

3 Operations / Motorist Services

The types of projects included in the Operations / Motorist Services category are Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Traffic Control Devices Replacement / Upgrade, Transportation Systems Management (TSM), Roadway Flooding, Weigh Stations, Rest Areas, and Movable Bridge Preventive Maintenance. The Stage 0 process for the aforementioned project types is explained in the following sections.

3.1 Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) improves transportation safety and mobility and enhances productivity through the use of electronics, computers, and communications equipment to collect and process information, and to ensure the appropriate actions are taken. ITS provides services across the country such as traffic management, traveler information, incident management, work zone planning, enhancing safety of both the road user and worker. The Stage 0 process for ITS projects is described in the following paragraphs.

An ITS project is initiated by the DOTD ITS Section or by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) throughout the state. The ITS Section and/or MPOs develop a list of projects along with the scope (project description) and budget for each of these projects. The list as well as the scope and budget is given to the Program Manager for review of completeness before submitting it to the ITS Project Selection Team for review and prioritization.

The approval and prioritization of these projects are based on consistency with the Statewide Architecture (plan), the ability of the project to meet the stated goals of the Architecture, and funding availability. Prioritized projects are then identified in the Regional ITS Architectures. Regional Architectures are developed and maintained by the MPOs and have to be consistent with the Statewide Architecture to receive federal and state funding assistance. The Regional Architectures need to be updated every 3 to 5 years.

Once the decision is made to proceed to Stage 1, Planning and Environmental, it is the Program Manager's responsibility to ensure that project numbers are obtained and to make the necessary contacts to initiate Stage 1. The Program Manager is responsible for sending a memorandum to the Environmental Section indicating that these projects were selected and approved for further processing through Stage 1.

3.2 Traffic Control Devices Replacement / Upgrade

Traffic control devices are intended to regulate, warn and guide road users, and are critical to efficient and safe highway operations. Examples of traffic control devices are signs, signals, and pavement markings. These devices guide road users to their destinations, decrease congestion, and reduce the number of roadway crashes.

The majority of the installation and replacement of non-interstate signs, pavement markings, traffic signals and other devices are presently conducted by Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) personnel. However, the replacement of existing interstate signs and pavement markings is typically accomplished through a contract. The documentation needed to complete Stage 0 is limited due to the nature of these projects.

Traffic Control Devices Replacement/Upgrade projects will typically be identified by DOTD District personnel with input from elected officials and their constituents and from the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The existing traffic control devices are evaluated and the needed work identified. DOTD personnel will identify the project that would best meet the need thus determining the scope of the proposed project. Once the scope has been determined, a preliminary cost estimate for the project is prepared.

Based on the gathered information, a list of proposed projects in priority order is prepared. Information required for the proposed project list includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. Priority
- b. Location
- c. Purpose and need
- d. Scope
- e. Cost estimate
- f. Funding source

The list of traffic control device projects is checked for completeness and reviewed by the Traffic Control Device Replacement/Upgrade Program Manager before being submitted to the Project Selection Team. Once the decision is made to proceed to Stage 1, Planning and Environmental, it is the Program Manager's responsibility to ensure that project numbers are obtained by the appropriate departmental personnel and to send the list of projects to the Environmental Section. Traffic control device replacement/upgrade projects generally do not require right-of-way acquisition or utility relocation. The environmental process is typically less complicated than for many other projects;

therefore, a Stage 0 Environmental Checklist is not required for the vast majority of Traffic Control Devices Replacement/Upgrade projects.

3.3 Transportation Systems Management (TSM)

Transportation Systems Management (TSM) projects are intended to improve traffic flow through the addition of turn lanes, enlarging corner turning radii, constructing bus pullouts, etc. TSM projects often involve physical improvement to highway infrastructure. These types of projects can yield significant benefits in highway operational efficiency. The Stage 0 process for TSM projects is explained in the following paragraphs.

District personnel identify the need for TSM projects. A Stage 0 Preliminary Scope and Budget Checklist and a Stage 0 Environmental Checklist is available to aid in the completion of the Stage 0 process. A blank copy of the checklists can be found in this manual in the appendix.

The Stage 0 checklist may actually serve as the Stage 0 study for less complex projects. A completed checklist provides information such as project location, project category, purpose and need, description of proposed improvements, cost estimates, etc. A geometric layout may be required to further clarify the scope as well as to show the need for right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation. District personnel are responsible for completing both checklists for TSM projects. An example of a completed TSM project checklist can be found at the end of this section.

The District Administrator will review the Stage 0 study and make the decision on which projects will proceed to Stage 1, Planning and Environmental, within the respective budget constraints. Projects not selected can be shelved or retained for reconsideration the following year.

Once the decision is made to proceed to Stage 1, it is the District Administrator or his representative's responsibility to obtain a project number and to make the necessary contacts to initiate Stage 1. The district office personnel will forward the final list of projects to the Transportation Planning Section.

Any significant changes to the approved project scope or budget must be submitted to the District Administrator for approval. Changes to the budget may need to be brought to the Project Delivery Steering Committee, particularly if the Budget Partition is impacted.

