain our project schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 228-271-3710 or WCHarper@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely,



Wilson Harper
Environmental Specialist
Garver

Attachments: Site Maps



Service Layer Credits: World Street Map (with Relief): Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

N

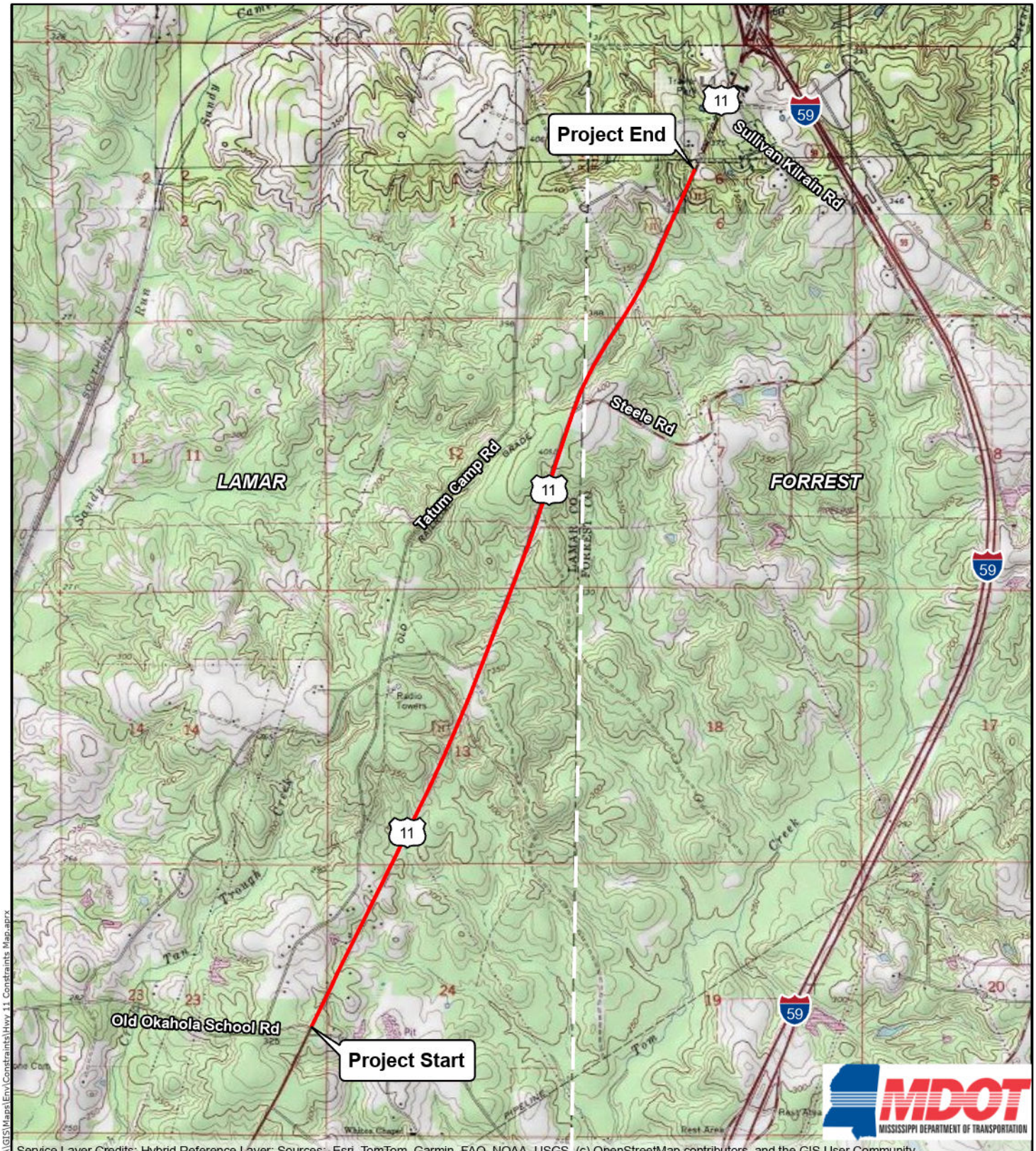
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- Project Alignment
- Counties

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Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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- Project Alignment
- Counties

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MDOT MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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REGION 4
ATLANTA, GA 30303

November 3, 2025

Mr Wilson Harper
Garver, LLC
1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

RE: EPA Scoping Comments on the US Highway 11 Widening Project, Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Harper:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reviewed your letter, dated October 3, 2025, regarding the US Highway 11 widening project in Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) proposes to address access and traffic mobility needs on US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The project begins in Lamar County at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road, continues north for approximately 3.5 miles, and ends in Forrest County approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59. According to the letter, the MDOT is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for the proposed project.

Based on the EPA's review of the available information, the EPA has not identified significant environmental concerns with the proposed project. The EPA appreciates the opportunity to provide preliminary scoping comments on the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Wm. Kenneth Dean of the NEPA Section at 404-562-9378 or at dean.william-kenneth@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ntale Kajumba

Digitally signed by Ntale Kajumba
Date: 2025.11.03 18:21:05 -05'00'

Ntale Kajumba
Manager
NEPA Section

cc: Adam Johnson, Mississippi Department of Transportation

1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

TEL 601.825.3633
FAX 601.825.3650

www.GarverUSA.com

October 3, 2025

Chris Wells
Executive Director
P.O Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289
601-961-5000
cwells@mdeq.ms.gov

Re: US 11 Widening from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59
Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi
MDOT Job No. STBG-9339-00(012) 109496/104100; STBG-9339-00(013) 109496/105100
Request for Information

Dear Mr. Wells:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for a proposed road widening project to address access and traffic mobility needs along US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The proposed widening would begin at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles, ending approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59.

As a part of this study, we will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the development of the project. We are requesting that you review the proposed study area (see attached project area maps) and notify us of any constraints or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project. Your help will ensure the production of a comprehensive environmental document. Formal, written replies should be emailed to WCHarper@GarverUSA.com or mailed to:

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Ridgeland, MS 39157

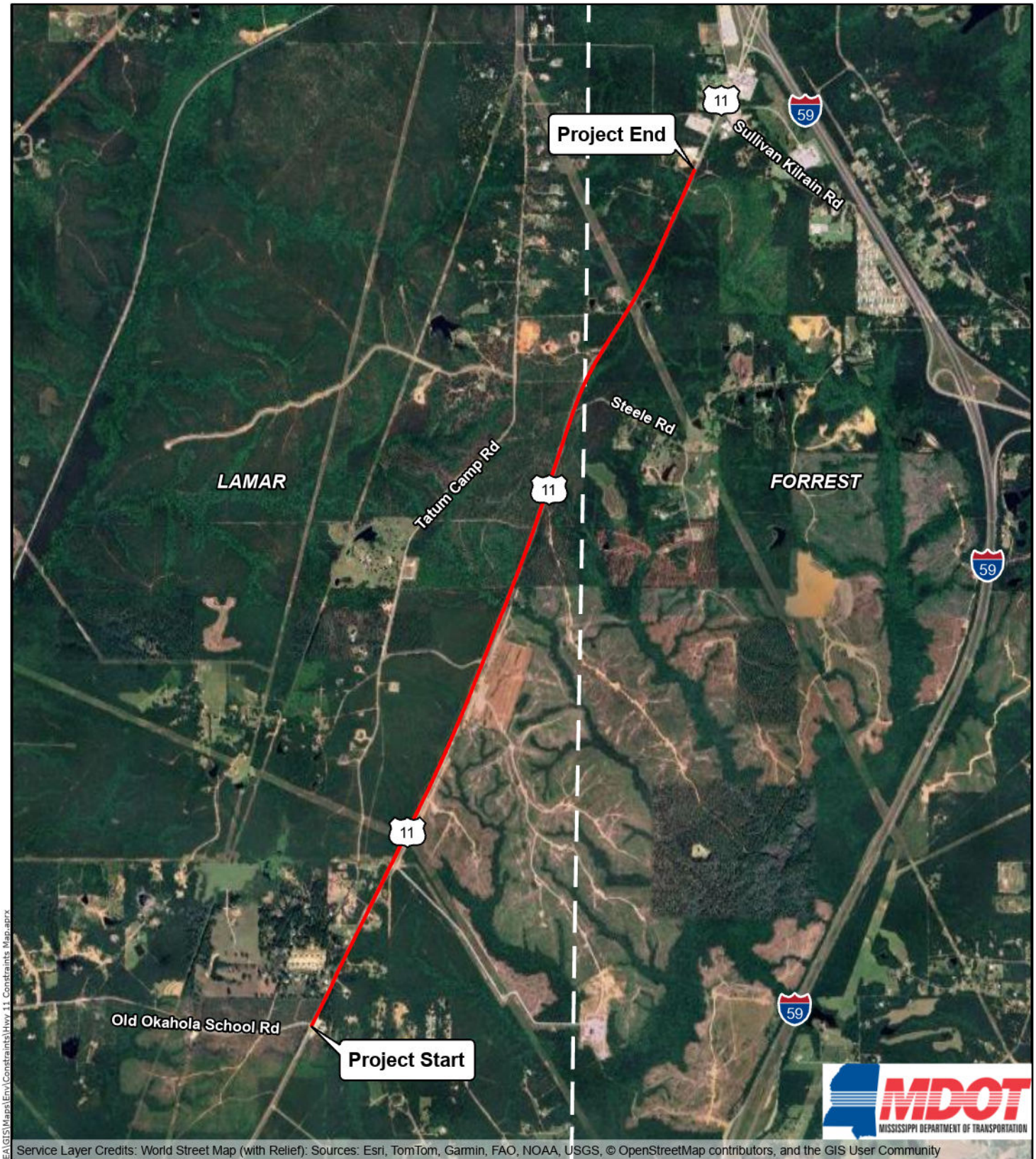
We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain our project schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 228-271-3710 or WCHarper@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely,



