



July 12, 2019

Finley Vinson
Director, Street & Engineering Department
100 E Robins St.
Conway, AR 72032

Re: Connect Conway Mobility

Improvement Project

**Environmental Constraints Report** 

Mr. Vinson:

A cursory environmental review was performed along the proposed corridors for the Connect Conway project. Identified constraints are shown in the attached figures. The environmental and community constraints of one large corridor (1,320 feet wide) were evaluated and briefly summarized. All summarizations are cursory in nature, and further study will be required through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The environmental resources reviewed as part of this desktop constraints mapping effort are identified below in Table 1.

TABLE 1	
Wellhead Protection Areas and Source Water Intake (incl. public water supplies)	Threatened & Endangered species habitat and/or critical habitat
Historic and cultural resources	Environmental justice
Hazardous waste sites	Major utilities/infrastructure
Wetlands	Conservation easements
Streams	Public lands
Wild and Scenic Rivers	FEMA floodplains
Section 4(f)/6(f) Properties	Public parks
Cemeteries	Airport Runway Protection Zones

It should be noted that a separate roadway improvements project for the City of Conway near the overpass of E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street over I-40 was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in 2014 through the issuance of a Tier 3 Categorical Exclusion (CE). Approximately 0.8 miles of this previously authorized project lies within the Connect Conway corridors.

## **Connect Conway Mobility Improvement Project**

The Connect Conway project is a proposed 6.39-mile multi-use trail system that will focus on Donaghey Avenue, a critical north-south route that serves UCA and the Conway Regional Medical Center complex, among other destinations. Donaghey Avenue improvements include the addition of bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure on the east side of the street. Additional bicycle/pedestrian facilities will extend east and west along Bruce Street through the UCA campus and connect to Donaghey, Tucker Creek and Stone Dam Creek parks.

The environmental constraints identified in this report are listed from west to east within the corridor. None of the following constraints are located within the study area corridor:

- Wellhead protection areas and source water intake supplies
- Wild and scenic rivers
- Conservation easements (i.e., Land and water conservation funded projects)
- Public lands other than public parks

## Built Environment

- Hazardous Materials There are four underground storage tank (UST) sites located within the study corridors, but none are directly adjacent to the proposed improvements. The Physical Plant at UCA is identified as containing a UST and is located within the corridor on Beatrice Powell St. This UST site has not been identified by ADEQ as leaking. Another UST site associated with a gas station is located within the corridor on E. Oak St. This site has been identified by ADEQ as containing a leaking UST.
- Section 4(f) The following parks are located with the study corridor are open to the public and would be considered protected under Section 4(f) as codified at 23 U.S.C. §138 and 49 U.S.C. §303.
  - Tucker Creek Trail and Park
  - UCA Sports Complex could potentially be a Section 4(f) property
  - Laurel Park (located adjacent to the study corridor)
  - Bob and Betty Courtway Middle School track
  - City of Colleges Park
- Environmental Justice Two areas of low-income populations identified in census reviews exist within the corridor and are depicted on the attached exhibits. Additionally, a relatively densely populated residential area exists within the corridor, west of the Union Pacific Railroad. Much of this area has also been identified as a low-income area.
- Major Utilities/Infrastructure Union Pacific Railroad extends along Harkrider Street, crossing the project area.
- o Historic and Cultural Resources There are several structures that are 50 years old or older within the corridor. These structures would need evaluated during a cultural resources survey, which would be required for the entire project. Several National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed structures are located within the study corridor. Additionally, the trail will pass through one Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) historic district. A second historic district is located within the study corridor. Potential impacts to these sites would also be evaluated under Section 4(f).
- Cemeteries Oak Grove Cemetery is located east of the railroad tracks and south of Bruce St. within the corridor.

