

# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

February 20, 2018

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Regulatory Branch  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Certifications Section  
Post Office Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-1577  
Project Manager  
Patricia Clune  
[Patricia.R.Clune@usace.army.mil](mailto:Patricia.R.Clune@usace.army.mil)  
MVN 2015-01895-CE

(225) 219-3225  
Project Manager  
Elizabeth Hill  
WQC Application Number  
WQC # 180214-01

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [ ] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2047 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## **ASHLAND ROAD AND ST. LANDRY AVENUE CONNECTOR ROAD IN ASCENSION PARISH**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** HNTB Corporation, c/o ELOS Environmental, LLC., ATTN: Flynn Daigle, 43177 E. Pleasant Ridge Road, Hammond, Louisiana 70403.

**LOCATION OF WORK:** In wetlands and uplands between Ashland Road and St. Landry Avenue, Gonzales, in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, within the Lake Maurepas basin in hydrological unit (HUC 08070204) , as shown on the attached drawings (Latitude: 30.202178/Longitude: -90.962119).

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, excavate and deposit fill and/or aggregate material to construct and maintain a new roadway connecting Ashland Road and St. Landry Avenue. The proposed roadway will be approximately half a mile long and contain two 12-foot wide lanes with a 4-foot wide shoulder on either side for a width of 32 feet. Additionally, 12-foot wide right-turn lanes will be placed at the tie-in at Ashland Road and St. Landry Avenue. Ditches will be constructed on either side of the roadway. The total right-of-way will be 120 feet wide. Approximately 3,121 cubic yards of stone material and 1,030 cubic yards of asphalt material will be hauled in and deposited to

achieve required grade elevation requirements. The proposed project is situated on an approximately 73.65-acre tract that has been determined to be comprised of 47.18 acres of uplands and 26.47 acres of forested wetlands. The project site itself will encompass approximately 7.26 acres and will impact approximately 0.67 acres to construct the road. The remainder of the property will be left in its natural state.

The applicant has designed the project to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable. As compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts, the applicant proposes to mitigate in-kind wetland credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank located in the watershed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **20 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. **Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.** Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

### **Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics,

general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Interior. Utilizing Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species in Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on any listed species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would not result in the destruction or alteration of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

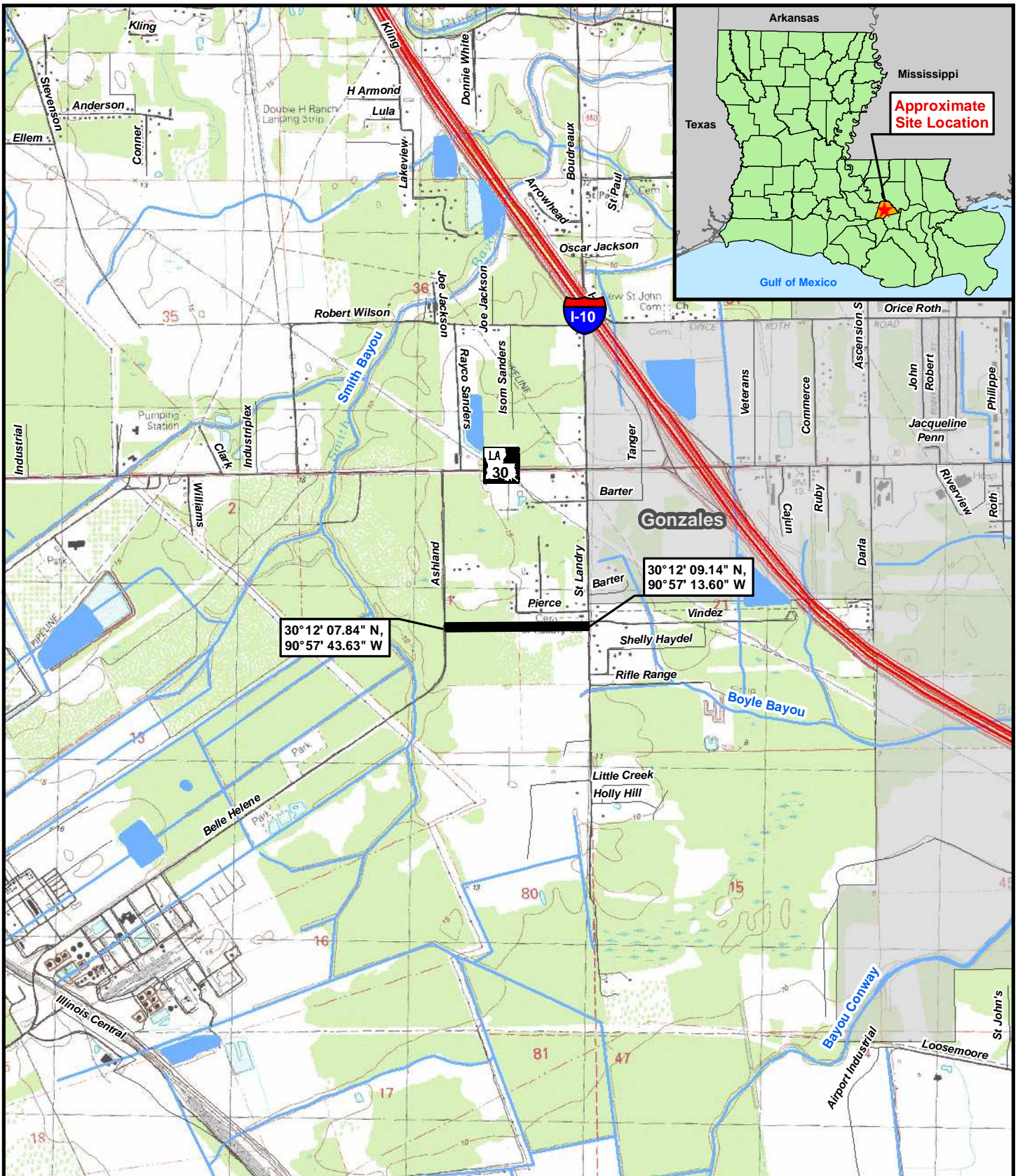
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a

certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Certifications Section before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

John M Herman  
Chief, Central Evaluation Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



**ELOS**  
 environmental  
 43177 East Pleasant Ridge Road  
 Hammond, Louisiana 70403  
 P. 985-662-5501, F. 985-662-5504

0 2,000 4,000 Feet

**Figure 1: TopoVicinity Map**

**Ashland Rd. - St. Landry Ave. Connector**

**Legend:**

- Project Outline
- Interstate
- Waterbody
- City/Town
- Highway
- Stream/River
- Roadway

Section: 1  
 Township: 10 South  
 Range: 02 East

This figure was prepared utilizing public and proprietary data. It should not be used to establish any legal boundaries or specific locations. ELOS Environmental, L.L.C., is not responsible for any usage of this figure contrary to its original, intended purpose.



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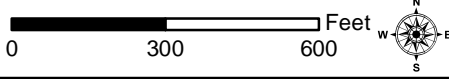




Figure 2: Existing Conditions

**Ashland Rd. - St. Landry Ave.  
Connector**

**Legend:**

-  Project Outline
-  Roadway

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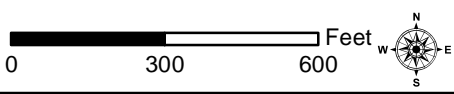
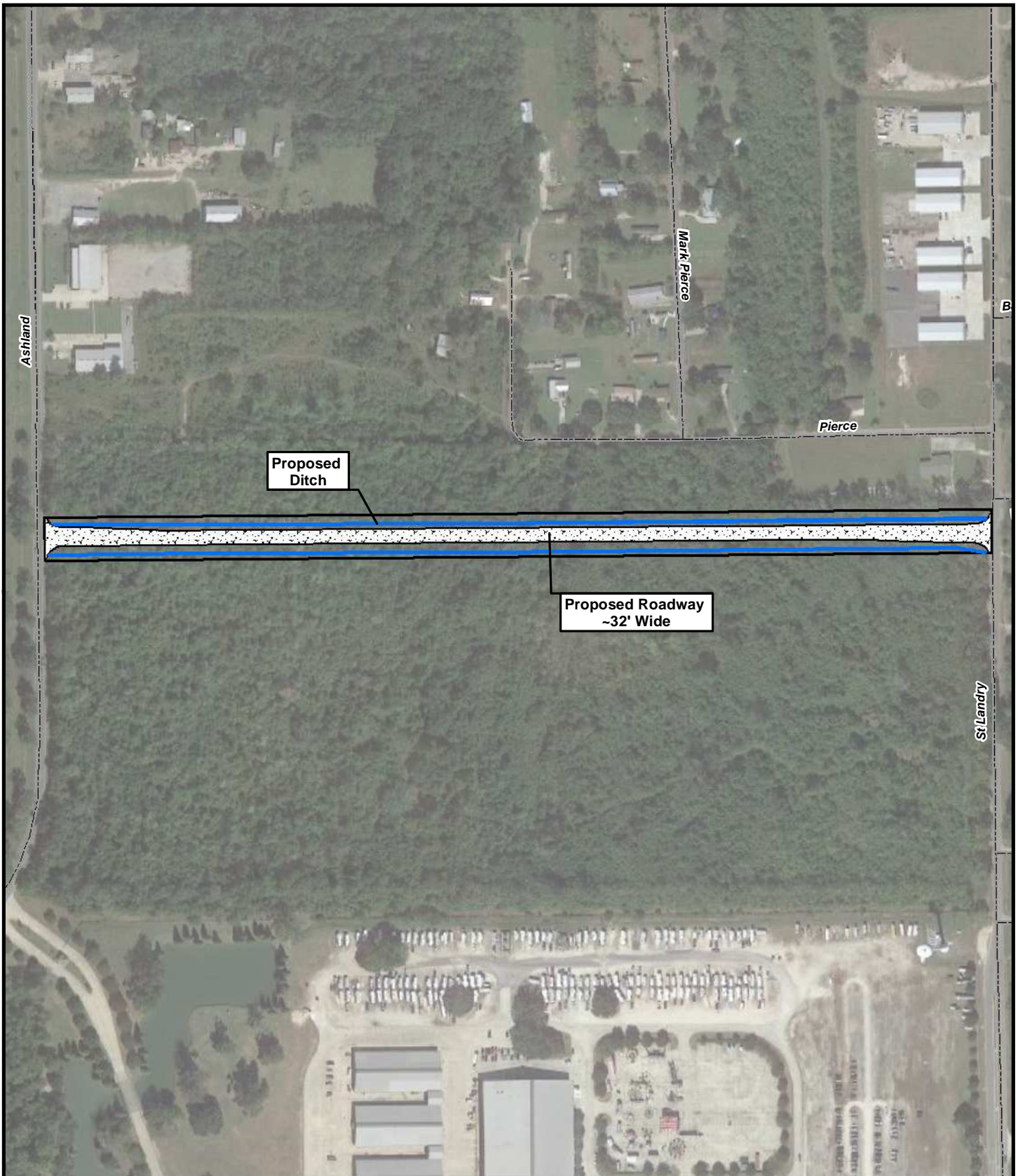


Figure 3: Plan View

**Ashland Rd. - St. Landry Ave. Connector**

- Legend:**
- Project Outline
  - Proposed Roadway
  - Proposed Ditch
  - Roadway

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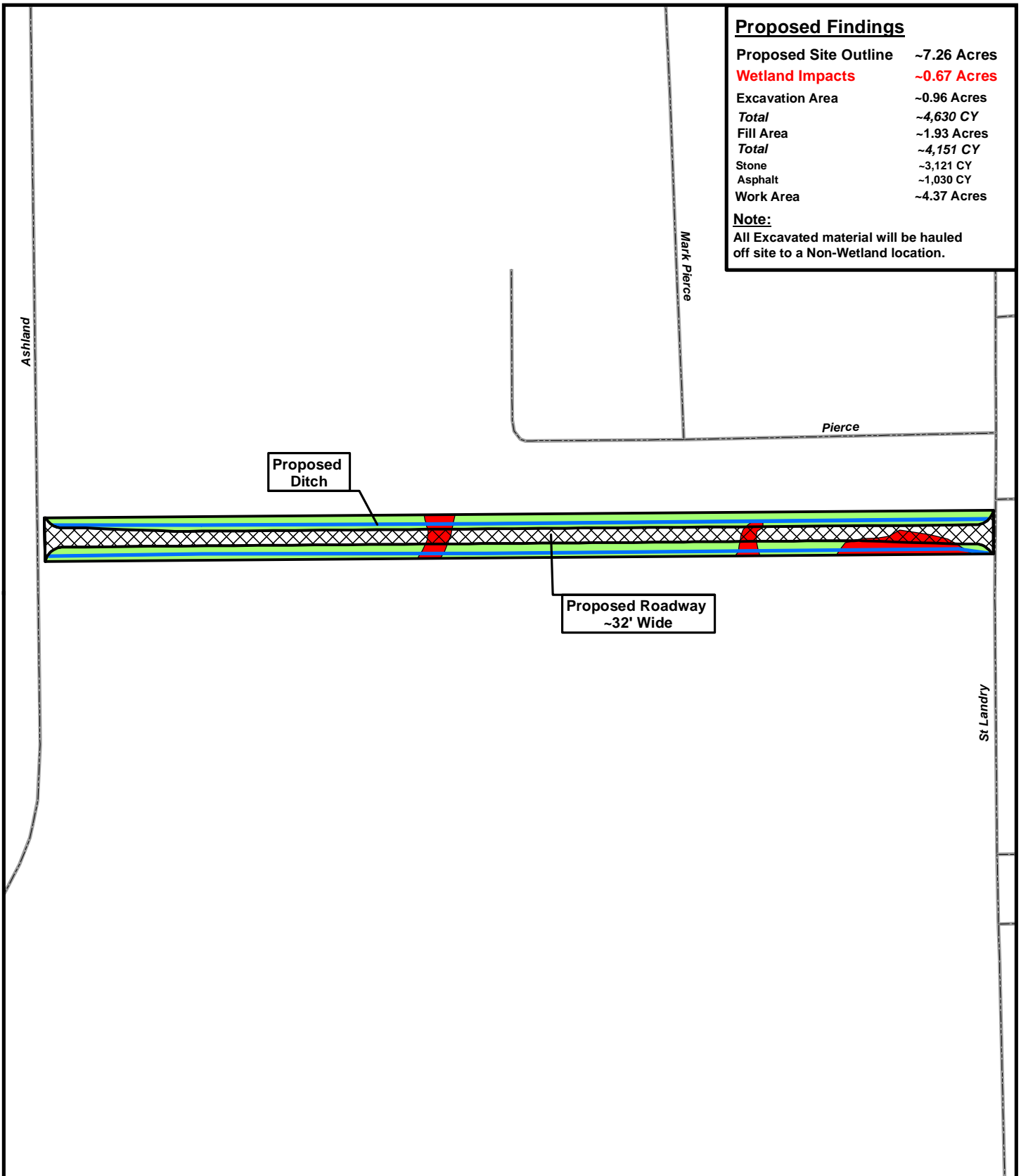
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**Proposed Findings**

Proposed Site Outline	~7.26 Acres
<b>Wetland Impacts</b>	<b>~0.67 Acres</b>
Excavation Area	~0.96 Acres
<i>Total</i>	<i>~4,630 CY</i>
Fill Area	~1.93 Acres
<i>Total</i>	<i>~4,151 CY</i>
Stone	~3,121 CY
Asphalt	~1,030 CY
Work Area	~4.37 Acres

**Note:**

All Excavated material will be hauled off site to a Non-Wetland location.