Wilson Harper
Environmental Specialist
Garver

Attachments: Site Maps



Service Layer Credits: World Street Map (with Relief): Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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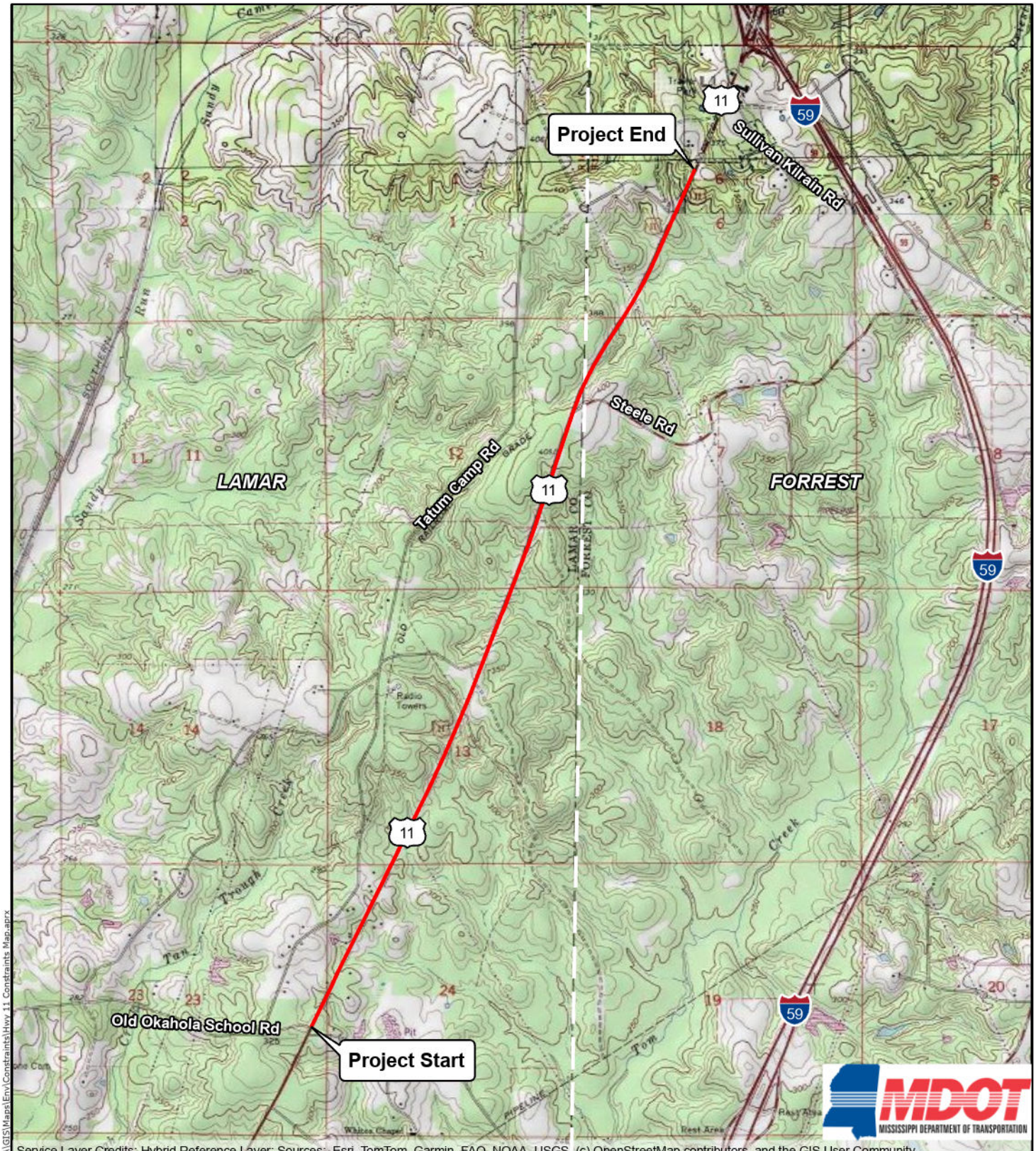
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- Project Alignment
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Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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Miles

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MDOT MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

TEL 601.825.3633
FAX 601.825.3650

www.GarverUSA.com

October 3, 2025

Jared Everitt, RF
Senior Environmental Specialist
FHWA/MDOT Transportation Liaison
Regulatory Division, Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers
4155 East Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183
601-631-7104 (Office)
601-580-1741 (Cell)
Jared.H.Everitt@usace.army.mil

Re: US 11 Widening from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59
Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi
MDOT Job No. STBG-9339-00(012) 109496/104100; STBG-9339-00(013) 109496/105100
Request for Information

Dear Mr. Everitt:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for a proposed road widening project to address access and future traffic demand needs along US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The proposed widening would begin at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles, ending approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59.

As a part of this study, we will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the development of the project. We are requesting that you review the proposed study area (see attached project area maps) and notify us of any constraints or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project. Your help will ensure the production of a comprehensive environmental document. Formal, written replies should be emailed to WCHarper@GarverUSA.com or mailed to:

Wilson Harper
Garver, LLC
1076 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

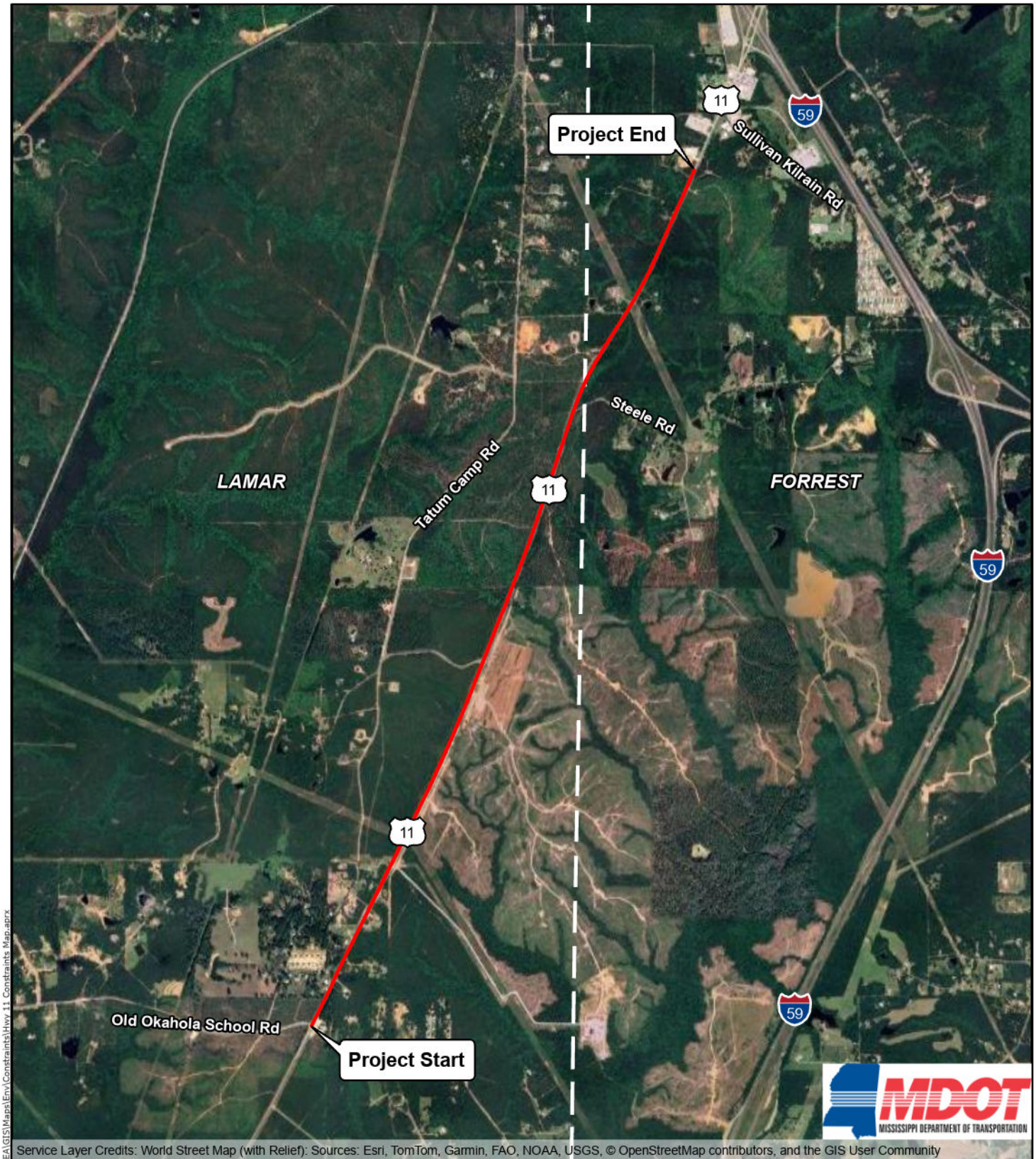
We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain our project schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 228-271-3710 or WCHarper@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely,



