



Ph: 502-394-3840 Fax: 502-426-9778 Toll Free: 1-800-513-6691

Project Office: Forum Office Park III, 305 N. Hurstbourne Parkway, Suite 100, Louisville, KY 40222

August 30, 2011

Ms. Jane Hardisty
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Department of Agriculture
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

Re: Louisville – Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges
Project

Dear Ms. Hardisty:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed construction of two new Ohio River bridge crossings. One is located in the vicinity of Prospect, KY and Utica, Indiana and will include the necessary approaches to connect the Gene Snyder Freeway (KY 841) in Kentucky to Indiana SR 265. The second bridge is located in the Louisville, Kentucky and Jeffersonville, Indiana areas and will include the reconstruction of the Kennedy Interchange in Louisville and the necessary approaches on I-65 in Jeffersonville. A Notice of Intent (NOI) for the SEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on February 15, 2011.

The Selected Alternative as identified in the Final EIS/Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD) includes two new bridges over the Ohio River. One is located in Downtown Louisville, crossing into Jeffersonville, Indiana; the second is located in the East End area (approximately six miles upstream from the Downtown bridge) in northeastern Jefferson County, Kentucky and crossing into Clark County, Indiana.

The EIS was prepared for the project between 1998 – 2003 and resulted in the issuance of a Final EIS on April 8, 2003 and a ROD on September 6, 2003. The states are preparing the SEIS for the project because of the passage of time since the approval of the original FEIS/ROD, an identified need for tolling revenues in funding the project through the Metropolitan Transportation Planning process, and the need to evaluate cost saving measures in the design of the selected alternative. The lead agencies intend to examine three alternatives in the SEIS:

- The Selected Alternative, as approved in the FEIS/ROD, without tolls



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NRCS Early Coordination Letter

- A modified version of the Selected Alternative with tolls. The modified Two Bridges/Highway Alternative will include reducing the East End Bridge, roadway and tunnel from six lanes to four lanes with the option to add two lanes when traffic demands warrant; reconstruction of the Kennedy Interchange in Downtown Louisville in-place; and removal of a pedestrian/bikeway facility from the Downtown Bridge.
- No Build

The SEIS will review the decisions that were made following the preparation of the original EIS taking into account current information and regulations.

At this time, we are initiating early coordination with your office for the SEIS. In correspondence dated August 10, 2011 from Ms. Janice Osadczuk, Engineering Services Team Leader - FHWA, a *Draft Range of Alternatives Document (August 5, 2011)* was mailed to you; a copy is also attached. It contains a detailed description of the alternatives under consideration. To supplement this information, attached is a Project Study Area map and aerial photograph; the proposed alignment and right-of-way in the East End is shown on the aerial. Neither of the alternatives in the East End would impact agricultural land as the area of the Project is located within the City of Jeffersonville or the Town of Utica. Within Jeffersonville, there is no agricultural land; it is all zoned residential or commercial. Within Utica, it has all been platted as residential subdivisions. The East End has also been shown on a copy of the Jeffersonville, Indiana Zoning Map. Additionally, there is no anticipated impact of either alternative upon agricultural acreages in the Downtown, as the alternatives also fall wholly within Jeffersonville, also shown on the Zoning Map. For these reasons, Form NRCS-CPA-106 has not been included.

As part of this early coordination effort, you are asked to study the enclosed information and confirm that there would be no adverse impacts upon agricultural resources within your jurisdiction. You are asked to return a reply by September 30, 2011. After this date, your response will be used in the continuing development of the SEIS. Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

