

Environmental Section P.O. Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245 | phone: 225-242-4500 | fax: 225-242-4500

Bobby Jindal, Governor Sherri H. LeBas, P.E., Secretary

August 26, 2014

Louisiana 1 Improvements Golden Meadow to Port Fourchon SAP NUMBER H.004526 State Project No. 700-29-0112 (Legacy) F.A.P. No. HP-NH-TO21(002)

Mr. Charles Bolinger
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Subject:Pier Removal & ROD

Dear Mr. Bolinger:

Reference is made to the Record of Decision (ROD) dated Feb. 2011 for the captioned project. This ROD reflects design refinements including the removal of the old bridge pier in the channel. DOTD has completed a survey at the pier location and discovered that the pier has not been removed to permitted level by the contractor. The permit to remove the pier will expire soon; therefore, an extension is needed from the US Coast Guard (USCG) to finish the work. We are processing the required extension and the USCG responded by asking for verification that the environmental document is still valid.

The ROD discussed the phasing of the project. DOTD is currently designing the northern portion of the project. A portion of the roadway is completed and opened to traffic (Fourchon to Leeville). The remaining portion of the project (Leeville to Golden Meadow) is broken into the following phases:

Phase 2A — Widening the existing mainline just south of the north connector intersection for approximately 0.6 miles and extending the existing bridge northward approximately 0.9 miles utilizing conventional construction techniques.

Phase 2B – Extending the mainline for approximately 6.8 miles between Leeville and Golden Meadow utilizing end-on construction. This is in compliance with the FEIS and ROD's to minimize impacts to existing wetlands.

Phase 2C – Extending the mainline for approximately 0.8 miles in Golden Meadow to cross the hurricane protection levee and provide an access point to existing LA 3235. This phase will utilize conventional construction techniques.

Phase 2D – Includes tying the mainline into LA 3235 once all Phase 2 projects are constructed for access. This phase also includes construction of the toll facility and associated signing to allow for the facility to be opened to traffic with full functionality.

The Department is pursuing the required permit modifications and extension. The Department will reevaluate the environmental document related to future phases once the designs for those phases are completed. We respectfully request your concurrence that the ROD is still valid. If you have any questions, I can be reached by phone at 225-242-4501 or by email at noella.gov.

Sincerely,

Noel Ardoin

Environmental Engineer Administrator

pc: Mr. Tim Nickel

CARL M HIGHSMITH
PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM LEADER
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
DATE 1-3-14

