

September 8, 2015

Dawn Sholmire, P.E.
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
Post Office Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9235

RE: Request to Initiate STP<200K Funding, Ridgefield Road Overlay

Ms. Sholmire,

The Houma-Thibodaux MPO determined at its October 22, 2014 meeting to include the Ridgefield Road Overlay Project in the 2015 Transportation Improvement Program. The MPO members and staff believe this project complies with the vision and goals defined in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Included with this letter are the Stage 0 Preliminary Scope and Budget and Environmental Checklists. The MPO has estimated construction costs to be \$68,000, of which 80% should be paid for with STP<200K funds and 20% paid with local funds from the City of Thibodaux.

The City of Thibodaux has indicated that it will perform all engineering work associated with this request.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Any further questions on this matter may be directed to Mr. Leo Marretta or Mr. Joshua Manning via phone (985-851-2900) or email (leo@scpd.org, josh@scpd.org).

Sincerely,

Leo Marretta
MPO Administrator
South Central Planning and Development Commission

CC: Tommy Eschette, City of Thibodaux; Luci Sposito, City of Thibodaux

STAGE 0
Preliminary Scope and Budget Checklist

A. Project Background

District 02 Parish Lafourche
Route Ridgefield Road Control Section NA
Begin Log Mile NA End Log Mile NA
Project Category (Safety, Capacity, etc.): Pavement Preservation
Date Study Completed: June 2015

Describe the existing facility:

Functional classification: Urban Major Collector Number and width of lanes: 2 lanes, 12.5' wide
Shoulder width and type: No existing improved shoulder Mode: Vehicle
Access control: Open Access ADT: 5,025 Posted Speed: 25 mph

Describe any existing pedestrian facilities (ADA compliance should be considered for all improvements that include pedestrian facilities): No existing pedestrian facilities

Describe the adjacent land use: Commercial/Residential

Who is the sponsor of the study? City of Thibodaux

List study team members: City of Thibodaux Administration

Will this project be adding miles to the state highway system (new alignment, new facility)? If yes, has a transfer of ownership been initiated with the appropriate entity? No

Are there recent, current or near future planning studies or projects in the vicinity? No

If yes, please describe the relationship of this project to those studies/projects. NA

Provide a brief chronology of these planning study activities: NA

B. Purpose and Need

State the Purpose (reason for proposing the project) and Need (problem or issue)/Corridor Vision and a brief scope of the project. Also, identify any additional goals and objectives for the project.

The need for this project is to rehabilitate aging roads within the Houma-Thibodaux urbanized area. This section of roadway, considered an Urban Major Collector, has deteriorated over time and is in need of rehabilitation. The project will overlay approximately 715 feet of roadway with asphalt.

C. Agency Coordination

Provide a brief synopsis of coordination with federal, tribal, state and local environmental, regulatory and resource agencies.

The project will be funded through the Houma-Thibodaux MPO's STP<200K funds, which requires coordination with federal, state, and other local governments.

What transportation agencies were included in the agency coordination effort?

Houma-Thibodaux MPO

Describe the level of participation of other agencies and how the coordination effort was implemented.

This project is included in the region's Transportation Improvement Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Plan. These documents, and the approved projects included, were adopted according to the MPO's Public Participation Plan located online at http://www.htmpto.org/docs/2011_PPP.pdf

C. Agency Coordination (Continued)

What steps will need to be taken with each agency during NEPA scoping?

Due to the nature of this project (overlays), it is assumed the project will be processed as a Categorical Exclusion and no additional steps from other agencies will be necessary.

D. Public Coordination

Provide a synopsis of the coordination effort with the public and stakeholders; include specific timelines, meeting details, agendas, sign-in sheets, etc. (if applicable).

Coordination with local businesses for driveway transitions and access during construction will be facilitated during the design and construction phases.

E. Range of Alternatives – Evaluation and Screening

Give a description of the project concept for each alternative studied.