Wilson Harper
Environmental Specialist
Garver

Attachments: Site Maps



Service Layer Credits: World Street Map (with Relief): Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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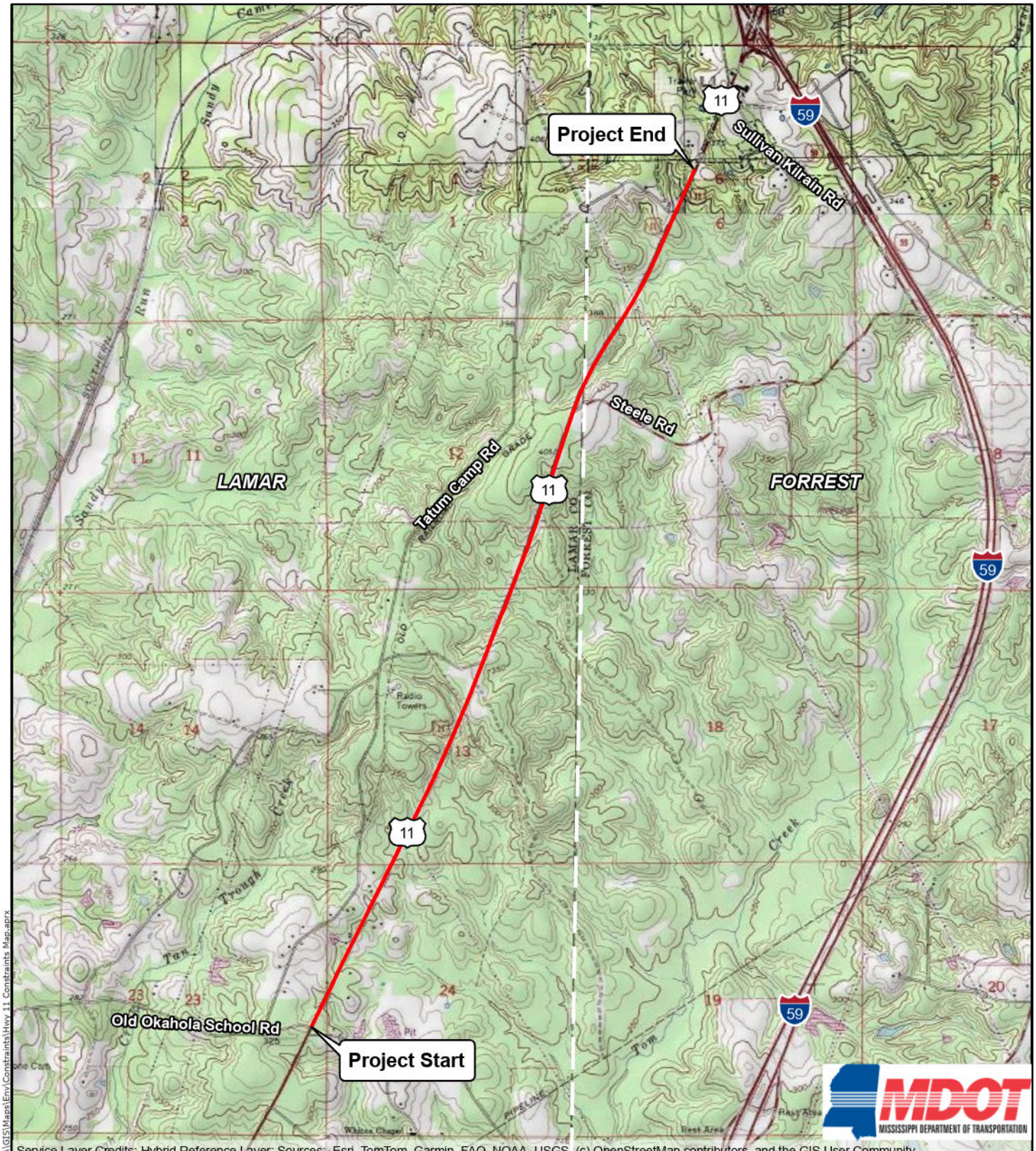
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- Project Alignment
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Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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- Counties

GARVER

MDOT MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

TEL 601.825.3633
FAX 601.825.3650

www.GarverUSA.com

October 3, 2025

Michael E. Carr
USDA-Acting State Conservationist
Federal Building
Jackson, MS 39269
601-863-3911
michael.carr@usda.gov

Re: US 11 Widening from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59
Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi
MDOT Job No. STBG-9339-00(012) 109496/104100; STBG-9339-00(013) 109496/105100
Request for Information

Dear Mr. Carr:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for a proposed road widening project to address access and traffic mobility needs along US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The proposed widening would begin at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles, ending approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59.

As a part of this study, we will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the development of the project. We are requesting that you review the proposed study area (see attached project area maps) and notify us of any constraints or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project. Your help will ensure the production of a comprehensive environmental document. Formal, written replies should be emailed to WCHarper@GarverUSA.com or mailed to:

Wilson Harper
Garver, LLC
1076 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain our project schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 228-271-3710 or WCHarper@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely,



Wilson Harper
Environmental Specialist
Garver

Attachments: Site Maps

1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

TEL 601.825.3633
FAX 601.825.3650

www.GarverUSA.com

October 3, 2025

Rogerick Thompson
USDA-Natural Resource Specialist
Federal Building
Jackson, MS 39269
601-863-3939
rogerick.thompson@usda.gov

Re: US 11 Widening from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59
Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi
MDOT Job No. STBG-9339-00(012) 109496/104100; STBG-9339-00(013) 109496/105100
Request for Information

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for a proposed road widening project to address access and traffic mobility needs along US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The proposed widening would begin at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles, ending approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59.