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Figure 4: Proposed Impacts  
**Ashland Rd. - St. Landry Ave. Connector**

**Legend:**

Project Outline	Work Area
Excavation Area	Wetland Impacts
Fill Area	Roadway

**Refer to MVN-2015-01895-SA**

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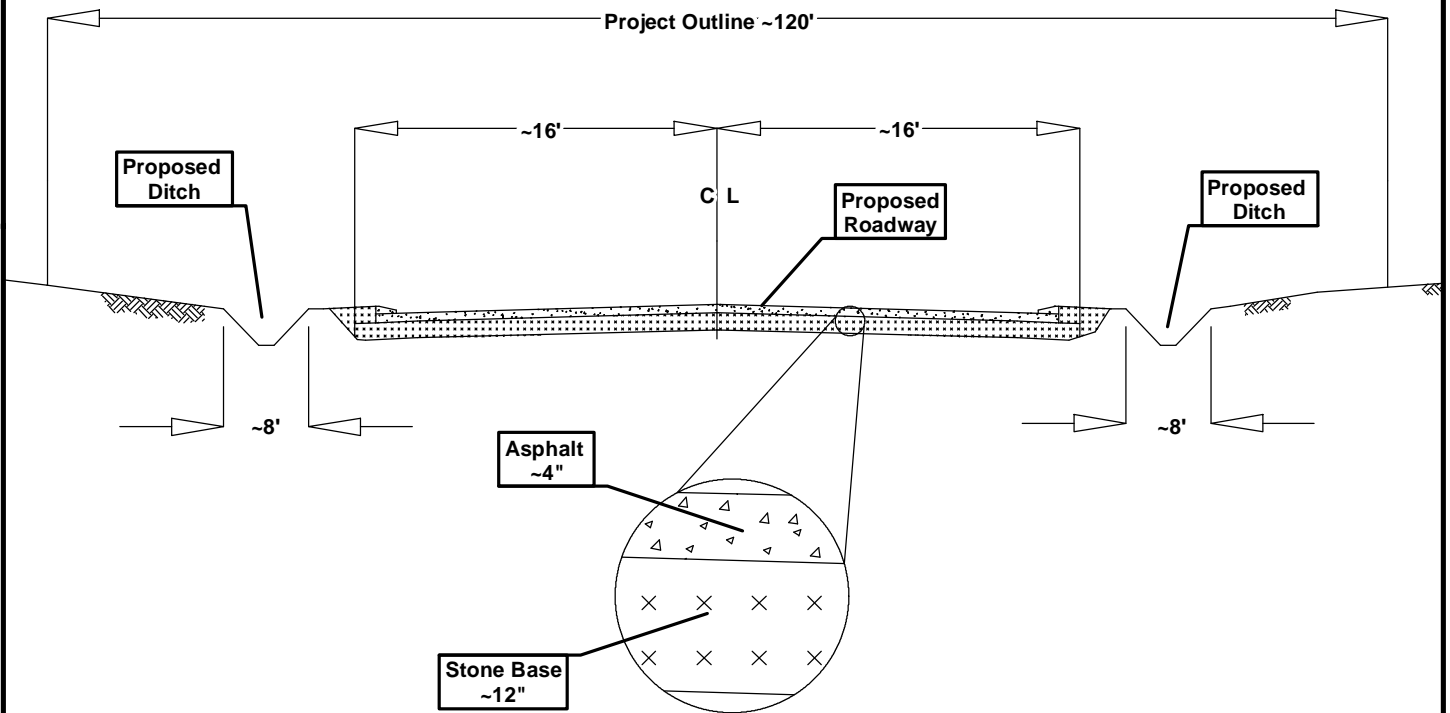
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**Typical Roadway and Ditch Section**



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**Scale = Not to Scale**

Figure 5: Typical Section

**Ashland Rd. - St. Landry Ave.  
Connector**

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