

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

CESAM RD-A PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2022-00674-EAH October 17, 2022

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

REQUEST TO IMPACT 0.93 ACRE OF NON-TIDAL WETLANDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION IN FOLEY, BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Baldwin County Highway Department

Attention: Mr. Joey Nunnally

P.O. Box 220

Silverhill, Alabama 36576

AGENT: TTL, Inc.

Attention: Mr. Chris Terrell 2743-B Gunter Park Dr. W. Montgomery, Alabama 36109

LOCATION: Bon Secour River; County Road 20; within Sections 6 & 7, Township 8 South, Range 4 East; at Latitude 30.370235° North, Longitude -87.707404° West; in Foley, Baldwin County, Alabama.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic project purpose is to extend the existing County Road (CR) 20 to CR 65 in Foley, Baldwin County, Alabama. The overall project purpose is to provide a growing population with alternative access locations to portions of Foley/Baldwin County by extending the existing CR 20 to CR 65.

PROPOSED WORK: Mechanized land clearing, grading, and the discharge of 5,622 cubic yards of fill material within 0.94 acres of non-tidal wetlands, for the construction of a two-lane access road and bridge abutments. Road fill and bridge abutments would include 112 cubic yards of clean earthen fill and 5,510 cubic yards of riprap material. A portion of the riprap material would also be utilized at the base of pile-supports, to be located in wetlands. The driving surface of the access road would be 24-feet in width, with sloping road shoulders constructed at varying widths ranging from 14- to 29-feet.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant's statement on avoidance and minimization indicates that the proposed design would efficiently connect County Road 20 to County Road 65, decrease the amount of aquatic resource impacts, and would not result in flooding impacts to the surrounding area. Stream impacts are proposed to be avoided by the pile-supported bridge crossing. The eastern tie-in of the project was modified to avoid fill impacts to the adjacent man-made open water features, to minimize potential flooding hazards to the adjacent residential subdivision. The project also includes the grading of a 200-foot-wide conveyance buffer east and west of the proposed crossing to improve hydrologic performance within the existing Bon Secour River floodplain by decreasing potential backwater. The conveyance buffer would be graded to an elevation of 28.0ft NAVD88 and would extend from the upstream right-of-way to downstream right-of-way, approximately 120 feet in length. Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented to prevent silt laden dredged material runoff from reentering the waterway. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

MITIGATION: The applicant has proposed to compensate for unavoidable impacts to 0.94-acre of high-quality forested wetlands through the purchase of wetland mitigation credits from an approved commercial mitigation bank. Fill impacts to the stream are to be avoided. The Mobile District has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's proposed mitigation plan at this time.

WATER QUALITY / COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and for Coastal Zone Management (CZM) consistency concurrence in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification and CZM consistency will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) within an established reasonable period of time.

This notice serves as a notification to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting a determination of potential water quality impacts to neighboring jurisdictions, pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the Mobile District has determined the permit area consists of the entire undertaking within waters of the United States, as well as portions of the upland areas with the potential to be disturbed by the work to be potentially authorized. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register, which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The Mobile District is seeking comments regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. At this time, the USACE, Mobile District has made no determination regarding potential effects of the project on cultural/historic resources. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or

federally-recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants for the indicate the proposed activity will have <u>no effect</u> on the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within the watershed of the permit area: West Indian manatee (T), wood stork (T), eastern indigo snake (T), gopher tortoise (candidate species), Alabama red belly turtle (E). There is no designated critical habitat within the project action area. The above determination is based on review of the Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) programmatic agreement species effects determination keys for the aforementioned listed species and is being coordinated with the USFWS via this Public Notice.

COMMENTS: This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. The Mobile District is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed below. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing, setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