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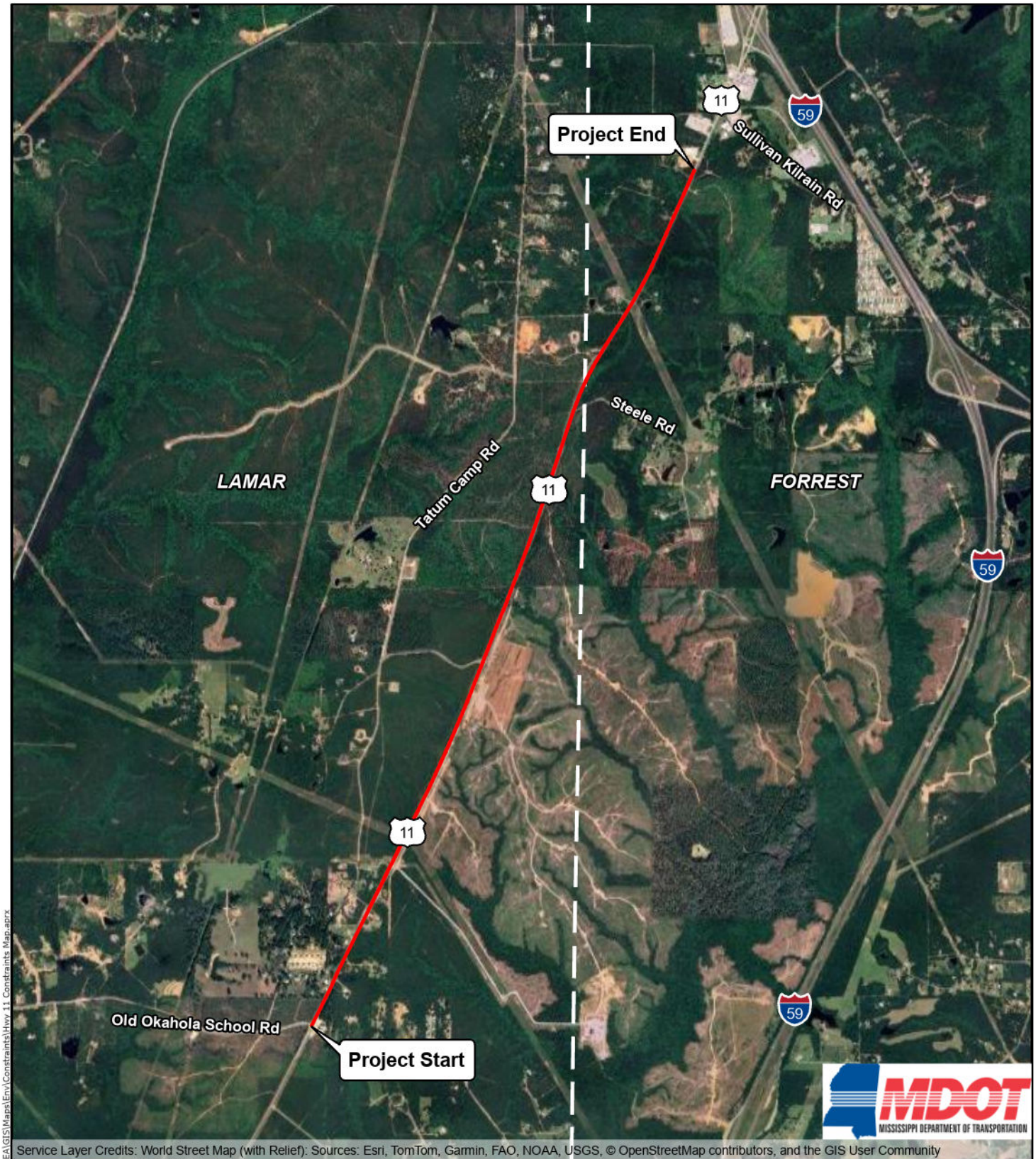
Wilson Harper
Garver, LLC
1076 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

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Sincerely,

Wilson Harper
Environmental Specialist
Garver

Attachments: Site Maps



Service Layer Credits: World Street Map (with Relief): Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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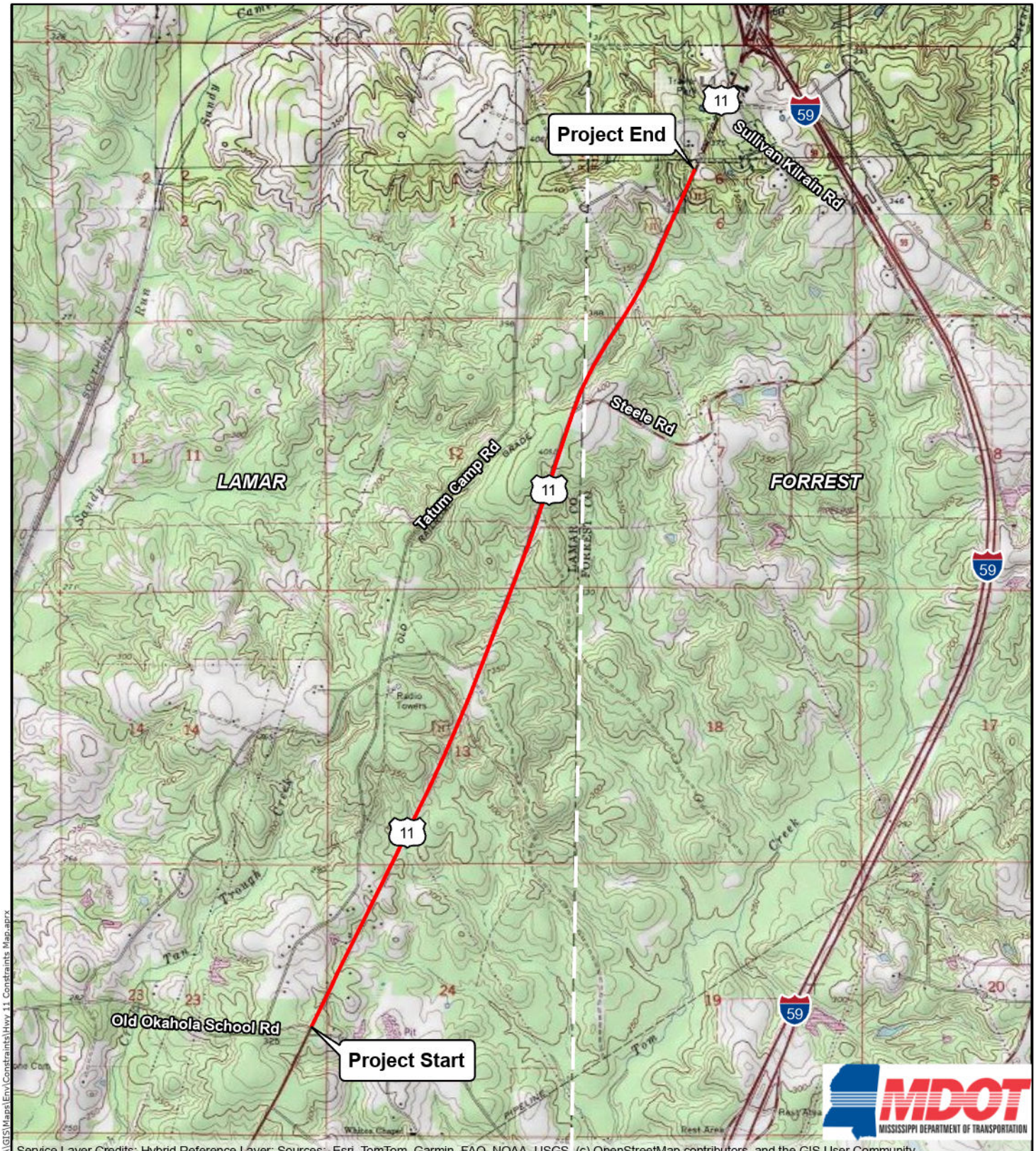
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- Project Alignment
- Counties

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Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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MDOT MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mississippi USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 W. Capitol Street
Suite 1321, McCoy Federal Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39269

September 10, 2026

Attn: Garver Wilson Harper, Environmental Specialist
1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157
TEL 601.825.3633
www.GarverUSA.com

Re: US 11 Widening - Lamar/Forrest Counties - 109496/104/105

Dear Mr. Harper,

This correspondence is in response to your email dated August 18 regarding the Proposed US 11 Widening Project. Our review indicates that the project area contains Important Farmland as defined under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). The total score assigned in Part VII of the CPA-106 assessment is less than 160 points. Based on the completed CPA-106 assessment, the proposed activity is NOT expected to adversely affect prime, unique, statewide, or locally important farmland as defined by the FPPA. Therefore, no additional FPPA documentation will be necessary.

Please find the completed CPA-106 form attached for your records.

Should you need further assistance, feel free to contact me at 601-863-3934 or via email at james.curtis2@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

JAMES CURTIS
Digitally signed by JAMES CURTIS
Date: 2026.09.10 19:26:00 -05'00'

State Soil Scientist

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-CPA-106
(Rev. 1-91)

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*	3. Date of Land Evaluation Request **8/18/26**	4. Sheet 1 of **1**
1. Name of Project **US 11 Widening**	5. Federal Agency Involved **FWHA**	
2. Type of Project **Highway Widening/Improvement**	6. County and State **Forrest and Lamar counties, MS**	

PART II *(To be completed by NRCS)*	1. Date Request Received by NRCS **8/18/26**	2. Person Completing Form **James Curtis**
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 ☑ NO ☐	4. Acres Irrigated **276**	Average Farm Size **137**
5. Major Crop(s) **NCCPI**	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: **280,032** % **87.46**	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: **116,647** % **36.4**
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used **Lamar County LE**	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System **NA**	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS **9/10/26**

PART III *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*	Alternative Corridor For Segment ____ Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	**62**			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	**0**			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	**96.6**			
PART IV *(To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information*				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	**33.4**			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	**0**			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	**0.0799**			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	**100**			
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)*	65.26			

PART VI *(To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))*	Maximum Points	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	**12**			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	**8**			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	**10**			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	**0**			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	**5**			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	**10**			
7. Availablility Of Farm Support Services	5	**3**			
8. On-Farm Investments	20	**2**			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	**0**			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	**7**			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	**57**	**0**	**0**	**0**
PART VII *(To be completed by Federal Agency)*					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	**65.26**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	**57**	**0**	**0**	**0**
TOTAL POINTS *(Total of above 2 lines)*	260	**122.26**	**0**	**0**	**0**

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?
A	**62**	**8/18/26**	YES ☐ NO ☑

5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: **Wilson Harper**

DATE **8/18/26**

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

Clear Form

1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

TEL 601.825.3633
FAX 601.825.3650

www.GarverUSA.com

October 3, 2025

Alison McCartney
Acting Section 7 Supervisor
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office
2578 Dogwood View Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213
601-455-8780
alison_mccartney@fws.gov

Re: US 11 Widening from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59
Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi
MDOT Job No. STBG-9339-00(012) 109496/104100; STBG-9339-00(013) 109496/105100
Request for Information

Dear Ms. McCartney:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for a proposed road widening project to address access and traffic mobility needs along US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The proposed widening would begin at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles, ending approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59.

