

INFORMATION RELEASE



Office of the Director

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AHTD IDENTIFIES PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR HIGHWAY 412 IMPROVEMENTS IN PARAGOULD

LITTLE ROCK (10-6) The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Highway 412 Improvements project in Paragould, Arkansas.

The EA evaluated improvements along the existing highway and three new alignment alternatives. After consideration of information contained in the EA and the comments received at the Location Public Hearing held June 23, 2009, the AHTD has identified Alternative S2 as the Preferred Alternative ([see map](#)).

The Preferred Alternative starts at existing Highway 412 approximately 0.6 mile west of Pine Knot Road, crosses Highway 49 approximately 1.5 miles south of Pruett's Chapel Road, overpasses the Union Pacific Railroad, and rejoins existing Highway 412 approximately 1.6 miles west of the Highway 135 South intersection. The proposed roadway's initial cross-section will consist of two 12-foot wide travel lanes with 8-foot wide shoulders. However, right-of-way will be acquired for the project's ultimate roadway cross-section of four 12-foot wide travel lanes, 8-foot wide outside shoulders, 6-foot wide inside shoulders and a grass median averaging 50 feet in width.

The Preferred Alternative meets the primary purpose and need of the project by enhancing safety and improving traffic operations on Highway 412, thereby providing an improved major east-west transportation facility through the northeast Arkansas region. Intersection improvements along existing Highway 412 will be combined with construction of the Preferred Alternative in order to have the greatest positive impact on traffic operations. The Preferred Alternative received the highest number of supporting comments from the public.

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After survey and design work progresses, a Design Public Hearing will be held in Paragould to share detail on design plans and proposed right of way limits, and to receive additional public comment on the proposal,

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