

February 2005

Draft EIS Cultural Resources Field Investigations Summary



Section of Independent Utility No. 14
Louisiana State Project No. 736-99-1032
Arkansas State Project No. 070212
Federal Aid Project No. CBI-9901(516)
Junction I-20 near Haughton, LA to US 82 near El Dorado, AR
Route I-69
Bossier, Claiborne and Webster Parishes, Louisiana
Columbia and Union Counties, Arkansas



Federal Highway Administration



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Developed by:
URS Corporation
In association with:
Coyle Engineering Company, Inc.,
Garver Engineers, LLC,
Historic Preservation Associates,
HNTB Corporation,
R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

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1.0 SUMMARY

2.0 LOUISIANA INVESTIGATIONS

(This section not included in Public Document.)

3.0 ARKANSAS INVESTIGATIONS

(This section not included in Public Document.)

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to construct Section of Independent Utility No. 14 (SIU-14), a section of the proposed Interstate Highway 69 (I-69). This project is one of many sections under independent evaluation for development in association with the I-69 project between Mexico and Canada. SIU-14 connects, to the north, with the southern terminus of SIU-13 near El Dorado, Arkansas, and to the south, with the northern terminus of SIU-15 near Haughton, Louisiana. The project proposes a divided four-lane, fully controlled access highway. **Figure 1.1** displays the Study Area, proposed build alternatives being evaluated in the draft EIS for this project, and locations of field activities discussed in this report.

1.2 Explanation and Objective of Investigations

Alternative crossings at Bayou Dorcheat, the interchange at US 79, and alternative crossings in the creeks area of Arkansas (i.e. Cypress Creek, West Three Creeks, and Three Creeks) were investigated in the field with archeologists from R.C. Goodwin and Associates (Louisiana) and the Historic Preservation Association (Arkansas). These areas were identified as “pinch points” of the EIS build alternatives, where there are substantial constraints to realignments. The purpose of this preliminary field evaluation was to determine if any unrecorded and potentially significant archeological sites are located in these “pinch points,” which may result in project delays if found following the selection of a preferred alternative. For further discussion on methodology and sampling techniques, see the full reports located in **Section 2** and **Section 3** of this report for Louisiana and Arkansas investigations, respectively.

1.3 Results

In the Louisiana portion of the Study Area, which includes the crossings at Bayou Dorcheat and the interchange at US 79, there is one historic locus, one multi-component site, and 31 historic standing structures within the proposed Areas of Potential Effect. The only direct effect by an EIS build alternative to any site identified in “pinch point” areas is anticipated with Option 1, which traverses Locus Alt 1-03-01 (see Section 2 for details). Shovel tests revealed little potential research value at this site. R.C. Goodwin recommended no further recordation. However, following investigations by R.C. Goodwin, the Northwest Regional

Archeologist, Mr. Jeff Girard, completed additional shovel tests. His efforts are noted in a report provided at the end of **Section 2**. According to his report, future research potential of this site is good. However, as of February 3, 2005, R.C. Goodwin representatives had not confirmed these conclusions. For additional detail, see **Section 2**.

In the Arkansas portion of the Study Area, which included the crossings at Cypress Creek, West Three Creeks, and Three Creeks, investigations revealed no existing or previously recorded sites. Therefore, no direct impacts at these “pinch points” are likely. However, several previously recorded sites are located near the area of potential effect. For details on the Arkansas investigations please see **Section 3**.

1.4 Additional Investigation Need

After selection of a Preferred Alternative is made, a full Phase I survey of the Preferred Alternative in compliance with 48 FR 44716-42 should be completed and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officers in Louisiana and Arkansas for review and concurrence. The scope of this effort is not yet known but will be provided to LaDOTD, AHTD, and FHWA for review at the earliest opportunity following the selection of the Preferred Alternative in the spring 2005.