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1076 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

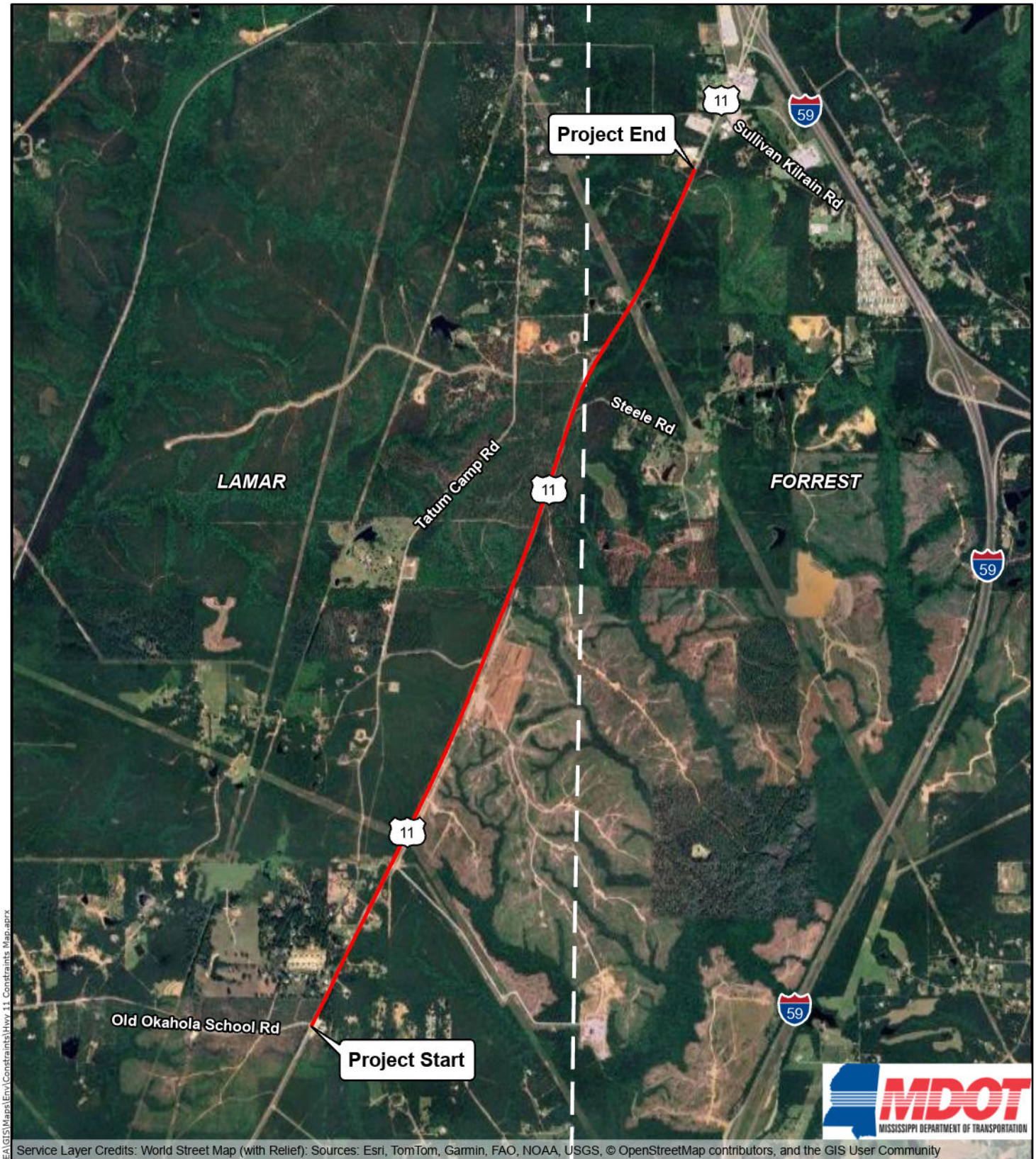
We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain our project schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 228-271-3710 or WCHarper@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely,



Wilson Harper
Environmental Specialist
Garver

Attachments: Site Maps



Service Layer Credits: World Street Map (with Relief): Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

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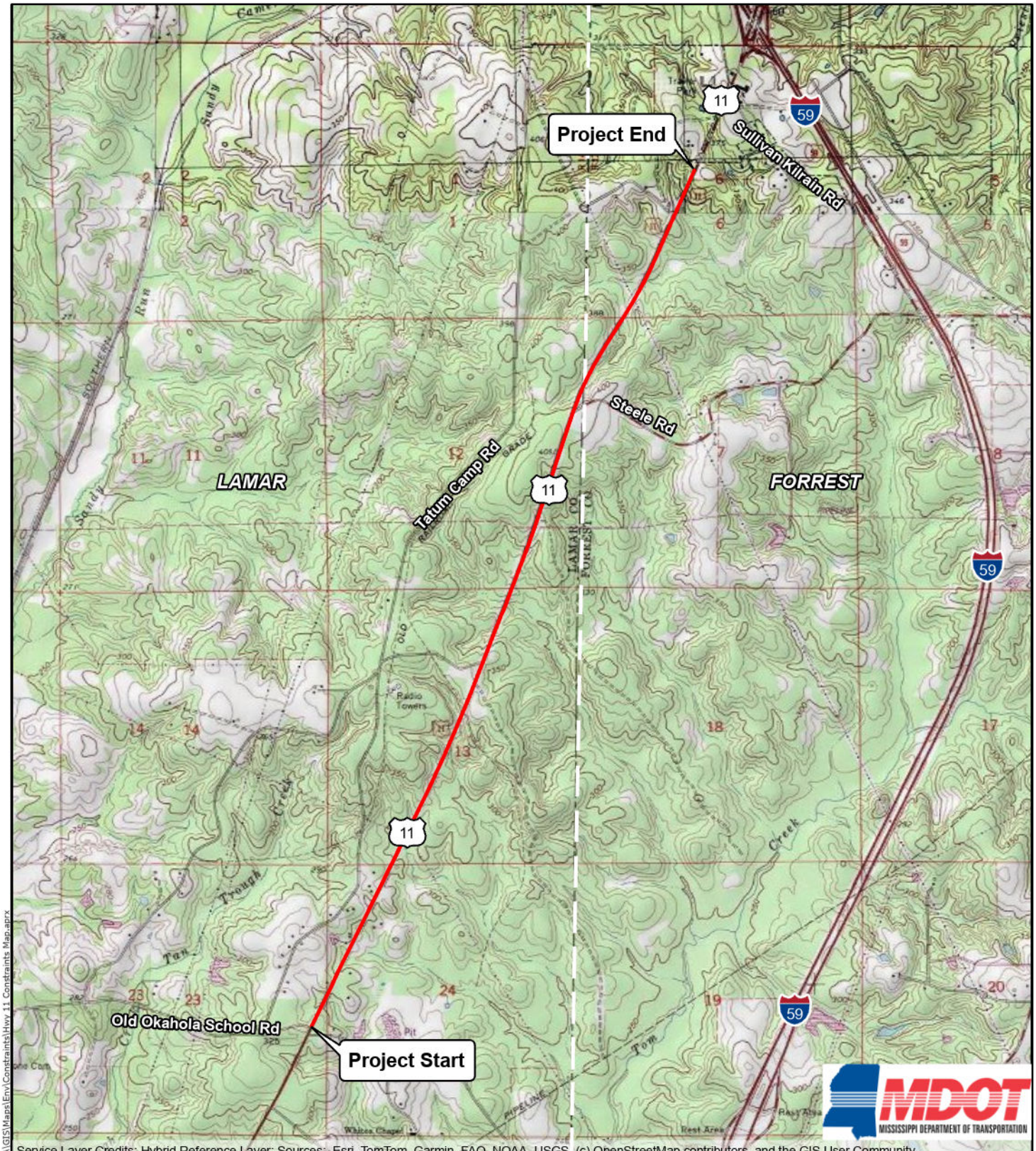
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Miles

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Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

N

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Miles

Legend

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GARVER

MDOT MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
Phone: (601)965-4900

December 5, 2025

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2026-0023508

Mr. Wilson Harper
Garver
1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157

Dear Mr. Harper:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received your correspondence for the Road Widening Project on US 11, Lamar and Forrest Counties, Mississippi. Our comments are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project is within the range of the federally listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and black pinesnake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), with potentially suitable habitat present. Surveys for gopher tortoises and their burrows will be necessary along shoulders and other high and dry areas. Please contact our office if any are found.

