

Location and Design Public Hearing and Environmental Assessment for:

HWY. 183 – PULASKI CO. LINE (WIDENING) (BRYANT)

HWY. 5, SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARDOT Job 061632

May 19, 2024 – July 3, 2024

How do I become involved?

- Complete the sign-in form to register your participation in this location and design public hearing.
- Review all the materials provided in the location and design public hearing.
- Written statements may be submitted anytime between Sunday, May 19 2024 and Wednesday, July 3, 2024 by using the comment form and mailing/emailing it to Garver, Attn: Keegan Doan, 4701 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118; or PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com.
- Your attendance and participation are greatly appreciated.

For more information, please call (501) 823-0730 or email
PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com

Garver
Attn: Keegan Doan
4701 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118



Location and Design Public Hearing and Environmental Assessment Information

What is the purpose of this hearing?

Through the materials at this hearing, we will present the design plans and Environmental Assessment (EA), and you will have an opportunity to express your opinions. Public participation is needed to identify and discuss any problems or controversial issues. It is important to clearly identify your issues and concerns, and if needed, you can call or email us for clarification on any matters related to this project. Phone and email contact information is provided above. We request your cooperation and participation.

The hearing information has been prepared to provide general information about the proposed project. Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and Garver staff are here to answer your questions and provide you with information. Additional information is available on the project website or by contacting ARDOT.

What is being proposed and what would it accomplish?

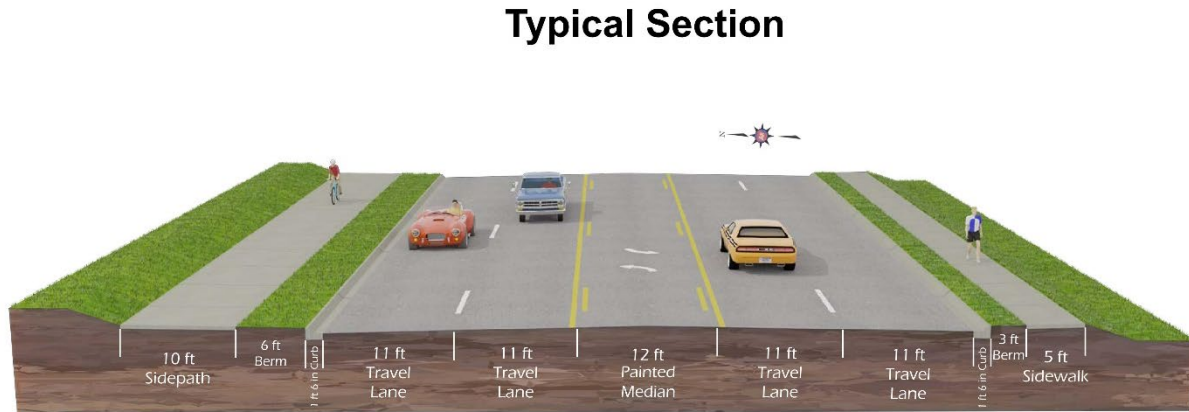
The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), with support by ARDOT consultant Garver, will conduct a Location and Design Public Hearing to present and discuss the design plans and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed widening of Highway 5 between N. Reynolds Road (Highway 183) and N. Alexander Road (Pulaski County Line) in Saline County. Proposed improvements include widening Highway 5 to four lanes with a painted median, a curb and gutter to match the adjacent Highway 5 sections to the east and west of the project, a 10-foot-wide sidepath on the north side of Highway 5, and a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the south. A signalized intersection at Midland Road and upgrades to existing signals at Bryant Parkway have been added to the design.

The EA promotes informed decision making in the development of a transportation solution(s) by explaining the purpose of the proposed action, evaluating social, economic, and environmental impacts, soliciting feedback from the public and decision-makers, and determining whether further analysis is necessary or if the impacts are minimal enough to warrant a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI).

What will the highway look like?

As shown in Figure 1, the proposed roadway would be four 11-foot-wide travel lanes and one 12-foot-wide painted median. A 10-foot-wide sidepath with a 6-foot-wide grass berm is proposed on the north side of Highway 5, and a 5-foot-wide sidewalk with a 3-foot-wide grass berm on the south side.

Figure 1: Typical Section



What if my property would be affected by the project?

Project Right-of-Way subconsultant, Volkert, will contact property owners affected by the project when the environmental process is complete. These staff members may include appraisers, negotiators, closing agents, and property managers. The initial step in the acquisition process is the property valuation. Once the valuation is prepared, reviewed, and approved, a negotiator will contact the property owner by mail or in person to begin the negotiation process. If negotiations are successful, a Contract to Sell is executed and submitted for payment. Once Volkert completes the title opinion and the deed is prepared, a closing agent will be in touch to get the deed signed and deliver the check. At this time, the state takes possession of the property. For those cases where all efforts to negotiate are unsuccessful, the tract is submitted to the ARDOT Legal Division to file condemnation. The appraisal amount is deposited in the court and the landowner may withdraw the funds placed on the deposit without affecting their right to claim additional compensation. No one will be required to surrender possession of their property or improvement until just compensation has been made. A detailed policy and procedures brochure is available at this hearing or through the ARDOT Right of Way Division.

What if my business or home needs to be relocated?

The relocation assistance program is intended to help offset expenses incurred by those who are displaced by federal aid highway projects. This program provides advisory assistance and payments to help offset those expenses. No one can be required to move without at least 90 days' advance written notice and comparable replacement housing will be made available to all residential displaces before project construction begins. The replacement housing must be fair housing and offered to all affected persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Relocation assistance, which is separate from the compensation a person receives for real estate, comes in two basic forms – physical assistance and monetary assistance. In order to be eligible for relocation assistance and compensation, a person must be in occupancy at the initiation of negotiations for the property. The type of relocation payments an individual is eligible for depends on whether they are a property owner or renter. Relocation assistance and payments will be provided until everyone has been relocated from the project. If a person is not satisfied with the amounts that have been offered as relocation compensation, an

appeal may be filed, and the case heard promptly and carefully reviewed by an ARDOT Appeals Officer. Relocation assistance brochures explaining each payment and eligibility requirement in detail are available at this hearing.

What happens after this hearing?

The FHWA and ARDOT invite interested individuals and entities to provide comments. The design plans and EA and appendices can be viewed and downloaded from the project website at: 061632Hwy5.TransportationPlanroom.com.

The public comment period began May 19, 2024, and will extend until July 3, 2024. FHWA and ARDOT will review all comments and consider and respond to all substantive comments received within the comment period. Personally identifiable information provided by individuals submitting public comments may be published.

Copies of the design plans and EA have been placed at the:

- Website: 061632Hwy5.TransportationPlanRoom.com
- Bryant City Hall, 210 SW 3rd St Bryant, AR 72022
- ARDOT District 6 Office - 8900 Mabelvale Pike, Little Rock, AR 72209

The following contact information can also be used to request copies of the EA:

Mail: Garver
Attn: Keegan Doan
4701 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

Telephone: (501) 823-0730

E-mail: PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com

After a review of comments received from citizens, public officials, and public agencies, a FONSI document will be prepared for review by the FHWA. If the FHWA approves the FONSI, it will conclude the environmental process and right-of-way acquisition can begin. The Right-of-way acquisition is expected to begin in late 2024 and utility relocation work would follow in 2025.