## Natural Environment

- Streams According to aerial photography, USGS topographic map and National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) reviews, Stone Dam Creek intersects the corridor in several locations. In addition, there are seven perennial and intermittent streams that intersect the study corridor. Floodplains associated with these streams also exist within the corridor.
- Wetlands No Wetlands were located within the corridor; however, six ponds were located within the study corridor.
- Threatened and Endangered Species There is no Piping Plover or Rattlesnake Master Borer Moth habitat present within the corridor, which are the only federally listed species identified for this area.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**GARVER** 

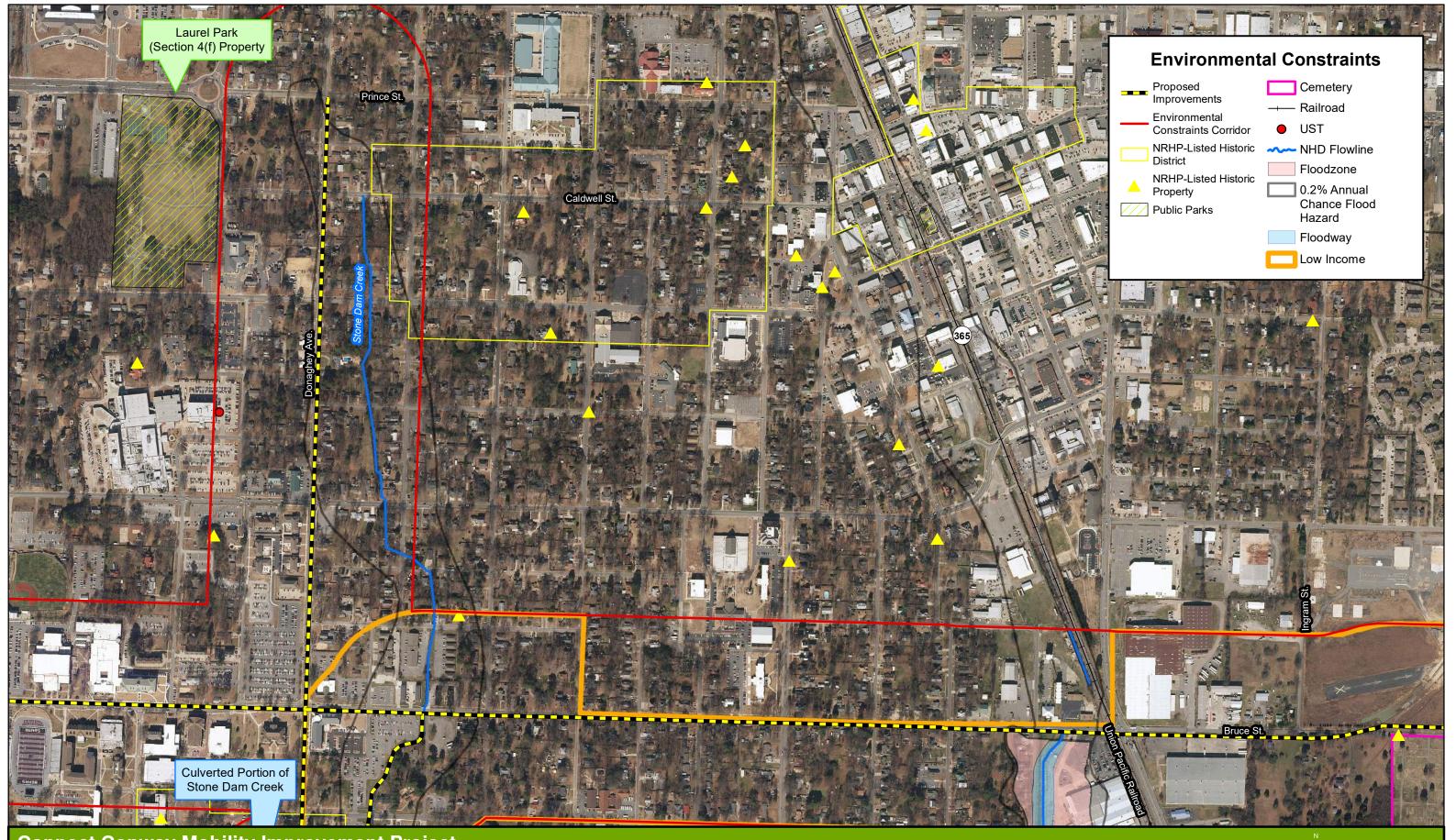
Ryan Mountain

Pryon Mountain

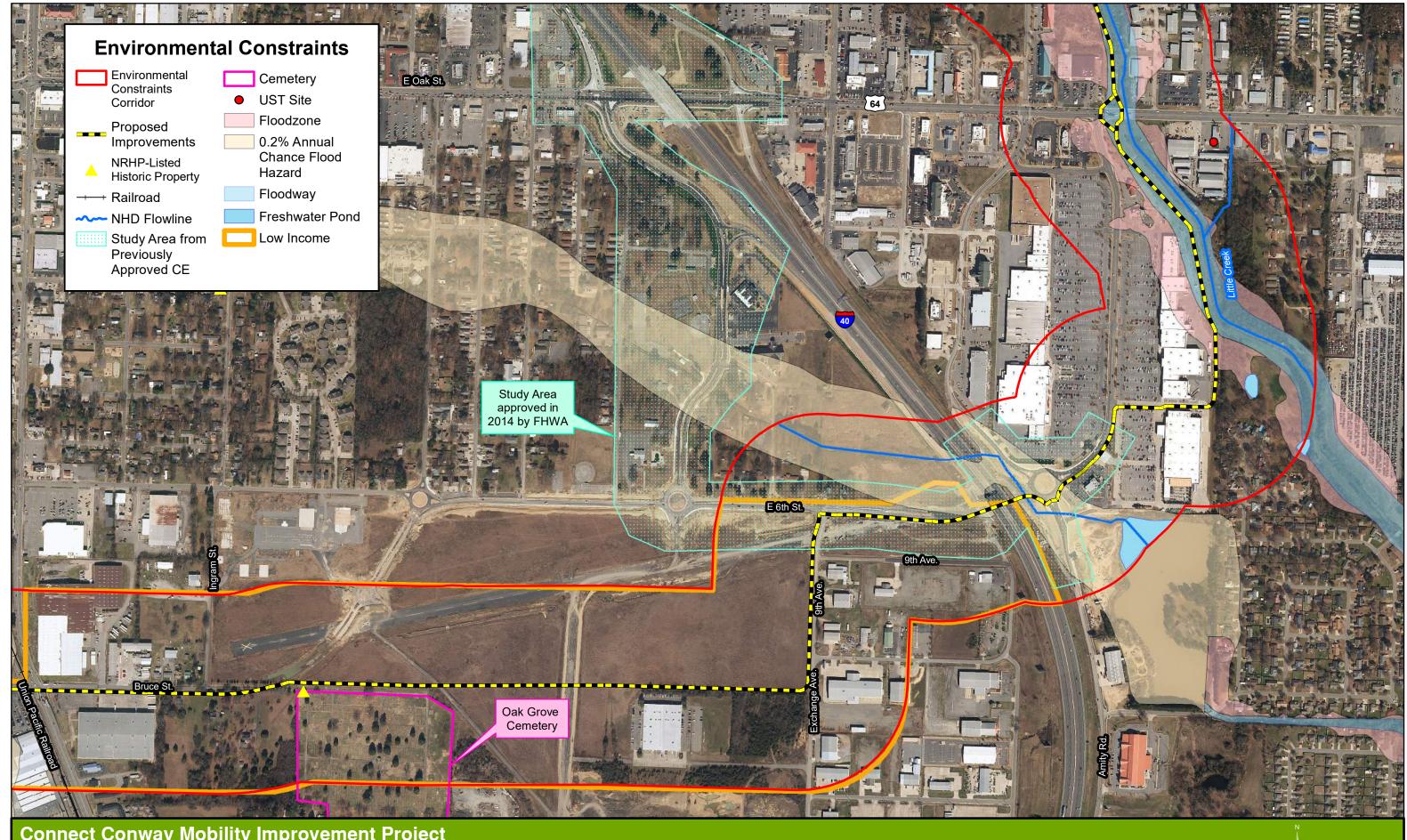
Attachments: Environmental Constraints Exhibits