If you have any questions, please contact Alison McCartney in our office at: (601) 455-8780, or via email: alison_mccartney@fws.gov or visit our website.

Sincerely,

MELISSA MOORE Digitally signed by MELISSA MOORE
Date: 2025.12.08 07:48:23 -06'00'

Melissa Moore
Acting Field Supervisor
Mississippi Field Office

1076 Highland Colony Parkway
Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

TEL 601.825.3633
FAX 601.825.3650

www.GarverUSA.com

October 27, 2026

Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks
2148 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202

Re: US 11 Widening from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59
Forrest and Lamar Counties, Mississippi
MDOT Job No. STBG-9339-00(012) 109496/104100; STBG-9339-00(013) 109496/105100
Request for Information

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting an environmental and location study and preparing environmental documentation for a proposed road widening project to address access and traffic mobility needs along US Highway 11 between Hattiesburg and Purvis, Mississippi. The proposed widening would begin at the intersection with Old Okahola School Road and continue north for approximately 3.5 miles, ending approximately 0.6 miles south of Interstate 59.

As a part of this study, we will be investigating the environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering issues related to the development of the project. We are requesting that you review the proposed study area (see attached project area maps) and notify us of any constraints or concerns you may have regarding the proposed project. Your help will ensure the production of a comprehensive environmental document. Formal, written replies should be emailed to WCHarper@GarverUSA.com or mailed to:

Wilson Harper
Garver, LLC
1076 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 325
Ridgeland, MS 39157

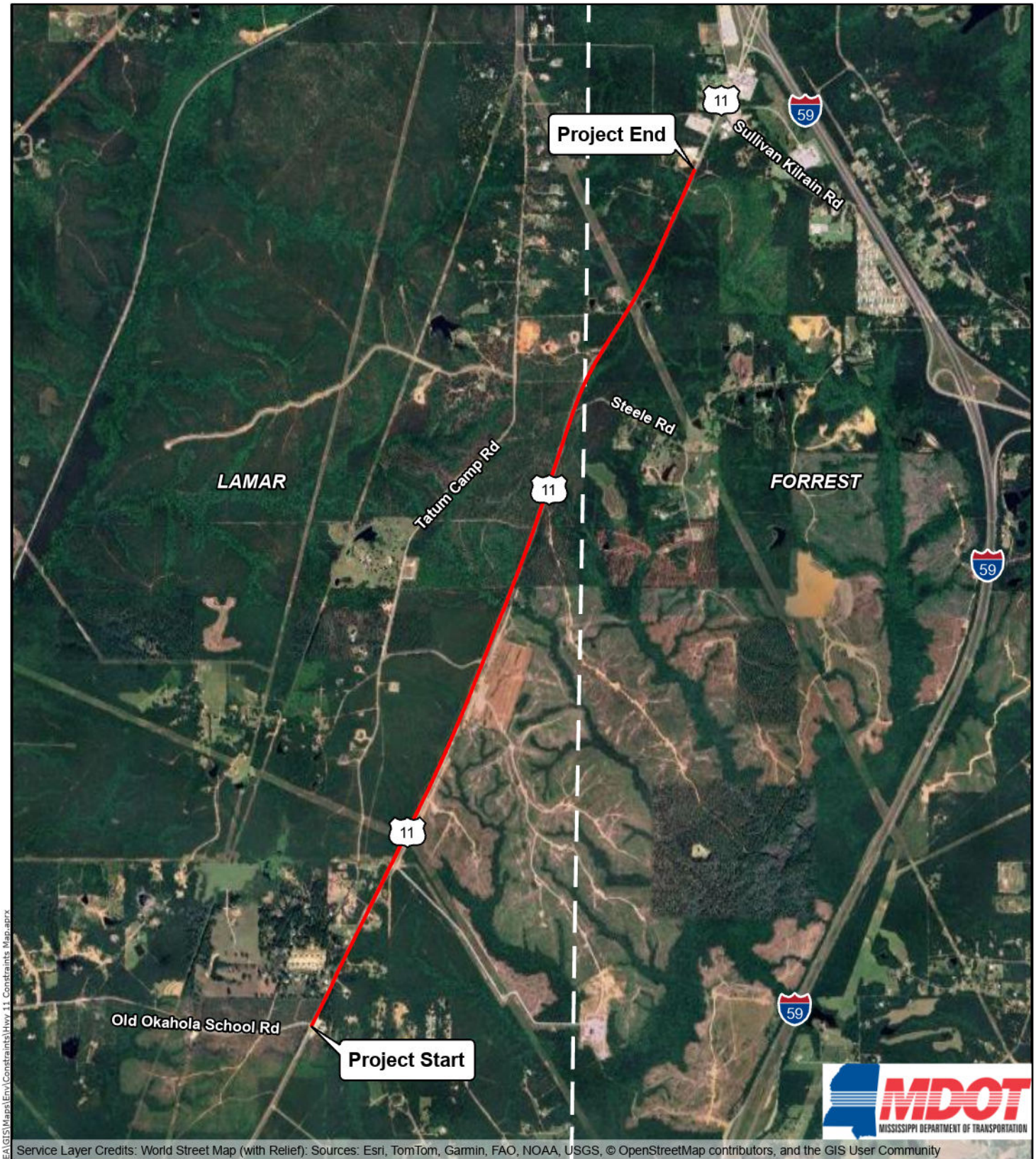
We would appreciate your response within 30 days to help us maintain our project schedule. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 228-271-3710 or WCHarper@GarverUSA.com.

Sincerely,



Wilson Harper
Environmental Specialist
Garver

Attachments: Site Maps



Service Layer Credits: World Street Map (with Relief): Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

N

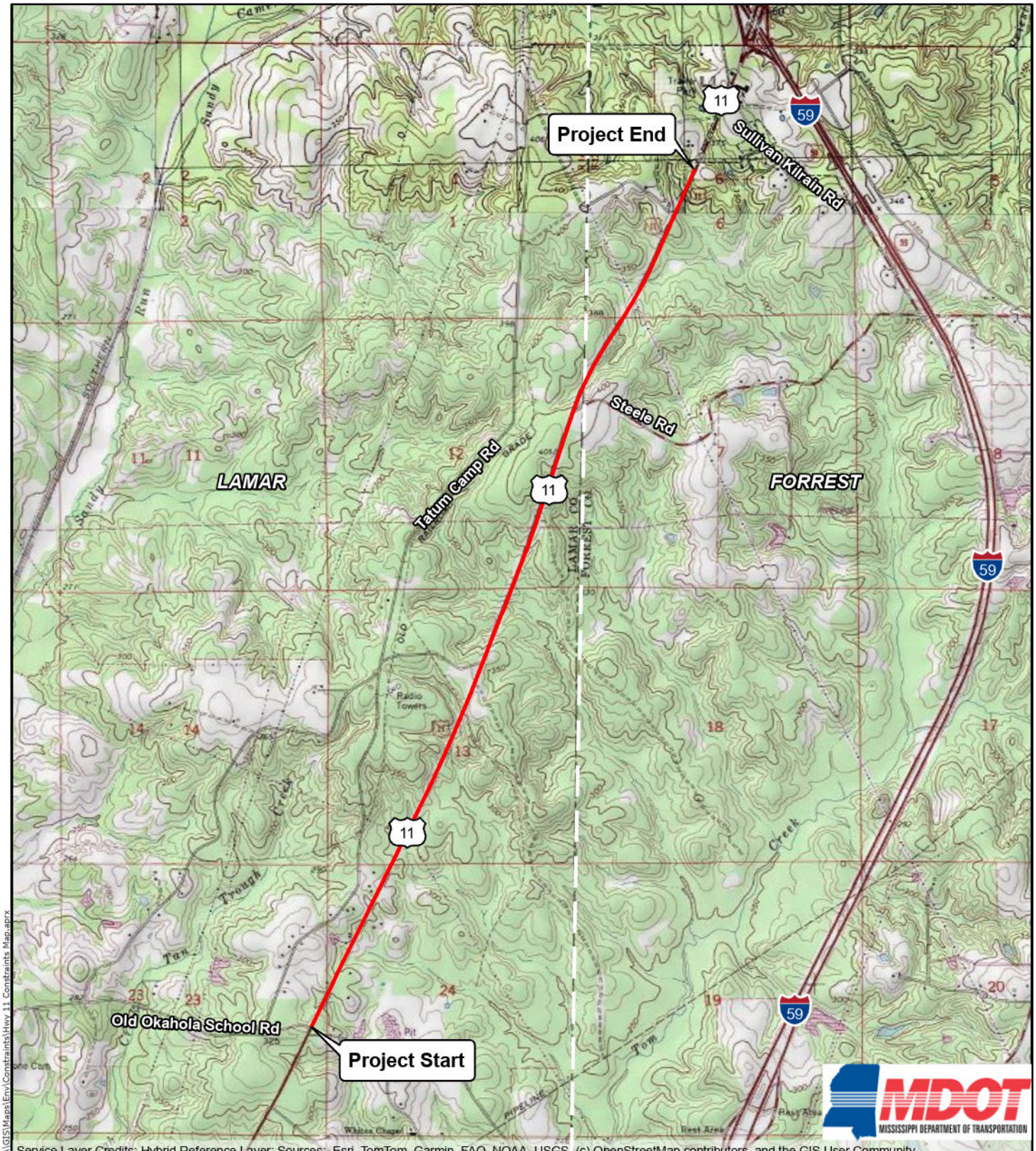
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Miles