**STAGE 0
Preliminary Scope and Budget Checklist**

District 04 Parish Claiborne Route LA XX
 Control Section 000-00 Total Project Length (miles) 0.06
 Begin Project (CS Log Mile) 5.80 End Project (CS Log Mile) 5.86
 Project Category (Safety, Capacity, etc.) Operations - TSM Date Prepared: 9/10/2006

A. Purpose and need for the project: Construct a right turn lane on LA XX at Joe Rd. to improve the efficiency of this intersection.

B. Project Concept

- Description of existing facility (functional class, ADT, number of lanes, etc): The ADT for this section of LA XX is 27,000 with a truck percentage of 16. The existing road is an urban arterial with four lanes and a posted speed of 40 miles per hour. The existing roadway section at this location consists of 4 - 12' travel lanes with no shoulders, curb and gutter, and a subsurface drainage system. The apparent right of way width is 80'.
- Major Design Features/Criteria of the proposed facility (attach aerial photo w/concept if applicable): Construct a 12' wide right turn lane on LA XX at Joe Rd. with 150' for storage and 165' for transition. See the attached aerial.
- Design Exceptions: None
- Technical Analyses (traffic analysis, safety analysis, etc): None. Need for project based on observation of intersection during PM peak hours.
- Alternatives to Project Concept: No build
- Future ITS / Traffic Considerations: N/A
- Construction Traffic Management/Property Access Considerations: Construct Under Traffic

C. Potential environmental impacts (Complete the Stage 0 Environmental Checklist on pages 4-10 to 4-13): Two gas stations (Exxon and Shell) are located adjacent to the project, but tanks can likely be avoided. See the attached Environmental Checklist and aerial layout.

D. Cost Estimate

• Engineering Design:	<u>0</u>
• Environmental (document, mitigation, etc.):	<u>0</u>
• R/W Acquisition: (C of A if applicable)	<u>\$25,000</u>
• Utility Relocations:	<u>\$100,000</u>
• Construction (including const. traffic management):	<u>\$225,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	<u>\$350,000</u>

E. Expected Funding Source(s) (Highway Priority Program, CMAQ, Urban Systems, Fed/State earmarks, etc.)

Highway Priority Program

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Prepared By: John Doe

Disposition (circle one): (1) Advance to Stage 1 (2) Hold for Reconsideration (3) Shelve

EXAMPLE

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

C.S. 000-00 Parish Claiborne
Route LA XX Begin Log mile 5.80 End Log mile 5.86

ADJACENT LAND USE: Commercial

Any property owned by a Native American Tribe?

(Y or N or Unknown) If so, which Tribe? N

Any property enrolled into the Wetland Reserve Program?

(Y or N or Unknown) If so, give the location N

Community Elements: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any:

(Y or N) Cemeteries N

(Y or N) Churches N

(Y or N) Schools N

(Y or N) Public Facilities (i.e., fire station, library, etc.) N

(Y or N) Community water well/supply N

Section 4(f) issue: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any:

(Y or N) Public recreation areas N

(Y or N) Public parks N

(Y or N) Wildlife Refuges N

(Y or N) Historic Sites N

Is the project impacting, or adjacent to, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places? (Y or N) Is the project within a historic district or a national landmark district? (Y or N) If the answer is yes to either question, list names and locations below:

N
N

Do you know of any threatened or endangered species in the area? (Y or N)

If so, which species? N

Does the project impact a stream protected by the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act? (Y or N)

If yes, name the stream. N

Are there any Significant Trees as defined by EDSM I.1.1.21 within proposed ROW?(Y or N)

If so, where? N

What year was the existing bridge built? N/A

Are any waterways impacted by the project considered navigable? (Y or N) If unknown, state so, list the waterways: N/A

Hazardous Material: Have you checked the following DEQ and EPA databases for potential problems?

(Y or N) Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Y, nothing found

(Y or N) CERCLIS Y, nothing found

(Y or N) ERNS Y, nothing found

(Y or N) Enforcement and Compliance History Y, nothing found

If found site, give the name and location: N/A

Underground Storage Tanks (UST): Are there any Gasoline Stations or other facilities that may have UST on or adjacent to the project? (Y or N) Y

If so, give the name and location: Exxon (C.S. log mile 5.858) and Shell (located on Joe Rd. near the project site) See the attached aerial.

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

Any chemical plants, refineries or landfills adjacent to the project? (Y or N) Any large manufacturing facilities adjacent to the project? (Y or N) Dry Cleaners? (Y or N) If yes to any, give names and locations: N to all

Oil/Gas wells: Have you checked DNR database for registered oil and gas wells? (Y or N)
List the type and location of wells being impacted by the project. oil/gas wells are not being impacted by this project

Are there any possible residential or commercial relocations/displacements? (Y or N)
How many? N

Do you know of any sensitive community issues related to the project? (Y or N)
If so, explain N

Is the project area population minority or low income? (Y or N) N

What type of detour/closures could be used on the job? Construct Under Traffic

Did you notice anything of concern during your site/windshield survey of the area? If so, explain below.
No

John Doe

Point of Contact

(225) 379-1297

Phone Number

9/8/2006

Date

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

Threatened & Endangered Species Information

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/threatened/speciesfactsheets/>
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/threatened/threatenedandendangeredtable/>
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/threatened/>

LA Wildlife Refuge Information

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/wmas/refuges/>

Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act (R.S. 56:1840-1856)

Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers (R.S. 56:1847)

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=104995>

Louisiana Historic and Scenic Rivers (R.S. 56:1856)

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105004>

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/scenicrivers/>

Significant Tree Policy (EDSM I.1.1.21)

EDSMs can be found on DOTD's intranet site: <http://ladotnet/>

(Live Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Magnolia or Cypress, aesthetically important, 18" or greater in diameter at breast height and has form that separates it from surrounding or that which may be considered historic.)