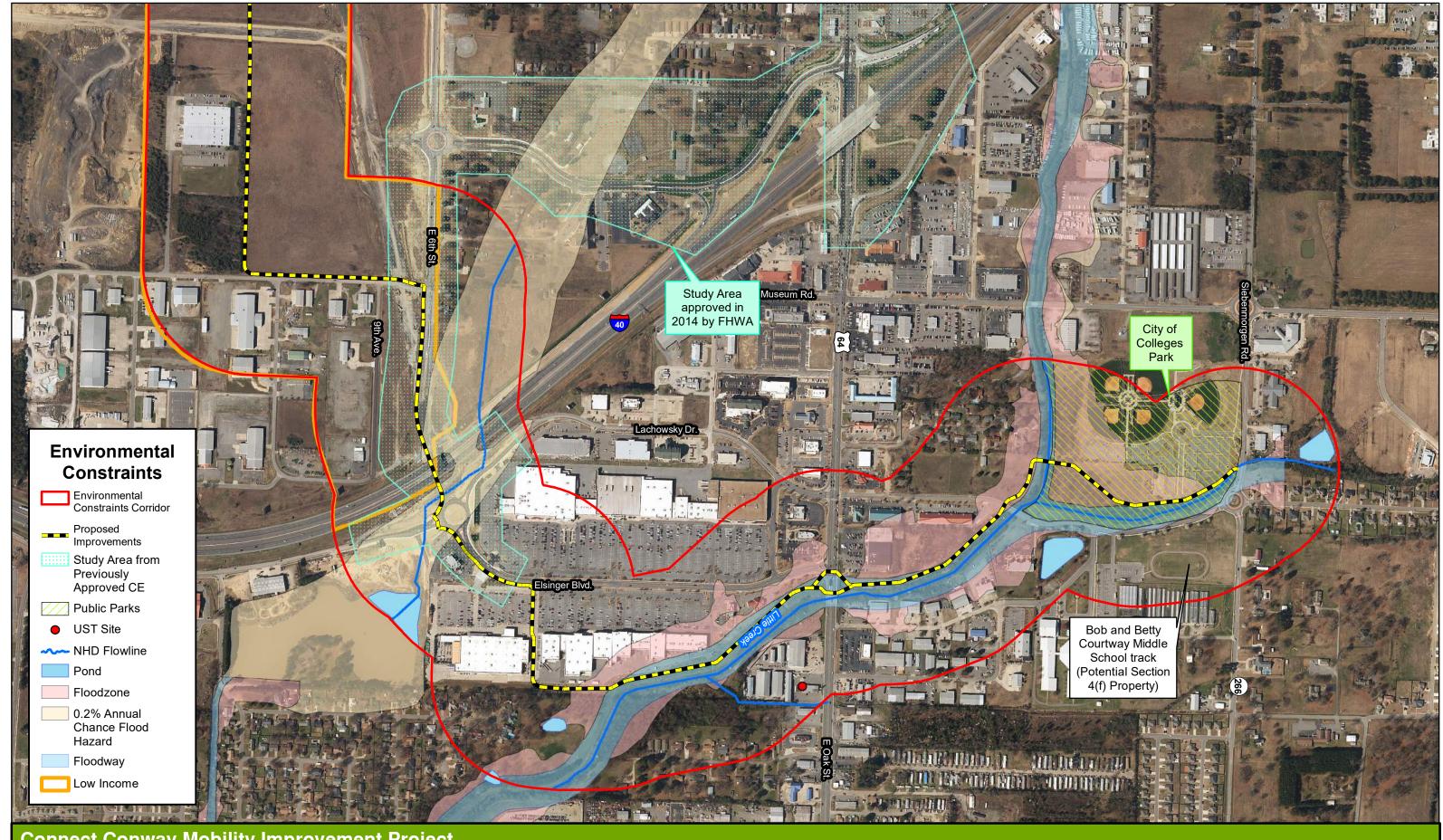
Connect Conway Mobility Improvement Project Environmental Constraints - Map 1 of 4 Faulkner County



Connect Conway Mobility Improvement Project Environmental Constraints - Map 2 of 4 Faulkner County



Connect Conway Mobility Improvement Project Environmental Constraints - Map 3 of 4 Faulkner County



Connect Conway Mobility Improvement Project Environmental Constraints - Map 4 of 4 Faulkner County

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500 Feet