

I-49 ICC EIS CURRENT STATUS

SPN H.003915
Route I-49
Caddo Parish



August 18, 2017



PROJECT STATUS

Since our April update to the committee:

1. FHWA made a significance determination on SWEPCO Park under Section 4(f)
2. FHWA made a Section 4(f) determination on Cross Lake
3. DOTD and FHWA provided concurrence on the Alternatives Decision Memorandum
4. The project team is conducting detailed analysis of Build Alternatives 1 and 5 and the No Build Alternative in order to complete the draft EIS this winter

PROJECT STATUS ITEM 1

SWEPCO PARK SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION

- FHWA completed their review of the Significance Determination Request on SWEPCO Park under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (DOTA)
- FHWA determined that SWEPCO Park *does not* meet the significance requirement to qualify as a Section 4(f) property

SECTION 4(F)

To refresh Section 4(f):

Section 4(f) of the DOTA provides protections for publicly owned park/recreation areas open to the general public. The four criteria for the Section 4(f) designation of a park are:

- *It must be publicly owned*
- *It must be open to the public (except in certain cases for refuges)*
- *Its major purpose must be for park, recreation, or refuge activities*
- *It must be significant as a park, recreation area, or refuge*

PROJECT STATUS ITEM 2

CROSS LAKE SECTION 4(f) DETERMINATION

- FHWA completed their review of the request to make an official determination as to whether Cross Lake is a Section 4(f) property
- FHWA determined that Cross Lake *is* a Section 4(f) property that is provided protections under Section 4(f) of the DOTA

PROJECT STATUS ITEM 3

ALTERNATIVES DECISION MEMO

- FHWA and DOTD completed their review of the Alternatives Decision Memorandum supporting two distinct build alternatives, one through route, Build Alternative 1, one bypass route, Build Alternative 5, and the No Build Alternative for further study.
- FHWA and DOTD concurred with the memorandum supporting the detailed study of the No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 and 5 in order to identify a Preferred Alternative.

PROJECT STATUS ITEM 4

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The detailed analysis involves:

- Conducting a Cultural Resources Survey
- Updating the item costs for the cost comparison
- Direct comparison of structure impacts
- Direct comparison of other resource impacts

PROJECT STATUS ITEM 4

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Cultural Resources Survey

- The required Cultural Resources Survey is being initiated as part of the detailed analysis
- Certified letters have been sent to property owners in the Build Alternative 1 proposed right-of-way notifying them of the upcoming field survey
- The field team is scheduled to be onsite the week of August 21st, weather depending

PROJECT STATUS ITEM 4

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Cost Comparison*

Costs are in the process of being updated with current item costs associated with I-49 Segment K and contingencies.

Build Alternative 1

- Fully elevated, 2 internal interchanges, 4 lanes - **\$547M**
- Fully elevated, 2 internal interchanges, 6 lanes - **\$640M**

Build Alternative 5**

- Resurfacing and widening existing LA 3132 - **\$832M**
- Reconstruction and widening existing LA 3132 - **\$846M**

*Costs are NOT final

**Salvaging part of the LA 3132 interchange is in both BA 5 options, but traffic maintenance costs are not

NEXT STEPS

1. Completion of the Cultural Resources Survey
2. Prepare Preferred Alternative Identification Analysis for FHWA and DOTD review
3. Acceptance of the Preferred Alternative Identification Analysis by FHWA and DOTD (required in order to complete the draft EIS)
4. Prepare Technical Studies - required to be conducted on the identified Preferred Alternative and to be summarized in the draft EIS
5. Public Outreach in the form of stakeholder briefings, a Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting, and a public hearing will be conducted in conjunction with the release of the draft EIS

NEXT STEPS - SCHEDULE

Winter 2017 –

Submit Draft EIS for FHWA and DOTD review and approval

Late First Quarter 2018 –

EIS approved for Public Distribution
Stakeholder Briefings

Second Quarter 2018 -

Public Hearing

Third Quarter 2018 -

Record of Decision/EIS is final