Legend

- Project Alignment
- Counties

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Project Location Map
Proposed US 11 Widening

Lamar & Forrest Counties, Mississippi

N

0 0.25 0.5 1

Miles

Legend

- Project Alignment
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GARVER

MDOT MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Path: L:\2025\T14-2500972 - MDOT Highway 11 EA\GIS\Maps\Env\Constraints\Hwy 11 Constraints Map.aprx

Mississippi
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Sam Polles, Ph.D.
Executive Director

April 15, 2026

MDOT
401 N West Street
Jackson , MS 39201

Re: US 11 Widening
Forrest County,Lamar County, MS

Project # 109496/304000, 109496/305000
Internal Id 35794

To Andrea Wodtke:

In response to your request for information dated **March 31, 2026**, we have searched our database for occurrences of state or federally listed species and species of special concern that occur within 2 miles of the site of the proposed project. Please find our concerns and recommendations below.

The following species of concern may occur within 2 miles of the proposed project area:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
Alloperla natchez	Natchez Stonefly			S2
Crotalus adamanteus	Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake			S3
Farancia erytrogramma	Rainbow Snake		LE	S2
Gopherus polyphemus	Gopher Tortoise	LT	LE	S1
Helianthus heterophyllus	Wetland Sunflower			S3S4
Lampropeltis calligaster	Yellow-bellied Kingsnake			S3S4
Lestes rectangularis	Slender Spreadwing			S3
Lobelia floridana	Florida Lobelia			S3S4
Macrochelys temminckii	Alligator Snapping Turtle	C		S3
Melanthium virginicum	Virginia Bunchflower			S3S4
Micrurus fulvius	Eastern Coral Snake			S3
Percina lenticula	Freckled Darter		C	S1

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	State Rank
Platanthera nivea	Snowy Orchis			S3
Pseudotriton montanus	Mud Salamander			S2
Pteronotropis welaka	Bluenose Shiner			S2
Rhynchospora capitellata	Brownish Beakrush			S2S3
Rhynchospora rariflora	Few-flowered Beakrush			S3S4
Rhynchospora wrightiana	Wright's Beakrush			S2
Schoenoplectus etuberculatus	Canby's Bullrush			S3S4
Stewartia malacodendron	Silky Camellia			S3S4
Tridens carolinianus	Carolina Fluff Grass			S2S3

State Rank
S1 - Critically imperiled in Mississippi because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or vey few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.
S2 - Imperiled in Mississippi because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres) or because of some factor(s) making it vulnerable to extirpation.
S3 - Rare or uncommon in Mississippi (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences).

State and Federal Status
LE Endangered - A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
LT Threatened - A species likely to become endangered in foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Recommendations:
As listed above, there are 21 species of concern in our database within a 2-mile radius of the proposed '109496/304000, US 11 Widening" project set to take place south of Hattiesburg in Lamar County and Forrest County, MS (31.224781, -89.354656). As described in your request, the proposed project will involve the widening of US-11 from Old Okahola School Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of I-59. Of the species listed above, the Gopher Tortoise is listed as federally threatened and state endangered. The Rainbow Snake is listed as state endangered. The Alligator Snapping Turtle is currently under review for federal listing, and the Freckled Darter is currently under review for state listing. Furthermore, the proposed roadway improvements will occur near or cross Black Tom Creek, Tan Trough Creek, and Black Creek. Many of the state's species are on the decline because of degradation or destruction of essential habitat needed to support them. As this project occurs in an already disturbed / altered landscape, concerns for this project are primarily regarding the potential for sediment and pollutants to escape the projects boundaries into nearby bodies of water, such as Black Tom Creek, Tan Trough Creek, and Black Creek. Other concerns for this project are that ROWs can fragment habitats and alter natural landscape topography and drainage patterns. ROWs are created and maintained by chemical or mechanical control of vegetation, which contributes to the loss of native plant species. Activities that modify the landscape can be detrimental because they can adversely affect water quality by increasing herbicide and pesticide load, silt load, exhaust runoff from roads, and other unintentional pollutants. These factors may negatively impact habitat conditions by detrimentally affecting respiration, feeding, and reproduction of amphibians, bats, birds, fishes, insects, turtles, and vegetation. Furthermore, maintenance of natural floodplain vegetation and hydrology are important factors contributing to the survival these species. Gopher Tortoises have been observed within 2-miles of the proposed project. Per the USDA soil survey website, soil types that make for suitable Gopher Tortoise habitat occur near the proposed project area, including Benndale fine sandy loam, Heidel sandy loam, and McLaurin loamy sand, McLaurin fine sandy loam, and McLaurin-Lucy association. Due to the presence of suitable soil habitat within the area, it is required that Gopher Tortoise burrow surveys are conducted within the proposed project area, within an additional 20-ft buffer of the proposed project site perimeter, and within any potential staging and parking sites (particularly in well-drained sandy substrates). Also, we would like to ask that you are mindful and aware of the potential presence of tortoises nearby, especially in parking / staging sites and during the transport of construction materials throughout this area. In the event that Gopher Tortoises and/or Gopher Tortoise burrows are found, or if you have questions, the following individuals should be contacted: CJ Hillard (Email: Cory.Hillard@mmns.ms.gov), with the MS Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks, and John Tupy (Email: John_Tupy@fws.gov), with the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If you need assistance with the removal or relocation of Gopher Tortoises, please contact John Tupy. If fill is needed, assurance should be obtained by the applicant from fill providers that sand source sites do not currently provide habitat for the federally threatened, state endangered Gopher Tortoise. While Black Pine Snakes have not been observed within 2-miles of the described project sites, they can often be found in similar habitat as Gopher Tortoises. Please note that Black Pine Snakes are vulnerable to road mortality and destruction of forests. Stump removal within Black Pine Snake habitat could result in injury/mortality as well as long-term loss of preferred habitat, which may affect survival and recruitment. Thus, removal of pine tree stumps should be avoided within the proposed project sites. Again, we ask for you to be mindful and aware of your surroundings during this construction project, especially for parking and staging sites. In the event that gopher tortoises, gopher tortoise burrows, and/or Black Pine Snakes are found, please contact CJ Hillard and John Tupy. Rainbow snakes rely heavily on aquatic habitats, which include fresh and brackish waters, and the adults predate almost exclusively on freshwater eels. These snakes primarily within or near rivers, blackwater creeks, springs, cypress swamps, open marshes, brackish tidal areas. Despite being considered highly aquatic, rainbow snakes occasionally move overland between suitable aquatic habitats or to seek shelter for brumation during the colder months within upland areas that occur near these water sources. Destruction or degradation of their wetland habitats, such as wetland drainage and urbanization, should be avoided in areas where rainbow snakes are known to occur. Alligator Snapping Turtles use woody debris to hide under in waterbodies of all sizes. Because they mature slowly, have a low reproduction rate, egg predation, habitat alteration, and intentional and unintentional harvest, their population recovery has been much slower than anticipated. If this project is approved, we recommend that best management practices (BMP) and streamside management zones (SMZs) be properly implemented, maintained, and monitored regularly for compliance. Specific emphasis should be placed on measures that help look for signs of increased erosion, and minimize the occurrence of excess sedimentation, suspended particulate matter, and contaminants at all project sites and surrounding areas from leaving in stormwater run-off or from direct entry into nearby streams and waterbodies. If such signs are discovered, then appropriate actions to address the issue should be taken. Please check MS Department of Environmental Quality (https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/water/surface-water/nonpoint-source-pollution-program/stormwater-runoff-management-manual/) for BMP. We also ask that trees are left intact where possible, such as around property boundaries, creek sides, etc. as they can act as corridors for wildlife and protective barriers against erosion for stream banks.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide any additional infromation, resources, or assistance that will help minimize negative impacts to the species and/or ecological communities identified in this review. We are happy to work with you to ensure that our state's precious natural heritage is conserved and preserved for future Mississippians.