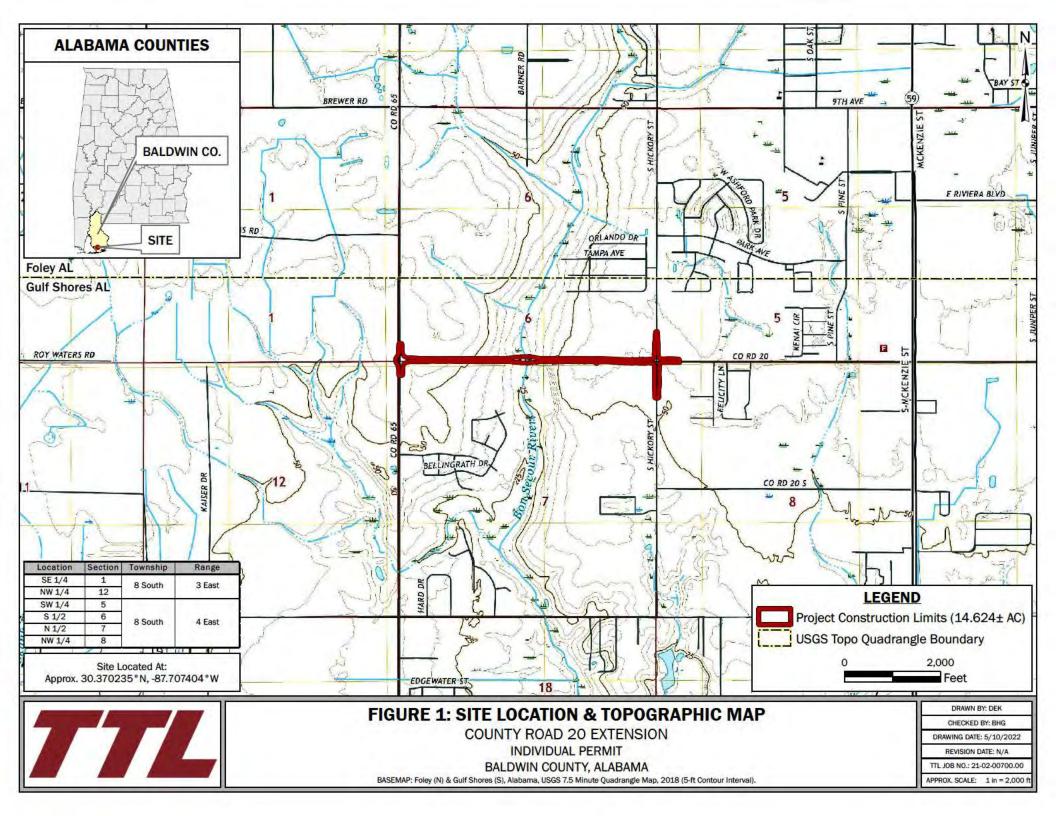
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will also include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

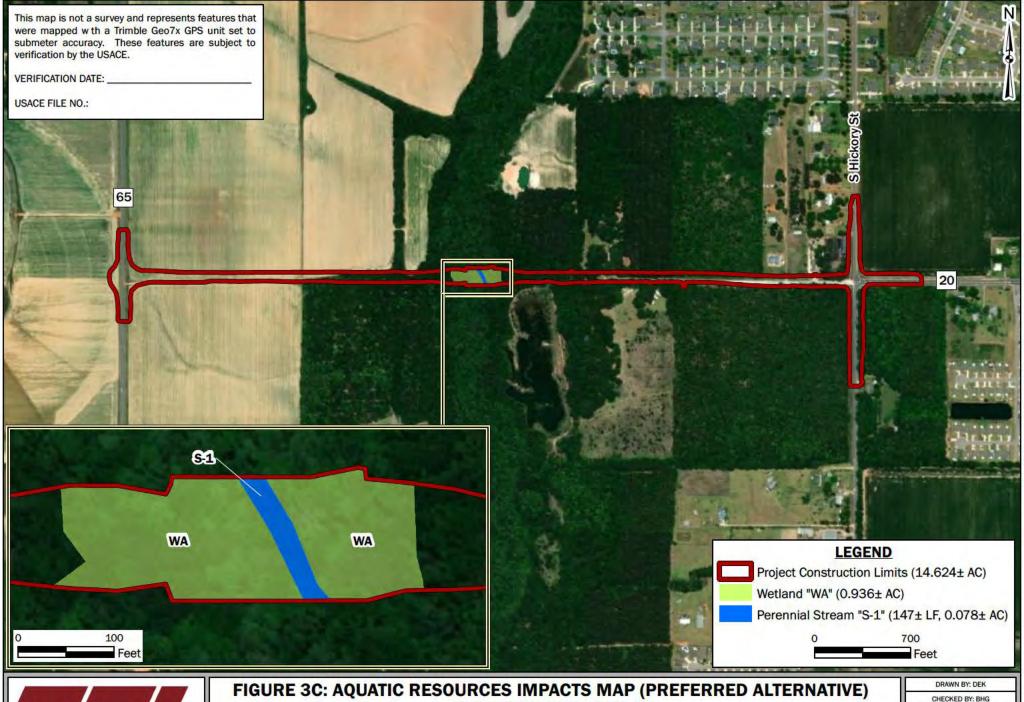
Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2022-00674-EAH**, and should be directed to the project manager, Ms. Elizabeth A. Hamilton by e-mail at Elizabeth.A.Hamilton@usace.army.mil, or to the USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Elizabeth A. Hamilton, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at coastal@adem.alabama.gov, or sent to: Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch / Coastal Section, 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile, Alabama 36608. **All comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.**

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments







COUNTY ROAD 20 EXTENSION INDIVIDUAL PERMIT BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

BASEMAP: Maxar Technologies, Vivid Imagery, 5/11/2018 (0.5 m Resolution).