LA Historic Sites and Districts

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nhl/default.htm>

Hazardous Waste Site Information

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/71/Default.aspx>

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/la.htm>

http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/permits/ust_facility_owner.pdf

http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/remediation/form_5222_r01.xls

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/wdbcgi/wdbcgi.exe/WWWUSER/WEBDB.foia_query.show_parms

<http://www.epa.gov/echo/>

DNR Oil & Gas Well Information

http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/www_root/sonris_portal_1.htm

Environmental Justice (minority & low income)

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ej2000.htm>

Demographics

<http://www.louisiana.gov/wps/wcm/connect/Louisiana.gov/About+Louisiana/Demographics%3A+Census+Info/Census+2000+Information/>

<http://www.census.gov/>

Water Wells

<http://www.dotd.state.la.us/intermodal/wells/home.asp>

FHWA's Environmental Website (Just a good reference for understanding NEPA)

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/index.htm>

Additional Databases Checked

Other Comments:

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

General Explanation:

To adequately consider projects in Stage 0, some consideration must be given to the human and natural environment which will be impacted by the project. The Environmental Checklist was designed knowing that some environmental issues may surface later in the process. This checklist was designed to obtain basic information, which is readily accessible by reviewing public databases and by visiting the site. It is recognized that some information may be more accessible than other information. Some items on the checklist may be more important than others depending on the type of project. It is recommended that the individual completing the checklist do their best to answer the questions accurately. Feel free to comment or write any explanatory comments at the end of the checklist.

The Databases:

To assist in gathering public information, the previous sheet includes web addresses for some of the databases that need to be consulted to complete the checklist. As of October 2006, these addresses were accurate.

Note that you will not have access to the location of any threatened or endangered (T&E) species. The web address list only the threatened or endangered species in Louisiana. It will generally describe their habitat and other information. If you know of any species in the project area, please state so, but you will not be able to confirm it yourself. If you feel this may be an issue, please contact the Environmental Section. We have biologist on staff who can confirm the presence of a species.

Why is this information important?

Land Use? Indicator of biological issues such as T&E species or wetlands.

Ownership? Tells us whether coordination with tribal nations will be required.

WRP properties? Farmland that is converted back into wetlands. The Federal government has a permanent easement which cannot be expropriated by the State. Program is operated through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service).

Community Elements? DOTD would like to limit adverse impacts to communities. Also, public facilities may be costly to relocate.

Section 4(f) issues? USDOT agencies are required by law to avoid certain properties, unless a prudent or feasible alternative is not available.

Historic Properties? Tells us if we have a Section 106 issue on the project. (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) See <http://www.achp.gov/work106.html> for more details.

Scenic Streams? Scenic streams require a permit and may require restricted construction activities.

Significant Trees? Need coordination and can be important to community.

Age of Bridge? Section 106 may apply. Bridges over 50 years old are evaluated to determine if they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Navigability? If navigable, will require an assessment of present and future navigation needs and US Coast Guard permit.

Hazardous Material? Don't want to purchase property if contaminated. Also, a safety issue for construction workers if right-of-way is contaminated.

Oil and Gas Wells? Expensive if project hits a well.

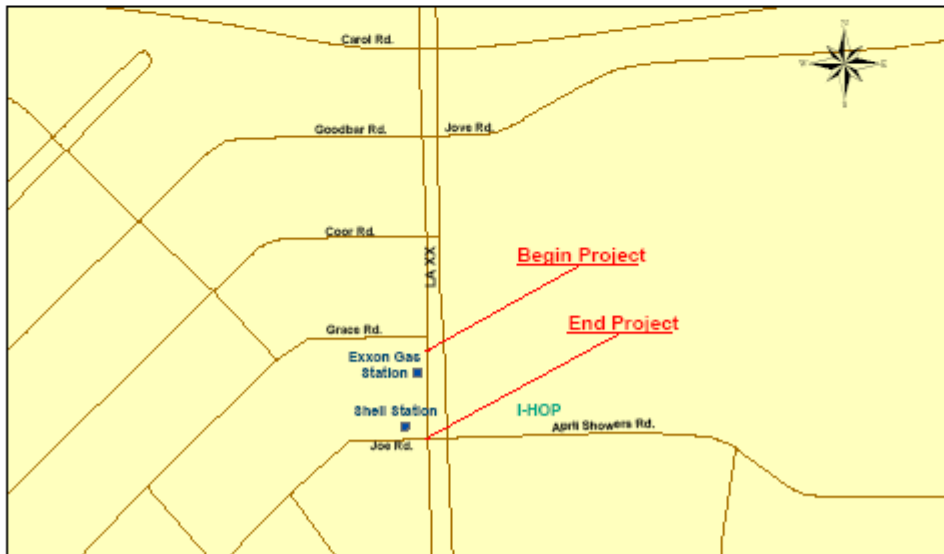
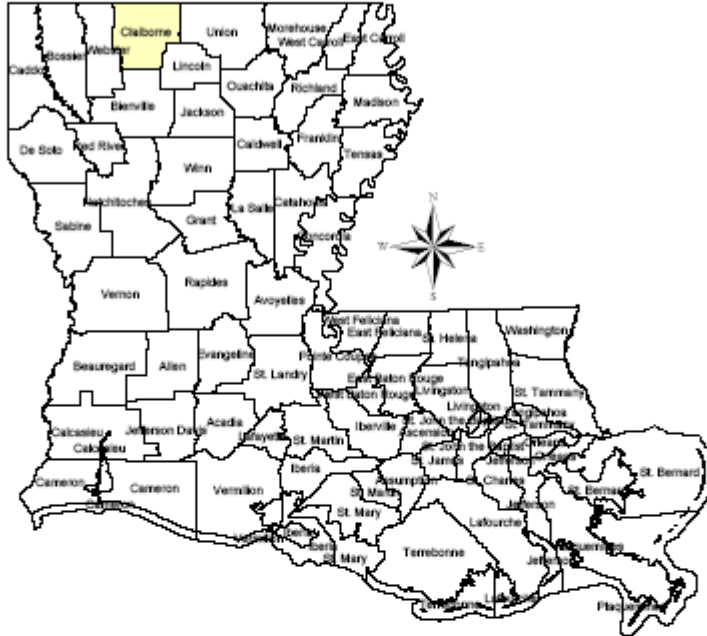
Relocations? Important to community. Real Estate costs can be substantial depending on location of project. Can result in organized opposition to a project.

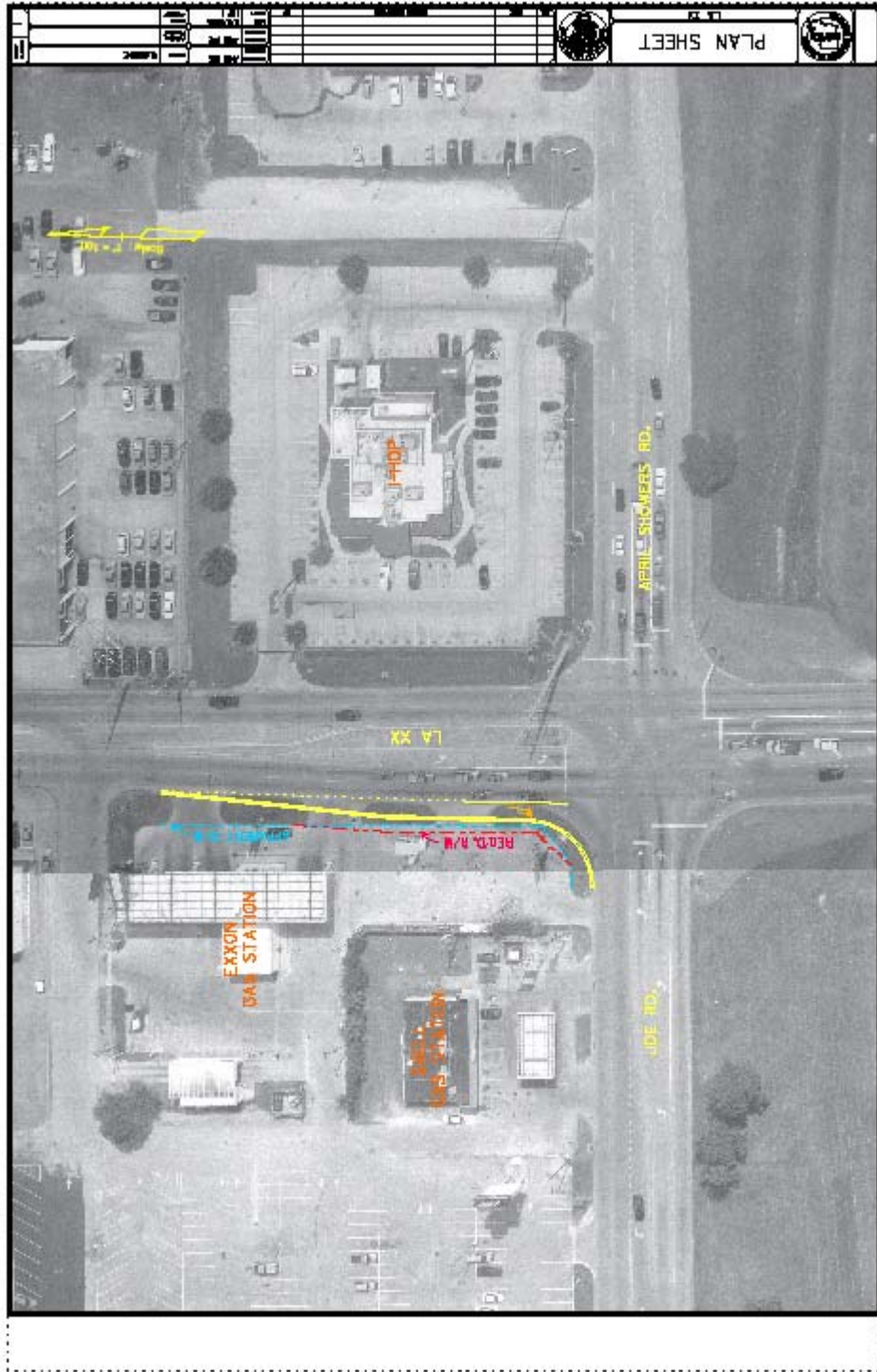
Sensitive Issues? Identification of sensitive issues early greatly assists project team in designing public involvement plan.