What are the major design features of the proposed facility (attach aerial photo with concept layout, if applicable).

The property involves asphalt overlay of approximately 715 of two-lane roadway. The only alternative considered is not construction. Attached is a vicinity map of the project limits.

Will design exceptions be required? No

What impact would this project have on freight movements? None

Does this project cross or is it near a railroad crossing? No

DOTD's "Complete Streets" policy should be taken into consideration. Per the policy, any exception for not accommodating bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users will require the approval of the DOTD chief engineer. For exceptions on Federal-aid highway projects, concurrence from FHWA must also be obtained. In addition any exception in an urbanized area, concurrence from the MPO must also be obtained.

- Describe how the project will implement the policy or include a brief explanation of why implementing the policy would not be feasible. Overlay project. No new facilities.
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How are Context Sensitive Solutions being incorporated into the project? N/A

Was the DOTD's "Access Management" policy taken into consideration? If so, describe how. N/A (locally owned roadway)

Were any safety analyses performed? If so describe results. No

Are there any abnormal crash locations or overrepresented crashes within the project limits? No

E. Range of Alternatives – Evaluation and Screening (Continued)

What future traffic analyses are anticipated? No additional data is anticipated at this time.

Will fiber optics be required? If so, are there existing lines to tie into? No, NA

Are there any future ITS/traffic considerations? No

What is the required Transportation Management Plan (TMP) level as defined by EDSM No. VI.1.1.8? N/A
Please attach documentation required for Stage 0 for this level TMP.

Was Construction Transportation Management/Property Access taken into consideration? NA

Were alternative construction methods considered to mitigate work zone impacts? NA

Describe screening criteria used to compare alternatives and from what agency the criteria were defined.
NA

Give an explanation for any alternative that was eliminated based on the screening criteria.
NA

Which alternatives should be brought forward into NEPA and why? NA

Did the public, stakeholders and agencies have an opportunity to comment during the alternative screening process? NA

Describe any unresolved issues with the public, stakeholders and/or agencies.
NA

F. Planning Assumptions and Analytical Methods

What is the forecast year used in the study? N/A (Overlay project)

What method was used for forecasting traffic volumes? N/A

Are the planning assumptions and the corridor vision/purpose and need statement consistent with the long range transportation plan? N/A

What future year policy and/or data assumptions were used in the transportation planning process as they are related to land use, economic development, transportation costs and network expansion? N/A

G. Potential Environmental Impacts

See the attached Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

H. Cost Estimate

Provide a cost estimate for each feasible alternative:

- Engineering Design: _____
- Additional Traffic Analyses: _____
- Environmental Processing: _____
- Mitigation: _____
- R/W Acquisition:
(C of A if applicable) _____
- Utility Relocations: _____
- Construction (including const. traffic management): \$68,000

TOTAL PROJECT COST **\$68,000**

I. Expected Funding Source(s) (Highway Priority Program, CMAQ, Urban Systems, Fed/State earmarks, etc.) Urban Systems (STP<200K) and local match (City of Thibodaux)

ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

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

STAGE 0
Environmental Checklist

Route Ridgefield Road Parish: Lafourche

C.S. _____ Begin Log mile _____ End Log mile _____

ADJACENT LAND USE: Commercial and Residential

Any property owned by a Native American Tribe?
(Y or N or Unknown) If so, which Tribe? No

Any property enrolled into the Wetland Reserve Program?
(Y or N or Unknown) If so, give the location No

Are there any other known wetlands in the area?
(Y or N) If so, give the location No

Community Elements: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any (if the answer is yes, list names and locations):

(Y or N) Cemeteries No

(Y or N) Churches No

(Y or N) Schools No

(Y or N) Public Facilities (i.e., fire station, library, etc.) No

(Y or N) Community water well/supply No

Section 4(f) issue: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any (if the answer is yes, list names and locations):

(Y or N) Public recreation areas No

(Y or N) Public parks No

(Y or N) Wildlife Refuges No

(Y or N) Historic Sites No

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:

No to both

Do you know of any threatened or endangered species in the area? (Y or N)
If so, list species and location. No

Does the project impact or adjacent to a stream protected by the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act? (Y or N) If yes, name the stream. No

Are there any Significant Trees as defined by EDSM I.1.1.21 within proposed ROW? (Y or N) If so, where? No

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: No

Hazardous Material: Have you checked the following DEQ and EPA databases for potential problems? (If the answer is yes, list names and locations.)