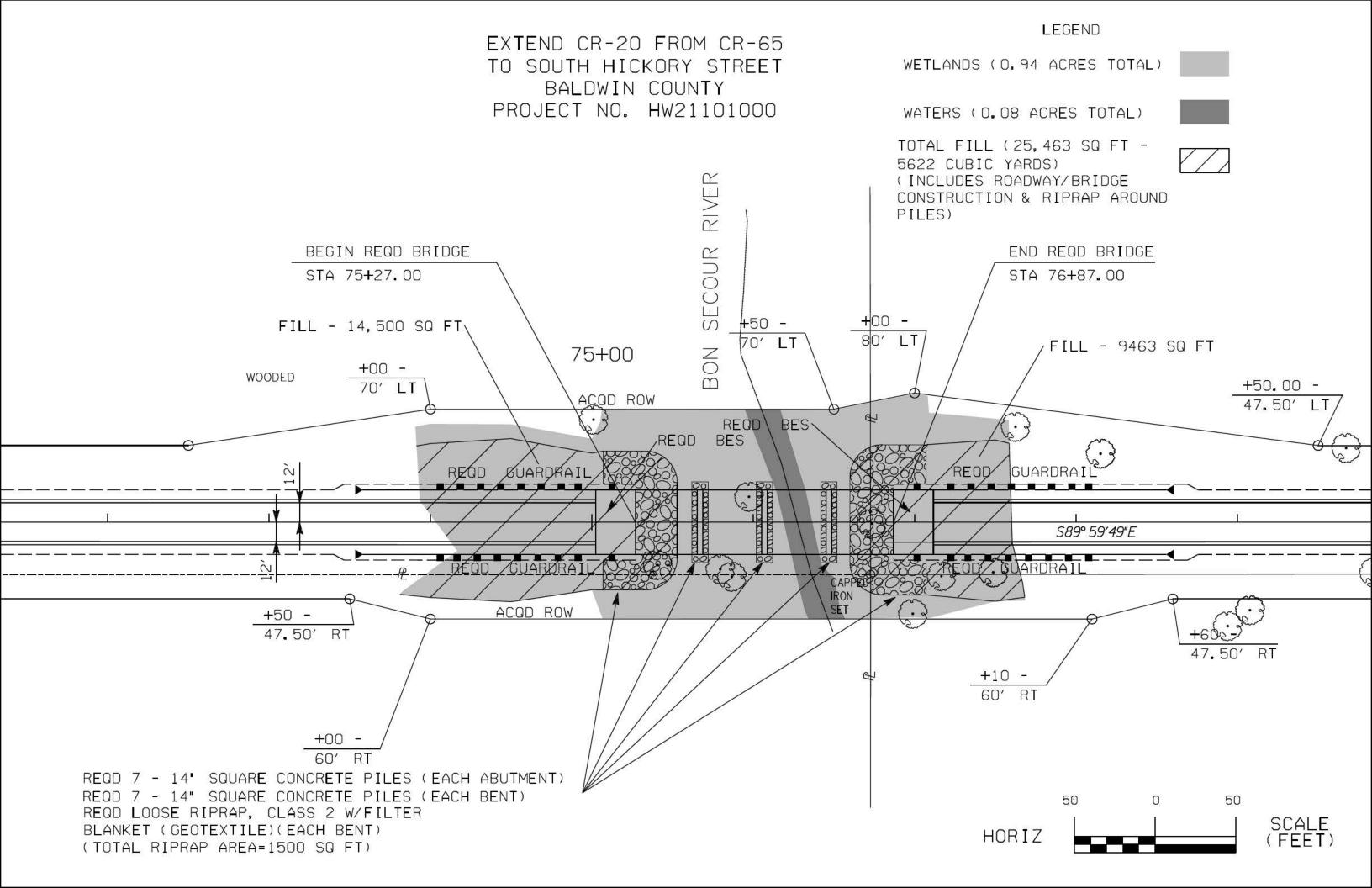
CHECKED BY: BHG

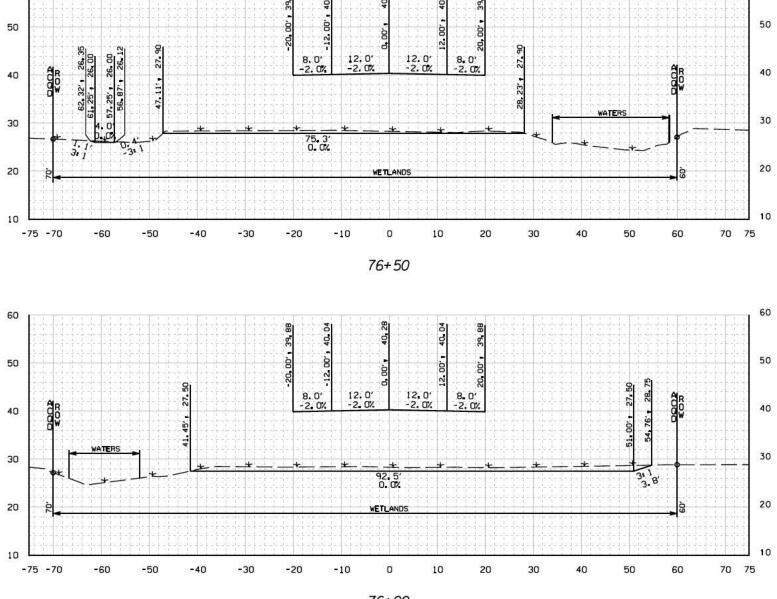
DRAWING DATE: 5/10/2022

REVISION DATE: N/A

TTL JOB NO.: 21-02-00700.00

APPROX. SCALE: 1 in = 700 ft





60

SHEET NO

FISCAL YEAR

2023

Sta.76+50

70

Sta.76+00

REFERENCE PROJECT NO

HW21101000