Minority/Low Income Populations? Executive Order requires Federal Agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority or low income populations. (often referred to as Environmental Justice)

Detours? The detour route may have as many or more impacts. Should be looked at with project. May be unacceptable to the public.

LA XX C.S. 000-00 CLAIBORNE PARISH





3.4 Roadway Flooding

When flooding occurs on a section of highway, the highway is subject to closure. This closure can result in significant undesirable economic and social impacts. Safety is also a concern during these flooding occurrences, especially in times of emergencies such as hurricane evacuation. Roadway drainage projects are intended to alleviate roadway flooding. These projects should be distinguished from periodic routine maintenance of roadside drainage systems (e.g., cleaning pipes, ditches, etc.) which will be addressed in pavement preservation projects or by district maintenance forces. The Stage 0 process for roadway drainage projects is explained in the following paragraphs.

District personnel identify sections of roadway where flooding occurs. A Stage 0 Preliminary Scope and Budget Checklist and a Stage 0 Environmental Checklist is available to aid in the preparation of Stage 0 studies. The Stage 0 checklists may actually serve as the Stage 0 study for less complex projects. The completed checklists provides information such as project location, project category, purpose and need, description of proposed improvements, cost estimates, potential environmental impacts, etc. District personnel are responsible for completing the checklists for roadway drainage projects. An example of a roadway drainage project can be found at the end of this section. A blank copy of the checklists can be found in this manual in the appendix.

The Stage 0 study is sent to the Roadway Flooding Program Manager for review of completeness before submitting it to the Project Selection Team. The team will then decide which projects proceed to Stage 1, Planning and Environmental, within the respective budget constraints. Projects not selected can be shelved or retained for reconsideration the following year.

Once the decision is made to proceed to Stage 1, it is the Program Manager's responsibility to ensure project numbers are obtained by the appropriate departmental personnel and to make the necessary contacts to initiate Stage 1. The Program Manager is responsible for sending a memorandum to the Environmental Section indicating that the project was selected and approved for further processing through Stage 1.

**STAGE 0
Preliminary Scope and Budget Checklist**

District 61 Parish Assumption Route LA XX
 Control Section 000-00 Total Project Length (miles) 0.501
 Begin Project (CS Log Mile) 3.618 End Project (CS Log Mile) 4.027
 Project Category (Safety, Capacity, etc.) Roadway Drainage Date Prepared: 5/6/2006

A. Purpose and need for the project: The purpose and need for this project is to relieve overtopping of this section of LA XX, which has a swamp area on each side of the roadway. Maintenance Superintendents have reported 1' of water over the roadway during significant storm events.

B. Project Concept

- Description of existing facility (functional class, ADT, number of lanes, etc): The existing road is classified as a rural arterial with a posted speed of 45 mph. This section of LA XX has 2-11' lanes and 8' shoulders with open ditches for drainage. The ADT at this location is 8500.
- Major Design Features/Criteria of the proposed facility (attach aerial photo w/concept if applicable): This project will regrade this section of LA XX. This regrade will raise the profile grade elevation of the roadway, within the project limits, so as to increase the freeboard with respect to periodic backwater flood events in the surrounding area. A 9 1/2" Class II base course along with 2" thick and 1 1/2" thick Superpave Asphaltic Concrete Binder and Wearing Courses respectively will be used to raise the grade of the roadway.
- Design Exceptions: No design exceptions will be needed.
- Technical Analyses (traffic analysis, safety analysis, etc): None. Need for project based on observation.
- Alternatives to Project Concept: No build.
- Future ITS / Traffic Considerations: N/A
- Construction Traffic Management/Property Access Considerations: Construct under traffic.

C. Potential environmental impacts (Complete the Stage 0 Environmental Checklist on pages 4-10 to 4-13):

A Red-Cockaded Woodpecker is located near the project area. See the Environmental Checklist.

D. Cost Estimate

- Engineering Design: 0
- Environmental (document, mitigation, etc.): 0
- R/W Acquisition: 0
(C of A if applicable)
- Utility Relocations: 0
- Construction (including const. traffic management): \$350,000

TOTAL PROJECT COST \$350,000

E. Expected Funding Source(s) (Highway Priority Program, CMAQ, Urban Systems, Fed/State earmarks, etc.)

Highway Priority Program (Drainage)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION Prepared By: J.D. Sabine

Disposition (circle one): (1) Advance to Stage 1 (2) Hold for Reconsideration (3) Shelve

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

C.S. 000-00 Parish Assumption
Route LA XX Begin Log mile 3.618 End Log mile 4.027

ADJACENT LAND USE: Forrested, Residential

Any property owned by a Native American Tribe?