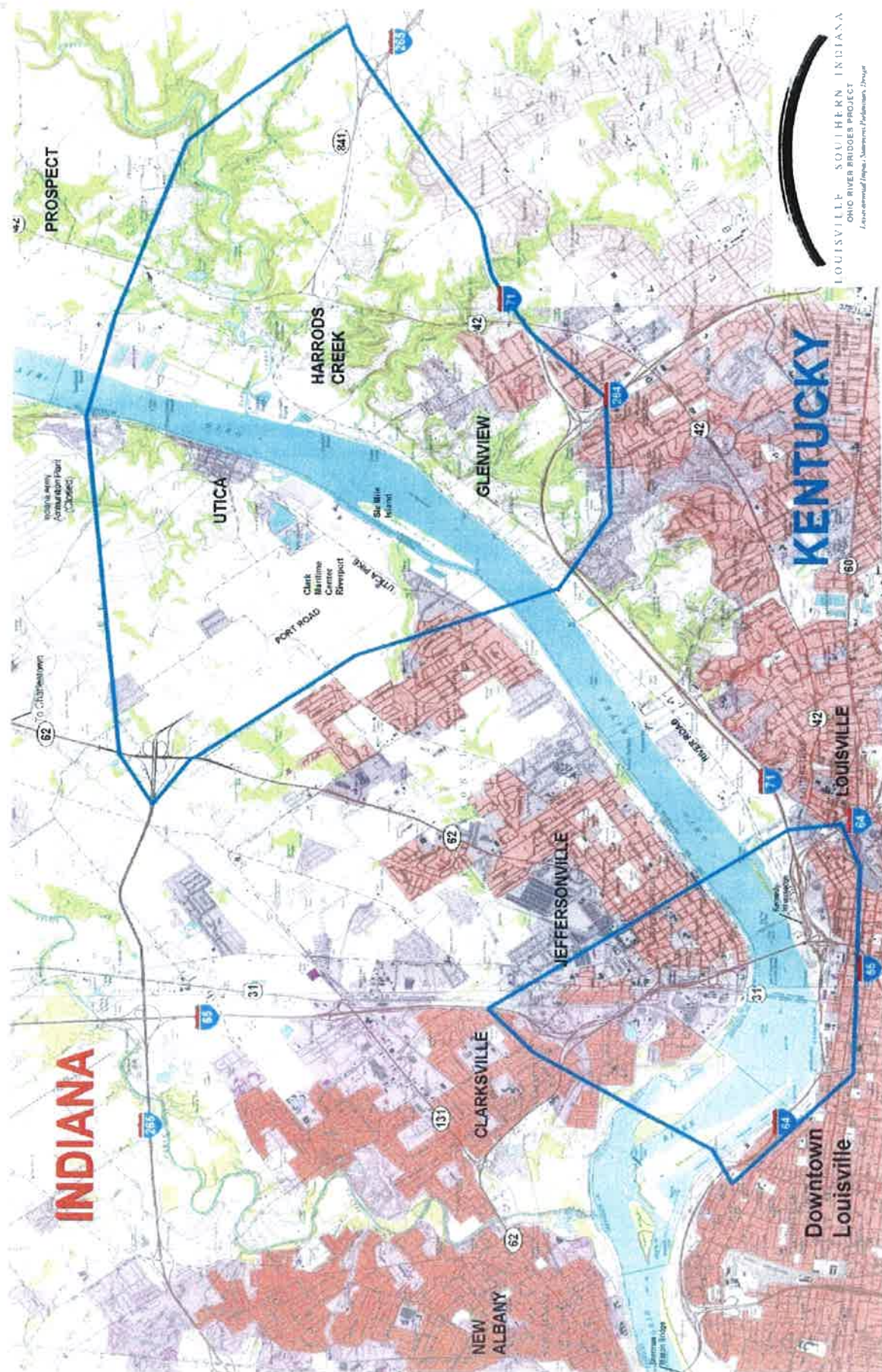
Very truly yours,
CTS-GEC

Jeffrey A. Vlach
Environmental Commitments Manager

CC: File

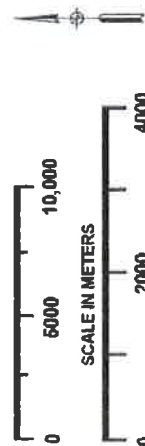


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LOUISVILLE SOUTHERN INDIANA
OHIO RIVER BRIDGES PROJECT
Louisville International Airport, Summers Performance, 2004