(Y or N) Leaking Underground Storage Tanks No

(Y or N) CERCLIS No

(Y or N) ERNS No

(Y or N) Enforcement and Compliance History No

STAGE 0
Environmental Checklist

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) _____ No

If so, give the name and location: _____

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: _____ No 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. _____ No

Are there any possible residential or commercial relocations/displacements? (Y or N)
How many? _____ No

Do you know of any sensitive community or cultural issues related to the project? (Y or N)
If so, explain _____ No

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

What type of detour/closures could be used on the job? _____ Alternatives are closing one lane of travel at a time or using an alternate route such as Church Street

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

Luci Sposito _____

Point of Contact

985-446-7606 _____

Phone Number

06-30-2015 _____

Date

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 February 2011, 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 lists only the threatened or endangered species in Louisiana by Parish. 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.

Tribal Land 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.

STAGE 0 Environmental Checklist

Louisiana Governor's Office of Indian Affairs:

<http://www.indianaffairs.com/tribes.htm>

Louisiana Wetlands Reserve Program:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/states/la.html>

Community Water Well/Supply

<http://sonris.com/default.htm>

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – Wildlife Refuges

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

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=LA>

<http://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugelocatomaps/Louisiana.html>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – National Wetlands Inventory:

<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>

Louisiana State Historic Sites:

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ihistoricsiteslisting.aspx>

National Register of Historic Places (Louisiana):

<http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome>

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/la/state.html>

National Historic Landmarks Program:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/>

Threatened and Endangered Species Databases:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program>

Louisiana Scenic Rivers:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/scenic-rivers>

<http://media.wlf.state.la.us/experience/scenicrivers/louisiananaturalandscenicriversdescriptions/>

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

Significant Tree Policy (EDSM I.1.1.21)

<http://notes1/ppmemos.nsf>

(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.)

CERCLIS (Superfund Sites):

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

http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/cerclis/cerclis_query.html

ERNS - Emergency Response Notification System - Database of oil and hazardous substances spill reports: <http://www.epa.gov/region4/r4data/erns/index.htm>

Enforcement & Compliance History (ECHO)

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

DEQ – Underground Storage Tank Program Information:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2674/Default.aspx>

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks:

<http://www.deq.state.la.us/portal/tabid/79/Default.aspx>

STAGE 0
Environmental Checklist

SONRIS – Oil and Gas Well Information & Water Well Information
<http://sonris.com/default.htm>

Environmental Justice (minority & low income)
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ej2000.htm>

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

FHWA’s Environmental Website
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/index.htm>

Additional Databases Checked

Other Comments:

Vicinity Map

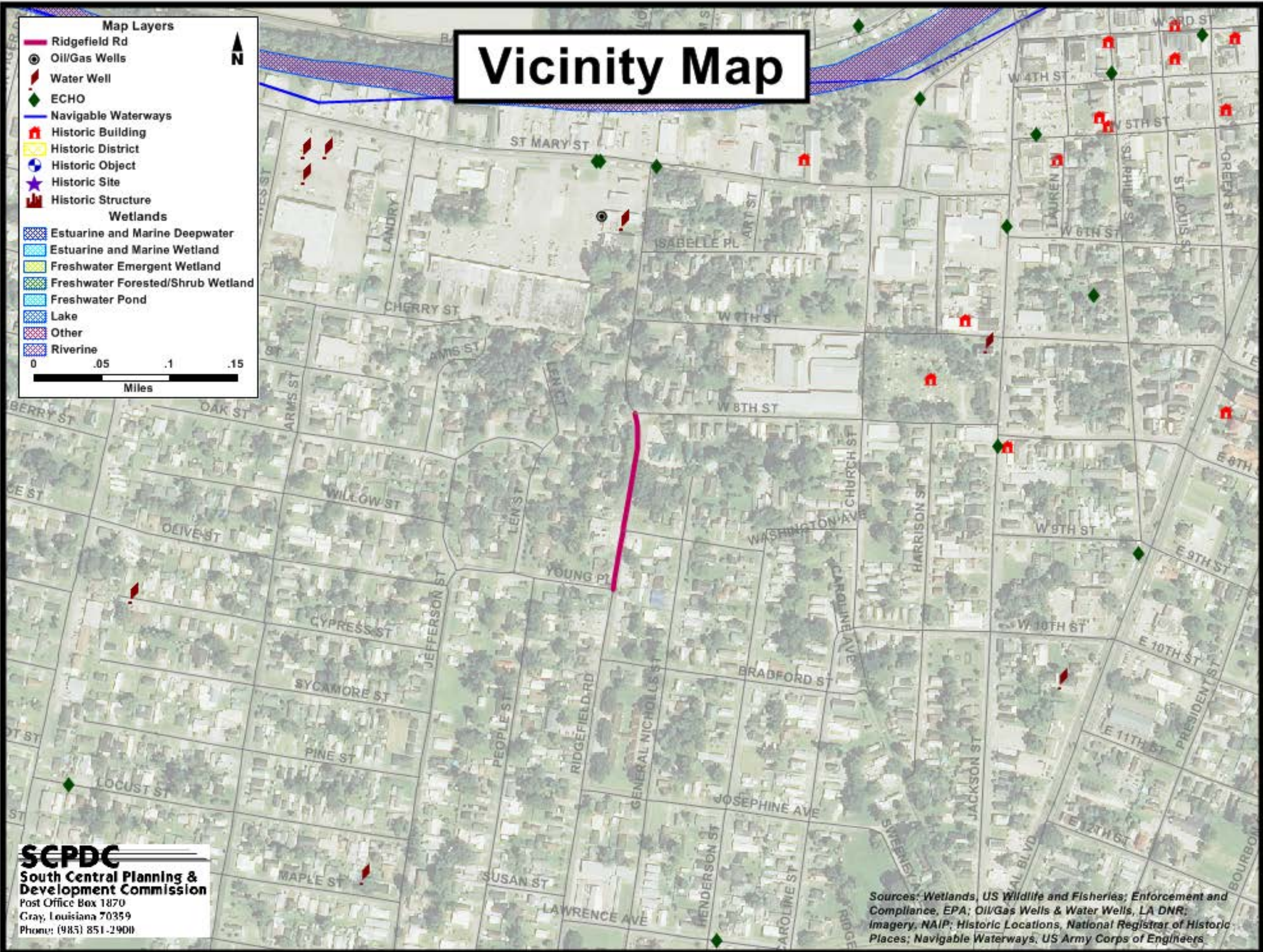
Map Layers

- Ridgefield Rd
- Oil/Gas Wells
- Water Well
- ECHO
- Navigable Waterways
- Historic Building
- Historic District
- Historic Object
- Historic Site
- Historic Structure

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

0 .05 .1 .15
Miles



SCPDC
South Central Planning &
Development Commission
Post Office Box 1870
Cray, Louisiana 70359
Phone: (985) 851-2900

Sources: Wetlands, US Wildlife and Fisheries; Enforcement and Compliance, EPA; Oil/Gas Wells & Water Wells, LA DNR; Imagery, NAIP; Historic Locations, National Registrar of Historic Places; Navigable Waterways, US Army Corps of Engineers