(Y or N or Unknown) If so, which Tribe? N

Any property enrolled into the Wetland Reserve Program?

(Y or N or Unknown) If so, give the location N

Community Elements: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any:

(Y or N) Cemeteries N

(Y or N) Churches N

(Y or N) Schools N

(Y or N) Public Facilities (i.e., fire station, library, etc.) N

(Y or N) Community water well/supply N

Section 4(f) issue: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any:

(Y or N) Public recreation areas N

(Y or N) Public parks N

(Y or N) Wildlife Refuges N

(Y or N) Historic Sites N

Is the project impacting, or adjacent to, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places? (Y or N) Is the project within a historic district or a national landmark district? (Y or N) If the answer is yes to either question, list names and locations below:

N
N

Do you know of any threatened or endangered species in the area? (Y or N)

If so, which species? Y, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Does the project impact a stream protected by the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act? (Y or N)

If yes, name the stream. N

Are there any Significant Trees as defined by EDSM I.1.1.21 within proposed ROW?(Y or N)

If so, where? N

What year was the existing bridge built? N/A

Are any waterways impacted by the project considered navigable? (Y or N) If unknown, state so, list the waterways: N/A

Hazardous Material: Have you checked the following DEQ and EPA databases for potential problems?

(Y or N) Leaking Underground Storage Tanks Y, nothing found

(Y or N) CERCLIS Y, nothing found

(Y or N) ERNS Y, nothing found

(Y or N) Enforcement and Compliance History Y, nothing found

If found site, give the name and location: N/A

Underground Storage Tanks (UST): Are there any Gasoline Stations or other facilities that may have UST on or adjacent to the project? (Y or N) N

If so, give the name and location: _____

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

Any chemical plants, refineries or landfills adjacent to the project? (Y or N) Any large manufacturing facilities adjacent to the project? (Y or N) Dry Cleaners? (Y or N) If yes to any, give names and locations: N to all

Oil/Gas wells: Have you checked DNR database for registered oil and gas wells? (Y or N)
List the type and location of wells being impacted by the project. oil/gas wells are not being impacted by this project

Are there any possible residential or commercial relocations/displacements? (Y or N)
How many? N

Do you know of any sensitive community issues related to the project? (Y or N)
If so, explain N

Is the project area population minority or low income? (Y or N) N

What type of detour/closures could be used on the job? Construct Under Traffic

Did you notice anything of concern during your site/windshield survey of the area? If so, explain below.
No

J.D. Sabine

Point of Contact

(225) XXX-XXXX

Phone Number

5/6/2006

Date

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

Threatened & Endangered Species Information

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/threatened/speciesfactsheets/>
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/threatened/threatenedandendangeredtable/>
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/threatened/>

LA Wildlife Refuge Information

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/wmas/refuges/>

Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act (R.S. 56:1840-1856)

Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers (R.S. 56:1847)

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=104995>

Louisiana Historic and Scenic Rivers (R.S. 56:1856)

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=105004>

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/scenicrivers/>

Significant Tree Policy (EDSM I.1.1.21)

EDSMs can be found on DOTD's intranet site: <http://ladotnet/>

(Live Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Magnolia or Cypress, aesthetically important, 18" or greater in diameter at breast height and has form that separates it from surrounding or that which may be considered historic.)

LA Historic Sites and Districts

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/nhl/default.htm>

Hazardous Waste Site Information

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/71/Default.aspx>

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/la.htm>

http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/permits/ust_facility_owner.pdf

http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/remediation/form_5222_r01.xls

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/wdbcgi/wdbcgi.exe/WWWUSER/WEBDB.foia_query.show_parms

<http://www.epa.gov/echo/>

DNR Oil & Gas Well Information

http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/www_root/sonris_portal_1.htm

Environmental Justice (minority & low income)

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ej2000.htm>

Demographics

<http://www.louisiana.gov/wps/wcm/connect/Louisiana.gov/About+Louisiana/Demographics%3A+Census+Info/Census+2000+Information/>

<http://www.census.gov/>

Water Wells

<http://www.dotd.state.la.us/intermodal/wells/home.asp>

FHWA's Environmental Website (Just a good reference for understanding NEPA)

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/index.htm>

Additional Databases Checked

Other Comments:

Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

General Explanation:

To adequately consider projects in Stage 0, some consideration must be given to the human and natural environment which will be impacted by the project. The Environmental Checklist was designed knowing that some environmental issues may surface later in the process. This checklist was designed to obtain basic information, which is readily accessible by reviewing public databases and by visiting the site. It is recognized that some information may be more accessible than other information. Some items on the checklist may be more important than others depending on the type of project. It is recommended that the individual completing the checklist do their best to answer the questions accurately. Feel free to comment or write any explanatory comments at the end of the checklist.

The Databases:

To assist in gathering public information, the previous sheet includes web addresses for some of the databases that need to be consulted to complete the checklist. As of October 2006, these addresses were accurate.

