

# Location and Design Public Hearing and Environmental Assessment for:

## NE J STREET INTERCHANGE PROJECT

BENTONVILLE, AR

ARDOT Job 090676

July 28, 2024 – September 13, 2024

### How do I become involved?

- Complete the sign-in form to register your participation
- Review all the materials provided in the hearing
- Written statements may be submitted anytime between July 28, 2024 and September 13, 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](mailto:PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com).
- Your attendance and participation are greatly appreciated.

For more information, please call (501) 823-0730 or email

[PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com](mailto: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?

At this hearing, we will present the design plans and Environmental Assessment (EA). Public participation is essential to identify and discuss any issues. Clearly state your concerns and contact us via phone or email for clarification. We appreciate your cooperation and participation. The hearing provides general information about the proposed project. Project staff are available to answer questions. Additional details are on the project website at [NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanRoom.com](http://NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanRoom.com).

## What is being proposed and what would it accomplish?

The City of Bentonville, in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will conduct a Location and Design Public Hearing for the proposed new interchange at Interstate 49 (I-49), extending NE J Street northward from Tiger Boulevard across I-49 for approximately 1.1 miles in Bentonville, Arkansas. The EA promotes informed decision making in the development of a transportation solution(s) to provide an interchange at I-49 that would connect to NE J Street, creating a more direct route from I-49 to major attractions and the downtown district, and provide connectivity to bicycle/pedestrian trails on the south and north sides of I-49.

## What will the roadway look like?

As shown in **Figures 1-5**, the proposed roadway would be two lanes with a raised grass median and transition to four lanes with a raised grass median to the proposed I-49 interchange; a roundabout at the intersection of NE J Street and Chapel Hills Drive/NE Heights Lane would also be included.

**Figure 1: Typical Section – Tiger Boulevard to NE Dysart Woods Lane**



**Figure 2: Typical Section – NE Dysart Woods Lane to Proposed Shewmaker Creek Bridge (Landscaped Median)**



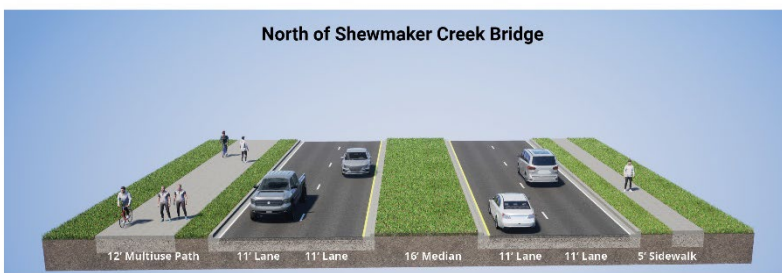
**Figure 3: Typical Section - NE Dysart Woods Lane to Proposed Shewmaker Creek Bridge (Center Turn Lane)**



**Figure 4: Typical Section – Proposed Shewmaker Creek Bridge**



**Figure 5: Typical Section – North of Shewmaker Creek Bridge**



## What if my property would be affected by the project?

ARDOT Right-of-Way will contact property owners affected by the project once the environmental process is complete. Staff involved may include appraisers, negotiators, closing agents, and property managers. The acquisition process starts with property valuation. After the valuation is approved, a negotiator will contact the property owner to begin negotiations. If successful, a Contract to Sell is executed. Following title opinion and deed preparation, a closing agent finalizes the process by obtaining the deed signature and delivering payment, at which point the state or city/county takes possession. If

negotiations fail, the case goes to the ARDOT Legal Division for condemnation, and the appraisal amount is deposited in court for the landowner to withdraw without forfeiting additional compensation rights. No property will be taken until just compensation is made. A detailed policy brochure is available at the hearing or from the ARDOT Right of Way Division.

## **What if my business or home needs to be relocated?**

The relocation assistance program helps offset expenses for those displaced by federal aid highway projects. It provides advisory assistance and payments, ensuring no one is required to move without 90 days' notice and that comparable replacement housing is available before construction begins. This housing must be fair and non-discriminatory. Relocation assistance includes physical and monetary aid, separate from real estate compensation. Eligibility requires occupancy at the start of property negotiations, with different payments for owners and renters. Assistance continues until everyone is relocated. If dissatisfied with compensation, an appeal can be filed with an ARDOT Appeals Officer. Detailed brochures are available at this hearing.

## **What happens after this hearing?**

The City of Bentonville, ARDOT, and the FHWA invite interested individuals and entities to provide comments on the design plans and the EA. The FHWA and ARDOT will review and consider all comments and prepare a response document for inclusion in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The public comment period began July 28 and will extend until September 13, 2024. The design plans and EA can be viewed and downloaded from the project website at:

[NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanroom.com](https://NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanroom.com)

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

- Website: [NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanroom.com](https://NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanroom.com)
- Bentonville Public Works Facility, Engineering Department, 3200 SW Municipal Drive, Bentonville, AR 72712

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](mailto:PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com)

After a review of comments received from citizens, public officials, and public agencies, if it is determined that there are not significant impacts associated with the design, a FONSI document will be prepared and submitted to FHWA. If the FHWA issues a FONSI, it will identify the design and conclude the NEPA process. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2026 and continue for approximately two years.

# CITY OF BENTONVILLE CITIZEN COMMENT FORM

**NE J STREET INTERCHANGE  
BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS  
ARDOT JOB 090676**

**LOCATION:  
Bentonville Community Center  
1101 SW Citizens Circle, Bentonville, AR**

Make your comments on this form and provide it to Garver personnel by September 13.  
Send by mail to: Keegan Doan, Garver, 4701 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR  
72118. Alternatively, email the form to [PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com](mailto:PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com).

**Alternative:** Use the  
QR Code to fill out an  
online comment form.



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**Please Print:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address* *City, State, Zip*

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Use additional sheets if necessary**

**Written Comments should be received by September 13 at the following address:**  
Garver  
Attn: Keegan Doan  
4701 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118  
Email: [PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com](mailto:PublicInvolvement@GarverUSA.com)

**Oral Comments should be received on or before September 13.**  
**Leave a comment by calling:**  
Telephone: 501-823-0730

For additional information, please visit our website at: [NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanroom.com](http://NEJStreetInterchange.TransportationPlanroom.com)