Completed by Marinee Humphries

The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) has compiled a database that is the most complete source of information about Mississippi's rare, threatened, and endangered plants, animals, and ecological communities. The quantity and quality of data collected by MNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations. In many cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; most natural areas in Mississippi have not been thoroughly surveyed and new occurrences of plant and animal species are often discovered. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known to the MNHP at the time of the request and cannot always be considered a definitive statement on the presence, absence or condition of biological elements on a particular site.

MDAH
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6850
mdah.ms.gov

May 18, 2026

Mr. James Turner
MDOT, Environmental Division
Post Office Box 1850
Jackson, Mississippi 39125

RE: Cultural Resources Survey for US 11 Improvements from Okahola School Road to 0.6-Mi South of I-59, (MDOT) MDAH Project Log #05-094-26 (04-174-26), Report #26-0170, Forrest and Lamar Counties

Dear Mr. Turner:

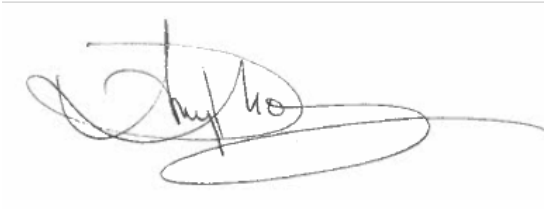
We have reviewed the May 2026, revised cultural resources survey, by C. Andrew Buchner, Principal Investigator, with Chronicle Heritage, received on May 13, 2026, for the above referenced undertaking pursuant to our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800.

After reviewing the information provided, MDAH concurs that archaeological sites 22Lm744 and 22Lm745, as well as Isolated Find 1, are considered ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore we have no objections to the proposed undertaking.

There remains the possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during the project. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting this office immediately in order that we may offer appropriate comments under 36 CFR 800.13.

Please provide a copy of this letter to Mr. Buchner. If you need further information, please contact us at section106@mdah.ms.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy D. Morgan
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: Katie Blount
State Historic Preservation Officer

Board of Trustees: Spence Flatgard, *president* | Lucius M. Lampton, *vice president* | Cyrus Ben | Reginald Buckley | Carter Burns | Betsey Hamilton | Mark E. Keenum | TJ Taylor

Outlook

FW: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496

From Turner, Jim <jturner@MDOT.MS.GOV>
Date Tue 7/14/2026 1:38 PM
To Wodtke, Andrea R <awodtke@mdot.ms.gov>

James H. Turner, II, MA, RPA No. 16451
Chief Archaeologist
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Environmental Division
PO Box 1850; Mail Code 8701-AR
Jackson, MS 39215
Email: jturner@mdot.ms.gov
Office: 601-359-1428
Fax: 601-359-1910

From: Hodges, Brad <brad.hodges@dot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 2:31 PM
To: Turner, Jim <jturner@MDOT.MS.GOV>
Subject: Fwd: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496

Jim,
Please see the response below from Lindsey Bilyeu with the Choctaw Nation regarding the US 11 Improvements project. They concur with the finding of "no effect" but have requested to be contacted immediately if any artifacts or remains are encountered.
Best regards,

Brad Hodges
Environmental Protection Specialist
FHWA - Mississippi Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
(601) 965-7342 (Office)
brad.hodges@dot.gov

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Lindsey Bilyeu** <lbilyeu@choctawnation.com>
Date: Thu, May 14, 2026 at 2:21 PM
Subject: RE: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496
To: Hodges, Brad <brad.hodges@dot.gov>

Brad,

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma thanks the FHWA, Mississippi Division, for the correspondence regarding the above referenced project. Forrest and Lamar Co.'s, MS lie in our area of historic interest.

The Choctaw Nation has reviewed the survey report, and we concur with the eligibility findings presented within. Therefore, we concur with the finding of "no effect".

However, we ask that work be stopped, and our office contacted immediately, in the event that Native American artifacts or human remains are encountered.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
FAITH ◆ FAMILY ◆ CULTURE

Yakoke (thank you),

Lindsey D. Bilyeu, M.S.
Program Lead NHPA | Historic Preservation
580-740-9624 | 580-642-8377
lbilyeu@choctawnation.com

From: Hodges, Brad <brad.hodges@dot.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 3:09 PM
To: MS Band of Choctaw <thpo@choctaw.org>; jflynn@jenachoctaw.org; section106@mcn-nsn.gov; Ian Thompson <ithompson@choctawnation.com>; Lindsey Bilyeu <lbilyeu@choctawnation.com>; hpo@chickasaw.net; delvin.johnson@actribe.org; Turner, Jim <jturner@mdot.ms.gov>; Thurman, Kim (FHWA) <kim.thurman@dot.gov>
Subject: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496

Halito: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Everyone,

Please review and comment on the proposed US 11 approvements.

Below is the Executive Summary and a link to the CRS Report for your reference. The project is located in Forrest and Lamar County.

Thank you for continuing to coordinate and partner with us on these proposed projects. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Executive Summary

MDOT has a project for proposed improvements to US 11 from Okahola School Road to 0.6-mi. south of I-59 in Forrest and Lamar counties, Mississippi. The APE covers 139.55- ac. and is located within portions of

Sections 6 and 7 of T3N R13W and Sections 12, 13, 23, and 24 of T3N R14W, and can be identified on the Dixie, MS, and Hattiesburg, MS, 7.5-min. quads.

At the request of Garver, LLC., Chronicle Heritage performed a Phase I cultural resources survey of the proposed project area in February 2026. The fieldwork resulted in revisits to two previously recorded sites (22LM744 and 22LM745) and
one isolated Prehistoric find (FS 1) being newly recorded. No other types of historic properties were identified (i.e., structures, cemeteries, etc.). No evidence for 22LM744 was found in the APE. 22LM745 was determined to be a low-density Late Archaic and Woodland lithic scatter associated with a briefly occupied camp and failed to
produce any artifacts from sub-surface contexts. Isolated find FS-1 consists of two pieces of debitage recovered from the surface of a fire break. 22LM745 and Isolated find FS-1 are recommended not eligible.

As such, the FHWA has determined that the proposed project will not affect any properties listed or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
The cultural resources survey report was sent for review to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on April 23, 2026.

For additional information please contact:
Brad Hodges
Environmental Protection Specialist
United States Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration | Mississippi Division
100 West Capitol Street | Suite 1062 | Jackson MS 39269
Phone: (601)965-7342 | E-mail: Brad.Hodges@dot.gov

https://file-exchange.mdot.state.ms.us/dl/?f=f0a40271fe5faecd074556955a23b4974aa216e2

File(s)	Size
US 11 Improvements Draft April 2026.pdf	12.81 Mb

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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.

Outlook

FW: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496

From Turner, Jim <jturner@MDOT.MS.GOV>
Date Tue 7/14/2026 1:38 PM
To Wodtke, Andrea R <awodtke@mdot.ms.gov>

James H. Turner, II, MA, RPA No. 16451
Chief Archaeologist
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Environmental Division
PO Box 1850; Mail Code 8701-AR
Jackson, MS 39215
Email: jturner@mdot.ms.gov
Office: 601-359-1428
Fax: 601-359-1910

From: Hodges, Brad <brad.hodges@dot.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 11:35 AM
To: Turner, Jim <jturner@MDOT.MS.GOV>
Subject: Fwd: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496

Jim,
See the response below from the Chickasaw Nation.

Image
Brad Hodges
Environmental Protection Specialist
FHWA - Mississippi Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
(601) 965-7342 (Office)
brad.hodges@dot.gov

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **HPO** <HPO@chickasaw.net>
Date: Fri, May 8, 2026 at 11:26 AM
Subject: RE: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496
To: Hodges, Brad <brad.hodges@dot.gov>
Cc: HPO <HPO@chickasaw.net>

Thank you for your inquiry. We have reviewed the data you provided and determined that we do not request government-to-government consultation on this specific proposed project as it is outside of our area of interest. While the Chickasaw Nation has no objection to the undertaking, we respectfully defer to the federally recognized First American tribe(s) that have identified a connection to the project area. We appreciate your efforts to preserve and protect significant historic properties. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Karen Brunso, tribal historic preservation officer, at (580) 272-1106 or by email at hpo@chickasaw.net.

From: Hodges, Brad <brad.hodges@dot.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 3:09 PM
To: MS Band of Choctaw <thpo@choctaw.org>; jflynn@jenachoctaw.org; section106@mcn-nsn.gov; ithompson@choctawnation.com; lbilyeu@choctawnation.com; HPO <HPO@chickasaw.net>; delvin.johnson@actribe.org; Turner, Jim <jturner@mdot.ms.gov>;

Thurman, Kim (FHWA) <kim.thurman@dot.gov>
Subject: CRSR - US11 Improvements, Forrest and Lamar Counties, MS - 109496

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