Note that you will not have access to the location of any threatened or endangered (T&E) species. The web address list only the threatened or endangered species in Louisiana. It will generally describe their habitat and other information. If you know of any species in the project area, please state so, but you will not be able to confirm it yourself. If you feel this may be an issue, please contact the Environmental Section. We have biologist on staff who can confirm the presence of a species.

Why is this information important?

Land Use? Indicator of biological issues such as T&E species or wetlands.

Ownership? Tells us whether coordination with tribal nations will be required.

WRP properties? Farmland that is converted back into wetlands. The Federal government has a permanent easement which cannot be expropriated by the State. Program is operated through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service).

Community Elements? DOTD would like to limit adverse impacts to communities. Also, public facilities may be costly to relocate.

Section 4(f) issues? USDOT agencies are required by law to avoid certain properties, unless a prudent or feasible alternative is not available.

Historic Properties? Tells us if we have a Section 106 issue on the project. (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) See <http://www.achp.gov/work106.html> for more details.

Scenic Streams? Scenic streams require a permit and may require restricted construction activities.

Significant Trees? Need coordination and can be important to community.

Age of Bridge? Section 106 may apply. Bridges over 50 years old are evaluated to determine if they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Navigability? If navigable, will require an assessment of present and future navigation needs and US Coast Guard permit.

Hazardous Material? Don't want to purchase property if contaminated. Also, a safety issue for construction workers if right-of-way is contaminated.

Oil and Gas Wells? Expensive if project hits a well.

Relocations? Important to community. Real Estate costs can be substantial depending on location of project. Can result in organized opposition to a project.

Sensitive Issues? Identification of sensitive issues early greatly assists project team in designing public involvement plan.

Minority/Low Income Populations? Executive Order requires Federal Agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority or low income populations. (often referred to as Environmental Justice)

Detours? The detour route may have as many or more impacts. Should be looked at with project. May be unacceptable to the public.

3.5 Weigh Stations

Weigh stations play a critical role in protecting Louisiana's highway and bridge infrastructure and must operate at peak efficiency to manage an ever increasing flow of commercial traffic. Weigh station projects are generally different than standard highway and bridge projects, because they are typically less expensive and in some cases easier to manage. The examples below illustrate the diversity of the type and scope of these projects:

- Building renovations and additions
- Refurbishment, redesign or replacement of pit scales
- Installation of mainline Weigh-in-Motion equipment
- Installation of high mast lighting

The motivations and justifications for such work range from dire need for replacement of existing infrastructure and equipment to safety considerations and work process improvements. Flexibility and creativity in adapting to a constantly changing operating environment are a must for successfully navigating the Stage 0 planning process. The documentation needed to complete Stage 0 is limited due to the nature of these projects.

The Stage 0 for weigh station projects is typically prepared by DOTD Weights and Standard's personnel. They evaluate the existing structures and equipment and identify the need related to repairs, industry trends, customer service deficiencies or improvements to existing safety conditions. The Weights and Standards personnel will then identify what project would best meet the need thus determining the scope of the proposed project.

Once the scope has been determined, a preliminary cost estimate for the project is prepared. DOTD engineering personnel and appropriate consultant resources are conferred with as needed to make such a determination. Due to the specialized nature of these projects, estimates are usually based on information from other states performing the same type of weigh station work or from previous similar DOTD weigh station projects. After the cost estimate is prepared, the funding sources will be identified. Usually, the money comes from the Highway Priority Program and occasionally from the Weights and Standards budget.

Based on the gathered information, a list of the proposed projects in priority order is prepared. Information required for the proposed project list includes the following:

- a. Control section
- b. District
- c. Parish
- d. Delivery date
- e. Letting
- f. Project Name
- g. Estimated construction cost
- h. Route
- i. Type of improvement
- j. Category
- k. Length

An example of the spreadsheet used for the project listing can be found at the end of this section.

The list of weigh station projects is checked for completeness and reviewed by the Weigh Station Program Manager before being submitted to the Project Selection Team. Once the decision is made to proceed to Stage 1, Planning and Environmental, it is the Program Manager's responsibility to obtain project numbers and to send the list of projects to the Environmental Section. Weigh station projects usually do not include right-of-way acquisition and rarely require any type of utility agreement or coordination; therefore, the environmental process is typically less complicated than for many other projects. A Stage 0 Environmental Checklist is not required for the vast majority of Weigh Station projects.

Project Number	District	Parish	Delivery Date	Letting Date	Project Name	Estim. Const Cost (\$1000)	Route Number	Type Improvement	Category	Length (miles)	Project Status
450-13-0042	62 St John		Sep-04	Aug-06	I-10 @ Laplace Weigh Station (Wrm)	2,000	I-10	Weigh in Motion Installation (Wrm)	Oper. Eff. Weigh Stations	0.01	ok
694-13-0011	4 Caddo		Dec-06	Apr-07	Greenwood High Mast Lighting	250	I-20	Pit Scales Lighting	Oper. Eff. Weigh Stations	0.01	ok
690-27-0009	62 Tangipala		Mar-07	Jun-07	I-12 (Baptist) Weigh Station Lighting	250	I-12	Install High Mast Lighting E. & W. Bnd	Oper. Eff. Weigh Stations	0.02	ok
697-13-0005	7 Calcasieu		Mar-07	Jun-07	Starks Weigh Station Building	250	LA 12	New Weight Station Building	Oper. Eff. Weigh Stations	0.01	ok
737-99-0822	99		Mar-07	Jun-07	Weigh Station Truck Signal Light	200		Truck Signal Light, Trees Statewide	Oper. Eff. Weigh Stations		ok
737-99-0823	99		Mar-07	Jun-07	Weigh Station Sewer Treatment Equ.	350		New Sewer Treatment Equ. Statewide	Oper. Eff. Weigh Stations		ok
Project Manager: D. Silvio											

Weigh Station Example

3.6 Rest Areas

Rest areas are important motorist services facilities provided by the State of Louisiana. The intent of rest areas is to provide a safe location for drivers to recuperate from the physical and mental fatigue associated with extended periods of travel. While oriented toward safety, rest areas are also important from a tourism perspective.

As of this writing, the proposed reconstructed/renovated rest areas are beyond Stage 0 and are in Stage 2 awaiting funding. The Stage 0 process for future rest area projects is discussed in the following paragraphs.

A multi-agency, multi-disciplinary evaluation team will inspect and rate each rest area on an annual or biennial basis. The team will identify the needs and recommend what project would best meet the need thus determining the scope of the proposed project. The team will also determine the need for any additional rest areas.

Once the scope has been determined, a preliminary cost estimate for the project is prepared. After the cost estimate is prepared, the funding sources will be identified. Usually, it is funded from the Highway Priority Program.

Based on the gathered information, a list of the proposed projects in priority order is prepared. Information required for the proposed project list includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. Control section
- b. Location description
- c. Purpose and need
- d. Cost
- e. Funding source

The list of rest area projects is checked for completeness and reviewed by the Rest Area Program Manager. Once the decision is made to proceed to Stage 1, Environmental, it is the Program Manager's responsibility to obtain project numbers and to send the list of projects to the Environmental Section.

3.7 Movable Bridge Preventive Maintenance

Louisiana has over 100 movable bridges in the state highway system. The structural elements of these bridges are addressed through the bridge preservation program but not the mechanical and electrical elements. If the mechanical and/or electrical components of a movable bridge fail, maritime and/or highway traffic is impeded until repairs can be made. Therefore, it is critical to have a preventive maintenance program for movable bridges. The Stage 0 process for Movable Bridge Preventive Maintenance projects is explained in the following paragraph.

The first step in the Stage 0 process is District personnel along with Bridge Maintenance personnel identify the electrical and mechanical needs of the movable bridges. The existing mechanical and electrical components are evaluated and the needed repairs identified. Department personnel will then identify what improvements would best meet the need thus determining the scope of the proposed project. Once the scope has been determined, a preliminary cost estimate for the project is prepared.

Based on the gathered information, a list of proposed projects in priority order is prepared. Information required for the proposed project list includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. Priority
- b. District
- c. Parish
- d. Name
- e. Description
- f. Control section
- g. Cost estimate

An example of the spreadsheet used for the project listing can be found at the end of this section.

The list of movable bridge projects is checked for completeness and reviewed by the Movable Bridge Program Manager before being submitted to the Project Selection Team. Once the decision is made proceed to Stage 1, Planning and Environmental, it is the Program Manager's responsibility to obtain project numbers and to send the list of projects to the Environmental Section. Movable bridge projects usually do not include right-of-way acquisition or utility relocation; therefore, the environmental process is typically less complicated than for many other projects. A Stage 0 Environmental

Checklist is not required for the vast majority of Movable Bridge Preventative Maintenance projects.

Section 51 - Movable Bridges

PLANNED PROJECTS FOR THE 2007 FISCAL YEAR (FEDERAL AID)

FY 2007 Available Funds: \$2,250,000.00

District	Parish	Name	Description	Current Status	Project Manager	S.P. #	Cost
02	Terrebonne	Boudreaux Canal	Electrical & Hydraulic Repairs	Working with Design Section to finalize plans; February Letting planned??	Darrick Berner	855-08-0051	\$300,000.00
02	Lafourche/Terrebonne	Portable Generators	2 Portable Generators & Electric Service Upgrades	Project will include 13 bridge locations; Specifications ready, January Letting planned	Kevin Reed	005-07-0067	\$400,000.00
02	Terrebonne	Presque Isle	Wire Rope Replacement & Upper Deck Repair	Planning for February/March Letting	John Harter	065-91-0021	\$300,000.00
03	Iberia, St. Mary, Vermillion	Wedge Conversions	Conversion from Rollers to Wedges	Specifications ready, Letting planned	Darrick Berner	207-01-0059 (Lead), 400-31-0012, 823-12-0014, 823-14-0015,	\$525,000.00
61, 02	Pointe Coupe, Terrebonne	Wire Rope	Wire Rope Replacements - by priority	Specifications ready, Letting planned	Darrick Berner	851-09-0006 Have not applied	\$500,000.00

Total Cost (Planned Work):

\$2,025,000.00

Movable Bridge Example