Project Study Area





SR 265

SALEM ROAD



UTICA

PORT ROAD

OHIO RIVER

NO SCALE

Jeff Vlach

From: Jeff Vlach
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2011 10:00 AM
To: 'lisa.bolton@in.usda.gov'
Cc: Brian Shaw
Subject: Indiana East End - Ohio River Bridges Project
Attachments: img-906094553-0001.pdf

Lisa – Here is the information that we have completed for the Indiana East End of the Ohio River Bridges Project. Attached is NRCS-CPA- 106 to accompany the information that was mailed to you on August 30, 2011. On this form, Corridor A is the Selected Alternative and Corridor B is the Modified Alternative. Corridors A and B reflect only the Indiana East End alternatives as these are the only alignments that would impact agricultural areas. There is no anticipated impact of either alternative upon agricultural acreages in the Downtown, as these alternatives fall wholly within the urban area boundary of Jeffersonville; refer to Figure 3 of the *Draft Range of Alternatives Document*.

Thank you for your cooperation in finalizing this coordination.

Jeff Vlach
Environmental Commitments Manager
Community Transportation Solutions -
General Engineering Consultant
8126 Castleton Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250
317-849-5832 (Telephone)
317-696-3617 (Cell)
jvlach@b-l-n.com

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 9/6/11		4. Sheet 1 of 1	
1. Name of Project Ohio River Bridges		5. Federal Agency Involved US DOT - Federal Highway Administration			
2. Type of Project New Road Construction		6. County and State Clark County, Indiana			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS		2. Person Completing Form	
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES ☐ NO ☐		4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size	
5. Major Crop(s)	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: %		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %		
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	202	202		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor	202	202	0	0

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)				
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PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	10	10		
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	7	7		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	20	20		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0	0		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	10		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	5		
8. On-Farm Investments	20	20	20		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0	0		
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	72	72	0	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	72	72	0 0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	72	72	0 0

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES ☐ NO ☐
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

DATE

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6013 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

September 29, 2011

Jeffrey A. Vlach
Environmental Commitments Manager
Community Transportation Solutions
General Engineering Consultant
8126 Castleton Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250

Dear Mr. Vlach:

The proposed project to construct two new Ohio River bridge crossings in Clark County, Indiana, as stated in your letter received September 9, 2011, will cause a conversion of prime farmland.

The attached packet of information is for your use in completing Parts VI and VII of the AD-1006. After completion the federal funding agency needs to forward one copy to NRCS for our records.

If you need additional information, please contact Lisa Bolton at 317-290-3200, extension 342.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane E. Hardisty".

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Enclosures

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request <u>9/6/11</u>	4. Sheet 1 of <u>1</u>
1. Name of Project <u>Ohio River Bridges</u>		5. Federal Agency Involved <u>US DOT - Federal Highway Administration</u>	
2. Type of Project <u>New Road Construction</u>		6. County and State <u>Clark County, Indiana</u>	
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS <u>9-9-11</u>	2. Person Completing Form <u>Lisa Bo 16m</u>
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES ☒ NO ☐	4. Acres Irrigated <u>144</u> Average Farm Size
5. Major Crop(s) <u>Corn</u>	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: <u>166,611</u> % <u>69</u>	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <u>106,482</u> % <u>44</u>	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used <u>Cesa</u>	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <u>9-29-11</u>	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	<u>202</u>	<u>202</u>		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services				
C. Total Acres In Corridor	<u>202</u>	<u>202</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information			
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	<u>53.14</u>	<u>53.14</u>	
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unl To Be Converted	<u>.098</u>	<u>.098</u>	
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	<u>89</u>	<u>89</u>	

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)			
	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	

PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))	Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	10	10	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	7	7	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	20	20	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	0	0	
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	10	
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	0	
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	5	
8. On-Farm Investments	20	20	20	
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0	
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0	0	
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	72	72	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100			
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	72	72	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	260	72	72	0

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES ☐ NO ☐
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

DATE

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor